



Council of Principal Investigators

Principal Investigators,

The agenda and materials for the September 14, 2011 CPI meeting (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 p.m.) are available on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_9.14.11.pdf.

The meeting will include a presentation by Texas A&M University President, Dr. R. Bowen Loftin, followed by an open forum discussion with CPI members. The CPI would like to extend its appreciation to Dr. Loftin for taking the time to participate in the first meeting of the Council's 2011-12 session.

If you plan to attend in person as an observer, please email cpi@tamu.edu. The meetings are open to the public and are webcast live at <http://ttvn.tamu.edu/webcasts> on Channel 20. Previous CPI meetings can be viewed at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/videos>.

Our monthly electronic newsletter is included below and includes items of interest to the research community. Please send comments regarding the newsletter to cpi@tamu.edu.

To learn more about CPI membership, activities and initiatives, visit <http://cpi.tamu.edu>.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Rauchwerger

Chair, Council of Principal Investigators

CPI Newsletter – September 2011

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Texas A&M University - Texas A&M Health Science Center - Texas Engineering Experiment Station -
Texas AgriLife Research - Texas Transportation Institute

Appreciation to CPI Sponsors

The CPI thanks Texas A&M University, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas Transportation Institute, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas AgriLife Research, and the Texas A&M Research Foundation for the funding they provide the Council for its annual operating expenses, as well as the salary of the CPI support staff. In addition, the CPI would like to thank the Texas A&M University Division of Research, which hosts and provides support for the CPI website, the printing of monthly meeting agendas and materials and other valuable resources.

Preview of October CPI Meeting

Due to scheduling issues, the October meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators will be held the third week of October on October, 19, 2011 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. in Rudder 601. The meeting will include a presentation and discussion by Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, the Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University and Chief Research Officer of The Texas A&M University System and an update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) by Mr. Mark Smock, Executive Director of the OSRS. The CPI would like to extend its appreciation to Dr. Seemann and Mr. Smock for taking the time to present at the October Council meeting.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

2011-12 CPI & EC Members; Meeting Schedule

The 2011-12 CPI membership roster can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/members>, and the 2011-12 CPI meeting schedule can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings>. Each year, the incoming CPI Chair makes membership recommendations for the CPI Executive Committee (EC). Recommendations are sent to the full CPI for ratification. This year's recommended CPI EC membership was electronically ratified by a majority of the Council membership on Thursday, September 8, 2011. The CPI EC members can be found at http://cpi.tamu.edu/members/2011-12_CPI-EC_Members and may be contacted at cpi-ec@listserv.tamu.edu. CPI Officers (CPI Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair) are default members of the EC.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

Regular CPI Executive Committee Meetings with Administrators

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) meets monthly with the President and Provost and quarterly with the CEOs of TAMUS research entities (Texas A&M University, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas AgriLife Research, and Texas Transportation Institute). Updates about these meetings will be provided in future CPI monthly newsletters. As a reminder, the monthly CPI Executive Committee coordination meetings (like the full CPI meetings) are open to anyone who would like to attend. These meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from 11:30-1:15 p.m., usually in the Williams Administration Building, room 310. If you would like to attend as an observer, send an email to cpi@tamu.edu 3-5 days prior to the meeting date.

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, rwerger@cse.tamu.edu

Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) Update

As planned, the OSRS officially opened for business on September 1, 2011. The office is now providing contracts and grants research administration services to those Texas A&M System members based in Brazos County that have sponsored research activity—i.e., Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension, Texas Engineering experiment Station, Texas Transportation Institute, and the Texas A&M Health Science Center. Inclusion of other system members (e.g., other system universities) into OSRS will be addressed in the future.

OSRS has been submitting proposals for some members since July 1, 2011, in the name of the system member, and a handful of awards have already been received and processed. On September 1, proposal administrators, contract negotiators, and project administrators from the above system members and from the Research Foundation officially became OSRS employees; however, no change has occurred in the proposal routing processes. Business services support staff and contracts and grants support staff from these members and the Research Foundation will become OSRS employees on October 1, 2011; meanwhile, all of these personnel will move into OSRS office space at 400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South during the first full week of September. During that week, please call the main number 845-8600 or 862-OSRS (6777) when trying to contact an OSRS employee. A list of employees and their phone number and email address will be on our website (<http://www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/osrs/>).

