



# Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – September 2016  
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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

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## Update from Dr. James Batteas, CPI Chair

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Colleagues-

I am pleased to welcome all of you to the 2016-2017 academic year and I want to thank you all for actively participating in, and supporting the Council of Principal Investigators. The CPI plays an important role in the continued growth of the research enterprise at Texas A&M University. The past year has seen many exciting developments, and with your help we will continue to build on these, and take even further strides forward. Before we launch headlong into this year, however, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Helene Andrew-Polymenis, our past-Chair, whose leadership and persistence (especially as a member of TSOC) has helped us move forward on many fronts over the past year. She will be a tough act to follow, but I will do my best.

Under her leadership, the CPI has been very pleased to push forward additional funding for research infrastructure through the Research Development Fund, and to see marked improvements in research services, with SRS returning to the university. Looking forward, the stage has been set for us to make even further steps to support our research and educational mission. The resources that TAMU can bring to bear are many, and in my opinion, there is no better place to put those resources than at the disposal of our outstanding faculty. That being said, building on our past successes, I see three main areas as priorities for CPI for this coming year: **1) interdisciplinary research programs; 2) core research facilities and 3) the continued reduction of administrative burdens on the principal investigator**, to allow us to best fulfill our roles as research faculty at TAMU, educating the people of Texas and leading the world in innovation. As always, your input remains critical in our efforts to improve the research environment, and I want to thank you in advance for your committee service and those things yet to come, where we will need your help, as we continue to actively advocate at the University and System levels for positive changes in these areas. To that end, I would also like to thank Dr. Glen Laine, Dr. Marty Scholtz, President Young, Provost Watson, and Chancellor Sharp, for their commitment to hearing our concerns and to taking action to improve the research environment, based on our recommendations. I look forward to another year of working closely with them as we to continue to move Texas A&M forward. Also, let me thank 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, who all provide financial support for the operations of the CPI.

Finally, I look to all of the research active faculty for your continuous input. The only way we progress is with your concerns and suggestions being brought to us. While we may not be able to tackle all of them, it remains the most critical part of making improvements to the research environment. This is best accomplished by contacting the CPI Representatives for your college, department or unit, which can be found on the CPI website at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/15unit>. You can contact us at [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or email/call me directly at [batteas@chem.tamu.edu](mailto:batteas@chem.tamu.edu) or 979.458.2965.

## CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summary

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The CPI EC met for its monthly coordination meeting on September 7, 2016 with invited guests from the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas A&M Health Science Center and Texas A&M University at the meeting. Dr. James Batteas, new CPI Chair for 2016-2017 welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Having a new CPI Executive Council all members and guests introduced themselves.

Dr. Batteas discussed not sending out a CPI survey for 2016 since CPI had an extensive survey that gleaned data that is still relevant for 2016-2017. Using the data results and the issues from 2015-2016 under Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymenis's leadership, Dr. Batteas announced three general overarching agenda items that he would like to present to the CPI members at the September 14, 2016 closed planning meeting. Those three agenda items were: (1) Interdisciplinary Research at Texas A&M; (2) establishing high level, essential core facilities at Texas A&M; and (3) focus on reducing administrative burden on faculty.

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A report of the Graduate Education Special Topics Committee was presented to the CPI-EC by Dr. Teresa Wilcox (chair of the committee). The charge of the committee was to provide recommendations to President Young as to ways in which new investments in graduate education and training could have a significant impact on the research enterprise at Texas A&M University. The committee recommended four areas of priority: (1) university-level support for competitive, sustainable, multi-year funding offers to graduate students; (2) coordinated recruitment efforts that include, as a central component, shared financial and administrative responsibility; (3) enhanced professional development opportunities, including greater support for scientific writing and more diverse training opportunities; and (4) implementation of Interdisciplinary Programs that are faculty-driven and poised for academic and financial success.

Dr. Penny Riggs, Chair of the Research Development Advisory Committee (RDF-AC), updated CPI-EC that the fourth round of RDF applications are being accepted. The deadline for the cover page was September 12, 2016. Dr. Riggs also updated CPI-EC that the Texas A&M Mass Spectrometry Collaborative Core Steering Committee has been formed and Dr. François Gabbai agreed to chair this new committee. They held their first meeting August 30, 2016 and will be touring all the Mass Spec facilities located at Texas A&M in order to evaluate short, intermediate and long-term plans for facility utilization. The committee will provide the RDF-AC with a report of their findings and recommendations by the end of October.

