



# Health Colleges Research Services

## News and Announcements

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

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Theresa Couch won two awards in October

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Update your eRA Commons details to reflect ESI status

NIH Seminar Items of interest from the NIH Seminar

### CONGRATULATIONS, THERESA COUCH!

By Erin Gorman

The Health Colleges Research Services team had a lot to celebrate in Fall 2021. HCRS team member, Theresa Couch was recently selected as an inaugural “Future of the Field” honoree by her peers at the Society of Research Administrators International. She was honored at the annual meeting in New Orleans in October. You can read more about the award [here](#). Theresa was also awarded the [Fall 2021 Unit Spotlight Research Administrator award](#) from Sponsored Programs Administration. We celebrated her with a small, outdoor gathering with our colleagues from central administration in October. Congratulations, Theresa!

### ERA COMMONS ID AND ESI STATUS

By Jourden VanArsdall

As a reminder, please check that your eRA Commons profile is up-to-date and reflects your Early Stage Investigator status, if applicable. Investigators qualify as ESI's if they have completed their research degree or post-grad clinical training in the past 10 years and have not been successful at obtaining an NIH independent research award. ESI eligibility is determined by the date entered in eRA Commons; there is no place in an NIH application to denote this status.

NIH allows for ESI extensions for medical issues, family responsibilities, natural disasters, or active military service. Additionally, ESI [flexibilities](#) are available for investigators impacted by COVID-19. Refer to the [ESI resource page](#) for more information and directions to submit an extension request.

### NIH SEMINAR UPDATES AND REMINDERS

By Theresa Couch

NIH hosted the 2021 Virtual Seminar in November and we wanted to provide some helpful updates and resources from those sessions:

- Applications submitted on/after January 25, 2022 will

use the new Forms-G. [Significant changes](#) are summarized online, and HCRS is available to help answer any questions. Please keep in mind the new [biographical sketch](#) format also becomes *required* in Forms-G applications.

- eRA Commons IDs will be required for all key personnel in an application starting January 2022. Contact [HCRS](#) if you do not already have an ID.
- Make use of the [Matchmaker](#) tool to find potential institutes, program officials, or review groups best suited to your research.
- The [Assisted Referral Tool](#) is also available to help identify study sections for inclusion on the Assignment Request Form. If you have a conversation with a PO regarding potential assignment, you can include that in the “rational” section of the request form.
- Beginning November 2021, users will be prompted when changing their password in eRA Commons to create a passphrase. Passphrases will only need to be updated annually. More information about this change is on [Extramural Nexus](#).

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