We have hired directors to oversee the business of the Brazos County A&M System members and made staff assignments to each director. Assignments of system members and of staff to the directors were made to maximize the probability that PIs would interact with the same contract and grant staff with whom a PI worked in the past. Notwithstanding these assignments, OSRS personnel will be working as a team, with a great deal of information and workload sharing to provide outstanding customer service.

Our steering committee has worked with OSRS leadership to develop an initial budget and to propose an equitable and fair assessment model. More details will be forthcoming. To create the most efficient system possible, changes to existing computer system and the completion of Phase II and Phase III of Maestro (software to manage sponsored research activities) need to be completed (estimated to be in 3rd quarter of calendar year 2013), although select aspects will be implemented sooner; e.g., shortly, we will be electronically routing proposals for approval through Maestro. Software training will be provided by OSRS staff. We will continue working to ensure faculty-researchers and investigators are well informed and aware of the status of OSRS, which is committed to providing the highest quality services to PIs.

Contact:

Mr. Mark Smock, msmock@tamus.edu

Lab Safety Committee Update

In July 2011, the Laboratory Safety Committee voted to exempt the following courses from routine Laboratory Safety Committee documentation and evaluation: all 484, 485, 489 491, 497, 684, 685, 689 and 691 courses.

This means that students enrolled in 484, 485, 489 491, 497, 684, 685, 689 and 691 courses will not be required to access and acknowledge the Laboratory Safety Acknowledgment Form for that course on Howdy (Compass).

Contact:

Dr. Mary Bryk, bryk@tamu.edu

Transportation Services Advisory Committee Update

The committee met on September 7th for the first meeting of the school year. The group heard a presentation on and discussed the proposed options for the street area immediately in front of the MSC on Joe Routh. As part of the MSC reconstruction, the two travel lanes on the north side of the street will be permanently closed and incorporated into the new plaza in front of the MSC. The options presented and under consideration are related to the two travel lanes on the south side of the street and are the following: Option 1 - the entire road and make a large pedestrian plaza between the MSC and G. Rollie White; Option 2 - the south lanes will remain open, providing gated eastbound access only to buses between 6 am and 6 pm and with all vehicles having access between 6 pm and 6 am; Option 3 - the south lanes will remain open, providing eastbound access to all vehicles 24 hours a day (this is how it is operating now); Option 4 - the south lanes will remain open, providing gated eastbound and westbound access to buses only between 6 am and 6 pm, with all vehicles having access between 6 pm and 6 am.

The TSAC voted to recommend that the road remain open and that 2 way access be accommodated. They determined that the hours of access could be determined later. A formal decision is expected by the first of October as this construction needs to be completed so that it coincides with the opening of the MSC on April 21, 2012. Feedback is welcome regarding these options.

Contact:

Dr. Beverly Kuhn, b-kuhn@tamu.edu

EPIK-Maestro Working Group Update

The working group met on September 8th. The group discussed the following items: The executive portal will go into production on September 14th. Changes have been made to the sponsor types, primarily for funding type distinction. There was discussion on distinguishing between institutional designations in terms of internal vs. external funds. Clarification is needed from the comptroller. Other items discussed included the availability of exclusion data, TAMUS Awards, TTI Awards, access to accounts for non-primary staff, and 2012 accounts. It was suggested that you compare FAMIS, Canopy, and Maestro to make sure the balances are being transferred properly. Uploads are being done nightly.

They are still working to create the connections with the other system institutions, with WTAMU, TAMUCT, and TEEX being the remaining agencies needing data feeds. They are creating the organizational hierarchy and organization association tasks, and those ready to use it are PVAMU, TAMUCC, TAMUT, TAMUK, and TAMUC. Information is being validated at this time. The other institutions are working on their data reconciliation.

With the pre-award module, there were two sessions of beta testing in August. They are planning on pre-production testing and training in mid-October with full production expected on the first of November. They have started working on proposal uploads and have made great progress. Progress on the key personnel screens has been made, and the template maintenance screens are complete along with the current and pending support reports. Partial design is in place for the negotiations screens. Most of the screens are ready and are in the quality control phase prior to production. The remaining modules will go into production as they become available and will not hold up production of the key modules that are ready now.

Contact:

Dr. Beverly Kuhn, b-kuhn@tamu.edu

Hazard Communication Chemical Inventories

In order to assure compliance with the Texas Hazard Communication Act, an annual inventory of hazardous chemicals found in work areas must be performed. It is vital that all units using hazardous materials complete the Work Area Chemical Inventory. The due date of the Inventory will be November 1, 2011. If you need additional time, please contact the EHS office at ehsd-chemical-inventory@tamu.edu, or 979-845-2132.

