



Composite of Source Information: Undue Foreign Influence

NIH Notices and Announcements (Chronological)

August, 20, 2018

NIH “Dear Colleagues” letter 8/20/2018 sent to 10,000 institutions

https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/media/NIH%20Foreign%20Influence%20Letter%20to%20Grantees%2008-20-18.pdf

August, 23, 2018

NIH Director publishes a statement titled: Statement on Protecting the Integrity of U.S. Biomedical Research

<https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/who-we-are/nih-director/statements/statement-protecting-integrity-us-biomedical-research>

December 2018

NIH Advisory Committee to the Director forms a working group

Advisor Committee to the Director publishes findings and recommendations

https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/12132018ForeignInfluences_report.pdf

NIH Advisory Committee Presentation “Foreign Influences on Research Integrity”

<https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/12132018ForeignInfluences.pdf>

July 10th 2019

NIH NOT-OD-19-114 “Reminders of NIH Policies on Other Support and on Policies related to Financial Conflicts of Interest and Foreign Components”

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-114.html>

FCOI: Investigator Disclosures of Foreign Financial Interests

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-160.html>

July 11th, 2019

Michael Lauer, Deputy Director for Extramural Research, posts NIH “Open Mike” Clarifying Long-Standing NIH Policies on Disclosing Other Support (generates immediate concern and community pushback)

<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2019/07/11/clarifying-long-standing-nih-policies-on-disclosing-other-support/>

NIH FAQs Other Support and Foreign Components

Published June 19, 2019

Revised July 23, 2019

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/faq-other-support-foreign-components.htm>

Response to Michael Lauer Communication:

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

FOCI Community,

We'd like to update you on some immediate and upcoming changes to the NIH [FAQs](#) related to the recent [Guide Notice](#) on reporting of foreign activities. Please also see previous emails and the related [issue brief](#) for more background information.

As many of you had noted, the plain reading of the [FAQs related to Other Support](#) would have vastly increased the amount of information included in grant applications, including unpaid consulting or activities unrelated to an investigator's research. In conversation today with Mike Lauer, Deputy Director of the Office of Extramural Research (OER) at NIH, we communicated your concerns. The OER was very receptive to the issues we raised and wholly agreed that the phrasing of the FAQs could result in the misperception that NIH wanted far more information to be included in the applications than they do.

In the next day or so, the FAQ question #6 on when outside activities should be reported as Other Support will be removed from the website and in the coming days and weeks a number of other changes clarifying NIH's requirements will be included there. We are actively engaged and coordinating these clarification efforts not only with NIH, but with the other higher education associations, COGR, AAU, and APLU.

The primary message to you all from NIH is that the agency has not substantially changed its expectations of what should be reported but is working to clarify its guidance to respond to recent cases in the realm of undue foreign influence in which activities or resources that should have been reported to NIH and to institutions had not been disclosed. We will keep you updated with each of these changes and I urge you to contact me with any specific concerns or examples that would be useful in thinking through these complex questions of what NIH needs to know to make decisions about whether a proposal it is considering funding may raise budgetary overlap or time commitment concerns.

Thank you for your engagement.

Best,

Heather

Heather H. Pierce, JD, MPH
Senior Director, Science Policy
Regulatory Counsel, Scientific Affairs
Association of American Medical Colleges
655 K Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20001
T: 202-478-9926 E: hpierce@aamc.org
www.aamc.org

Organization Announcements and Publications (Other)

May 2019

COGR Update Published

Council on Government Relations publishes a summary of the history of Foreign Influence

<https://www.cogr.edu/sites/default/files/May%202019%20Update1.pdf>

May 2019

AAMC Publishes news article: Combating Undue Influence at U.S. Research Institutions

<https://www.aamc.org/download/498508/data/july2019aamcmemo-foreigninfluence.pdf>

July 2019

AAMC Memo: NIH and Undue Foreign Influence at U.S. Research Institutions

<https://news.aamc.org/research/article/combating-undue-foreign-influence-us-research/>

News Articles (General)

October 2018

China Hides Identities of Top Scientific Recruits Amidst Growing U.S. Scrutiny

Chinese Researchers fear that affiliation with the high-status Thousand Talents scheme could make them targets of FBI investigations

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07167-6>

April 9, 2019

Major US Cancer Center MD Anderson Ousts 'Asian' Researchers after NIH Flags Their Foreign Ties

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/04/exclusive-major-us-cancer-center-ousts-asian-researchers-after-nih-flags-their-foreign>

June 5, 2019

NIH Has Referred 16 Allegations of Foreign Influence on U.S. Research to Investigators

<https://www.statnews.com/2019/06/05/nih-has-referred-16-allegations-of-foreign-influence-on-u-s-research-to-investigators/>

Cornell Ithaca Communications and Announcements

March 4, 2019

President Pollack opinion piece:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/04/opinions/trump-immigration-international-students-research-universities-pollack/index.shtml>

May 18, 2019

Academic Integrity and Undue Foreign Influence: Guidelines: A Message to Cornell University Faculty

Ithaca formal announcement: <https://global.cornell.edu/academic-integrity-and-undue-foreign-influence-guidelines>