



# Council of Principal Investigators

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Texas A&M University - Texas A&M Health Science Center - Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station -  
Texas A&M AgriLife Research – Texas A&M Transportation Institute

## CPI Meeting Agenda

October 10, 2012 (11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.)

Rudder Tower, room 601

- (11:30 – 11:45)     Lunch
- (11:45 – 11:55)     *Call to order/Opening remarks:* (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)
- (11:55 – 12:15)     *Update on Financial Conflict of Interest requirements*– Mr. Ray Bonilla, General Counsel, The Texas A&M University System
- (12:15 – 12:30)     *Open forum discussion:* (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)
- (12:30 – 12:45)     *Update on Concur issues* – Mr. John Crawford, Associate Vice President and Controller, Division of Finance and Ms. Deborah Phair, Executive Director, Division of Finance
- (12:45 – 1:00)        *Open forum discussion:* (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)
- (1:00 – 1:15)        *Other business:* (Moderated by Dr. Reza Langari, CPI Chair)
- (1:15)                 *Adjournment*

*Attachments:*        *October 2012 Newsletter.....pp. 2 – 5*  
*The Texas A&M University System Office of General Counsel – FCOI Talking Points.....pp. 6 – 7*

**2012-13 CPI roster:** *Chair* — Reza Langari, *Engineering* • *Chair-Elect* — Niall Slowey, *Geosciences* • *Past Chair* — Lawrence Rauchwerger, *Engineering* • *AgriLife* – *Non-COALS* — Jamie Foster, Ronald Randel, Travis Whitney • *Architecture* — Walter Peacock • *BCD* — Lynne Opperman • *Bush School* — Lori Taylor • *Business* — Evan Anderson • *COALS* — Clinton Allred, Joseph Awika, Mary Bryk, Bhimu Patil, Joseph Sturino, Susanne Talcott, Heather Wilkinson • *Education* – Rafael Lara-Alecio, Jeffrey Liew • *Engineering* — Nancy Amato, Jaime Grunlan, Christi Madsen, J. N. Reddy, Victor Ugaz • *Geosciences* — Steve DiMarco, Mary Jo Richardson • *IBT/PHARM/RCHI* — Leyuan Liu • *Liberal Arts* — Chester Dunning, Mary Meagher • *Medicine* — Vernon Tesh • *Science* — Wolfgang Bangerth, Jean-Luc Guermond, Paul Hardin, Emil Straube, Terry Thomas • *SRPH* — Eva Shipp • *TEES Non-COE* — Richard Mercier • *TAMU at Galveston* — Joan Mileski • *TAMU at Qatar* — Hadi Nasrabadi • *TTI* — Lance Bullard, Beverly Kuhn, Joe Zietsman • *University Libraries* — Sandy Tucker • *Veterinary Medicine* — Joe Arosh, Weston Porter, Shuping Zhang

*The CPI is sponsored annually through funding from Texas A&M University Division of Research, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute*



# Council of Principal Investigators

Principal Investigators,

The meeting materials for the October 10, 2012 CPI meeting (Rudder 601; 11:30-1:15 p.m.) are available at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/CPI\\_10.10.12.pdf](http://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/CPI_10.10.12.pdf). The meeting will include the following agenda items:

- *Update on Financial Conflict of Interest requirements* - Mr. Ray Bonilla, General Counsel, The Texas A&M University System
- *Update on Concur issues* - Mr. John Crawford, Associate Vice President and Controller, Division of Finance and Ms. Deborah Phair, Executive Director, Division of Finance

CPI members were asked to communicate with their respective constituents to solicit questions for the presenters to address during the meeting. To submit post-meeting follow up questions to your CPI representative, go to <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit> or email [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu).

If you plan to attend in person as an observer (for planning purposes, lunch is only ordered CPI members and Guest members), please email [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu). Meetings are open to the public and are webcast live at <http://ttvn.tamu.edu/webcasts> on Channel 20. Previous CPI meetings and materials can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/meetingmaterials>. The monthly electronic newsletter is included below and includes items of interest to the research community. To learn more about CPI membership, activities and initiatives, visit <http://cpi.tamu.edu>.

