Office of Research News & Notes

Office of Research News

The Office of Research continues to experience some technical problems with the conversion of the old website into the new one http://www.research.pitt.edu/. Please let us know if you detect any issues with the website, so that we can address as soon as possible with Communication Services.

Funding Agency Updates

REMINDER – National Science Foundation (NSF) will Implement Automated Proposal Compliance Checks on September 26, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

As part of NSF's efforts to modernize proposal submission and increase competitive fairness in the proposal process, the Foundation continues to focus on implementing automated proposal compliance checks in FastLane.

Effective September 26, 2016, FastLane will now check to ensure that the combined text of the Project Summary text boxes (or uploaded PDF if the Project Summary contains special characters) does not exceed one page prior to submission, rather than the current check of 4,600 characters. See the Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), Chapter II.C.2.b, for further information.

The compliance check will trigger an error message in the following circumstances:

- *Project Summary text exceeds the one-page limit; and*
- *Project Summary text is entered and the user also uploads a "Project Summary with Special Characters" supplementary document.*

Proposal File Update (PFU) Implications:

Proposers should be aware that if a proposal was received by NSF prior to September 26, 2016, containing a Project Summary that complies with the previous 4,600-character limit but exceeds the one-page limit, a PFU addressing any section of the proposal will result in the proposal not being accepted if it does not comply with these compliance checks. The checks will be run on all sections of the proposal, regardless of which section was updated during the PFU.

Grants.gov Implications:

Proposers should also be aware that Grants.gov will allow a proposal to be submitted, even if it does not comply with these proposal preparation requirements. Should NSF receive a proposal via Grants.gov that is not compliant, it will be returned without review.

We encourage you to share this information with your colleagues. For system-related questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 or Rgov@nsf.gov. Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov.

Thank you,

Jean

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News from NIH Office of Science Policy - September 16, 2016

HHS and NIH Announce New Initiatives to Enhance Availability of Clinical Trial Information

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a new regulation and the NIH has issued a new policy to increase the availability of information about clinical trials. The HHS Final Rule describes requirements for registering and submitting summary results information for certain clinical trials to ClinicalTrials.gov. A complimentary NIH policy that applies to all clinical trials funded by NIH, regardless of whether they are subject to the Final Rule was also published today. The Final NIH Policy was also published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts.

NIH has made available a number of resources to help explain these changes. These resources include:

- A summary of the Final Rule and NIH policy
- A table of the key elements of the Final Rule and NIH policy
- A summary table of changes from current practice described in the Final Rule

In addition to these resources, ClinicalTrials.gov will be offering a series of three live webinars to provide responsible parties with information about the Final Rule. Each webinar will cover a different aspect of the Final Rule, including an overview of which applicable clinical trials are covered, what clinical trial registration and results information is required under the "expanded" requirements, and when the requirements take effect.

For a more in-depth examination of these issues, we encourage you to read two new "Under the Poliscope" blogs authored by Dr. Carrie D. Wolinetz, NIH Associate Director for Science Policy and Dr. Michael Lauer, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research. The blogs can be accessed here and here.

All of the above referenced information, as well as additional information can be found on the Office of Science Policy website under the "Sharing Clinical Trial Information" tab.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact us at SciencePolicy@mail.nih.gov