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Beth Phillips
Office of Federal Financial Management
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Phillips:

On behalf of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), I am submitting the following comment on Federal Register Document 05-14015, "Request for Information Relating to Research Awards":

Science by its nature is a collaborative enterprise, requiring the intellectual and physical investment of energy from many individuals. However, current policy at funding agencies oft times prohibits multiple principle investigators (PIs) or co-PIs on research projects. In 2005 John H. Marburger, III, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a memorandum to federal departments and agencies requesting that current policies be adapted to acknowledge more than one PI when research projects have more than one collaborating investigator.

The NPA supports policies that provide for multiple/co-PIs which allow for more than one principle investigator when a grant or contract would benefit from such collaboration. While the current system benefits established scientists, the lack of recognition to many of the younger workforce who contribute to the scientific enterprise is detrimental to the long term viability of scientific research in the United States. As such, the NPA not only endorses changes to facilitate multiple/co-investigators on the same grant or contract, but encourages funding agencies and academic institutions to extend this recognition to postdoctoral scholars by allowing them to apply alongside their more established peers.ⁱ

Sincerely,

Alyson Reed

ⁱ See http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/policy/Recommended_Practices.pdf