Grants Reform and OMB Circular A-21 Revision


The Proposed Guidance, at this point, will be open for a 90-day public comment period and comments can be submitted at regulations.gov under docket number OMB-2013-0001. If the 90-day public comment period is not extended, the due date for comments will be Midnight EST, May 2, 2013.

Focus on the Proposed OMB Guidance-COGR Update:

COGR- Council on Governmental Relations (www.cogr.edu) was established in 1948 and it consists of about 185+ member institutions. Its mission is to foster strong working relationships with Federal Agencies and their representatives. Its primary goals are to facilitate federal policies and regulations affecting university research, and to advocate for and represent the research and university community with a single voice. The following preliminary assessment of the most important proposed changes of the OMB Uniform Guidance was presented in a COGR update at the NCURA Financial Research Administration Conference (FRA) on Monday, March 11, 2013 as well as the February 2013 Update to its members.

April 2013 - New Awards

Focus on the Proposed OMB Guidance-COGR Update: Continued

The full text of the proposed new circular is a 244 page document that consolidates Administrative Requirements (Circulars A-110, A-102, A-89), Cost Principles (Circular A-21, A-87, A-122) and Audit Requirements (Circulars A-133, A-50) into a single document. The February 1, 2013 Federal Register Notice, is a high-level summary (15 pages) of the proposed changes. COGR reviewed and commented on the most important changes.

- Agencies are required to keep funding announcements open for 30 days.
- Funding announcements that include limits on the negotiated F&A rate are now more rigorous and require approval by the Agency head and OMB.
- Subrecipient vs. Contractor definitions/relationship is clarified and there is confirmation that the institution is the best to make the judgment in classifying the relationship.
- Pass-through entities are required to pay the full F&A rate.
- Recipients need to relate financial data to performance accomplishments whenever practicable.
- Voluntary committed cost sharing is not expected under federal research proposals and is not to be used as a factor in the review of applications or proposals, except where otherwise required by statute.
- CAS and DS-2 requirements are eliminated, though if federal contracts awarded exceed $25 million in a year, DS-2 still is applicable.
- Salaries of administrative or clerical staff and computing devices are allowable as a direct charge when integral to the project and can be directly allocable to the project.
- De-minimis F&A rate of 10% is available to any entity that does not have a negotiated F&A rate.
- A cost item may be excluded from MTDC (and application of F&A rate) when cognizant or awarding agency determines it is necessary to avoid serious inequity.
- Entities may apply for one-time, 4-year extension of negotiated F&A rate.
- Significant updates on compensation-personal services (effort reporting) and fringe benefits with effort reporting not eliminated but the “examples” eliminated.
- Acquisition cost/depreciation on a matching requirement or for a non-Federal award is not allowed.
- Equipment definition now includes Software.
- Computing devices less than $5,000 allowable as a direct charge when essential and allocable (and even if not solely dedicated) to the project.
- Residual inventory of less than $5,000 may be retained upon completion of the federal project, with no obligation.
- Costs incurred for temporary dependent care directly resulting from travel are allowable.
- Elimination of the restriction on moving a charge from F&A to direct.
- The cognizant agency shall formalize F&A Rate adjustments, the actual amount, both dollar and percentage adjusted, and the reason for making adjustments.
- Single Audit threshold increased to $750k.
Research News and Funding Opportunities

American Diabetes Association

Pathway to Stop Diabetes Research Awards
Call for Nominations—Now Open!

Pathway is a bold new initiative to radically transform diabetes research. Our vision is simple yet revolutionary: find a new generation of brilliant scientists at the peak of their creativity and equip them with the freedom, autonomy and financial and professional resources to set them on the road to breakthrough discoveries.

Pathway awards will support exceptional, creative scientists; individuals who are early in their diabetes research careers, or who are currently in other disciplines, but are interested in applying their expertise to diabetes research for the first time.

Pathway will provide the means to conduct transformative science, including:

- Substantial, flexible financial support of $1.625M over 5 to 7 years
- Scientific and career mentoring from distinguished leaders
- Networks for collaboration and communication

Pathway awards are by institutional nomination only. Nominations for individuals proposing innovative and transformational basic, clinical, translational, epidemiological or health services research that is relevant to any type of diabetes, diabetes-related disease state or complication are welcomed. Nominations of candidates in diverse disciplines, from medicine, biology and chemistry to engineering, mathematics and physics, are encouraged.

To learn more about the available grant opportunities, and for nomination materials, please go to www.diabetes.org/pathway.

