

Research Notes

Vol. 2, No. 2 May 2011

Summer Time is Catch-up Time!

The spring semester is almost over, and summer will soon be upon us. But before you put on sunglasses and grab the lemonade, here are a few research tasks you should take care of first.

Finish and Submit All Reports

PIs with project reports due, please take the time to finish them up and submit them **before** the agency asks! You've received their funding and spent it, so now they want to know what your results were. It's your opportunity to tell the world about your accomplishments and the success of your next proposal may very well depend on how timely and thoroughly you report on your current grant. Don't forget to send ORSP a copy of the report!

Complete Your RCR Training

Yes, this means you! Responsible conduct of research, or RCR, is not just another compliance issue. Everyone involved in research shares responsibility for the integrity of the research process. RCR training is a legal requirement for everyone who is paid on NSF and NIH grants. To meet this requirement, Lehigh uses online CITI RCR training. Don't delay any longer. Failure to complete the certification could result in the suspension of your grant.

Review Your Fund Balances

Sit down with a current project financial summary and figure out how much you can afford to do this summer in terms of student and faculty summer payroll and purchases, and create a solid financial plan for the coming 2011-2012 AY. I'm sure your department coordinator or friendly Contract and Grant Specialist will gladly help you in the process. I should mention that contrary to popular belief, neither the VPR nor ORSP keep bags of money (indirect costs) in the basement of 526 Brodhead to bail you out of deficits.

Stay Ahead of Proposal Deadlines

Last but not least, summer is an excellent time to plan ahead for future funding opportunities. Check out proposal deadlines and make sure you start thinking, budgeting, and writing **months before the proposal is due**. I encourage you to provide the ORSP with advance notice via this link: <http://www.lehigh.edu/~inors/PSForm.htm>, so that we are able to plan ahead to assist you with the development of your proposal. In this time of government funding cuts for research and development, we will need your project to shine brilliantly in today's exceedingly competitive review process—and that can only be achieved by taking the time to put your best, most innovative foot forward. Contact the VPR office or your CGS for help, and do a reverse timeline in order to submit your final proposal at least three to five days ahead of time. Remember also that NIH has eliminated the two-day error correction window.

If you take the time now to catch up on everything and make your plans for the future, you will enjoy those golf games, road trips, or theme parks even more!

Tom Meisheid, Director

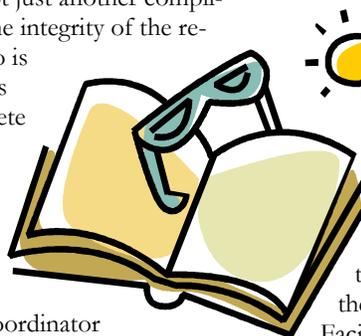
ASK ORSP

"He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever." – Chinese Proverb

Have a research-related question? Chances are there is someone out there asking themselves the same exact question. Now you have the opportunity to have your questions answered. Send questions and comments to nmc2@lehigh.edu and we will pick the very best to publish in a future issue (you can choose to remain anonymous).

Why do you ask me for the building and room numbers where I will be conducting my research?

Every office, laboratory, classroom, etc. on campus is the property of the University. In order for the University to manage these resources, they must effectively assign the costs of "space" to functional use categories. For example, a faculty member will undoubtedly use his office space for a variety of tasks such as advising students, preparing for and carrying out instruction, and analyzing data for research. How the facilities are used is one component that goes into the formula to calculate the University Facilities & Administration rate.



Federal circular A-21 requires all institutions of higher education that receive federally funded research dollars to complete a space survey as part of the preparation of the University's Facilities & Administration rate proposal. Every three to four years, depending on the time period agreed to in our Facilities and Administration rate negotiation agreement, the University conducts a "space survey." The survey is conducted in the buildings where research is performed and each room is designated for the purpose it serves and is used to distribute operations and maintenance costs and equipment and building depreciation. The data that is compiled during the survey is used along with the information that was provided at the proposal stage on the internal transmittal form to accurately categorize each room's functional usage.



Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

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<http://www.lehigh.edu/~inors>

New NSF requirements

All faculty members who submit proposals to the National Science Foundation should be aware of some new requirements for both proposals and awards that are now becoming effective.

FOR PROPOSALS

Data Management Plan – NSF now requires a 1-2 page supplementary document that describes how your project will conform to NSF’s policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results. This can include:

- Types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials that will be produced during the project;
- Standards that will be used for data and metadata format and content;
- Policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, IP, or other rights or requirements;
- Policies and provisions for re-use, redistribution, and the production of derivatives; and
- Plans for archiving data, samples and other research products, and for preservation and access to them.

Cost Sharing – NSF is now effectively prohibiting the inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing on any project. The only cost sharing that is permitted is the mandatory cost sharing required by a program solicitation.

Cover Sheet – The proposal cover sheet in Fastlane now requires that you fill in the Project/Performance Site Primary Location information, instead of assuming that it is the same as the Performing/Research Organization.

FOR AWARDS

Project Outcomes Report for the General Public – Within 90 days following the expiration of a grant, a project outcomes report written for the general public must be submitted electronically via Research.gov. It is a brief summary that will be posted exactly as it is written—and therefore should not include any confidential or proprietary information.

Responsible Conduct of Research Training – All new NSF (and NIH) awards carry with them the requirement for RCR training, currently satisfied by completing the CITI program. See ORSP website for information.



Summer Support

As the spring semester winds down, we are coming to the time of year when faculty with active research grants will want to take the summer support they proposed for their funded projects. Some things to remember:

- Make sure you submit the proper payroll forms BEFORE the months for which you are requesting support.
- Check with your department coordinator about deadlines and forms, to ensure that you receive your paycheck on time.
- Do not “save” your budgeted compensation. It is meant to be taken annually or when proposed, to ensure that work on your project proceeds.
- Remember that NSF “normally limits salary compensation for senior project personnel on awards made by the Foundation, to no more than two months of their regular salary in one year.” (see Award & Administration Guide, p. V-3)

Tuition Rate Chart

	AY11/ 12	AY12/ 13	AY13/ 14	AY14/ 15
Engineering and Arts and Sciences				
Full Rate	\$1,220	\$1,255	\$1,295	\$1,335
50% Rate	\$610	\$628	\$648	\$668
Education				
Full Rate	\$550	\$570	\$590	\$610
Business				
Full Rate	\$840	\$860	\$880	\$900

HUMAN SUBJECTS IN RESEARCH AT LEHIGH

Does your research involve people other than researchers? Will you be asking other people questions, using their responses to situations, or otherwise engaging them in your project as subjects?

Then you need to contact Lehigh’s Institutional Review Board, or IRB. All research conducted by Lehigh University which involves people as subjects must comply with Lehigh’s *Policy on the Protection of Human Subjects in Research*, developed in accordance with federal regulations and designed to safeguard the rights and well-being of human research participants. All human subjects research must be reviewed and approved by Lehigh’s IRB **prior to** the involvement of the subjects and **prior to** the distribution of any information or materials related to the research.

Why do we need human research subject regulations and policies?

In short, we make a covenant with people who serve as research subjects. People serve as research subjects voluntarily, aware of risks and potential benefits to them and to society. They trust that researchers have carefully considered the risks and benefits, have explained them plainly, and will work diligently and competently in the conduct of the study. Regulations, and the institutional policies that implement them, are designed to guard against abrogation of this trust.

Institution of regulations regarding use of human subjects in research occurred as a reaction to multiple instances of shocking abuse, injury and death of human subjects, often people in disempowered positions in society whose participation resulted from compulsion or deceit. In 1979, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare published The Belmont Report, *Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research*. The Report acknowledged the societal benefits of scientific research and identified three basic ethical principles critical to the conduct of biomedical and behavioral research involving human subjects: **respect for persons, beneficence, and justice.**

- *Respect for persons* requires researchers to recognize and respect each individual’s autonomy in deciding whether or not to participate in research, and to use

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Human Subjects (continued)

special protection measures for those not capable of deciding for themselves.

