



Council of Principal Investigators

CPI Newsletter – October 2016

Included in this issue:

- Update from Dr. James Batteas, CPI Chair
- Council for the Built Environment Update
- Women Grad Students — Deadline for Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Award Nominations
- Research Compliance and Biosafety
- NIH and AHRQ Policy Changes Affecting Grant Proposal Requirements, Forms, and Review Criteria
- MAESTRO Update
- Office of Scholarly Communications
- Statistical Collaboration Center Services
- Research Development Services (RDS)
- Seeking Input for Ideas for Engineering Frontier in Research and Innovation (EFRI)
- Developing SBIR/STTR Proposals to the Department of Defense
- Sponsored Research Services (SRS)
- Sign Up For Notifications About Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
- Office of Government Relations Update
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators



Update from Dr. James Batteas, CPI Chair

Dear Colleagues-

I would like to provide you with a brief update on the activities of the CPI and the CPI-EC over the past month. In September we met in closed session to go over our primary agenda items for CPI for the coming academic year. These include: 1) interdisciplinary research programs; 2) core research facilities and 3) the continued efforts on the reduction of administrative burdens on the principal investigator. To this end, let me provide you with an update on progress in each of these areas over the past month.

Last week we heard from President Young on the state of the university and on initiatives he plans for TAMU moving forward. Importantly under the topic of Interdisciplinary Programs, Young has suggested the formation of cross-cutting schools and programs that will aid in reducing barriers to interdisciplinary research and education and has expressed his desire to see more transformational learning at TAMU. Here I feel that CPI can dramatically impact these goals by providing unique platforms for more integrated research and educational experiences for our students. We will meet with President Young to discuss this and what is anticipated for TAMU with the upcoming state budget cycle.

On the core facilities side, we are in the process of making a major overhaul of the Microscopy and Imaging Center (MIC). The Executive Advisory Committee on Core Facilities (EAC-CF), chaired by Dr. Costas Georghiades, and comprised of a sub-set of the URC Deans (Dr. Narasimha Reddy, COE, Dr. Van Wilson, COM, Dr. Mike Hall, COS, Dr. Alan Sams, COALS, and Dr. Jack Baldauf, GEOS), has appointed a new committee, the MIC Capabilities Review Committee (MIC-CRC). This committee is charged with evaluating the current state of the MIC and to develop a plan for improvements in the facility to enhance its capabilities for the TAMU research community. Dr. Georghiades also reported to the CPI-EC on the work of the Small Animal Imaging Committee, chaired by Dr. Clare Gill. A major outcome put forward by this committee is the proposed formation of a Texas A&M Institute of Imaging Sciences, so stay tuned.

Also in the area of core research facilities, the Research Development Fund Round 4 received 13 new applications for improvements in research infrastructure. The RDF Advisory Committee (RDF-AC) will take up review of these applications over the next several weeks. On the recommendations of the CPI-EC, I have appointed two new members to the RDF Advisory Committee, Dr. Micah Green from Chemical Engineering and Dr. Steve DiMarco from Geosciences. These members replace me (Dr. James Batteas) and Dr. Christi Madsen and I want to thank them for agreeing to serve on this committee. Both will serve a minimum 1 year term on the RDF-AC. Lastly, the Texas A&M Mass Spectrometry Collaborative Core Steering Committee (being chaired by Dr. François Gabbai) is continuing to meet and will provide the RDF-AC and the CPI with an initial assessment and development plan by the end of October.

On the administrative side, the federal regulation on PostDoc salaries was discussed at the CPI-EC meeting. As you are aware, effective December 1, 2016 postdocs making less than \$47,476 will be required to complete timesheets, while those above this federally established minimum salary level will be exempted from the in excess of 40-hour rule. Each college dean and unit on campus have had representation on the working committee for these regulations so there may be different options for adhering to this federal mandate across colleges and units. It was communicated by Ms. Annette Shenkir and Dr. Narasimha Reddy that PIs should visit with their department head and/or college dean to learn what procedures have been put in place for the December 1, 2016 new federal regulation implementation.

