# Public Health Service (PHS) Conflict of Interest (COI)

Sara Willis, MTA
Compliance Administrator

coiadmin@auburn.edu (334) 844-8197



#### Conflict of Interest (COI) Overview

The University supports and encourages relationships which may advance academic research.

However, potential, perceived, and actual conflicts of interest must be managed to avoid bias or the appearance of such in an Investigator's activities and responsibilities, in order to protect the integrity of the research.



#### **COI** Definition

A conflict of interest, actual or perceived, is a situation in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias professional judgment and objectivity.



#### **PHS Definitions**

- Investigator: Any person regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research funded by the PHS, or proposed for such funding, including collaborators and consultants.
- Research a systematic investigation, study or experiment designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge relating broadly to public health, including behavioral and social-sciences research. The term encompasses basic and applied research and product development.



## Requirements Overview

- Requirements
  - Proposal
    - Training (CITI)
    - Disclosure (COI-SMART)
  - Award
    - Disclosure Update (COI-SMART)
    - Approval from OVPR
  - Current Funding
    - All of the above (Train, Disclose, Approval)

# **Investigator Training**

Investigators are required to complete training prior to engaging in research related to any PHS-funded project, every 4 years, and immediately if:

- Institutional FCOI policies change in a manner that affects Investigator requirements
- An Investigator is new to an Institution
- An Institution finds an Investigator noncompliant with the Institution's FCOI Policy or management plan



# **Training Implementation**

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) at the University of Miami provides web-based training for research related activities.

- New Account: www.citiprogram.org
- Affiliate with AU: Add AU as an affiliated institution to an existing CITI account
- Add COI Course: Add the COI Training Course to an existing CITI account that has been affiliated with AU

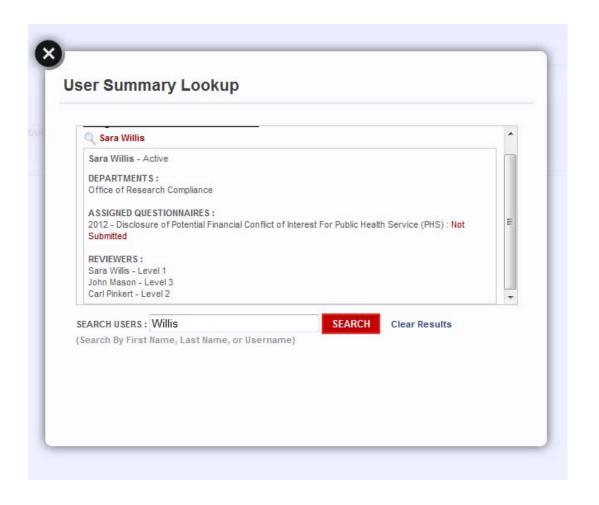


## **Investigator Disclosure**

- Investigators are required to disclose their Significant Financial Interests:
  - Annually between August 1 and August 31;
  - Prior to the processing of a new award or modification to scope of work; and
  - Within 30-days of any change to the previously reported information.
- COI-SMART provides a web-based tool for disclosure.
  - Visit auburn.coi-smart.com to log in



# **Investigator Disclosure**





## **COI** by the Numbers

- 180 PHS Investigators
- 99 Training Completion Reports
- 72 Submitted Disclosures
- 28 PHS Managers



## **PHS Quick Tips**

- Training (CITI)
   www.citiprogram.org
- Disclosure (COI-SMART) auburn.coi-smart.com
- Approval from OVPR coiadmin@auburn.edu
- For more information: auburn.edu/vpr/compliance/coi/?PHS

