



Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – June 2016
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Update from Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymenis, CPI Chair

Colleagues-

At the May Council of Principal Investigators general meeting, Ms. Kristi Billinger, the new Executive Director of Sponsored Research Services (SRS) provided a brief presentation to update the CPI on progress of the transition at SRS and to introduce the executive associate directors. The SRS staff welcomes input from the research community. Please direct your questions, comments, and concerns regarding any issues you may be having with administration of your proposals or grants to Ms. Billinger (kristib@tamu.edu) or one of the Associate Directors at SRS (Julie Bishop (jbishop@tamu.edu), Crissy Stratta (cstratta@tamu.edu), or Lesley Bell (lbell@tamu.edu)).

Also at the May meeting, Dr. Kathy Banks, Dean of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, provided an overview of the re-development of the Riverside campus- not to be called the “Rellis” campus. Details of the planned development and activities on this campus can be found at:

<http://tees.tamu.edu/research/facilities/rellis/> .

Following these two presentations the CPI adjourned to a closed session with Dr. Glen Laine and Ms. Katharine Rojo del Busto, in order to discuss compliance issues with the CPI membership. I want to thank Dr. Laine and Ms. Rojo del Busto for listening to the issues and suggestions brought forward by the CPI membership. I look forward to continuing to build the working relationship between the CPI and the research compliance staff, feedback and open communication are key elements to improve research compliance. I urge you to contact Animal Welfare Assurance, (Dr. Tennille Lamon) Human Subjects Protection (Dr. Catherine Higgins), and Institutional Biosafety (Dr. Christine McFarland), if you experience problems or have questions regarding these research compliance programs.

Finally, thank you for your continuous participation, feedback, and support of the CPI! The CPI Executive Committee spends considerable time bringing your concerns and suggestions regarding improvements to the research environment to the attention of the administration. The CPI Representatives for your college, department or unit can be found on the CPI website at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/15unit>. Please feel free to alert us to any issues or concerns you may have regarding research at cpi@tamu.edu or email/call me directly at handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu or 979.436.0340.

CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summary

The CPI EC met for its monthly coordination meeting on June 1, 2016 with invited guests from the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Texas A&M University at the meeting.

Ms. Kristi Billinger provided follow up from the May CPI general meeting regarding PI feedback from the May CPI general meeting. Ms. Billinger and the SRS staff are looking into the issues raised by specific PIs at the May meeting, and are working to meet with each of these PIs individually to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

Ms. Billinger also related that SRS staff are available to visit units and departments to discuss changes that are ongoing at SRS, hear faculty concerns, and disseminate information regarding changes in grants administration that are being instituted at the federal level. SRS staff continue to complete process mapping, establish of the SRS team, and develop the dashboards for PIs.

The balance of the June CPI-EC meeting was to discuss the Core Facilities plans with the guest presenters joining CPI-EC on June 22, in the ILSB Auditorium 1105. The guest presenters for the June 22 CPI Meeting will be:

- Dr. Glen Laine – Overview of the general institutional philosophy on core facilities
- Dr. James Batteas – Material Characterization Facility (MCF)
- Dr. Charlie Johnson – Genomics and Bioinformatics Center

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- Dr. Arul Jayaraman and Dr. Larry Dangott – Integrated Metabolomics Analysis Core (IMAC)
 - Dr. Binayak Mohanty – Texas Water Observatory (TWO)
(Drs. Jayaraman and Dangott55x and Mohanty were the first round awardees from the Research Development Fund and they will be discussing their philosophy, successes and challenges in their newly established facilities and programs.)

Following these presentations, core facility leaders will participate in a panel for a question and answer session.

Division of Research – Technology Transfer and Communication (TTC) Update – Dr. Laine reported that the Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (IPCC) will evolve to assist TTC in restructuring.

Research Compliance Update – Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto relayed that the comments shared by the CPI membership regarding research compliance has been shared with the staff of the research compliance offices. She urged the CPI membership and the research community to continue to provide input regarding problems and suggestions directly to research compliance staff.

Ms. Rojo del Busto relayed that the Departments of Commerce and State are harmonizing some of the definitions related to Export Control, and these changes will impact universities.

Graduate Education Committee – Dr. Teresa Wilcox reported this committee has been meeting, and is developing a report that will include suggestions for investments in graduate education. This committee is co-chaired by Dr. Wilcox and Dr. Mark Zoran.

The June CPI General meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2016 in the ILSB auditorium, room 1105. The topic will be TAMU Core Facilities. Also, for the CPI August meeting, Ms. Kristi Billinger will address the CPI members and provide an update from the May 11th CPI General Meeting and how they are moving forward to consistently help faculty and to reaffirm that if there are SRS are issues or concerns that arise within SRS that she will be the point of contact.

Statistical Collaboration Center Services - - now available

The [Statistical Collaboration Center \(SCC\)](http://www.stat.tamu.edu/consulting-collaboration-center/) 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 Compliance, Biosafety and Export Updates

FAA Memo on Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems/ Draft System requirements for Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The Federal Aviation Administration recently released a memorandum making it easier for students to fly unmanned aircraft as part of their coursework. The memorandum reduces uncertainty about when an unmanned aircraft is a model aircraft operated for hobby or recreation, or is an operation requiring FAA authorization. For further information see, <https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=85528>.

