

News and Notes

Office of Sponsored Programs News

COVID-19 Sponsor Updates and Funding Opportunities

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has a webpage that links to sponsor updates related to the COVID-19 Pandemic and highlights COVID-19 funding opportunities. This page is updated on a regular basis.

Investigators are encouraged to assess their active sponsored projects, review award terms and conditions, and check sponsor websites for COVID-19 updates to determine how and when to communicate to sponsors project delays or scope changes due to COVID-19. All prior approval requests are required to be reviewed and endorsed by OSP before submission to the sponsor.

For more information, see the [OSP COVID-19 webpage](#).

University News

Workshop for New Basic Biomedical Researchers

On August 17, 2020, the Office of Research Protections is offering a virtual workshop for new basic biomedical researchers. This workshop includes an introduction to the key committees and offices related to basic biomedical research:

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)
- Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR)
- Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)
- Office of Trade Compliance (OTC)

By the end of the workshop, investigators will be proficient in submitting protocols to the IACUC and IBC and will understand how to work effectively with EH&S in managing a safe laboratory in the era of COVID-19. They will also be knowledgeable about the resources of the DLAR. In addition, they will learn about research integrity, export control regulations, visitor policies, and submitting grants, contracts, and material transfer agreements.

This workshop is relevant for faculty members, postdocs, graduate students, and staff members who engage in basic biomedical research.

The workshop is **free** for participants, although [registration is required](#). The Zoom link and detailed schedule of presentations will be provided to registrants closer to the workshop date.

Funding Agency Updates

National Institutes of Health Issue Guidance for Applicants for Fall 2020 Due Dates

For National Institutes of Health (NIH) applications due on or after September 25, 2020, a new guidance for investigators and institutions has been issued:

“NIH grant applications should NOT include contingency plans that would outline steps needed to recover from temporary, emergency situations, or institutional return-to-the-workplace plans, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contingency plans will not be considered in peer review but, if needed, COVID-19 contingency plans will be requested and carefully considered by NIH staff before funding.

Reviewers will continue to receive instruction to assume that temporary, emergency problems arising from the COVID-19 pandemic will be resolved and complications related to COVID-19 should not affect their scores. Reviewers will be instructed to disregard situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g., temporary declines in productivity, availability of key personnel, proposed patient populations, animal facility shutdowns, etc.”

See [NIH Notice NOT-OD-20-122](#) for more details.

NIH Requires Electronic Submission of all Administrative Supplements

Effective July 25, 2020, NIH will require recipients to submit all administrative supplement applications, electronically, for both single and multi-project awards.

Per the [previously issued Tip of the Week](#), supplements should be submitted through MyFunding’s system-to-system feature.

See [NIH Notice NOT-OD-20-128](#) for more information.

National Science Foundation Extends Some Proposal Deadlines

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has decided to [extend some of their upcoming proposal deadlines](#) where possible. In addition, they are aiming to provide maximum flexibility in all cases and ask that any principal investigator urgently in need of an extension please contact their program manager as soon as possible. NSF is continually assessing deadlines at the program level and will continue to balance making awards with the needs of the community.

See the [NSF Press Statement](#) for more information.

University Point of Contact for American Cancer Society New Intellectual Property Policy

The American Cancer Society (ACS) will be launching a new intellectual property (IP) reporting policy this year. The policy will require grantee institutions to report on inventions resulting from ACS funded grants. ACS plans to direct the request for the reports to the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) at grantee institution. The Point of Contact at the University of Pittsburgh for this purpose is:

Evan Facher PhD, MBA
Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Director of the Innovation Institute
efacher@innovation.pitt.edu
412-624-3152

Investigators and department administrators who receive any IP-related requests from ACS should direct them to Dr. Facher.

American Heart Association Requiring ORCID iDs

The American Heart Association (AHA) is now requiring PIs to have ORCID iDs to submit applications. An ORCID iD is a complete digital profile of an investigator's work. **After** activating your account in ProposalCentral and linking it to your AHA account, create an ORCID iD by going to <https://ProposalCentral.com>. Under Application Login, click "LOGIN using ORCID iD", and you will be redirected to orcid.org. For detailed instructions, see page 4 of the [FAQs for Transition from Grants@Heart to ProposalCentral](#).

If you already have an ORCID record, verify that your ORCID profile information is correct and your publications are up to date to save the effort of re-entering the information in ProposalCentral.