

News and Notes

Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) News

OSP Faculty and Staff Development Program (FSDP) Workshops

OSP is offering FSDP workshops this Fall through the [Research Administration track](#). Register for the following OSP workshops:

Introduction to the Office of Sponsored Programs	Monday, October 12	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Introduction to Grants Management Services in the Office of Sponsored Programs	Friday, October 16	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Basics of Federal Contract Administration	Monday, October 19	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Introduction to Contracts Services in the Office of Sponsored Programs	Thursday, October 29	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Introduction to PERIS™ MyFunding – Proposals	Wednesday, November 4	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Introduction to PERIS™ MyFunding – Awards	Thursday, November 5	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Introduction to MyRA for Non-Financial Agreements	Thursday, November 12	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Introduction to Subaward Administration	Monday, November 16	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Gifts That Support Projects Policy Review	Wednesday, December 2	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
The Research Concierge Program – An Overview of Resources & Services for Faculty and Research-related Staff	Wednesday, December 9	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Introduction to Fee-for-Service in the Office of Sponsored Programs	Thursday, December 17	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Workshop descriptions and registration information are on the Office of Human Resources (OHR) [FSDP website](#).

Research Security Training Requirement

As announced in the [September 2026 Office of Research Protections Newsletter](#), Pitt now requires that all covered individuals (generally senior/key personnel) complete research security training within the 12 months before a new or competing proposal is submitted to **any** federal funding agency.

OSP will check for compliance with research security training requirements as part of its [proposal review](#).

Funding Agency Updates

NIH to Replace Letters of Support with Letters of Collaboration

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) plans to replace its letter of support requirement with a letter of collaboration format, aligning with the approach the National Science Foundation (NSF) currently uses. This change takes effect with the implementation of Forms J in NIH Fiscal Year 2027, and it will not apply to any application until then.

Investigators should continue using the current letter of support format for now. Nothing changes until NIH releases the new forms and instructions, and OSP will let you know once those are available. NIH will revise the application forms and instructions to replace "Letters of Support" with "Letters of Collaboration," and further details will be issued prior to implementation. The move from Forms I to Forms J will be documented on NIH's [How to Apply page](#).

For more information, see [NIH Notice NOT-OD-26-094](#) and NIH's [letters of collaboration implementation page](#).

NIH Policy on the Use of AI in Applications

The NIH policy [NOT-OD-25-132](#), "Supporting Fairness and Originality in NIH Research Applications," states that NIH will not consider applications "that are either substantially developed by AI, or contain sections substantially developed by AI, to be original ideas of applicants." The policy became effective for applications submitted on or after September 25, 2025.

AI tools may be appropriate, in NIH's words, to "assist in application preparation for limited aspects or in specific circumstances," but the scientific ideas must be the investigator's own. NIH warns that "AI use may result in plagiarism, fabricated citations, or other kinds of research misconduct." If AI is detected after an award is made, NIH may refer the matter to the Office of Research Integrity and take enforcement actions "including but not limited to disallowing costs, withholding future awards, wholly or in part suspending the grant, and possible termination."

For more information, see [NIH Notice NOT-OD-25-132](#) and NIH's ["Apply Responsibly" guidance](#).

NIH Guidance on Co-Authorship and Foreign Components

The NIH has published a set of [FAQs on co-authorship and foreign components](#), derived from a September 2026 discussion between NIH extramural leadership and the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP). The document uses a series of scenarios to address when activities involving a foreign colleague constitute a foreign component requiring NIH prior approval. Topics include:

- Researchers who move to a foreign institution and collaborators who relocate mid-project
- Research performed before an award begins, and publications after a grant has ended
- Receipt of materials or data from a foreign institution
- Informal consultations and the definition of collaboration
- Service agreements with foreign entities
- Publications that include foreign co-authors
- Prior approval turnaround times and work continuity during NIH review
- In-kind contributions from foreign entities
- Equipment and materials from entities later added to restricted lists
- Foreign countries of concern, foreign travel and appointments, and funding acknowledgement practices

For more information, see the [FAQ document](#) and NIH's [Federal Funding policy page](#).