POLICY AND SPONSOR UPDATES

NIH Proposed Budgets and the 2020 Executive Level II Salary Cap: NIH has not yet published a revised salary cap Notice, however, the Executive Level II Salary has been set by the Federal Government, effective January 2020 at $197,300 (Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law 116-94). AHRQ has published a Notice regarding the use of this new rate effective January 5, 2020. Please feel free to use the current 2020 Executive Level II Salary Rate in projected budgets for NIH applications and other sponsors who follow the NIH salary cap guidelines.

Applications submitted now for NIH will generally have a start date in early fall 2020 and per the historical documentation of NIH’s administration of the salary cap, those awards would qualify for the $197,300 cap level. If you or your faculty have any questions about utilizing the increased cap level in proposed budgets, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at OSP. We are happy to discuss the guidelines and can provide additional documentation of the rate if needed.

The National Science Foundation’s updated Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG): The PAPPG details NSF’s proposal preparation and submission guidelines, and provides guidance on managing and monitoring the award and administration of grants and cooperative agreements made by the Foundation. It will go into effect on June 1, 2020. NSF will hold a webinar on February 6 to explain revisions.

Additional Guidance on the NIH Policy on the Use of a Single Institutional Review Board for Multi-Site Research: The Notice reminds grantees that the Revised Common Rule is now in effect as of January 20, 2020. As a result, NIH K and F awards, which were previously exempt under the NIH Single IRB policy, are now covered under the Common Rule. NIH also reminds awardees that exceptions granted under their sIRB Policy are only in effect until the next competing award. For new projects with multiple sites that may involve Dartmouth-Hitchcock, study teams should check the DHH IRB submission criteria to determine whether they should speak to CPHS or DHH IRB about either being the IRB of record for other site(s) or relying on an external IRB.

Update of NIH Continuous Submission Policy: Change in Submission Deadlines and End of Recent Substantial Service Option: This Notice alerts the scientific research community of plans to discontinue the practice of granting one-
year continuous submission status to reviewers with recent substantial review service, which was earned by serving 6 times in an 18 month period.

**Celebrating 20 Years of ClinicalTrials.gov and Looking to the Future:** NIH’s National Library of Medicine has launched an effort to modernize ClinicalTrials.gov to deliver an improved user experience on an updated platform that will accommodate growth and enhance efficiency. Creating a roadmap for modernization requires feedback from a wide array of stakeholders on how to continue serving, balancing, and prioritizing their varied information needs.

**Data are Available on NIH Funding Plans (by Mike Lauer):** Funding decisions rely heavily on peer review scores, but there is more to the story. NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) weigh those scores together with ensuring their entire research portfolio addresses the wide array of diseases, conditions, or other research areas within its mission. They also account for unmet scientific needs and build on recent unexpected breakthroughs as part of prudent planning. When public health needs emerge, such as for the opioid epidemic or a microbial outbreak, ICs must be nimble enough to respond. Training, work force, and infrastructure needs are also thrown into the mix. We present FY 2018 data on R01-equivalent applications and R56-Bridge awards, showing percentiles for both funded and unfunded applications.

**Predicting Translational Progress from Citations of NIH-Supported Fundamental Research (by Mike Lauer):** By looking to the past we may be able to better understand the flow of scientific knowledge going forward, and possibly even predict translational research outcomes. In their October PLOS Biology paper, Drs. Ian Hutchins and George Santangelo from the NIH’s Office of Portfolio Analysis devised a machine-learning strategy that taps into the trajectory of science by tracking knowledge flow from bench to bedside.

**New “All About Grants” Podcast on Certificates of Confidentiality:** In this next installment of the NIH’s All About Grants podcast series, Lyndi Lahl, a Human Subjects Officer within the NIH’s Office of Extramural Research, explains exactly what are certificates, when disclosure of participant data is allowed and when it is not, and much more.
Updated Grant Application Instructions and Forms Coming in Spring 2020: NIH will require the use of updated application forms and instructions (FORMS-F) for due dates on or after May 25, 2020. In the meantime, continue to use FORMS-E application packages for due dates on or before May 24, 2020 despite the expiration dates noted on each form.

Selecting the Correct Budget Format for Your Application: Providing budget information is a necessary part of requesting federal funding. Many research grant programs require applicants to choose between two budget formats. When presented with budget format options, you need to carefully read the funding opportunity and application guide instructions and choose the budget format that matches your situation.

New NIH "FORMS-F" Grant Application Forms and Instructions: This notice informs the biomedical and health services research communities of changes to grant application form and application guide instructions for due dates on or after May 25, 2020.

NIH Guide LISTSERV: Subscribe to Weekly TOC E-mail with New NIH Guide Postings. Signing up for the guide ensures that you will receive important NIH announcements directly to your inbox.

