Reporting Requirements for UH Researchers

Conflicts of Interest, Conflicts of Commitment, and other reporting requirements

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What UH Researchers Need to Know

- **Disclosures to the University (internal)**
  - Conflict of Interest disclosure
  - Conflict of Commitment disclosure
  - Intellectual Property and Inventions disclosure

- **Disclosures to Sponsors (external)**
  - Current & Pending Support
  - Foreign talent programs
  - Foreign components
Disclosures to the University

UH Conflict of Interest Policies

- **UH Executive Policy 12.214**: Conflicts of Interest and Commitment

- **UH Administrative Policy 12.304**: Procedures for Disclosing and Addressing Conflicts of Interest Related with Extramurally Funded Activities

- **A5.504**: Procedures for disclosing and addressing conflicts of interest and commitment
Disclosures to the University

Key Definitions from UH COI policies:

Investigator - Principal Investigator (PI), Project Director (PD) or any other senior/key person responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research

Immediate Family – Investigator’s spouse, domestic partner or dependent children

Institutional Responsibilities – Investigator’s professional responsibilities on behalf of UH, e.g., research, teaching, training, professional practice and memberships or service

Conflict of Interest (COI) – financial or other professional/personal interest which may influence or appear to influence an Investigator’s objectivity or judgement in fulfilling his or her institutional responsibilities

Significant Financial Interest (SFI) - anything of monetary value to an Investigator or Investigator’s immediate family member, that reasonably relates to an Investigator’s institutional responsibilities
Disclosures to the University

- **Significant Financial Interests (SFI)** include but are not limited to:
  - Remuneration (outside income) over $5000 from any outside entity;
  - Equity interest (e.g. stocks) in a **public** entity over $5000;
  - Equity interest of **any value** in a **private** entity;
  - Aggregated interests, both income and equity, over $5000 entity
  - Royalties or income from intellectual property (e.g. patents, copyrights, and trademarks) from an outside entity
  - Sponsored Travel: reimbursement or sponsorship for travel by an outside entity (applies only to PHS-funded investigators)

“Entities” includes foreign organizations
Disclosures to the University

What must investigators disclose to UH?

Investigators must disclose any **Significant Financial Interest (SFI)** held in the last 12 months that reasonably appears to be related to their institutional responsibilities:

- prior to, or at the time of, proposal submission;
- within 30 days of acquiring SFI; and
- at least annually

What is a Conflict of Interest?

An SFI or other professional/personal interest which may influence or **appear to influence** an Investigator’s objectivity or judgement in fulfilling his or her institutional responsibilities
Disclosures to the University

Disclosure Examples

• Income, reimbursement, or sponsorship of travel by a foreign (non-U.S.) government agency, foreign institution of higher education or foreign research entity
• Board positions, offices, appointments, or memberships held in any outside entity, whether compensated or not;
• Industry collaborations, both officially and unofficially, with foreign or domestic entities
• Employment, assistantships or exchanges (e.g. Post-docs, visiting scholars) of any international citizens involved in your UH research or extramurally-funded activities
• Any of your private outside interests that could relate to your Institutional responsibilities (e.g. start-ups, or spin-offs)
• Compensation for outside (non-UH) consulting, service, other related work
• Equity or ownership in entities that could reasonably appear as related to UH work
• Employment of UH staff/students in an entity for which an SFI exists
Disclosures to the University

Internal COI Disclosure to UH is **not** required for:

- Income, reimbursement, or sponsorship of travel by a government agency, **U.S.** institution of higher education or academic teaching hospital, medical center, or research institute affiliated with a **U.S.** higher education institution
- Salary, royalties, or intellectual property right payments from UH
- Income from investment vehicles, e.g., mutual funds and retirement accounts (no direct control over investment decisions)
- Remuneration unrelated to UH institutional responsibilities
Disclosures to the University

Annual COI Disclosure

• UH and RCUH employees due April 15 - “paper” disclosure from AP A5.504 attachment A page 22 - 29
• Extramurally-funded Investigators and key personnel submit disclosure online via new myGRANT rCOI module (rolling expiration every 12 months)

Ongoing Submission

• New employees
• Changes to annual disclosure
• Proposal/Award – updates in myGRANT
Disclosures to the University

COI Training Requirement

*PHS-funded Investigators must also complete COI training available through CITI at https://www.citiprogram.org/?pageID=668:

- At least every four years; and,
- Immediately, if:
  - UH revises its policy
  - Investigator is new to UH
  - UH finds an Investigator is not in compliance with COI policy or management plan.

*What is PHS?*

PHS is Public Health Service which includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Disclosures to the University

The new rCOI system launched on September 21, 2020.

