

Dear Researchers, Staff, and Research Leadership,

The new presidential administration took office this past week, changing federal government priorities and policies. While the scope of executive orders may be concerning, these types of changes are seen to a lesser or greater degree during federal transitions. As a key collaborator and partner in the federal research enterprise, I want to share information about what we know, what we're working to understand better, and how we move forward together.

Federal departments review ongoing activities, programs, regulations, guidance documents, and communications as the new federal administration implements new policies. This week, the new administration directed federal agencies to review their current operations quickly. This is part of a regular functioning federal government.

My office has received many questions and concerns from faculty, research staff, and research leaders regarding a communications ban announced through a Jan 21 [memo](#) issued by the Department of Health & Human Services' acting secretary. The directive has impacted meetings of federal advisory committees, study sections, and the timing of funding decisions.

We are also aware of stop-work orders received by faculty and members of the Rutgers community who receive federal funding. I want to assure you that we are working closely with our colleagues in Government Relations to assess this situation and will provide further guidance when it becomes available.

As I've said since day one of my tenure at Rutgers, the Office for Research is part of each faculty member's TEAM. We ARE part of your TEAM and will continue to work side-by-side with you.

To that end, the university has established a process to carefully track and review all transition actions, including stop-work orders. This process draws on the deep experience of the university leadership and my office. As mentioned in President Holloway's message on Friday, please forward all stop work orders you receive to federal-tracking@rutgers.edu. Our team will collect these orders and provide the recipient with appropriate guidance when it becomes available. *If you receive a stop work order, do not take action until you submit it to the email above and speak with your grant specialist. Sponsored awards are governed by legal contracts. Any decisions should be made in collaboration with your grant specialist, who will work directly with senior leadership to provide you with the proper guidance.*

As leaders, researchers, and staff at a public university, our shared mission is to help improve society by saving lives, strengthening our economy, and contributing to our society's collective knowledge. It's your work that makes this mission possible. We appreciate all you do and will continue to communicate with you as we receive new information. You can expect another communication this week. If you have questions about your existing grants, please get in touch

with your assigned grant specialist. I ask that you be patient as these changes are new to everyone, including the grant specialists. The Office for Research Team is working tirelessly to ensure we provide you with complete, correct, and accurate information as it becomes available.

As always, we welcome your feedback at svp@research.rutgers.edu.

Thank you for all you do for Rutgers!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael E. Zwick, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Research and Institutional Official