Effort Reporting
NIH Training and Career Development Awards

What are NIH Training and Career Development Awards?
NIH offers a number of training-related grants and fellowships. They include The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional training grant (T), NRSA Fellowship (F) and Career Development (K) Funding Opportunity. These projects may include special requirements that may raise questions about effort reporting and other issues. This Reference Guide addresses some common questions.

Trainees and Effort Reporting
Trainees (on T grants or F fellowships) are not subject to effort reporting because they are not considered Columbia employees; they receive a stipend rather than a salary. However, principal investigators still must ensure that trainees meet their programs’ minimum time commitments and comply with restrictions on other employment and other similar requirements.

Mentors and Effort Reporting
Typically, NIH T or F awards do not provide funding to cover the effort of a trainee’s mentor or project director. In some cases, the time devoted to these activities may be insignificant, and therefore can be ignored. If not, such effort is typically treated as a non-sponsored activity (and therefore cannot be charged to your research or other grant). On the other hand, if the mentor committed to provide effort in the grant proposal, then the effort should be treated as committed cost sharing.

How should effort on a K Award be allocated?
K Awards typically require a significant effort commitment, often of 75%. Effort on activities that are within the scope of the career development plan for the K Award should be reported as effort devoted to the K Award. Effort that is devoted to other projects should be reported as effort devoted to the other projects. For recipients with private practice activities, if the private practice work is within the scope of the K Award, then there should be no issue. However, if the private practice work is essentially supplemental income but does not relate to the work required under the K award, then this could require a reduction of private practice efforts in order not to violate the minimum effort requirements of the K award.

Resources
If you have questions about effort reporting and training grants, contact the Effort Reporting Team via email at effort-reporting@columbia.edu. For more information about training grants and K Awards, please see the following links on the NIH website:

NIH NRSA (T & F awards): http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm

NIH T awards: http://grants.nih.gov/training/T_Table.htm

NIH F awards: http://grants.nih.gov/training/F_files_nrsa.htm

NIH K awards: http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm