

CPI Newsletter  
April 2011

Principal Investigators,

The agenda and materials for the April 13, 2011 CPI meeting (Rudder 701; 11:30-1:15 pm) are available on the CPI website at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI\\_4.13.11.pdf](http://cpi.tamu.edu/CPI_4.13.11.pdf). The meeting will feature a presentation on Enhancing and Expanding Undergraduate Research by Dr. Pamela Matthews & Dr. Sumana Datta; and an update regarding Research Administration Shared Services by Mr. Mark Smock. If you plan to attend in person as an observer, please email [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu).

The meetings are open to the public and are webcast live at <http://ttvn.tamu.edu/webcasts> on Channel 20. 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,

Terry Thomas, Ph.D.  
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators

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**Included in this issue are updates/information on:**

- Update on RASS Development and Implementation Steering Committee
- Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
- NCURA Training – May 5, 2011
- Gates Foundation Grant Opportunities - New Grand Challenges Explorations Topics
- Update on the Texas A&M University Research Park
- Research Compliance and Biosafety News – March 2011
- PI-DISCUSS listserv established to facilitate PI communication

**Update on RASS Development and Implementation Steering Committee**

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The Research Administration Shared Services Development and Implementation Steering Committee (RASS DISC) has submitted a draft executive summary to The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents regarding the proposed plan and model for the Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS). The executive summary can be found at <http://www.tamus.edu/assets/files/cro/pdf/RASSDISCOSRSExecSummaryFinalDraft.pdf>

Contact:  
Dr. Terry Thomas, [tthomas@tamu.edu](mailto:tthomas@tamu.edu)

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

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Approved by voters in Texas and established by the Texas Legislature, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas has the goals of expediting innovation and commercialization in the area of cancer research and enhancing access to evidence-based prevention programs and services throughout the state. Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M Health Science Center have developed an on-line portal for information about the institute at <http://ord.tamu.edu/cprit>. This joint TAMU-TAMHSC Task Force website is designed to provide researchers across the state with information about funding opportunities and solicitations offered by CPRIT and to facilitate access to Texas A&M programs and scientists involved with cancer

### **NCURA Training – May 5, 2011**

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The next NCURA – National Council of University Research Administrators' TV series for 2011 will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011. The topic is, "Managing Interactions and Potential Conflicts with University Spinoffs and Other Small Businesses for the Department Administrator." The main viewing site will be the Smith Building #25 at 1595 Nuclear Science Road, (Room 101 A-D). This is a TEEEX facility located at the Brayton Fire Training Field. To register, go to <http://tamurs.tamu.edu/forms/ncura-registration>. Registration is requested before Monday, May 2, at 9 a.m. If you would like to view this teleconference from your site, the TTVN Confirmation Number is # 3571021. Please contact TTVN Scheduling to add your site to the viewing schedule. Call 979-862-2240 or email [ttvn-schedule@tamu.edu](mailto:ttvn-schedule@tamu.edu). Only Texas A&M System members may participate. NCURA'S WEB PAGE FOR NCURA TV: [http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational\\_programs/ncura\\_tv/schedule.php](http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational_programs/ncura_tv/schedule.php)

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### **Gates Foundation Grant Opportunities – New Grand Challenges Explorations Topics**

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The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is now accepting grant proposals for Round 7 of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health solutions. Applicants can be at any experience level, in any discipline, and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for profit companies.

Grant proposals are being accepted online until May 19, 2011 on the following topics:

- \* Explore Nutrition for Healthy Growth of Infants and Children
- \* Apply Synthetic Biology to Global Health Challenges
- \* The Poliovirus Endgame: Create Innovative Ways to Accelerate, Sustain, and Monitor Eradication
- \* Create the Next Generation of Sanitation Technologies
- \* Design New Approaches to Cure HIV Infection
- \* Create Low-Cost Cell Phone-Based Solutions for Improved Uptake and Coverage of Childhood Vaccinations

Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million. Full descriptions of the new topics and application instructions are available at: [www.grandchallenges.org/gce/](http://www.grandchallenges.org/gce/)

### **Update on the Texas A&M University Research Park**

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Dr. Jeffrey Seemann and the Texas A&M University Division of Research & Graduate Studies (RGS) wishes to thank the CPI Executive Committee for representing the CPI during recent meetings with Eva Klein and Associates (EKA). EKA is the consultant group helping to develop a strategic research-based vision and implementation plan for the Texas A&M University Research Park. The collective goal is to transform the Research Park into a catalyst for research and commercialization activity at Texas A&M, the Research Valley, and the state of Texas. EKA has conducted 20 small group interviews with over 50 individuals that included faculty and other representatives in research, administration, private industry, and community leadership capacities. These interviews provided crucial and candid feedback for EKA to benchmark against past strategies and practices at Texas A&M, and against world-class research parks under development elsewhere. The firm will assemble a Phase I Assessment Report that positions the current status of Research Park in relation to Texas A&M's collective goals.

This is an exciting and productive time for the Research Park and RGS invites the CPI to continue its engagement through this iterative process. RGS has developed a web page with up-to-date information regarding this initiative that includes: scope and objectives of the project; updates on deliverables; the

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assessment framework; and details on the EKA team: <http://rgs.tamu.edu/innovators/research-park-evaluation>

### **Research Compliance and Biosafety News – March 2011**

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A copy of the March 2011 newsletter from the offices of Research Compliance and Biosafety is available at <https://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:1405757.6995992352/rid:b9e4c5513160288f923cde8eca0c17e2>

### **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>

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