FDP September 2022 Meeting - Federal Agency Updates

National Science Foundation
For the purposes of NSF, please see the link to the presentation and direct questions to the NSF Policy Office at policy@nsf.gov.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Jennifer Robbins, Extramural Management Specialist, Office of Research and Development, presented the EPA update. She reported that Alex Raver, who had been giving the EPA update during previous FDP meetings, has accepted a new position at USDA. Jennifer highlighted upcoming notices of intent relating to landfill emissions; nanosensor technology to detect and monitor pollutants; children's health cumulative impacts; and aquifer recharge performance and potential risk in different regional and hydrogeologic settings. The 20th annual "P3 Awards", a student design competition, is transitioning to a $75K award with a two-year period of performance. Two training competitions for college/university students will be posted soon, one a research training program with the EPA lab in Cincinnati, OH and another in aquatic toxicology and ecology research in Duluth, MN. Recent installments from EPA's Office of Grant and Debarment webinar series are recorded and available for public view on the agency's website and are encouraged viewing for applicants and grantees. Webinar topics include: competition process, developing a budget and complying with EPA assistance agreements. For ongoing guidance, training, and updates to EPA grants policies and requirements, grantees are encouraged to subscribe to the EPA Grants Listserv. **Presenter: Jennifer Robins (robbins.jennifer@epa.gov)**

Department of Homeland Security
Heidi Custer began DHS's update with an explanation of FAPO's major functions and initiatives, including current efforts on BABAA and NSPM-33. In addition to Grants.gov transitioning to the cloud, DHS is migrating its internal website to the cloud. It is estimated to take 60 days but could be longer. FAQs about the migration were discussed. During Q&A, a question about extending deadlines during Grants.gov's downtime; Heidi responded that they are awaiting guidance from Grants.gov in order to determine extension dates. A question was asked about the NSPM-33 progress, and Heidi said she would provide a response by chat later. **Presenter: Heidi Custer (Heidi.Custer@hq.dhs.gov)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Christiane Diallo with the Grants Policy and Compliance Branch, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, began NASA's presentation by announcing the upcoming NASA Equity Stakeholder Town Hall (9/28/22 3-5pm) with the purpose of discussing NASA's 2022 Equity Action Plan which was released April 2022; registration details in presentation slides. She reported that on July 31, 2022 the NASA Grants Policy & Compliance function transitioned from Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) to NASA's Procurement, Procurement Management and Policy Division. A new NASA term and condition in response to Executive Order-13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government", will be included in the October 2022 release of the NASA Grant & Cooperative Agreement Manual (GCAM). The term requires all grant and cooperative agreement recipients to obtain at least one quote from a small and/or minority business when the acquisition of goods or services exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold. Christiane's portion of the presentation concluded with the announcement that GCAM will be released approximately October 1, 2022; key updates include new term and condition to comply with the Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA), new language related to specific conditions, and revision to the Mishap Reporting term and condition relating to injuries or damage to NASA property. NASA's FDP program representative, Mary Sladek, a member of the Senior Advisors for Research and Analysis (SARA) team, continued with updates from the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), the largest funder of assistance awards at NASA. The NASA 2022 strategic plan which was released March 28, 2022 has now been posted; the strategic plan is produced every four years and includes a priorities agenda. SMD's utilizes decadal surveys or studies to formulate research priorities based on the most compelling science questions; open surveys are available for comment. SMD has launched its "IDEA" plan (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility) which is both inward looking

(workforce training) and outward looking (grant opportunities). SMD's IDEA strategy aligns with NASA's strategic plan. References were provided in response to most frequent questions from investigators such as where one can find restrictions on NASA relating to China, Chinese-owned companies and universities. SMD's recent efforts to reduce burden may include, for some divisions including planetary science, submissions with no fixed due dates aka "rolling submissions". Also experimenting with soliciting proposals without a budget and fixed budgets but not yet able to offer true fixed amount awards per 2CFR200.1. Open and upcoming funding opportunity links were provided. **Presenters: Christiane Diallo (christiane.diallo@nasa.gov) and Mary Sladek (mary.f.sladek@nasa.gov)**

