



University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Guidelines for Multiple Principal Investigator (PI) Grant Applications

Effective: January 2, 2008

Purpose: The purpose of the policy is to establish a formal process to share academic credit and financial allocations for awards with multiple PIs.

Scope: This policy applies to all sponsored program applications with multiple PIs submitted by any department in the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Policy: Experience suggests that institutional recognition of faculty for the purpose of promotion, tenure, and space allocation frequently includes an assessment of the ability to attract externally-sponsored research awards and the financial impact of those awards. Increasingly, health-related research involves teams that vary in terms of size, hierarchy, location of participants, goals, disciplines, and structure.

The selection of the multiple-PI versus single-PI option will be the decision of the investigators and their Chair(s), and it must be based on the needs of the research proposed, to ensure optimal facilitation of the science. Projects suitable for the multiple PI model include two or more Principal Investigators who are jointly responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project. The multiple PI option is reserved for team science efforts and will need to be justified in a leadership plan in the application. The leadership plan must describe the roles and areas of responsibility of the named PIs, the process for making decisions on scientific direction, allocating resources, resolving disputes that may arise, and other information related to the management of the proposed team science project. It may be necessary to identify a single individual who can coordinate the project or serve as a tie-breaker in case of disagreements. Accordingly, there is concern that receiving credit as a PI without the designation of a specific budget will be problematic. The leadership plan must clearly outline financial allocations to specific components of the project and to each PI. This distribution will be reflected in the SOP database through PI specific entries.

The multiple PI option is reserved for efforts in which the PIs share responsibility and authority for the scientific and technical direction of the project and accountability to the SOP and the grantor organization for the proper conduct of the project or activity.