Experimental/Technical Service Agreements:
Notice of F&A Changes and Clarification of University Rule on Testing Services

Effective September 1, 2013, the facilities and administrative cost rate for Experimental/Technical Service Agreements will increase to 20% of total direct costs. The 20% rate applies to all new agreements as of the effective date.

In keeping with the University’s federally-negotiated cost rate for non-research activities, the effective rate will be 35% of total direct costs for agreements established on or after July 1, 2014.

UA Rule 3359-2-05 A(8) provides guidance on material and information testing agreements that waive university rights in intellectual property and related patents and copyrights.

Continued...
Experimental/Technical Service Agreements: Notice of F&A Changes and Clarification of University Rule on Testing Services

Excerpted from the rule:

The principal faculty member has the respective dean verify and certify in writing that there has not been and is to be no input from anyone (e.g., university faculty) other than center personnel or university students, as the case may be, and the client. If there is, in fact, such input, then any such waiver shall be ineffective as to intellectual property rights attributable to said input, and all intellectual property rights will be retained by the university.

Work performed under all Experimental / Technical Service Agreements must conform to this University Rule. Please contact either the Office of Technology Transfer or the Office of Research Administration for additional information.

NSF NEWS:

New NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide

NSF has published a revised Guide that is effective for all proposals submitted or due on or after February 24, 2014. The guide includes detailed instructions as well as summaries of the major changes to proposal guidelines and administrative regulations for awards. Please follow this guide closely when preparing proposals to NSF. Failure to follow the guidelines could result in your proposal being returned without review...
NIH NEWS:

NIH eSubmission Items of Interest – December 3, 2013

Extended Downtime at Grants.gov

Grants.gov plans to take their service offline from Friday, December 6, 2013 at 12:01 am until Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time to perform critical maintenance (Grants.gov Calendar).

To accommodate this extended downtime, we have made some adjustments to due dates, including moving the standard December 8 Fellowship due date to December 10 (NOT-OD-14-022).

Don’t Forget Your Inclusion Data

The new FORMS-C application packages use a different approach for collecting inclusion data. In addition to reformatting the data tables themselves, inclusion data is no longer collected in PDF attachments. Instead, each package includes new Planned Enrollment Report and Cumulative Inclusion Enrollment forms. These forms allow NIH to collect the data in a format that can be leveraged throughout the lifecycle of the application/grant.

The forms are included in the application packages as ‘Optional’ and eRA systems no longer provide an error when inclusion data is omitted. However, our policies on when to include the data in your application have not changed. Applicants must carefully follow application guide and supplemental instructions to ensure the new forms are included when needed. A handy decision tree was recently posted that can also help determine whether the inclusion reporting policies apply to your specific application.

FORMS-C Budget Forms and PD/PIs

The latest version of the R&R Budget form developed by Grants.gov includes some changes in how data is entered. Although the PD/PI name provided on the SF424 R&R cover form is still used to auto-populate the first Senior/Key Person entry in Section A, the Project Role filed for that entry no longer defaults to ‘PD/PI’ and must be manually entered. As a result, more applicants have been running into the following error:

There must be a Personnel entry (with a role of "PD/PI") listed for the PI or PD on the 424 RR Detailed Budget Page (section A&B) for budget year <x>. (5.7.1)

It is critical to type the string ‘PD/PI’ – NOT ‘PI’ or ‘PI/PD’ or ‘Principal Investigator’ or ‘Co-PD/PI’ – you must use ‘PD/PI’ or you will get that dreaded error.
Publication of the Revised NIH Grants Policy Statement (Rev. 10/1/2013)

Notice Number: NOT-OD-14-001

Key Dates/Release Date: October 25, 2013

Related Announcements
None

Issued by/National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Purpose

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces the publication of the revised NIH Grants Policy Statement (NIHGPS, rev. 10/1/2013). This revision is applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2013. This revision supersedes, in its entirety, the NIH Grants Policy Statement (10/2012) as a standard term and condition of award. However, the October 2012 NIHGPS continues to be the standard term and condition for all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods that began between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013...

Welcome to the eRA Commons Online Help System

Revised 11/15/2013

This help system provides information about eRA Commons functionality including step-by-step instruction for completing tasks.

You can access the online help by selecting the Help icon from many of the screens within eRA Commons...
NIH NEWS:

NEW PAYMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT NIH

As if the shutdown didn’t give us enough excitement to manage, we are looking to the new NIH payment management system which is going into effect as we speak. The new payment management system is a process that accomplishes 2 things. First, it allows the NIH to transition current domestic awards from PMS pooled accounts (type G) to a new type of account called a PMS type G subaccount. Second, it will allow the NIH to award all new grants and contracts as the PMS type G subaccount and allow the agency to administer all awards with new payment management rules....