- *Beneficence* is the obligation of researchers to ensure the well-being of human subjects; to minimize the risk and maximize the potential benefits of participation.
- *Justice* compels researchers to distribute the benefits and burdens of participation in research fairly among all populations; special care must be taken not to target vulnerable groups who might be more easily coerced to participate.

These three core principles provide the framework for regulations and policies designed to protect human research subjects.

What exactly is human subjects research?

As used in human subjects policy, **research** is a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. A **human subject** is a living individual about whom a researcher obtains data through intervention or interaction with the individual or obtains identifiable private information about the individual. Interaction includes handling of a person's tissues, including body fluids.

At Lehigh, most studies involving human subjects are related to the social, behavioral, or educational sciences, but some research activities do take place that are biological and/or medical in nature. Examples include studies that use surveys, interviews, taste evaluations, educational tests, cognitive evaluations, comparisons of classroom techniques, collection of specimens from individuals, existing data or specimens obtained from individuals, pharmaceutical evaluations, testing of sensors, etc.

Does this policy apply to my research?

Lehigh's human subjects policy applies to all research whether sponsored or not, continuing education, and instructional projects conducted by Lehigh University faculty, students, or staff.

The policy also applies when a University faculty, student, or staff member is actively involved in the recruitment of subjects (whether in person or through use of University resources such as telephones, e-mails, campus postings, etc), or is actively involved in human subjects research con-

ducted by a non-Lehigh organization. For example, a Lehigh professor may be involved in evaluating human subjects data collected by a colleague at another University, or a professional organization may seek to recruit Lehigh students to participate in a survey. Both of these activities would require review and approval by Lehigh's IRB.

What is the process for getting IRB approval?

Lehigh's human subjects policy is administered through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The following link provides information on training requirements, electronic application instructions, policy guidance, and federal regulations: <http://www.lehigh.edu/~inors/humansubjects.html>. Studies are submitted to the IRB through the web based service, IRBNet. Go to IRBNet.org to register and get started. IRBNet tutorials are also available.

Where do I get more information?

For assistance, contact Susan Disidore at sus5@lehigh.edu or extension 8-3020, or Troy Boni at tdb308@lehigh.edu or extension 8-2985.

Susan Disidore



What are you filling that boy's head with now?

Did you know?

Most proposals may not be submitted directly to the funding agency without the prior authorization of the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs. Any award granted as a result of an unauthorized submission is subject to rejection by the University. As soon as you're considering a proposal submission, complete the electronic proposal submission form to let us know so we can assist you in submitting an application that complies with both agency and university guidelines: <http://www.lehigh.edu/~inors/PSForm.htm>

Awards for Early Career Scientists

NSF CAREER—The prestigious NSF CAREER awards providing funding opportunities for *untenured assistant professors in tenure track appointments* will be available in July 2011 (see http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pins_id=50321400). A number of NSF directorates typically award CAREER grants (these include research areas in Science, Engineering, Education and Social Sciences). Information on support at Lehigh for junior faculty (from faculty and other mentors, based on NSF CAREER workshops that were held earlier in April 2011) is available at http://www.lehigh.edu/~inresrch/NSF_CAREER_Workshops_Information_Page.html.

NIH and NIAMS Programs for Early Stage Investigators (ESI)—To address both the duration of training and to protect the flux of new investigators, the NIH announced a new policy in fiscal year 2009 involving the identification of Early Stage Investigators (ESIs). ESIs are New Investigators who are within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree or within 10 years of completing their medical residency at the time they apply for R01 grants. Applications from ESIs will be given special consideration during peer review and at the time of funding. Peer reviewers will be instructed to focus more on the proposed approach than on the track record, and to expect less preliminary data than would be provided by an established investigator. For funding opportunities, see <https://sites.google.com/site/biophysecc/project-updates/nihandniamsnewinvestigatorfundingopportunities>

DOE Office of Science Early Career programs—DOE's Office of Science defines "early career" researchers as principal investigators who are within 10 years of receiving a Ph.D. and are either untenured assistant professors on the tenure track, untenured associate professors on the tenure track, or full-time, nonpostdoctoral, permanent DOE national laboratory employees. See <http://science.energy.gov/early-career/>.

