

**Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc.
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
Office of Sponsored Programs**

**Policy and Procedure
Scientific Overlap**

This policy applies to all Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc. (HPHC)/Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute (HPHCI) employees who work on HPHC grants.

Definitions

“Scientific overlap occurs when (1) substantially the same research is proposed in more than one application or is submitted to two or more funding sources for review and funding consideration or (2) a specific research objective and the research design for accomplishing the objective are the same or closely related in two or more applications or awards, regardless of the funding source.” (NIH Grants Policy Statement, I-58)

Policy

Investigators are prohibited from proposing the same or substantially the same project (research, teaching, surveillance, etc) in multiple, concurrent simultaneous applications to the same funder.

Investigators are strongly discouraged from proposing the same or substantially the same research in multiple, simultaneous applications to different funders (for instance, NIH and a foundation or NIH and AHRQ). If an investigator has submitted multiple applications for the same or substantially the same research and discovers that a funder will be funding one of the applications, the investigator must withdraw or cancel any other pending applications for the same or substantially the same research prior to receipt of any award.