Dispelling Rumors on NIH Application Limits

November 14, 2013 - Sally Rockey

I have seen the very recent report and follow-on discussions that NIH is considering asking institutions to limit grant applications as a way to control demand. Let me present the facts. You may remember the dialogue we had back in October 2011 on how NIH should manage science in fiscally challenging times. The option of limiting applications was raised at that time but was discarded at the outset and we are not pursuing it now. .... Continue reading
NIH NEWS:

NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Phase II
Pilot Training for Federal Demonstration Partnership Members

Notice Number: NOT-OD-14-017

Key Dates
Release Date: October 31, 2013

Related Announcements
NOT-OD-13-113

Issued by
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Purpose
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites all Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) members to participate in the rescheduled training webinar for the NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Phase II pilot, which begins following the November 7, 2013 eRA release.

Inquiries
General questions concerning using the eRA Commons and RPPR functionality should be directed to the eRA Commons Helpdesk at:

eRA Commons Help Desk
Web: http://ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/ (Preferred method of contact)
Toll-free: 1-866-504-9552
Phone: 301-402-7469
TTY: 301-451-5939

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General inquiries about this Notice may be directed to:
Division of Grants Policy
Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration
National Institutes of Health
Phone: (301) 435-0938
Email: GrantsPolicy@od.nih.gov
COMPLIANCE:

International Compilation of Human Research Standards
2014 Edition
Compiled By:
Office for Human Research Protections
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

PURPOSE:

The International Compilation of Human Research Standards enumerates over 1,000 laws, regulations, and guidelines that govern human subjects research in 107 countries, as well as the standards from a number of international and regional organizations. This Compilation was developed for use by researchers, IRBs/Research Ethics Committees, sponsors, and others who are involved in human subjects research around the world.

Content experts, listed on page 128, provided listing updates (or confirmations of accuracy of prior listings), which are reflected in the hundreds of changes to the Compilation. Major changes in human subject standards were reported for Brazil, France, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Turkey. Three new countries are featured in the 2014 edition: Cameroon, Mozambique, and Zambia...

Clarification of OLAW’s Position on Rodent Cage Changes
October 25, 2013

Susan Silk and Patricia Brown at OLAW have written a letter to the Editor of Lab Animal regarding a recent article "Availability of feces-free areas in rodent shoebox cages" (42(4):135-141). The letter clarifies OLAW’s position and interpretation of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals on rodent cage changes. Read the letter at Lab Animal 2013; 42(11):409. (PDF)
COMPLIANCE:

Annual Reports to OLAW due January 31, 2013

Notice Number: NOT-OD-13-009
Key Dates / Release Date: November 8, 2012
Issued by / National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Purpose
This Notice is to remind grantee institutions that annual reports for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 are due to the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) by January 31, 2013. The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Policy) requires Assured institutions to submit a written report to OLAW at least once every 12 months.

Information to be reported consists of any change in the institution’s program of animal care and use, any change in the Institutional Official or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) membership, the dates that the IACUC conducted its semiannual evaluations of the program and facilities, and any minority view by an IACUC member.

Institutions must verify to OLAW in their 2012 annual report that they have met the required schedule for implementation of the Guide as described above. The sample annual report has been updated with a series of statements and check boxes to allow easy verification of implementation by Assured institutions. Please use this sample document for the 2012 reporting period...
2014 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTING FORUM

April 27-29, 2014 / Hilton Minneapolis / Minneapolis, MN

OVERVIEW:

This event for advanced-level accounting and finance professionals offers the latest information on trends, issues, and best practices in financial accounting and reporting and managerial issues and analysis for all types of institutions.

The program features plenary speakers as well as smaller sessions to address special topics. Roundtable exchanges—broken out by private/public or large/small institutions—bring together participants from comparable institutions to share ideas. This forum serves as both an annual update and future outlook where participants hear and engage in discussions on timely subjects impacting the higher education community...

A Primer on Subawards under Federal Assistance Awards

8 Week Online Tutorial

NCURA is proud to re-introduce our online tutorial on subawards under Federal assistance awards. Learn at your our pace! Choose the start date that works best for you to begin your access. You will have 8 weeks to complete the lessons and 20 question multiple-choice final exam at your own pace - ALL lessons and the final exam are available from the start.