Dr. Costas Georghiades, Senior Associate Vice President for Research, discussed the establishment of a new Core Facilities Committee for which he provides oversight. The Core Facilities committees consist of a consolidated group from URC, MCF, MIC, AgriLife Research, and TEES. This committee will be looking at existing core facilities at Texas A&M and develop recommendations for new and existing core facilities, with a goal for these facilities to potentially adopt a common model where they can become more sustainable. The Core Facilities Committee will be submitting in their findings in a report to Dr. Georghiades later this fall.

Dr. Glen Laine, Vice President for Research, provided a brief update on the Division of Research that things are gearing up for a busy fall. He will continue looking to CPI to provide input and recommendations related to research, and during development of a mechanism to set aside technical support for the Core Facilities and Mass Spec Facilities. He agrees that technical support is vital for these facilities, and while long-term sustainable funding is a challenge, but he is open to suggested models and ideas.

Ms. Carol Cantrell, Senior Associate Vice President for Research, provided an update on the Texas A&M Stakeholder Committee (TSOC) which she chairs, with Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymeris as the CPI Representative on this committee. Ms. Cantrell noted that Dr. Laine established the TSOC committee as a transition committee with SRS, but now it has evolved to a working committee where rules and regulations are brought to the table. This committee was established one year ago and they have held over 30 meetings in this past year. TSOC's purpose has been to clarify roles and responsibilities between the System Members and Sponsored Research Services (SRS), to address process issues and services for the researchers and to eliminate locally imposed rules that departments or colleges may have put in place in excess of university, system, federal or state guidelines and rules. Since this committee began, over 100 issues have been reviewed and processes put in place to resolve 55 of these by this committee to date. Dr. Laine praised Ms. Cantrell for the work this committee has accomplished in one year.

Ms. Cantrell also reported that she and Drs. James Batteas and Helene Andrews-Polymeris were among a group of faculty and administrators that met with the CEO of Periscope, developer of BAM. At this meeting, it was strongly communicated that BAM was not meeting the needs of the University faculty nor the administrators and in fact had placed an unnecessary burden on the departments and colleges.

Ms. Kristi Billinger, Executive Director, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) provided an update that there are lots of projects still going on at SRS. One project she noted was the demos she has been attending in an effort

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to find something that could replace Maestro. She saw four demos this past month and they are still looking. She offered CPI Members the opportunity to provide input. There will be an upcoming Researcher Dashboard exercise in which CPI can participate on October 3, 2016. See the MAESTRO update in this newsletter. Ms. Billinger reaffirmed that if PIs/faculty have issues with SRS, they should contact her directly.

Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, Associate Vice President for Research, provided a brief update on the Division of Research regarding a committee being formed based from the mandated audits on controlled substance. Also Research Compliance survey was launched to the research community and the results will be in by September 30, 2016. If you have not completed the Research Compliance survey, please do so before September 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rojo del Busto announced that new people have joined the Human Subjects Program (HSSP): Aline Lovings, has been named interim director and the new interim HSSP Committee Chair is David Martin. The Division of Research Export Control unit has hired Nikolaos Tides, Director of Export Controls.

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

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Dr. James Grau became the CPI voting member of the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) beginning Sept 1, 2016. A new CPI member is still needed to replace Dr. Penny Riggs on the committee. Dr. Batteas is accepting recommendations for CPI members interested in serving on this committee. Please email [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) if interested, or know a CPI member who might be interested.

### **Research Development Fund Advisory Committee**

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The next round of applications are being accepted. The coversheets (intent to submit) are due by **Sept. 12, 2016**. The full applications are due by **Oct. 6, 2016**. More information with details including the Research Fund Applications and templates can be found at [rdf.tamu.edu](http://rdf.tamu.edu).

