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
Presenters

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Vice President for Research Administration

William Berger
Senior Director of Sponsored Projects Administration, CUIMC

Juliana Powell
Director of Research Operations, SPA, Morningside

Stephanie Scott
Director of Policy & Research Development, SPA
Agenda

• Introduction

• Update on sponsor flexibilities

• Allowability of costs

• Funding landscape
UPDATE ON SPONSOR FLEXIBILITIES
Sponsor Flexibility Changes

I understand that the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) rescinded their previous memos allowing certain sponsor flexibilities.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?
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
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.
From last town hall – slight change

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?
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 3\textsuperscript{rd} party information
  • Will a new 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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
BREAK FOR QUESTIONS
ALLOWABILITY OF COSTS
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.
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
BREAK FOR QUESTIONS
FUNDING LANDSCAPE
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
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?
### Project ID

#### Activity General

**Activity Demographics**
- **Activity Description**: [Redacted]
- **Activity Start Date**: 08/01/2020
- **Activity End Date**: 07/31/2021
- **Forecasted Inactivation Date**: 10/29/2021
- **Owning Department**: [Redacted]

### F & A / Admin Fee

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### Activity Team

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<tr>
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### Capital Projects

- **Commissioning Fee**: 0.00
- **Project Management Fee**: 0.00
- **Facilities Activity Category**: [Redacted]

### Sponsored Projects

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### Other

- **Field 1**: [Redacted]
- **Field 2**: [Redacted]
- **Field 3**: [Redacted]
- **Field 4**: COVID-19 Research

**Last Modified By**: 08/06/2020
NIH-Wide COVID-19 Strategic Plan

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

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

Website, one-stop-shop:
• [https://research.columbia.edu/COVID-19_Research/Researchers/FundingOpps](https://research.columbia.edu/COVID-19_Research/Researchers/FundingOpps)

• Pivot: [https://pivot.proquest.com/shibboleth/login](https://pivot.proquest.com/shibboleth/login)

• NIH: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm)

• Corporate and Foundations COVID-19 Newsletter:
  • Email Dimitra Koutsantoni at [dk2617@columbia.edu](mailto:dk2617@columbia.edu)
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**

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