



# Council of Principal Investigators

---

\*\*\*\*\*  
CPI Newsletter – August 2016  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Included in this issue:**

- Update from Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymeris, CPI Chair
- CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summary
- Council for the Built Environment Update
- Research Development Fund Advisory Committee
- Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium
- Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals Seminar
- Texas A&M Conference on Energy
- 2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program
- NIH Updated Biosketches
- Technology Transfer Advisory Committee
- Healthy Aging Research Interest Group Survey
- Friendly Proposal Reminder
- MAESTRO Update
- Data Management Plan Resources for Your Grant Applications
- Office of Scholarly Communications
- Statistical Collaborations Center Services
- Research Development Services
- Upcoming Seminars and Workshops for Texas A&M Researchers
- Sponsored Research Services (SRS)
- Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submitted Proposal Opportunities
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators



Mail Stop 2404 • College Station, TX 77843-2404 • (979) 862-9166 • [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) • [cpi.tamu.edu](http://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. Helene Andrews-Polymenis, CPI Chair

---

Colleagues-

As my responsibilities come to an end this month as CPI Chair, I want to thank you all for participating in and supporting the Council of Principal Investigators. Your input and your participation have been critical in our efforts to improve the research environment, and we have accomplished many things in this regard. We surveyed the research community in various areas impacting research and you flooded us with responses. Using this data, we pursued changes that we felt would improve the research environment including better grants administration, improving core facilities, making research compliance more streamlined user-friendly, improving faculty morale, and putting a spotlight on interdisciplinary work and graduate programs. Some of these areas, for example championing additional funding to the Research Development Fund and major improvements in services provided by Sponsored Research Services, saw monumental change. In other areas change is slower but we continue to advocate for improvement. We have actively advocated at both the University and System levels for these positive changes. I would also like to thank Dr. Glen Laine, Dr. Marty Scholtz, President Young, Provost Watson, and Chancellor Sharp, for listening to our concerns and counsel, and for their continued efforts to improve the research environment. Finally, to Texas A&M University, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and the Texas A&M Health Science Center, all the units that have supported the operations of the CPI, we thank you for your continued support.

Finally, thank you to the community of research active faculty for your continuous participation and feedback! 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](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or email/call me directly at [handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu](mailto:handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu) or 979.436.0340.

## CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summary

---

The CPI EC met for its monthly coordination meeting on August 3, 2016 with invited guests from the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas AgriLife Research, and Texas A&M University at the meeting. Dr. James Batteas welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order since Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymenis was out of town.

Dr. Penny Riggs, Chair of the Research Development Advisory Committee (RDF-AC), provided a brief update on the committee's progress after the third round of applications were reviewed. Email comments were sent out from the RDF Management Committee to all applicants, but have not received any replies. RDF-AC is also discussing the committee member rotation process that will start early September, because Dr. James Batteas will be rotating off since he will begin his CPI Chair responsibilities.

Dr. Penny Riggs, Chair of the Research Development Advisory Committee (RDF-AC), updated CPI-EC that the Texas A&M Mass Spectrometry Collaborative Core Steering Committee is being formed and Dr. François Gabbai will chair this new committee and will be meeting soon.

Dr. Glen Laine and Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto provided a brief update on the Division of Research regarding several audits going on (controlled substance, export control, and TTC). Also Research Compliance sent out a survey to the research community and the results would be coming out next month.

Ms. Kristi Billinger, Executive Director, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) provided an update that there are lots of projects going on and the process mapping is moving in forward direction to setup efficiencies and streamlining in order to allow staff to be proactive with PIs and better assist their needs. There are several items that are being reviewed and when it narrowed, Dr. Laine indicated that SRS will be working with agencies so the

---

companies can bring demos to campus in order to allow faculty to test the items. Ms. Billinger indicated that SRS is extremely early in the process, but it is moving along. Ms. Billinger indicated that if PIs/faculty have issues, they need to bring it up directly to her in SRS.

The next CPI general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2016 and Dr. John LaPres from Michigan State University is scheduled to be the guest speaker to discuss interdisciplinary programs.

## **Council for the Built Environment Update**

-----

Dr. James Grau will be the CPI voting member of the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) beginning Sept 1, 2016. A new CPI member is needed to replace Dr. Penny Riggs on the committee.

Ayers Saint Gross has provided an overview of the Campus Master Plan update. Presentation information can be found at <http://campusplan.tamu.edu>. Engagement via advisory groups, focus groups, and forums will continue during the master plan update process.

CBE recommended a proposal for renovation of the Computing Services Center, and a \$39.6 million proposal by the Utilities & Energy Services for capital improvements in the thermal, domestic water, electrical and storm drainage systems for the FY17 Capital Plan be forwarded for approval by President Young.

