June 15, 2017

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

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Grant Opportunity

CTSI – 2018 Traditional Pilot Awards

The Clinical & Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin (CTSI) is accepting proposals for Traditional Pilot Awards to stimulate inter-institutional and interdisciplinary translational and clinical research among the CTSI partner institutions. Notices of Intent to Apply are due by July 1, 2017. Full proposals are due September 1, 2017.

Thirteen awards up to $50,000 each for 12-month projects is anticipated. This award uses a multiple PI model to encourage inter-institutional and interdisciplinary collaboration between clinical and basic biomedical scientists, social scientists, ethicists, engineers, biostatisticians, informatics specialists, and all members of clinical health care delivery teams. Questions? Contact Christine Zeller, CTSI Pilot Award Program Manager, at 414-955-2524 or czeller@mcw.edu.

Proposal Development

Changes to NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant Program

The National Science Foundation has announced the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) and the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) will no longer accept proposals for the Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) Program. This decision was made following a process of internal review and discussion regarding available resources, and was necessitated because of increasing workload and changes in Division priorities. This decision does not affect DDIGs that are already awarded. Additional information is provided in the NSF FAQ page.

New NIH Grant Development Video Tutorials

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has developed four new video tutorials on the basics of preparing, writing, and submitting an applications. The tutorials average 4 to 11 minutes long, and you can easily jump ahead to chapters of interest or navigate back to review something you’ve missed. These tutorials link to additional resources and transcripts. In addition to the videos, another terrific resource is the “All About Grants” podcast series.

Need help with your NIH proposal? Contact Michelle Schoenecker (schoene7@uwm.edu) or Kari Whittenberger-Keith (kariwk@uwm.edu) in Proposal Development Services. We can provide you with proposal templates and guidance materials, development and editing support, and help connect you with campus resources.

Completing NIH Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources Form
If you plan to use established key biological and/or chemical resources in your NIH proposal, you are required to complete the Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources attachment, even if the key resources were purchased or obtained from an outside source that provided data on prior authentication.

Many researchers aren’t exactly sure about what kind of information to include in this plan. According to NIH, this one-page plan must include only a description of the methods proposed to authenticate key resources prior to use and at regular intervals, if appropriate. For example, if you propose to use chemicals that are key to the research, the authentication plan should describe the method used to validate the chemical, which might include liquid or gas chromatography or mass spectrometry. Authentication data should not be included in the plan. For more information, see NOT-OD-068 and the NIH FAQs.

Pre-Award Administration

Reminder: Update Your PHS Significant Financial Disclosure Forms

In accordance with federal regulations, all faculty and academic staff at UWM who plan to participate in or are participating as Key Personnel in Public Health Services (PHS)-funded research (e.g., from the National Institutes of Health) must fully disclose potential financial conflicts of interest (FCOI) and complete FCOI training. Key personnel is defined as those named on a grant application as Key Personnel and anyone responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of a PHS-funded research activity.

To fulfill this federal requirement and UWM policy, Principle Investigators and Key Personnel working on currently funded PHS projects must complete the Significant Financial Disclosure Form (located on the “Forms and Downloads” page of the Office of Sponsored Programs [OSP] website) and submit to OSP in the following circumstances:

1) No later than at the time of application for PHS funding.
2) Within 30 days of discovering or acquiring a new significant financial interest.
3) At least annually during the award period.

Online FCOI training is available at https://www4.uwm.edu/grad_school/fcoi/.

Questions? Please contact your Pre-Award Specialist.

Post-Award Administration

End of Year Review

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, please take a few minutes to review the status of your research grants, making sure that all appropriate expenses incurred within your project periods have posted. If you plan to take summer salary, please make sure it is taken within the correct effort period and that you meet all your effort commitments.

Questions? Please contact your Post-Award Specialist.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Introduction to Research Computing Course: June 27 and 29, 2017

The UWM High-Performance Computing Service will hold its “Introduction to Research Computing” course on June 27 and June 29 from 9:00am-4:00pm in EMS E256. This free course provides an overview of computational research and an introduction to Unix and shell scripting for automating computational tasks. The goal is to help researchers determine which types of computational tools might be helpful to their research, as well as to help establish new connections between researchers with common interests. The course is part lecture, part open discussion, and part hands-on practice. Space is limited; registration is required. Questions? Send an email to research-computing@uwm.edu.