**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**OSP/OVPR UPDATES**
1. *Update* to Fringe Benefit Rate for FY 2015
2. Research Development and Grant Writing News
3. Grant Finding Workshop – 04/16/2014; 2:00PM–3:00PM

**AGENCY UPDATES**

**NIH**
1. Adjustments to May 25-28, 2014 Grant Application Due Dates
2. NIH Reissues Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) Individual Fellowship Funding Opportunity Announcements
3. Notice of Change to the Duration of Career Development Award Supported by the NIBIB
4. NIH Will Open the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) for All Type 5 Non-SNAP Progress Reports on April 25, 2014
5. Implementation of Pilot Program for Enhancement of Employee Whistleblower Protections

**AHRQ**
6. Salary Limitation on FY 2014 AHRQ Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts

**NSF**
7. The National Science Foundation (NSF) – New Terms and Conditions
8. NSF Directorates Seek EAGERs with the Potential to Transform our Ability to Analyze Brain Function Underlying Behavioral and Cognitive Processes
9. NSF Completes Enhancements to Reasearch.gov Project Reporting
10. NSF CISE Directorate Invites Its Grantees to Submit Requests for REU Supplemental Funding

**Agency Tip**
11. Receive Customized NIH Opportunity Listings via E-Mail

**POST AWARD UPDATES**
12. Semi-Annual Effort Reports and Summer Effort Reports
13. Salary Reallocations/Cost Transfer Policy
14. Grant Reporting

**COEUS UPDATES & REMINDERS**
15. Update to Cost Sharing Distribution Process in Coeus

**TRAINING**
16. OSP Training – April Offerings
17. Conferences & NCURA Educational Programs

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**OSP / OVPR UPDATES**

- ***Update* to Fringe Benefit Rate for FY 2015**

  The Full-Time Fringe Benefit Rate for FY 2015 has decreased from 30.5% to 30.2%. All other rates remain the same as of the last agreement dated 01/29/2014.

  - Note: Facility and Administrative Cost Rate has NOT changed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>From – To</th>
<th>Rate / Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>07/01/2013 – 06/30/2014</td>
<td>30.50% - All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed</td>
<td>07/01/2014 – 06/30/2015</td>
<td>30.20% - All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional</td>
<td>07/01/2015 Until Amended</td>
<td>30.10% - All</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>From – To</th>
<th>Rate / Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed</td>
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<td>7.50% - All</td>
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<td>7.80% - All</td>
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</table>

_The Coeus Benefit Rates Table has been updated in accordance with this updated information._

- **Research Development and Grant Writing News**

  **March Issue**

  The March issue is now available online. (Brown users must sign-in to access this subscription.) This newsletter offers strategies on how to compete successfully for research funding and highlights new funding opportunities.
Grant Finding Workshop – April 16, 2014; 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Overview of university wide grant finding resources and how to search for grants in Pivot and Foundation Directory Online.

Location: Rockefeller Library, Hecker Center

Register here or contact Ian Straughn for more information.

AGENCY UPDATES

Adjustments to May 25-28, 2014 Grant Application Due Dates

Electronic Research Administrations (eRA) has scheduled extended downtime of all production eRA systems (including eRA Commons, ASSIST, Internet Assisted Review and others) starting at 9:00 PM ET on Friday, May 23 until 7:00 am ET on Tuesday, May 27, [NOT-OD-14-071].

To accommodate this scheduled federal system downtime, some of the application due dates have been adjusted as outlined below. In addition, applicants preparing multi-project applications using ASSIST will not have access to their applications during the downtime and should plan accordingly for May deadlines. Any applications submitted to Grants.gov during the downtime will be held at Grants.gov. Once service is restored, the applications will be processed by NIH and the submission results will be made available in eRA Commons.