### **NIAID – NIH Special Seminar – Thursday, September 15**

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The Clinical Science and Translational Research Institute is hosting a special seminar, “Conversations with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Program Officer” Dr. Michael Minnicozzi, on Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. in the Health Professions Education Building (HPEB) LL46, at The Texas A&M Health Science Center. For additional information, the flyer is attached to the back of the CPI Newsletter.

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

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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>.

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

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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.

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## MAESTRO Update

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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).

## Technology Transfer Advisory Committee (TTAC) Update, Victor Ugaz

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The TTAC continues to meet regularly with the goal of refining the distribution of roles and responsibilities between TTC and System members. Initial discussions have centered around identifying core services that should be offered through TTC. Broadly speaking, some aspects of functions like central tracking/reporting of IP activities, negotiation of license agreements (with input from members), and financial reporting appear (at some level) to fall within the scope of TTC. Finer level distribution of roles and responsibilities, including handling of IP developed at regional campuses, are currently under discussion by the committee. The committee also discussed and agreed that its primary focus should remain on developing the proposed model for TTC and the technology transfer process. Additional discussion around strategies for economic development, student entrepreneurship education, or other similar functions would be topics for future consideration and possibly the focus of a new/reformed committee or working group.

## Data Management Plan Resources for Your Grant Applications

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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

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### *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*

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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**

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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.

[\[http://www.stat.tamu.edu/consulting-collaboration-center/\]](http://www.stat.tamu.edu/consulting-collaboration-center/)

**NIH Updated Biosketches**

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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>

**Friendly Proposal Reminder**

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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.

**Research Development Services (RDS)**

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**Division of Research Calendar of Events**

The Division of Research invites you to visit their [Upcoming Events At A Glance webpage](#) that lists professional development opportunities and research interest group events for the upcoming academic year. URL: <http://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/calendars/upcoming-events>

**New Research Interest Group Announced – Microbiota**

The Division of Research is pleased to announce a new research interest group (RIG) – the Microbiota Research Interest Group. This group welcomes all researchers interested in microbial communities in the broadest sense, including impact on human and animal health and disease, ecological and agricultural microbiomes, meta-omics

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and bioinformatics, and novel intersections with microbiota. Organizers are Dr. Robert Alaniz, director of Core for Integrated Microbiota Research (CIMR), director of Cell Analysis Facility (COM-CAF), and assistant professor of microbial pathogenesis and immunology; and Dr. Lora Yanagisawa, Research Manager of the Center for Integrated Microbiota Research (CIMR).

Information about the group is available on the Microbiota webpage at <https://u.tamu.edu/microbiota>. Researchers interested in joining the Microbiota Listserv can also do so at that website.

The first Microbiota event will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on November 8 and feature brief oral presentations, breakout tables in four theme areas, a poster session, and a networking reception. The four themes and their conveners are: Human Health and Disease (Robert Alaniz, Medicine); Animal Health and Disease (Jan Suchodolski, Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences); Ecological and Agricultural Microbiomes (Jeff Tomberlin, Agriculture and Life Sciences); and Tools and Technologies (Arul Jayaraman, Engineering). Additional information will be posted on the group's website as it becomes available.

### ***October Imaging Spotlight Series Event to Feature Nobel Laureate***

Dr. W. E. Moerner, Harry S. Mosher Professor of Chemistry and Applied Physics at Stanford University and recipient of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry will present an invited talk at the Fall 2016 Imaging Science Spotlight event on October 26. Dr. Moerner received the 2014 Nobel Prize for his role in developing super-resolved fluorescence microscopy techniques that have allowed scientists to visualize precise molecular mechanisms inside living cells, opening new windows to how life can be studied. His talk is entitled, *What Can You Learn from Watching Single Molecules? From Super-Resolution Imaging to Nanoscale Probes of 3D Dynamics in Cells*.

The Imaging Science Spotlight event will be held in the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB) with peer-reviewed Poster Contest at 1:00 p.m., Oral Presentations at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Moerner's talk at 4:00 p.m., and a networking reception and poster viewing from 5:00-6:00 p.m. General registration will open September 24 and registration deadline will be **5:00 p.m., October 21**. Conveners have issued a Call for Abstracts for presentations and posters. See *Upcoming Events* for more information.

