

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

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Vice President for Translational Research

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 16, 2009

To: HSC Faculty and Staff

From: Richard S. Larson, MD, PhD,
Vice President for Translational ResearchAva Lovell
Vice President HSC/UNM Finance & University ControllerRE: Categorizing of **“Research”** vs “Public Service/Other” on Grant Applications

It has come to our attention that on occasion grants and contracts have not been appropriately categorized on our PDS forms. There appears to be confusion about the definition of Research versus Public Service on the HSC PreAward proposal data sheets. The information below should clarify this information.

According to the OHRP definition research is defined as: "a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." We also had Financial Services check applicable OMB Circulars whose definition is similar.

It is important to remember that “Research” does benefit the public. When you have a project that will **collect data**, or where you may **publish**, you should code that “Research” because you are contributing to general knowledge and benefiting the public.

Other key factors for determining “Research” are: all clinical trials*, projects that have human or animal subjects, testing agreements, CTSA or GCRC involvement, and projects that involve epidemiology.

I have asked PreAward to be watchful in this regard, and if they feel your proposal falls within the “Research” definition, but you have coded it “Public Service/Other,” they may ask you to verify the category status.

I am always available if PreAward or the PI would like to discuss the scope of the project and the appropriate category code.

*Clinical Trials in Phase III or IV which were historically coded Public Service/Other, are now being coded Research, as of October 2009.