Sincerely,

Reza Langari  
Chair, Council of Principal Investigators

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**CPI Newsletter – October 2012**  
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**Included in this issue are updates/information on:**

- Update from the CPI Chair
- CPI sponsors
- Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with meeting research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI
- Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Texas A&M University President and Provost
- EPIK-Maestro Working Group report
- OSRS assistance with financial conflict of interest
- Update on Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)
- Data Management Plans
- Proposals for 2013 PESCA grants due October 31, 2012 October 31, 2012, by 5:00 p.m. CDT
- Sigma Xi Undergraduate-Faculty Research Expo

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## Update from the CPI Chair

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At the September 12, 2012 closed session CPI meeting, members discussed possible focus topics for the Council to address during 2012-13. These draft focus issues will be vetted through the CPI EC and presented accordingly to the full Council for review and comment.

As announced earlier this week, Dr. Jeffrey Seemann resigned as the VPR on October 1, 2012 and he will serve as a Special Assistant to the President before returning to his tenured faculty position. Personally, I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Seemann for his tremendous contributions to the research enterprise at Texas A&M and for his willingness to always provide meaningful insight on a wide-variety of research-related matters to the CPI.

Dr. Theresa (Terry) Fossum has been named the Interim Vice President for Research and the search process for selecting the next VPR will be announced soon. At the October 3, 2012 CPI Executive Committee with the President and Provost, we were told the CPI would be involved in the search process. As the search process develops for the next VPR, we will work to keep the PI community informed accordingly.

I would like to welcome Dr. Theresa (Terry) Fossum in her recent appointment as the Interim Vice President for Research. We look forward to working with Dr. Fossum to continue the growth and improvement of the Texas A&M University research enterprise.

Members of the PI community can contact their respective CPI representative (see <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/unit>) with any research-related issues to bring to the attention of the Council of Principal Investigators.

Contact:

Reza Langari, [rlangari@tamu.edu](mailto:rlangari@tamu.edu) or 979.845.6918

## CPI sponsors

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The Council of Principal Investigators extends its gratitude to the Division of Research at Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the Texas A&M Health Science Center, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research for the annual and equal funding contributions they provide the Council for its annual operating expenses, as well as the salary of the CPI support staff.

## Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with meeting research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI

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The CPI Executive Committee (EC) held its monthly coordination meeting on October 3, 2012 from 11:30-1:15 p.m. Research administration representatives from Texas A&M, AgriLife Research, HSC, TEES and TTI are invited to these coordination meetings. Agenda items were as follows: presentation on iRIS (Integrated Research Information Systems) by Dr. Robert Nobles; discussion of large interdisciplinary projects and services of the Office of Research Development by Dr. Ann McGuigan; an update on proposed revisions to System regulation 31.05.01, *Faculty Consulting, External Employment and Conflicts of Interest*; a review of the draft 2012-13 CPI focus issues and a summary of action items to date; and updates on issues affecting PIs at extension centers and the liability for students and volunteers in research labs at Texas A&M by EC member Dr. Mary Bryk.

## Summary of October 3, 2012 CPI EC meeting with the Texas A&M University President and Provost

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The CPI EC held its coordination meeting with the Texas A&M University President and Provost on October 3, 2012 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room, 10<sup>th</sup> floor Rudder Tower. Attendees discussed the following: Next steps regarding the VPR vacancy and impact on the research enterprise; discussion of President's Grand Challenges Initiative (PGCI); update on Texas A&M and Health Science Center merger process; faculty participation in newly established "bio-corridor" and similar entities; status of non-tenured

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faculty; outsourcing issues. The next scheduled CPI EC quarterly meeting with the President and Provost is January 16, 2013.

