To: Emory University Research Community

From: Robert Nobles, DrPH, MPH, CIP; Vice President for Research Administration
Belva White; Vice President for Finance and Treasury
Holly Sommers; Asst VP for Research Administration/Director, OSP
James Goff; Asst Controller

Date: March 17, 2021
Re: F&A Rate Guidance for Clinical Trials Effective 4/1/2021

To the Emory Research Community,

An extensive review and discussions with faculty, CBOs, and senior leadership was conducted over the last 6 months to ensure Emory University’s Facilities and Administrative Rate (F&A) applied to industry sponsored clinical trials was competitive. Emory University is instituting new guidance to mandate a minimum F&A rate of 32% on all industry funded clinical trials effective on 4/1/2021. **Any agreement where negotiation or proposal development begins after 4/1/2021 is subject to the new minimum rate of 32%.** Agreements in negotiation or proposal development prior to 4/1/2021 will be under the previous guidance of a 30% minimum F&A rate. In the future, the industry funded clinical trial rate will be evaluated and adjusted on the same four-year cycle as the Emory federally negotiated F&A rates. Federally funded clinical trials will utilize the federally negotiated Other Sponsored Activities (OSA) rate.

Emory University utilizes the NIH definition of “clinical trial” which defines clinical trials as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include placebo or other control) to evaluate the effects of those interventions on health-related biomedical or behavioral outcomes. The decision tree below is designed to ensure the correct F&A rate is assigned to awards deemed clinical trials.
Questions regarding the clinical trial rate should be directed to James Goff (jbgoff@emory.edu).