Changes to Standard Due Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Codes</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
<th>Original Due Date</th>
<th>New Due Date</th>
<th>Due to OSP</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P Series</td>
<td>Program Project and Center Grants</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R18, U18, R25</td>
<td>Research Demonstration Education Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>T Series, D series</td>
<td>Institutional Research Service Awards and Other Training Grants</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C06/UC6</td>
<td>Construction Grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>G07, G08, G11, G13, G20, S11, S21, S22, SC1, SC2, SC3</td>
<td>Other Activity Codes</td>
<td>05/25/2014</td>
<td>05/29/2014</td>
<td>05/20/2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G12, R10, U10, UG1, R24, U24, S06, U19, U45, U54, U56</td>
<td>Other Activity Codes</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes to FOAs with Non-Standard Dues Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Original Due Date</th>
<th>New Due Date</th>
<th>Due to OSP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAR-12-084</td>
<td>05/25/2014</td>
<td>05/29/2014</td>
<td>05/20/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAR-13-112</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAR-13-205</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAR-14-017</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAR-14-018</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PAR-14-019</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NIH Reissues Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Fellowship Funding Opportunity Announcements

NOT-OD-14-066

The NIH has reissued the following Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Fellowship Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs). Applications intended for April 8, 2014, and subsequent due dates must use the reissued FOAs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity Announcement</th>
<th>NEW FOA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD and Other Dual Doctoral Degree Fellows (Parent F30)</td>
<td>PA-14-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (Parent F31)</td>
<td>PA-14-147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (Parent F32)</td>
<td>PA-14-149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA for Individual Senior Fellows (Parent F33)</td>
<td>PA-14-151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31 - Diversity)</td>
<td>PA-14-148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice of Change to the Duration of Career Development Awards Supported by the NIBIB (K01, K25, K08, K23)

NOT-EB-14-003

Starting with June 12, 2014 due date, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) will support the awardees of the following Career Development Awards ONLY for THREE or FOUR Years (i.e. applicants for these awards can only request support for three or four years):

- PA-14-044: Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (Parent K01)
- PA-14-048: Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award (Parent K25)
- PA-14-046: Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (Parent K08)
- PA-14-049: Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (Parent K23)

This change applies to both new and resubmitted (A1) applications, but does not affect active awards.

The support duration for the NIBIB Pathway to Independence Award (Parent K99/R00) remains unchanged with up to 2 years for the K99 phase and up to 3 years for the R00 phase.
 NIH Will Open the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) for All Type 5 Non-SNAP Progress Reports on April 25, 2014

NOT-OD-14-064

On April 25, 2014, NIH will expand to all institutions the ability to submit type 5 non-SNAP progress reports using the RPPR. NIH encourages all institutions to use the RPPR to submit type 5 non-SNAP progress reports when access is available.

NIH anticipates requiring all grantee institutions to use the RPPR for non-SNAP progress reports beginning on October 17, 2014; however, a separate Guide Notice announcing the requirement will be issued on a future date. Additional information and resources on the RPPR, including the current RPPR Instruction Guide and training archives, can be found at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/.

Non-SNAP progress reports not submitted using the RPPR must be submitted using the PHS 2590.

Implementation of Pilot Program for Enhancement of Employee Whistleblower Protections

NOT-OD-14-068


This program requires all grantees, their subgrantees and subcontractors to:

1. Inform their employees working on any federal award that they are subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies of the pilot program;
2. Inform their employees in writing of employee whistleblower protections under 41 U.S.C. §4712 in the predominant native language of the workforce; and,
3. Contractors and grantees will include such requirements in any agreement made with a subcontractor or subgrantee.

The statute (41 U.S.C. §4712) states than an "employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee [or subgrantee] may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for "whistleblowing." In addition, whistleblower protections cannot be waived by any agreement, policy, form or condition of employment.

Whistleblowing is defined as making a disclosure "that the employee reasonably believes" is evidenced of any of the following:

- Gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant;
- A gross waste of federal funds;
- An abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant;
- A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or,
- A violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract or grant (including the competition for, or negotiation of, a contract or grant).

To qualify under the statute, the employee's disclosure must be made to:

- A Member of Congress, or a representative of a Congressional Committee;
- An Inspector General;
- The Government Accountability Office;
- A federal employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management at the relevant agency;
- A court or grand jury; or,
• A management official or other employee of the contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee who has the responsibility to investigate, discover or address misconduct.

