Sponsored Projects Town Hall: COVID-19 Updates and Open Q&A

Town Hall Format

To submit a question during the live webinar, you can:

- Use Zoom's Q & A function

- Slides will be posted at
https://research.columbia.edu/SPA-TownHalls

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Presenters

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Agenda

- Introduction

- Update on sponsor flexibilities

- Allowability of costs

- Funding landscape

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UPDATE ON SPONSOR FLEXIBILITIES

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I understand that the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) rescinded their previous memos allowing certain sponsor flexibilities. Can you explain what that means for me? What am I allowed/not allowed to do during the pandemic emergency?

Answer

- Many of these flexibilities were not extended, and expired on June 16, 2020.
  - Added significant restriction for pay continuity (not able to perform the responsibilities of their roles because of COVID-19 disruption) to "exhaust other available funding resources"
  - Effective June 17, 2020 all salaries and benefits for individuals on pay continuity could no longer be charged to sponsored awards.

- Requests for the following flexibilities going forward may be considered on a case by case basis:
  - Prior approval requests for delayed report submission
  - Second/third no-cost extensions
  - Carry over requests

- Sponsors still providing maximum flexibility if impacted by COVID-19

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Salary and Effort

- If working remotely, salary can be charged to sponsored projects.

- The usual effort and salary principles apply.

- If effort is reduced, amount of salary commensurate with the individual's reduced activity must be transferred from the sponsored project(s) to a non-sponsored source.

- Monitor effort regularly, adjust salary as necessary.

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If someone on the research staff has relocated to a home country outside of the U.S., and continues to work on a sponsored project while abroad, does the funding agency need to be notified?

What's changed:

- **NIH**: Does not consider this a new 'foreign component' anymore
  - However, still need to notify SPA
  - May need to notify other sponsors
- **Consider, for any sponsor:**
  - Will the effort change?
  - Will the PI be disengaged for more than 3 months/effort reduced by 25% or more?

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Working Remotely Outside the U.S.

- If any member of the research team plans to work remotely from outside the U.S., please notify SPA.

- **Need to know**:
  - Which country
  - How long expected to work remotely
  - Activities engaged in; access to export-controlled materials and to non-publicly available 3rd party information
  - Will a new 3rd party be involved?
  - Will additional funds be needed?
  - Are there restrictions in the sponsored research agreement on working outside the U.S.?

- Also see FAQs on Remote Work and Access to Research Data

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BREAK FOR QUESTIONS

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ALLOWABILITY OF COSTS

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Cancelled Travel

Can I still charge the costs of airline tickets and conference registration fees from cancelled conferences and meetings? What if the airline provides a one-year voucher?

Answer:

- Yes, if costs were incurred **on or before June 16th, 2020.**

- Required to use the voucher, can't ask for additional support via a supplement.

- Document all non-refundable travel.

F&A

I will continue to conduct the majority of my research from home, and it is uncertain when I will be returning to campus. As I prepare new proposals, what F&A rate should I be using as I prepare proposal budgets? The on-campus, modified off-campus, or off-campus rate?

Answer:

- Continue to use the F&A rate associated with your research space prior to the pandemic.
- No further guidance from federal agencies at this time.

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Fellows & Trainees on Stipends

Can an international student who is unable to physically arrive in the U.S. to start their program this fall because of COVID-related travel restrictions, but who is participating in on-line distance education, be supported from federal grants? Can tuition be charged to the grant on which the faculty member intends for them to work when they arrive in the U.S.?

Answer:

- If not yet appointed, and can't travel to the U.S., stipends and other expenses cannot be charged.

- Should discuss situation with the SPA and the sponsor.

- Stipend recipients vs. Employees

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BREAK FOR QUESTIONS

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FUNDING LANDSCAPE

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Administrative Supplements

Given the COVID-related suspension of most research and the corresponding need to have an extension on federally funded projects, will there be any supplemental funding available to support the cost of the extended data collection?

Answer:

- Case-by-case

- Timing of request depends

- Documentation is key

- Be cognizant of unspent funds

NIH Competing Revisions

Do I have to apply for supplemental funds from the same IC that funded my parent grant?