Consistent with new CBE procedures implemented this spring, certain projects under \$4 million follow a streamlined evaluation and approval process. In these cases the CBE co-chairs make decisions on space reallocations and approve guidelines and recommendations from the sub-councils (e.g., Campus Master Plan, District Plans, Space utilization plan, Maintenance Plans), with opportunity for discussion by CBE members. Substantial planned and proposed space reallocations were discussed in the August CBE meeting. Anticipated needs related to space allocation, development, and maintenance, should be discussed with the CPI representatives on the CBE.

## **Research Development Fund Advisory Committee**

-----

The third round of applications for utilization of the Research Development Fund resulted in selection of applications for expansion of resources for synthetic biology and human biometric analyses. In addition, funds were allocated from Texas A&M University System for development of mass spectrometry resources. For the next round applications, coversheets are due by **Sept. 12, 2016**, and full applications are due by **Oct. 6, 2016**. More details including Research Fund Applications and templates can be found at [rdf.tamu.edu](http://rdf.tamu.edu).

## **Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium**

-----

Texas A&M Division of Research will be hosting the inaugural **Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium** on **September 21, 2016**. Please join us to celebrate our postdoctoral researcher scholars and to see the exciting research that they are conducting at Texas A&M University. A flyer is attached and more information about this event can be found at <http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/post-doc>.

## **Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals Seminar on September 22, 2016**

-----

The Division of Research will once again present the highly regarded seminar, Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals, on Thursday, September 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower on the campus of Texas A&M University. The seminar will be offered via TTVN where available.

---

The seminar is open to all Texas A&M PI-eligible researchers, post-doctoral researchers, research staff, and administrators. Admittance is free, but registration is required.

For more information and to register, please go to [https://u.tamu.edu/9-22-16\\_Seminar](https://u.tamu.edu/9-22-16_Seminar).

Note: Principal investigators applying for the subsequent six-month [2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program](#) are required attend this seminar.

## **Texas A&M Conference on Energy**

-----

The Texas A&M Conference on Energy is a three-day long conference that utilizes lectures, presentations, and a strong industrial and governmental participation to emphasize the variety of themes that are covered through the university's ongoing research. The conference will present all forms of energy-related research from Texas A&M with a wide range of technical sessions in which a large amount of Texas A&M students participate in. The Texas A&M Conference on Energy will take place September 26-28, 2016 in the Bethancourt Ballrooms located in the Memorial Student Center, on the Texas A&M campus. For more information about the Texas A&M Conference on Energy, please see the flyer at the end of the CPI newsletter.

## **2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program**

-----

PI-eligible researchers once again have the opportunity, at no cost to them, to work with a highly experienced consultant to develop a submission-ready proposal to the National Institutes of Health in June 2017. The **2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program** will connect principal investigators with Dr. John D. Robertson, a consultant with Grant Writer's Seminars and Workshops (GWSW). For each member of this group, Dr. Robertson will

- Provide a detailed, written critique of his/her pre-proposal's grantsmanship,
- Facilitate a half-day pre-proposal critiquing workshop at Texas A&M,
- Meet in-person for a one-on-one consultation following the half-day workshop, and
- Provide individualized critiques and feedback on the full proposal via email.

The \$3,600 program fee is paid for by the Division of Research and the participant's department and/or college. The application deadline is October 5, 2016. A separate pre-proposal will be due to GWSW on November 20, 2016.

**Important Note:** Applicants to this program are required to attend the September 22, 2016, seminar, [Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals](#), at Texas A&M University (see above).

For more information about the 2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program and to download an application, please visit [https://u.tamu.edu/NIH\\_WritingProgram](https://u.tamu.edu/NIH_WritingProgram).

## **NIH Updated Biosketches**

-----

We have noticed in the Quality Review of proposals that many PIs are still using the old format and forms for NIH bios. As of May 25, 2016, there is a new required format and update form. Information can be found in the following link: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-032.html>

---

## Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC)

---

Following up to the April 2016 transfer of administrative responsibility for Texas A&M Technology Commercialization (TTC) to the Office of the Vice President for Research at Texas A&M University, the activities of the Intellectual Property Oversight Committee (IPOC) and Intellectual Property Constituent Committee (IPCC) have been merged into a newly formed Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC). This committee will serve as a working group and provide guidance to TTC and its stakeholders in the technology transfer and commercialization process. It is envisioned that the TTAC will function as a governing board modeled after the TSOC committee that provides guidance to SRS. In this way, the TTAC will help define the roles/responsibilities/direction of TTC (and by extension the commercialization ecosystem at TAMU) in a similar way as has been done with SRS. Initial efforts have focused on understanding how TTC currently operates, and how it interacts with various units at TAMU, some of which have established their own internal entities to assist in commercialization efforts. Results of this review will help to more clearly define the roles and responsibilities of TTC and each of the stakeholders in the technology transfer and commercialization process. In addition, it is envisioned that the TTAC will assist in a broader strategic planning involving efforts directed toward technology transfer, industry relations, economic development, and other related initiatives.