EHS utilizes an online method for reporting chemical inventories. Individuals who have previously entered inventory into the database should be able to update the information using the same login information as last year. New users will need to provide EHS with their contact information so that a new user account may be established.

Offices generally have few, if any, chemicals that need to be inventoried. Chemicals, such as toners and inks, are exempt unless you have large quantities on hand. Research Labs are not required to perform inventories. However, the chemicals in teaching labs, support labs, diagnostic/clinical labs, chemical stockrooms, custodial closets or storage rooms, maintenance shops, and other areas where chemicals are used as part of the job are required to be inventoried. Drugs, as defined by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, do not require inventories. For more information, including a complete copy of the TAMU Hazard Communication Plan, please visit Environmental Health & Safety's web site at <http://ehsd.tamu.edu/ChemicalInventories.aspx>.

Contact:

ehsd-chemical-inventory@tamu.edu, or 979-845-2132

Invitation to Medical Research and Education Building Open House

The Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) invites Principal Investigators to the Medical Research and Education Building Open House on Friday, September 16, 2011 from 4-7 p.m. with Speaker Dr. Cheryl Walker, Ph.D., Director of the TAMHSC Institute of Biosciences and Technology. Tours and reception will follow Dr. Walker's address. For additional information contact Ms. Mary Pipkin at 979-862-3389 or pipkin@tamhsc.edu or visit www.tamhsc.edu.

Office Telephone Number Change for International Operations

Effective immediately, International Operations will officially use 979-845-3099 as the main office telephone number to replace the current number 979-458-3575, eliminated as a cost-saving measure. Kindly update your contact information accordingly.

Contact:

Dr. Suzanne Droleskey, sdroleskey@tamu.edu

Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers Workshop & HUR Listserv

On Friday, September 9, 2011, a Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers Workshop was sponsored by Honors and Undergraduate Research. Topics included: Scope of undergraduate research at TAMU (courses, 491's, student workers, field work, study abroad, internships); Successful mentoring strategies for time management and motivation; The role of graduate student mentors; Strategies for dealing with problems or issues; Structured undergraduate research programs on campus (NSF REU's,

summer fellowships, Undergraduate Scholars and Honors Fellows); Resources provided by the Honors and Undergraduate Research Office.

Interested faculty members can join the Honors and Undergraduate Research (HUR) listserv. Members of the listserv will receive a weekly bulletin on the University Honors Program, upcoming events of interest to Honors faculty, campus events related to undergraduate research, and announcements of external opportunities for grants and funding related to undergraduate research. Subscribers are also welcome to submit their own items of interest.

Faculty members who would like to receive the weekly HUR bulletin

1. Send an e-mail to <listserv@listserv.tamu.edu>
2. DO NOT enter anything in the subject section.
3. In the message section, just type: SUBSCRIBE HONORSFACULTY firstname lastname
4. Ensure that there is not signature or other text.
5. Send the message.

For help, contact Kyle Mox at kemox@tamu.edu.

NCURA Region V – UT Austin to Host NSF Regional Grants Conference

The University of Texas at Austin will host the first National Science Foundation (NSF) Regional Grants Conference of fiscal year 2012, on October 17-18, 2011 at The Westin Austin at the Domain. The conference is an opportunity to meet with NSF personnel and with other research administrators from universities and colleges from across the United States. The conference website can be found at: <https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=NATI375E&OID=50>. This two-day conference is a must, especially for new faculty, researchers, educators, and administrators who want to gain key insight into a wide range of current issues at NSF including the state of current funding; new and current policies and procedures; and pertinent administrative issues. NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding and answer your questions. Highlights include: New programs and initiatives; Future directions and strategies for national science policy; Proposal preparation; NSF's merit review process; Cross-disciplinary and special interest programs; Conflict of interest policies; Breakout sessions by discipline.

Sigma Xi Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Expo

The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, will have an Undergraduate Student-Faculty Expo on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building lobby. The Expo will promote and introduce students interested in research opportunities in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines. Food and prizes will be available. The CPI is also a sponsor of the Expo. For more information please click on the following link: <http://cpi.tamu.edu/expo.pdf>.