### ***September 15 Deadline for NIH Seminar***

This is a last reminder that the deadline to register for seminar, Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals, is **5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 15, 2016**. To register go to [https://u.tamu.edu/9-22-16\\_Seminar](https://u.tamu.edu/9-22-16_Seminar). PI-eligible researchers who want to apply to the 2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program must attend this seminar to qualify.

### ***Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals Seminar on Sep. 22***

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 on the Texas A&M campus (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**. Deadline to register is **5:00 p.m., September 15**. For more information, please go to [https://u.tamu.edu/9-22-16\\_Seminar](https://u.tamu.edu/9-22-16_Seminar). **Important Note:** Principal investigators applying for the subsequent six-month [2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program](#) are required attend this seminar.

### ***Call for Abstracts: Quantitative Biolmaging (QBI) 2017 International Conference at Texas A&M – Deadline September 15***

Texas A&M University will host the Quantitative Biolmaging 2017 International Conference on January 5-7, 2017. Abstracts for conference presentations are currently being sought.

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Contributions in any area of quantitative microscopy are welcome, but presentations that demonstrate (in detail) new approaches including, but not limited to, algorithmic and software developments, physical modeling approaches etc., are particularly welcome. The use of quantitative imaging techniques in biological applications is also of great interest.

Deadline for submission is **September 15, 2016**. See the conference website, [www.QuantitativeBioImaging.com](http://www.QuantitativeBioImaging.com), for more information.

***Call for Abstracts: Imaging Science Spotlight Series Event – Deadline September 22***

Abstracts are invited for oral presentations and posters for the October 26 Imaging Science Spotlight event featuring Nobel Laureate, Dr. W. E. Moerner. Abstracts must be entered at the time of registration, and the abstract deadline is **5:00 p.m., September 22**. Six abstracts will be selected for 12-minute oral presentations. To upload an abstract, see <https://u.tamu.edu/IS-Oct2016-Abstracts>.

***Applications for 2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program***

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program. This program provides an opportunity for PI-eligible researchers to work with a highly experienced consultant to develop a submission-ready proposal to the National Institutes of Health in June 2017. Additional information and the application can be found at [https://u.tamu.edu/NIH\\_WritingProgram](https://u.tamu.edu/NIH_WritingProgram).

The \$3,600 program fee is paid by the Division of Research and the participant's department or college. Application deadline is Oct. 5, 2016. A separate pre-proposal will be due to GWSW on Nov. 20, 2016. Applicants to this program are required to attend the Sept. 22, 2016 seminar, Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals.

***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. 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](#) (see above). For more information and to download an application, please visit [https://u.tamu.edu/NIH\\_WritingProgram](https://u.tamu.edu/NIH_WritingProgram).

***2016 National RDC Research Conference***

The Texas Research Data Center (TXRDC) invites interested researchers to attend the 2016 National RDC Research Conference hosted this year at Texas A&M University on behalf of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Federal Statistical Research Data Center Network. The conference will be held on Thursday, September 15, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Memorial Student Center. Three concurrent sessions of paper presentations will be running over four session periods. Paper sessions will have research presentations on topics in economics, business, organizations, health, health disparities, demography, transportation, and social inequality and mobility.

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Lucia Foster, chief economist and chief of the Center for Economic Studies at the United States Census Bureau, will join TXRDC Executive Director Mark Fossett and Vice President for Research Glen A. Laine, to welcome dozens of researchers from leading universities and senior-level officials from federal statistical agencies. Welcome remarks begin at 8:30 a.m. in the MSC Bethancourt Ballroom. In addition, Steven Ruggles, Director of the Minnesota Population Center and Past-President of the Population Association of America, will provide a plenary address at 12:00 p.m. in the Bethancourt Ballroom (lunch is provided, RSVP at the conference website).

See the TXRDC website (<http://txrdc.tamu.edu/>) for additional information about the conference and links to RSVP for the conference and the keynote address.

