NIH Releases Financial Conflict of Interest Regulations
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released the final financial conflicts of interest (FCOI) regulations – formally titled Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research for which Public Health Service Funding is Sought and Responsible Prospective Contractors ((42 CFR Part 50 and 45 CFR Part 94) on Thursday, August 25, 2011. The final regulations are available in the August 25 Federal Register (76FR53256) and NIH website at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/. Institutions will be required to implement the new regulation (be in compliance) by August 24, 2012; the policy is formally effective September 26, 2011. In the interim (between September 26, 2011 and August 24, 2012), institutions will be required to follow the current 1995 regulations.

Notable changes include:

- **public accessibility** is required either through a website or in a written response to a requestor within five business days of a request.
- **the de minimis threshold** is set at $5,000 for disclosures by investigators to their institutions of remuneration for services or equity interest in a publicly traded company with a $0 de minimis for disclosure of equity in a non-publicly traded company;
- **investigator disclosure of significant financial interests** (SFI) is related to an investigator’s institutional responsibilities which are to be defined by the institution in its policy; and
- **training is required** before engaging in PHS funded research with training repeated at least every four years.