

# COGR

an organization of research universities

## COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 460, Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 289-6655/(202) 289-6698 (FAX)

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Dr. Kay Lund  
Dr. Henry Khachaturian  
National Institutes of Health  
Division of Biomedical Research Workforce

June 22, 2016

Dear Drs. Lund and Khachaturian,

On behalf of COGR and the Research Compliance and Administration (RCA) Committee, we would like to personally thank you for the insightful conversation and the chance to meet you both in person. We've provided a recapitulation of our discussion points and recommendations that we reviewed during our meeting that may be useful when you meet with others and begin drafting new guidance.

In terms of guidance, it would be helpful if the following points were addressed:

#### For NRSA and other Federal Postdoctoral Fellow Programs

- Clarification of how stipend increases will be funded for fellows on existing awards and pending new and competing renewal applications
- Guidance on how to budget for future year stipend increases
- Clear policy and guidance concerning how postdoctoral fellows from "well funded" laboratories will be evaluated
- When working with other Federal agencies offering postdoctoral fellow programs, communicate the importance of raising the stipend level to at least the minimum NRSA levels to assure that the fellowships remain a prestigious award for the post-doctoral recipients

#### For Postdocs supported on RGA's

- Confirm that the institutions do not need NIH approval to rebudget funds within an award to accommodate the higher post doc salary (or overtime payments) on current awards and pending applications
- Provide guidance on seeking supplemental funding to accommodate the increase cost of post doc salaries or overtime payments
- Confirm that if an institution provides funds to raise the post docs salary from their own internal sources, that contribution will not be considered voluntary committed cost sharing

Thank you again for your attendance and willingness to listen to our concerns. We know that many others have voiced concerns in this area and you're working diligently to address them. We hope the guidance will be available soon as these questions continue to arise. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Jackie Bendall, Director  
Research Compliance and Administration