

# ORSS News



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN THIS ISSUE

- Deadlines
- Fund Clean-Up
- Fellowships
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- Pre-Award Support
- Child Care
- Learning Sessions

If you are like me, your allergies are confirming that Spring is here!

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and that you are getting ready to make some fun summer vacation plans.

We are happy to provide you several updates in this issue. As you know, we did not bring in another trainee cohort as we heard you when you said you wanted your existing staff to have access to training. The ORSS Academy successfully launched our open learning sessions covering topics such as how to get your R's, T's, K's and fellowships approved, RPPR's for R's and T's as well as other topic specific "coffee breaks" covering calculating VA effort, and how to read a fund summary report. These coffee breaks are short 45-minute sessions and allow for much discussion and interaction. Please reach out if you have suggestions for other topics that would be ideal for this type of learning venue.

Stay tuned for further communications on additional learning sessions as well as in the coming fiscal year, migrating some to video on-demand learning.

It has been another busy year for everyone so again, I hope you take time to unwind and spend time enjoying yourself with family and friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Achenbach".

Marianne Achenbach

# Deadlines

## NIH Deadlines:

- **May 25- P, T, D Series**  
(new, renewal, resubmission, revision)
- **May 25- R18, U18, R25**  
(new, renewal, resubmission, revision)
- **June 5- R01 & U01**  
(new)
- **June 12 - K Series**  
(new)
- **July 5 - R01 & U01**  
(renewal, resubmission, revision)
- **July 12- K Series**  
(renewal, resubmission, revision)

Click [here](#) to search NIH opportunities by activity code (located on the left of the page).

Click [here](#) to see all NIH dues dates.

## Other Funder Deadlines:

- [American Heart Association](#)
- [Brightfocus](#)
- [NSF](#)
- [Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation](#)

## UPDATE: FUND CLEAN-UP

Since January 2024, the Office of Research Services (ORS), the Office of Research Support Services (ORSS), and the Office of Clinical Research (OCR) created a partnership/team to assist in the closeout of the large number of old funds that are still enabled within the School of Medicine. As part of this joint venture, the central administration offices reduced the administrative burden for the departments by handling the closeout requirements for all sponsored project accounts which ended in 2022 and earlier. This included residual balance transfers for clinical trial awards.

Based on current data from the “Old Fund Closeout Initiative,” five School of Medicine departments participated in the first quarter of 2024. As of December 2023, there were a total of 561 funds enabled (147 were Corporate Clinical Trials) that were over two years old, and 201 funds (23 Clinical Trials) that were between one and two years old. Recent reports show that these numbers have dropped significantly. As of April 2024, the total number of enabled funds greater than one year old (including clinical trials) has dropped by nearly 47%, and the total number of just clinical trial funds has dropped by almost 84%.

This will be an on-going project and while the second phase has not yet begun and the next departments have not been identified, please try to put concerted effort on cleaning up your old funds so that if your department is chosen, the clean up will go that much faster. Thank you for your support in this important project.

## FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

We are seeing more sponsor guidelines where the sponsor wants to pay award funds directly to the individual fellow. If PSOM is sponsoring the fellow, research activities are involved, and they are using our resources (equipment, lab space, etc.), funds must be awarded directly to “The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.”

Most importantly, only those who have been deemed Authorized Signing Officials by ORS can formally accept funds on behalf of the Trustees. This means fellows, faculty and business office staff are not authorized to accept awards from external funders.

## F&A EXCLUSIONS

If the sponsor is reimbursing us an F&A rate lower than our approved rates then we would NOT exclude any costs and F&A would be calculated on the total budget (TDC). However, if the sponsor is reimbursing us our full corporate F&A rate as a general rule we would exclude the equipment from the F&A calculation and only charge F&A on the first \$25,000 for any subcontracts (MTDC) if there is equipment and/or subcontracts as part of the budget.

### Why is this important?

We want to ensure that we are consistent in our decision making for when certain items are excluded from the F&A calculation (e.g., using MTDC vs TDC). Related Financial Policy: 2116 on F&A costs.

For more information, click [here](#) to see the PSOM policy.

# Did You Know?



## ORSS is now offering floater services

As part of ORSS's continuing commitment to support departments, we have a limited number of Pre-Award Specialists who may be able to provide full-service proposal development services while you are trying to fill your open position or are waiting for a team member to return from extended leave.

As well, we are in the process of collecting data to understand what kind of post-award services you would be interested in if we had a dedicated floater pool to support post-award needs.

If you are interested in obtaining floater services, please take a moment to fill out a very short online form found [here](#).

## NRSA trainees can take advantage of childcare costs on F's and T's

NIH provides childcare cost support to recipients of full-time NRSA fellowships (F's) in recognition that the high cost of childcare impacts graduate students and post-doctorates funded through NRSA fellowships, and hinders their ability to successfully complete their training and fully participate in the extramural research workforce ([NOT-OD-21-074](#)).

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2022, NIH began providing childcare cost support to full-time predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees appointed on NRSA institutional research training awards (T's).

Please note that the SOP on Childcare Costs on T's and F's has been updated. The update includes information on allowability of private sitters and doulas. It is highly recommended that they have certifications, and copies of those certifications should be kept in the grant file with all other appropriate documentation. The updated SOP also includes information on the process with CHOP fellows.

Please refer to the ORSS website for the [SOP](#).

# Learning Events

<b>5/16</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>How to Get Your R Record Approved</u></b>
<b>5/28</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>How to Get Your R Record Approved</u></b>
<b>5/30</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>How to Get Your K Record Approved</u></b>
<b>6/11</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>R Grant RPPR Workshop</u></b>
<b>6/13</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>Debunking the Mystery of F&amp;A</u></b>
<b>6/19</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>F,K,T Grant RPPR Workshop</u></b>
<b>6/27</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>How to Get Your K Record Approved</u></b>
<b>7/9</b> 10 - 10:45	<b><u>Calculating Effort for VA Appointments</u></b>
<b>7/10</b> 11 - 11:45	<b><u>How to Read a 734 Fund Summary Report</u></b>
<b>7/18</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>How to Get Your F Record Approved</u></b>
<b>7/23</b> 10 - 11:30	<b><u>How to Get Your Foundation Record Approved</u></b>

CLICK ON THE LINKS TO REGISTER