



Council of Principal Investigators

Principal Investigators,

The agenda and materials for the October 19, 2011 CPI meeting (Rudder 701; 11:30-1:15 p.m.) are available on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_10.19.11.pdf.

The meeting will include updates on the Office of Sponsored Research Services; EPIK Maestro PreAward Module; OSRS PI Advisory Committee; and System Research Compliance, Export Controls, Human Subjects, and Conflict of Interest.

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 – October 2011

Included in this issue are updates/information on:

- Preview of November CPI Meeting
- CPI Executive Committee meeting with CEOs from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI
- Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) Update
- Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (IPCC)
- New Special Advisor to the VPR
- Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) PI/Faculty Advisory Committee
- Update on System Research Compliance, Export Controls, Human Subjects, and Conflict of Interest
- Data Management Plans for Successful NIH and NSF Grants
- NCURA Training-International Collaborations: Negotiations and Compliance to be held Oct. 25
- Proposal Applications Invited for 2012 Program to Enhance Scholarly & Creative Activities
- Research Compliance and Biosafety Newsletter (September 2011)
- 9th Annual Texas A&M University System Pathways to the Doctorate Symposium
- Save the Date: Stem Cell Symposium
- Survey for Input/Ideas on Entrepreneurship and Research
- White House and NSF Announce New Workplace Flexibility Policies to Support America's Scientists and Their Families
- PI-DISCUSS listserv to facilitate PI communication

Preview of November CPI Meeting

The November meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators will be a closed session meeting for elected CPI members (<http://cpi.tamu.edu/members>).

Contact:

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

CPI Executive Committee meeting with Texas A&M, HSC, TEES, TTI and AgriLife CEOs, and VPRs from Texas A&M and HSC

The CPI Executive Committee (EC) met with the CEOs and other representatives from Texas A&M, HSC, TEES, TTI and AgriLife Research and the VPRs from Texas A&M and HSC on September 14, 2011 after the full CPI monthly meeting. Attendees discussed items relating to the Office of Sponsored Research Services and issues regarding salary raises from research funds for research staff. These items were also discussed at the October 5, 2011 CPI Executive Committee meeting.

Contact:

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

Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) Update

The Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) is working to finalize the best practices that will be used to provide research administration services to principal investigators (PIs). These include changes to existing computer systems; completion of Maestro Phase II and Phase III; and purchasing, travel, and voucher payment processes. Based on contract and grant requirements, OSRS will provide PIs with the ability to purchase supplies and equipment with maximum flexibility as already provided in state and federal law.

Additionally, OSRS will ensure that travel processes will be in compliance with the grant or contract requirements, but also ensure that no additional restrictions or requirements are imposed on PIs. Please note that OSRS will utilize Concur for travel, but the only requirement is that Concur be utilized for the reimbursement of travel expenses for PIs working in system members that are adopting Concur.

Maestro Phase II (proposal processing) is currently scheduled for release in early November 2011. Software training will be provided to PIs and departmental staff on as needed basis. We are currently exploring ways to improve our communication with the PIs and departmental staff. If you have suggestions, or if you need to contact an OSRS staff member, please call 862-OSRS (6777), or check our website at <http://www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/osrs/contacts/>.

Contact:

Mr. Mark Smock, msmock@tamus.edu

Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (IPCC)

Starting September 1, the Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (IPCC) welcomed and is looking forward to working with two new members, Ryland Young, Professor, Biochemistry & Biophysics Department, Faculty representative for AgriLife, and Richard Gomer, Professor, Department of Biology, College of Sciences, Faculty representative for TAMU. For principal investigators/faculty dealing with open source technologies, the Open Source Notification Form is now available on the OTC Website: <http://otc.tamu.edu/inventors/index.jsp?cid=43>.

Contact:

Dr. Lynne Opperman, lopperman@bcd.tamhsc.edu

New Special Advisor to the VPR

Dr. Terry Thomas has accepted the position of special advisor to the VPR, a 25 percent appointment on top of his faculty position as professor in the department of Biology in Texas A&M's College of Science. In this role, Dr. Thomas will strive to enhance outreach, communication, and dialogue between the Division of Research and Texas A&M principal investigators in areas including research administration, research compliance, research development, and research infrastructure. Dr. Thomas will report directly to the VPR and his executive team to help identify faculty-researcher needs and concerns; at the same time, he will liaise with faculty-researchers to communicate and clarify new initiatives and opportunities through the Division of Research.

Since joining Texas A&M in 1980, Dr. Thomas has acted as head of the Department of Biology, and currently is director for the Laboratory for Functional Genomics. He has also served on a variety of University committees and task forces, including: the executive committee of the CPI (currently as past chair), the Research Administration Shared Services Development and Implementation Steering Committee, the Deferred Maintenance Task Force, and the Biosafety Advisory Committee. Dr. Thomas can be contacted at tthomas@tamu.edu or 979.845.0184.

Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) PI/Faculty Advisory Committee

Earlier this year, the Board of Regents directed the establishment of the A&M System Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS). A key element in the governance of the OSRS is the Principal Investigator/Faculty Advisory Committee (PIFAC). The final RASS-DISC Proposed Plan and Model for OSRS recommended a PIFAC that would “ represent the interests/concerns of the system-wide research community in the area of sponsored research administration. They will serve as advisors to the A&M System CRO and to the director of OSRS. The committee will provide feedback to the OSRS, for example, on service levels and best practices. The membership of this committee will be representative of system members participating in the OSRS.” Planning for the OSRS PIAFC is now underway.