### **EPIK-Maestro Working Group report**

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The EPIK-Maestro Working Group held its first fall semester meeting on September 13, 2012 at the OSRS headquarters. Ms. Leonarda Horvat, Chief Information Officer and Director of TEES Information Systems, and representatives from her office presented updates and new developments regarding the portal. Ms. Horvat informed the group that all of the equipment has been transferred to the new OSRS building and that many proposals have been moved to production. The financial conflict of interest design is in progress, as well as the post-award component. It is important to keep in mind that every single proposal prior to being moved forward requires a disclosure. For the successful implementation of the Maestro program, it is critical that each Principal Investigators and associated personnel be familiar with the entire process. Training is a key component to successful implementation and is available any time. The EPIK-Maestro Working Group will continue discussing all of the implications of the different components that represent the EPIK-Maestro program. It is expected that the entire project will be released by the end of December 2012.

The next EPIK-Maestro Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the OSRS headquarters.

Contact:

Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, [a-lara@tamu.edu](mailto:a-lara@tamu.edu)

Dr. Beverly Kuhn, [b-kuhn@tamu.edu](mailto:b-kuhn@tamu.edu)

Dr. Jamie Foster, [jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jlfoster@ag.tamu.edu)

### **OSRS assistance with financial conflict of interest**

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A link for the OSRS Assistance with Financial Conflict of Interest memorandum, distributed on September 18, 2021 can be found at <http://osrs.tamus.edu/forms/>.

### **Update on Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)**

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The Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) anticipates the first class of TIAS Faculty Fellows to be announced soon. Nominations are currently being solicited for the next round of TIAS Faculty Fellows. Nomination forms should be completed and returned by November 30, 2012. Nomination forms and additional information can be found at <http://tias.tamu.edu/facultyfellows>.

Contact:

Dr. John L. Junkins, [junkins@tamu.edu](mailto:junkins@tamu.edu) or 979.458.4992

### **Data Management Plans**

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The National Science Foundation and other federal research sponsors may require a Data Management Plans (DMP) in all research proposals. This requirement is discussed on an Office of Research Development web page (<http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/devresources/nsf-data-management-plans>). The scope and details of any DMP will be determined by the nature of the research conducted, the type and extent of data generated, and the accepted standards for data storage and dissemination in a given field. The ORD web page—in addition to providing links to other extensive online guides, discussions, FAQs, and examples—provides links to resources at the Texas A&M University libraries and to an online Data Management Plan Tool (via library subscription) that walks the user through creation of a DMP. Those links include:

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- [Data Management Plan Tool](#) (a service of the [University of California Curation Center](#) of the [University of California Digital Library](#))
  - [Funding Agency Guidelines](#)
  - [Data Management Defined](#)
  - [Data Management Planning](#)
  - [Data Sharing and Storage Options](#) at the A&M Library
  - [Texas A&M Digital Repository](#)
  - [Data Repositories](#)

### **Proposals for 2013 PESCA grants due October 31, 2012 October 31, 2012, by 5:00 p.m. CDT**

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The Division of Research is pleased to invite proposal submissions for the 2013 Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities (PESCA). The division established this competitive program to promote the scholarly and creative activities of Texas A&M University faculty, and specifically to support activities in disciplines such as the humanities, arts, social sciences, and related fields where external funding is limited. All Texas A&M University tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply for these grants as a single author or as co-authors of two or more. Proposed research or creative projects must show originality and the potential to advance a field or discipline. For full details regarding the program, proposal submission requirements, evaluation criteria and deadlines, please visit: <http://vpr.tamu.edu/funding/scholarlycreative>.

All proposals must be submitted electronically at: <https://eproposal.tamu.edu>. The deadline for completed proposal submissions is 5:00 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, October 31, 2012. No late proposals will be accepted.

Questions about the PESCA Program should be directed to Dr. Jim Izat, PESCA program coordinator, at [jizat@tamu.edu](mailto:jizat@tamu.edu). Questions regarding technical issues with the E-Proposal submissions system should be sent to [webapp@vpr.tamu.edu](mailto:webapp@vpr.tamu.edu).

### **Sigma Xi Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Expo**

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The *Sigma Xi* Scientific Research Society invites faculty and undergraduate students to participate in an Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Expo scheduled Wednesday, October 24, 2012, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Rudder Exhibit Hall. The Expo will connect current research opportunities with students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields interested in making research part of their Texas A&M experience. The event will give students the opportunity to discuss current projects with faculty. Faculty who would like to have undergraduate students involved in their research projects are invited to exhibit at the event with displays and information. *Sigma Xi* is sponsoring the event in collaboration with Texas A&M's Division of Research, Council of Principal Investigators, and Honors and Undergraduate Research.

