Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that two new systems will be implemented in the next six months to make it easier for faculty to understand and comply with important Conflict of Interest (COI) and Conflict of Commitment (COC) policies:

- COI – iRIS: a new iMedRIS software solution to integrate research-related COI reviews with existing systems*
- OATS: a new online portal for tracking outside professional activities for COC^

As you are aware, faculty are expected to comply with a myriad of policies related to COI and COC that are based in federal and state regulations as well as UC policies. These policies are complex and currently, the process by which faculty disclose activities for review is cumbersome. In 2014-15 the Offices of Ethics and Compliance and Academic Affairs engaged in a joint effort to integrate COI and COC disclosures, however the team found significant differences in the respective policy requirements and review processes, and determined that the implementation of a comprehensive, integrated system was exceedingly complex and therefore unrealistic.

Although COI – iRIS and OATS are separate systems, they share some important functionality:

- Activities are disclosed, routed for review, and approved within the system
- Notifications are generated by the system
- Approvals and disclosures are archived
- Reports can be generated
- Systems will be accessible through MyAccess single sign-on

Compliance with the COI and COC policies is imperative as faculty and academic institutions face heightened scrutiny of their activities by a number of regulatory agencies as well as the public. The new COI – iRIS and OATS systems are designed to facilitate faculty compliance with applicable policies and regulations governing the disclosure and management of conflicts. I thank those who have been actively engaged in the development of these systems for their thoughtful approach to these complex issues.

Below you will find a brief overview of both systems. Future updates will be provided directly by the functional sponsors of the systems.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Lowenstein, MD
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCSF
Dr. Robert B. and Mrs. Ellinor Aird Professor of Neurology

cc: Academic Senate Chair David Teitel
          Chief Information Officer Joe Bengfort
          Control Points

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*Conflict of Interest (COI) Application - COI – iRIS
> Implementation: fall/winter 2018-19
> For additional information: COIAC inbox (COIAC@ucsf.edu)

The Conflict of Interest Advisory Committee (COIAC) reviews financial interests related to extramural research funding and human research protocols in order to manage potential conflicts of interest (COI). The COIAC will utilize a new COI – iRIS software solution to integrate COI reviews with existing systems for grant submissions (eProposal) and IRB applications (IRB – iRIS). Integrating COI disclosures with eProposal and IRB – iRIS creates opportunities to automate and streamline COI processes, which will reduce email communications, provide more lead time for investigators to complete COI forms, and generate more meaningful information for COIAC review.

^Conflict of Commitment (COC) Application: Outside Activity Tracking System (OATS):
> Implementation: spring 2019
> For additional information: [OATS website](#)

Outside Activity Tracking System (OATS) is an online portal for tracking outside professional activities. OATS provides a user-friendly solution for faculty and administrators to comply with the University of California, Office of the President (UCOP) Conflict of Commitment policies (APM 671 and APM 025). Already in use at the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) at UCLA, the OATS system will be expanded and enhanced to meet the needs of the seven partner campuses. A required outcome for OATS is to provide faculty with an embedded educational component to facilitate their understanding of the policies as well their role and responsibilities.