

Ralph J. Zottola, PhD Biography

Dr. Zottola is the Assistant Vice President for Research Computing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. At UAB, he is partnering with researchers across campus and the region to lead the growth and development of advanced research computing and data services. He has been at UAB since June 2018.

Prior to UAB, Ralph served as CTO for Research Computing at the University of Massachusetts Office of the President. He was responsible for developing strategies and services to enable enterprise research IT across five UMass campuses. He led the efforts at the UMass to develop the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) facility and consortium. At the consortium level, he was a leader in the technical, program management, business, security, and operations workgroups since the project's inception in 2010, including serving as a member of the Board of Directors. The MGHPCC partnership includes Boston University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts system as well as industry partners. This landmark project demonstrated what is possible when government, academia and business work together, and became a successful economic development model for the Commonwealth. The consortium is also a catalyst for collaborative research as demonstrated by significant multi-institutional extramural funding support.

Ralph created both the academic and research computing groups at his alma mater, UMass Medical School. He served a key role in UMass Medical School's Clinical Translational Science efforts, leading the strategy and implementation of systems to support translational research. This includes extensive experience with management of protected health information under both HIPAA and FISMA. He held academic appointment in several schools and developed and taught an interdisciplinary graduate level *Biomedical Informatics* course.

Dr. Zottola is formally trained as a biochemist and feels fortunate to have been able to combine his passion for science and his interest in computing into 24+ years of executive IT experience building partnerships and developing programs to support research. His leadership position at the University of Alabama at Birmingham positions him as a key collaborator for advancing the mission of SURA.