Contact:

Dr. Terry Thomas, tthomas@tamu.edu

Update on System Research Compliance, Export Controls, Human Subjects, and Conflict of Interest

On March 26, 2010, the Board of Regents approved System Policy 15.03 Research Compliance. This policy provides the framework for research compliance within the system and authorizes the Chancellor to appoint a system compliance officer to establish and maintain effective system-wide research compliance program in order to coordinate research compliance activities within the system and report to the Board and Chancellor regarding the status of such activities. There have been several administrative changes at the system since adoption of the research compliance policy last year, including appointment of a Chief Research Officer, Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann, and a System Chief Research Compliance Officer, Dr. David S. Carlson. A request will be put forward to replace the existing research policy with a proposed system research compliance regulation to reflect current roles and responsibilities in the area of research compliance. The request to convert the existing policy to a regulation will preserve the system's ability to implement a broader system policy addressing compliance issues beyond research compliance if it chooses to do so in the future.

An Export Control Task Force, made up of representatives across the A&M System, completed its charge and submitted its final report to Dr. Seemann. The report included the approved TAMUS Policy, 15.02, Export Controls; TAMU Rule 15.02.99.M1, Export Controls; and the Export Control Compliance Program Manual. These resources can be found at <http://rcb.tamu.edu/exportcontrols/resources>.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann has organized a human subjects protection program working group to update the university rule and make recommendations related to the human subjects research procedures and practices. An updated draft university rule on human subjects (ver. 09-30-11) is being circulated to the university community for review and comment. This version of the draft rule incorporates feedback received from the CPI, the human subjects protection program working group, and the faculty senate executive committee.

To comply with new federal conflict of interest regulations (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/>), Dr. Jeffrey R. Seemann has organized a conflict of interest working group to update the university rule on conflict of interest and make recommendations related to implementation of the new requirements.

Contact:

Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, krdb@tamu.edu

Data Management Plans for Successful NIH and NSF Grants

The Principal Investigators Association™ is offering the following 60 minute on-demand webinar, available on CD, MP3, or PDF transcript: *Data Management Plans for Successful NIH and NSF Grants*. For more information, go to: <http://www.principalinvestigators.org/Audio-Conferences/audioconference0629/>

NCURA Training-International Collaborations: Negotiations and Compliance to be held Oct. 25

The National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) will present a live video conference, "International Collaborations: Negotiations and Compliance," on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in 101A General Services Complex. Register at <http://tamurs.tamu.edu/forms/ncura-registration>. Registration is required by Thursday, October 20, by 9:00 a.m. Lunch is included and the number of attendees must be submitted by this deadline.

Participants will develop a better understanding of, and a resource toolkit for, addressing the following aspects of contract negotiation: obtaining a fundamental understanding of negotiating with foreign entities; obtaining a basic understanding of the impact of export control laws on research; and understanding how your negotiations and federal laws concerning international research affect your faculty's research.

There is no cost to attend if you are an employee of one of the sponsoring System members: Texas A&M University, Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University System-Health Science Center (TAMHSC), Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), Texas A&M Research Foundation (TAMRF), Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS).

If you would like to view this teleconference from your site, the TTVN confirmation number is #3571047. Please contact TTVN scheduling to add your site to the viewing schedule. Call (979) 862-2240 or email ttvn-schedule@tamu.edu. Only Texas A&M System members may participate. For additional questions, please contact Janet Killion at jkillion@tamu.edu or (979) 862-2841. NCURA's web page for NCURA TV: http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational_programs/ncura_tv/schedule.php

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 specifically 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

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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

Research Compliance and Biosafety Newsletter (September 2011)

A copy of the September 2011 Research Compliance and Biosafety Newsletter can be found at the following link: <http://rcb.tamu.edu/more/publications/newsletter>

Contact:

Ms. Tiffany Inbody, t-inbody@tamu.edu

9th Annual Texas A&M University System Pathways to the Doctorate Symposium

The 9th Annual Texas A&M University System Pathways to the Doctorate Symposium will take place on the campus of Texas A&M University on November 11, 2011. Over 500 system undergraduate and graduate students from all Texas A&M System campuses will present the results of their research. Additional information can be found at <http://ogs.tamu.edu/2011/07/9th-annual-pathways-student-research-symposium/>.

Save the Date: Stem Cell Symposium

On Friday, November 4, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m., the Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies and the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Institute for Regenerative Medicine will host a symposium on “Moving Adult Stem Cells and the Therapeutic Proteins They Produce from the Laboratory to the Patient”. Registration fee is \$15 (includes lunch) is required by Monday, October 24, 2011. Student registration is free. Additional information about the symposium can be found at <http://tips.tamu.edu/seminar-series.html>.

Contact:

Ms. Marcia Wenck, mwenck@tamu.edu

Survey for Input/Ideas on Entrepreneurship and Research

A group of faculty-researchers and University administrators are currently seeking feedback on ways to promote a culture of entrepreneurship among the Texas A&M research community. Such a culture would help facilitate the movement of ideas into real-world application and the marketplace; offer a venue for sharing successes in these ventures; and assist faculty-researchers, students, and staff in all their commercial and social entrepreneurial pursuits. Campus-wide feedback is welcome. Simply complete the 5 brief questions in this online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RXBHX9W>. The survey will stay open through Wednesday, October 26, 2011. Additional entrepreneurial resources can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/entrepreneurship/mne>.

Contact Jason Whisenant, jwhisenant@tamu.edu

White House and NSF Announce New Workplace Flexibility Policies to Support America’s Scientists and Their Families

On September 26, 2011, the White House Office of the Press Secretary released a statement from the White House and the NSF to announce new workplace flexibility policies to support America’s scientists and their

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families. The full statement is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/26/white-house-and-national-science-foundation-announce-new-workplace-flexi>.

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:

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