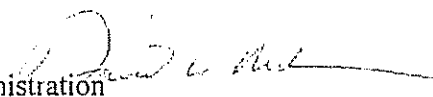




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June 27, 2006

Memorandum for all Investigators

From: David W. Richardson
Asst VP for OSP Administration 

Re: Proposal Submissions

As you are aware there has been an escalation of electronic proposal submission initiatives among both the federal and private sponsors in the last few years. Foremost among these is the federal initiative called Grants.gov. Grants.gov was conceptually developed to allow for a simple one-stop-shop proposal submission portal for multiple federal agencies. While this remains the ultimate goal, Grants.gov is not without its faults and has forced research institutions to rethink their internal submission policies. For example, for the latest June applications NIH proposals submitted via Grants.gov took an average of 1.7 application attempts per successful submission. While this is a significant improvement over the previous March submissions the system has some fundamental issues and has yet to experience a major deadline.

The biggest concern is that submitting institutions are not being notified of problems with specific proposals until a few days after submission. This is potentially catastrophic for proposals submitted the day before or the day of the deadline for if problems arise there is no time to correct and resubmit. For your protection and assurance we are strongly encouraging all investigators to submit early (as much as 4 business days in advance of the deadline) to allow for sufficient time in the event the proposal must be resubmitted.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to assisting you with your proposal submissions

Invent the Future