



# Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – November 2016  
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## Update from Dr. James Batteas, CPI Chair

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Dear Colleagues-

I am happy to provide you with a brief update on the activities for the CPI and CPI-EC over the past month. First, let me begin with the Research Development Fund – Advisory Committee (RDF-AC). At the last CPI general meeting, we reported that the RDF-AC received 13 new applications. Their first review meeting was held on Friday November 4, 2016 to begin the evaluation of these new applications. At this meeting, Dr. François Gabbai also presented an overview of the initial progress on what the RDF-AC charged the Texas A&M Mass Spectrometry Collaborative Core Steering Committee with on bringing together the mass spectrometry resources on campus and developing a more cohesive infrastructure for research requiring mass spectrometry at TAMU. Here, I would like to thank Dr. Gabbai, Chair of Texas A&M Mass Spectrometry Collaborative Core Steering Committee and all of the members of this committee (Dr. Tom Boutton, Dr. Larry Dangott, Dr. Ethan Grossman, Dr. Tim Herrman, Dr. Arul Jayaraman, Dr. Chris Kerth, Dr. Tony Knap, Dr. Brent Miller, Dr. Brendan Roark, and Dr. David Russell) for their work on the development of this important resource for TAMU. Dr. Gabbai will present the initial progress of the committee at today's general meeting (November 9, 2016). I have asked Dr. Gabbai to complete a final report by the end of the year to permit the RDF-AC to move forward on specific staffing needs and acquisitions to be supported by the funds received from the Chancellor's office by the CPI. Beyond the work on core facilities, the CPI-EC continues to work with the Division of Research and the Chancellor's Office to streamline administrative requirements on PIs. The CPI-EC met with system members on October 25<sup>th</sup> and have proposed a plan to evaluate current system regulations related to research to look at what current rules are in place, how they compare to Federal and State laws, and where rules may exceed these laws, to have an explanation as to why they do, and either amend them, or develop methods to reduce the burden on PIs with regards to meeting the compliance requirements for these regulations. The CPI officers will have their first meeting with the system research administration on November 21, 2016 to begin this process. Lastly, TAMU announced plans to increase the competitive scholarship waiver from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for out of state students. The CPI-EC has requested details from the Provost's office on the potential impact on graduate programs as a result of this increase. The CPI-EC will be discussing this with the Provost at our coordination meeting with her today (November 9, 2016), following the general meeting.

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](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or email/call me directly at [batteas@chem.tamu.edu](mailto:batteas@chem.tamu.edu) or 979.458.2965.

## TIAS Nominations Due November 11, 2016

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The Institute for Advanced Study will welcome 10 new Faculty Fellows to Texas A&M University beginning in this 2016-2017 academic year. They will be working with faculty and students in the colleges of engineering, science, geosciences, business, law, the Health Science Center and the Galveston campus. Many will be in residence some months over multiple years, engaging in long term collaborations. With this class of scholars, the Institute will have brought 45 world-renowned scholars to Texas A&M during its first five years of operation. Several are on grant applications with A&M faculty, and some are now working on grant supported research projects.

Nominations for the 2017-2018 academic year are due November 11, 2016. The nominating rules and the two page nominating forms are available at <http://tias.tamu.edu/faculty-fellows>.

It is very important that nominees not know that they are being nominated, as the excellence hurdle is high, and we do not want to overtly reject anyone. A panel of nine university distinguished professors evaluates all nominees in strict confidentiality.

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If you have any questions please contact Dr. Clifford Fry, Associate Director, Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study, [cfry@tamu.edu](mailto:cfry@tamu.edu) or extension 85723.

## Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) – Update from Dr. Victor Ugaz

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The Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) continues to meet monthly to discuss the division of roles and responsibilities between Texas A&M Technology Commercialization (TTC) and the System members. A summary of the committee's recommendations will be made available upon completion of this review.

## Council of Built Environment

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CPI has two members on the Council of Built Environment (CBE) who serve two-year terms, one year as a non-voting member and the second year as a voting member. Penny Riggs just completed her second year in August. Jim Grau is now the voting member representing CPI. Our new representative on the committee is Victor Ugaz.

Last year, a new process was implemented within CBE. Recognizing that many items do not require full committee review at the CBE meeting, a “Track B” procedure was implemented to streamline processing. Track B items are forwarded electronically to the committee for comment. Items of concern can be registered and brought to discussion at the next CBE meeting. Recent items routed in this manner include a spillway modification project for the polo fields, safety/security improvements for the UES Office, and a plan to expand the Reproductive Sciences Bldg.

