



Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – February 2016
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Update from Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymenis, CPI Chair

In January, the CPI general meeting was a closed meeting to allow for a discussion among CPI representatives of new and ongoing issues affecting research on campus. The general issues and concerns that we discussed included the establishment of two new CPI committees (Comprehensive Campaign Committee (C3) , and Graduate Education Committee, tentatively named), ongoing developments at Sponsored Research Services, issues of morale, and concerns regarding Buy A&M (BAM).

Regarding the establishment of the CPI special committees, nominations have been solicited and accepted by the CPI leadership since December. Dr. James Batteas, CPI Vice Chair and Professor of Chemistry, will lead the establishment of the C3 committee – charged with providing recommendations on cross-cutting research areas where investments would have a broad impact on the research enterprise at TAMU. Dr. Teresa Wilcox, CPI EC member and Professor of Psychology, will lead the establishment of the Graduate Education committee- charged with outlining areas where investments in graduate education would have high impact. I expect these committees to work swiftly to answer their charges.

Progress at Sponsored Research Services (SRS) continues. Four candidates have been interviewed for the leadership position at SRS, and I am confident that a new leader can be rapidly successfully recruited. The TSOC (Transition Operation Services Committee) continues to meet twice monthly, to develop recommendations for improving services at SRS. If you, or Principal Investigators in your unit, continue to experience issues with SRS services, I urge you to contact me or Dr. B. Don Russell (Transitional Facilitator at SRS), and we will do our best to assist you in coming to a resolution. If you or a Principal Investigator in your unit is the beneficiary of great service from SRS staff- I urge you show your appreciation for excellent service directly to that individual and to SRS leadership. As Principal Investigators, accustomed to a barrage of negative reinforcement, we sometimes forget how big a difference a few words of positive reinforcement can make!

Guests for the CPI General meeting in February will be Dr. Glen Laine, to provide an update on goings on in the Division of Research, as well as Mr. Gary Barnes and Ms. Carol Cantrell. Mr. Barnes and Ms. Cantrell will explain Buy A&M (BAM), outline a description of common ways of ordering items, and answer PI questions and concerns regarding this system. In January, the CPI conducted a brief survey regarding use of Buy A&M. The responses to this survey suggested that in the units where BAM has been instituted, some faculty are experiencing issues ordering items, and experiencing delays in delivery of ordered items. In my discussions with research active faculty from different parts of campus, I have also learned that there is a variable awareness of different methodologies for ordering items (for example) on sponsored projects. I hope that presentations at the February CPI General meeting regarding BAM bring us to some level of shared understanding regarding the different methodologies for ordering items for sponsored projects. My goal is really to help PIs navigate the ordering process (whether outside or inside of BAM) so that research can proceed unimpeded.

As always, thank you for your continuous participation, providing feedback, and attending CPI meetings! You continue to provide very valuable input on the research environment, gathered from your colleagues and units. The CPI Executive Committee and I work diligently to bring issues, concerns and suggestions regarding improvements to the research environment to the attention of the administration. Please feel free to alert us to any issues or concerns you may have regarding research at cpi@tamu.edu or email/call me directly at handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu or 979.436.0340.

CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summary

The CPI EC met for its monthly coordination meeting on February 3, 2016 with invited guest were administrators from the Provost Office, Dean of Faculties Office, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and TEES.

Dr. Andrews-Polymeris, who continues to serve and represent CPI on the SRS Transition and Services Operations Committee (TSOC), reported the TSOC committee continues to meet to assist with implementing recommendations on improvements where identified.

Dr. Loren Skow provided the CPI-EC Committee an update on the progress of the search for a new Executive Director at SRS. Five competitive candidates have been interviewed for this position and invited on-campus. The CPI-EC members and distinguished faculty have been among the groups that have been involved in the interview processes.

Dr. Penny Riggs provided the committee with an update on the Research Development Fund-Advisory Committee (RDF-AC) reported that the Spring 2016 deadlines for summary submissions are Monday, February 15, 2016. Dr. Riggs noted to visit the RDF website at rdf@tamu.edu for all submission guidelines and templates.

The CPI EC had invited guests from the Dean of Faculties and Provost offices that are part of the Provost's Task Force on Faculty Evaluation and Post-Tenure Review. Dr. Michal Benedik and Dr. Blanca Lupiani met to solicit feedback on their committee's post-tenure review working document. CPI-EC will have future discussions with this Task Force as they finish meeting with other faculty groups and recommendations are compiled in their working document.

