SPA NEWS AND NOTES – NOVEMBER 2018

NIH & CPRIT PROGRESS REPORTS DUE IN December, 2018:

Progress reports are due to SPA at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the deadline listed below to allow time for SPA to review and submit.

Grant #	Proposal Title	PI Name	Due Date
NIH			
5F32DE027580-02	Disulfide bond formation in Enterococcus faecalis	BROWN, ARMAND	12/1/2018
5R01AI076406-10	The role of reactive oxygen species in mucosal innate immunity	GARSIN, DANIELLE A	12/15/2018
5R21AR072870-02	Muscle Stem Cells reprogrammed Through Genome Engineering for Autonomously Regulated Anti-Fibrotic Therapy	HUARD, JOHNNY	12/15/2018
5R21AI126941-02	Messenchymal Stemm Cell Niche for Tuberculosis	JAGANNATH, CHINNASWAMY	12/15/2018
5R01HL139553-02	Analysis of Whole Genome Sequence and Hemostasis Phenotypes	MORRISON, ALANNA C	12/15/2018
5R21EY027965-02	The role of electrical synaptic plasticity in retinal function	O'BRIEN, JOHN	12/15/2018
5R21NS106968-02	Regulation of IP3R channel in apoptosis	SERYSHEVA, IRINA I	12/15/2018
5R01AI130460-03	Dynamic learning for post-vaccine event prediction using temporal information in VAERS	TAO, CUI	12/15/2018
5R01NS092377-05	Excitatory neurotransmission by PTX-sensitive G proteins	ZHU, MICHAEL X	12/15/2018
CPRIT			
PP170046	Evidence Based Cancer Prevention Service	CUCCARO, PAULA	12/15/2018
PP180089	Adolescent Vaccination Program (AVP)	VERNON, SALLY	12/15/2018

SPONSOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NIH announced on 11/7/2018 that all **T32 applications** now require an institutional letter documenting the institution's commitment to maintaining **policies against discriminatory harassment** and other discriminatory practices.   The Institutional letter is being prepared and will be maintained by SPA and included with all future T32 applications. This policy coincides with **NSF'**s previous announcement requiring all awardee organizations to report findings and determinations of sexual harassment against an NSF funded principal or co-principal investigators. The NSF policy was issued on September 19, 2018.

NIH **issued a revised Grants Policy Statement** effective 10/1/2018.   A Summary of changes document has been provided.   The changes are to offer additional clarity and not new material. The document incorporates changes that were announced through NIH notices during the prior fiscal year.

NSF released the revised version of the *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) that is effective for all proposals submitted on or after January 28, 2019.   Changes include addition of Research.gov for proposal submission, requirement for institutions to have a code of conduct policy that addresses harassment, emphasis on training faculty in responsible conduct of research, and numerous other changes throughout.   Chapter by chapter changes are included at the beginning of the PAPPG.

REMINDERS, TIPS AND TRICKS:

Effort Certification is UTHealth's way of complying with federal requirements to ensure that 1) salary charged to a federal grant is commensurate with the work necessary to complete the

stated goals (specific aims) of the project, 2) to verify that federal grants are not subsidizing non-federal research projects (For example, 100% of an individual's s salary charged to a federal grant but that person also works on a foundation grant 30% of the time.) and, 3) 100% of an individual's professional time is accounted for.

Effort reports are audited by the Texas State Auditors as part of UTHealth's federal awards audit. **Deficiencies in effort reporting may lead to additional requirements, restrictions, or processes from the federal government as well as from other institutions subcontracting federal grant dollars to UTHealth.** Therefore, it is critical for department administrators, research faculty and staff, and effort coordinators to ensure that effort reports are completed <u>accurately.</u>

When processing effort cards, remember:

1. **<u>Effort is not salary.</u>** Make sure the effort is correct for each project and then check to see that salary was charged appropriately. If not, quickly correct the salary charged.
2. Always recheck the effort card after it is certified by the PI to make sure the salary charged does not exceed the certified effort. If salary charged exceeds certified effort then it needs to be corrected.
3. Effort cards **must include <u>all</u> sponsored projects** on which the individual worked during the effort period, even if no salary is charged. For example, T32's do not allow PI salary but the PI must have effort on the grant.
4. The committed effort column is there for <u>your reference</u>. It reflects the levels of effort listed in the proposal/awarded and needed to complete the work. Certified effort should equal committed effort unless intentionally reduced (and the reduction is justified) by the PI. Significant reductions of effort for key persons must have prior funding agency approval.
5. When an individual's institutional base salary exceeds the federal salary cap, the certified effort will <u>always</u> be higher than the percent salary charged. The unallowed salary must be reflected in the non-sponsored project section.
6. A PI must maintain a measurable level of effort (at least 2%) in a no cost extension period. A project PI can never have zero certified effort on an active project.
7. When a grant award starts or ends, submit PASS transactions right away. Otherwise, the effort card will be wrong and late cost transfers may be denied.
8. Never calculate effort simply based on the salary budget available. This causes "odd" effort percentages ($20,000 budget / $97,825 base salary = 20.44% effort) and creates red flags for auditors. Again, effort is not salary.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Spring 2019 Meeting
Omni Houston Hotel
Houston, Texas
Conference Dates: April 28 – May 1, 2019
Registration will open in January 2019