Lastly, Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, Associate Vice President for Research, provided a brief update to the CPI-EC on the Division of Research regarding Texas A&M's Export Controls audit that was received. Ms. Rojo del Busto and her team are reviewing the audit findings and would like us to let you know that a new equipment survey is in the works to aid in following the export control requirements. The audit report must be completed by

June 2017, and she will be enlisting CPI's assistance as they begin working on this report. More information to come as this audit report gets drafted.

As always, your input remains critical in our efforts to improve the research environment. This is best accomplished by contacting the CPI Representatives for your college, department or unit, which can be found on the CPI website at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership>. You can contact us at cpi@tamu.edu or email/call me directly at batteas@chem.tamu.edu or 979.458.2965.

Council for the Built Environment Update

Dr. James Grau became a CPI voting member for the Council of the Built Environment (CBE) beginning September 1, 2016, and his term will continue to August 2017. Dr. Victor Ugaz is the newest voting representative on the CBE, and he will serve a two-year term that ends August 31, 2018. For more information on the Council, go to <http://bce.tamu.edu>.

Women Grad Students – Deadline for Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Award Nominations

Wednesday, October 26th, is the last day to nominate outstanding women graduate students for the Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Awards organized by Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at Texas A&M. These awards are given to honor the memory of Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui, a founding member of the WISE organization and a leader in enhancing women's presence in science and technology fields.

The Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Award for Mentoring was established to recognize women graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and research staff who take action to encourage and support women graduate students. Recipients may be peer or faculty-nominated. The Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Award for Research was established to recognize women graduate students who have demonstrated excellence in research. Recipients of this award may be self or faculty-nominated.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony hosted by the College of Science and in conjunction with the Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui Memorial Lecture.

Award recipients will receive a \$500 monetary award, certificate, and plaque. Nomination criteria and form are available at outreach.science.tamu.edu/ethel.php and should be returned by 5 p.m. October 26th to Room 517 Blocker. For more information about these awards, contact Educational Outreach and Women's Programs at outreach@science.tamu.edu or by phone at 845-7363.

Research Compliance and Biosafety

2016 Controlled Substances Disposal Event - Oct. 25

Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) will be hosting a one-time event aimed at offering immediate assistance with disposal of expired or unwanted controlled substances. The event will be held at EHS in 1111 Research Parkway (Bldg. 1602) in room 126, on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

DEA Registrants needing to dispose of controlled substances need to do so in keeping with federal regulations (21 CFR 1317). To assist Registrants with this, Environmental Health & Safety is hosting a one-day event. A Reverse Distributor will be invited to campus to facilitate the disposal of Controlled Substances.

****New this year****The vendor would like to receive a copy of the completed destruction form before the event (email outreachrcb@tamu.edu for the form if needed).

Send completed form to Sharps by October 21 to Rachel Harris (rharris@sharpsinc.com).

HHS and NIH Announce New Initiatives to Enhance Availability of Clinical Trial Information

In September, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a new regulation and the NIH has issued a new policy to increase the availability of information about clinical trials. The HHS [Final Rule](#) describes requirements for registering and submitting summary results information for certain clinical trials to [ClinicalTrials.gov](#). A complimentary [NIH policy](#) that applies to all clinical trials funded by NIH, regardless of whether they are subject to the Final Rule was also published today. The Final NIH Policy was also published in the [NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#). <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/summary-hhs-nih-initiatives-enhance-availability-clinical-trial-information>

IBC Amendment Form Update

The Biosafety Program recently updated the IBC Amendment form, and researchers must attach an updated application reflecting the changes requested in the amendment. This is allow the researcher's application to remain up to date, which will greatly simplify their three-year renewal experience.

Biological Safety Cabinet Reminder

The annual certification of Biological Safety Cabinets is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator.

NIH and AHRQ Policy Changes Affecting Grant Proposal Requirements, Forms, and Review Criteria

All investigators preparing grant applications to the National Institutes of Health or the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, please remember that new policies affecting proposal content and review were implemented earlier this year. The policy changes affect multiple areas:

- Rigor and Transparency,
- New PHS Assignment Request Form,
- Biosketch Clarifications,
- New Font Guidelines,
- Research Training and Research Training Tables,
- Vertebrate Animals,
- Inclusion Forms for research involving human subjects,
- Definition of a Child,
- Data Safety Monitoring Plans for clinical trials, and
- Appendix Policy (now on hold).