Based on the Buy A&M (BAM) issues brought forward at the January CPI meeting and the comments and examples received from the CPI-BAM survey, the CPI-EC invited Ms. Carol Cantrell and Mr. Gary Barnes to come to the executive meeting and to present at the CPI General Meeting in February.

Dr. Glen Laine provided a Division of Research update to the CPI EC and it was recommended that he provide an overview for all CPI members during the February 10, 2016 meeting.

Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto provided information on the upcoming Spring Symposium that is being sponsored by the Division of Research. A Spring Symposium flier is attached to the back of this newsletter or you can view online at <http://rcb.tamu.edu/iris/RDSSpringEventFinal.jpg>.

Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (IPCC), Victor Ugaz

Below is a summary of items discussed at the January 28 meeting of the IPCC:

Outcome and recommendations of audit. The TAMUS Internal Audit Department recently completed a review of the Texas A&M System Technology Commercialization (TTC) office to assess compliance with System Policy 17.01 *Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization*. Areas reviewed included internal procedures associated with intellectual property disclosures, license agreements, revenue distribution, new venture due diligence, reporting, committees, outside counsel accounts receivable, and cash handling. The audit period focused primarily on activities from June 2014 to May 2015. Key recommendations from the audit team are summarized below.

- Ensuring that the expectations, needs, and processes of the TTC are aligned with the System Policy. Specific areas for improvement include timeliness of royalty revenue distributions, timeliness and accuracy of required semi-annual reports, due diligence procedures for new ventures (periodic review of business venture progress and resubmission of minimum requirements, delegation of financial disclosure documentation procedures), and the composition and meeting frequency of the Intellectual Property Oversight Committee (IPOC).
- Accounts receivable (AR) processes. Specific areas for improvement include timing of past due notices for unpaid receivables, coordination with the Office of General Counsel to determine if delinquent accounts can be written off, and standardization of the manner in which collection attempts are documented.
- Payments to outside counsel. Specific areas for improvement include ensuring that payments are made within a state-mandated 30-day time window.

The TTC management has reviewed the input from the audit team and is taking actions to address issues noted in the review. In addition to improvements in internal processes, a review of System Policy 17.01 is underway with the goal of simplifying and clarifying the policy to ensure that it reflects the expectations, needs, and processes of the TTC and its customers. The proposed timeline involves submission of the proposed system policy revisions to President Young/Dr. Strawser for review by February 5, routing to the CPI, IPCC, Member Campuses and IPOC Members by February 15 with one month for responses and another month to incorporate the feedback, after which the final draft will be submitted for IPOC approval by April 16. The approved documents will then be routed for System-level review and approval by May 1, with a goal of consideration for approval during the November 2016 Board of Regents meeting.

The IPCC discussed whether the proposed timeline was sufficient to allow all stakeholders to review the audit results and provide input. The committee recommended communicating a request to extend the timeline by 3-4 weeks to enable stakeholders to review the audit results and provide feedback regarding potential policy revisions prior to submission of the draft document to President Young/Dr. Strawser.

Royalty income from Trinity guardrail products. Sales of Trinity guardrail products have now resumed. However, volume will likely build gradually as the new products are adopted, potentially placing some pressure on the TTC operating budget in the near term.

The second annual Texas A&M New Ventures Competition will be held on May 19, 2016. The competition is open to all Texas-based companies seeking to bring a new or enhanced technology to the marketplace. Participant companies must be technology- or science-focused independent ventures in the pre-seed/seed, start-up or early growth stages. Applications are being accepted through March 2. Please visit <http://www.texasnvc.org> for more information.

Texas A&M University's Research Compliance Update, Katherine Rojo del Busto

OHRP educational workshop March 1

Researchers and staff are invited to register and attend a one-day educational workshop co-sponsored by the HHS Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) & The Texas A&M University System, "Challenges in IRB Review of Social, Behavioral, and Educational Research".

Advanced registration is required to attend, and when the workshop is full, no additional registrations will be allowed. The cost for the event is \$40.

The workshop will be held, Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the Texas A&M University Campus.

To register, visit the website: <http://www.tamus.edu/research/2016-ohrp-educational-workshop/>

For additional questions, contact *Contact Dr. Viola Luo at violaluo@tamus.edu*.

Spring Research Compliance Event March 24

You are encouraged to attend the Division of Research Spring Symposium, on March 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Memorial Student Center. This year's theme is "Promoting Excellence in Research". The sessions and workshops will deliver useful, practical information intended to enhance research and provide practical solutions and best practices to the research community.

