

Communications Team Overview

Stevens Amendment & NIH Authorship Requirements

Why it Matters:

Recent federal guidance and NIH publication requirements place increased emphasis on transparency regarding research funding, author affiliations, collaborations, and public communications.

For Communications teams, these requirements extend beyond compliance—they help protect institutional credibility, support research integrity, and ensure accurate representation of federally funded research.



1 Stevens Amendment: Communication Responsibilities

What is the Stevens Amendment?

The Stevens Amendment is a federal requirement that applies to certain federally funded projects and communications. It requires public communications about federally funded activities to clearly disclose:

- The federal agency providing support
- The amount or percentage of federal funding (when required)
- Any non-governmental funding contributions, where applicable

When Communications Staff Should Think “Stevens Amendment”

- Review for compliance when preparing:
- Press releases
 - Research news stories
 - Websites highlighting federally funded projects
 - Social media posts referencing sponsored activities
 - Event materials
 - Videos and promotional content
 - Program announcements

Communications Team Checklist

Before publishing:

- ☐ Was the work supported by a federal award?
- ☐ Has the appropriate funding agency been identified?
- ☐ Is required funding attribution included?
- ☐ Has the research team confirmed award information?
- ☐ Has Research Compliance/Research Administration been consulted when funding disclosure requirements are unclear?

2 NIH Authorship & Publication Requirements

Why NIH is Emphasizing Authorship

Recent NIH guidance has highlighted increased expectations around:

- Publication transparency
- Disclosure of affiliations
- Co-authorship considerations
- Funding acknowledgments
- Reporting of research collaborations

NIH authorship regs and Stevens Amendment originate from different fed requirements, both share a common goal: transparency and accuracy in communicating federally funded research.

Institutions have noted that these requirements have significant implications for both research security and research integrity programs.

Areas of Increased Risk

Communications teams should elevate questions when they identify:

- Missing funding acknowledgments
- Unclear award support
- Undisclosed collaborating institutions
- International collaborators omitted from materials
- Differences between a publication and a press release
- Questions about authorship attribution
- Requests to alter or remove affiliation information

Key Communications Considerations

When preparing stories, profiles, web content, or media materials, Communications staff should confirm with respective researcher(s):

Author & Affiliation Accuracy

- Researcher affiliations are correctly identified.
- Collaborating institutions are accurately listed.
- Visiting scholar or external collaborator affiliations are not omitted.

Funding Transparency

- NIH funding acknowledgments are included where appropriate.
- Award information matches information provided by the research team.

Collaboration Transparency

- International and external collaborators are accurately represented.
- Public-facing materials are consistent with information reported in publications.

Publication Consistency

- Information in press releases should align with the published manuscript.
- Funding, authors, and institutional affiliations should match the publication record.

3 Recommended Partnership Model

Please Note:

Institutions participating in national discussions have specifically identified the need for coordination between Sponsored Programs, Research Compliance, and University Communications offices to ensure public-facing content remains compliant with publication disclosure and funding acknowledgment requirements.



Communications Team

Verifies:

- Funding acknowledgments
- Public-facing disclosure language
- Consistency with publications
- Required sponsor recognition

Research Team

Provides:

- Publication information
- Author list
- Funding sources
- Collaborator information

Provides:

- Regulatory guidance
- Research security considerations
- NIH publication requirements
- Escalation support for unusual situations

Research Compliance (RCRA)

Always Ask:

- Is this federally funded research?
- Are all authors and affiliations accurately represented?
- Is NIH or other federal funding properly acknowledged?
- Does the public-facing content match the publication?
- Do we need Research Compliance input before release?

When in Doubt:

Pause publication and consult Research Compliance (RCRA) before release.

This is especially important when questions arise regarding funding disclosures, collaborator affiliations, authorship attribution, or research security-related publication considerations.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM “QUICK CHECK”



Questions? Contact Research Compliance & Regulatory Affairs (RCRA) at researchsecurity@emory.edu for guidance on authorship, collaborations, publication transparency, funding acknowledgments, and Stevens Amendment requirements.