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Update from Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymenis, CPI Chair

In February guests from the Division of Research, Dr. Glen Laine, Ms. Carol Cantrell, and from the Division of Finance, Mr. Gary Barnes, kindly provided presentations at the CPI general meeting. Dr. Glen Laine provided an update from the Division of Research on the National Science Foundation Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) report (http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/herd/) numbers and how TAMU is positioned based on research expenditures.

In response to faculty concerns regarding Buy A&M (BAM) expressed at the January closed CPI meeting, CPI leadership have been working diligently on your behalf to bring your concerns about ordering on sponsored projects and use of BAM to the administration. Thank you to those of you that answered the brief CPI survey on this topic and provided many comments and suggestions for improvement in BAM and the ordering process. BAM was purchased by the TAMU system to be the new electronic procurement tool for purchases, including those on sponsored projects. Ms. Carol Cantrell (Division of Research), and Mr. Gary Barnes (Division of Finance) provided a presentation at the February CPI general meeting about Buy A&M and outlined two particular areas where they are working to improve ordering for faculty. First, Mr. Barnes and his staff (and others at the university and system levels) are actively involved in working with the company that developed BAM to institute improvements based in part on faculty feedback. Second, Ms. Cantrell in particular is working to facilitate research by working to ensure that locally (department and college level) imposed rules on ordering are consistent with, but not in excess of, university, state and federal rules. Ms. Cantrell provided a draft document outlining different methodologies available to PIs and their staff members for ordering on sponsored projects http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/2015-16_Materials. The CPI leadership provided your comments and suggestions from the BAM survey directly to Mr. Barnes and Ms. Cantrell, and I know they are working to address the issues raised by faculty regarding this system and ordering in general. As always, CPI general meeting presentations are recorded and available on the CPI website for viewing. The recording from the February 2016 CPI general meeting can be found here: [INSERT LINK]

In March Dr. Michael Benedik, the Vice Provost at TAMU, will present some information on and answer questions regarding Science Works (http://www.scienceworksdcc.com/), a company hired by TAMU to assist with multiple phases of the development and submission of larger collaborative grants and projects. The directors of the Animal Welfare program, the Institutional Biosafety office, and the Human Subjects Protection program will provide presentations and answer faculty questions and concerns at the April CPI general meeting. The CPI leadership will collect your suggestions and concerns pertaining to these compliance areas prior to the April meeting and forward your input to the appropriate individuals.

As always, 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 March 2, 2016 with invited guests from the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M University, and Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES).
Dr. Andrews-Polymenis, represents CPI on the SRS Transition and Services Operations Committee (TSOC). She reported the TSOC committee continues to meet to assist with implementing recommendations on improvements where identified. A draft timeline for submission of documents from PIs to SRS is being created by SRS.

Dr. Glen Laine provided the CPI-EC Committee an update on the progress of the search for a new Executive Director at SRS. Several candidates have been interviewed and a new director will be identified and named soon.

Dr. Penny Riggs provided the committee with an update on the Research Development Fund-Advisory Committee (RDF-AC). Letters of intent for the spring deadline have been submitted, and the deadline for the full applications is Friday, March 11, 2016. Dr. Riggs noted to visit the RDF website at rdf@tamu.edu for all submission guidelines and templates.

The CPI-EC discussed Buy A&M (BAM) and provided the examples received from the CPI-BAM survey to Ms. Carol Cantrell and Mr. Gary Barnes. Ms. Cantrell relayed the existence of locally imposed rules (department, college level) regarding placing orders. The available procedures for ordering items on sponsored projects were clarified in a draft document to be distributed at the general meeting. Dr. Andrews-Polymenis requested that the CPI-EC report back additional issues that may need attention.

The April CPI General meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2016 and topic will be Research Compliance and Biosafety here at Texas A&M University.

Research Development Fund - Advisory Committee Update, Penny Riggs
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The Research Development Fund Advisory Committee (RDF-AC) has announced that the Spring 2016 complete applications are due March 11. The application template, RFA, and other information are available at rdf.tamu.edu.

Questions should be directed to rdf@tamu.edu or to (979) 862-9166.

Research Development Services (RDS)
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**NIH/NSF Changes: Overview Sessions with Q&A**
Research Development Services (RDS) and Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will be hosting four informational sessions with Q&A regarding new policies and revised organization and content of grant applications required by NSF and NIH in 2016. Brief presentations will highlight the changes, and investigators will have a chance to have their questions answered by representatives and proposal administrators from RDS and SRS. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to https://u.tamu.edu/NIH_NSF_Changes.

