

Administration of Multiple-Investigator Awards

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Applies to:

All federal Multiple Principal Investigator awards. Examples include NIH-sponsored R, P, or U grants and cooperative agreements.

Reason for Policy:

In accordance with federal guidance, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that each Principal Investigator/Project Director or Project PI on a P, U or R series NIH grant, receive appropriate academic and financial recognition and have responsibility proportionate to his/her role on the overall project. Grant and contract portfolios are used as measures of academic success, affecting salary increases, promotion and tenure decisions, and the allocation of space. This policy helps ensure that the PI has responsibility proportionate to his or her role in the overall project on multiple-investigator, multiple-project, multiple-school, and/or multiple-institution awards and that these awards are treated consistently.

Policy Statement:

At the time a multiple-PI, multiple-school, or multiple-institution proposal is sent to the School of Medicine Office of Grants and Contracts for review, the PI and his/her department must provide separate budgets for the discrete projects associated with the grant and a description of the Oracle account architecture at the University of Virginia, should an award be made. At the time of the award, the direct costs for each discrete project would be identified by the lead PI (or PIs). Each PI who leads a project or core within a multi-investigator award will, therefore, receive financial and academic credit.

Definition of Terms:

Administrative Core – Funds separately budgeted in grant proposals for the administrative functions associated with large scale projects as opposed to those funds budgeted for the support of research projects.

Leadership Plan – For Multiple PI applications, a new section for Leadership Plans (PHS 398, Section I) must be included. At a minimum the plan addresses the following: roles/areas of responsibility of the PIs; fiscal and management coordination; the process for making decisions on scientific direction and allocation of resources; data sharing and communication among investigators; publication and intellectual property (if needed) policies; and procedures for resolving conflicts

Multiple PI award – Sponsored research projects for which more than one individual is responsible and accountable to the sponsoring agency for the proper conduct of the project, including fiduciary and academic responsibilities submission of all required reports. The PIs involved may be in the same or different departments, schools, or institutions.

NIH P-series award – Includes research program projects and center awards.

NIH R-series award – Only an RO1 award designated deemed as having multiple PIs.

NIH U-series award – Cooperative agreements for complex programs and/or specialized centers.

Oracle account architecture – Application of the UVa chart of account business rules pertaining to establishing Oracle accounts.

Oracle project - A primary unit of work or discreet activity that represents a use of funds within the Integrated System.

Procedures:Account Structure

Multiple-PI R-series awards - The Oracle account would be comprised of one Award with potentially several Orgs and Projects. The indirect costs associated with each separate project budget would accrue to the Project PI's home department, per the School of Medicine indirect cost allocation policy.

Multiple-project P- and U-series awards - The Oracle Award and the Oracle Project for the Administrative Core will be established in the lead PI's home department, with direct costs managed by and indirect costs accrued to that unit. Individual projects will be awarded separate Oracle Projects, with direct costs managed by and indirect costs accrued to the PIs' home department(s). If applicable, a PI's center would share the indirect costs, per School of Medicine policy.

Accounting and reporting responsibilities

For multiple-PI R-series awards, the department or center administration for each Oracle Project will be responsible for payroll, ordering, and reconciliation activities. The roles and responsibilities of PIs must follow the Leadership Plan approved by NIH.

Multi-project awards will follow the administrative responsibilities as above, except that the PI and his/her department or center administration will be responsible for overall conduct of the award.

Related Policy:

Office of Science Research Business Models

<http://rbm.nih.gov/>

NIH Multiple PI Notice:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-06-036.html>

http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/multi_pi/overview.htm#dist

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/multi_pi/sample_leadership_plans.pdf

Next Scheduled Review: October 2009