Answer:

- It depends
- Before submitting, contact relevant Program Official
- NOSI will point out ICs that choose not to fund competing revisions to parent awards funded by another IC

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My RePORTER

NIH RePORTER
Version: 7.40.0

About RePORTER DATA   FAQ   ExPORTER   RSS of Newly Added Projects

QUERY   BROWSE NIH   **MATCHMAKER**   SEARCH PUBLICATIONS BETA

Use Matchmaker to find similar projects and program officials

Enter abstracts or other scientific text and Matchmaker will return lists of similar projects from RePORTER or program officials associated with those projects.
These matches are based on the terms and concepts used in the submitted text. Up to 15,000 characters are permitted.
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Enter your Text:

Terms will be weighted by frequency of appearance in the text above. The process is automated and confidential. The Matchmaker system does not track and store submitted text.

Characters left: **15000**

CLEAR   SIMILAR PROJECTS   SIMILAR PROGRAM OFFICIALS

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- https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter_matchmaker.cfm

I was recently awarded an NIH COVID-19 supplement (funded by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act). I noticed in my recent PIN report that a new activity was set up, and a new field with "COVID-19 Research" included.

How is SPA setting up COVID-19 related awards? What should I be looking out for? Are there any special reporting requirements?

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Project ID   ████ ████████   **Activity Detail**   01

Activity General

Activity Demographics

Activity Description	████████	Activity Processing Status	A	Active
Activity Start Date	08/01/2020	Activity Status	O	Open *
Activity End Date	07/31/2021	Activity Type	BP001	Budget Period 01
Forecasted Inactivation Date	10/29/2021	Activity Location		
Owning Department	████████	Rate Base	02	Federal Research

F & A / Admin Fee

Rate	Effective Date
62.00	08/01/2020

Description
Long Description

Activity Team

EmpID	Name	Project Role
████	████████	SPA FA
		SCOPE-I

Capital Projects

Commissioning Fee	0.00	Placed Service Date	
Project Management Fee	0.00	Facilities Managing Dept	
Facilities Activity Category			

Sponsored Projects

F & A Location	02	CUMC	Bill Hold	N
Advance	N		InfoEd PT	20-2441

Other

Field 1		Field 2	
Field 3		Field 4	COVID-19 Research

Last Modified By: ████   08/06/2020

NIH-Wide COVID-19 Strategic Plan

NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for
COVID-19 Research

July 2020

NIH National Institutes of Health

Five Strategic Priorities:

Improve Fundamental Knowledge

Advance Research to Improve Detection

Support Research to Advance Treatment

Accelerate Research to Improve Prevention

Prevent and Redress Poor COVID-19 Outcomes

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https://www.nih.gov/sites/default/files/research-training/initiatives/covid-19-strategic-plan/coronavirus-strategic-plan-20200713.pdf

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

Website, one-stop-shop:

- https://research.columbia.edu/COVID-19_Research/Researchers/FundingOpps

- Pivot: https://pivot.proquest.com/shibboleth/login

- NIH: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm

- Corporate and Foundations COVID-19 Newsletter:
  - Email Dimitra Koutsantoni at dk2617@columbia.edu

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https://research.columbia.edu/COVID-19_Research

COVID-19: FAQs and Resources Related to Research

Email Us a Question

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES BY TOPIC

University Research Ramp-up Information
Important information about University-wide requirements and procedures to ramp up on-site research.

Research Ramp-up
FAQs and Resources

For Patients
Participate in COVID-19 studies

Conduct COVID-19 Research
Funding opportunities, resources, and FAQs

Research Ramp-down
General questions and definition of 'essential'

Facilities Support of Research

Impact on Human Subjects Research

Prior Approvals, Allowable Costs, and Effort on Sponsored Projects

Proposal Deadlines

Remote Work and Access to Research Data

Communicating with Research Subjects

Environmental Health & Safety

SPA Town Halls

Sponsored Projects Town Halls

On May 8, 2020, we invited all members of the Columbia research community to join us in a discussion regarding the impact of COVID-19 on your research. Topics included:

- Navigating sponsor flexibilities and prior approval requirements
- Maintaining documentation and justifications
- Reporting the impact of COVID-19 on your research

Here are the slides the COVID-19 Tracker that was discussed during the town hall.

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QUESTIONS?

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