We have developed an overview of this complex process. As a primer it is intended for those new to subawards, or who have had very limited exposure. This online tutorial is focused on subcontracting programmatic effort under federal grants and other financial assistance awards. "Subcontracting" and "third party agreements" cover a wide variety of activities, too broad to be thoroughly addressed in an online tutorial...
REJECTION REASONS:

One way to become a better grant writer is to learn from the mistakes of others. We were recently asked to rewrite a health professions training grant that was seeking funding to add some new positions in a health-training program. The initial proposal had been rejected for the reasoned noted by the reviewers (actual peer review comments).

1. Application was unclear as to the program funding category (expansion of training positions versus program improvement).
2. The number of current and projected training positions was unclear.
3. It would have been helpful if the applicant had delineated the existing activities versus the proposed program activities as directed in the application instructions.
4. There is no description of how continuity of care will be achieved.

In this review cycle, 17 proposals were evaluated and 11 were funded. This was one of six that was rejected. The rejection reasons are mechanical, easy-to-fix. Moral of the story: read the guidelines, follow them closely, and ask others to read for clarity and conformity to guidelines. It’s a common grant-writing mistake to assume that reviewers know details about your proposal when they don't, nor should they be expected to do so.

From: Miner and Associates
How Not to Miss Important Information about Receipt and Referral of Your Application

The video uses screenshots and step-by-step instructions to guide you from your landing page in eRA Commons right to the information you need to know...

Intellectual Property in Research Agreements: A Basic Course

This online course is designed to assist university personnel whose work involves evaluating and drafting the intellectual property (IP) provisions of research agreements with external sponsors. It provides a broad introduction to the basics of intellectual property, plus it includes many practical, hands-on exercises using IP clauses from actual research and licensing agreements.

The course also offers suggestions for dealing with issues commonly encountered in negotiating agreements with federal, state, non-profit and clinical trial sponsors of research...
Upcoming Research for Lunch Presentations:

“The Influence of Karl Henckell on Richard Strauss’s Alpensinfonie”

Dr. Toliver, Professor of Music, will present on Friday, January 24, at noon in the Student Union, Room 308.

“Molecular Structure and Dynamics in Cell Signaling”

Adam Smith, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, will present on Wednesday, January 29, at noon in the Student Union, Room 308.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend.

RSVP Kelly Ruszkiewicz, ORA, by email RschSrsvsGA8@uakron.edu.
U.S. SENATE BILL INCLUDES GENEROUS FUNDING FOR ENERGY SCIENCE PROGRAMS

David Malakoff - November 13, 2013

A bipartisan proposal from two U.S. senators calls for boosting the Department of Energy's (DOE’s) science budget by nearly 23% over the next 2 years to $5.4 billion—a more generous raise than either Republicans or Democrats in the House of Representatives have proposed.

The draft legislation is intended to become part of larger bill, still under discussion, that would reauthorize the 2010 America COMPETES Act, which expired at the end of September. It would set overall policy and maximum spending levels at several key science agencies, including the National Science Foundation and DOE’s Office of Science, which runs 10 national laboratories and is one of the nation’s major funders of the physical sciences...

FIRST UP: LAWMAKERS TO EXAMINE BILL RENEWING U.S. RESEARCH

David Malakoff - November 13, 2013

Hang on to your lab goggles. The haggling over a big chunk of U.S. science policy is picking up steam in Washington.

This morning, the science committee of the U.S. House of Representatives will kick off discussion of competing proposals to renew and reshape science and education programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other federal funding agencies. Lawmakers on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology are expected to hear praise for, and complaints about, bills put forward by the panel’s Republican majority and Democratic minority...
GENERAL INTEREST:

Draft Guidance on Intellectual Property Rights for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation and Draft Institute Performance Metrics for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation

A Notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology Nov. 13, 2013
Action: Notice.
Summary:
The Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO), hosted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), announces the release for public comment of two AMNPO draft documents entitled Draft Guidance on Intellectual Property Rights for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation and Draft Institute Performance Metrics for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. The first document describes draft guidance pertaining to intellectual property (IP) management, and the second document describes draft institute performance metrics, for the proposed National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) and the individual manufacturing innovation institutes that compose the network...

HOUSE HEARING SKATES OVER BIG DISAGREEMENTS ON NSF REAUTHORIZATION

Jeffrey Mervis- November 14, 2013

Congressional hearings can sometimes hide more than they reveal. So it was yesterday, when the research panel of the House science committee held its first public airing of a bill that would make some controversial changes to peer review at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

One key change would require the NSF director to certify that every grant will achieve one or more of six national goals—including strengthening the U.S. economy, bolstering national defense, increasing partnerships between academia and industry, and training the next generation of scientists. The director would also have to post a description of each pending award before it is made, along with the names of the relevant program managers who made the decision...
**Cash-Strapped NIH May Ask Universities to Limit Grant Applications**

Paul Basken, Washington- November 12, 2013

At a time of dwindling federal budgets, the National Institutes of Health is considering one sure-fire way to raise record-low grant-approval rates: Have researchers apply for fewer grants.