[NOT-OD-16-004](#) summarizes the changes and provides links to primary notices that describe each change in detail.

Accompanying the changes are new [Forms Version-D and Application Guide](#) and [Biosketch and other application forms](#).

Addressing Rigor and Transparency (R&T) in your proposal probably is the broadest and most significant change and comprises multiple components. The new R&T policy requires that the applicant

- Address *scientific premise* in the Significance section,
- Address *scientific rigor* in the Approach section,
- Consider *relevant biological variables* in the Approach section, and
- Include a new attachment, *Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources*.

The requirement to consider relevant biological variables includes using both sexes in studies involving animals and humans. Strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations must be provide when proposing study of only one sex.

NIH has provided extensive information on R&T on its [Research Training](#) pages and at the [Office for Extramural Research](#). These pages contain (or provides links to) definitions, guidelines, [application instructions](#), [training videos](#), [examples](#) of addressing rigor in successful proposals, [reviewer guidance](#) on assessing rigor and transparency, links to OER Director blogs on the topic, discussions in the scientific literature, etc.

Maestro Update

Dr. Ulisses Braga-Neto, CPI Representative for the Maestro Steering Committee attended the Maestro Researcher Working Group meeting on October 3 and provided a summary of the Maestro team's presentation. The Maestro design team is shaping the vision for Phase 4 of the Maestro Light project- to simplify and enhance the system with delivery of a new landing page - the **Researcher Dashboard**. The working group, chaired by Dr. Penny Riggs, is working with the design team to define components of the dashboard. The dashboard will prioritize the most important messages including outstanding worklist items. Proposed Dashboard components include, but are not limited to:

- A list of proposals in development that are approaching a deadline
- Self-created proposals will notify to release to SRS when nearing deadline date
- Account dashboard that notifies requested activity that is not allowed, account terminating in 90 days with outstanding balance, and spending rates
- Lists showing inactive personnel on a project, compliance expiring or not approved yet, deliverables due or past due, and proposal statistics for researchers

Please send your suggestions on what to include on the dashboard to Dr. Riggs (riggs@tamu.edu) or contact the Maestro team at maestro@tamu.edu.

Maestro Roadshow – Fall 2016

The Maestro training team is dedicating time this fall to the “Maestro Roadshow” where trainers will be traveling to interested departments for personalized researcher training. If you would find this valuable for you department just send your request to maestro@tamu.edu . You can also sign up to attend Maestro regular training classes listed under About Maestro->Training-> Scheduled Classes, and learn many tips and trick that may save time.

Office of Scholarly Communications

Funding Databases Available Through the University Libraries

The library has three databases that can be used to identify funding (below). All are accessible through the Library Search window, after clicking on databases: <http://library.tamu.edu/search/databases.html>

Foundation Directory Online

Foundation Directory Online is the nation's leading online funding research tool, developed by the Foundation Center, a national nonprofit service organization founded over 50 years ago to help open U.S. foundations to public view. Over the past half-century we have evolved from one small library into philanthropy's information hub.

Pivot

Pivot includes COS Funding Opportunities and COS Expertise. It gives Research Administrators, Research Development Professionals, and their institutions the edge to bring together the right research opportunities, funding, and people quickly and easily. It provides global and local connections that strengthen research by exploring new avenues for funding and collaboration for faculty, staff researchers, and graduate students.

Herbert, Bruce (2015). Instructions on Setting up a Search in Pivot. Available electronically from <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/154919>.

PrivCo

PrivCo is the premiere source for business and financial data on major, non-publicly traded corporations, including family owned, private equity owned, venture-backed, and international unlisted companies. This database currently contains information on over 230,000 firms and are adding information and analysis daily. This database is searchable by advanced criteria whether doing company, investor, M&A, venture capital funding, or private equity research.

Statistical Collaboration Center Services

The [Statistical Collaboration Center \(SCC\)](#) is collaborative service operated by faculty from the Department of Statistics which provides statistical advice to other faculty members at Texas A&M University. The SCC provides support in research planning, experimental design, statistical modeling and analysis, and statistical methods development. For additional information and to submit a Statistics Consulting Inquiry Form, please visit their web page.

