Office of Research News & Notes

Office of Research Updates

Addressing Rigor and Reproducibility in NIH Applications

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has developed a one-page guide to explain how investigators should address rigor and reproducibility in NIH applications. Click here for more information and to access to this new resource.

Two Policy Updates affecting NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Applications Due On or After January 25, 2017:

1. Elimination of Most Appendix Materials
To ensure fairness in peer review for all grant applicants, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the National Institute of for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are clarifying what is and is not allowed as Appendix material. Note that applications will be withdrawn and not reviewed if they contain unallowable Appendix materials. For more details, please see the following NIH notice: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-129.html

2. Clarification on Allowable Post-Submission Materials
Post-submission application materials are those submitted after submission of the grant application but prior to the initial peer review. NIH, AHRQ, and NIOSH simplified and consolidated their policies for what constitutes as allowable post-submission materials. For more details, please see the following NIH notice:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-130.html

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Food and Drug Administration Now Requires Use of the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

Beginning October 1, 2016, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will require grantees to use the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) module through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) eRA Commons System for all Type 5 Progress Reports and Final Progress Reports.

Grantees should review the resources available on the NIH RPPR webpage at:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/.

Please refer to the NIH notice for additional information: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-FD-16-014.html.

If you have questions, please contact Christine McClure, Associate Director for Grant Operations, at chriscra@pitt.edu or 412-624-7400.

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xTRACT: An Easier Way to Complete Training Tables for Your Grant Application or Progress Report

The xTRACT module, accessible via eRA Commons, helps applicants and grantees create training data tables for institutional training grant applications and progress reports (RPPRs). xTRACT can save investigators and administrators time preparing training table information, and provides grantees and NIH with training table data in a way that can be reused for future submissions and will be more readily available for analysis. Click here for more detailed information.

Don't Panic Over Expiration of Fed-wide Forms – Continue Using Current Forms Until Further Notice

Although forms in FORMS-D application packages list June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016 as expiration dates, the NIH advises to continue using the forms until further notice.

Please see NIH notice NOT-OD-16-120 for more information.