American Heart Association (AHA)

Upcoming Scientific Events:

AHA Emerging Science Series 2013
Present your best science through free webinar presentations. Each live, moderated event and online forum will have submission opportunities for late-breaking clinical trials, key updates of previously presented trials, late-breaking basic science and more, and a discussion forum for Q&A. Next dates:

June 19 – submissions accepted April 17 - May 8
Info at AHA Emerging Science Series
**UTH Training**

**SciVal Funding Training for Faculty and Staff on April 24**

Eric Solberg, Associate Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs and Ashley Popham, Systems and Reporting Supervisor from Sponsored Projects Administration will present SciVal Funding training to all Medical School faculty and staff on April 24th from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in MSB 1.006. Please mark your calendars.

**SciVal Funding**

SciVal Funding ([http://www.funding.scival.com/home](http://www.funding.scival.com/home)) helps you to identify suitable grant and contract funding opportunities. Far more than just a search tool, SciVal Funding provides valuable information about grant opportunities based on your own track record (publications and previous awards), as well as current ideas through keyword searches, and thus identifies opportunities that are most relevant to you.

Your tailored searches
- draw from funding opportunities that are updated daily,
- include more than 3,500 public and private funding agencies, including federal and state governments, professional organizations, foundations and charities.
- allow you to review historical award data to spot trends and identify potential collaborators.

Intelligent-filtering options help
- refine and personalize searches,
- allow you to review your search history,
- save opportunities to your “favorites,”
- set up email alerts for specific funding recommendations based on your personalized search profile.

Anyone accessing the SciVal site from the UTHealth computer network will have access to this tool.
Calendar of Events—TRAINING

Upcoming Library Classes - Register Here

RefWorks
Wed. May 22, 2013 12:00PM - 2:00PM
RefWorks is a web-based citation management program that allows you to organize references in one convenient location, and also format your paper and bibliography. RefWorks contains several hundred citation output styles such as APA and AMA, in addition to individual journal submission formats. This class will teach you to set up an account, import citations, build your bibliography and format your paper.

PubMed - Basic
Thu, April 25, 2013 3:00PM – 4:00PM
This class teaches how to use PubMed, the National Library of Medicine's search service, which provides access to the 21 million citations in MEDLINE and Pre-MEDLINE (with links to participating on-line journals), and other related databases. How to search subject headings, keywords, authors, use limitations and more will be covered.

Keeping Up With Information
Tue, April 23, 2013 12:00PM - 1:00PM
Feeling overwhelmed by the vast amount of information and research you have to keep up with? Find out how to sort and track the flow of information you need on a day-to-day basis!

Finding Citation Metrics
Thu, May 09, 2013 10:00AM - 11:00PM
Learn about the library’s resources (Journal Citation Reports & Scopus) for tracking journal citation rates, article citation rates, and author metrics. As well, learn about online tools for tracking metrics beyond the standard methods.

Register for the following PeopleSoft classes at https://www.uthouston.edu/hr/training-and-development/training-resource-center/welcome-to-the-training--resource-center.htm

Tue 05/14/2013 9:00AM—4:00PM  FMS General Ledger for End Users
Tue 04/23/2013 9:00AM—4:00PM  FMS Billing
Wed 05/29/2013 8:00AM—4:00 PM  FMS Query Manager
Wed 05/01/2013 8:30AM—4:30PM  FMS Accounts Payable for End Users
Tue 05/07/2013 8:30AM—4:30PM  FMS eProcurement
Tue 05/21/2013 9:00AM—3:00 PM  HCM Inquiry
Calendar of Events—**IMM SEMINARS**

11 AM; IMM Beth Robertson Auditorium
1825 Pressler Street

**Friday, April 19, 2013**  
Host: Wenliang Li Ph.D.  
Jer-Tsong Hsieh, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Urology  
Endowed Title: Dr. John McConnell Distinguished Chair in Prostate Cancer Research, UT Southwestern  
**Title:** “Loss of homeostatic Machinery leading to prostate cancer metastasis”

**Friday, April 26, 2013**  
Host: Zhiqiang An Ph.D.  
Sachdev Singh Sidhu, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Banting and Best Dept. of Medical Research  
Donnelly Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Research, University of Toronto  
**Title:** “Synthetic proteins: New tools for new biology”

For more information on IMM Seminars and speakers contact IMM Seminar Coordinator Monica Bennett  
[Monica.J.Bennett@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Monica.J.Bennett@uth.tmc.edu)

Welcome to the IMM!

- **Monique Bullock**, Financial Analyst, IMM  
- **Josie Chevis**, Financial Analyst, IMM  
- **Ali Dadbin**, Sr. Research Assistant, Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine  
- **Osita Igwe**, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Metabolic and Degenerative Diseases

**Hyperlinks**  
Did you know all blue text in this newsletter is a hyperlink? Just click on the text to go to the referenced website.