DR. T'S CORNER

NRSA Postdoctoral Stipend Guidelines for FY2017

Last month, NIH published the projected fiscal year 2017 stipend guidelines for postdoctoral trainees and fellows supported by National Research Service Awards (NRSA).


For NRSA-supported postdocs with less than one year's experience, the stipend level will increase to $47,484. In keeping with the recommendation of the Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group of the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director, stipend levels then increase dependent on years of postdoctoral experience.

http://acd.od.nih.gov/bwf.htm

The 9% increase for the starting level stipend reflects the Department of Labor's revisions to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which are effective as of December 1, 2016. Under the FLSA, US workers are entitled to overtime pay unless they are exempted because they are paid on fixed, preset levels at or above the FLSA defined threshold, and are engaged in executive, administrative, or professional duties.

https://www.dol.gov/compliance/guide/minwage.htm

In May, NIH announced its intent to increase postdoctoral NRSA stipends to levels above the new FLSA threshold, to align with the spirit of the FLSA revision and recognizing that postdoctoral research activities - like most biomedical research careers - often exceed forty hours a week and do not neatly fall into hourly shifts. Institutions that employ postdocs through non-NRSA support can choose how to follow the new rule. They may choose to carefully track their postdocs' hours and pay overtime, or, they may choose to provide postdoctoral stipends at or above the new FLSA salary threshold.


OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

The ORDE Fall seminar/workshop schedule below. To view details and to register, please visit our website:
http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/ORD/E/Pages/FacultySeminar.aspx

We will be offering lunch or breakfast (depending on time) and resources at each program. We look forward to seeing you soon!

AMC: Research Management Strategies
October 12, 2016, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
Location: HSL Reading Room
Faculty Expert: Scott Cramer, Professor, Pharmacology

Denver: Writing Successful Grants
November 17, 2016, 8:30 - 11:30 am
Location: Terrace Room, Lawrence Street Center, Denver Campus
Faculty guest expert: Robert Porter, PhD, Grant-Writing Expert and Consultant

AMC: Building the NIH Grant Proposal
November 17, 2016, 1:30 - 4:30 pm
Location: Education 2 South, Rm 1102
Faculty guest expert: Robert Porter, PhD, Grant-Writing Expert and Consultant
RESEARCH CORNER

Rosemary Rochford is Professor in Immunology and Microbiology at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Her laboratory does research on two human pathogens, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and Plasmodium falciparum as well as studies on their etiologic link to Burkitt’s lymphoma (BL), the most common childhood cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has completed 2 longitudinal birth cohorts in Kenya to address the question of why P. falciparum malaria infection of infants is linked to BL. Her studies have uncovered a number of ways that repeated infection with P. falciparum malaria, a feature in areas where malaria transmission is holoendemic, dysregulates EBV infection and immunity, and ultimately increases the risk for BL in children. Current research is now focusing on how Plasmodium infection dysregulates B cell function and activates the enzyme AID. She has also found that a second strain of EBV that is common in Africa can infect T cells. Her laboratory is working to understand how this virus gains entry to T cells and the potential role this has in the pathogenesis of EBV-associated malignancies. A second major area of study in her laboratory is the use of a pre-clinical humanized mouse model to test for hemolytic toxicity of anti-malaria drugs in the context of glucose phosphate 6 dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency, the most common hemoglobinopathy in the world. Primaquine is the only licensed drug to treat the liver stage of malaria and it could be a potential tool for malaria eradication efforts. However, people with G6PD deficiency are at risk for developing hemolytic anemia if treated with primaquine necessitating the development and testing of new variants of primaquine that do not cause hemolytic anemia. She is developing this model to further study Plasmodium infection in G6PD deficient hosts.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY (EHS)

Peroxide Forming Chemicals
Peroxide forming chemicals are a class of compounds that have the ability to form shock-sensitive crystals, which can result in violent detonation as a result of a simple action such as twisting the cap off to open a container.

Common Peroxide Forming Chemicals
- Diethyl ether
- Isopropyl ether
- Tetrahydrofuran

Safety Practices for Peroxide Forming Chemicals
- Purchase peroxide formers with inhibitors added by the manufacturer.
- Use oxygen exclusion practices such as purging with inert gases or sealing containers with Parafilm. Periodically inspect the container and check for cloudiness or crystals in solution. If any of these are present do not open the container; instead contact EHS to dispose of it.
- With proper documentation and testing, peroxide forming chemicals may be stored past the recommended disposal date.

Proper Labeling of Peroxide Forming Chemicals
Peroxide forming chemicals must be labeled with the following dates, using the EHS Peroxide Forming Chemical sticker, which will help improvement management of peroxide formers:
- Date the chemical was received by the laboratory.
- Date the chemical was opened.
- Expiration date for the particular chemical.

Peroxide-forming chemical labels can be requested from Environmental Health and Safety at ehs.hazmat@ucdenver.edu.

Why Do Peroxide Formers Matter?
During the last fiscal year, the University has spent approximately $15,000 to meet the special disposal requirements for expired peroxide forming chemicals. The cost of removal for these hazardous wastes takes away from money that would otherwise be spent on research.

For more information read the Peroxide Forming Chemicals informational document or call EHS at x40345.