



ORI Mission:

- Identifying compliance risks in our research practices and communicating those risks to the research community;
- Partnering with the research community in innovative and effective ways to minimize and manage research risks;
- Educating the research community with respect to appropriate business practices related to the conduct of research at Northwestern University; and
- Monitoring and correcting non-compliance in accordance with University and federal guidelines.

ORI Staff

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OMB Guidance Reform

On December 19, 2013 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published material pertaining to recent reforms directed at streamlining the Federal government's guidance on Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. This reform, referred to as the "Omni Guidance," is the culmination of a two-year collaboration across the Federal government and its non-Federal partners (state and local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations) in response to the President's directives to 1) streamline our guidance for Federal awards to ease administrative burden and 2) strengthen oversight over Federal funds to reduce risks of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Similar to other areas involving Federal requirements, this guidance highlights OMB's pledge to making government more accountable to the American people while eliminating unnecessary requirements and/or reforming those that are overly burdensome. The final guidance supersedes and streamlines language from eight existing OMB Circulars (A-21, A-87, A-110, A-122, A-89, A-102, A-133 and A-50) into one consolidated set of guidance in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The OMB worked with the Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) to publish the Advance Notice of Proposed Guidance (ANPG) on February 28, 2012 and the Notice of Proposed Guidance (NPG) on February 1, 2013, inviting the public to comment on all issues addressed and provide additional reform suggestions. Over 300 comments were received and carefully considered in the development of this guidance.

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A Community Centered Approach to Science

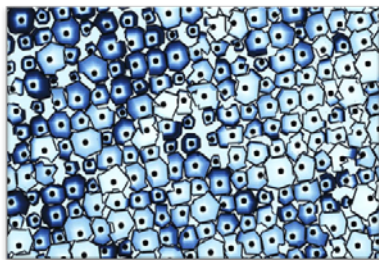
An important part of research is translating the science for the general public. Science in Society, a Northwestern University office dedicated to science outreach and public engagement, leverages its connections in the Chicago community to help Northwestern faculty, staff, and students share their expertise and creativity in a community-centered way.

To make science more accessible to all, Science in Society leads a number of initiatives including:

- HELIX, an online magazine and blog, features articles written by Northwestern scientists,
- “Capturing the Beauty of Science,” an annual scientific images contest, brings Northwestern research into public spaces such as libraries, art centers, and schools, and
- Science Club, an after school program at the Pedersen-McCormick Boys & Girls Club, engages urban middle school through hands-on experimentation and mentorship by Northwestern graduate students.

Science in Society also helps faculty meet the criteria for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Broader Impacts mandate.

To learn more about Science in Society, visit their website at <http://scienceinsociety.northwestern.edu> or contact Rebecca Daugherty, Assistant Director, Science in Society, at r-daugherty@northwestern.edu, 847-467-1318.



Scientific Images Contest 1st Place “Nanoscale Lego Puzzle”
Radha Boya, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Research Administration Upcoming Training

This four-session seminar is geared toward research administrators, staff involved in research administration and anyone who wants to learn about NU’s research administration process, policies, and procedures. The seminar serves as an introduction to NU’s research community and the extensive systems involved. It is a great networking and educational opportunity for staff new to research or experienced staff who would like a refresher in certain areas. Representatives from departments throughout NU will be on hand to present and answer questions.

The next seminar will next take place February 11th, 13th, 18th, and 20th from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Evanston campus (Chambers Hall, lower-level). To register, email bethirwin@northwestern.edu.

Quote Corner

“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.”

-Samuel Johnson



Did You Know?

Did you know Northwestern's Conflict of Interest Office (NUCOI) recently announced the issuance of the Institutional Conflict of Interest in Research policy? This policy relates to conflicts at the institutional -- not individual -- level, and is separate and distinct from the Conflict of Interest in Research policy for which individual investigator disclosures are required. Please familiarize yourself with this policy by visiting: http://www.northwestern.edu/coi/policy/institutional_policy.pdf.

Did you know that the Federal Office for Research Integrity has several excellent RCR resources available, such as case examples and role play scripts? The RCR Casebook: Stories About Researchers Worth Discussing can be found at: <http://ori.hhs.gov/rcr-casebook-stories-about-researchers-worth-discussing>

Did you know that there is a **PI Research 'Check-Out' Procedures** document that provides guidance when a PI is preparing to leave NU? The document can be found in ORI's practical resources at the link below: <http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ori/responsible-research/practical-resources.html>



Introducing

Suzanne Sokalski...

1) What is your title at Northwestern?
IRB Education Specialist

2) What does that mean?

I'm your point of contact for questions about training required by the IRB for conducting research with human subjects (i.e. CITI, NIH, etc.). I'll also be working on other educational opportunities such as brown bag sessions and in-person group trainings on human subjects protection topics.

3) What is one thing you want people to know about what you do here?

I want this to be a dialogue- your feedback and suggestions are very welcome: irbtraining@northwestern.edu.

4) How long have you been at Northwestern?

I was originally in regulatory affairs in the clinical trials unit at Blum Cardiovascular Institute for three years and joined the IRB office team in Fall of 2013.

5) What did you do before you came to NU?

In my 'previous life,' I worked for pharmaceutical companies as a field representative.

6) Where is your home town?

Wheaton, IL

7) What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Cherry Garcia frozen yogurt

8) What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I love live music and travel, and if I can combine them for festivals it's even better!

9) What is your favorite yearly Chicago event?

I love sailing on Lake Michigan in the summer.





EthicsPoint is a third party vendor that allows you to confidentially raise ethical concerns, ask questions, and/or report activities that may involve misconduct or violations of Northwestern University policy. For more information visit the website at:

www.northwestern.edu/ethics

...OMB Guidance Reform

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Notably, a vast majority of comments supported the concept of consolidation and structure of the guidance.

Implementation of the new guidance will be spearheaded by COFAR and will be effective for new awards and for incremental funding awarded on or after December 26, 2014.

Further clarification is still forthcoming and NU will be working through the guidance to determine its impact and any changes that will be necessary for compliance at NU.

For more information about the guidance, please visit the link below:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-26/pdf/2013-30465.pdf>

New Manager of Education and Training in OSR-Chicago

Exciting new things are happening within the education and training sectors of NU's research community, the most recent of which includes the addition of the Manager of Education and Training (MET) role within the Office for Sponsored Research-Chicago. Effective Monday, January 13, 2014 Lori Palfalvi has joined OSR-Chicago to support the goal of developing and implementing effective training curriculums for pre- and post-award administration on the Chicago campus.

Under the direction of a multi-disciplinary advisory committee, the MET will identify the appropriate training necessary regarding the regulatory, administrative and technical practices of research administration. Training will be implemented on a pilot scale and its efficacy measured. The project is intended to forge a more effective partnership between investigators and research administrators, departmental and central staff in all aspects of sponsored research administration.

Lori, a Certified Research Administrator (CRA), brings with her an extensive background in sponsored research administration at Northwestern University, most recently with the Department of Medicine's Central Administration. Many individuals already know Lori as the founding President of NURAP and through the DOM Monthly Research Administrators Meeting she has hosted for the last several years. Lori's new role in OSR will allow her to continue to be involved in research education and training.

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