Due to a lack of agenda items, the September CBE meeting was cancelled. In October, the CBE met to discuss Phase II of the Equine Complex. We also approved the minutes of the August meeting, where Karan Watson presented elements of the Campus Space plan. New buildings include a Vet Med Education facility on Agronomy Road and two new Agricultural buildings, which will house Wildlife Fisheries and Plant Pathology/Microbiology. In addition, TTI plans to build a building out on the RELLIS campus. The new buildings will open up space on campus and the Provost reviewed alternative plans for space allocation. It was noted that Bizzell Hall was being considered for demolition, to make room for a new Student Services building. This item was subsequently routed via Track B. Dr. Watson asked CBE members to poll their constituents to ascertain space needs and forward this information to the co-Chairs of the CBE.

## Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

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In accordance to the TAMU Holiday schedule, the Sponsored Research Services Office will be closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25, for the Thanksgiving break. The office will re-open Monday, November 28. **Any proposals that may be due during this break will need to be routed, completed and submitted by close of business Wednesday, November 23.**

### ***eRA Information: Please Update Browsers by November 30<sup>th</sup> to Use eRA Modules; New Security Mandated for Websites***

Effective November 30<sup>th</sup>, all eRA modules (eRA Commons, ASSIST, IAR and iEdison), web services and websites will use ‘https only’ secure connections.

#### **What this means for you**

You may need to update your web browser to continue using eRA modules. For more information and a list of browsers and versions that will work, see [https://era.nih.gov/news\\_and\\_events/news\\_eRA.cfm#10262016](https://era.nih.gov/news_and_events/news_eRA.cfm#10262016).

#### ***NIH deadlines for this year are:***

- **November 16** – Renewal and Revised R21/R03 Submissions

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- **October 17<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>** 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](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](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](mailto:kristib@tamu.edu), 979-845-8673

## **Texas Sea Grant Advance Notice of Request for Research Proposals**

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Texas Sea Grant is seeking proposals from investigators at ALL Texas universities and colleges. Others eligible include: nonprofit, non-academic institutions; for-profit organizations; state, local and Indian tribal governments; and unaffiliated persons.

Awards will support outcome-oriented research that spans broad areas of natural, physical, social, behavioral and economic sciences and engineering, will improve the understanding, wise use and stewardship of Texas' coastal and marine resources, and generate substantial social, economic and environmental impacts in Texas.

Funding priorities are now in development. To contribute your thoughts to these priorities, visit: <https://goo.gl/forms/iXhzYyjEH0XECZaI2>

For more information regarding due dates and the award period, please see the flyer attached to the end of the newsletter, or visit: <http://texasseagrant.org/funding/2018-2020-rfp>

## **Quantitative BioImaging (QBI) 2017 Conference – January 5-7, 2017**

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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](http://www.quantitativebioimaging.com) or email [inquiries@quantitativebioimaging.com](mailto:inquiries@quantitativebioimaging.com).

## **Understanding the NIH Grant Application Review Process (Workshop)**

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A 90 min. workshop is planned for late February (**date and place TBD**) to provide NIH grant applicants with insight into how proposals are reviewed. Attendees will view a 15 min. mock study section video—*NIH Peer Review Revealed*—from the Center for Scientific Review, NIH. The video will be followed with a panel of TAMU colleagues, who serve on NIH study sections, to provide insight into common proposal strengths and weaknesses that they observe and to respond to questions from the audience.

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## Proposal Development Resources in Biomedical Sciences

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Research Development Services offers support to the individual investigator and multiple-investigator groups developing and writing grant applications in the life sciences, especially to NIH. These support services may include as needed: assessment of funding opportunities; assessment of summary statements for resubmission competitiveness; proposal writing timeline development and tracking; links to resources addressing, for example, educational efforts, program assessment, and broader impacts; proposal critiquing for grantsmanship and compliance; and facilitation of outside review as necessary.

Contacts: John Ivy, [johnivy@tamu.edu](mailto:johnivy@tamu.edu); Christina Papke, [cpapke@tamu.edu](mailto:cpapke@tamu.edu).

## Freelance Editing Services

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For grant application writers who need additional editing of grammar and language, Research Development Services provides links on their Proposal Development Resources page to listings of freelance editing services. Visit <http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/proposal-development-resources> for links to

- The Texas A&M Writing Center
- American Medical Writers Association
- AuthorAID

## NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Online Briefings

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CSR is offering two webinars to provide 1) useful insight into the NIH application submission and peer review processes and 2) guidance to applicants and reviewers who propose and review basic research grant applications. Visit [2016 Online Briefings for Applicants and Reviewers](#) to register by November 30 or to view archived webinars.

## Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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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](mailto:shelly.martin@tamu.edu).

## Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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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.