Refreshments will be available at 5:00 p.m., and door prizes will be given away to undergraduates in attendance. The event is open to the public. STEM faculty interested in having a display at the expo should contact Larry Johnson in the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at [ljohnson@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:ljohnson@cvm.tamu.edu), or 845-9279. General inquiries may be directed to Larry Johnson or Michelle Sullens in the Division of Research, at [m-sullens@tamu.edu](mailto:m-sullens@tamu.edu), or 458-4066.



## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

### System Regulation 15.01.03 – *Financial Conflicts of Interest in Research*

Proposed Responses to Faculty Concerns

October 11, 2012

- **Texas A&M University System amends System Regulation 15.01.03.** Effective July 26, 2012, amendments to System Regulation 15.01.03 expanded the scope of financial disclosures and required training for all research activities on behalf of system members.
- **WHY?**
  - ***Federal agencies demand universities to guarantee transparency in research.*** National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH), among others, require PIs to disclose financial conflicts of interest and obligate universities to guarantee compliance.
  - ***AAU, AAUP and top-tier research universities support transparency in research.*** MIT, University of Michigan, Purdue, Georgia Tech, University of Texas at Austin are among those universities requiring NIH-compliant financial disclosures by all faculty researchers.
- **Implementation.** The System recognizes members have experienced problems with implementation.

ISSUE	SOLUTION
Manual Disclosure and Routing Process	OGC working with OSRS and System members to provide electronic functionality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSRS working to update MAESTRO.</li> <li>• TEES working to implement an electronic fix in EPIK.</li> </ul>
Delays/Backlogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System proposes to postpone implementation for privately-funded research until backlogs eliminated, electronic upgrades are in place.</li> <li>• System members encouraged to devote more resources to FCOI compliance to eliminate backlogs relating to federal research.</li> </ul>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisions made: 1/3 shorter; more user friendly; further improvements being studied.</li> <li>• Users can now attempt assessment test w/o reviewing all slides.</li> </ul>
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are NOT subject to training or disclosure requirements unless compensated by System member (e.g., tuition reimbursement, scholarship, salary).</li> </ul>
Adjunct Professors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjunct Professors are NOT subject to training or disclosure requirements unless they perform research on behalf of a System member.</li> </ul>
Foreign Subcontractors/ Subrecipients for Non-PHS-Funded Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System proposes to revise regulation to provide that foreign subcontractors or subrecipients are NOT subject to training or disclosure requirements for Non-PHS-funded research.</li> </ul>
Unfunded/Internally-Funded Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System proposes to exclude unfunded and/or internally-funded research from scope of regulation due to administrative burdens.</li> </ul>

## Financial Conflicts of Interest in the Media

Date	Source	Title & Summary
7-25-2012	The Statesman	"UT to commission review of fracking study," by Farzad Mashhood – UT to ask for a review of a study about fracking when lead author was found to be a paid board member of a company that engages in the practice.
7-16-2012	Houston Chronicle	"M.D. Anderson involved in trial of drug marketed by its president's company," by Eric Berger, Todd Ackerman – Aveo Oncology announced that M.D. Anderson would lead clinical trials of its promising new cancer drug. However, it did not disclose that M.D. Anderson's president, Dr. Ronald DePinho, is a co-founder and owns nearly \$8 million worth of its stock, and Dr. DePinho's wife, Dr. Lynda Chin, is one of its scientific advisors.
01-16-2012	The New York Times	"U.S. to Force Drug Firms to Report Money Paid to Doctors," by Robert Pear – In an effort to address health care-related conflicts of interest, the Obama administration is moving forward with the Sunshine Act, a new law that will require pharmaceutical companies and device manufacturers to disclose payments made to non-employee physicians. Under the legislation, companies must report money paid for consulting and speaking arrangements, research, travel and entertainment, in addition to royalty payments for inventions or discoveries and any ownership or investment interest held by physicians or their immediate family members. The public will have until February 17, 2012 to comment on the proposed rule, which, according to the Congressional Budget Office, has the potential to reduce health care spending by reducing overprescribing. An analysis undertaken by the Times found that physicians who receive compensation from drug companies "often practice medicine differently from those who do not" and "are more willing to prescribe drugs in risky and unapproved ways." The payment data – expected to be large in volume – will be posted on a publicly available Web site.
10-07-2011	The U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of WA	Military Cardiologist Sentenced for Illegally Accepting Benefits from Medical Device Company
5-18-2011	North County Times	"Balboa Navy Doc Under Investigation" by Rick Rogers. The Department of Defense is investigating a Navy physician researcher for his participation in a 2008-09 clinical trial that a Department report described as "inconsistent with military standards for human subject medical research." This article reports there are allegations that the physician improperly prescribed an anti-oxidant called N-acetylcysteine to troops and also failed to disclose his financial interest in the drug. The investigation is ongoing.
05-03-2011	The New York Times	"Board Disciplines 3 Doctors" by Reed Abelson. The New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners disciplined three orthopedic surgeons for failing to disclose their financial interests in a medical device that they were testing for FDA approval, the New York Times reported. According to the Attorney General of New Jersey, the conflicts "undercut public trust in the medical profession." The doctors were fined for their failure to disclose, and Synthes, the manufacturer of the device, is now required to disclose any future payments to doctors involved in research on the company's products.
01-23-2010	The Baltimore Sun	"UM Professor Reprimanded for Apparent Conflict of Interest" by Childs Walker. A University of Maryland, College Park professor faces conflict of interest questions after he used university letterhead to send his legal opinion in his role as a consultant to a labor union. He violated university procedures by improperly using university letterhead for the work of this outside firm.
01-20-2010	The Chronicle of Higher Education	"Baylor College of Medicine Faces NIH Sanctions Over Financial Conflicts" by Paul Basken. The NIH has ordered more extensive financial disclosures on federal grant applications from Baylor College of Medicine after an NIH investigation discovered undisclosed financial interests. The NIH now imposes "special award conditions" on future grants to Baylor. This increased scrutiny could signal upcoming changes in federal regulations concerning conflict of interest.
01-16-2009	The Wall Street Journal	"Medtronic Pays Surgeon '\$20,000 or More'- Much Much More- by Sarah Rubenstein- University of Wisconsin policies are under scrutiny for their failure to capture the precise amount that their researchers receive from industry for outside services. Dr. Thomas Zdeblick, a spine surgeon and researcher at the University of Wisconsin, disclosed that he received over \$20,000 for consulting services to Medtronic, when in fact he received over \$19 million. Because the university's policies do not require doctors to disclose exact amounts, Zdeblick was in compliance with these policies. This points to a common issue in COI management- accurate and realistic disclosures.
12-23-2008	The Wall Street Journal	"Emory Professor Steps Down"- by Joseph Pereira- Charles Nemeroff, a well-known researcher in clinical depression at Emory University, will resign his position as chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences because of his underreporting of payments he received from drug companies for more than 250 speaking engagements.
10-15-2008	The Chronicle of Higher Education	"Conflict-of-Interest Concerns Halt NIH Project at Emory U." by Richard Monastersky- The NIH froze support for a \$9.3-million, 5-year study held at Emory University because the principal investigator, Dr. Charles B. Nemeroff, failed to comply with federal regulations and university policies by underreporting payments from drug companies. The NIH's quick action comes after Senator Grassley discovered similar issues concerning researchers at Harvard, Stanford, the University of Texas, the University of Cincinnati, and others reporting payments from drug companies inaccurately.
9-25-2008	The Wall Street Journal	"Lawsuit Says Medtronic Gave Doctors Array of Perks" by David Armstrong- A lawyer who previously worked for Medtronic Inc. has filed suit against the device maker, stating that Medtronic used unethical incentives such as paid vacations masquerading as conferences, trips to strip clubs, and kickbacks in order to increase revenue and evoke favorable responses from doctors. The lawsuit is an effort to recoup losses incurred from company inducements to prescribe Medtronic products covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

10/10/12