



## Managing Financial Conflicts of Interests

In February 2008, the Office of Extramural Research began a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of the regulations governing extramural Financial Conflicts of Interest (FCOI) and the policies and procedures that have been put in place to comply with those regulations, both at the NIH and in the wider community. As a result of the task force's activities, several areas for oversight enhancement have been identified. These include consistency of Institutional FCOI policies with the regulation; full implementation of those policies by the Institutions; reporting of all identified FCOIs to the NIH; complete disclosure of relevant financial interests by Investigators to their Institutions; and development of additional guidance and training for NIH staff on how to handle Institutional reports of FCOI.

The OER is instituting a variety of measures to address these issues quickly and carefully. They are embarking on an enhanced outreach and education campaign to raise the awareness of the importance of proper identification and management of FCOI in the extramural community. They have posted an expanded FAQ document about the relevant regulations on the OER Web site (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coifaq.htm>) and will soon publish a Web-based Tutorial that will thoroughly review the roles and responsibilities of the NIH, the awardee Institutions and the Investigators. Please consult these resources and additional information on the OER Conflict of Interest Web site (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/index.htm>) and to contact [FCOICompliance@mail.nih.gov](mailto:FCOICompliance@mail.nih.gov) with any questions. In order to improve the ability to monitor FCOI reports, they have developed a Web-based reporting and tracking tool that provides a central place for collection of all FCOI reports received across the NIH. This tool has been in use by NIH staff since March and will be rolled out to the extramural community later in the year. Third, they are developing detailed internal procedures and training modules to ensure that all NIH staff is able provide appropriate oversight of FCOI issues. Finally, they are considering gathering public comment on whether to modify the FCOI regulation (42 CFR Part 50, Subpart F).

<http://nexus.od.nih.gov/nexus/nexus.aspx?ID=81&Month=6&Year=2008>