The latest news and important updates regarding sponsored grant proposals, awards, and compliance.

Proposal Development

NSF Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)

NSF recently announced changes to its **Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)** program. GOALI is no longer a standing NSF program; rather, it is now a funding mechanism. This means that PIs must submit a proposal to a standing NSF program and designate it as a GOALI by the title, which must begin with "GOALI." Certain documentation required for GOALI-designated proposals (e.g., letter from industry partner, university-industry IP agreement) is provided as supplementary documentation and will not be counted towards any Project Description page limitations. **PIs interested in submitting a GOALI-designated proposal MUST contact the cognizant NSF Program Director prior to submission.** Complete information is provided in the [NSF Dear Colleague Letter](#).

The GOALI mechanism brings together academic researchers and industrial partners with shared interests. The goal is to further scientific and engineering foundations to enable future breakthrough technologies with the potential to address critical industry needs. Industry involvement assures that the research is industrially relevant, and Principal Investigators are expected to integrate their research objectives with educational and industrial needs.

If you have questions about positioning your proposal for the GOALI mechanism, please contact Michelle Schoenecker (schoene7@uwm.edu) or Kari Whittenberger-Keith (kariwk@uwm.edu) in Proposal Development Services for assistance.

Reminder: NSF CAREER Proposals Due July 21-23

**NSF CAREER** proposals are due in four weeks – if you haven’t started your application yet, **NOW is the time to connect with the respective Program Officer** to make sure your project ideas align with the goals of CAREER and the program that you are applying to. The Program Officer can provide valuable advice on how to best position your proposal, or may even determine that your project is a better fit for a different program, or not suitable for the NSF CAREER program, thus saving you valuable time and effort.

The best way to obtain the Program Officer’s feedback is to email a Project Summary (in the [NSF format](#)) that describes your research and education plan, and the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts of your project. Program Officers are very busy, especially close to the CAREER deadlines, so it’s best to do this as soon as possible.

If you have questions about drafting a Project Summary or developing the rest of your CAREER proposal, please contact Michelle Schoenecker (schoene7@uwm.edu) or Kari Whittenberger-Keith (kariwk@uwm.edu).

Grant Opportunity: UW Extension Ideadvance Seed Fund
Is your brilliant idea ready to become a business? The [Ideadvance Seed Fund](#) helps to create new companies from ideas and technologies discovered at University of Wisconsin System campuses and at UW-Extension. Ideadvance combines grant funding with business mentoring to support development of innovative ideas and potential businesses from UW System faculty, staff, and student entrepreneurs. **Ideadvance is accepting seed grant applications through July 29, 2016.** Ideas from all disciplines are encouraged.

There are two types of funding opportunities: Phase 1 enables researchers with early-stage ideas to earn up to $25,000 by exploring and validating key business model assumptions. Phase 2 provides $50,000 to companies that have already validated key business metrics. Complete information, FAQs, and [application guidelines](#) are provided on the [Ideadvance Web site](#). Questions? Contact [Idella Yamben](#), Program Manager.

### Pre-Award Administration

#### New WISPER Compliance Question Coming August 1

Several UWM Schools/Colleges/Divisions (S/C/D) have requested an additional [WISPER](#) compliance question about the use of technology-related services, supplies, and/or equipment. In some instances, division-level technology resources may be limited and require approval, coordination, and review, and some projects may commit division-level technology resources far beyond the funding period. In both cases, S/C/Ds should have the opportunity to assess whether such projects have long-term resource allocation needs.

Beginning August 1, the following question will be added to the compliance section of WISPER records: **“Does the project involve the purchase or use of technology-related services, supplies, and/or equipment?”** PIs are required to answer “Yes” or “No” to the question in order for the WISPER record to be sent to the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP).

For “Yes” answers, each S/C/D may choose to follow-up with their PI for clarity, elect to have their information technology staff review the proposal or budget, or implement another internal review process. Division-level approval of the WISPER record signifies to OSP that any technology-related aspects of the project have been reviewed and approved by the S/C/D.

**What Are Allowable Technology Expenses?**

While each project, sponsor, and program is different, technology expenses may be included as direct costs as long as they are:

1. **Allowable** under the sponsor’s regulations, federal regulations, UWM and UW System policies, and necessary for the project.
2. **Allocable** to a specific portion or all of the project (i.e., directly related to a project outcome or deliverable).
3. **Reasonable** in that the expense is generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the project.

**Examples of Eligible Direct Charges:**

- The cost of computers or computing devices necessary for a specific project, such as a laptop for fieldwork.
- The cost of software necessary for a project (e.g., data analysis).
- Wages for a student employee to help develop a specific website, program, or app.

**Examples of Ineligible Charges:**

- The cost of a division- or department-level IT employee to “set-up” a computer purchased with sponsored project funds.
- The cost of a division- or department-level IT employee to provide general technology assistance.
- The cost to maintain division- or department-level IT infrastructure or staff.
- The cost of telephones in a faculty member’s office or lab.

The above examples are not meant to serve as an exhaustive list. If you are uncertain as to whether an expense may be eligible, please contact the [Pre-Award Specialist](#) assigned to your division or department.

### New PHS Assignment Request Form
The new PHS FORMS-D application package includes a new optional Assignment Request Form, which complements the Cover Letter included as an attachment on the SF 424 R&R form. NIH staff will use both the Assignment Request Form and the Cover Letter to assign and review applications.

When should I use the Assignment Request form?
The form should be used for the following reasons:

- To indicate the NIH Institute/Center to be assigned or not to assign.
- To request Study Section or Special Emphasis Panels to be assigned or not to assign.
- To list potential reviewers in conflict and provide a brief justification.
- To list scientific expertise necessary to review the application.

Is the Assignment Request Form visible to the reviewers?
No. The form is only available to NIH receipt and referral staff and not seen by the reviewers. Both the Assignment Request Form and Cover Letter are maintained as separate documents in eRA Commons.

When should I use the Cover Letter?
Cover Letters should only be used to provide the following information:

- Reason(s) for a late application.
- Explanation of why a subaward is not active for all periods of the proposed project.
- Statements regarding agency approval documents (i.e., requests over $500,000).
- Intent to submit a video as part of the application (NOT-OD-12-141).
- Indication that the proposed study will generate large-scale human or non-human genomic data (NOT-OD-14-111 and NOT-OD-15-027).

Can I continue to use the Cover Letter to request assignment and review for my application?
No. NIH receipt and referral staff will use the Assignment Request Form ONLY to assign applications. Cover Letters that contain any information about the assignment and review of an application will not be reviewed.

If you have questions related to the new PHS Assignment Request Form, please contact your Pre-Award Specialist.

Professional Development
Professional Development Opportunity for UWM Post-Docs

Postdoc Industry Consultants (PICO), a bioscience post-doc consulting group at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) comprised of MCW and UWM postdocs, is holding its monthly meeting at UWM on July 15 from 4:00-5:00pm in Lubar N120. Topics include an overview of PICO and how it can help you achieve career goals, learn marketable skills, and connect with industry leaders. Interested? Please RSVP to vermar@uwm.edu or PICO@mcw.edu Questions? Send an email to pico@mcw.edu.