The NIH, the nation's largest provider of basic research money to universities, has seen its budget cut so much over the last decade that scientists now have only about a 15-percent chance of a successful grant application...

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**Explosion of Wireless Devices Strains Campus Networks**

October 14, 2013 - Megan O'Neil

A few weeks into the fall semester, Bruce Maas, chief information officer at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, received an e-mail from his chancellor: A junior living in campus housing was frustrated with the wireless network, which he said often left him unable to connect to the Internet. Mr. Maas, who describes the university's wireless capacity as "very robust," asked his networking staff to investigate...
GENERAL INTEREST:

Getting Copies of Successful Grant Proposals:

Top grant-getters always study copies of successful proposals before starting to write. Here are two options for getting copies.

First, you can request copies of federal proposals under the Freedom of Information act. Just submit a written request to the appropriate program officer. This works -- but not if you are in a hurry.

Second, call the project director and ask for a copy. Here’s what we say: “I understand you recently got a grant from the Big Bucks Foundation… Congratulations… (Pause)...We’ll be submitting to them in the near future and I’d like to send you a copy of the proposal I submit to them. Would that be OK? Great. You’ll have it in about two weeks. In the meantime, I’d like to see a copy of your proposal to look at the format. We’ve got our own ideas and will be in a different competition cycle than you were, but you know how important it is to write to the level of expertise of the review. You were obviously successful and I’d appreciate the chance to learn from your success.” It works.

From: Miner and Associates

Retracing Steps

Sage Bionetworks aims to show that transparency and sharing are key to ensuring research reproducibility

Aimee Swartz - November 11, 2013

A growing body of research has highlighted scientists’ inability to reproduce one another’s results, including a 2012 study that found only 11% of “landmark” cancer studies investigated could be independently confirmed. This dismally low reproducibility figure is estimated to be even lower for large-scale omics studies because outside reviewers are often stymied by a lack of detailed protocols and access the resources needed to perform the analyses...
The Fallout from October Has Just Begun: Here's What You Need to Know
MICHELLE MELIN-ROGOVIN NOVEMBER 25, 2013

SHUTDOWN FALLOUT

Congress has opened its doors for business again after a two-week political roller coaster ride. The impact of this legislative hissy fit, however is still being assessed. While the media has focused on the patients in Washington DC that weren’t registered for trials at the NIH (truly a heartache) and the researchers in Antarctica and other extreme climes, research administrators have feverishly worked to meet a crushing load of November application deadlines...

OBAMA NAMES ENERGY SCIENCE TEAM

David Malakoff-November 15, 2013

President Barack Obama has added two academic researchers to his new science team at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Obama announced yesterday his intention to nominate chemical engineer Franklin "Lynn" Orr, a professor and administrator at Stanford University in California, to fill the newly created position of undersecretary for science and energy. The same announcement tapped physicist Marc Kastner of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge to lead DOE's Office of Science, which manages a $4.6 billion research portfolio. Last week, the White House picked physicist Ellen Williams, chief scientist at energy giant BP and a former longtime professor at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, to run DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)...

ScienceInsider
Breaking news and analysis from the world of science policy
Oversight Committee Approves Bill to Shed Light on Taxpayer Funded Grants

October 29, 2013

WASHINGTON – The House Oversight and Government Reform today approved by a vote of 19-15 H.R. 3316, the Grant Reform and New Transparency Act of 2013 (GRANT Act), sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman James Lankford, R-Okla. The GRANT Act will improve the way taxpayer funds are awarded by enhancing the transparency and accountability of the federal grant process. Spending on grants has increased from $135 billion in 1990 to over $600 billion this past fiscal year.

“Much of what the federal government does with taxpayer dollars is carried out by states, localities, universities, and not-for-profits funded by federal grants,” said Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif. “Yet far too little light is shed on these expenditures. The American taxpayer deserves to know how and why grants are awarded and what the recipients are doing with their hard-earned dollars.”

“The process by which the government manages federal grant awards should be open and honest, but unfortunately many agencies lack disclosure standards and consistent procedures,” said Chairman Lankford

The GRANT Act requires agencies to disclose more information about how they award discretionary, competitive grants. The bill requires each agency to post on a central website information about each grant opportunity, including the factors that will be used to evaluate proposals, a copy or abstract of the successful grant application, and the ranking of successful grant applications.