The requirement to comply with, and inform all employees of, the "Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections" is retroactively effective for all grants and subgrants issued beginning July 1, 2013.

Respectively, the Terms and Conditions of all grants issued on or after July 1, 2013, have been amended to incorporate the requirements of the "Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections" referenced below. Prospectively, all Notices of Award issued through January 1, 2017, will include by reference these requirements as a term and condition of the award.

In addition, all Funding Opportunity Announcements resulting in an award made on or after July 1, 2013, will be amended to incorporate the requirements of the "Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections" referenced above. Prospectively, all Funding Opportunity Announcements resulting in an award made through January 1, 2017, will include by reference the requirements stated.

**AHRQ UPDATE**

➢ **Salary Limitation on FY 2014 AHRQ Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts**

**NOT-HS-14-012**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Public Law 113-76, signed into law on January 17, 2014, restricts the amount of direct salary which may be paid to an individual under an HHS grant, cooperative agreement, or applicable contract to a rate no greater than Executive Level II of the Federal Executive Pay Scale. Effective January 12, 2014, the Executive Level II salary level is $181,500.

Committed levels of funding for awards made in prior fiscal years that were restricted to Executive Level II will NOT be adjusted for the new salary cap rate. However, if adequate funds are available in the award, and if the FY2014 salary cap limitation is consistent with the institutional base salary, grantees may re-budget funds to accommodate the FY2014 salary cap effective January 12, 2014, and contractors may charge at the higher rate. It is expected that such rebudgeting will not negatively impact the aims of the project. No additional funds will be provided for grant awards. Total estimated costs of contracts will not be modified.

The salary limitation applies to all subawards and subcontracts.

**NSF UPDATE**

➢ **The National Science Foundation (NSF) – New Terms and Conditions**

*(applicable to ALL new NSF awards and funding amendments to existing NSF awards issued on or after February 24, 2014)*

The National Science Foundation has recently released two updates to their Requirements for Research Terms and Conditions – one in February and the most recent one this month. [http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp)

The most notable change is the requirement for all award recipients to report on Program Income, even if no program income was generated. All Awardee organizations should submit a Program Income Reporting Sheet beginning March 1, 2014. Each year thereafter, awardee organizations will be required to submit a Program Income Reporting Sheet by November 14.

Program Income is defined as gross income earned by the awardee organization that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of NSF-funding. This includes: fees for services performed, the use or rental of
real or personal property acquired under the grant, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under the grant, and license fees. Interest earned on advances of Federal funds is not program income.

If there is no Program Income to report, the Certifying Official would check the appropriate box on the worksheet. http://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=research_node_display&_nodePath=/researchGov/Generic/Common/ProgramIncome.html

Also important to note in the new Terms and Conditions, is that all references to the Federal Financial Report (FFR) have been omitted, now that the Award Cash Management Service (ACMS) is now in place.

- NSF Directorates Seek EAGERs with the Potential to Transform our Ability to Analyze Brain Function Underlying Behavioral and Cognitive Processes

**NSF 14-044**

As part of a broader range of activities related to the BRAIN Initiative, the Divisions of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) and Biological Infrastructure (DBI) in the Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) seek Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) proposals with the potential to transform our ability to analyze brain function underlying behavioral and cognitive processes. Please see the Dear Colleague Letter for further details.

Interested PIs must email a two-page summary of their research ideas to BIO-BRAIN@nsf.gov by close of business, May 1, 2014. Potential or active collaborations with investigators in Israeli institutions should be identified as they may be eligible for separate support from the US Israeli Binational Science Foundation.

The two-page summaries will be reviewed internally and those ideas that best meet the goals of this Dear Colleague Letter will be invited to submit EAGER proposals. Invited EAGER proposals must be submitted via Fastlane or Grants.gov using the following NSF's Grant Proposal Guide instructions and should clearly indicate the reason that the work would be appropriate for EAGER support. It is anticipated that all EAGER awards will be made in FY 2014.

