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eRA Systems: A Work in Process

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Learning Objectives

- Identify recent changes implemented in the eRA systems.
- Learn how to apply strategies and best practice to improve user outcomes

What is a research administrator?

Support
sponsored
research

Prepare/Submit
Applications

Manage all
aspects of grant
life cycle

Navigate
Complex
Administrative
Environment

Subaward
related activities

Audit Prep and
support

IRB or IACUC
approvals

Financial
oversight and
reporting

Compliance
Compliance
Compliance

Words that describe us?

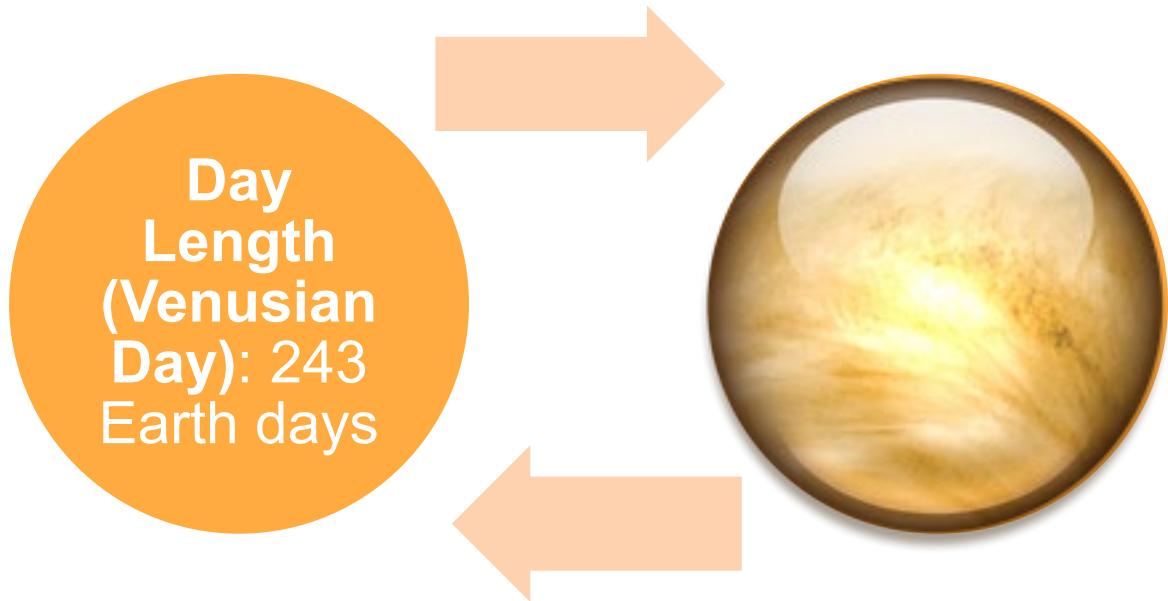


My Definition and (3) words!

**HELP
OTHERS
SUCCEED**



Success (and our days) have looked differently lately



Administrative Changes since January 2025

- Changes in Administration funding priorities and significant NIH funding cuts - General uncertainty & instability regarding research, funding, and research administration
- Attempt by NIH and other Federal Agencies to limit Indirect Rate recoveries to 15% - 1950's, proposed in 1995 and again in 2017
- Change in how international collaborations; contracts; awards, and subawards are treated
- As changes have occurred, delays in funding or reviews, as well as multi-year funding have impacted the number of awards made
- Consistent and ongoing change in systems, processes, and legislation
- Appointed NSF Board compromised of academia and industry, providing independent oversight was ousted

HHS eRA Systems – (Electronic Record Administration) Changes

High level application changes:

- Removal of DEI requirements - Recruitment Plans to Enhance Diversity and Plans for Enhancing Diverse Populations
- No more red tape (okay – not really) – but no more LOI and requests for budgets greater or equal to \$500,000 in direct costs
- Limiting PI applications to six per year on a rolling basis
- Forms I are implemented
- AI restrictions and guidance
- PF5 applications were created to include foreign collaborators and then disaggregated

Separate JIT for both entities with Sam.gov registration requirements
Each entity will receive their own awards (PF5 and RF2) with unique terms and conditions for each

Malign Foreign Talent Recruit Program (MFTRP)

Effective 1/25/26, Senior/key personnel* must certify that they are not a current party to a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP). If they are, they are **not** eligible to serve as a senior/key person on an NIH grant or cooperative agreement.

Senior/key personnel* must provide certification:

- Annually - due with the RPPR on or after 1/25/26
- Certification occurs with Common Form Biosketch is “certified”

AOR must certify – via Face Page of the SF424 R&R Cover Page

How does the AOR certify for subawards?

*Defined as someone identified on the R&R Senior/Key Personnel Profile

eRA Enhancement?

eRA Commons Changes

Login.gov – for everything?

Multi-factor authentication

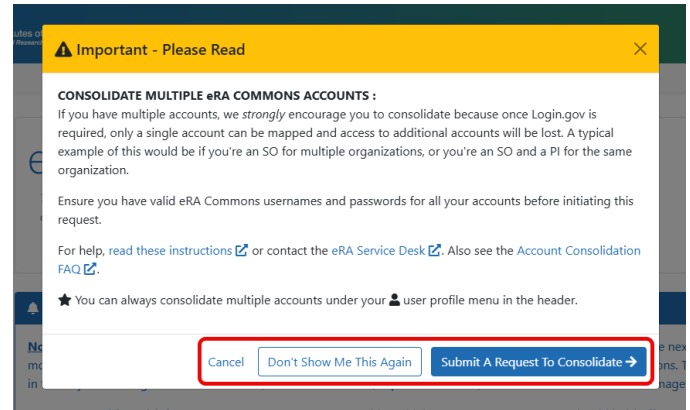
Combining accounts

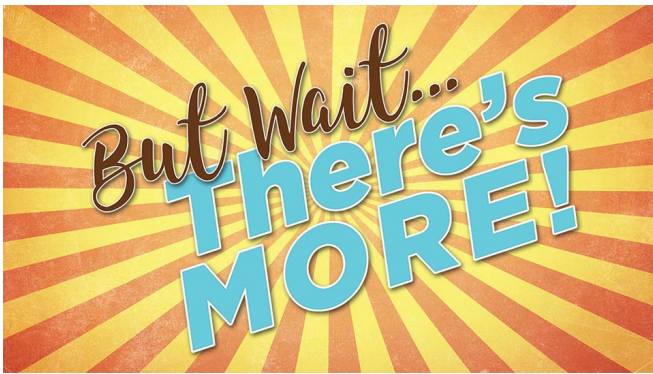
Impact of changes

No more logging in as PI?

What if the PI has multiple roles,
such as reviewer/PI or different
institutions?

Streamlining access between
SciENcv/eRA Commons/NCBI, etc.





Common Forms –
Implementation by
May 25, 2026

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-079.html>

Intent

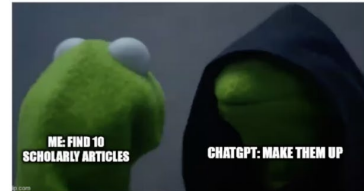
- Standardized across federal agencies
- Clarity about disclosures
- Disclosure process – regarding updates, corrections, cortication's, or documentation required, etc.
- Research Security Training (RST) Certification
- Ensure other certifications as required (MFTRP)

Common Forms

The Good –

- Standardized Forms for all PIs; even subawardees
- No more double-checking of PMCID and PMIDs, the number of citations or contributions, or correcting font and margins
- Tracking of foreign commitments
- Reduce Administrative Burden
- Clear structure/format of documents

ChatGPT for Academic Research: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



Hannah Rozear, Librarian for Biological Sciences & Global Health

Common Forms

The Bad –

- Word count limitations on contributions
- Certifying biosketches and other support implies the PI has complied with all required training and compliance
- Limits citations/publications to 10 for the biosketch in total
- Changes to the certified document require recertification

Common Forms

The Ugly –

- PI availability – requires coordination
- Reliance on ORCID for creating SciENCv(create your own ORCID for delegate status)
- PIs may attempt to sneak in “references” to other publications/citations,
- Will non-profit/foundation entities accept the new template
- Changes to the certified document require recertification (it’s worth repeating)

Planning for changes

Common forms

- Determine who will update/manage common forms
- Have multiple biosketches by type (T1D vs MS vs ?)
- Keep a repository of current certified forms for your PIs
- For new PIs, start the process sooner than later
- Clear instructions including ORCID requirements
- Establish an ORCID account and delegate and eRA Commons
- Work with the PI/Designee on combining NCBI with ORCID
- Reliance on ORCID (create your own ORCID for delegate status)
- Update Other Support Monthly or use milestones to track required updates
- Consider other tracking for completed support for DoD and other requirements

Considerations

- Tracking of annual Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP) certifications?
- Tracking of Research Security Training?
- If you have PIs that are infrequent submitters, how will you “onboard” them to the new process, to ensure that there won’t be delays
- Who will be the final party responsible at your entity for entering information for Common Forms and maintaining them?



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eRA Systems will constantly change and adapt – remember to breathe and adapt with them.

Questions?

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