The last location remaining session will be:

**March 10, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.**
Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center, 113
Room 113
For links to useful information and summary documents regarding the 2016 NSF and NIH policy and grant application changes, please visit http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/proposal-development-resources

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

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS: New Initiatives at Texas A&M University

Dr. Glen A. Laine, Vice President for Research, is hosting a luncheon to discuss new initiatives for Postdoctoral Scholars at Texas A&M University. This informational meeting is open to all individuals (postdocs, faculty, staff, graduate students, administrators) who are interested in resources for, and opportunities available to, postdoctoral scholars at Texas A&M. Registration ended 5:00 p.m. on March 4 for the free lunch https://u.tamu.edu/Post-Doc-Mar-4, but if you would like to attend this discussion, please bring your lunch and make plans to join us.

Friday, March 11, 2016
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.
301 Rudder Tower

Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi

The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society will host its Distinguished Scientist Lecture and Spring Symposium on March 23, at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. At 1:30 PM after a brief Introduction by the Vice President for Research, Dr. Cheryl Walker will present the Distinguished Scientist Lecture on "Epigenetics in Health and Disease." An interactive panel discussion "From Good Science to Good Policy" will follow the seminar at 2:30 PM, and will include Dr. Walker, Dr. Arnold Vedlitz and Dr. Diane Hurtado on a variety of science and policy related topics. The mini-symposium will conclude with a reception.

The annual Sigma Xi Awards Banquet and Induction Ceremony is scheduled for the evening of May 3, 2016. For membership nominations, including self-nomination, please complete the form located at http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/membership.

Sigma Xi is an international, chapter-based organization dedicated to nurturing the research enterprise in all fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Unique among scientific honor societies, Sigma Xi has a broad outlook that spans the spectrum of science and technology and is committed to the core values that unite across disciplinary boundaries. For more information about Sigma Xi, visit http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu.

Spring Research Compliance Event - March 24

You are encouraged to attend the Division of Research Spring Symposium, on March 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Memorial Student Center. This year’s theme is “Promoting Excellence in Research”. The sessions and workshops will deliver useful, practical information intended to enhance research and provide practical solutions and best practices to the research community.

The Impact of Choice on Compliance Rates
Sean Kaufman, CEO and Founding Partner, Behavioral-Based Improvement Solutions
Caring for Bentley - Ebola Patient's Dog
Debra L. Zoran, D.V.M., Ph.D. Professor and Operations Supervisor Texas A&M VET Department of SA Clinical Sciences

Luncheon Speaker and Presentation

Realities and Possibilities in Internet Research:
Elizabeth A. Buchanan, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin – Stout

Going Global: Passport to Research Success (panel)
Learn how researchers have successfully addressed research compliance issues without jeopardizing global partnerships and collaborations.

What University Researchers Need to Know About US Export Controls
Lawrence W. Hanson, Attorney at Law, The Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C., Houston, Texas

Attendees are eligible to win one of five activity trackers. There is no cost for the event, but an RSVP is kindly requested.

For more information on our sessions and speakers, including a time schedule, please visit our event page: http://rcb.tamu.edu/spring.

Also, please download the event flyer and share it with your colleagues: http://rcb.tamu.edu/iris/RDSSpringEventFinal.jpg

To RSVP today: outreachrcb@tamu.edu

INVITATION: Faculty Forum with President Young – April 4
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President Young and Provost Watson invite you to join them for a faculty forum on Monday, April 4, 2016.
Forum address by President Young with Q & A to follow - 4:00 -5:00 p.m., Rudder Theatre
Reception honoring the Faculty of Texas A&M University – 5:00 -7:00 p.m., Rudder Exhibit Hall

**** RSVP by Friday, April 1, 2016 ****

Invitation flyer can be found on the last page of this CPI Newsletter.

Healthy Aging Open Forum and Networking Event
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All researchers interested in promoting healthy aging are encouraged to attend this campus-wide Open Forum, Poster Session, and Networking Event on April 27, 2016, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. in the auditorium and lobby of the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB). Additional details will be posted as soon as they are available at https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging

Investigators interested in the topic of aging are encouraged to join the group’s listserv at https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging_Listserv. Questions may also be addressed to Dr. Christina Papke, research development officer in the Division of Research, at cpapke@tamu.edu.
Texas A&M ENG-LIFE Workshop: At the Interface of Engineering and Life Sciences

Save the date! A workshop promoting multidisciplinary interaction and scientific communication in the field of engineering and life sciences will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in Room 2005 of the Engineering Technology Building (ETB). This full-day workshop will include oral presentations, a poster session, and networking opportunities. Additional details will be posted at https://u.tamu.edu/ENG-LIFE as they become available.

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 be found at: http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/proposal-development-resources

Sponsored Research Services Contact:
Dr. Jim Joyce, Associate Executive Director – irjoyce@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.

Click here to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin. Click here to submit items for consideration for an upcoming bulletin.
President Michael K. Young invites you to a Faculty Forum.

- Monday, April 4, 2016 -

 4:00-5:00 p.m., Rudder Theatre
Address by President Young, followed by Q&A

5:00-7:00 p.m., Rudder Exhibit Hall
Reception honoring the Faculty of Texas A&M University

RSVP by Friday, April 1, 2016