



Council of Principal Investigators

CPI Newsletter – January 2017

Included in this issue:

- Update from Dr. James Batteas, CPI Chair
- University Hires an Export Control Consultant
- Aliese Seawright joins Texas A&M as Director of the Human Research Protection Program
- Provost Search Committee Update
- Research Development Fund Update
- Sigma Xi
- Write Winning Grant Proposals, Fall 2017
- NSF DCL Posted: Request for Information on Future Needs for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (NSF CI 2030)
- Council of Built Environment Update
- New iRIS Interface to Launch Soon
- Reminder About IBC Meetings and Administrative Support
- NIH Peer Review: Advice from Expert
- Writing Successful Proposals
- NSF CAREER & DOD Young Investigators Programs
- 2017 NSF CAREER Proposal Writers' Group Inaugural Meeting
- Demystifying the NSF!
- NSF Broader Impacts Workshop
- Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities Bulletin for Principal Investigators

Mail Stop 2404 • College Station, TX 77843-2404 • (979) 862-9166 • cpi@tamu.edu • cpi.tamu.edu

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

Update from Dr. James Batteas, CPI Chair

Dear Colleagues-

I hope that you have all had a good holiday break as we look forward to the start of the Spring 2017 term. As December was a short month, there are only a few updates that I wish to provide to you. First, the Research Development Fund – Advisory Committee (RDF-AC) has evaluated the last round of applications and have made recommendations to the RDF Management Committee with regards to what applications to support. Today we will hear from Dr. Penny Riggs, Chair of the RDF-AC, and CPI Vice-Chair, on the current status of the RDF and on the upcoming round of applications, whose cover letters are due on February 15, 2017. Last month, Dr. Clare Gill provided an update to the CPI-EC on progress toward streamlining access to core facilities at TAMU. Dr. Gill, in her position as a Faculty Fellow in the VPR's office, has been working with many groups across campus to develop a detailed list of the available facilities at TAMU and to begin the process of implementing iLab Solutions on campus, a software interface that will permit online instrument reservation, usage tracking and billing for core facilities that wish to take advantage of these capabilities. Due to time constraints we were not able to hear about these details at the general meeting last month, but we are pleased that Dr. Gill will be able to provide an update on this at today's meeting. We also look forward to hearing from Dee Childs, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer for Texas A&M University, who will share some of her vision for how IT can be more broadly engaged with the research community at TAMU.

Last month, and at the CPI Executive Committee (EC) January 4th meeting, the CPI-EC considered changes to the CPI Bylaws, specifically with regards to the establishment and operations of standing CPI committees. The CPI Representatives have all received copies of the CPI-EC's proposed amendment to the bylaws to establish the operational guidelines for such committees. At present CPI's only standing committee is the RDF-AC, however we wanted these guidelines to be in place in the event of the CPI forming any additional committees in the future. Some minor changes to the voting operations on the bylaws have also been made. The CPI Representatives will receive an electronic ballot shortly after today's general meeting requesting an up/down vote on the changes to the bylaws. The CPI-EC has already voted unanimously to accept these changes.

On the front of reducing administrative burdens, the CPI Officers meet with system members to begin the process of evaluating current system regulations related to research to look at what current rules are in place, how they compare to Federal and State laws. CPI-EC are now in the process of also working with TAMU on matters associated with Export Control. TAMU has hired a consultant (Fisher and Associates) to aid in evaluation of our needs and processes for complying with Export Controls. An initial report on the findings of this study and proposed processes are expected in April and CPI-EC will be working through the Division of Research on any proposed needs or changes. In the kick-off meeting with Fisher and Associates, I greatly appreciated the sentiment that policies and procedures must be put in place that will streamline the evaluation of risks and make it as simple as possible for PI's, departments and centers to both manage and evaluate their Export Control requirements. The Division of Research has also indicated that additional compliance regulations are being considered with regards to the handling of controlled substances, and the CPI-EC is currently evaluating a report on proposed standard operating procedures with regards to these materials. CPI-EC will be continuing to discuss these matters with the System offices as well.

I want to thank you all for your continued inputs on improving the research environment at TAMU. As always, you should feel free to contact any of the CPI Representatives from 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. I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy new year!