The Impact of Choice on Compliance Rates

Sean Kaufman, CEO and Founding Partner, Behavioral-Based Improvement Solutions

Caring for Bentley - Ebola Patient's Dog

Debra L. Zoran, D.V.M., Ph.D. Professor and Operations Supervisor Texas A&M VET Department of SA Clinical Sciences

Wesley Bissett, D.V.M., Ph.D. Associate Professor and Director, Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team Luncheon Speaker and Presentation

Realities and Possibilities in Internet Research:

Elizabeth A. Buchanan, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin – Stout

Going Global: Passport to Research Success (panel)

Learn how researchers have successfully addressed research compliance issues without jeopardizing global partnerships and collaborations.

What University Researchers Need to Know About US Export Controls

Lawrence W. Hanson, Attorney at Law, The Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C., Houston, Texas

Attendees are eligible to win one of five activity trackers. There is no cost for the event, but an RSVP is kindly requested.

For more information on our sessions and speakers, including a time schedule, please visit our event page: <http://rcb.tamu.edu/spring>.

Also, please download the event flyer and share it with your colleagues: <http://rcb.tamu.edu/iris/RDSSpringEventFinal.jpg>

To RSVP today: outreachrcb@tamu.edu.

Research Development Fund - Advisory Committee Update, Penny Riggs

The Research Development Fund Advisory Committee (RDF-AC) will proceed with two application dates per year. For the next round (Spring 2016), application summaries are due February 15, and complete applications are due March 11. The application template, RFA, and other information are available at rdf.tamu.edu.

Questions should be directed to rdf@tamu.edu or to (979) 862-9166.

Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi

The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society has issued a call for nominations for the Outstanding Distinguished Scientist Award, Outstanding Science Communicator Award, and Outstanding Science or Math Teacher Awards for elementary school, middle school and high school. Nominations are open through Feb. 13, 2016.

Winners will be recognized at the Sigma Xi Awards Banquet scheduled for the spring of 2016. In addition, winners will each receive a cash prize and a plaque from Sigma Xi commemorating their achievements.

For Award nomination information, visit <http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/awards>.
Contact information: sigmaxi@tamu.edu

For Membership Nominations (Self-nomination is appropriate), please complete the nomination form found at <http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/membership>

Sigma Xi is an international, chapter-based organization dedicated to nurturing the research enterprise in all fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Unique among scientific honor societies, Sigma Xi has a broad outlook that spans the spectrum of science and technology and is committed to the core values that unite across disciplinary boundaries. For more information about Sigma Xi, visit <http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu>.

Research Development Services (RDS)

Research Development Services (RDS) and Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will be hosting four informational sessions with Q&A regarding new policies and revised organization and content of grant applications required by NSF and NIH in 2016. Brief presentations will highlight the changes, and

investigators will have a chance to have their questions answered by representatives and proposal administrators from RDS and SRS.

Locations and Times of the four sessions are:

- 1) TAMHSC Bryan campus*
HPEB Rm LL46
March 1, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- 2) TAMU Rudder Tower
Rm 301
March 2, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 3) College of Veterinary Medicine*
Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) 101
March 9, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- 4) Agriculture and Life Sciences Building
Room, Date, and Time – TBA

(*TTVN availability planned.)

For links to useful information and summary documents regarding the 2016 NSF and NIH policy and grant application changes, please visit

<http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/proposal-development-resources>

Research Development Services Contacts:

Dr. Christina Papke, Research Development Officer, cpapke@tamu.edu, 979-458-1861

Dr. John Ivy, Senior Research Development Officer, johnivy@tamu.edu, 979-458-4280

Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

The link to the GPG (NSF 16-1) can be located at:

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf16001/gpg_index.jsp

The complete **Summary of Significant Changes** can be located

at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf16001/sigchanges.jsp>

To assist you in preparing your NSF proposals, SRS has developed a Tip Sheet that can found at:

<http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/proposal-development-resources>

Sponsored Research Services Contact:

Dr. Jim Joyce, Associate Executive Director – jrjoyce@tamu.edu, 979-458-5852

Student Research Week

The Graduate and Professional Student Council's 19th annual Student Research Week (SRW) is now accepting registration forms for competitors, volunteers, and judges through **February 26, 2016 at midnight**.

We invite members of the Council of Principal Investigators to consider registering to judge, and ask that you pass this information along to your undergraduate and graduate students to consider registering to compete.

