



# Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – April 2017  
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**Included in this issue:**

- Update from Dr. Penny Riggs, Interim CPI Chair
- DARPA Workshop & Save the Date
- Provost Search Committee Update
- Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) Update
- 25 By 25 Report
- Institute in Perpetuity
- Sigma Xi Grand Challenges in Science Symposium
- Scientific Rigor and Transparency in NIH Grant Applications
- NSF Broader Impacts Workshop
- Grand Challenges Mini Symposium
- NSF CAREER Mock Review Panel
- Write Winning Grant Proposals – NIH and NSF
- Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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## Update from Dr. Penny Riggs, Interim CPI Chair

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### *Update from the CPI executive committee meeting*

At the April 5, Executive Committee (EC) meeting, Research Compliance Chairs, Vice Chairs and Directors met with CPI-EC to discuss plans for April's General CPI Meeting. The overall objective is for Texas A&M to remain in compliance with federal and state law, while eliminating unnecessary faculty burden. I look forward to a lively and interactive discussion.

Dr. Glen Laine announced that the new SRS website is completed and will become active very soon. Kristi Billinger noted that SRS customer service complaints are very low, and that the post-award process is improving. PIs are encouraged to provide feedback regarding any items that should be addressed.

The CPI EC discussed a number of topics including the use of the new SPECTRIM audit system for computer users with administrative rights, the CyberArk EPM is a privilege escalation system adopted by some units across campus, central IT needs, the impact of APPLY TEXAS on graduate student applications, and scheduled improvements for procard utilization within CONCUR. As these items of interest arise or affect the research community, we will try to schedule appropriate speakers for the General CPI meetings.

Candidates for the Provost position are expected to be scheduled around the end of this month. Opportunities for CPI members to interact with the candidates will be announced.

### *CPI News*

The Spring Principal Investigator Census was completed and elections for CPI representatives are underway. As soon as the elections are completed, the vice chair election will begin. Each year, the CPI conducts a PI census for each college/unit of Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension, HSC, TEES, and TTI. Census results are used to allocate CPI seats to colleges/units represented on the Council. If a college/unit has an open seat(s) for the upcoming academic year, then a nomination and election process is held to fill the open seat(s). CPI members serve a 3 year term on the Council, beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31, and may serve two consecutive terms. Additional information on the PI census and CPI elections can be found at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/pi-census-and-cpi-elections>.

Contact Rebecca Luckey, [rluckey@tamu.edu](mailto:rluckey@tamu.edu) or 979.862.9166 for more information.

**The next general CPI meeting will be held May 10, 2017**, and will include an update on Workday, a new HR Platform. I encourage CPI members to communicate with their constituents, and bring forward items of concern or interest for the research community. Thanks for your input over the past month. The CPI will continue to communicate with administrators regarding topics and issues of importance for the research community. Please continue to bring research-related issues (and solutions) to my attention at [CPI@tamu.edu](mailto:CPI@tamu.edu), or contact me directly at [riggs@tamu.edu](mailto:riggs@tamu.edu) or 979.862.7015.

## DARPA Workshop & NSA Save the Date

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**You are invited to attend an internal DARPA Workshop on April 14, 2017.** The Workshop is open to all Texas A&M University System researchers interested in successful engagement with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). It is led by panelists who are former DARPA employees.

Registration is required to attend, and we highly recommend you to attend in person in order to receive the most benefit. However, a webinar link will be provided to registered participants who are unable to appear in person. Click [here](#) to register.

### Workshop Details

When: Friday, April 14, 2017 - 9:00-11:00 am

Where: Texas A&M College Station Campus

Rudder Tower, Room 601

401 Joe Routh Blvd., College Station, TX 77840

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Parking: University Center Garage adjacent to the Koldus Bldg. Parking is free if TAMU Business Pass is used.

