



Org Hierarchy & the Rankings

Commons Working Group Meeting
5/22/2005



The Issues

- Searches on current data
- NIH published ranking
- Medical school identification & naming



Searches on Current Data

- Requests for information prior to the creation of the frozen files are usually based on current information, or newly minted PUB files at the end of the year. These requests, which include, for example, identifying the "top ten" medical schools, will be affected if an inappropriate major component (school) is chosen by an organization.
- Individuals, researchers, and magazine/newspaper reporters, search on the DSA current listings for this type of information as well, and sometimes published articles are based on our Web information. This data is hit heavily (we start receiving requests for it well before January 1), and it identifies medical school grants with a flag. If organizations do not enter the correct information in their hierarchy, this information, which is very visible, will be affected.

NIH Published Ranking

The NIH PUB(lications) file, is a file cut AFTER the close of a FY and is applicable to a single fiscal year. DSA changes the preceding fiscal years Web listing from CURRENT to the PUB file around December 1, and sends out a notification to the medical schools (or individuals who have requested to be notified) to review their data.

- Since NIH Published Ranking comes from this frozen PUB file, it is not affected by CURRENT changes, but the PUB file is created from the CURRENT file in October. Organizations can request a change to this frozen file, and any change requested and done to the PUB file will not be overwritten by future information in the VOL (which will change CURRENT data only).
- Note that in the interim between the creation of the PUB file (early October) and freezing of the PUB file (early May), DSA receives numerous requests for data that are filled based on the PUB file as it exists at that point in time. Incorrect major component assignments will affect all requests during this 6-month period.



Medical School Identification & Naming

- Within the Commons, organizations can assign their own names to levels of the hierarchy. This does NOT mean that the information they enter into their VOL will be published on our Web site. The information published on our Web site will be the NIH standardized names that match the major component they choose when they construct their VOL.
- If they want a change to their medical school name, they will still have to contact Systems Quality Assurance and request that the information be put in the appropriate field. NIH will certify that the organization still qualifies as a Medical School.



Things to Consider

- Changing structure or reassigning grants will not change historical data
- Changes to historical data (PUB file) will not change current data
- Only allow the appropriate individuals to alter the hierarchy and assign/reassign grants
- If an institution changes their data, they cannot depend on NIH for its accuracy