University Hires an Export Control Consultant

The University has hired an export control consultant to assist with assessment and enhancement of Texas A&M University's export control compliance program. This effort includes addressing issues recently identified by system internal audit in its review of TAMU's export control compliance program. The consultant, Don Fischer of Fischer & Associates, will be on campus from January 9 through January 13, 2017, and will be meeting with key groups of faculty, researchers and administrators.

Aliese Seawright joins Texas A&M as Director of the Human Research Protection Program

Ms. Seawright began in her new position on Jan. 2 from the LSU Health Sciences Center where she held a similar title for more than five years. Ms. Seawright has more than 15 years of experience in human research and compliance. She can be reached at a.seawright@tamu.edu and 979.458.4117.

Provost Search Committee Update

The Provost Search Committee would like to announce that the website, provostsearch.tamu.edu, is now active and live. This website entails all of the details, resources, and a timeline for the position. Please feel free to apply, leave feedback, and submit nominations. If you have any questions please contact our CPI Representative on the Search Committee, Jodie Lutkenhaus.

Research Development Fund Update

Summary cover pages for the next round of RDF application requests are due February 15, 2017, and full applications are due March 11. Templates and more information can be found at the RDF website (rdf.tamu.edu).

Sigma Xi

The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, is seeking **nominations for the 2017 Outstanding Distinguished Scientist and the 2017 Outstanding Science Communicator awards.**

Award nominations are due **Feb. 13, 2017**, and should include a nomination letter, curriculum vitae and letters of support. Recipients will receive a plaque and a \$750 cash prize at the Sigma Xi Induction and Awards Banquet in the spring of 2017. The recipient of the Outstanding Distinguished Scientist Award will present the 2017 Distinguished Scientist Lecture, hosted by Sigma Xi. To be competitive, each nominee should have credentials equivalent to those of previous recipients. See <http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/awards> for information on the awards and previous winners.

Nominations for membership, including self-nomination are also encouraged. See <http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/membership> for application form.

Nominations may be submitted via email, campus mail or U.S. mail to:
Texas A&M Chapter of Sigma Xi
Division of Research
1112 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-1112

Email: sigmaxi@tamu.edu

Write Winning Grant Proposals, Fall 2017

The Division of Research is pleased to announce that the seminar, *Write Winning Grant Proposals*, featuring Dr. John D. Robertson of Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops (GWSW) will again be offered in the Fall 2017 semester and has been expanded to include proposal writing for the NSF in addition to NIH. The workshop will run for one and one-half days (date TBD). Additional information will be posted as it becomes available.

NSF DCL Posted: Request for Information on Future Needs for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (NSF CI 2030)

A new NSF Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) has been posted: *Request for Information on Future Needs for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure to Support Science and Engineering Research (NSF CI 2030)*, https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf17031.

NSF Directorates and Offices are jointly requesting input from the research community on science challenges and associated cyberinfrastructure needs over the next decade and beyond. Contributions to this Request for Information (RFI) will be used during the coming year to inform the Foundation's strategy and plans for advanced cyberinfrastructure investments. We invite bold, forward-looking ideas that will provide opportunities to advance the frontiers of science and engineering well into the future.

The DCL points to an external submission website. Please note that the deadline for submissions is April 5, 2017 5:00 PM ET. Questions about this effort and the submission process should be sent to **William Miller**, Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, at the following address: nsfci2030rfi@nsf.gov.

Council of Built Environment Update

The Council of Built Environment met on November 8th. The majority of the meeting focused on the Campus Master Plan Update (see <http://campusplan.tamu.edu/2016-update/>). The earlier Campus Master Plan was created in 2004 and has provided a roadmap for campus development. In 2015, the University hired the planning firm of Ayres Saint Gross to update the plan. The update is focusing on physical planning, transportation/circulation, sustainability, signage and design/landscape guidelines. The aim is to enhance campus connectivity and provide a more integrated vision of the campus. The plan organizes campus districts along transportation axes. Suggested enhancements include a performance facility along George Bush, replacing the parking lots encircling Reed Arena with parking garages, and consolidating new construction to give distinct areas (e.g., research park) a "campus-like" feel. Much of the discussion concerned the east-most side of campus and a proposal to construct buildings along University Drive. Another long-term concern is the golf course, which is currently under-utilized. Regarding future construction, it is assumed that student growth will begin to asymptote around the year 2020.