First place winners in each subject area receive a \$300 cash prize, with other special prizes available up to \$1,000!

Student Research Week will be held **March 28th-April 1st, 2016**. Closing ceremony will be April 4th at 2:30 PM

in the ILSB 1105 Auditorium. The mission of SRW is to recognize and celebrate student research at Texas A&M University, showcasing the excellence and broad range of this research to the University community each spring semester.

To access each registration form, please click on one of the links below or go to our website at www.srw.tamu.org.

[Student Research Week Competitor Registration Form](#)
[Student Research Week Volunteer Registration Form](#)
[Student Research Week Judges Registration Form](#)

If you need additional information, please contact Marisa Biondi, President, Graduate and Professional Student at gscpresident@tamu.edu.

Healthy Aging Research Interest Group and Listserv

The Healthy Aging Research Interest group held an inaugural Open Forum and Networking Event on December 9, 2015. A second event will be held in late Spring 2016. Details will be posted on the Healthy Aging Research Interest Group webpage at https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging as they become available.

Investigators interested in the topic of aging are encouraged to join the group's listserv at https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging_Listserv. Questions may also be addressed to Dr. Christina Papke, research development officer in the Division of Research, at cpapke@tamu.edu.

ADVANCE Center

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND - *Engaging the Data: Are we ADVANCE-ing?*

Presentations by the ADVANCE Leadership Team with remarks by President Young, Provost Watson, Vice President for Diversity Stanley, and Interim Dean of Faculties Lupiani

Findings from the ADVANCE Program and the 2015 Faculty Climate Survey will be shared

Thursday, February 18, 2016 - 11AM – 2PM at the MSC Bethancourt Ballroom A

[RSVP HERE](#) for the Come-and-Go as Your Schedule Allows, Lunch Provided - **Click here for [Agenda](#)**

Topics Addressed

Faculty Retention, Salary, Promotion, and Tenure, Workplace Climate, Student Evaluations
Women in Academic Leadership, Dual-Career Faculty, Advancing Women Faculty of Color and more

For additional information contact **Christine Kaunas**, Director of ADVANCE Center – ckaunas@tamu.edu or telephone 979.845.1197

Sign up for notifications about Limited Submission Proposal opportunities

The list of current Limited Submission Proposal (LSP) opportunities, maintained by the Division of Research, is available at <https://u.tamu.edu/LSP>.

To receive notifications about new LSP opportunities as soon as they are announced, email Ms. Shelly Martin at shelly.martin@tamu.edu.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators – Issued weekly by the Division of Research, Texas A&M University

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University issues a brief weekly bulletin for Principal Investigators that highlights research accomplishments and projects, funding opportunities, honors and promotions, workshops, and other items that may be of interest to the PI community.

[Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin. [Click here](#) to submit items for consideration for an upcoming bulletin.

Upcoming Seminars and Workshops for Texas A&M Researchers

The Division of Research (DOR) offers seminars and workshops throughout the year relating to professional development in research proposal planning and writing. All of these events are coordinated by [Research Development Services \(RDS\)](#), a DOR unit providing a wide range of support to Texas A&M researchers. The new RDS calendar can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/calendars>.

Promoting Excellence in Research



We're giving away
5 activity trackers!

**Thursday,
March 24, 2016**

MSC Rooms 2300

The Impact of Choice on Compliance Rates

Sean Kaufman

CEO and Founding Partner
Behavioral-Based Improvement Solutions
Woodstock, Georgia

8:30–10:00 a.m.

Caring for Bentley—Ebola Patient's Dog

Debra L. Zoran, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Diplomate, ACVIM
Professor and Chief of Small Animal Internal Medicine
Department of Veterinary Small Animal Clinical Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

Wesley Bissett, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Director
Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Texas A&M University

10:15–11:45 a.m.

Luncheon Speaker and Presentation: Realities and Possibilities in Internet Research

Elizabeth A. Buchanan, Ph.D.

Interim Director
Research Services
University of Wisconsin-Stout

12:00–2:00 p.m.

RSVP to outreachrcb@tamu.edu
or call 979–458–1467

Going Global

Passport to Research Success (Panel)

Learn how researchers have successfully addressed research compliance issues without jeopardizing global partnerships and collaborations.

2:15–3:45 p.m.

What University Researchers Need to Know About US Export Controls

Lawrence W. Hanson

Attorney at Law
The Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C.
Houston, Texas

4–5:00 p.m.