Pitt Research | Office of Sponsored Programs

News and Notes

Office of Sponsored Programs News

Pitt Momentum Funds 2021-2022

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 cycle of the Pitt Momentum Funds. The Office of Sponsored Programs Research Development staff maintain an up-to-date FAQ and a recording of the Pitt Research information session. **Expression of Interest deadline: September 13, 2021**.

Finding Funding Workshops

The University of Pittsburgh subscribes to Pivot, a comprehensive source for funding information that provides timely updates and recommendations tailored to a scholarly profile.

The Office of Sponsored Programs hosts weekly workshops to provide an overview of Pivot and how it may be used to find funding and collaboration opportunities to support research and scholarly endeavors. To register, visit our Finding Funding Workshops website.

Funding Agency Updates

National Institutes of Health Extend Special Exception for Post-Submission Material

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will accept a one-page update with preliminary data as post-submission material for applications scheduled to be reviewed in Spring 2022 (beginning with applications submitted for the September 25, 2021 due date). This applies only if the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) allowed preliminary data in the application. Post-submission materials are due 30 days before the study section meeting.

See NIH Notice NOT-OD-21-179 and the Extramural Nexus post for more details.

Clarification and Guidance for NIH Applicants Preparing Applications for the Fall 2021 Due Dates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The NIH is clarifying that its reviewers will continue to receive instructions to assume that constraints arising from the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., lab occupancy restrictions, declines in patient accrual, etc.) will be resolved during the project and thus should not affect their scores.

NIH grant applications should not include contingency or recovery plans for problems resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may however address effects due to the pandemic on productivity or other scoreable issues in their Personal Statement in the NIH Biosketch. Reviewers will be instructed to take these pandemic-related circumstances into account when assessing applicants' productivity and other score-driving factors.

See NIH Notice NOT-OD-21-180 for more details.

NIH Extending Deadline for Requiring Two-Factor Authentication for eRA Commons

Starting on September 15, 2021, eRA will begin a phased approach for requiring the use of two-factor authentication. Enforcement of this requirement depends on the type of user account and, in some cases, a triggering event such as a progress report or proposal application.

All NIH eRA Commons users with a scientific account (investigators) must use two-factor authentication beginning September 15, 2021. All users with administrative accounts (signing officials, administrative officials, etc.) will have until early 2022 to move to two-factor authentication.

See NIH Notice NOT-OD-21-172 for more details.

NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration

Administrators, researchers, early-stage investigators, graduate students, and anyone new to working with the NIH grants process are encouraged to attend the 2021 NIH Virtual Seminar scheduled for Monday, November 1 – Thursday, November 4, 2021. Benefits include:

- Learning about NIH grant processes, policies, and programs
- Interacting with NIH program, grants management, review, and policy staff
- Gathering resources to use and share with colleagues
- Engaging and networking with peers and NIH experts

Registration is free. For more details and to register, see the NIH Virtual Seminar website.

Fall 2021 National Science Foundation Grants Conference

Join the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Fall 2021 NSF Virtual Grants Conference. This virtual conference will broadcast live on Zoom during the week of October 4-8, 2021. Registration is open. To register for this free event, visit the conference website.