A number of smaller items were brought to our attention (e.g., a historical marker request from University Libraries and safety/security improvements at the UES Energy Office). No additional discussion was requested for these "track B" items.

The December meeting of the Council of Built Environment was canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

New iRIS Interface to Launch Soon

The updated version of iRIS begins with a new login screen. With this change, users will be able to choose NetID or UIN/SSO logins. This change will allow students to log in even if they are unpaid and streamline the process for external researchers to gain authorized access. This change will be coming in January, but a firm date has not been determined. A notice will be sent via the outreachrcb@tamu.edu email.

Reminder about IBC Meetings and Administrative Support

IBC meetings are open to the public, typically convened on the fourth Wednesday of each month, in room 101 A of the GSC. PIs are invited to attend any time, but especially when/if their submission will be reviewed by the IBC. All IBC-permitted PIs are encouraged to utilize the resources available in the Biosafety Program. The IBC coordinators are happy to assist them, either by phone (862-4549) or in person in suite 2701 of the General Services Complex, with any problems they have in making their submissions in iRIS.

NIH Peer Review: Advice from Experts

NIH Study Section Discussion, Study Section Reviewers Panel

When: 2:00-3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2017

Where: 601 Rudder

Contacts: John Ivy, Sr. Research Development Officer, john-ivy@tamu.edu
Christina Papke, Research Development Officer, cpapke@tamu.edu

What happens when the grant proposal you've worked on for months arrives at the NIH? How do study section reviewers discuss and score proposals? What makes some proposals more powerful than others? These and other questions will be addressed during this 90-minute seminar and include discussions with Texas A&M faculty who have served as NIH study section reviewers.

Registration now open at <https://u.tamu.edu/NIH-PR-Feb23>. Register by 2:00 p.m., February 23, 2017

Writing Successful Proposals

Workshop, Q&A

When: 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2017

Where: 103 Henderson Hall

Contact: Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, jimizat@tamu.edu

The workshop covers the best practices for successful proposals to federal and other funding agencies. Questions will be taken at the end of the session until all have been asked.

Registration now open at https://u.tamu.edu/WSP_Sp2017. Register by 12:00 Noon, March 2.

NSF CAREER & DOD Young Investigators Programs

Proposal Workshop Sponsored by TEES and the Texas A&M Division of Research

When: 8:00-12:45 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2017

Location: 301 Rudder

Contacts: Laurie Garton, Sr. Research Development Associate, lsgarton@tamu.edu
Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, jimizat@tamu.edu

Registration information will be provided soon. This workshop will be followed by the 2017 NSF CAREER Proposal Writers' Group.

2017 NSF CAREER Proposal Writers' Group Inaugural Meeting

Inaugural Meeting, Q&A, Subsequent Writing Group Meetings

When: 2:00-3:30 p.m. on March 22, 2017

Where: 103 Henderson Hall

Contact: Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, jizat@tamu.edu

The workshop covers the strategies and considerations relevant to creation of successful proposals submitted to 2017 NSF CAREER Grant Program. Questions will be taken at the end of the session until all have been asked and answered.

Registration now open at <https://goo.gl/VFN2yq>. Register by 12:00 noon, March 22.

Demystifying the NSF!

Workshop, Q&A

When: 1:00-3:30 p.m. on March 28, 2017

Where: 103 Henderson Hall

Contact: Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, jizat@tamu.edu

This workshop familiarizes participants with the mission and structure of the National Science Foundation, the NSF merit review process, how to navigate the NSF website, and how to find relevant funding and other NSF related information.

Registration now open at <https://u.tamu.edu/DNSFSp2017>. Register by 12:00 noon, March 28.

NSF Broader Impacts Workshop

Workshop, Q&A

When: 2:00-3:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017

Where: 103 Henderson Hall

Contact: Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, jizat@tamu.edu

The workshop covers the strategies and considerations relevant to the Broader Impacts requirement of grant proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation. Questions will be taken at the end of the session until all have been asked and answered.

Registration now open at <https://u.tamu.edu/NSFBISp2017>. Register by 12:00 noon, April 12.

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

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.