

UAMS engages in frequent international collaborations with researchers around the world and values these relationships. As you may have seen, Dr. Francis Collins, the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recently issued a statement entitled “Foreign Influence Letter to Grantees.” In his letter, Dr. Collins stated *“that some foreign entities have mounted systematic programs to influence NIH researchers and peer reviewers and to take advantage of the long tradition of trust, fairness, and excellence of NIH supported research activities.”* Dr. Collins also reminded the research community to *“disclose all forms of other support and financial interests, including support coming from foreign governments or other foreign entities...in accordance with the NIH Grants Policy Statement, [on] all applications and progress reports”* and indicated that NIH’s Office of Extramural Research (OER) will be providing additional information in the future.

As NIH and other federal agencies discuss these matters, the Office of Institutional Compliance and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research would like to raise awareness of these issues. UAMS policies are designed to ensure compliance with applicable law and regulations, as well as promote and support openness in research and academic freedom. Procedures and policies are already in place at UAMS to ensure the matters referenced in Dr. Collins’ letter are properly reported. However, all UAMS staff are individually responsible for ensuring they maintain compliance with these policies, in particular those employees conducting research. Accordingly, we would like to remind UAMS staff of the following requirements:

- Disclose your outside professional activities and financial relationships in accordance with the UAMS Academic Conflict of Interest Policy, the Non-Academic Conflict of Interest Policy, or the Institutional Conflict of Interest Policy, as applicable.
 - Such disclosures must include all work for, or financial interests received from, a foreign institution of higher education or the government or quasi-governmental organization of another country.
 - Ensure that these disclosures are updated annually and within 30 days of acquiring a discloseable interest.
- You will receive automated reminder emails before your annual disclosure due date. Please do not disregard these emails. In addition, please make sure they are not being automatically diverted to a folder you may check infrequently.
<http://coi.uams.edu/submit-a-coi-disclosure/>
- For UAMS staff engaged in research: disclose financial interests related to your research in all public sharing of research results including journal articles, presentations, and other publications.
 - Journals and professional organizations have various, often broader, standards for financial interest disclosure than UAMS. Review those standards for each relevant journal or organization and disclose appropriately. Disclose to UAMS your research related financial interests, including stipends, living expenses, payments and travel reimbursements received from foreign governments and institutions
<http://coi.uams.edu/>
- Comply with U.S. export control regulations when doing any of the following: engaging in research; traveling internationally and attending conferences; participating in international

collaborations; using proprietary information; working with international staff and students; hosting international visitors; shipping materials internationally; or engaging in any international transactions.

<http://exportcontrol.uams.edu/>

Thank you for complying with these requirements to disclose and report so that UAMS's and your interests are protected. For additional details please contact the Office of Conflict of Interest and Export Control at (501) 686-6168.