

NewsFlash!

You may recall that USC [implemented](#) a new minimum salary for postdocs, which took effect on **December 1, 2016**. A Previous DCG Newsflash detailing the stipend level increases was distributed in September and can be found [here](#). The below article from Maggie Kuo details new information regarding The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and their decision to raise postdoc salaries, despite threats to the overtime rule.

"Republicans in Congress have vowed to roll back [a controversial new rule expanding the number of workers eligible for overtime pay](#) when President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January. And [a federal judge has already blocked implementation of the rule](#), which covers postdoctoral researchers and was supposed to take effect on 1 December.

But the National Institutes of Health (NIH) says that, regardless of those developments, it will move ahead tomorrow with its plan to raise the stipends of certain biomedical postdocs so they aren't affected by the rule.

The overtime rule, released this past May, requires overtime pay for workers earning less than \$47,476—more than what many postdocs earned at the time. In response, the NIH announced this past August that it would increase the starting stipends of postdoctoral fellows on the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA)—one NIH's bread-and-butter training awards—to \$47,484 from \$43,692. It also offered a one-time supplement for grant recipients to meet the pay difference. (NIH did not offer specific guidance regarding pay for postdocs funded through non-NRSA avenues.)

Now, despite the political and legal drama around the rule, NIH is sticking with its plan, Michael Lauer, NIH's deputy director for extramural research, wrote in a [blog post](#) on 23 November. "If there are any changes, we will alert the community," Lauer wrote *ScienceInsider* in an email.

Some Republicans in Congress have said they would like to overturn the overtime rule early in the next Congress that convenes in January [by using a rarely invoked law called the Congressional Review Act](#). But that might require lawmakers to [adjourn earlier next month than they had originally planned](#), so that the regulation becomes vulnerable to disapproval under the CRA."

Original Article: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/nih-says-it-will-raise-postdoc-salaries-despite-threats-overtime-rule>