Opportunities for Research Funding

JULY

Lindau Nobel Laureate <http://www.lindau-nobel.org/Meetings.AxCMS>—Meeting attendance awards for Graduate students to attend the Nobel Laureates meeting. Lehigh sent nominations for these for the first time last year and one Lehigh student was selected.

NSF sampling

Energy Research Centers (LOI: 7/15/11; full prop 9/16/11)
Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program
Research Training Groups in Mathematical Sciences (RTG)

AUGUST

NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities)

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/>—Summer Stipends for humanities research - \$6,000

NSF sampling

Decision, Risk and Management Sciences (DRMS)
Political Science
Research Experiences for Undergrads (REU) Site
Science, Technology, and Society (STS)

SEPTEMBER

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation <http://www.sloan.org/>—Sloan Research Fellowships (limited submission)

Kinship Foundation <http://www.searlescholars.net>—Searle Scholars Program (limited submission)

American Council of Learned Societies <http://www.acls.org>
ACLS Fellowships (and others)

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation <http://www.gf.org/>—Guggenheim Fellowships

DOD (Department of Defense) <http://www.arl.army.mil/>—Multi-Disciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative (MURI) - (Pre-proposal due)

NSF sampling

FRG: Focused Research Groups in Mathematical Sciences
Biomedical Engineering (BME)
Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs

OCTOBER

Whitehall Foundation <http://www.whitehall.org/>—Basic research in neurobiology (letter of intent)

United States Institute for Peace <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships>—Research related to conflict management, international peace and security and peace building

NSF sampling

Condensed Matter and Materials Theory (CMMT)
Mathematical Sciences Postdoc Research Fellows (MSPRF)
Metals and Metallic Nanostructures (MMN)
Sociology

NOVEMBER

Keck Foundation <http://www.wmkeck.org/>—Phase I deadline for Science and Engineering Program. If interested, please contact Kathy Zimmerman, Corporate and Foundation Relations, kaz309@lehigh.edu.

Gates Foundation <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>—Grand Challenges Explorations - \$100,000

American Association of University Women http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellowships_grants/american.cfm
American Fellowship Program - Research Leave Fellowship (\$30,000); Summer Research Publication Grant (\$6,000)

NSF sampling

Chemical Catalysis (CAT)
Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (DDIG)
Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs



LEHIGH INTERNAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

<http://www.lehigh.edu/~inresrch/intfunding.html>

LIMITED SUBMISSIONS

(see our current list at <http://www.lehigh.edu/~inresrch/pdfs/limitedsubmissions.pdf>)

- Partnership for International Research and Education (PIRE) - offered every two years (January/February)
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) - usually due in January
- Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) - usually due in January
- CEMRI-MIRT (new this year) - September 1 submission date
- Science and Technology Centers (STC) - May submission for pre-proposals (3 pre-proposals going out in 2011)
- Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)
- Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR) - LOI due Dec. (New)
- Scalable Nanomanufacturing (SNM) - one per institution, due Jan.
- Nanoelectronics for 2020 and Beyond (NEB)- limit of 2 per institution, due January 19 (new in 2011)
- Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship (one per institution, due September)

NIH (National Institutes of Health): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>. Numerous funding programs (R01, R03, K21, etc.) at the different institutes

DOE: Department of Energy <http://www.science.energy.gov/>
BBVA Foundation <http://www.bbva.es/TLFU/tlfu/ing/microsites/premios/fronteras/index.jsp>—*Frontiers of Knowledge Awards* - research and artistic creation, contributions of lasting impact. Basic Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics), Biomedicine, Ecology and Conservation Biology, Information and Communication Technologies, Economics, Finance and Management, Contemporary Music, Climate Change and Development Cooperation.

Compiled by Sujata Jagota (VPR) and Kathy Zimmerman (CFR)