### ***Healthy Aging RIG Events Planned for Fall 2016***

Conveners of the Healthy Aging Research Interest Group (RIG) are planning three important events for Fall 2016:

- Networking Event with Breakout Sessions
  - Wednesday, October 19, Afternoon (Time TBA)
  - MSC Bethancourt Ballrooms 2300AB
  - [https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy\\_Aging](https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging)
- Brown Bag Events – Two opportunities!
  - Brown Bag Breakfast
    - Friday, November 4, 2016 - Time and Location TBA
  - Brown Bag Lunch
    - Tuesday, November 15, 2016 - Time and Location TBA

Additional information will be published soon. Please check the Healthy Aging webpage ([https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy\\_Aging](https://u.tamu.edu/Healthy_Aging)) for updates or contact Shannon Prescott ([sprescott@tamu.edu](mailto:sprescott@tamu.edu)) for more information.

### ***Quantitative Bioluminescence Imaging (QBI) 2017 International Conference***

Quantitative Bioluminescence Imaging (QBI) 2017, an international conference focused on the quantitative analysis of bioluminescence data in an interdisciplinary manner, will be held at Texas A&M on January 5-7, 2017. QBI 2017 brings together researchers from engineering, (bio)physics, biology and chemistry who work on quantitative aspects of microscopy. The conference also allows for significant interactions amongst the participants and features extensive overview lectures on a number of important areas that allow researchers to address topics in a more substantial way than what is typically done. There is no registration fee. For additional information, check the conference website at [www.quantitativebioimaging.com](http://www.quantitativebioimaging.com) or email [inquiries@quantitativebioimaging.com](mailto:inquiries@quantitativebioimaging.com).

### ***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

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## Upcoming Seminars and Workshops for Texas A&M Researchers

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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)

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**NIH deadlines for this year are:**

**October 5** – New R01

**October 17** – New R21/R03 Submissions

**November 7** – Renewal and Revised R01 Submissions

**November 16** – Renewal and Revised R21/R03 Submissions

**October 17<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>** window – Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)

NSF have deadline windows for each program and is located at [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_list.jsp?ord=date&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&status=1](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?ord=date&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&status=1)

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:

Ms. Kristi Billinger, Executive Director – [kristib@tamu.edu](mailto:kristib@tamu.edu), 979-845-8673

## Update from the Office of Government Relations

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### **State**

Although the 85th Legislative Session officially convenes January 10, 2017, it really started August 2016. Texas A&M University (TAMU), Texas A&M University Health Science Center (HSC) and Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) are required by law to submit an official appropriations request before each legislative session. Each entity has a separate funding request and will also be considered separately during the appropriations process in the legislative session.

TAMU, HSC, and TAMUG appropriation requests were officially submitted August 2016 to the Office of the Governor, through the Texas Statewide Budget Division, and to the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB).

The State of Texas is facing significant financial challenges. Revenue projections are anticipated to be less than in the previous biennium with a population increase and greater demand for state services. In recognition of this, the state has requested a 4% reduction in budget requests from the previous biennium.

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In coordination with the President and university officials, the 85th Session Legislative funding priorities for TAMU, HSC and TAMUG are as follows:

All three request:

- Restoration of Any Cuts (4%) to Budgets • Maintain Current Formula Funding Rates (Base Funding) to Cover Statewide Enrollment Growth

TAMU request:

- Maintain Current Texas Research University Fund (TRUF) Rates • Veterinary Medicine Partnerships

HSC request:

- Healthy Texas • Increasing the Supply of Physician Assistants in Texas

TAMUG request:

- Coastal Surge Protection Initiative

We will continue working with our colleagues in the A&M System Office in Austin and other partners to monitor the current interim hearings that conclude later this fall. Once the interim hearings have concluded, we will send another update with a summary of the hearings and the outlook for TAMU, HSC and TAMUG.

### ***Federal***

#### FY17 Appropriations Update

Congress returned from its summer recess and needs to figure out how to fund the government when the new fiscal year begins October 1 and avoid a government shutdown. Because none of the FY17 appropriations bills have been enacted, legislators will need to pass a stopgap continuing resolution (CR) to keep agencies running, largely at their current levels.

A major issue is whether Congress will approve a short-term CR and return for a post-election/lame-duck session, during which policymakers could work out a final FY17 appropriations package before Christmas, or pass a longer-term CR that punts final funding decisions to the new year with a new Administration and a new Congress.

