News Flash – Breaking News from the Office of Clinical Awards Administration

Three things you need to know right now

1. Which NIH Study Section is the best for your submission?

You have the perfect project plan, a first rate project team, and a reasonable budget, yet your proposal gets assigned to the wrong study section and goes nowhere. This example illustrates the importance of doing your research and selecting the appropriate study section to review your submission. But general descriptions of a study section go only so far in letting you know if your project will be a good fit. To make this process easier NIH's Center for Scientific Review has released a new tool, Assisted Referral Tool (ART), to help you find the perfect home for your grant.

The ART portal allows you to upload text directly from your WIP proposal. It is highly recommended that you use the Specific Aims or Abstract. Based on this information, with terms being weighted on their frequency of appearance, you will receive a list of recommended and ranked study sections. A few SBM Researchers tested this tool and it turned up some surprising suggestions that will hopefully lead to a better outcome with their next submission.

If you use this new tool in your submission arsenal, please let CAA (SOMCAA@stonybrookmedicine.edu) know the results.

2. Career Award (K) Policy Update regarding Concurrent Support on Mentored Awards

NIH notice NOT-OD-18-157, an update to NOT-OD-08-065, expands the categories of concurrent support in which Mentored K Awardees may request a reduction in effort. It will now include peer-reviewed research grants of at least $100,000 in direct cost from non-federal sources such as foundations and professional societies. This notice also confirms that if effort is reduced, NIH will still provide the full research development cost for the grant. However salary support will be reduced in accordance with the reduction in effort.

This new policy came in to effect on 4/6/2018 and affects both active and pending individual mentored K awards, (K01, K08, K22, K23, K25, K43, K76, K99/R00 and K07-development) as well as scholar mentored through institutional K awards, (K12 and KL2).

Any changes in effort will only be considered for the final two years of an award, when awardees are able to apply as a PI in a federal peer-reviewed research award. If you are requesting an effort reduction in regards to a mentored award of a shorter duration (K99, K22, K12 or KL2), you will need strong justification for it to be considered.

All other provisions of the prior policy on concurrent support, including how to process a request for reduced effort, remain the same and in effect.

3. NSF updates – As of April 30, 2018 you can submit proposals via Research.gov

The National Science Foundation has announced that as of 4/30/2018, PIs will be able to prepare and submit **non-collaborative proposals, or ones without sub-contracts** through Research.gov. Initially this submission portal will be working in parallel with Fastlane and have much of the same capabilities. Note: you can only access a proposal in the system in which it was started.

The Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission Site modernizes proposal submission capabilities. The new system focuses on enhancing the user experience and reducing administrative burden with an intuitive interface and automated compliance checking. The new system is still being developed incrementally and, as capabilities are migrated from Fastlane to Research.gov, the system features will expand until it replaces Fastlane as the proposal preparation and submission portal of record for NSF. Note: Fastlane will continue to be available, and users will have the option to use either Research.gov or Fastlane to prepare and submit proposals most proposals until Research.gov has the same functionality as the prior system. **Currently collaborative and proposals with sub-awards still need to be processed through Fastlane**.

Things to keep in mind:

- The Office of Clinical Award Administration has a new web site: http://www.osa.sunysb.edu/caa. Past Newsletters and News Flashes, as well as other useful information, are currently available.
- Now you can provide feedback and request information or assistance through CAA's new email address Office_of_Clinical_Award_Administration@stonybrookmedicine.edu or SOMCAA@stonybrookmedicine.edu.
- NIH Cycle II deadlines are closer than you think. Please let us know if you are thinking of submitting a proposal for these upcoming deadlines. To assist you in this process, a Timeline for Proposal Submission has been posted on our web site.