

Integrity Matters – Spring 2026 Issue

There are a lot of important proposed changes at the federal level which are currently open for comment. If you would like to impact the proposed changes, please respond to the requests for information; remember you may not respond on behalf of the university.

OMB has proposed a major revision impacting how sponsored research, financial assistance, public health, and other public service activities are funded, administered, and audited ([Uniform Guidance](#)); see [Key Issues within OMB Uniform Guidance Revision Proposal](#). **Proposed changes include reducing the role of peer review in grant funding decisions, restricting the use of grant funds for publication costs and conference travel, and limiting certain international research collaborators.** The proposal is open for public comment until July 13, 2026. You can speak directly to how these rules will affect your research, students, and community. **If you submit a comment, you are speaking for yourself, not the university.** You may submit comments in your personal capacity through the [federal regulatory comment portal](#). Follow the instructions provided, including identifying the relevant section of the proposed regulation when possible.

[NSF released a request for information](#) regarding plans to change the “Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide” (PAPPG) to “Guidance on Financial Assistance” (GFA) with the goal to *"incorporate plain language, clarify language, separate policies from procedures, remove policies no longer relevant, incorporate mandated statutory, regulatory, Executive Order, and policy-related changes."* [Review the GFA here](#) and provide feedback by 08/24/2026.

NIH is requesting input on a proposed **cap to the number of simultaneous research project grants per PI** ([NOT-OD-26-086](#)). Responses are **due August 3, 2026**. The NIH is requesting information on the following: Pros and/or cons of the policy; the optimal number of Research Project Grants for the cap (2-4); strengths and weaknesses of the proposed strategies; unintended consequences or policy loopholes. Responses are due August 3, 2026.

OhioLINK's **Wiley Open Access publishing agreement** is expected to cap this year. Consider [alternative APC-free publishing options](#).

- (1) Wiley's fully OA journals (only open access): **Beginning July 1, new requests for APC coverage cannot be approved.** APC payment is required following editorial acceptance in fully OA journals.
- (2) Wiley's hybrid journals (open and subscription access articles): Authors will no longer see the option to request APC coverage following editorial acceptance. They will be able to publish as subscription access without an APC or to pay the APC to publish open access with a 10% discount. [Learn more about the library APCs here](#).

We are here to facilitate your research.

Please reach out with suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Jane Strasser, PhD.

Senior Associate Vice President for Research

Research Compliance Officer

Research Integrity Officer

Animal Care and Use Program

Policies and guideline changes:

- [Animal Transportation Policy 108](#): required inspection of vehicles in advance and annually, secondary containment for transportation; modes of transportation.
- [Reporting Animal Numbers Policy 107](#): researchers must report offspring or non-traditional species procurement in AOPS.
- [Environmental Enrichment and Social Housing Policy 102](#): requirements for single housing and withholding enrichment.
- [Reporting Adverse Events Policy 116](#): reporting to outside agencies.
- [Rodent Colony Management Guidelines](#): updated cage sizes.

The rodent ([mouse](#), [rat](#)) analgesia requirements have been changed:

- Minimum Analgesic Period by Pain Level has been updated for all species.
- Ethiqva (Buprenorphine XR) duration has been changed to 72 hours.

Controlled Substances

Departure Procedures for Controlled Substances

- Moving lab locations? [Update](#) your OBP and DEA registrations to match your new lab address.
- Departing UC? Before you go, transfer and/or [destroy](#) all controlled substances in your current inventory. You must also [terminate](#) your OBP and DEA registrations or [transfer](#) them to another qualified investigator.

Export Controls, Research Transparency, and Security

NIH Increases Oversight of Foreign Collaborations and Co-Authorship

New NIH [guidance](#) emphasizes the correlation between foreign co-authorship and a [foreign component](#). For NIH-funded projects, this may require prior approval or reporting. NIH increased its oversight of international collaborations and has begun contacting investigators regarding publications that acknowledge NIH funding and include foreign co-authors.

