



## New York University

*A private university in the public service*

### Paul Horn

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To: The Research Community  
From: Paul Horn  
Re: New Public Health Service (including NIH) Financial Conflict of Interest Regulations  
Date: August 2012

As many of you already know, effective August 24, 2012, the Public Health Service (including the National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control, etc.) has issued new regulations for Promoting Objectivity in Research (Financial Conflict of Interest). Accordingly, NYU has revised its Policy on Academic Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment and in particular, the Addendum on Conflicts of Interest in Research and Other Sponsored Projects: (<http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-conflict-of-interest-and-conflict-of-commitment.html>).

The definition of Investigator (who must disclose) has been clarified, but is substantially the same as it has been: the Principal Investigator/Project Director and any other person who is responsible for the design, conduct or reporting of research funded by PHS.

The new regulations differ in some significant ways from the prior policy which has been in effect since 1995:

- Income from any activity related to an Investigator's Institutional Responsibilities (research, research consultation, teaching, professional practice, institutional committee memberships, etc.) meeting the monetary threshold must be disclosed. The Investigator's project-specific financial interests must be considered in the context of all outside activities related to his or her Institutional Responsibilities. At NYU, this is accomplished through a dual disclosure process with the completion of the Annual Disclosure form and the Investigator's Financial Interest Disclosure Form (<http://www.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyu/research/documents/OSP/phsdisclosureform.pdf>). **For those who have proposals pending with PHS and who subsequently receive awards, new disclosure forms will have to be filed prior to the establishment of an account by Sponsored Programs Administration.** Updated disclosures are required within 30 days of acquiring or discovering a new Significant Financial Interest.
- The monetary threshold for disclosure for both Publicly and Non-publicly Traded Entities is now \$5,000 (down from \$10,000)
- Any reimbursed or sponsored travel related to the Investigator's Institutional Responsibilities must be disclosed (there is no threshold)
- **Training in Conflict of Interest is required for all Investigators prior to the expenditure of any PHS funds and must be renewed every 4 years** (go to the CITI website at: ([www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org)), register as a NYU Investigator and go to the question which asks, "Would you like to take the Conflicts of Interest Course?". Under "My Courses", you should see *Conflicts of Interest – Stage 1*. Under "Status", click ENTER). We have chosen not to create a Stage 2 which many institutions are using to meet the regulatory requirement that Investigators be trained in their institution's implementation of the new PHS policy. NYU's explanation of its implementation is contained in this memo and in the Disclosure Form itself. The CITI course must be completed prior to the expenditure of any funds from awards issuing

on or after 8/24/12 and for this reason we encourage you to complete the training immediately.

- When a Significant Financial Interest is found and not eliminated, a report must be sent to the PHS awarding component with the details of the conflict and an institutional management plan.

NYU's process for identifying and managing conflicts of interest in research has not changed. All disclosures are sent to the Dean of your School who will review them for potential Conflicts of Interest related to the research and determine whether or not to refer the matter to an appropriate committee for action.

Please contact my office ([paul.horn@nyu.edu](mailto:paul.horn@nyu.edu)) or Marti Dunne ([marti.dunne@nyu.edu](mailto:marti.dunne@nyu.edu)) with any concerns or questions regarding the new policy or NYU's implementation of it.