

# NSF proposed change to synergistic activities

Judy Lemus <[jlemus@hawaii.edu](mailto:jlemus@hawaii.edu)>

Wed 6/13/2018 11:01 AM

To: Plimpton, Suzanne H. <[splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov)>;

I am writing to express my concern with the new language proposed in the PAPPG for reporting synergistic activities in the NSF biosketch. The new language requires up to "five separate examples", however there is no clarifying information as to what qualifies as "separate" activities. If the intent is that the activities must be from completely independent projects, this may have the unintended consequence that PIs/proposers will only engage in one synergistic activity per funded proposal, because any more than that will not be recognized at NSF. I believe the goal should be to encourage researchers to engage in as many activities as they feel they are able, regardless of the funding source. If the requirement of five separate examples moves forward, NSF should at the very least define what can be considered "separate".

Thank you for your time.

Judith D. Lemus, Ph.D.  
The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology  
Co-Director, Marine Biology Graduate Program  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
P.O. Box 1346, Kane'ohe, Hawai'i 96744  
Phone: 808-236-7422 Fax: 808-236-7443  
[jlemus@hawaii.edu](mailto:jlemus@hawaii.edu)  
[www.judylemus.com](http://www.judylemus.com)  
[www.cosee-ie.net](http://www.cosee-ie.net)