

## URA Weekly Update for the Week Ending February 13, 2009

### Quick links in this Issue:

- [URA Town Hall Meeting](#)
- [Grants.gov update](#)
- [URA Log-In Book](#)
- [ARC Information](#)
- [Arete Initiative](#)
- [URA COI Stats](#)
- [2009 Congressional Economic Stimulus Package Update](#)
- [NSF post-doctoral fellows requirements](#)
- [NIH Seminars in Program Funding and Grants Administration](#)
- [NSF Regional Grants Conference](#)

### URA General Information

**Reminder:** **URA Town Hall Meeting**, March 10, 2009 – 2:00-3:30pm, Biological Sciences Learning Center – room 109. Please let us know if you have any topics for the Town Hall Meeting. Put it on your calendar now!

### Grants.gov Update:

From the Grants.gov Blog site: Last week (2/2/09-2/6/09), Grants.gov received 5,683 submissions, of which 4,852 were to HHS (~85%). Of the 4,852 to HHS, 347 were rejected (7%) because of invalid DUNS, closed opportunity, submitted not designated as AOR, or other reasons (almost half!). Please take the time to read the FOA, check your adobe forms and uploads....and get the applications in early.

A big thanks out to everyone on campus for all the hard work last week with the first NIH R01 Adobe form submission deadline. Those of us in URA appreciate all your hard work! Keep it up!

### New URA Log-in Book

URA is implementing a log-in/log-out process to keep track of documents being delivered to and picked up from our office – Bookstore, Room 350. All materials to be picked up will be logged out at the URA Front Desk. Additionally, all materials dropped off will be logged in – either at the time of delivery or if the department has completed the URA Drop-Off Log Book form, the URA Front Desk staff will check off the materials delivered. I will post on the website in the next day, the new departmental log-in form (URA Drop Off – Log). We believe this new process of tracking documents will serve everyone well. If you have questions regarding the new process, please contact Terry Rainer ([rainer@uchicago.edu](mailto:rainer@uchicago.edu); 2-8505). Thanks for your cooperation in this effort.

**Animal Resource facility** information for grant resource pages is available at the ARC website ([http://arc.bsd.uchicago.edu/ARC\\_website/committees/grants\\_help.html](http://arc.bsd.uchicago.edu/ARC_website/committees/grants_help.html)) Descriptions of the three main facilities are listed. Additional information may be obtained by contacting George Langan, DVM.

### **Research Funding: The Arete Initiative**

A new research catalyst program called the Arete Initiative is available through the Vice President for Research and for National Laboratories Office. Arete's primary purpose is to remove the barriers to success by providing expertise in leading **interdisciplinary teams** along with administrative, organizational, and technological support and assistance in seeking outside funding from individual donors, government agencies, foundations, and corporations. The goal is to ensure that promising and talented principal investigators have the resources they need to successfully lead interdisciplinary teams that have the potential to produce scholarly innovations, advance what were thought to be intractable problems, influence multiple disciplines and spawn new -fields. If you would like to learn more about the Arete Initiative, please call 773-834-9870, email [arete@uchicago.edu](mailto:arete@uchicago.edu)<<mailto:arete@uchicago.edu>>, or visit <http://arete.uchicago.edu/>

### **URA COI Stats:**

As of February 10, 2009 over 1600 COI Assurances have been filed. Please contact Linda Triemer, Director of Research Integrity (2-4857; [Triemer@uchicago.edu](mailto:Triemer@uchicago.edu)) if you have any conflict of interest questions.

### **Agency Updates & News**

#### **2009 Congressional Economic Stimulus Package Update:**

The details are not available, but researchers may receive a major influx of funding from the stimulus package. The major federal funding agencies (NIST, NASA, DOE, NSF, and NIH) are targeted to receive stimulus funding. Agencies have not yet determined how they will announce the funding. As we learn more, we will pass along the plans and funding notices

#### **NSF requirement to provide a mentoring plan for post-doctoral fellows**

Beginning in January, 2009, all NSF grant applications that include funding support for post-doctoral fellows MUST include a mentoring plan. The specific language of the requirement is:

*Chapter II, Section C.2d(i): Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a separate section within the 15-page Project Description, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Examples of mentoring activities include, but are not limited to: career counseling; training in preparation of grant proposals, publications and presentations; guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills; guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and training in responsible professional practices. The proposed mentoring activities will be evaluated as part of the merit review process under the Foundation's broader impacts merit review criterion. Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review.*

NSF has recommended against the use of 'boilerplate' language and expects that each PI will tailor a mentoring plan best suited to his/her own laboratory and research program. Please make sure PI's are including this information as a separate section in the Project Description.

#### **National Institutes of Health Seminars in Program Funding and Grants Administration:**

These seminars are intended to help demystify the application and review process, clarify federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern. Note: These seminars are held only twice a year. Dates for this year are as follows: **April 15-17: Atlanta, GA & June 24-26: Las Vegas, NV**

For more information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/seminars.htm>

### **NSF Regional Grants Conference**

The National Science Foundation Regional Grants Conference will be held in Tempe, AZ and hosted by the Arizona State University on **March 30-31, 2009** and Jackson, MS - **October 5-6, 2009**. Key representatives from the National Science Foundation as well as your colleagues - faculty, researchers and grant administrators - representing colleges and universities from around the US will participate. [Registration and additional information is now available online.](#)

For additional information regarding program content, contact the Policy Office, Division of Institution and Award Support at (703) 292-8243, or via e-mail at [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov).