Sponsored Program Services Lunch and Learn

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New Name

- We are now officially “Sponsored Program Services” and are no longer called “ORSP”.
- We have a new departmental email address which is: sps@uchc.edu
- Anything that you would have previously sent to orsp@uchc.edu should now be sent to the new address. There will be a period of time in which communications sent to the old address will be automatically forwarded to the new one.

eRA Information: eRA Commons Status Screen for PIs Now Mobile Friendly

Beginning on January 15, 2016, a new URL will be available to PIs for mobile access to their status information in eRA Commons. https://m.era.nih.gov/cmb

This new mobile access means it will be significantly easier for PIs to track and manage grant applications and awards because the Status screen will be easily

viewable on a range of devices such as tablets and smartphones. PIs can simply go to the eRA Commons mobile login page and provide their credentials as they normally would when accessing eRA Commons.

The mobile site is designed to provide the basic and necessary information PIs need to track their application submissions and awards. The status screen, resizable due to responsive design, provides a table of all their applications. The applications are grouped based on status, going from Received, Awarded, Pending, Withdrawn, to Not Funded.

The column headings are Project Number, Status, Project Title and Date.

Each application can be expanded to show important information such as Priority Score, Percentile, Scientific Review Group (SGR) information and links to other resources, such as the application image and/or summary statement. There is also a Contact section that provides access to a PI's assigned Scientific Review Officer (SRO), Grants Management Specialist (GMS) and Program Official (PO).

Additionally, at the top of the screen is a large search/filter field. When a PI simply starts to type in any information from any of the columns, the results will be dynamically updated as they type.

NIH Assist

- ASSIST Now an Option for All NIH Competing Grant Applications and Some Post-award Administrative Actions (e.g. Change of Institution – Type 7)

- **NOT-OD-16-042**

Resources for Assist

- Getting Started: Preparing Your Single-project Application Using ASSIST
- Getting Started: Preparing Your Multi-project Application Using ASSIST
- ASSIST Online Help System
- ASSIST User Guide
- eRA Service Desk

- All of these links can be found at:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-042.html

New NIH Salary Cap

- The DHHS salary cap (Federal Executive Level II) increased to **$185,100 effective January 10, 2016**.

- http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-045.html

- * Note that this salary cap applies to all DHHS agencies, including HRSA, SAMHSA, AHRQ, CMS, CDC, ACF, ACL, and others.

NIH & AHRQ Announce Upcoming Changes to Policies, Instructions and Forms for 2016 Grant Applications

The planned changes focus on the following areas:

- Rigor and transparency in research
- Vertebrate animals
- Inclusion reporting
- Data safety monitoring
- Research training
- Biosketch clarifications
- New font requirements
- Appendix policy

In order to move forward with the subset of policies which must remain consistent for all research applications in a funding year, we will implement the policy and guidance changes in two phases.

Phase 1: Implements a subset of the policy changes using existing (FORMS-C) forms and updated instructions and will impact due dates on or after January 25, 2016.

Phase 2: Completes the implementation with the introduction of new (FORMS-D) forms and instructions and will impact due dates on or after May 25, 2016.

Resource:

NOT-OD-16-004

Policy & Guidance Changes Effective January 25, 2016

Rigor and Transparency in Research

TOPIC	CHANGE
Rigor and Transparency	NIH/AHRQ changing application requirements and review language to enhance reproducibility of research findings through increased scientific rigor and transparency. These changes will take effect for most research grant applications (including small business and complex research grant applications), but will not impact institutional training and individual fellowship applications until Phase II.

TOPIC	CHANGE
	Changes include: • Updates to application guide instructions for preparing your research strategy attachment • Use of a new "Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources" attachment (uploaded in Other Attachments section of R&R Other Project Information form) • Additional rigor and transparency questions reviewers will be asked to consider when reviewing applications. • See NOT-OD-16-031 NOT-OD-15-103 NOT-OD-15-102 NOT-OD-16-004 NOT-OD-16-005 NOT-OD-16-011 NOT-OD-16-012

Rigor and Transparency policy applies to any grant that funds research or training in research

These updates focus on four areas deemed important for enhancing rigor and transparency:

1. the scientific premise forming the basis of the proposed research,
2. rigorous experimental design for robust and unbiased results,
3. consideration of relevant biological variables, and
4. authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources

RESOURCES:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Rigor and Reproducibility

WHERE WILL THE RIGOR AND TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED?

