eRA Commons Version 3.12.0.7 Release Notes

New Features

FCOI

New Commons FCOI Roles Replace FCOI Delegations

Two new roles have been added to Commons for those who work with the Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) module. Only an organization's Signing Official (SO role) can assign these roles.

FCOI_ASST: Assign the *FCOI_ASST* role to those users in the institution who will assist in working on the FCOI reporting process. These users can initiate, edit, view, search, and delete forms.

FCOI_View: Assign the *FCOI_View* role to those users who need authority to search for and view FCOI information entered by the institution, but who will not need to perform any data entry or make changes to the information. These users will have read-only access to the FCOI report and data.

Before this release, Commons users with the *ASST* role could be <u>delegated</u> the authority either to assist with FCOI tasks (*FCOI Asst* authority) or to view FCOI information (*FCOI View* authority). These new roles replace the former authorities, but provide the same levels of access to FCOI module. Starting with this release, SOs can assign Commons user to one of the new roles and do not need to use the **Delegation** feature of Commons for FCOI purposes.

NOTE: With this release, eRA has assigned current *ASST* users delegated with either FCOI authority to one of the new roles, depending on the level of delegation they had possessed. For these existing users, the SOs <u>do not</u> need to assign the new roles.

For more information on the FCOI module, refer to the [Commons Online Help System](#) collection of FCOI topics.

FFR

FFR Topics Added to Commons Online Help System

The [Commons Online Help](#) system has been updated to include a collection of topics concerning the FFR module. These topics can be accessed from the **Contents** panel of the online help or by selecting one of the help ('?') icons found on most screens. When accessed via the help icons, the online help system will open to the specific topic related to that screen.

For those who prefer PDF versions of the user guides, the FFR User Guide remains available. The information is the same in both resources.

RPPR

RPPR Opened for All Type 5 Non-SNAP Progress Reports

NIH has opened the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) for all Type 5 Non-SNAP progress reports. Refer to the guide notice for more information.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-079.html

For help with the completing an RPPR, refer to the RPPR Instruction Guide.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/rppr_instruction_guide.pdf

New Information Message for RPPR Network Issues

A new informational message will display upon submission of an RPPR if the system is experiencing network connection issues and the submission cannot be processed. The message is as follows:

An unexpected network error has occurred. Please try to resubmit the RPPR in a few moments. If this error persists, contact the eRA Help Desk.

Provided Ability to Select Component when Adding Individuals in RPPR Section D-Participants for Multi-Project Awards

Previously, RPPRs for multi-project awards lacked the ability to indicate the specific component on which an individual worked. This information can now on be provided in section **D Participants**, question **D.1 What individuals have worked on the project?**

When adding individuals to the RPPR, select the specific component from the list titled **Specific the component(s) on which the individual worked**. Multiple components can be selected by using the Ctrl key. Selected components will display one after the other in the **Component** column of the **List of Participants** table within question **D.1**.

The PDF version of the RPPR has also been modified to show the selected components.

Figure 1: Selecting Components for RPPR Section D

Provided Ability to Associate a Component when Adding an NCT

Section G. Special Reporting Requirements on the RPPR has been modified for multi-project awards. For these award types, question **G.4.c** now allows a specific component to be associated with the ClinicalTrials.gov identifiers (i.e., the NCT numbers).

When entering an identifier in the **NCT Number** field, RPPR users can now also select a component from the **Component Name** drop-down list to associate that component to the NCT Number. The **Component Name** drop-down list includes all components added by the user.

After adding the NCT number and selecting the component, click the **Add/New** button to add the information to the table.

Figure 2: Adding NCT Number to Components

xTrain

New Search for WIP Appointments and Terminations Screen Added to xTrain for BOs and SOs

A new tab has been added to xTrain to allow BO and SO roles to search for appointments and terminations by a Trainee's name.

From the xTrain main menu, select the Search for WIP Appointments and Terminations tab to open the screen. For assistance using this new feature, access the xTrain Online Help or select the help ('?') icon on the screen to open the specific topic on this new screen.

Fixes

Corrected an Issue when Unaffiliating Users from Institutions

Previously for some users, Commons did not correctly display new institution information when those users were affiliated to a new institution and unaffiliated from another. The unaffiliated information continued to display in Commons. This issue occurred when delegations had been made to the users' accounts for the former institution.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved. When a user is unaffiliated from an institution, the system will also remove delegations for that user.

Corrected Budget Periods for Administrative Supplements

System calculations performed when creating Administrative Supplement Requests sometimes caused budget periods to display incorrectly.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved.

FFR Corrected for Foreign Grants with SNAP Authority

The FFR module has been corrected to no longer show annual FFRs as being required for foreign grants under SNAP. This applies to grants awarded on or after October 1, 2012.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved.

DUNS Extension Field is now Optional for Online Institution Registration

The **DUNS Number** field on the *Register Institution* screen contains a 9-digit main number field plus a 4-digit extension field. The extension field should be optional as not all DUNS numbers are comprised of 13 digits. Previously, the system validations made on this screen forced users to add 0000 into the extension field.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved. The 4-digit extension field can be left blank when submitting the online registration form from the *Register Institution* screen.

Corrected Issue with Changing Citizenship Status Section of Personal Profile

Previously, if Commons users indicated a US state as their residence in their Personal Profiles and then attempted to update their Residency Status to something other than US Citizen, they received a message as follows: *Your request could not be completed due to an unexpected error.*

Resolution

This issue has been resolved.

Corrected RPPR Questions F.1 and G.2 for Multi-Year Training Grants

Previously, questions **F.1 Changes in approach and reasons for change** and **G.2 Responsible Conduct of Research** were prompting users for a response when completing the report for multi-year funded training awards (i.e., KM1 awards). The questions are not applicable to these award types and should not have been required.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved. **Questions F.1** and **G.2** now display as *Not Applicable* for multi-year funded training awards.

Corrected Attachment Feature on the RPPR for G.2 Responsible Conduct of Research

RPPR question **G.2 Responsible Conduct of Research** allows only one attachment to be uploaded as a response. Once uploaded, the **Add Attachment** button should disable, and the **Delete Attachment** and **View Attachment** buttons should become enabled.

Previously, the **Add Attachment** button remained enabled after a file was uploaded to the report. Additionally, the **Delete Attachment** and **View Attachment** buttons remained disabled after the upload.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved.

Corrected Issue When Modifying Termination Dates in xTrain

Previously, xTrain would not allow users to modify the termination date early more than one time. An error message would display as follows: *For early terminations Termination Date must be between current appointment start and end date.*

Resolution

This issue has been resolved.

Corrected Routing Errors Encountered in xTrain When Initiating User Holds Both PI and Sponsor Roles

Previously, a Commons System Error occurred whenever a Commons user with both PI and Sponsor roles attempted to route a fellowship grant as a Sponsor to a PI. A work around required the Sponsor to route to the 2271 form to the BO user, who could then route it to the PI.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved. When a system user has both the PI and Sponsor roles, the **Sponsor Routes TN to PI** button will be enabled.

Corrected an xTrain Issue Preventing Delegates from Viewing Grants

Previously, system users who were granted xTrain authority by a PI could not view that PI's grants in xTrain. This issue occurred when the delegate held both the PI and ASST roles in Commons.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved. Users with PI and ASST roles on their accounts can now view another PI's grants in xTrain when delegated authority to do so.

xTrain Appointments Can No Longer Overlap with Awarded Fellowships

Previously, xTrain was allowing appointments to overlap with the dates of an awarded Fellowship.

Resolution

This issue has been resolved.