

# Office of Research News & Notes

## University of Pittsburgh News

### Changes to University Requirements for Conflict of Interest (COI) and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training

The Research Conduct and Compliance Office has announced changes to the training requirements for COI and RCR, including:

- Effective February 1, 2017, release of sponsored award funds will be contingent upon all project investigators having completed COI and RCR training within four (4) years prior to the date of release. This will supersede the current requirement that training must be completed prior to proposal submission.
- COI and RCR training will be required for investigators every four (4) years instead of every three (3) years.
- Effective immediately, all investigators are required to use the CITI COI and RCR courses to fulfill training requirements.

Please see the [memo](#) issued from the Vice Provost for Research Conduct and Compliance for more details. The Office of Research will be revising procedures to comply with the new university policy.

---

### University of Pittsburgh Winter Recess

Due to the University's Winter Recess, the Office of Research will be closed Friday, December 23, 2016 through Monday, January 2, 2017. All proposals with deadlines that fall within these dates should be submitted to the Office of Research no later than Tuesday, December 20 to ensure all proposals are submitted prior to the break. On behalf of everyone at the Office of Research, thank you for another productive year, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the University research community in 2017!

---

## Funding Agency Updates

### National Science Foundation (NSF) Issues Revised Award Terms and Conditions and Revised Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Proposal Preparation and Award Administration

The NSF revised their [Award Terms and Conditions](#), and the revisions will be applicable to awards issued on or after January 30, 2017. Revisions have been made to the following documents:

- Grant General Conditions (GC-1);
- Cooperative Agreement Financial & Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC);
- Cooperative Agreement Supplemental Financial & Administrative Terms and Conditions for Managers of Large Facilities;
- Cooperative Agreement Supplemental Financial & Administrative Terms and Conditions for Managers of Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCS);
- International Research Terms and Conditions;
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase I Grant General Conditions;
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase II Grant General Conditions; and
- Administration of NSF Conference or Group Travel Grant Special Conditions (FL 26).

The NSF also announced this week that a revised set of FAQs accompanying the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) has been issued. The FAQs are effective for proposals submitted or due, and awards made on or after, January 30, 2017. The revised FAQs can be found [here](#), and the corresponding PAPPG can be found [here](#).

---

## **Webcast of NSF Grants Conference Now Available**

The Fall 2016 NSF Grants Conference Webcast is now available on YouTube and can be viewed [here](#). Topics include: Types of NSF Funding Opportunities, Proposal Preparation, Award Management, the Merit Review Process, the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, and more.

Presentations are also available on the conference [website](#).

---

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Perspective on the 21st Century Cures Act**

Signed into law on December 13, 2016, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act includes provisions for healthcare, medicine, and research. The NIH published their perspective of this legislation and its potential impact.

To read more, visit: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2016/12/14/21st-century-cures-perspectives-from-nih/>

---

## **NIH Extension of the Effective Date for Policy on the Use of a Single IRB for Multi-Site Research**

The new effective date for the NIH policy on the Use of a Single IRB for Multi-Site Research is September 25, 2017.

For more details, see NIH Notice [NOT-OD-17-027](#) and the corresponding [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) on the implementation of this policy.