



Council of Principal
Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – July 2010

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Preview of August 11, 2010 CPI Meeting

Presentations currently planned for the August 11, 2010 CPI meeting include:

- An Update on the Budget Situation
Dr. Karan Watson, Interim Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs, Texas A&M
 - A Panel Discussion on Multidisciplinary Research at Texas A&M
Currently confirmed panelists include: Dr. Deborah Bell-Pederson, Professor, Biology, and Dr. Dimitris Lagoudas, Professor and Head, Aerospace Engineering
 - A presentation on Export Controls and Research Compliance,
Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, Executive Associate Vice President for Administration and Legal Affairs/Chief of Staff, Division of Research and Graduate Studies
- The agenda including any updates will be posted on the CPI website as they become available.

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PI-DISCUSS listserv established to facilitate 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. The list is not private. Anyone can sign on or signoff the list by following the

instructions below. We have initially populated the list with the PIs, but after this we anticipate that people will sign on or off the list on their own. 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>

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Research Administration Shared Services (RASS): Consultant's PI Survey

As reported in the June 2010 CPI newsletter (http://cpi.tamu.edu/6.10_news), Schaefer & Company was selected to assist in an evaluation of research administration within The Texas A&M University System. As part of this process, Schaefer & Company has been asked to conduct a survey of research faculty to ask for ideas and perspectives on how pre- and post-award research administration can be improved from both an organizational and operating efficiency perspective.

This survey represents an opportunity for Principal Investigators to provide input regarding current pre- and post-award services and ideas on how they could be improved. The survey has been pre-tested with a group of CPI participants. It should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Links to the SurveyMonkey survey have been sent to research faculty on July 8, 2010. Principal Investigators are encouraged to participate and complete the survey before the July 19, 2010 deadline.

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Update on Biosafety Advisory Committee

The Biosafety Advisory Committee met on June 30, 2010. VPRGS Dr. Seemann informed the committee about the open forums he had with faculty members in a couple of colleges in June. He emphasized the need to continue engagement with faculty and staff to clear any existing misunderstanding with regard to the role of the Office of Biosafety and the IBC in decision making, and to educate them about university requirements regarding compliance. Associate VPR Dr. Scholtz gave an update on the activities of the BSL 3 Task force which has met twice since inception in April. Based on request from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and AgriLife Research, the taskforce has included a need to significantly expand current BSL 2 facilities, including specialized BSL 2 facilities for animal research including livestock and companion animals.

Dr. Bruce Whitney, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance, presented an overview of the functioning of the biosafety office (BSO) including coordination of activities with Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). He addressed several broad queries compiled by BAC members and encouraged the members to attend the IBC meeting in order to get a deeper insight into the complexity of the issues being dealt with and to better understand how the IBC is handling them. Two to three college representatives will be invited to the next BAC meeting to get an array of views from the PIs in these colleges. The goal will be to identify past or existing deficiencies/problems and invite suggestions to improve them.

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Update on Laboratory Safety Advisory Committee

Dr. Mary Bryk, a COALS representative on the CPI, has become a member of the Laboratory Safety Committee, replacing Dr. Lisa Campbell. The goal of this committee is to evaluate safety hazards and safety practices in laboratories across the TAMU College Station campus. The committee also evaluates the mechanisms used to increase student awareness of the potential hazards and safety practices in teaching laboratory classes.

Our colleagues at the University of Missouri reported an explosion within a biochemistry research laboratory on Monday, June 28, 2010. Little is known at this time about the chain of events leading up to the explosion, which involved hydrogen gas; however, the American Chemical Society's Web page has an article detailing the extent of injuries and damages

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/88/i27/8827news3.html>.

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Update on Export Controls Task Force (ECTF)

The Export Controls Task Force (ECTF) was formed in January 2009 and was charged with developing TAMU policies, rules & procedures for ensuring compliance with federal export control laws. As reported previously, the Task Force drafted an Export Control regulation that was approved by the Board of Regents at their September 2009 meeting.

<http://www.tamus.edu/offices/policy/policies/pdf/15-02.pdf>.

The Task Force Chair, Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, has conducted export control presentations to faculty groups across campus and is scheduled to present to the CPI on August 11, 2010. Principal Investigators are encouraged to review the draft university export control rule.

http://cpi.tamu.edu/export_draft.

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Updated Rule on EHS and Office of Biosafety

As distributed in the July 1, 1010 Distribution List A message, "University rule and SAP update", <https://listserv.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A1=ind1007a&L=dist-a>, the Office of Biosafety now shares a dual role with EHS as a responsible office on this rule and was added throughout to reflect their role. Biosafety provides services to protect pathogen and animal users from biological hazards. Other revisions state responsibilities, clarify programs, and list various approved University safety manuals. See <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/24.01.01.M4.pdf>.

The JoAnn Treat Research Excellence Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 JoAnn Treat Research Excellence Award established by the Texas A&M Research Foundation. Candidates should be leaders in their field, their research should have a dramatic impact on their discipline(s), their research should be conducted through the Research Foundation, and they must be at least 41 years of age by December 31, 2010. Nominations are due August 27, 2010. For additional information, including eligibility requirements, please see:

<http://rf-web.tamu.edu/ngeneral/JAT%20Award/JAT%20Memo%202010.pdf>.

Contact:

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Dr. James Elliott Named Executive Director of CMP

Following a nationwide search, Dr. James Elliott has been selected as the executive director for the Comparative Medicine Program in the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. The appointment is effective August 1, 2010. The executive director for the Comparative Medicine Program holds primary responsibility for the program of animal care and use for Texas A&M University which acts as a supportive resource to all campus departments and provides professional services and consultation in matters relating to the use of animals, including recommendations for appropriate use of animals in teaching and research.

Dr. Elliott is from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where he has served as the director of the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources for the past four years. He has 19 years of experience that includes work as the chief inspector on an international inspection team with the United Nations in 1998. He also served as the agricultural advisor to the Multi-National Corps - Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from March of 2007 to March of 2008. Dr. Elliott earned his bachelor's degree in animal science and his doctor of veterinary medicine, both from Colorado State University. He is board certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and is a retired U.S. Army Colonel.

Transitions and Appointments at The Texas A&M University System

Mr. Brett Cornwell has been appointed associate vice chancellor for commercialization for The Texas A&M University System. He previously served as the system's director of commercialization services. In his new role, Mr. Cornwell will direct the Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC). The OTC works to commercialize the intellectual property of the Texas A&M System and to create new companies that develop products and services around system-developed technologies. See the following for more information:

<http://tamunews.tamu.edu/2010/07/01/cornwell-named-associate-vice-chancellor-for>

Mr. Mark M. Ellison, former associate vice chancellor for economic development for The Texas A&M University System has been named director for corporate relations for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES). The appointment was effective June 1. Mr. Ellison will serve as the primary point of contact for industry members interested in developing

collaborative projects with TEES and work to develop new relationships. See the following for more information:

<http://engineering.tamu.edu/news/2010/06/10/mark-m-ellison-named-director-for-corporate-relations-for-tees/>.