Frequently Asked Questions

What is the maximum percent effort allowed on grants? No faculty may be externally funded greater than 98% (11.76 calendar months) without written approval from the Vice Dean for Research (Dr. Sally Kornbluth).

What if I think my research is eligible for IRB Exemption? Even if a research protocol is exempt from IRB review, you need an "official" exemption from the IRB (filed electronically, usually just takes a few days).

Who counts as a "New Investigator" and "Early Stage Investigator"? A **New Investigator** is an NIH research grant applicant who has not yet been awarded a substantial, competing NIH research grant. For example, a Program Director/ Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has previously received a competing NIH R01 research grant is no longer considered a New Investigator. However, a PD/PI who has received a small grant (R03) or an Exploratory, Developmental Research Grant Award (R21) retains his or her status as a New Investigator. For a complete list of NIH grants that do not disqualify a PD/PI from being considered a New Investigator, visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/index.htm#definition

An **ESI**, or **Early Stage Investigator**, is a *New Investigator* who has completed his or her terminal research degree or medical residency—whichever date is later—within the past 10 years and has not yet been awarded a substantial, competing NIH research grant.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/index.htm#earlystage
The dates that start the period of classification as an Early Stage investigator are entered in the investigators eRA Commons Profile
(https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/).

See NIH policy at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/index.htm

What is the difference between "Research Support" and "Other Support"?
"Research Support" is a section of the 4-page NIH biosketch. This form should include any RELEVANT current or past grants (for last three years) and should NOT include any percent efforts or dollar amounts. The intent of this section is to show reviewers previous funding success in areas relevant to the proposed project. This page CAN include VA-funded projects. "Other Support" is a separate document from "Research Support."

"Other Support" should only be provided when specifically requested by the Program Announcement or Request for Application (e.g., primary mentor on K grants and some training grants) or during the Just in Time process. This document SHOULD include person-month effort and dollar amounts, and should include ALL funding sources: Commercial, federal, or foundation. This document should show all of the funding sources that support an individual's Duke research effort.

How can I find out which program officer to communicate with before submitting my first grant? It is part of their job to help investigators, and many are extremely helpful with application logistics and scientific questions. There are a few ways to identify an appropriate program officer:

- Ask someone in your department who has a grant in your specialty

- Call the "Extramural Program Official" listed for your institute of interest in this document: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps_2003/NIHGPS_Part14.htm Explain to him or her what your research interest is and ask if they can recommend an appropriate contact.

- You can usually get specific names by looking at the individual institute's website. You can get there by going to http://www.nih.gov/ and choosing your institute. Once you get to the institute page, you have to search around for the info as each institute's webpage has its own design.

- If you see a Program Announcement or Request for Application that falls in your area of interest, the announcement will usually have specific Program Officers listed for various institutes.

- Call the Duke Office of Research Administration (684-5175). They can help you look.