Agenda:

Brief Presentation: Dr. Jon Mogford

Panel introductions and question/answer period:

- Dr. Jon Mogford, Vice Chancellor for Research, Texas A&M University System
- Dr. Kerrie Demarco, Director, Center for Global Health and Innovation, Texas A&M University System
- Dr. Daniel Ragsdale, Director, Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center

Please familiarize yourself with DARPA via their website <http://www.darpa.mil/> and come prepared to engage.

In addition, please **save the date for an upcoming NSA Workshop on June 1, 2017**; details to follow.

## **Provost Search Committee Update – Dr. Jodie Lukenhaus**

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The Provost Search Committee would like to announce that the website, [provostsearch.tamu.edu](http://provostsearch.tamu.edu), is still active and live. Please click on the website to view all the details, resources, and a timeline for the position status. As status updates change, the website is updated. Please feel free to apply, leave feedback, and submit nominations. Contact our CPI Representative on the Search Committee, Jodie Lutkenhaus, with any questions or comments.

## **Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) Update – Dr. Victor Ugaz**

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The next meeting for the TTAC is planned later during the month of April.

## **25 By 25 Report**

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In 2013, the College of Engineering announced plans to grow its enrollment to 25,000 students by 2025 through the 25 by 25 initiative. This educational initiative was designed to address the growing need for engineers in the nation.

For the latest information to answer the most common questions about the initiative, please see a new report from the desk of Dean Katherine Banks: <http://engineering.tamu.edu/media/4789983/25x25-from-VCD-Desk-March-2017.pdf>

## **The Institute in Perpetuity**

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At the gala on February 24, 2017, the official name of the Institute for Advanced Study changed to *The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University*. Jon Hagler, a distinguished alumni and Doctor of Letters from Texas A&M, donated \$20 million to help endow the institute, and President Young committed future University resources to help support it. The Institute is now a permanent fixture at Texas A&M, with support to bring approximately ten world class scholars, researchers, and, in some rare cases, practitioners to Texas A&M each year for up to twelve months in residence to collaborate with our faculty and students. More donations will contribute to the Institute's growth. To see the current former groups of visiting scholars visit our web site, [hias.tamu.edu](http://hias.tamu.edu).

When a world renowned scholar comes to Texas A&M likely everyone in his or her their field of study knows about it, enhancing A&M's visibility in the traditionally highest echelons of the world's universities. These scholars are publishing with our faculty and students, helping to direct dissertations, advising on strategic plans, bringing Texas A&M into new research colloquiums, and participating in grant proposals, among many other activities. Some choose to join our permanent faculty. Prospective faculty and top students can see the advantages of coming to a University enjoying a steady stream of the worlds' finest scholars. The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study will play a major role in moving Texas A&M into the top tier of the world's greatest academic institutions.

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## Sigma Xi Grand Challenges in Science Symposium – Wednesday, April 19

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***Musculoskeletal Health: Use it or Lose it*** (<https://u.tamu.edu/musculoskeletalhealth>)

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017, Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building Auditorium 1105**

1:30 p.m. - Opening Remarks and Introduction

Dana Gaddy, President-Elect Texas A&M Chapter Sigma Xi, Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences

1:35 p.m. - “An astronaut’s perspective on maintaining musculoskeletal health in space and microgravity”

Bonnie J. Dunbar, TEES Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering

2:25 p.m. - “Effects of bed rest and exercise on muscle mass and function in humans during aging”

Nicolaas Deutz, Professor and Holder of the Ponder Endowed Chair, Department of Health & Kinesiology

2:55 p.m. - “Effects of disuse and exercise on the skeleton in animal models”

Susan Bloomfield, Associate Dean for Research, College of Education & Human Development

3:25 p.m. - “Use of diet and exercise to improve performance and reduce injury in equine athletes”

Sarah White, Assistant Professor, Equine Physiology, Department of Animal Science

3:55 p.m. Closing remarks

Penny Riggs, President, Texas A&M Chapter Sigma Xi, Department of Animal Science

4:00 p.m. Reception (ILSB Lobby)

INFO: - [sigmaxi@tamu.edu](mailto:sigmaxi@tamu.edu).

