ORS Newsletter
September 2020

NEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST SYSTEM TO LAUNCH ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

rCOI

As announced in the July 2020 ORS Newsletter, the University of Hawaii's (UH) Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) has developed a new Conflict of Interest (COI) system called rCOI, which will be launched on September 21, 2020. This new system will streamline the COI reporting process for those involved in extramurally-funded research projects, seamlessly integrating with our contracts and grants software, myGRANT**.** Developed in-house, this new solution was designed to better meet the university's needs, making the process more efficient for COI reporters, reviewers, and administrators.

The following are some of the improvements which will be implemented in <u>rCOI</u>:

- Disclosures for reporters with Significant Financial Interests (SFI) will be automatically submitted to the COI administrator when new awards are received; and
- For disclosures with SFI, after the first review cycle in the new system, reviewers (e.g., immediate supervisors, deans or directors) will only have to review dispositions for **new** awards, and prior recommendations for existing awards will be available for reference purposes.

Transition Plan

Previously approved COI disclosures will migrate from the current electronic COI system into rCOI. After implementation, all COI disclosures required for extramural proposal submission will be entered into rCOI, which will be accessible through myGRANT similar to the current electronic COI system.

If you are involved in a proposal that is routing through myGRANT this week, please be aware of the following transition details:

- The current electronic COI module will be locked down and no longer available for use starting 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2020 in order to transition to rCOI.
- If you have not updated your COI disclosure within the last 12 months, we strongly recommend that you submit an electronic disclosure for approval as soon as possible. COI disclosures which are not complete as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2020 may have to be redone after rCOI goes live and:
  - Proposals will not be submitted to extramural sponsors unless all investigators and key persons listed on the proposal have up-to-date COI disclosures.
  - Awards will not be formally accepted from extramural sponsors unless all investigators and key persons have approved COI disclosures.
- Submitted disclosures that involve an SFI and are pending reviewer approval as of 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2020 will have to be redone after rCOI goes live. All other disclosures which are pending reviewer approval will be administratively approved to ensure their transition into rCOI.

A User Guide and training information for rCOI will be made available online through the ORS COI webpage and the "User Guides" shortcut on the myGRANT homepage.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Research Integrity Office via the Office of Research Compliance at coi@hawaii.edu.

ENFORCEMENT OF REVISED NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) PROPOSAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GUIDE (PAPPG)

This is a reminder that the National Science Foundation (NSF) revised "Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF-20-1) will apply to all new proposals submitted or due on or after October 5, 2020.

The revised PAPPG requires the use of an NSF-approved format for the Biographical Sketch and Current & Pending Support proposal documents. The NSF-approved formats are the SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae and an NSF fillable PDF.

Any Biographical Sketch and Current & Pending Support proposal documents which are not in an NSF-approved format will trigger a compliance error and will ultimately prevent proposal submission or completion of the post-award action. This compliance check applies to proposals, requests for changes in principal investigator (PI) or addition of/change in co-PI, and relevant Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) submissions.

NSF Frequently Asked Questions on proposal preparation and award administration under the PAPPG (NSF-20-1) include Biographical Sketch and Current & Pending Support information.

A revised "NSF Grants.gov Application Guide" is scheduled for publication on September 16, 2020, and will go into effect on October 5, 2020. The guide will be updated to remove references and instructions for the Research & Related Personal Data form, which is no longer required as of October 5, 2020.

Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov. IT system-related or technical questions regarding the SciENcv or NSF-fillable PDF formats may be directed to fastlane@nsf.gov or the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 (7:00 AM to 9:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday to Friday, except federal holidays).

What is a "principal investigator"?

A principal investigator (also known as a "PI") is the primary individual personally conducting or supervising a sponsored project.

Who is eligible to serve as a principal investigator?

According to [Board of Regents (BOR) Policy 12.202](#), only University of Hawaii BOR appointees may serve as a principal investigator for an externally-funded project.

Are non-BOR appointees allowed to serve as a co-principal investigator or co-investigator?

Any co-principal investigator or co-investigator must also be a BOR appointee.