August 22, 2011

TO: Department of Medicine PIs and Research Administration Staff

FROM: Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD

RE: REVISED Policy on Commensurate Salary for Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials

The policy of the Department of Medicine is that all research on which faculty spend time should have that time appropriately allocated to the research project and paid by the funding agency. This policy applies to grants and contracts with governmental agencies, not-for-profit entities, and for-profit entities. To avoid any appearance that effort on for-profit industry sponsored projects may be supported by public funds, the following policy outlines specific requirements regarding industry-sponsored clinical trials.

If initiated by the pharmaceutical company

- If the drug trial is at the initiation of the pharmaceutical company, an appropriate percentage of the faculty member’s time should be designated and supported by the company.
- The pharmaceutical company should also provide the drug.
- The minimum percentage of effort and salary support should be no less than 3% at the beginning of the study and during the active phases of the study. Thereafter, effort may be reduced commensurately with decreased activity of the clinical trial.

If initiated by a UCSF investigator

- If the project is investigator-initiated and the patient will be in a clinical research study of any sort, the physician’s time should be supported by one of the following:
  1. the same company that supplies the medication, if the company seeks rights to certain aspects of the research (such as intellectual property rights)
  2. discretionary funding from pharmaceutical sources (such as excess funding from other clinical trials)
  3. gift fund that is specifically earmarked for clinical research. Proof of such must be documented in the award letter
4. government funding (such as an NIH grant) if the time spent is consistent with the faculty member’s commitment under the specifications of the grant

Proposals from faculty members should clearly indicate into which category their proposal falls via the Chief to Chair letter that is required of every proposal.

If you have any questions about this policy or need guidance on the appropriate level of effort for a particular project, please contact Suzanne Sutton, Controller and Director of Research Administration, at ssutton@medicine.ucsf.edu or 502-4896.