

**ACTION:** Notice.

*Project Title:* Responsible Conduct of Research Program for Academic Societies.

*OMB Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance:* Application has been made for a CFDA number.

**Authority:** This Cooperative Agreement is authorized under section 301 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Research Integrity announces its plan to continue a non-competitive continuation award through a single source cooperative agreement with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to continue to provide programmatic administration of the RCR Program for Academic Societies. The ultimate goal of the continuation of this cooperative agreement is to provide fiscal support through sub-award contracts to U.S. biomedical and behavioral academic societies for the promotion of RCR and research integrity (RI) education, and/or other society initiatives focusing on the responsible conduct of research. This program is designed to benefit not only the researchers who are members of academic societies, but the U.S. public who will benefit from biomedical and behavioral research conducted in a responsible manner worthy of the public's trust.

**DATES:** To receive consideration, applications must be received no later than September 29, 2003. Applications will be considered as meeting the deadline if they are: (1) Received on or before the deadline date, or (2) postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before the deadline date and received in time for orderly processing. A legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier such as FedEx will be accepted in lieu of a postmark. Private metered postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely mailing. Applications hand-carried by applicants or by applicant couriers shall be considered as meeting an announced deadline if they are received on or before the deadline date between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the address indicated below. Applications submitted by facsimile transmission (FAX) or any other electronic format will not be accepted. Applications which do not meet the deadline will be considered late and will be returned to the applicant unread.

**ADDRESSES:** For this cooperative agreement, Form PHS 5161-1 (Revised July, 2000 and approved by OMB under

Control Number 0937-0189) must be used. An applicant is advised to pay close attention to the specific program guidelines and general instructions provided in the application kit. To obtain an application kit, write to: Office of Grants Management, Ms. Karen Campbell, Director of Grants Management, Suite 550, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852; or call Ms. Karen Campbell at (301) 594-0758.

This program is subject to the Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs as governed by Executive Order 12372. Executive Order 12372 sets up a system for State and local government review of proposed Federal Assistance Applications. Applicants (other than federally-recognized Indian Tribal Governments) should contact their State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) as early as possible to alert them to the prospective applications and receive any necessary instructions on the State process. For proposed projects serving more than one State, the applicant is advised to contact the SPOC of each affected State. A current list is included in the application kit.

**Submission Information:** Applications for this announcement shall be submitted to: Office of Grants Management, Ms. Karen Campbell, Director of Grants Management, Suite 550, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852. Send the original application with signatures in blue ink and 2 copies of the complete application to this address. Application receipt will be acknowledged by the Office of Grants Management issuing form (PHS-3038-1) Application Receipt Card to the applicant.

**Background**

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Research Integrity carries out its mission of promoting research integrity in order to reduce the incidence of research misconduct in DHHS supported biomedical and behavioral research by, among other activities, working to educate the biomedical and behavioral sciences research community in the responsible conduct of research. Toward this end, the ORI works in collaboration with universities, medical schools, research centers, and academic and professional societies to educate researchers.

For more than a decade, the ORI has been initiating efforts to work with organizations representing the biomedical and behavioral research community to foster a joint commitment to RCR education understanding the crucial role these organizations have in the promotion of research integrity. In

1989, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) stated that "Professional and scientific organizations representing the research community should develop educational and training activities and materials to improve the integrity of research." IOM noted that "Professional organizations, including the various disciplinary societies, play an important role in developing consensus about the goals and values that should shape research practice" and " \* \* \* that more can be done by these and other organizations to promote the responsible conduct of research" (IOM, 1989:36).

Academic societies are well-positioned to play a crucial and pivotal role in defining and promoting standards for the responsible conduct of research as has been widely recognized by the IOM and others. While some academic and professional societies have demonstrated leadership in educating their members to further integrity in the conduct of research they perform, others are just recently turning their attention toward such initiatives.

Over the past several years, ORI efforts to educate researchers in the responsible conduct of research have been growing. Nonetheless, they are still limited given the thousands of researchers yet to be reached. In order to continue to effectively extend its reach in educating researchers in the RCR, to encourage increased and sustained leadership by academic societies in this regard, and to build stronger ties with the biomedical and behavioral sciences research community in promoting the responsible conduct of research, ORI intends to continue the RCR Program for Academic Societies with the AAMC as the single source administrator.

**Purpose**

The ORI announces its plan to continue a non-competitive continuation award through a single source cooperative agreement with the AAMC as the programmatic administrator for the RCR Program for Academic Societies for four (4) more years subject to available funding. (The current project period is from 09/30/02 through 09/29/03). The purposes of this cooperative agreement are: (1) To provide sub-awards contracts to U.S. biomedical and behavioral academic societies to promote responsible conduct of research education and other RCR initiatives with their members in order to foster research integrity in DHHS sponsored research specifically; and generally, within the research conducted by the U.S. biomedical and behavioral research scientists; and (2) to continue utilizing the AAMC as a