[\[http://www.stat.tamu.edu/consulting-collaboration-center/\]](http://www.stat.tamu.edu/consulting-collaboration-center/)

Research Development Services (RDS)

Division of Research Calendar of Events

The Division of Research invites you to visit their [Upcoming Events At A Glance webpage](#) that lists professional development opportunities and research interest group events for the upcoming academic year. URL: <http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/calendars/upcoming-events>

New Research Interest Group Announced – Microbiota

The Division of Research is pleased to announce a new research interest group (RIG) – the Microbiota Research Interest Group. This group welcomes all researchers interested in microbial communities in the broadest sense, including impact on human and animal health and disease, ecological and agricultural microbiomes, meta-omics and bioinformatics, and novel intersections with microbiota. Organizers are Dr. Robert Alaniz, director of Core for Integrated Microbiota Research (CIMR), director of Cell Analysis Facility (COM-CAF), and assistant professor of microbial pathogenesis and immunology; and Dr. Lora Yanagisawa, Research Manager of the Center for Integrated Microbiota Research (CIMR).

Information about the group is available on the Microbiota webpage at <https://u.tamu.edu/microbiota>. Researchers interested in joining the Microbiota Listserv can also do so at that website.

The first Microbiota event will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on November 8 and feature brief oral presentations, breakout tables in four theme areas, a poster session, and a networking reception. The four themes and their conveners are: Human Health and Disease (Robert Alaniz, Medicine); Animal Health and Disease (Jan Suchodolski, Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences); Ecological and Agricultural Microbiomes (Jeff Tomberlin, Agriculture and Life Sciences); and Tools and Technologies (Arul Jayaraman, Engineering). Additional information will be posted on the group's website as it becomes available.

October Imaging Spotlight Series Event to Feature Nobel Laureate

Dr. W.E. Moerner, Harry S. Mosher Professor of Chemistry and Applied Physics at Stanford University and recipient of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry will present an invited talk at the Fall 2016 Imaging Science Spotlight event on October 26. Dr. Moerner received the 2014 Nobel Prize for his role in developing super-resolved fluorescence microscopy techniques that have allowed scientists to visualize precise molecular mechanisms inside living cells, opening new windows to how life can be studied. His talk is entitled, *What Can You Learn from Watching Single Molecules? From Super-Resolution Imaging to Nanoscale Probes of 3D Dynamics in Cells.*

The Imaging Science Spotlight event will be held in the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB) with peer-reviewed Poster Contest at 1:00 p.m., Oral Presentations at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Moerner's talk at 4:00 p.m., and a networking reception and poster viewing from 5:00-6:00 p.m. General registration will open September 24 and registration deadline will be **5:00 p.m., October 21**. Conveners have issued a Call for Abstracts for presentations and posters. See *Upcoming Events* for more information.

Healthy Aging RIG Events Planned for Fall 2016

Conveners of the Healthy Aging Research Interest Group (RIG) are planning three important events for Fall 2016:

- Networking Event with Breakout Sessions
 - Wednesday, October 19, Afternoon (Time TBA)
 - MSC Bethancourt Ballrooms 2300AB
 - https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging
- Brown Bag Events – Two opportunities!
 - Brown Bag Breakfast
 - Friday, November 4, 2016 - Time and Location TBA
 - Brown Bag Lunch
 - Tuesday, November 15, 2016 - Time and Location TBA

Additional information will be published soon. Please check the Healthy Aging webpage (https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging) for updates or contact Shannon Prescott (sprescott@tamu.edu) for more information.

Quantitative Bioimaging (QBI) 2017 International Conference

Quantitative Bioimaging (QBI) 2017, an international conference focused on the quantitative analysis of bioimaging data in an interdisciplinary manner, will be held at Texas A&M on January 5-7, 2017. QBI 2017 brings together researchers from engineering, (bio) physics, biology and chemistry who work on quantitative aspects of microscopy. The conference also allows for significant interactions amongst the participants and features extensive overview lectures on a number of important areas that allow researchers to address topics in a more substantial way than what is typically done. There is no registration fee. For additional information, check the conference website at www.quantitativebioimaging.com or email inquiries@quantitativebioimaging.com.