The higher education community continues to urge Congress to approve a short term CR. We will maintain engagement with Members of Congress and Congressional staff members to promote campus priorities, including coordination with and through our national associations (e.g., AAU, APLU) to encourage Congress to pass and send to the President FY17 appropriations that prioritize higher education and research.

### ***Other Issues***

Last week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publically released its report titled "Federal Research Grants: Opportunities Remain for Agencies to Streamline Administrative Requirements." This report was requested by Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL) and reviews the research grant requirements at Department of Energy, NASA, National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation and their administrative workloads and costs on universities.

GAO found that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and research funding agencies have worked to reduce the administrative burdens associated with federal funding requirements, with limited results. The report finds agencies could do more by making further efforts to standardize how agencies implement grant requirements, postponing pre-award requirements until later in the grant application process, and allowing greater flexibility for universities.

For any questions relating to these updates or to discuss state or federal matters relating to higher education, please contact us at GR@tamu.edu or at 979.458.0282.

### **GAO Federal Research Grants Survey**

Administrative requirements for federal research grants include regulations implemented by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse while creating agency specific requirements for promoting the quality and effectiveness of federally funded research. GAO was asked to review research grant

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requirements and their administrative workloads and costs. Through a survey, GAO discovered variations in agency requirements, pre-award requirements for applicants to submit for grant proposals, and increased prescriptiveness of certain requirements lead to an increase in work and costs for universities. Federal agencies have tried to reduce the tension their requirements have imposed on universities by standardizing requirements across agencies, postponing certain requirements until making a decision about an applicant's funding, and helping universities handle risks for some requirements. While the federal government has standardized requirements and taken other steps to simplify the process to receive federal research grants, the requirements are still too burdensome and time consuming for universities and applicants. To view the full article, click on the following link: <http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/677950.pdf>

## **Research Compliance, Biosafety and Export Updates**

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### ***Controlled Substances***

In response to a recent System internal audit, the University has been tasked with standing up a centralized controlled substances program. A controlled substances committee has been organized to provide the Vice President for Research with recommendations on the framework for the program. Dr. Van Wilson from the College of Medicine is chairing the committee. The committee will conclude its work by December 2016.

### ***Export Controls***

Nikolaos Tides has been appointed Director of the Export Control Office. This is a new position that resulted from a recent System internal audit. Niko has more than 20 years' experience in export compliance at companies that have included Baker Hughes, Dell Inc., DRS Technologies, Boeing, Hitachi Data Systems, Legerity Inc. and Compaq Computer.

Over the next year, the University will work with researchers and others to address issues identified in the System's audit of the University's Export Control Compliance Program.

The federal government's export control reform initiative continues to move forward. Several EAR/ITAR harmonized definitions have taken effect in September 2016. More substantive changes are expected in the spring of 2017.

### ***Clarification on using banked tissues or tissue sharing: when IACUC approval is needed***

If tissue is collected via tissue share or collected via an approved AUP and banked for later use on another project(s), IACUC approval is not needed. The use of dead animals or parts of animals is not covered by the Animal Welfare Act or PHS Policy **unless** the activity involves (1) intentionally euthanizing animals for the purpose of obtaining their tissues, or (2) project-specific ante mortem manipulation of animals prior to euthanizing them. If either circumstance is applicable to the acquisition of dead animals, body parts or tissues, prior IACUC protocol review and approval are required. If you are not sure about whether or not your tissue use fits into one of these categories, please contact the Animal Welfare Office at 845-1828 or [animalcompliance@tamu.edu](mailto:animalcompliance@tamu.edu) for further clarification.

### ***Houston/Kingsville Animal Program***

Progress continues to be made on the merger of Health Science Center (HSC) and University research offices. The IACUC that supports HSC's Houston and Kingsville locations is being folded into the University's administrative structure and will be supported by the University's Animal Welfare Office under the direction of Dr. Tennille Lamon. Dr. Laine is assuming Allison Ficht's role as Institutional Official of the Houston/Kingsville IACUC and plans to visit the Houston/Kingsville IACUC in the next few weeks.

