Good morning/afternoon/evening, and welcome to VRA 2022!

In hopes of giving our conference an informal social aspect, the Board will have an open virtual space for folks to gather in the morning, during the daily sessions, or after the sessions have finished for the day. This will be a space to continue conversations, check-in with old friends, and meet new ones. Use it to arrange meetings with acquaintances or simply drop in to see who’s around. Think of it as a lounge. In fact, we call it the VRA Lounge.

Residing within a web app called Wonder, the VRA Lounge will be open 24/7 before, during, and after the conference. You can come and go as you please. We will also use the VRA Lounge during the Vendor and Poster Session on Thursday, March 31, at 3:45 pm.

Here’s how it works:

To enter the lounge, go to the VRA 2022 Attendee Portal for the link or click here to connect.

Note - This app is still in beta. The experience is designed for laptop or desktop computers. Phones work decently, but tablets are not supported. For Browsers, Chrome and Edge are the stated preferred browsers, though Firefox works.

BASIC OPERATION OF THE VRA LOUNGE
After clicking on the link, allow the Wonder app to use your camera and microphone, then enter your name and choose an avatar, or let the camera take a picture for your own icon.

Once in the room:

Moving: move your cursor to the point you want to go and hold the mouse button down. Your icon will move toward that point. When you stop pressing the mouse, you stop. Move the mouse while holding the button down to change directions. Watch a video on moving around in the Wonder app.

Talking to someone: Move to the person you’d like to talk to. When you get close, a video chat will open allowing you to converse with that person. A circle will form around those in the conversation. Each circle has a limit of 15 members. If there is an existing group, you will join that group when you get near it.

Areas: Within the lounge are lighter spaces called areas. Some of the areas will be themed for events happening in the lounge. Usually, 4 areas will be present. During the Vendor and Poster Session event, look for specially designated areas to interact directly with our sponsors.
Controls: icons on the right side of the room allow you some control over the environment.

- Allows you to see who’s in the Lounge and send private or public chat messages using those controls. Place your cursor over someone’s name to highlight their location. Click on their name to send a message.

- Allows you to send a chat message to the entire room or to one person. Holding your cursor over someone’s icon in the room allows you to message them or invite them to join you.

- Allows editing of your name, picture, and your video and audio sources.