



GCAAlert!

Yale University
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Alerts:

NIH Makes Significant Application Changes

"The new, restructured versions of the paper PHS 398 and electronic SF 424 (R&R) application packages and instructions will be available by December 2009. For due dates on or after January 25, 2010, choose "ADOBE_FORMS-B" for SF 424 (R&R) electronic applications and the "June 2009" revised forms for PHS 398 applications submissions."

NIH Makes Significant Application Changes

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is restructuring versions of the paper PHS 398 and electronic SF 424 (R&R) application forms with new instructions - including **shorter page limits** and **new Biosketch requirements** - for all competing applications: new, renewal, resubmission, and revisions (see [NOT-OD-09-149](#)) due on or after January 25, 2010. New Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) will be released before the end of December 2009.

The following three sections have been substantially revised:

1. Research Plan

- **Specific Aims** requires new language about the proposed research results.
- **Research Strategy** is a new section that is subdivided into three components: Significances, Innovation and Approach. This one section consolidates the current sections of the Research Plan:
 - Background and Significance
 - Preliminary Studies/Progress Report, and
 - Research Design and Methods

The page limits for the new Research Strategy section generally will be 6 or 12 pages (with one additional page for Specific Aims) depending upon the FOA. As always, if the FOA requires page limits that differ from the application instructions, the FOA page limits should be followed. The full table of page limits is available at http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/page_limits.html.

- **Select Agents Research** will be changed to reflect the Environment criterion.

2. Biographical Sketch

The Biosketch now requires a **Personal Statement** to give investigators the opportunity to briefly describe experiences and qualifications specific to the proposed project. The **Publications** section is now limited to **no more than 15 publications** based on how recent, important to the field and relevant the publications are to the application.

3. Resources and Facilities

The Resources and Facilities section now requires a description of **how the scientific environment will contribute to the probability of the project's success**. Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) must describe the institutional investment in the investigator's success (e.g. resources, classes, etc.).

The Enhancing Peer Review Website has a page dedicated to these application changes and contains a number of resources on the Training and Communications Resources page including: a [flyer](#), a [one-page update](#), and a full [PowerPoint presentation](#) describing the changes.

The Office of Grant and Contract Administration (GCA) **strongly recommends uploading new application packages in January 2010 for applications due on or after January 25, 2010**. In addition, in order to provide further guidance on these changes, GCA will make this the focus of our RAG meeting(s) in December. We will also make information available to you on our website at www.yale.edu/grants and include in our Grants.gov training sessions. [*The new 2010 schedule for the Hands-on Grants.gov Clinics will be posted in TMS soon.*].

Please feel free to contact your GCA Team with any questions or for additional direction regarding this article. We will communicate other major changes related to training grants in the next issue of our GCAAlert!

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