- NSF Completes Enhancements to Research.gov Project Reporting

Over some time, NSF has received feedback and suggestions from NSF awardees and Program Officers (POs) on how to further improve project reporting. The following enhancements, based on awardee and NSF staff feedback, were implemented on March 17th, 2014:

- POs will view project reports in HTML rather than PDF, which will allows POs and PIs to view the same layout for a project report.
- NSF will pre-populate the Products, Organization and Participants sections of a project report from information previously submitted in Research.gov. This will save awardees time and reduce redundant data entry.
- The progress report pages will be redesigned to optimize space, minimize scrolling efforts, and become more user-friendly. The default setting for non-critical sections will be "hidden", users will be able to click "Show Report and Progress Summary" to view sections as needed.
- PIs will be able to edit reporting periods for an Interim Project Report (IPR). This will allow PIs to accurately report specific dates applicable to the task(s) being reported upon.

Where should PIs go for help with project reports?

If you have any additional feedback on project reporting, please email feedback@research.gov.

If you would like to stay up-to-date on upcoming events or future enhancements to Research.gov and/or FastLane, subscribe to our new System Updates NSF listserv. This listserv is available to both NSF staff and awardees. To subscribe, simply email: system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov and you will be automatically enrolled.

**NSF CISE Directorate Invites Its grantees to Submit Requests for REU Supplemental Funding (Due by April 30, 2014)**

**NSF 14-055**

The NSF Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) invites its grantees who do not already have Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) supplemental funding to submit requests for such funding pursuant to the guidelines specified in the NSF REU solicitation (see Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU): Sites and Supplements; NSF 13-542). Grantees are encouraged to submit these requests by April 30, 2014.

For single investigator projects, CISE REU supplemental funding requests should typically be for no more than two students for one year. Research teams funded through multi-investigator projects may request support for a larger number of students, commensurate with the size and nature of their projects. For example, for projects involving two principal investigators, REU supplemental funding is typically requested for about four undergraduates for one year. Requests for larger numbers of students should be accompanied by detailed justifications.

CISE expects to provide up to $8,000 per student per year through the REU supplemental support mechanism.

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***Receive Customized NIH Opportunity Listings via E-Mail***

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts now allows you to be notified when new NIH Guide opportunity postings match your search criteria. To get started, visit grants.nih.gov and perform your search, then from the Results page click “Save Your Search” to sign up for alerts based on that search criteria. The system can email you with new funding opportunity announcements and/or notices related to your search on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

See more at: http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2014/02/25/receive-customized-nih-guide-listings-via-email/?utm_source=nexus&utm_medium=email&utm_content=nihupdate&utm_campaign=feb14#sthash.YST6BJBk.dpuf
**POST AWARD UPDATES**

- **Semi-Annual Effort Reports and Summer Effort Reports**

  The semi-annual effort reports and summer effort reports were distributed to Effort Certification Partners in late March.

  Important items to note:

  - If a faculty member had effort during the summer months, there will be a separate report that reflects the summer effort in addition to the semi-annual effort report.
  - The report is broken into two sections: sponsored activity and all other activity; within each section is the distribution by grant or cost center.

  Over 1600 salary reallocations that involved changes to salary distributions on sponsored awards for the period July-December were processed and are included in the effort reports.

  *We would like to thank everyone for all their efforts in preparing, reviewing, and processing salary reallocations.*

  If the salary distribution is not an accurate representation of effort for the period noted, you must manually indicate the correct effort on the report, and either submit a salary reallocation or reference an existing salary reallocation.

  If you have any questions on the effort reports, please contact the Effort Reporting Manager, Maria Mento, at Maria_Mento@brown.edu.

- **Salary Reallocations/Cost Transfer Policy**

  Effective Thursday, March 13th, all salary reallocations that are 90 days or older will require completion of Question 3 (e.g., lateness) and Question 4. If there are questions with regard to the Cost Transfer Policy, please contact your Grant/Contract Accountant in OSP.

