**New NIH Requirements for Scientific Rigor and Transparency**

This is a brief summary of key points related to the new NIH and AHRQ requirements for addressing increased scientific rigor and transparency to enhance the reproducibility of research findings.

- Rigor and transparency must be addressed in NIH & AHRQ research grant applications and individual career development award applications, as well as Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs), **due on and beyond January 25, 2016**. (some exceptions apply, see NOT-OD-16-011)

- For institutional training grants, institutional career development awards, or individual fellowships, NIH and AHRQ plan to require formal instruction in scientific rigor and transparency; implementation will not be in 2016, but may be as early as FY 2017.

- **Four Areas of Importance**: (1) Scientific Premise, (2) Scientific Rigor, (3) Consideration of Relevant Biological Variables; and (4) Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources. The chart summarizes where these areas should be addressed in the application, and their corresponding review criterion. Note that the 4th item – Authentication of Key Resources Plan – is outside the page limits, is not to exceed 1 page, and is to be uploaded in the "Other Attachments" section.

![Research Grants: Rigor and Transparency in Application and Review](chart)

- **Websites for additional guidance and FAQs:**

- **Related NIH Notices:**
  - NOT-OD-16-011: Research grant applications
  - NOT-OD-16-012: Individual career development award applications
  - NOT-OD-16-031: Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR)
  - NOT-OD-16-034: Fellowships, institutional training grants, institutional career development awards