Seeking Input for Ideas for Emerging Frontier in Research and Innovation (EFRI)

The EFRI is designed to solicit the opportunity to submissions of emerging topic areas of potentially transformative research and innovation. It also aims to focus the engineering community on emerging issues in a timely manner. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2016. For more information on this topic, click on the following link: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16138/nsf16138.jsp>

Developing SBIR/STTR Proposals to the Department of Defense

November 2 & 3, 2016

Rudder Tower – Room TBD

The Division of Research Office of Technology Translation (OTT), in conjunction with Research Development Services, will be hosting a campus-wide workshop for faculty and staff interested in pursuing funding from SBIR/STTR programs. This particular event will take place on Wednesday November 2 and Thursday November 3 in Rudder Tower, and is a two day in-person workshop focused on developing competitive SBIR/STTR funding proposals to the Department of Defense (DoD). The on-campus workshop will be followed by a webinar in early December to review details of the newly released DoD solicitation and provide an opportunity for interested applicants to participate in Q&A regarding the identification of topics and preparation of their proposal. The workshop and webinar will be delivered by BBCetc, a consulting company that provides training and consulting to technology entrepreneurs and companies in a wide range of industries throughout the U.S and across all 11 federal agencies participating in the SBIR/STTR programs. Additional details regarding registration and an agenda will be forthcoming. Please contact Megan Brown, OTT Program Coordinator, at meganbrown@tamu.edu with questions or for additional information. For anyone interested in participating but unable to be in College Station on November 2 and 3, please also contact Megan Brown so that arrangements can be made to broadcast the workshop to your location via TTVN.

Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

NIH deadlines for this year are:

October 17 – New R21/R03 Submissions

November 7 – Renewal and Revised R01 Submissions

November 16 – Renewal and Revised R21/R03 Submissions

October 17th through January 16th window – Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)

NSF have deadline windows for each program and is located at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?ord=date&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&status=1

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:
Ms. Kristi Billinger, Executive Director – kristib@tamu.edu, 979-845-8673

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.

Office of Government Relations Update

State

On Friday Sept. 30th, President Michael Young presented the Texas A&M University Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to the staff in the Governor's office, Legislative Budget Board (LBB), and several committee and staff members of individual Legislators. The written LAR submission was accepted in early August.

The state required all institutions to submit a request with a 4% reduction. During his presentation, President Young focused on the importance of core state support and how current momentum of the university would be affected if a reduction occurred. President Young also spoke specifically on preserving funding levels for the general academic formula, the Texas Research University Fund (TRUF), and the proposed statewide Veterinary Medicine Partnerships with other A&M System universities.

Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Doug Palmer also testified on Sept. 30th regarding the TAMUG priorities, in addition to a 4% cut scenario. Dr. Palmer also reiterated the need for base support as well as funding for a study on the further development of a coastal spine for the entire Houston-Galveston region from hurricane storm surge.

Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Paul Ogden testified on Monday, Oct. 3rd. Dr. Ogden spoke to the funding rates, a formula-related item, as well as the 4% proposed reduction. He also answered questions regarding Healthy South Texas and Graduate Medical Education.

Overall the hearings were much shorter than in the past and with fewer questions. This may well be a reflection of the looming budget challenges that await. As always, please let us know if you have any questions (see contact information below).

Federal

The Senate ([vote](#) of 72 to 26) and House ([vote](#) of 342 to 85) passed a 10-week stopgap (Continuing Resolution, CR) federal spending [bill](#) on Sept. 28th. President Obama signed it into law on Sept. 29th. The legislation was delayed for weeks over stalemates on emergency funding to address issues such as the Zika virus and the drinking water crises in Flint, Michigan.

In the end, the bill extends funding for the federal government through Dec. 9 at basically last year's appropriated levels (reduced by about 0.5% in order to comply with spending caps). There is also a prohibition of spending for activities for which no funds were available in FY16. The bill includes the full fiscal year 2017 military construction and veteran's affairs appropriations bill. Congress will have to use the lame duck 10-week extension to complete action on the remaining annual appropriations bills. The 11 remaining bills include all the bills that fund the federal science agencies.

When this CR expires, Congress will have to either: 1) pass a large "omnibus" spending bill, 2) pass several "minibus" bills, or 3) extend the CR. Democrats generally favor one large omnibus bill, Republicans would rather vote on smaller packages.

For any questions or to discuss state or federal matters relating to higher education, please contact us at GR@tamu.edu or at 979.458.0282.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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.