The GrantsXpress module of the new RAPPORT system went live at Dartmouth in June. GrantsXpress is a Click Commerce product that has been customized for Dartmouth and allows electronic processing of grants.gov applications. The RAPPORT project provides for electronic routing and approvals and direct submission to the federal government’s primary grant application portal, grants.gov.

“Early Adopter” departments for GrantsXpress include the Department of Medicine, Norris Cotton Cancer Center and Microbiology. While summer is not a heavy grant deadline period, we have submitted six proposals through the system to date. The early roll-out has intentionally been designed as a “soft” rollout involving a limited number of departments. This strategy has provided the opportunity for one-to-one training and outreach and a very small amount of “fine-tuning” of the system. We anticipate a much higher volume for the October deadlines.

Faculty Feedback
Richard Waddell, D.Sc., a faculty member in Medicine and recent RAPPORT PI commented, “Thanks to everyone for working so hard on this grant application. As I think everyone knows, it was sent on Monday afternoon using Dartmouth’s new Rapport "click commerce" system and it worked like a dream. And NIH Commons has confirmed receipt with no errors. So we’re one step closer. Let's hope that the reviewers appreciate what we’ve planned and I look forward to this collaboration (how’s that for positive thinking!).”

The next wave of early adopters include The Dartmouth Institute (TDI), Psychological and Brain Sciences, and a few other departments. The administrators of these departments are attending training and the RAPPORT team will work closely with proposal approvers including Chairs, Deans and Fiscal Officers.

As we transition to rolling out RAPPORT to all Dartmouth departments, grant managers will attend training sessions in October and November before using the system. We anticipate two required two hour sessions and will announce schedules as soon as possible. Submit questions on RAPPORT to rapport@dartmouth.edu.

OSP New Faculty Orientation Sessions:

11:45 am - 1 pm, Tuesday, October 9, 2012 Rockefeller Center, Class of 1930 Room with Guest Speaker Karl Griswald, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Engineering

11:45 am - 1 pm, Thursday, October 11, 2012 Auditorium B/C, DHMC with Guest Speaker Mary Jo Turk, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology


Office Hours for COI Questions
If you are in need of assistance with submitting your Annual Disclosure, or have any other questions about how the updated online disclosure system works, Tammy Hickox will have “drop-in” office hours on Friday Sept. 28th between 8-10AM at the OSP Office at DHMC (Rubin Level 4 Room 46215). You are welcome to drop in and we can go over any questions or concerns that you may have. Future hours to be announced.
Federal News

House Passes Continuing Resolution (CR), Effective October 1.

House Republicans and Democrats passed a six-month continuing resolution that will keep the government running until March 27. Members easily approved the spending resolution early Thursday evening in a 329-91 vote. The resolution puts the government on a pace to spend $1.047 trillion in discretionary spending in 2013, the same level agreed to in last year’s Budget Control Act (BCA). The Senate is expected to pass the resolution the next week.

As in any year, but particularly in light of the CR, agencies will be working hard to get awards made before October 1. Institutions should be prepared to act quickly to complete just-in-time reviews to assist agencies in completing their FY 2012 awards.

NIH News

NIAID Salary Caps K08 and K23

The NIAID salary caps will change to $90,000 and Research Support to $50,000 for both K08 and K23 awards. This change is effective immediately for all competing awards associated with the January 2013 council round and thereafter.

NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Webinar

On October 17, 2012 from 1:30-3:00pm EDT, NIH will host a webinar for grantees on the new NIH Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR). This training is an opportunity for grantees to get a first-hand look prior to October 19 when all grantee institutions will have access to the NIH RPPR for most Streamlined Non-competing Award Process (SNAP) and Fellowship awards. Registration is required. For more information see NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-12-142 and the NIH RPPR web site. OSP will be hosting the webinar at OSP.

2013 NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRP) Information Announced

If you are or will be conducting qualified research funded by a domestic non-profit institution, you may be eligible for one of the five extramural Loan Repayment Programs. Specific program information posted for the 2013 application cycle:

- Clinical Research (LRP-CR)
- Clinical Researchers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (LRP-IDB)
- Contraception and Infertility Research (LRP-CIR)
- Pediatric Research (LRP-PR)
- Health Disparities Research (LRP-HDR)

LRP applications will be accepted September 1 through November 15, 2012, 8:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the NIH Loan Repayment Programs.

COI Question of the Month: Real Questions from Real Investigators

Dear OSP: I am working with my colleague from Ohio State on a new grant application. The application is due in October. She has written to me and asked me to provide a certification concerning compliance with PHS COI rules. Am I required to disclose my interests to OSU? Signed Mort.

