

# 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

MAY 4-5, 2016 NATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER

## Complete List Of Session Descriptions

### **Badge Clearance For Foreign Nationals**

*Presenters: Frannie Snediker and Kathlyn Newberger*

The NIH badge process is especially tricky for foreign nationals (FNs) – including contractors – and the multiple offices involved. This session will clearly explain the roles of DIS, IC administrative staff, and the Division of Personnel Security and Access Control (DPSAC)/ORS throughout the FN badge clearance process, as well as offer tips for helping the process go as smoothly as possible. DPSAC representatives will join us to offer further insight.

### **Beyond J-1 & H-1B: Other Paths to NIH**

*Presenter: Jennifer Jantos*

You've probably heard of J-1 and H-1B, but what about other ways to bring foreign nationals to NIH? Learn about Optional Practical Training (OPT) for F-1 students, including recent regulatory updates and their impact. We will also go over B-1/WB classification, J-1 Students, J-2 dependents, TN and E-3 Workers, DACA applicants, and Adjustment Applicants. This will be an interactive session, so bring your own scenarios!

### **Foreign Physician-Scientists**

*Presenter: Sarah Royalty*

Physician-scientists are at the intersection of cutting edge research and life-changing patient treatment. This session will unpack the immigration options that allow full clinical privileges for visiting physician-scientists. We will explore the more commonly used visa types for both FTE and non-FTE clinical designations, such as Clinical Fellows, Staff Clinicians, and Research Collaborators (clinical). This is an advanced session for those who work often with foreign national physician-scientists in clinical areas.

### **G-7 Program and Other Advanced J-1 Topics**

*Presenter: Margaret Richmond*

We will dispel the myth that G-7 requests are rarely approved and explain what factors to consider when requesting more than five years of time as a J-1 Research Scholar. Learn about the processing timelines, different G-7 request types, and how to prepare the G-7 request memo, Career Development Plan, and other required items. In addition, we will cover updates to the J-1 regulations, the process for obtaining approval for outside activities, and approval for extended absences abroad for NIH J-1 Exchange Visitor.

## **Get the Most Out of Your Conference Experience: First-Timer Session**

*Presenters: Candelario Zapata and Valerie Martini*

Welcome, newcomers! Come meet the DIS Director and learn how to make the most of your conference experience. We want to make sure that you have the tools and knowledge you need to start developing a strong understanding of immigration policies and DIS procedures. Attending this first-timer session will help guarantee your first annual conference is a success! Refreshments will be provided.

## **H-1B Specialty Workers: The Basics**

*Presenter: Anabelle Filbert*

This session will lay out all of the fundamentals of the H-1B Temporary Worker status, as well as offer guidelines on preparing H-1B case requests for DIS. Topics will include the responsibilities of the employer and the H-1B visa holder, how to complete the Form 829-1, and the process of acquiring and extending H-1B status (including portability). We will also discuss topics such as H-4 dependents, outside activities, terminations, and travel.

## **Introduction to DIS**

*Presenter: Cynthia Tasaki*

Come find out more about the inner workings of DIS! We will shed some light on our workflow and team structure, and explain more about our mission and some of our recent initiatives to improve our service to you and the NIH international community. We will give you lots of helpful tips and resources for working with DIS so that we can continue to effectively collaborate to bring the worlds' best and brightest to NIH.

## **J-1 Exchange Visitors: The Basics**

*Presenter: Katie McLaughlin*

Get to know the U.S. Department of State's J-1 Exchange Visitor Program! The J-1 immigration status is the most common status at NIH for foreign nationals in a non-FTE designation (Visiting Fellow, Collaborator, Guest Researcher, Special Volunteer, etc.). This session will introduce you to the advantages and limitations of J-1 status, how the J-1 program is administered at NIH, and who is eligible for J-1 status.

## **J-1 to H-1B**

*Presenter: Moon Kyu (Mike) Park*

This session will equip you to navigate the complex immigration steps encountered when a scientist changes from a J-1 status to an H-1B status, typically during a conversion from a Visiting Fellow to a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) appointment. We will walk through the circumstances requiring this change, the need and process for a J-1 waiver, the preparation and processing of an H-1B petition, travel during the transition period, impact on dependents, and other considerations. Basic knowledge of J-1 and H-1B recommended.

## **Plug into DIS**

*Presenters: Brian Daly and Ryan Williams*

Delve into the labyrinth of digital systems at NIH with experts to help you find your way! See how DIS utilizes the FPS NBS and NED systems, and how these actions affect your workflow. Discover the resources available on the DIS website, including DIS Case Status and Reports, which provides DIS' latest immigration and case processing information. Finally, get an insider's look at the DIS database, nVISTAS, which helps DIS process your cases and provide accurate help to the NIH community.

## **Policy: Common Case Issues**

*Presenter: Annie Shih*

Join us for an overview of common NIH policies that impact the recruitment and retention of foreign national scientists in the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP). We will highlight how IRP policies are set and where to find them. We will also discuss the intricacies of unpaid designations, recent changes to funding requirements for certain designations, and English proficiency requirements for NIH sponsorship. Attendees are expected to already have a basic knowledge of common visa classifications found at NIH (primarily J-1 and H-1B).

## **Prepare Your Best Request**

*Presenters: Briana Malone and Bart Dunning*

Does a foreign scientist need to be in the lab tomorrow? Are you submitting requests to DIS for the first time? Do you want to work more efficiently? Prepare your Best Request will provide the terminology, resources, real life scenarios, and a Q&A session to help you submit complete requests to DIS in a timely manner, clearing the path for smooth processing. Attendees will receive a universal checklist with key tips for preparing the perfect request.