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Carrie Mitchell, Grants Policy Officer of OPERA, presented the NIH update, which included a number of recent and upcoming policy updates. The 2022 NIH Grants Policy Statement is expected to be issued on or before December 31, 2022, and will be effective for all grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1. The new form pages and requirements for Biographical Sketches and Other Support have been effective since January 25, 2022, and there are FAQs as well as a central mailbox available for guidance and questions. Failure to follow the appropriate formats may cause NIH to withdraw applications from or delay consideration of funding. The public comment period for draft Common Disclosure Forms for Biosketches and Current and Pending/Other Support is now open and ends on October 31, 2022. NOT-OD-22-129, addressing removal of or disciplinary action involving PI/PDs or other Senior/Key Personnel due to concerns about harassment, bullying, retaliation or hostile working conditions, was issued on May 10, 2022, and requires notification to NIH within 30 days of any such removal or disciplinary action. The eRA RPPR submission system implemented validations for clinical trial registration and results reporting as of October 1, 2021; recipients must take action in ClinicalTrials.gov to clear any errors and allow for RPPR submission (see NOT-OD-22-008 for full details). The transition to FORMS-H application packages is underway, and applicants will be required to submit using FORMS-H packages for all due dates on or after January 25, 2023 (learn more at NOT-OD-22-195). The transition of management of iEdison from NIH to NIST became effective August 9, 2022, and the new system includes several new capabilities and enhancements; all existing data and attachments were transferred to the new system, and all existing and active accounts will be associated with the new system. Effective August 2022, NIH established a central FFR and Financial Closeout Service Center under OER OPERA, which will address and prevent overdraws and allow reconciliation of FFRs with PMS data. There is also a central mailbox for all inquiries related to FFR submission and financial closeout: OPERAFFRInquiries@od.nih.gov. Finally, NIH is making an exception to its late application policy. Per NOT-OD-22-119, if an entity does not have a current SAM registration or renewal as of the due date, NIH will accept late applications within the two-week late window as long as (1) the entity has submitted all SAM registration or renewal documentation at least two weeks prior to the application due date and (2) all other aspects of the application are compliant and consistent with the funding opportunity announcement requirements. **Presenter: Carrie Mitchell, can be reached at OPERA Grants Policy inbox at GrantsPolicy@OD.NIH.GOV**

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Calvin Scott provided AFOSR's update, which began with overviews of AFOSR's technology directorates and locations as well as the grant and funding process from proposal submission to award closeout. The presentation also included a summary of resources to help investigators develop competitive proposals, and a review of current AFOSR funding opportunities. One key takeaway was an emphasis on understanding AFOSR funding considerations, including overlap with program interests, potential for scientific breakthroughs, strategic directions, budget realities, and peer review recommendations. **Presenter: Calvin Scott (calvin.scott@us.af.mil)**

Office of Naval Research

Wade Wargo with ONR had four updates. First, he announced changes to requirements for interim RPPRs; now you will report on the Federal FY cycle, and 11/1 will be new interim RPPR annual due date. This term is included in awards starting August 12, 2022, and existing awards will also be updated soon. Second, he noted that many DoD grant programs rely on ONR to administer post-award actions. Because of this, a standard post-award delegation checklist has been created to make the request

process smoother and more efficient. That fillable form will be available on the website soon. Third, ONR has revised internal closeout metrics to comply with the UG requirement to close out awards within a year. As this is a large part of their work, they are updating their goals and metrics to match that timeline, and they are updating policies to make it easier to comply. Finally, with personnel updates, he announced that in the wake of Debbie Rafi's retirement in July 2022, Jamie Thompson has been selected to serve as the next director of the grants and contracts office; he should be starting in October. Wade also explained that many of the field offices are now fully remote; in fact, 2/3 of ONR staff have chosen to work from home. Boston and San Diego offices are maintaining office spaces. **Presenter: Wade Wargo (wargow@onr.navy.mil)**