CONTINUING EDUCATION/WEBINARS

Upcoming NCURA Webinars on How to Audit-Proof Your Department, HR Series: 2020 and Beyond: A Changing Workforce, The Impact on Research Administration & Evolving Approaches to Recruitment and Retention, and HR Series: Managing Flexible Work Arrangements

NOTABLE DATES/EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

NCURA FRA & PRA 2020
March 2-3, 2020 (FRA) in San Juan, Puerto Rico
March 4, 2020 Shared Workshop Day
March 5-6, 2020 (PRA) Register Here
**2020 NCURA Region I Recognition Award Nominations:** You can make nominations starting now for Recognition Awards to be awarded at the Region I 2020 Spring Meeting in Newport, Rhode Island. Nominations will be accepted for the following awards: (1.) The Julie T. Norris Distinguished Service Award; (2.) Merit Award; (3.) Outstanding New Professional Award; (4.) Outstanding Volunteer Award. Submit your nomination packet here: [NCURA Region I Recognition Award Nominations Packet Link](#). Nominations are due March 27, 2020.

**NCURA 62nd Annual Meeting of the Membership**  
Sunday, August 09, 2020 - Wednesday, August 12, 2020

**NIH & You: 2020 NIH Regional Seminars in Baltimore & Nashville**  
Two NIH Regional Seminars will be held this year:  
**April 20-22:** Baltimore, MD ([Registration Open](#))  
**Oct 28-30:** Nashville, TN ([Registration Opens Late January](#))

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**James Webb Space Telescope Cycle 1 Call for Proposals:** Participation in this program is open to all categories of organizations, both domestic and foreign, including educational institutions, profit and nonprofit organizations, NASA Centers, and other Government agencies. This solicitation for proposals will be open through May 01, 2020 8:00pm EDT. The current release of the Astronomer's Proposal Tools (APT), required for Proposal Submission, can be used to prepare proposals. The final version for Cycle 1 use will be released in early March. Results of the selection will be announced in late August. All programmatic and technical information, as well as specific guidelines for proposal preparation, are available electronically from the STScI Announcement Web Page: [https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/jwst-opportunities-and-policies/jwst-call-for-proposals-for-cycle-1](https://jwst-docs.stsci.edu/jwst-opportunities-and-policies/jwst-call-for-proposals-for-cycle-1) also see [http://www.stsci.edu/jwst/science-planning](http://www.stsci.edu/jwst/science-planning).

**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA):** The National Endowment for the Arts provides direct support to creative writers and literary translators of distinction through Literature Fellowships. Fellowships in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. Non-matching grants are for $25,000.  
Deadline: March 11, 2020  
Funding: $25,000
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowships: NEH Fellowships are competitive awards granted to individual scholars pursuing projects that embody exceptional research, rigorous analysis, and clear writing. Applications must clearly articulate a project’s value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Fellowships provide recipients time to conduct research or to produce books, monographs, peer-reviewed articles, e-books, digital materials, translations with annotations or a critical apparatus, or critical editions resulting from previous research. Projects may be at any stage of development. NEH invites research applications from scholars in all disciplines, and it encourages submissions from independent scholars and junior scholars. Applicants interested in research projects that are either born digital or require mainly digital expression and digital publication are encouraged to apply instead for NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication (see below).
Deadline: April 8, 2020
Funding: $5,000 per month

NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication: Through NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication, the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation jointly support individual scholars pursuing interpretive research projects that require digital expression and digital publication. To be eligible for this special opportunity, an applicant’s plans for digital publication must be integral to the project’s research goals. That is, the project must be conceived as digital because the research topics being addressed and methods applied demand presentation beyond traditional print publication. Successful projects will likely incorporate visual, audio, and/or other multimedia materials or flexible reading pathways that could not be included in traditionally published books, as well as an active distribution plan.
Deadline: April 8, 2020
Funding: $5,000 per month

NEH Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan: The Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan program is a joint activity of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program aims to promote Japan studies in the United States, to encourage U.S.-Japanese scholarly exchange, and to support the next generation of Japan scholars in the U.S. Awards support research on modern Japanese society and political economy, Japan's international relations, and U.S.-Japan relations. The program encourages innovative research that puts these subjects in wider regional and global contexts and is comparative and contemporary in nature. Research should contribute to scholarly knowledge or to
the general public’s understanding of issues of concern to Japan and the United States. Appropriate disciplines for the research include anthropology, economics, geography, history, international relations, linguistics, political science, psychology, and sociology. Awards usually result in articles, monographs, books, e-books, digital materials, translations, editions, or other scholarly resources. The fellowships are designed for researchers with advanced Japanese language skills whose research will require use of data, sources, and documents, onsite interviews, or other direct contact in Japanese. Fellows may undertake their projects in Japan, the United States, or both, and may include work in other countries for comparative purposes. Projects may be at any stage of development.

Deadline: April 22, 2020
Funding: $5,000 per month

**Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research:** A proposal for a research grant in this program must focus on advancing fundamental understanding of future work, and potential improvements to work, workplaces, workforce preparation, or work outcomes for workers and society. It must be convergent research that addresses the human and societal dimensions as well as the technological innovation and their potential impact on future work. In doing so, the research should make significant contributions to both intellectual merit and broader impact. Achieving this goal requires integration and convergence of disciplines across behavioral science, computer science, economic science, engineering, learning sciences, research on education and workforce training, and the social sciences. A convergent perspective is essential to understand and shape long-term social and economic drivers, so that advanced intelligent technology will strengthen the social fabric. A convergent perspective also provides insights into education and re-skilling, so that the benefits of emerging technology can be conferred upon both current and future workers.

Deadline: March 9, 2020
Funding: project based