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Dear Colleagues,

I write to provide information on important changes related to the submission of proposals and progress reports to the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The most recent version of the NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), NSF 20-1, makes changes to approved formats for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support documents. As you know, federal agencies have lately been requiring and enforcing greater transparency regarding the information disclosed within these forms. These changes will affect all NSF proposals as well as ongoing NSF projects as of June 1, 2020. Therefore, these changes will first impact those who are planning to submit proposals or progress reports in summer of this year.

**SciENcv**

The first NSF-approved format is one generated via SciENcv (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae). SciENcv is an NIH/NCBI-developed profile system that helps researchers maintain the professional information needed for participation in federally funded research, and to use this information to generate NSF-approved Biosketch and Current and Pending Support documents.

Researchers who have not previously logged into SciENcv will be able to initially log in using either an existing NSF login or an NIH eRA Commons login. Responsibilities within SciENcv may be delegated to unit-level administrators, but a researcher himself/herself must first establish an account. Once a researcher has access to SciENcv, he or she may import information on publications, education, expertise, and other professional accomplishments from external sources, such as from their ORCID, eRA Commons, or NSF Fastlane/Research.gov profiles. Information may also be entered manually if necessary. Investigators or their delegates may then select which information is relevant to a particular proposal and thereby readily generate different versions of sponsor-approved documents. SciENcv additionally allows researchers to describe and highlight their scientific contributions in their own words, which they can use to populate their NSF Synergistic Activities or NIH Personal Statement.

**Biosketch and Current & Pending Support Forms**

Alternatively, NSF allows PIs to complete a fillable PDF for each of the Biosketch and Current and Pending documents. Please note that the links provided in the previous sentence are the only allowed sources for these two forms. Proposers may download the forms from NSF's Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support pages, complete the forms, and upload them as part of their proposal via FastLane/Research.gov.

Per NSF, using these approved methods will allow the agency to extract structured/embedded XML data. Such data is not available in a standard PDF. It is important to note that NSF's Fastlane and Research.gov systems will be able to detect when a Biosketch or Current and Pending Support document is not generated or has been modified after being generated using an approved method, which will result in an error in the system and prevent submission.

ORPA, in collaboration with Princeton Library and the Princeton Research Data Service (PRDS), will in the coming days and weeks be reaching out to heavily NSF-funded units to offer additional, more detailed training on the above changes. Note that an overview of SciENcv was provided to the research administration community in the March Coffee With ORPA training session. In the meantime, there are a number of online resources available, including information from NSF regarding the new formats, and step-by-step instructions for using SciENcv and ORCID for the first time.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your department Grant and Contract Administrator and/or your departmental administrative support team with questions, particularly if you are planning to submit a proposal or progress report to NSF in summer of 2020.

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Best wishes,

Pablo
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