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### ***Human Research Protection Program Update***

The Vice President for Research met with members of the TAMU IRB and other stakeholders on August 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed plans to reorganize the structure and numbers of IRBs and to make changes to the University's Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) that will facilitate greater flexibility in the review and approval of human subject research without diminishing the protection of human subjects, and establish more opportunities for IRB members and other stakeholders to interact and dialogue about the HRPP. A Flex Working Group is being organized to provide input and recommendations to the Vice President for Research.

Beginning in September, David Martin, will serve as Interim Chair of the TAMU IRB. He is replacing Dr. Jim Fluckey. Previously, David Martin served as the IRB's Vice-Chair for several years.

Dr. Cathy Higgins left the position of director of HRPP. Ms. Aline Lovings is providing interim leadership to the program until a new director is hired. Ms. Lovings has been a member of the HRPP for more than four years and recently completed ten years of service with Texas A&M.

### ***The new Campus Carry rule and research with minors***

The Human Research Protection Program will be contacting any researchers who are affected by the changes in the Campus Carry policy that has recently gone into effect. In general, The University Rule 34.06.02.M1, states: "The premises in this section are determined by the president to be categorically prohibited from licensed carry of a handgun. ... research areas and laboratories in which research subjects are minors (17 years of age or younger)." There are additional requirements for the logging of such prohibited times and locations. Additional details about the reporting are available in Section 5.2.2 of "Procedures for Implementation of Campus Carry" found online at <http://www.tamu.edu/statements/Campus-Carry-Procedure-V7RW7-19-16.pdf>. For any questions or clarification about this rule, contact the HRPP at 458-4067 or [irb@tamu.edu](mailto:irb@tamu.edu).

### ***National Biosafety Stewardship Month is next month***

October 2016 has been designated National Biosafety Stewardship Month by the National Institutes of Health. All researchers with IBC permits will receive a message from the Vice President for Research sharing this year's focus points for campus biological safety and will be encouraged to participate in promoting biosafety awareness.

### ***Research Compliance and Biosafety Customer Satisfaction Survey reminder***

As a part of the University's commitment to quality service in the area of Research Compliance and Biosafety, all researchers who have projects requiring institutional review as set forth in Federal, state and local requirements (i.e. IRB, IBC and IACUC review) were sent an email on September 2nd requesting feedback on the services provided. Below are direct links to the survey.

The annual surveys listed below will be open until September 30, 2016. Participation is encouraged and will be used to enhance processes and provide the best possible service to researchers. Please select the appropriate surveys for your projects.

Human Subjects in Research - Customer Satisfaction Survey

[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_6KyHErNCa0r8RQp](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6KyHErNCa0r8RQp)

Animal Use and Care - Customer Satisfaction Survey

[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_1YBgt93k4s6EMNT](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1YBgt93k4s6EMNT)

Use of Biohazards - Customer Satisfaction Survey

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

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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.

\* The bulletin accepts news items about researchers and their teams from the colleges, schools, campuses and agencies within the Texas A&M research enterprise, including honors, funding, publications, presentations, and appearances in news media. However, we are unable to accept items that advertise specific events, such as workshops, poster sessions, symposia or conferences, other than from the Division of Research. For these, we suggest you contact your college or agency communications office. Thank you. \*

### **NEW STORIES ON** [Research@Texas A&M](#)

[Zach Adelman](#) and [Kevin Myles](#), associate professors in the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences – [Longtime collaborators will lead AgriLife team to stop Zika virus](#)

[Jennifer Ganz](#), a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education & Human Development – [Center earns two grants to support projects to aid students with autism](#)

[Leo Lombardini](#), a professor in the Department of Horticulture Sciences and director of the newly established Center for Coffee Research and Education, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences – [New scientific center will conduct research to aid global coffee market](#)

Keep up with Research@Texas A&M on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

### **IN THE NEWS**

The Washington Post quoted [Johanna Zmud](#), a senior research scientist and director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute office in Washington, DC, in a story about [whether driverless vehicles will include traditional controls like a steering wheel and a brake pedal](#).

FOX News interviewed [Mark Benden](#), an associate professor and head of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, and director of the Ergonomics Center, School of Public Health, about a study he co-authored that suggests [standing desks may help school children maintain a healthy body weight](#).