Dear Mort: This is an overwhelming time for all US research institutions who have been charged with implementing these rules under a tight timeline. To answer, your question, no, you should not disclose details concerning your financial interests to OSU at this time. The PHS regulations require that prime grantees provide assurance that sub-contractor institutions are in compliance with PHS COI rules. OSP signature will provide this certification. You will be disclosing your financial interests to Dartmouth. In the unlikely chance that your financial interest is deemed to be a reportable financial interest, the Dartmouth COI Officer will make the report to OSU and advise you on the process.
A nationwide poll conducted by Research!America indicates strong support for federal funding for research: nearly two-thirds of likely voters say the next president should announce initiatives promoting medical progress during his “first 100 days in office.” The poll also found:

- 77 percent of likely voters believe the federal government should fund research to make the health care system more efficient and effective;
- 66 percent of likely voters say their quality of life has been improved by medical research over the past decade;
- 61 percent of likely voters favor expanding federal funding for research using embryonic stem cells; and
- 15 percent of likely voters know that medical research in the United States is conducted in every state. http://www.researchamerica.org/

The atmosphere of fiscal uncertainty for the agencies that fund research, and everyone seeking that funding, is in fact demoralizing in the extreme. Compounding the problem is that the C.R. does nothing to address the looming problem of sequestration, which is scheduled to take effect on January 2, 2013. The administration is slated to release a report tomorrow detailing how the sequestration cuts would be implemented at the department and agency level; it is unlikely to single out research and innovation for special protection. Thus it is more important than ever that our stakeholder community unite in a call to stop sequestration

Mary Woolsey, Research!America

Conflict of Interest: New PHS Annual Process Goes Live

Over the past four months, hundreds of Dartmouth faculty and staff have attended mandatory educational sessions on new rules related to conflict of interest and research. After almost a year of preparation, legal reviews, faculty discussions and approvals, the revised PHS rules were finally implemented on the mandated deadline of August 24th.

Concurrent with the massive outreach effort and process of redrafting a complex policy to meet a complex rule, computing staff and administrators have been working tirelessly to make ready an electronic system to manage a huge influx of information.

Under the new rules, Investigators who are defined as anyone who is responsible for the design, conduct or reporting of research must attend an educational session and disclose financial interests related to all of their institutional responsibilities. The disclosures are required annually and are also triggered by certain events (a grant application, receipt of a new financial interest, travel provided by an outside entity, etc.).

To avoid paper and provide an electronic solution to the additional reporting mandated under the rule, the on-line system has been “re-tooled” and will be deployed on Tuesday September 18th. At that time, all PHS “Investigators” (read definition broadly and carefully) will be asked to submit a disclosure of financial interests received in the last 12 months or anticipated in the next 12 months.

Please monitor your emails closely and complete your disclosure as soon as possible. We apologize for the brief period of paper-based disclosures. However, it has served a purpose to remind us of why we sorely need technical solutions for regulatory problems. Thank you all for your cooperation.

To access the Dartmouth COI Disclosure System:


Stay tuned as we will be reaching out to various institutions to assess compliance and help those that may need assistance with any other aspects of the new regulation.

Sally Rockey, NIH’s Deputy Director for Extramural Research
Calendar

Cost Transfers: Make Them Work for You and Not Against You

We are strongly encouraging all grant managers involved in monitoring post-award funds to attend this interactive session. Cost transfers are under a microscope with auditors. Why? Cost transfers are sometimes necessary. However, moving charges months late or without proper justification is seen as a symptom of a larger problem. Please join your OSP colleagues for this important discussion. October 16, 2012, 9 am, Rockefeller 1930s Room.

SRA International Annual Meeting Webinars October 1 – 2, 2012

SRA will broadcast the compliance and ethics track sessions. OSP will be hosting the webinar if you wish to watch it here in our conference room. Please rsvp to Karin.spanos@dartmouth.edu. Link to complete program including topics on Compliance, Regulations, and other topics http://www.sra2012.org/webinars

Monday, October 1

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM (Eastern Daylight Time) Compliance Issues in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Speaker: Deborah Marshall, CRA, Executive Director for Research Administration, University of Pennsylvania; This presentation focuses on two compliance issues as they affect faculty in the Social Science and Humanities disciplines.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) Regulatory Research for the Research Administration Professional
Speaker: Rebecca Ballard, JD, Director, Office of Research Integrity, Children's Mercy Hospitals; This session offers a mini-legal research class to show registrants how to evaluate legal research sources and use them effectively, with particular emphasis on cost-effective research.

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) Research Compliance Part 1
Speaker: Ann Mathias, JD, Assistant Vice President, Research Compliance, Carnegie Mellon University; This is the first of two sessions that will provide an overview of compliance issues related to sponsored research. Focus is on human subject research, the use and care of animals in research and responsible conduct of research education.

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) Research Compliance Part 2
This second session will focus on financial conflicts of interest, export controls and research misconduct.

Tuesday, October 2

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM (Eastern Daylight Time) Optimizing Ethical Practice in Research Administration through Positive Leadership Speaker: Tim Atkinson, Assistant Provost, Sponsored Programs, University of Central Arkansas
This session will identify ways research administrators can enhance their professional legitimacy not only through following the law, but also by analyzing the concept of moral agency and the virtuous organization and how these concepts contribute to advancing the research endeavor.

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) A Hard Look at Research Misconduct: Is Academia the Problem?
Speaker: Maria Garner, Associate General Council, Vanderbilt University; This session will clearly define the concept of ‘research misconduct,’ introduce the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and take a hard look at how the tenets of academia may negatively affect the responsible conduct of research.

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) Rebuilding a Research Ethics Committee
Speaker: John Biggs, Chairman, Australian Capital Territory Health Human Research Ethics Committee, Australia
Ethics committees and boards have responded to changes in research management. This review of practice looks at the impact on an Australian committee.

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) Biological Specimens in Industry Sponsored Research
Speaker: Rosemary Farr, JD, Counsel, Reed Smith LLP
The speaker will present an overview of current case law, regulations, trends and recent developments.