Research Strategy Section of Application

Significance

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- ***Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application***
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved

Innovation

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or inventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or inventions.

Approach

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project***. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.*** Unless addressed separately in Item 15 (Resource Sharing Plan), include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
- ***Explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research designs and analyses for studies in vertebrate animals and humans. For example, strong justification from scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations, must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.***

- ***If your study(s) involves human subjects, you are expected to explain how relevant biological variables are important to the proposed experimental design and analyses. The sections on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities and Inclusion of Children can be used to expand your discussion on inclusion and justify the proposed proportions of individuals (such as males and females) in the sample***

- ***Please refer to NOT-OD-15-102 for further consideration of NIH expectations about sex as a biological variable***

- **Resource**: SF424 Guidelines

NIH Rigor and Reproducibility FAQs

http://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/faqs.htm#4734

Grants & Funding

Frequently Asked Questions

Rigor and Reproducibility

Last Revised: October 30, 2015

On This Page:

Use of new "Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources"

Grant applications for activity codes covered by the policy must include a new PDF attachment related to the authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources

→**This requirement will be specified in the FOA**

Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources:

Briefly describe methods to ensure the identify and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.

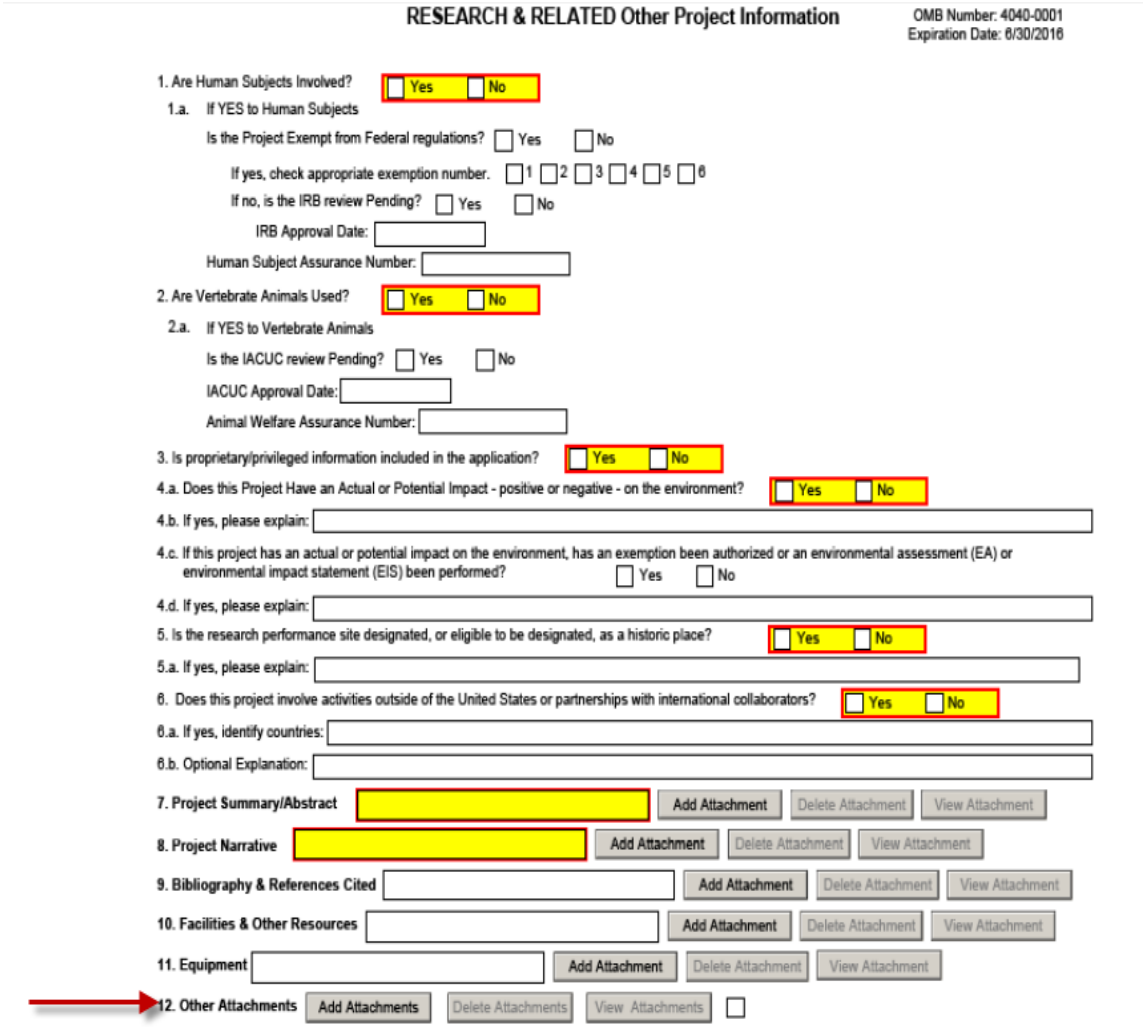
Key biological and/or chemical resources may or may not be generated with NIH funds and:

