

## Revised policy on publications resulting from NIH-funded research

Effective April 7, 2008, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will require that all investigators funded by the NIH submit to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version of their final report, as well as peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, which must be made publically available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication.

### Specifics

- The NIH Public Access Policy applies to all peer-reviewed articles that arise, in whole or in part, from direct costs funded by NIH, or from NIH staff, that are accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008.
- Institutions and investigators are responsible for ensuring that any publishing or copyright agreements concerning submitted articles fully comply with this Policy.
- PubMed Central (PMC) is the NIH digital archive of full-text, peer-reviewed journal articles. Its content is publicly accessible and integrated with other databases.
- The final, peer-reviewed manuscript includes all graphics and supplemental materials that are associated with the article.
- Beginning May 25, 2008, anyone submitting an application, proposal or progress report to the NIH must include the PMC or NIH Manuscript Submission reference number when citing applicable articles that arise from their NIH funded research. This policy includes applications submitted to the NIH for the May 25, 2008, due date and subsequent due dates.

### Compliance

Compliance with this policy is a statutory requirement and a term and condition of the grant award or cooperative agreement. (Source: All of the preceding information was taken directly from the Official NIH Homepage. The full text of this policy is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-05-022.html>.)

## General fringe benefit rate increased to 38.32% retroactive to July 1, 2007

In July 2007, all state agencies were informed by the Office of the Comptroller, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that the state had submitted a revised proposal to the federal government for a provisional fringe benefit rate of 29.37% for FY 2008. Prudence required us as well as all state agencies to implement the new, though not officially approved, FY 2008 rate of 29.37% effective July 1, 2007. The provisional fringe benefit rate includes costs for health insurance, pension and terminal leave, consistent with rates for recent years. This rate was slightly lower than the FY 2007 rate.

However, we had been informed that due to a new financial requirement for governments, the costs of "Other Post-Employment Benefits" (e.g. health insurance for retirees) might be incorporated in a final FY 2008 rate agreement with the federal government and if such an agreement were reached, the final rate would be substantially higher. To comply with this requirement the Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller recommended to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) a revised general fringe benefit rate of 38.32%. We have just been informed that DHHS has approved the new rate.

The Commonwealth's original submission to DHHS to approve a 29.37% rate was calculated using the Group Insurance Commission's calculations of FY 2006 actual costs adjusted to reflect the estimated increase in health insurance premium costs over two years. The revised rate of 38.32% now includes first-year funding in support of the funding schedule about to be implemented to fund additional health benefits for current and future state retirees.

In short, effective immediately the general fringe benefit rate for all grants active as of July 1, 2007, is 38.32%. PIs of such grants will need to perform the necessary rebudgeting retroactive to July 1, 2007. Also, effectively immediately all new proposals submitted for external funds that would be used to pay any part or all of a benefited employee's salary must be budgeted at the rate of 38.32%.

**Questions should be directed to Patty Overko, Office of the University Controller, UMass Boston, at (617) 287-5125.**

(Source: The above text appeared as a memo from the provost to the university community on January 2, 2008.)

## Compliance Corner

### Required refresher training for working with human subjects

A reminder that effective February 1, 2008, all UMass researchers who completed the University of Miami Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) three or more years ago are required to complete the CITI refresher training course, specifically, the social/behavioral research modules. This includes all principal investigators as well as students engaged in research with human subjects—both the student and his or her faculty or staff sponsor must provide the required evidence.

When you need to take the refresher course you will receive an e-mail message from the UMass Boston IRB administrator, Kristen Kenny.

A December 28, 2007, memo from Provost Paul Fonteyn to the university community provides details on this required one-hour, on-line refresher training course for anyone engaged in human subjects research (see <http://www.umb.edu/research/orsp/index.html>).

Kristen Kenny is available to answer your questions about this required refresher training. She is also available to visit departments and classes to conduct human subjects training, and can be contacted by e-mail at [human.subjects@umb.edu](mailto:human.subjects@umb.edu) or telephone at (617) 287-5374

## Deadline for submitting invoices to local agencies

A reminder that all grants and contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston, and Boston Public Schools with an end date of June 30, 2008, must be invoiced by the ORSP no later than mid July 2008. Therefore, all principal investigators and/or business managers need to ensure that expenditures are posted to their grant or sponsored program accounts in a timely manner.

**Please note:** The ORSP cannot bill (invoice) if expenditures are not posted to these projects, and those earlier mentioned agencies will not pay invoices received after their deadlines.

## Some recent new awards



**Deborah Boisvert** (Division of Corporate, Continuing and Distance Education), a \$809,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for “Boston Area Advanced Technological Educational Connections.”

**Heidi Stanish** (Department of Exercise and Health Sciences), a \$75,000 grant from the the Medical Foundation, Inc. for “A Peer-Guided Exercise Program for Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities.”



**Erik Blaser** (Department of Psychology), a \$230,000 three-year basic research grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Infants’ visual working memory tested with salience-calibrated stimuli.”

**Peter Langer** (Office of University Undergraduate Education), a \$100,000 grant from the Nellie Mae Foundation for “Building a culture of success for underserved students.”



**Karen Dick** (Department of Nursing), a \$49,000 grant from the Health Resources Service Administration for “Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships.”

## Staff news

**Tim O’Brien** recently joined the ORSP as a senior sponsored program administrator. He assists with the preparation of proposal submissions to external funding sources. Specifically, he assists in the review of sponsor guidelines and works with PI’s and department colleagues to develop proposals accordingly. He also reviews award terms and conditions, negotiates contracts when necessary, and serves as a resource for pre-award business processes.

Previously, Tim worked in Harvard University’s Office for Sponsored Programs where he managed a pre-award research portfolio focusing primarily on political science, humanities, and languages, with a significant international component.



100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125,  
Tel: (617) 287-5370, Fax: (617) 287-5396,  
e-mail: [orsp@umb.edu](mailto:orsp@umb.edu);  
website: [www.umb.edu/research/orsp/](http://www.umb.edu/research/orsp/)



Do you have items you would like to submit for possible inclusion in a future newsletter? Please contact James Mortenson at [james.mortenson@umb.edu](mailto:james.mortenson@umb.edu).