## The Healthy Aging Research Interest Group Requests Your Feedback

---

The Healthy Aging Research Interest Group wants to know how we can best serve the research needs of PIs with an interest in aging-related research. To that end, please complete the following brief survey:

[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_1Nu7DJSjOCmQr4h](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1Nu7DJSjOCmQr4h)

## Friendly Proposal Reminder

---

Please take a moment to log in to the agency web portals (eRA Commons, Fastlane, NASA NSPIRES, eBRAP, CPRIT, etc.) and update personal information and biosketches. If these sites are not updated to reflect current information it will cause incorrect information to feed into proposal documents.

## MAESTRO Update

---

Maestro Light, version 3, was released on August 6. Improvements and enhancements included in this new version include improved mobile screen layout and a more responsive user interface, larger and more intuitive icons, and improved screen readability with a modern flat look and increased white space.

This Maestro Light 3 project that was based on input from the Researcher Focus group formed by SRS TSOC. The list of delivered requested changes in this version also includes:

- Financial Conflict of Interest - disclosure entry process is simplified. The ability for Conflict of Interest Officials was added to finalize a disclosure without sending it back to Researcher.
- Account Transactions - FAMIS made their data available to enable display of Expense Budget and Revenue transactions.
- Account List - added link to navigate to Research Project, and new filter to exclude accounts that have ended.
- Notifications - the subject line and content of all Maestro notifications submitted to Researchers has been improved.

The next phase of development, "Maestro Light 4", will include design and delivery of a Researcher Dashboard. PIs with suggestions, or who would like to be part of the Researcher Dashboard team, are invited to send comments to [maestro@tamu.edu](mailto:maestro@tamu.edu).

---

## Data Management Plan Resources for Your Grant Applications

---

A recent [blog post](#) from Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops underscores that now virtually all federal research sponsors, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, require a Data Management Plan (DMP) in grant applications. The [University of Minnesota Libraries](#) and [North Carolina State University Libraries](#) have helpful resources to readily access the DMP requirements for each agency, and Texas A&M Research Development Services maintains a Data Management Plans resource page with helpful links. To assist in preparing your DMP and for examples and advice, Texas A&M University Libraries subscribes to the [DMPTool](#).

## Office of Scholarly Communications

---

### *Funding Databases Available Through the University Libraries*

The library has three databases that can be used to identify funding (below). All are accessible through the Library Search window, after clicking on databases: <http://library.tamu.edu/search/databases.html>

### *Foundation Directory Online*

Foundation Directory Online is the nation's leading online funding research tool, developed by the Foundation Center, a national nonprofit service organization founded over 50 years ago to help open U.S. foundations to public view. Over the past half-century we have evolved from one small library into philanthropy's information hub.

### *Pivot*

Pivot includes COS Funding Opportunities and COS Expertise. It gives Research Administrators, Research Development Professionals, and their institutions the edge to bring together the right research opportunities, funding, and people quickly and easily. It provides global and local connections that strengthen research by exploring new avenues for funding and collaboration for faculty, staff researchers, and graduate students.

Herbert, Bruce (2015). Instructions on Setting up a Search in Pivot. Available electronically from <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/154919>.

### *PrivCo*

PrivCo is the premiere source for business and financial data on major, non-publicly traded corporations, including family owned, private equity owned, venture-backed, and international unlisted companies. This database currently contains information on over 230,000 firms and are adding information and analysis daily. This database is searchable by advanced criteria whether doing company, investor, M&A, venture capital funding, or private equity research.

## Statistical Collaboration Center Services

---

The [Statistical Collaboration Center \(SCC\)](#) 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/>

---

## 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](http://cdmrp.army.mil/researchprograms.shtml) [http://cdmrp.army.mil/researchprograms.shtml] 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](https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/programSubscription/Subscribe.htm) [https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/programSubscription/Subscribe.htm] by topic.

Research Development Services Contacts:

Dr. Christina Papke, Research Development Officer, [cpapke@tamu.edu](mailto:cpapke@tamu.edu), 979-458-1861

Dr. John Ivy, Senior Research Development Officer, [johnivy@tamu.edu](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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. [Click here](#) to submit items for consideration for an upcoming bulletin.