1. may differ from laboratory to laboratory or over time;
2. may have qualities and/or qualifications that could influence the research data; and
3. are integral to the proposed research.

These include, but are not limited to, cell lines, specialty chemicals, antibodies, and other biologics.

Standard laboratory reagents that are not expected to vary do not need to be included in the plan. Examples are buffers and other common biologicals or chemicals.

This pdf upload should be saved as a single pdf file named “Authentication of Key Resources Plan” and uploaded in Item 12: Other Attachments on the Other Project Information form of the Grant Application Package



RESEARCH & RELATED Other Project Information

OMB Number: 4040-0001
Expiration Date: 6/30/2016

1. Are Human Subjects Involved? Yes No
1.a. If YES to Human Subjects
Is the Project Exempt from Federal regulations? Yes No
If yes, check appropriate exemption number. 1 2 3 4 5 6
If no, is the IRB review Pending? Yes No
IRB Approval Date:
Human Subject Assurance Number:
2. Are Vertebrate Animals Used? Yes No
2.a. If YES to Vertebrate Animals
Is the IACUC review Pending? Yes No
IACUC Approval Date:
Animal Welfare Assurance Number:
3. Is proprietary/privileged information included in the application? Yes No
4.a. Does this Project Have an Actual or Potential Impact - positive or negative - on the environment? Yes No
4.b. If yes, please explain:
4.c. If this project has an actual or potential impact on the environment, has an exemption been authorized or an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) been performed? Yes No
4.d. If yes, please explain:
5. Is the research performance site designated, or eligible to be designated, as a historic place? Yes No
5.a. If yes, please explain:
6. Does this project involve activities outside of the United States or partnerships with international collaborators? Yes No
6.a. If yes, identify countries:
6.b. Optional Explanation:
7. Project Summary/Abstract — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
8. Project Narrative — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
9. Bibliography & References Cited — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
10. Facilities & Other Resources — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
11. Equipment — Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment
12. Other Attachments — Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR)

- By January 25, 2016, the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) instructions will be updated to include the following additional guidance for **6.2 Section B - Accomplishments,** in addition to the existing instructions. *Progress reports submitted on or after January 25, 2016 that are initiated prior to the instruction updates may use the current forms while following these additional instructions*

(RPPR) Updates to Section B – Accomplishments

B.2 What was accomplished under these goals?
Include the approaches taken to ensure robust and unbiased results.

B.6 What do you plan to do for the next reporting period to accomplish these goals?
Discuss efforts to ensure that the approach is scientifically rigorous and results are robust and unbiased

Resource: ***NOT-OD-16-031***

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE REVIEW PROCESS?

New Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will be asked to consider additional review questions in order to assess rigor and transparency in research grant applications.

Scored Review Criteria:

Significance

Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?

Approach

Have the Investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed?

Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?

Additional Review Considerations:

Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

- For projects involving key biological and/or chemical resources, reviewers will comment on the brief plans proposed for identifying and ensuring the validity of those resources.