## Scientific Rigor and Transparency in NIH Grant Applications

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NIH introduced new instructions and review requirements in January 2016 regarding scientific rigor and transparency for research grant proposals ([NOT-OD-16-011](#)) and mentored career development award applications ([NOT-OD-16-012](#)). With these changes, applicants of research grant proposals are to address Scientific Premise in the application’s Significance section, Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility in the application’s Approach section, Relevant Biological Variables in the Approach section, and Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources in a new application attachment.

Scientific Premise can be defined as “the key data introduced by the applicant to justify the project.” According to guidance provided by NIH, the “applicant should supply a sufficient evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the data or other justification used to support the application, and should describe how the proposed research will address any weaknesses or gaps.” Reviewers are asked to assess consideration of scientific premise in research grant applications under the Significance criterion, which will extend “the existing review criteria to include a retrospective assessment of the foundation for the project.”

Complete guidance on how reviewers are to assess scientific premise, scientific rigor, consideration of biological variables, and the plan for resource authentication can be found in “[Reviewer Guidance on Rigor and Transparency: Research Project Grant and Mentored Career Development Applications](#)”. This should provide excellent guidance to applicants on what reviewers are looking for.

For additional guidance to applicants on this topic, as well as examples of Rigor in successful applications, see NIH’s web page on [Rigor and Reproducibility](#).

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## NSF Broader Impacts Workshop

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### Workshop, Q&A

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

Where: 103 Henderson Hall

Contact: Contact: Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, [jizat@tamu.edu](mailto: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.

## Grand Challenges Mini-Symposium

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The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be hosting the [Grand Challenges Mini-Symposium](#) (click to register) “*A Fearless Campaign to Address the Grand Challenge of Primary Cancer Prevention*”, May 3, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Rudder 601. Please RSVP by COB April 26.

More info on this event can be found through this link: <https://grandchallenges.tamu.edu/2017-mini-symposium/>

## NSF CAREER Mock Review Panel

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### NSF Workshop, Mock Review Panel and Workshop

When: May 22, 2017 8:00am – 4:00pm

Where: Rudder Tower 401

Contact: Jim Izat, Sr. Research Development Officer, [jizat@tamu.edu](mailto:jizat@tamu.edu)

This all day session co-sponsored by TEES and the Division of Research is planned to feature a mock review panel participation experience, with an overall program including a keynote speaker providing an overview of the NSF CAREER solicitation, a panel of faculty discussing the NSF proposal review process, a presentation by CAREER awardees, and a several concurrent mock review panels in breakout rooms with a debriefing on the process to conclude the day. Keynote speaker is an NSF rotator now on faculty at Texas A&M.

## Write Winning Grant Proposals – NIH and NSF

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### Seminar, Writing Program

When: Seminar on September 21-22, 2017 (tentative)  
Proposal Writing Program to run Fall 2017 through Spring 2018.

Where: Seminar Venue TBD

Contacts: Shannon Prescott, Senior Administrative Coordinator, [sprescott@tamu.edu](mailto:sprescott@tamu.edu)  
Jorja Kimball, Executive Director, [jkimball@tamu.edu](mailto:jkimball@tamu.edu)

Expanded to include NSF proposals, the Division of Research will host a 1-1/2 day seminar for researchers interested in submitting grant proposals to the NIH and NSF on September 21-2, 2017. Featured in past years, Dr. John Robertson of Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops (GWSW), will again speak on NIH proposal development and add information related to NSF to the seminar in an additional half day.

The seminar will be comprised of three units: (1) Sep 21 morning: CORE – Principles, Funding Priorities, and Preparation of the Overview / Executive Summary; (2) Sep 21 afternoon: NIH; (3) Sep 22 morning: NSF.

The Division will also expand the semester-long 2018 Grant Proposal Writing Program (with GWSW) to include both NIH and NSF. A maximum of 30 candidates will be accepted to the program.

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## Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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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

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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.