Office of Research News & Notes

Funding Agency Updates

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Announces Plan to Implement Grant Support Index (GSI)

The NIH Director announced that the NIH will be implementing a new measure to increase the number of NIH-funded principal investigators. Through the Grant Support Index (GSI), the NIH will aim to limit the NIH-funding received by investigators who have GSIs over 21 (the equivalent of 3 single-PI R01 awards). *NIH applicants with GSIs over 21 will be expected to include a plan in their grant applications for how existing grant loads will be adjusted to be within the GSI limits should the application be awarded.* The NIH expects that the implementation of a GSI limit will potentially fund an additional 1,600 new awards to a broader pool of investigators.

The NIH will be requesting feedback from the scientific community in the coming months about implementing the GSI limit.

For more information, please view the NIH Director's announcement and the Open Mike post on NIH's Extramural Nexus.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to Release New Funding Announcement

PCORI will be releasing a new funding announcement on June 23, 2017 entitled, "Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Delivery for Pregnant Women with Substance Abuse Disorders Involving Prescription Opioids and/or Heroin." PCORI will provide up to $16 million in direct costs to support 3-4 large randomized clinical trials (RCTs) and/or observational studies.

For more information, please view the preannouncement on PCORI's website.

Office of Research News

Changes to the Issuance of Contracted Services Agreements (CSAs)

Effective July 1, 2017, CSAs previously issued from the Office of Research will be issued as Services Agreements from Purchasing Services through the PantherExpress System. The Office of Research will continue to issue subawards from externally sponsored projects. This change will allow better conformance with the Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards and allow for more consistency in how outgoing vendor agreements are processed across the University.

The Office of Research and Purchasing Services will be offering two Q & A sessions on the process change and on the differences between Subrecipients and Contractors:

- June 12 from 12:00 to 1:00pm in O'Hara Student Center Ballroom (*note that the location has been changed from Benedum Hall 102 to accommodate more attendees*). Registration has been reopened for this session. Please register here to attend.

- June 22 from 2:00 to 3:00pm in Benedum Hall 102. Registration for this session is currently full.

Please visit the new Subawards page on the Office of Research website for more information.

Updates to InfoEd

The Office of Research has been reviewing its InfoEd system and will be making some minor improvements to it in the coming month. These changes may or may not be noticeable to those within our research community. Most importantly, these changes **are not** expected to cause any downtime to

InfoEd, nor do we expect them to cause any significant change with regard to how our users utilize InfoEd. In particular, improvements are being made to the following areas:

- Hiding superfluous folders that are not in use in an effort to clean up the InfoEd display menu and;
- Eliminating "In Development" as the default status, instead defaulting all new records to "pending" status.

Please contact Ashley Cephas in the Office of Research for any questions related to the InfoEd improvements.

Upcoming Changes to Office of Research Processes

As part of streamlining processes in the Office of Research, there will be several changes to procedures and forms that will be announced in the upcoming months. The changes will include:

- Guidance on the use of electronic signatures and routing

- New electronic subaward request process

- Form 0136 revisions

- Information required for processing No Cost Extensions

For any questions, please call the Office of Research at 412-624-7400.