The Texas A&M University System has drafted for comment requirements relating to the operation of unmanned aircraft systems. Initially, the requirements are expected to be included as risk management program per System Regulation 24.01.01 *Risk Management Programs*

see <http://policies.tamus.edu/24-01-01.pdf>). To view the draft System requirements see the attached PDF.

Human Research: Piloting Federal Demonstration Partnership Exempt Wizard

Last month, selected researchers should have received a request to participate in the testing of the Federal Demonstration Partnership's (FDP) Exempt Wizard. The Exempt Wizard is being piloted by FDP and allows principal investigators to work through a series of questions to determine if their research is exempt from IRB review under the federal regulations. The idea of a wizard has support from both universities and federal agencies.

Texas A&M University is one of the universities that has chosen to participate in a test of the Exempt Wizard. **Researcher participation is strongly encouraged.** If the pilot is successful and the project continues, the potential exists for a reduced burden on investigators, reviewers, and staff when updates to the Common Rule are made. If not enough responses are received, the university has been informed that the project will be shut down before completion.

Human Research: IRB Guidance Document on Snowball Sampling

The Texas A&M (TAMU) IRB approves of the use of snowball sampling as a recruitment technique if it is appropriate for the population being studied and does not present additional risk to the participants. Snowball sampling is a recruitment technique used by researchers to identify potential subjects. The researcher asks current study participants to recruit or refer potential participants from among their acquaintances. Those individuals can, in turn, identify other people interested in participating in the research. Thus, the sample group grows like a rolling snowball. This recruitment procedure is especially useful when the nature of the study and/or the population being studied makes it difficult to identify and recruit participants. The guidance document has been posted on the Division website at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/compliance/rcc/irb/irb-guidance>.

August 3-4, 2016: CDC/HHS- Public Webcast on Permit Regulations for Infectious Biological Agents, Infectious Substances, and Vectors; and Permit Exemptions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hosting a public webcast to address import and export permit regulations for infectious biological agents, infectious substances, and vectors; and import and export permit exemptions.

Presenters for this webcast will include representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, HHS/Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response/Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The webcast will be held over two days, August 3, 2016, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT and August 4, 2016, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration instructions are found on the HHS/CDC Import Permit Program Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/od/eaipp/importApplication/agents.htm>.

For further information see, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-02/pdf/2016-13053.pdf>

TAMU Export Controls Office Moves to the Reynolds Building

The Texas A&M University Export Controls office has relocated from the General Services Complex to Reynolds 154. The new mail stop is MS 2407.

June 30th APLU/AAU Webinar: Improve Lab Safety Culture – Acting on the APLU Guidelines

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and Association of American Universities (AAU) released the Guide to Implementing a Safety Culture in Our Universities on April 11, 2016. The Guide contains a call to university leadership to provide the means for improving the safety culture in laboratories, with twenty recommendations along with implementation tools. The purpose of this webinar is to familiarize EH&S professionals and researchers with the Guide and accompanying

website, and to address questions to the Guide's leadership team. Register online for the webinar.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/737181140127274243>

24-Hour Lab Safety Short Course presented by The Laboratory Safety Institute Aug. 1-3

This Lab Safety BootCamp will appeal to those with responsibility for lab safety, or who must teach or practice safe laboratory procedures in an educational setting, hospital, government lab, private sector lab, or any other laboratory. Learn to identify and manage common laboratory hazards, and many you may not have considered. Discover how federal, state and local EH&S requirements apply to the laboratory environment, and how to improve regulatory compliance, reduce liability exposure, and convince others to care more about health, safety and the environment. For more information including registration information and costs, see the attached flyer.

Research Development Services (RDS)

CDMRP Biomedical Research Funding Opportunities

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs ([CDMRP](#)) manages Congressional Special Interest Medical Research Programs encompassing breast, prostate, and ovarian cancers, neurofibromatosis, military health, and other specified areas (visit [here](#) for a full list of topics). Since fiscal year 1992, the CDMRP has managed over \$7.7 billion in Congressional appropriations for peer-reviewed research aimed to prevent, control, and cure disease. [FY2016 funding opportunities](#) are currently being announced. To be notified directly when a funding opportunity is announced, sign up for the CDMRP [listserv](#) by topic.

Research Development Services Contacts:

Dr. Christina Papke, Research Development Officer, cpapke@tamu.edu, 979-458-1861

Dr. John Ivy, Senior Research Development Officer, johnivy@tamu.edu, 979-458-4280

Upcoming Seminars and Workshops for Texas A&M Researchers

The Division of Research (DOR) offers seminars and workshops throughout the year relating to professional development in research proposal planning and writing. All of these events are coordinated by [Research Development Services \(RDS\)](#), a DOR unit providing a wide range of support to Texas A&M researchers. The new RDS calendar can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/calendars>.

Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

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:

Dr. Jim Joyce, Associate Executive Director – jrjoyce@tamu.edu, 979-458-5852

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 – Issued weekly by the Division of Research, Texas A&M University

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.

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