

March 24, 2008

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

**POLICY ON THE ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICERS OF RESEARCH TO SERVE AS
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS ON SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

We would like to inform you of a change in the University's policy on determining the eligibility of officers of research to serve as principal investigators on sponsored projects. Until now, it had been necessary for all ranks to get special approval in order to serve in this capacity. Effective immediately:

1. Full-time senior research scientists/scholars and research scientists/scholars are automatically entitled to serve as principal investigators. Schools, departments, institutes and centers continue to have oversight responsibility for all grants submitted by these officers of research.

2. Full-time associate research scientists/scholars and postdoctoral research scientists/scholars may serve as principal investigators with the approval of the Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences, in the case of the CUMC schools, the Director, in the case of Lamont, and the Executive Vice President for Research, in all other cases.

All requests by officers in these ranks seeking approval to serve as a principal investigator should be submitted through the Office of Research Administration. Approval may be requested on a project by project basis or for all projects of the officer. The request must be countersigned by the appropriate chair or director and dean or vice president in order to acknowledge the financial responsibility of the department or school for the proposed project or projects. In addition, the request must include the individual's curriculum vitae and, if it relates to a specific project, an abstract of the project. The department or school may determine that officers who have been serving as principal investigators prior to the date hereof may continue to serve as such without requesting additional specific approval.

We would appreciate your communicating this change in policy to your faculties.

Please feel free to call Deborah Stiles in the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research ((212) 854-0490) if you have any questions.