- **Resource:** NOT-OD-16-011

Additional Changes

Vertebrate Animals

Changes Include:

- Updated guidance on criteria to be addressed (description of procedures; justifications; minimization of pain and distress; and euthanasia)
- A description of veterinary care is no longer required
- Justification for the number of animals has been eliminated
- A description and justification of the method of euthanasia is required only if the method is not consistent with AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

Definition of Child

Redefining the age of a child for the purposes of NIH's inclusion policy to individuals under 18 years old instead of under 21 years old

Resource: NOT-OD-16-010

Research Training

Updating of requirements and instructions for several attachments on the PHS 398 Research Training Program Plan form to reflect recent policy guidance and reduce application burden.

Changes include:

- "Recruitment and Retention Plan to Enhance Diversity" – applicants will be asked to focus on recruitment
- "Human Subjects" – applicants must describe how the institution will ensure that trainees only participate in exempt human subjects

- research or non-exempt human subjects research that has IRB approval; no longer necessary to provide a list of potential grants trainees may work on and associated IRB information

- “Vertebrate Animals” – applicants must describe how the institution will ensure that trainees only participate in vertebrate animal research that has IACUC approval; no longer necessary to provide a list of potential grants trainees may work on and associated IACUC information

- “Progress Report” – Requirement to report on publications that arose from work conducted by the trainee while supported by the training grant will be moved to the Just-in-Time process

BioSketch Clarifications

- URL for a publication list is OPTIONAL and, if provided, must be to a government website (.gov) like My Bibliography
- Allowing publications (peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed) and research products to be cited in both the personal statement and the contributions to science sections
- Explicitly stating that graphics, figures and tables are not allowed

PHASE 2

Policy & Guidance Changes Effective May 25, 2016

- Use new FORMS-D application forms
- Rigor and Transparency, Vertebrate Animals Changes extended to institutional training and individual fellowship applications
- Research Training: New table format
- Inclusion Forms: New Inclusion Enrollment Report form replaces old Planned and Cumulative Inclusion Enrollment Reports
- New PHS Assignment Request Form
- New Fonts
- Appendix Policy

Reminder about New NIH forms

- Updated application forms (will be called FORMS-D) must be used for applications for due dates on or after (but not before) May 25, 2016 and you'll start seeing the updated forms and instructions showing up in funding opportunity announcements by March 25, 2016. More information will be made available by NIH between now and then.

- (NOT-OD-16-004, NOT-OD-16-005)

Revised version of NSF ***Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide*** (NSF 16-1) has been issued.

The new PAPPG will be effective for **proposals submitted, or due, on or after January 25, 2016**. Significant changes include:

- Enforcement of 5:00 PM submitter's local time across all NSF funding opportunities;

- Implementation of NSF's Public Access Policy;
- Submission of proposal certifications by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) concurrently with proposal submission;
- NSF's implementation of the US Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences on Dual Use Research of Concern;
- Provision of Collaborators and Other Affiliations information as a new single-copy document, instead of as part of the Biographical Sketch;

- Upload a Current and Pending Support document for each Senior Personnel as a separate file or as text associated with each individual. These support documents can no longer be grouped together in a single PDF document and submitted under the name of the Principal Investigator (PI).
- Upload a Biographical Sketch for each Senior Personnel as a separate PDF file or as text associated with the individual. These documents can no longer be grouped together in a single PDF document and submitted under the name of the PI.

Grant Writing Seminars
NSF *** NIH *** USDA

- **Registration Deadline: February 12, 2016**

Partnering with schools and colleges, the Office of the Vice president for Research will be sponsoring three grant writing seminars to be conducted by Grants Writers' Seminars and Workshops, LLC. Faculty interested in attending any of the seminar(s) must be obtain approval from the Dean of their respective school/college prior to registration.

- **March 15, 2016 – NSF – How to Write Winning Grants, 8:00-5:00 p.m.**
  Oak Hall, Room 101, Storrs Campus

- **March 16, 2016 – NIH – How to Write Winning Grants, 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.**
  Oak Hall, Room 101, Storrs Campus

- **March 17, 2016 – USDA – How to Write Winning Grants, 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.**
  Oak Hall, Room 101, Storrs Campus

Registration form:
http://research.uconn.edu/training/grant-writing-workshops/registration/.

Contact info: Larisa Zagorski, Larisa.Zagorski@uconn.edu, 860-486-6378

The Write Winning Grants seminars will focus on key principles and the fundamentals of successful grantsmanship. The seminars will benefit both new and established faculty who have not previously applied (or unsuccessfully applied) for federal funding.