

### Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs)

For some projects, more than one individual is involved with the administrative, fiscal, and scientific conduct. Each person can be named in the proposal and on project documentation as a co-PI, provided this role is accepted by the sponsor (note that not all sponsors allow Co-PIs to be named on projects. For example, the NIH allows designation of only a single PI). These individuals must all:

- meet the criteria listed in the policy on *PI Eligibility on Sponsored Projects*; and
- sign the Sponsored Programs Transmittal Form.

If the project is awarded, Co-PIs have spending authority on the award and **have the responsibility to fulfill the obligations listed in the section on "Principal Investigators."**

Although the project may have several Co-PIs, one person must be designated as the project leader. ***This person bears overall scientific, fiscal and administrative responsibility for conducting the project, meeting the terms and conditions of the award, and representing the project to the sponsor.*** This person will be listed first on the proposal and identified on the Sponsored Programs Transmittal Form as the Principal Investigator.

### Co-Investigators

In some cases, several individuals conduct the scientific portion of the project. One of these investigators is given fiscal and administrative responsibility over the project and designated as the Principal Investigator. The other investigators are considered as Co-Investigators, provided the sponsor accepts the role of Co-Investigator.

If Co-Investigators are named in the proposal, they must sign the Sponsored Programs Transmittal Form and secure necessary departmental approvals. The PI must always sign the Form.

If the project is awarded, Co-Investigators DO NOT have spending authority on the award unless the PI approves establishment of subaccounts under the main project account. Co-Investigators' responsibility for subaccounts is the same as that specified for Principal Investigators.

Although some tasks may be delegated to Co-Investigators through the establishment of subaccounts in their respective departments, the PI continues to bear overall scientific, fiscal and administrative responsibility for conducting the project, meeting the terms and conditions of the award, and representing the project to the sponsor.