# Office of Research News & Notes

## Sponsor Updates

### NSF Announcement – Revisions to the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide

*We are pleased to announce that a revised version of the NSF [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG), (NSF 16-1) has been issued.*

*The new PAPPG will be effective for **proposals submitted, or due, on or after January 25, 2016**.  Significant changes include:*

- *Enforcement of 5 p.m. submitter's local time across all NSF funding opportunities;*
- *Implementation of NSF's Public Access Policy;*
- *Submission of proposal certifications by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) concurrently with proposal submission;*
- *NSF's implementation of the US Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences on Dual Use Research of Concern;*
- *Provision of Collaborators and Other Affiliations information as a new single-copy document, instead of as part of the Biographical Sketch;*
- *Submission of Biographical Sketches and Current and Pending Support separately for each senior personnel;*
- *Electronic signature and submission of notifications and requests by the AOR only;*
- *Revision of timeframe for submission of final project reports, project outcomes reports and financial closure of awards to 120 days after the award end date; and*
- *Numerous clarifications throughout the document.*

*Given the number of important revisions, the community is strongly encouraged to review the by-chapter summary of changes provided in the Introduction section of the PAPPG.*

*A webinar to brief the community on the new PAPPG will be held on October 29th at 2 PM EST.  [Registration is required](#).*

*While this version of the PAPPG becomes effective on January 25, 2016, in the interim, the guidelines contained in the current PAPPG (NSF 15-1) continue to apply.  We will ensure that the current version of the PAPPG remains on the NSF website, with a notation to proposers that specifies when the new PAPPG (including a link to the new Guide) will become effective.*

*If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Policy Office on x8243 or by e-mail to [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov).*

# NIH Announcement – Simplification of the Vertebrate Animals Section of NIH Grant Applications and Contract Proposals

On October 13, 2015, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) issued the following announcement to faculty:

*Today, NIH issued a [Notice]() outlining changes to the Vertebrate Animal Section (VAS) of grant applications and contract proposals submitted **on or after January 25, 2016**.*

*Amendments to the VAS were made to reduce redundancy with Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) while continuing to adhere to the [Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals]().*

***Changes***

- *The number of requirements for completing the VAS has been reduced from five to four. The requirement for providing information on the veterinary care of the animals has been eliminated.*
- *The justification for the number of animals used is no longer required.*
- *A description of euthanasia is required only if it is inconsistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines on euthanasia.*

*Grant reviewers will evaluate the VAS using the following criteria: 1) description of procedures using animals including species, strain, age, sex, and total number to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals taking into account alternatives and appropriateness of the species; 3) methods for reducing pain and/or distress; and 4) justification for the method of euthanasia if it does not follow AVMA guidelines.*

*These new requirements will take effect for grants due on or after **January 25, 2016**. See [the NIH VAS page]() for more information, which includes a checklist, detailed instructions to applicants, and links to worksheets.*

*As announced in a [previous email]() from the IACUC, NIH has recently implemented [additional policy changes]() related to the use of animals in research, which must be reflected in grant applications submitted on or after January 25, 2016. We encourage all NIH-funded investigators to become familiar with the [new requirements]().*