- **Grant Reporting**

  OSP continues to offer sessions on the Manager Budgetary Balance Report and the Sponsored Activity Reports. Note: If you attended a session and would like a refresher that is fine! If you would like to schedule a session, please contact Shelly_Hull@brown.edu.
COEUS UPDATES & REMINDERS

**UPDATE TO COST SHARING DISTRIBUTION PROCESS IN COEUS**

- The **Source Account** field in the Cost Sharing Distribution window in Coeus **MUST** only include one of the Cost Sharing Type Codes identified below in order to capture the correct TYPE of Cost Sharing that is on the proposal record.

- The **only valid Cost Sharing Type Codes** that can be entered in the Source Account field when distributing Cost Sharing, are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0000001</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0000002</td>
<td>Equipment Funded by OVPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0000005</td>
<td>Other Direct Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0000006</td>
<td>Salary &amp; Fringe Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIHCAP</td>
<td>NIH Salary Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALCAP</td>
<td>Other (non-NIH) Sponsor Salary CAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INKIND</td>
<td>In Kind Cost Share – Effort (very rare)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NONBRW</td>
<td>Subcontract Cost Share (very rare)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No other code should be listed in the Source Account field for Cost Sharing!

- The Cost Sharing Approval Form uploaded in the Narrative Section of the Proposal, must include the appropriate funding source (cost center, fund, and other work tags if applicable) for each type of cost sharing included in the proposal. *(This form is in the process of being updated.)*

- The Cost Sharing Overview document has been updated accordingly with this information and it can be found at: [http://www.brown.edu/research/sites/brown.edu.research/files/uploads/COST_SHARE_OVERVIEW_451x.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/research/sites/brown.edu.research/files/uploads/COST_SHARE_OVERVIEW_451x.pdf)
### OSP Training Spotlight

#### Sponsored Projects Training

#### APRIL Offerings

**OSP General**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Bag Luncheon</td>
<td>04/09/2014</td>
<td>12:00 – 2:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate Program in Research Administration and Compliance</td>
<td>04/15/2014</td>
<td>8:30 – 12:00</td>
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**Post Award Training**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traveling on Sponsored Funds</td>
<td>04/02/2014</td>
<td>2:00 – 4:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitments</td>
<td>04/08/2014</td>
<td>1:00 – 3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Charging Administrative Costs</td>
<td>04/24/2014</td>
<td>9:00 – 11:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Pre Award Training**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subcontracts Demystified</td>
<td>04/10/2014</td>
<td>2:00 – 4:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coeus Training**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viewing Proposal and Award Information</td>
<td>04/01/2014</td>
<td>1:30 – 3:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Budgeting</td>
<td>04/11/2014</td>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### About OSP Training

The Office of Sponsored Projects is pleased to offer numerous training opportunities for faculty and staff. Topics include:

- **Coeus Training**
  - Learn how to use the University’s sponsored projects management system.
- **Pre-Award Training**
  - Learn best practices in Pre-Award management. Sessions range from preparation of proposals and budgets to subawards.
- **Post-Award Training**
  - Learn best practices in Post-Award management. Sessions ranging from travel on sponsored projects to allocation of costs.

Sponsored Projects Training Sessions are listed on [LearningPoint](http://www.brown.edu/learningpoint), Brown’s Professional Development System.

- To register for classes, please navigate to [www.brown.edu/learningpoint](http://www.brown.edu/learningpoint) and log in using your Brown User Name and Password.
- The training classes can be found by clicking on the “Sponsored Research Related Training” from your homepage.

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### Conferences & NCURA Educational Programs

#### 2014 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration

**Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel**  
Baltimore, MD  
June 25-27, 2014

- Wednesday, June 25, 2014: Optional eRA Workshop
- Thursday, June 26 & Friday, June 27, 2014: 2-Day Seminar  
- Registration is now open; for more information click [here](http://www.brown.edu/learningpoint)

#### The Spring 2014 NSF Grants Conference

**Colorado State University**  
Denver, CO  
June 23-24, 2014

- Send an email to [grants_conference@nsf.gov](mailto:grants_conference@nsf.gov) to be notified once conference registration is available.

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Questions or comments about the Newsletter should be directed to the editor:  
Katarzyna Szulc, Senior Contract & eRA Administrator (Katarzyna_Szulc@brown.edu)