



# Council of Principal Investigators

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Principal Investigators,

As a reminder, the November CPI meeting will be a closed executive session meeting for elected CPI members only (<http://cpi.tamu.edu/members>). The next open CPI meeting is December 14, 2011 (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 pm). The meeting agenda and materials will be available prior to the meeting on the CPI website at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI\\_12.14.11.pdf](http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_12.14.11.pdf).

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](mailto: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

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**CPI Newsletter – November 2011**  
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**Included in this issue are updates/information on:**

- Principal Investigator Survey
- Summary of October CPI Meeting
- October CPI Executive Committee Meeting with the President and Provost
- Summary of November CPI Executive Committee Meeting
- Preview of December CPI Meeting
- EPIK-Maestro Working Group Update
- Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)
- Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Conference
- New Monthly Workshops on Research Compliance
- PI-DISCUSS listserv to facilitate PI communication

## **Principal Investigator Survey**

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In an effort to gauge the interests of the researchers the members of the CPI have been elected to represent, the Council distributed a brief survey on November 4, 2011. The brief survey is available at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7QBW6VX>

Should you experience any technical issues with the survey, please contact the CPI Coordinator at [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or 979-574-4520 (cell).

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, [rwerger@cse.tamu.edu](mailto:rwerger@cse.tamu.edu)

## **Summary of October CPI Meeting**

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At the October CPI meeting, Dr. Jeffrey Seemann and Mr. Mark Smock provided a presentation and update on the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS). The presentation included organization charts, facts, and other information regarding the OSRS. Ms. Leonarda Horvat presented an update on the pre-award module in EPIK-Maestro and Dr. Terry Thomas provided an update on the OSRS PI/Faculty Advisory Committee. The October meeting video, materials, and presentation slides are available at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings>.

## **October CPI Executive Committee Meeting with the President and Provost**

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Due to scheduling conflicts, the CPI Executive Committee did not meet with the President and Provost in October. The CPI EC will resume monthly coordination meetings with the President and Provost in November.

## **Summary of November CPI Executive Committee Meeting**

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At the November CPI Executive Committee meeting, Dr. Peter Schuerman (OTC), Mr. Nick Chremos (OGC) and Dr. James Moore (IPCC Chair) discussed the current state of the A&M System IP policy; a summary of the changes made to the policy and the role of the Intellectual Property Constituent Committee. Dr. Lynne Opperman serves as the CPI representative on the IPCC and in coordination with the IPCC Chair, a summary of current IP issues will be included in the December CPI newsletter with a solicitation for feedback and comments from the PI community. Another IP issue that was discussed was regarding consulting and the Supreme Court case, *Stanford v. Roche* (<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/10pdf/09-1159.pdf>). The CPI EC will address these issues again at their December coordination meeting and determine an appropriate date to have a full presentation on these items to the full Council at a monthly meeting.

## **Preview of December CPI Meeting**

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The December meeting of the Council of Principal Investigators will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. in Rudder, 601. Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto is scheduled to present on human subjects in research and Dr. B. Don Russell is tentatively scheduled to provide a presentation on "The Academies – State of Membership at Texas A&M".

Contact:

Dr. Lawrence Rauchwerger, [rwerger@cse.tamu.edu](mailto:rwerger@cse.tamu.edu)

### **EPIK-Maestro Working Group Update**

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The EPIK-Maestro working group met on November 3, 2011. Leonarda Horvat, Chief Information Officer and Director of TEES Information Systems, presented a summary report to the Steering Committee and an update on the proposal implementation review.

Forty-five individuals representing Texas A&M University and six A&M System agencies participated in the training and testing phase of the pre-award module. The working group discussed the status of the module and made a few recommendations for improvement. The dashboard and its components were also presented and discussed. Other components of the pre-award module were presented including the routing process, as well as the role of PIs as dynamic entities versus static entities. A request was made by Leonarda Horvat to provide conditions to be added to the internal routing process. There was a consensus that the routing process should be sufficiently flexible to make the proposal pre-award functional. She asked for alternative scenarios which could be attempted as the software is being developed. We also discussed other pre-award critical components such as the IRB, compliances, and cost-sharing. The next EPIK-Maestro Working Group meeting has been scheduled for December 1, 2011.

Contact: Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, [a-lara@tamu.edu](mailto:a-lara@tamu.edu)

### **Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)**

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Dr. John L. Junkins, distinguished professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, has been named interim director of the Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS). Junkins was selected from a list of several individuals nominated by members of the TIAS Administrative Council and the college deans, who were invited to recommend distinguished faculty for the position. An outgrowth of the Academic Master Plan, TIAS was established to attract preeminent scholars for appointments as Faculty Fellows at Texas A&M. TIAS Faculty Fellows will engage Texas A&M faculty and students to enrich the intellectual climate, enhance research programs, and strengthen educational experiences across the university. Additional information on the Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/tias>.

### **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Conference**

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CPRIT has announced their second annual Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research conference, to be held November 15-17, 2011, at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, TX. The conference will feature plenary sessions with preeminent speakers from Texas and across the country who will be presenting pioneering cancer research and prevention program findings. Additional conference information can be found at <http://www.cprit.state.tx.us/about-cprit/annual-conference/>.

### **New Monthly Workshops on Research Compliance**

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As part of ongoing efforts to improve the services and tools available to PIs who conduct research with animals, biohazards, and human subjects, the Division of Research is offering a new series of monthly workshops to assist PIs with project-specific compliance needs. Open to all faculty, students, and staff seeking more information on Texas A&M's Human Subjects Protection Program, Animal Welfare Assurance Program, and Biosafety Program, the first session took place this Tuesday, November 8, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., in Room 101B of the General Service Complex.

Sessions are scheduled for the second week of every month through August 2012. The next two sessions will take place on the second Tuesdays of the month (December 13 and January 10) at the same time and location. Check the VPR calendar listings for the full schedule at [http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar\\_id=906&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100](http://calendar.tamu.edu/?calendar_id=906&upcoming=upcoming&limit=100).

Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety staff members will provide information on compliance programs, the review process, and required training; they will also be available to discuss and work with PIs on questions or needs related to specific research projects. The staff members for each of the programs work diligently to support the respective compliance committees (<http://vpr.tamu.edu/compliance/rcc>), so they are excellent resources for all compliance-related questions. Please do not hesitate to contact them (<http://rcb.tamu.edu/more/resourcehub/contactus>) about developing custom workshops for your department or college, or to consult with them any time by phone or email.

The primary goal with these and other recent compliance-related initiatives is to help ensure the protection of human and animal subjects involved in research; the safety of faculty, staff, and students who conduct research; and the welfare of the public--while at the same time facilitating the capacity of PIs to carry out their research/scholarship. The ongoing training sessions (<http://rcb.tamu.edu/training>), new website (<http://rcb.tamu.edu/>), and other online resources (such as the Self-Assessment for Human Subjects Research - [http://rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects/resources/pi\\_selfassessment\\_humansubjectsresearch](http://rcb.tamu.edu/humansubjects/resources/pi_selfassessment_humansubjectsresearch)) were developed to deliver the tools and information necessary for PIs to remain compliant with federal, state, and University requirements.

### **PI-DISCUSS Listserv for PI Communication**

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The CPI has set up a listserv [PI-DISCUSS@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:amato@tamu.edu)