The legislation also requires that, upon completion of the grant, all reports submitted by the recipient must be posted online.

The Committee adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., to streamline the pre-grant financial management evaluation process for grantees that have received at least $10 million dollars in federal grants within the past three years.

Full text of the legislation can be viewed here. Full markup details will be posted online here within 48 hours.
Evaluating RCR Training with Paraprofessional Research Staff

Camille Nebeker, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego (USCD)

Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Promotores have proven effective in providing health care and resources for hard-to-reach populations for over 30 years. And now, these paraprofessional staff help to conduct community-based health research. These members of the community assist academic researchers with study recruitment, informed consent, data collection, and research management. But these critical members of the research team have had little or no formal academic training in research design or scientific methodology. They also are largely overlooked in mandated Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) education programs.

The lack of consistent and basic training in scientific methods and human research protections may con-trIBUTE to decisions in the field that compromise the integrity of research studies. For example, Promotores may be asked to randomly assign subjects to different conditions of a research intervention. Lacking sufficient knowledge in research design and the purpose of random assignment, a Promotora may as-sign by convenience to provide what she believes may benefit the subject and not consider the impact on data integrity. Or the Promotora may not understand the significance of research methods that require blinded conditions or constraints. Likewise, because of the Promotores’ social relationships with members of the community, there is the potential that the intent of the informed consent and the ideal outcome of complete disclosure and voluntary participa-tion may be compromised.

The need to provide research ethics training for paraprofessional research staff led to developing a National Institutes of Health-supported training for CHWs/Pro-motores on human research ethics called Training in Research Ethics and Standards (TRES) (http://na-tionalethicscenter.org/tres). It also led to the development of a tutorial, supported by ORI, on Basic Re-search Concepts (BRC) (http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/sdsu).

Our evaluation will assess the extent to which these two educational inter-ventions are effective in developing research literacy and competencies needed to carry out a research proto-col. The study ob-jectives will be carried out over a two-year period. Year 1 will focus on developing and testing a Research Readiness Inven-tory (RRI) to measure research com-petencies in paraprofessional staff. Year 2 will use the RRI to assess the extent to which the educational interventions influence research com-petency test scores.

Camille Nebeker and colleagues Mike Kalichman (UCSD Research Ethics Program) and Sheila Cas-taneda and Greg Talavera (San Diego State University’s Institute of Behavioral and Community Health) will be involved in design-ing the instrument and assessing the effectiveness of the research integ-rity training for paraprofessional researchers in community-based Latino health research.

From: Office of Research Integrity Newsletter Pg. 5
Baucus Works to Overhaul Outdated Tax Code

Chairman Calls for Feedback on Proposal to Reform Cost Recovery and Tax Accounting Rules

November 21, 2013 - Sean Neary/Ryan Carey

WASHINGTON – Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) today unveiled the third package in a series of proposals to overhaul America’s tax code. The latest staff discussion draft focuses on reforms to cost recovery and tax accounting rules.

“America today is using a bloated tax code that was built for businesses close to 30 years ago. The code is completely outdated and acting as a brake on economic growth. More must be done to simplify tax rules, lessen the burden on small businesses and jumpstart job growth,” Senator Baucus said.

The rules for cost recovery and accounting determine when a business can deduct the cost of investments and how they account for their income. However, the rules are outdated, overly complex and reward specific industries to the detriment of others. In addition, Congress keeps changing the rules. It is often difficult for businesses to plan for the future as a result of temporary, and sometimes retroactive, provisions...
GENERAL INTEREST:

Under Financial Pressure,
Universities Give Patent Buyers a Closer Look

October 25, 2013 - Paul Basken

The leading association of university technology managers is re-examining a pledge to shun companies that buy patent rights as a litigation strategy, after several member institutions were found to be working with a reputed pioneer of the practice.

The institutions, including the California Institute of Technology and Duke University, were reported in September to be in partnership with Intellectual Ventures, a company known for assembling portfolios of patents sometimes used in revenue-generating lawsuits...

The Office of Research Administration is Now on Twitter!
Find out about research grant opportunities by following: @UA_ORA

The ORA (Office of Research Administration) is currently planning its 2013-14 education schedule. If there is a particular topic that you would like to see presented in the next academic year, we want to hear from you!

Contact Kelly Ruszkiewicz: 330-972-7774 e mail: RschSrvsGA8@uakron.edu

Do you have an idea or know someone who would like to receive GRANT?
Contact me: Mary Samartgedes 330-972-7666

Happy Holidays from ORA!