

## CUGH Call to Action:

### **Stop Proposed Regulations That Will Politicize and Severely Weaken US Research Capabilities**

*July 23, 2026*

Federally funded research in the United States has historically received bipartisan support since there has been a longstanding recognition that protecting scientific integrity benefits all Americans.

Publicly funded research has been governed by a straightforward principle: federal dollars should fund the best science, as determined by independent experts rather than politicians. Peer review, open competition, and institutional autonomy were the pillars of that system. New regulations proposed by the US Administration will dismantle all three pillars simultaneously. They will be government-wide, and binding on every federal agency by October 1, 2026.

What OMB is proposing would extend political oversight into virtually every stage of the federal research funding process, fundamentally altering the traditional balance between scientific peer review, agency discretion, and institutional autonomy. This will profoundly damage the US' preeminent position as the world leader in scientific research and will undermine the international scientific partnerships that are essential for pandemic preparedness, infectious disease control, workforce development. economic, and environmental sustainability in the US and globally.

The proposed changes will do the following:

- Before a competition opens, every program must be designed to align with the President's policy priorities, not scientific need, statutory mandate, or expert consensus.
- When opportunities are announced, agencies can restrict who is eligible, and the agency head can exempt solicitations from public posting under a broad national interest exception.
- When applications are reviewed, political appointees must personally evaluate every discretionary grant. Peer review is explicitly reduced to advisory status. Appointees are forbidden from deferring to scientific experts.

- When awards are made, grants can be conditioned on compliance with an undefined “Gold Standard Science” standard, and institutions can be disqualified based on their affiliations or the political character of their prior work.
- During the research itself, scientists cannot attend conferences, join professional societies, subscribe to journals, or publish in peer-reviewed journals without express agency pre-approval. Each of those approvals can simply be withheld.
- At any moment, an active grant, including a multi-year award already mid-project, can be terminated because a political appointee decides it no longer aligns with agency priorities. No finding of misconduct is required.
- When results are ready to share, publication costs are presumptively unallowable, and any public communication that could be labeled as issue advocacy & the entire award put at risk.

We need to stop these proposed regulations, and we need your help to do so.

#### **OUR CALL TO ACTION:**

1. **CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSPERSONS TO STOP THESE PROPOSED REGULATIONS THAT POLITICIZE RESEARCH IN THE US. TELL THEM WHY THESE CHANGES WILL HARM THE HEALTH, PROSPERITY AND SECURITY OF THE US.**
2. **SHARE THIS CALL TO ACTION AND MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORKS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.** Scientists, and representatives from universities, scientific societies, organizations, and state governments can all do this.
  - For additional information contact the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Washington DC: info@cugh.org or 202-974-6363

*With gratitude and acknowledgement to Elizabeth Ginexi for her analysis.*

#### **Additional links relating to these regulations:**

- A breakdown of what is being proposed:  
<https://elizabethginexi.substack.com/p/summary-of-key-changes-in-ombs-proposed>