Contact:

Dr. Larry Johnson, ljohnson@cvm.tamu.edu

Ms. Michelle Sullens, m-sullens@tamu.edu

Texas Research Exchange Fest in Computing

The Texas Research Exchange Fest in Computing (TREF-C) will be held September 26-27, 2011 at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. To register, go to: <http://engrevent.tamu.edu/event/100790>.

The third Texas Research Exchange Fest in Computing 2011 is scheduled for September 26th-27th at the Hilton Hotel http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/CLLCHHF-Hilton-College-Station-Conference-Center-Texas/index.do, in College Station, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to have representatives from different federal agencies discuss the details of their different programs with respect to research in Computer Science and Engineering, and to encourage collaborations among the CS/CE researchers at Texas universities and industry.

The event will include poster sessions and ample time for round table discussions in addition to the informational sessions featuring the representatives from different federal agencies, including AFOSR <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/afri/afosr>, NSF <http://www.nsf.gov/> and SANDIA NATIONAL LAB <http://www.sandia.gov/>. If you are interested in presenting a poster, please send an email to Lindsay Striegler lks@cse.tamu.edu with the poster title and authors. The event is being organized to focus on five major areas within computer science: security, software, networks, information, and high performance computing.

The event will start with a reception and poster session on Monday, 26 September 2011, from 6:30pm until 8:00pm at the Hilton Hotel. The presentations will start on Tuesday, September 27 at 9:00am, immediately following continental breakfast at 8:00am. The registration fee of \$100 covers the cost of the meeting logistics, reception on Monday, continental breakfast on Tuesday, and lunch on Tuesday.

Proposal Applications Invited for 2012 Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities

The Division of Research is pleased to invite proposal applications for the 2012 Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities. The Division established this competitive program to promote the scholarly and creative activities of Texas A&M University faculty and particularly to support activities in disciplines such as the humanities, arts, social sciences, and closely related fields where external funding is limited. All Texas A&M tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply for these grants. Applications from faculty must show originality and the potential to advance their field or discipline. For full details on the program and application criteria, please visit <http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/scholarlycreative>. All proposals must be submitted electronically at: <https://eproposal.tamu.edu>. Deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 31, 2011. No late applications will be accepted.

Contact:

Dr. Jim Izat, jizat@tamu.edu

Reminder – Call for Nominations: Trotter Prize

As a reminder, nominations for the 2011 Trotter Prize are due September 16, 2011. The Trotter Prize & Endowed Lecture Series, presented by the College of Science in collaboration with The Dwight Look College of Engineering, seeks to illuminate connections between science and religion, often viewed in academia as non-overlapping if not rival world views. Recipients of the Trotter Prize are invited to deliver a lecture at Texas A&M University under the Trotter Endowed Lecture Series and receive a cash award plus travel expenses. It is intended that the Trotter lecturer should acquaint the audience with the essentials and intriguing complexities of their area of specialization and inferences drawn from them. At the same time they should address the task of building substantive connections on issues of broad and lasting significance between academic cultures. For more information regarding the Trotter Prize & Endowed Lecture Series, including a list of previous recipients, go to www.science.tamu.edu/trotter/.

To nominate someone, please go to www.science.tamu.edu/trotter/nomination or you may print out a nomination form at www.science.tamu.edu/trotter/. When nominating, please feel free to either submit an individual or a pair of strong candidates (NOTE: you will need to fill out form for each nominee)

Contact:

Ms. Jennifer Holle, jholle@science.tamu.edu

Reminder – Call for Proposals: 2011-2012 Undergraduate Research Scholars & Honors Fellows Programs

As a reminder, the deadline for the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Research Scholars Program and the Undergraduate Research Honors Fellows Program is September 16, 2011 at 5 p.m.. The goal of these programs is to encourage motivated undergraduates to participate actively in research/scholarly projects and to give them the opportunity to communicate their findings as principal authors to the university's scholarly community.

Additional information about the Undergraduate Research Scholars and Fellows Programs can be found at <http://honors.tamu.edu/Research/Scholars&Fellows.html>.

Contact:

Dr. Duncan MacKenzie, ugr@honors.tamu.edu

PI-DISCUSS Listserv for PI Communication

The CPI has set up a listserv PI-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu to facilitate communication among PIs and others in the research community. The list is not moderated, i.e., messages to the list are not approved by a moderator or editor. However, only people subscribed to the list can send to the list.

Anyone can join or sign-off from the listserv by following this link: <https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=pi-discuss&A=1>

Contact:

Dr. Nancy Amato, amato@tamu.edu