Subject: SERCC Newsletter
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From: Scientific Editing and Research Communication Core
To: Widmayer, Heather A

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Scientific Editing and Research Communication Core

Upcoming Changes to the NIH Biosketch

You may have heard that NIH is adopting use of the [Common Forms for the NIH Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support documents](#) for applications due on or after **May 25, 2025**. Although the format is changing, all of the information that is currently in the biosketch will still be required. Below we discuss the specific changes that are being made, the reasons for them, and steps you can take to ensure your next grant submission meets the new requirements.

Note, we recommend checking the [NIH website](#) before May 25, 2025 to determine if there have been any changes that affect when this new policy is implemented.

What is changing

- NIH will require use of the Common Forms for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support documents for all grant applications, Just-in-Time (JIT) documents, and Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs) due on or after May 25, 2025.
- In accordance with [NIH Peer Review Regulations](#), NIH will continue to collect three agency-specific data elements. However, these will be submitted separately from the Common Forms, as part of the Biographical Sketch Supplement form. The three elements are:
    - the Personal Statement,
    - Contributions to Science, and
    - Honors.
- For Candidate biosketches for fellowship (F) applications, grades are no longer required or permitted.
- Applicants will be required to use SciENcv to produce a digitally-certified PDF of both the Common Forms and the Biographical Sketch Supplement form.
- The approved Common Forms are managed by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and are currently available on [the NSF website](#).

Reasons for the change

The change is in response to [National Security Presidential Memorandum-33](#), which was released in January 2022. The goal is to provide greater standardization across federal agencies and to ensure that all foreign and domestic research activities are transparent and fully disclosed.

Using the Common Forms

- The NIH expects that the Common Forms and Biographical Sketch Supplement will be available in SciENcv by March 25, 2025.
- The NIH is coordinating with SciENcv to develop an application programming interface that will help applicants in completing the Common Forms (date of release is not yet known).
- Senior/Key Personnel will be required to enter their Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID iD) in the Persistent Identifier (PID) section of the Common Forms, and to link it with their eRA Commons Personal Profile.
- Note that the information in your SciENcv profile will be saved. You will be able to customize the content of your biosketch for specific submission types, and to export them in a standard format.

Actions you can take now

- Ensure that you have the following set up:
    - [ORCID iD](#) and
    - eRA Commons Personal Profile (contact the [UI Division of Sponsored Programs (DSP)](#) to register).
- Familiarize yourself with SciENcv by [creating](#) an account (or [logging into](#) your existing account).
- Keep your current biosketch up to date because the Personal Statement, Contributions to Science, and Honors will still be relevant in the new format (the relevant sections are described in [our templates](#) for the older biosketch format).

Best of luck crafting your next biosketch!
Jennifer Barr and the SERCC Team

Resources

- [How to generate an NSF biosketch in SciENcv](#), instructions from the UI DSP
- [SciENcv: Getting Started](#), instructions from the National Libraries of Medicine, NIH
- [SciENcv for NSF users: Biographical Sketch](#), video tutorial from the National Library of Medicine

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Announcements

2025 Federal Updates

The UI Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is tracking federal updates under the new administration. Find the most recent information and campus announcements at the link above.

Hardin Open Workshops

The Hardin Library hosts workshops on various topics relevant for researchers in the biomedical sciences, including using SciENcv and creating an ORCID iD. Click the link above to view currently scheduled classes or request individual or group sessions.

Upcoming Opportunities

Have a question about writing grants or research articles? [Contact us](#) and we will

Ask the Editor: SERCC Virtual Office Hours

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month | next sessions April 2 and 16 |12:30 p.m.–1:30 p.m. | Zoom

The SERCC is hosting virtual office hours twice a month. If you have a question related to writing a grant, manuscript, or other scientific document, stop by to talk with a scientific editor. We are also happy to answer any questions you have regarding our services. Open to all faculty, staff, fellows, postdocs, and students.
More information | Link to event

VPMA Focused Grant Revision Supplement Opportunity

This program is supported by the VPMA Strategic Initiative, and the goal is to provide support to help high-scoring NIH R01 (or equivalent) grant proposals cross the funding threshold. Up to $25,000 is available to address discrete, well-defined weaknesses identified in prior proposal reviews. These funds can support focused experiments, the development of new reagents, adoption of innovative techniques, or other proof-of-principle efforts. The funding must target 1-2 specific, score-driving weaknesses noted in the summary statement.
More information | Link to application

Broader Impacts/Research Impacts Seminars

April 4 | 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. | Zoom
April 11 | 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. | Zoom
April 18 | 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. | Zoom

Broader impacts is one of the criteria used to evaluate NSF proposals and relates to how the proposed research will benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes. It is increasingly used as a differentiator in deciding which proposals to fund. This series is sponsored by the UI Research Development Office (RDO) and will be presented by staff of the Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS). Sessions will focus on strategies for conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and evaluating Broader Impacts.
More information | Registration

Hardin Open Workshop: ORCiD: Open Research and Contributor ID

April 8 | 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. | Zoom

During this session, learn what an ORCID iD is and why you need one. The workshop will be hands on and you will have the opportunity to create your own ORCID iD and learn the most efficient ways to populate your profile with your publications.
More information and registration

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ESPSCoR) Lunch and Learn

April 16 | 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. | University Capital Center (Department of Energy

(DOE) session)

April 30 | 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | University Capital Center (National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) session)

EPSCoR enhances science and technology in states with relatively low federal R&D funds. The University of Iowa is eligible for EPSCoR funding from four federal agencies: DoD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. During these sessions, learn about agency-specific EPSCoR opportunites and connect with successful awardees.
More information: [DOE](#) or [NASA](#) | | [Registration](#)

NSF CAREER Recent Awardee Panel Session

April 18 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Zoom

The RDO is hosting an NSF CAREER virtual panel session. This panel session will provide an opportunity to hear from recent CAREER Award recipients regarding their experience with the application process, need-to-know information, plus much more.
[More information](#) | [Registration](#)

Broader Impacts Fair

April 23 | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | University Capital Center

The RDO is hosting an in-person Broader Impacts Fair to provide a unique opportunity to connect researchers with campus resources and foster partnerships that are essential for developing and delivering impactful Broader Impacts activities. During the fair, six participating units will showcase their Broader Impacts expertise through lightning talks. Following the lightning talks, there will be an informal session where attendees can network and connect with participating unit staff. Lunch will be provided during the lightning talks.
[More information](#) | [Registration](#)

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