There are two ways to access rCOI:

- Click on the **My COI** box from the myGRANT homepage
- Follow the link below
  
  http://mygrant.ors.Hawaii.edu/rCOI

A User Guide for using the new rCOI system can be found at

http://www.ors.hawaii.edu/index.php/coi-information
Disclosures to the University

Conflicts of Commitment (COC)

Federal research agencies are focusing on strengthening disclosure requirements due to concerns over undue foreign influence (Jan 2021):

- 2021 JCORE Subcommittee on Research Security (National Science and Technology Council - Joint Committee on the Research Environment)
- NSM-33 Presidential Memorandum on US Government-Supported Research and Development National Security Policy

As a result, universities are evaluating their COC policies and procedures.
Conflicts of Commitment (COC) continued

Definition of COC - based on 2021 JCORE and NSM-33

“A situation in which an individual accepts or incurs conflicting obligations between or among multiple employers or other entities”

Current UH policies related to COC

- Board of Regents Policy 9.207: Outside Employment
- AP 9.240 Record of Outside Employment
Conflicts of Commitment (COC) continued

UH Board of Regents Policy 9.207: Outside Employment

“Members of the university faculty and staff are encouraged to promote the cultural and economic development of the state by utilizing their special abilities and skills in research, teaching, scholarly or artistic production, and consulting over and above the full requirements of the position to which they are appointed. Such additional supplementary activity must in no way interfere with the creditable performance of the primary obligation to the university. Outside employment must be of a professional nature, and it should contribute to the professional competence of the faculty member.” (III.B.1.)
Conflicts of Commitment (COC) continued

AP 9.240 Record of Outside Employment

- Completion of Form 50
- Signed endorsement by Chair and approval by Dean/Director

Deadline for completion of Form 50:

*The form must be filed at least one week prior to the beginning of each semester (or fiscal year, if appropriate) in which outside employment is contemplated, or, when there has been a change in plan previously proposed and approved. The form may be filed promptly at other times to accommodate situations where outside employment opportunity materializes on short notice.* (AP 9.240 3.b.)
Disclosures to the University

Intellectual Property and Inventions

• Promptly report all inventions to the Office of Innovation and Commercialization (OIC)
  – Submit online through myInvention portal at https://www.hawaii.edu/research/disclosing-an-invention/
• OIC will meet with you to discuss the invention and make a preliminary determination of licensing feasibility, novelty, potential applications, and possible markets
Disclosures to Sponsors

Current and Pending (Other Support)

• Update and maintain your current and pending support documentation
• Include ALL sources of support, including
  – Foreign and domestic
  – Scholarships or fellowships
• Follow specific sponsor instructions
• When in doubt, report
NIH Requirements

NIH NOT-OD-19-114 (July 10, 2019) Reminders of NIH Policies on Other Support and on Policies related to Financial Conflicts of Interest and Foreign Components

• Current and Pending (Other Support)
• Foreign Components
• Financial Conflicts of Interest
Current and Pending (Other Support)

All resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their research endeavors, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value and regardless of whether they are based at the institution the researcher identifies for the current grant.

Examples of Other Support

- Salary or other support for a research project(s)
- Honorary, visiting or adjunct appointment at a foreign university
- Non-monetary resources or in-kind support, such as lab space, personnel (like a visiting post-doc), equipment or supplies (can include support from a foreign talent or similar program)
NIH Requirements

Current and Pending

**When to report:**

- Proposal submission
- At Just-In-Time before award is made
- When key personnel are added
- When there are changes in support from original Other Support submission
- Annual research performance progress report

**Who must report:**

- PI on behalf of all senior and key personnel
NIH Requirements

Foreign Component

• Significant scientific element or segment of a project conducted outside the U.S.
  – Whether or not NIH funds are expended
  – Addition of foreign component must receive PRIOR approval by NIH
Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI)

42 CFR Part 50, Subpart F, Objectivity in Research

- Requires the Institution (UH) to have a disclosure policy that researchers must comply with
- Includes disclosure of financial interests related to a foreign entity
- UH must provide FCOI reports to NIH
NSF Requirements

- **Dear Colleague Letter** issued July 2019
- Proposed clarification of the proposal disclosure requirements and reporting requirements for both Current and Pending Support and Professional Appointments
- October 2020 – Use NSF-approved format for biographical sketches (including disclosure of all domestic and **foreign** appointments and Current and Pending Support information)
NASA Requirements

• Since 2011 NASA has had restrictions on using NASA funds to enter into agreements “to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company, at the prime recipient level or at any subrecipient level, whether the bilateral involvement is funded or performed under a no-exchange of funds arrangement”
June 2019 DOE Directive

• Participation in foreign talent programs is prohibited for its employees and contractors
  Defined as “any foreign-state-sponsored attempt to acquire US scientific-funded research or technology through foreign government-run or funded recruitment programs that target scientists, engineers, academics, researchers, and entrepreneurs of all nationalities working or educated in the United States.”
Additional Resources

https://www.hawaii.edu/research/foreign-influence/

Training for individuals and departments available upon request.

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