UC investigators should work with SRS and Research Security and Ethics (RSE) when engaging in international collaborations. Forward NIH inquiries regarding a foreign co-author, foreign affiliation, or potential foreign component. to SRS, do not respond directly. Investigators planning new international collaborations should consult with SRS to determine whether prior agency approval is required.

The guidance also highlights the importance of accurately reporting institutional affiliations on publications and ensuring that NIH awards are cited only when they directly support the work being reported. Investigators with questions about foreign components, international collaborations, or NIH inquiries should contact [RSE](#) and [SRS](#) for assistance.

NASA Implements Research Security Training Certification Requirement

Beginning August 5, 2026, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will require all covered individuals named on grant and cooperative agreement proposals to certify that they have completed the required research security training before a proposal can be submitted. To support this requirement, NASA will release updated Biographical Sketch and Current & Pending (Other) Support forms on August 5 with the new certification.

NASA, DOE, NSF, USDA, and NIH all require covered individuals to complete research security training within 12 months prior to proposal submission. Investigators are encouraged to verify that their training is current to avoid delays in proposal submission. To complete UC's Research Security Training, please navigate to <https://about.citiprogram.org/> and log in. Contact [RSE](#) with any questions.

Federal Government updates and expands list of Chinese military companies operating in US

On June 10, 2026, the US Department of Defense (DoD) published an updated list of entities that it designates as Chinese military companies for the FY National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Many of the companies are in industries such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, genomics, unmanned systems (drones), logistics, shipping, aviation, construction and clean energy which the DoD has determined to be affiliated with the Chinese military. Because purchasing items from entities that are on this list could result in loss of funding from the federal government, we encourage you to work with purchasing or the Restricted Research team (restricted_research@uc.edu) to check to make sure your purchases are not from entities that are on this prohibited list. Our team can assist you with identifying alternatives that are safe if you need assistance.

Human Research Protection Program

Expiring Studies

Please ensure continuing reviews are submitted 60 days prior to expiration to ensure enough time for review and IRB meeting assignment. Email the office at irb@uc.edu with any questions/concerns. We appreciate your patience and will review your submission as quickly as possible.

Continuing Review Submissions

When providing information regarding adverse events, deviations, and participant withdrawals, provide the investigator's assessment of whether or not these reveal new or changing risks to participants, impact the study's ability to meet its scientific objects, and whether or not revisions to the study documents are needed to address any concerns.

ePas Data Archive Retirement

The online archive holding records of research submitted to and reviewed by the IRB in the previous electronic system (ePas) is being retired. Any documents research teams need to preserve can be accessed and saved from https://raplegacy.irb.uc.edu/IRB_Legacy.

Lab Safety News

Use of viral vectors

The use of viral vectors, regardless of risk, must be reviewed and approved by the IBC prior to initiation. Experiments conducted without prior IBC approval must be reported to the NIH Office of Science Policy, regardless of sponsor and may require returning funds. Approval is required for each individual viral vector.

Door Signage for Shared Areas

To ensure accurate hazard communication and regulatory compliance, we will be contacting PIs to verify the (potentially) biohazardous materials in use. The Biosafety Office will generate and post the signs. We will also be removing any outdated or non-required postings to ensure safety information is clear and easy to find. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the [Biosafety Office](#).

Temporary Lab Personnel

All personnel, including rotating students, must be added to the appropriate IBC protocol if work involves biohazardous materials; they must also complete all required training before they begin work.

Contact the [Biosafety Office](#) to update your protocol. Ensuring that all personnel are listed and trained is essential for maintaining compliance and a safe research environment.

Dosimeters

Beginning this quarter (July – September), the Radiation Safety Office (RSOf) will be shipping dosimeters out via UC's interoffice mail system. You will also notice a green pre-labeled return sticker included with the delivery. This green sticker should be used to ship the used dosimeters back to the RSOf via the interoffice mail system. If changes to a delivery address (mail location) are needed, please contact us at 513-558-4110.

Save the Date

Human Research Protections Conference

“A Change is Gonna Come” (virtual) October 7-8, 2026.

Registration opening late July.