Office of Research News

New Constituency Assignments

The Office of Research (OR) recently made changes to the constituency assignments for Clinical and Corporate Contract Officers and Federal Contract Officers. Effective July 24, 2017, Grants and Contracts Officers on the Grants Management Services team will also have constituency assignment changes.

To ensure that the OR is providing the best service to the University research community, it is necessary to periodically review and update constituency assignments. Assigning each department to an OR staff member allows each staff member to become familiar with the departments he/she is serving and the specific types of research conducted. Likewise, this distribution of assignments builds a partnership between the OR staff and faculty and between OR staff and department research administrators.

To see who in the Office of Research is assigned to your department, please use the “Find Your Office of Research Contacts” feature on the Office of Research home page.

For questions, please contact each team:

Clinical and Corporate Contract team: clincorp@pitt.edu
Federal Contract Services team: orfedcon@pitt.edu
Grants Management Services team: offres@pitt.edu

Funding Agency Updates

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Release Final Guidance for FY17 Salary Caps

Effective January 8, 2017, the NIH increased their salary cap from $185,100 to $187,000, which is the Executive Level II of the Federal Executive pay scale. NIH grantees may rebudget to accommodate the new salary cap for awards issued in specific years that were restricted to Executive Level II, but no additional funds will be provided to the grant awards to accommodate salary increases.

Please see NIH Notice NOT-OD-17-087 and the Salary Cap Summary for more details.

NIH Announces FY17 NRSA Predoctoral Stipend Levels

For Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA), the NIH has announced predoctoral stipends, training related expenses, institutional allowance, and tuition/fees for fiscal year 2017.

Appointments to institutional training grants awarded in FY17 must be amended and submitted through xTrain in eRA Commons to reflect the FY17 stipend levels.

Undergraduates in the MARC and BUILD Programs: For institutional training grants (T34, TL4), two stipend levels may be used for undergraduate candidates: Freshmen/Sophomores and Juniors/Seniors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Level</th>
<th>Stipend for FY 2017</th>
<th>Monthly Stipend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen/Sophomores</td>
<td>$8,988</td>
<td>$749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors/Seniors</td>
<td>$12,588</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Predoctoral Trainees and Fellows:** For institutional training grants (T32, T35, T90, TL1) and individual fellowships (F30, F31), one stipend level is used for all predoctoral candidates, regardless of the level of experience:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Level</th>
<th>Years of Experience</th>
<th>Stipend for FY 2017</th>
<th>Monthly Stipend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Predoctoral</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>$23,844</td>
<td>$1,987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on tuition and fees and the institutional allowance, please see NIH Notice [NOT-OD-17-084](#).