### **FUNDING**

[Alexey Belyanin](#), a professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, College of Science, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support a project titled, “Quantum Cascade Laser Sources Of High-Power, Coherent Frequency Combs.”

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[Allison Hopkins](#), an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to support a project titled, “Effect of Helpers Program On-line Training on Smoking Relapse and Social Networks.”

[Wei Yan](#), a professor in the Department of Architecture, College of Architecture, received a grant from Autodesk, Inc. to support a project titled, “A Web-based Parametric BIM Viewer for Online Collaborative Parametric Design Presentation and Optimization.”

[Saskia Mioduszewski](#), an associate professor in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, College of Science, received a grant from the US Department of Energy’s Office of Science to support a project titled, “Toward Understanding the QGP with the STAR Experiment at RHIC.”

[Li-Jen Kuo](#), an associate professor, and [Zohreh Eslami](#), a professor, both in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture, College of Education & Human Development, received a grant from the US Department of Defense’s National Security Agency to support a project titled, “A Trip to East Asia: STARTALK Summer Programs in Chinese and Korean.”

[Ronald A. DeVore](#), Walter F. Koss Professor and Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mathematics, College of Science, received a grant from the US Department of Defense’s Office of Naval Research to support a project titled, “Data Assimilation and Parameter Estimation for Parametric Partial Differential Equations.”

[William Rundell](#), a professor in the Department of Mathematics, College of Science, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support a project titled, “Analysis and Computation for Inverse Problems in Differential Equations.”

[Susan Saab Fortney](#), a professor and associate dean for research in the School of Law, received a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to support a project titled, “Texas Apprenticeship Network: Empowering Solo Practitioners to Help Bridge the Justice Gap.”

### **PUBLICATIONS**

[Jaime C. Grunlan](#), the Linda & Ralph Schmidt ’68 Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering, [had his research featured on the cover of three prestigious journals](#) — *Advanced Materials*; *Macromolecular Materials and Engineering*; and *Macromolecular Rapid Communications*.

### **HONORS**

[Dennis Christiansen](#), the director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, [received the Institute of Transportation Engineers’ Theodore M. Matson Award](#).

[Sarbjit Banerjee](#), a professor in the Department of Chemistry, College of Science, received the [2016 Beilby Medal and Prize in recognition](#) of his early career accomplishment in novel materials design and application.

Three researchers in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dwight Look College of Engineering, [received the 2016 DAC Best Paper Award during the Design Automation Conference](#) held by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ Association for Computing Machinery. They are Xin Zhan, a doctoral candidate; [Peng Li](#), a professor; and [Edgar Sánchez-Sinencio](#), TI Jack Kilby Chair Professor and Distinguished Professor.

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## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

[The PESCA Writer's Workshop I](#) will cover the best practices for formatting and writing PESCA Grant Program proposals. The two-hour workshop begins at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, in 103 Henderson Hall. The registration deadline is 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

[Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals](#) is an all-day seminar for all principal investigators interested in submitting research proposals to the National Institutes of Health. The seminar begins at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, in 601 Rudder Tower. Registration is due Sept. 15 at 5 p.m.

[2016-2017 NIH Grant Proposal Writing Program](#) provides an opportunity for PI-eligible researchers to work with a highly experienced consultant to develop a submission-ready proposal to the National Institutes of Health in June 2017. The \$3,600 program fee is paid by the Division of Research and the participant's department or college. Application deadline is Oct. 5, 2016. A separate pre-proposal will be due to GWSW on Nov. 20, 2016. Applicants to this program are required to attend the Sept. 22, 2016 seminar, [Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals](#) (see above).

[The Writing Successful Proposals Workshop, Part I](#), covers the best practices for successful proposals to federal and other funding agencies. The three-hour workshop starts at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28, in 103 Henderson Hall. The registration deadline is 10 a.m. on the day of the event.

The Imaging Science Research Interest Group is inviting abstracts for oral presentations and posters for its Oct. 26, [Imaging Science Spotlight event](#) featuring W. E. Moerner, the Harry S. Mosher Professor of Chemistry and Applied Physics at Stanford University and recipient of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Abstracts must be entered at the time of event registration, which is due Sept. 22 at 5 p.m. Six abstracts will be selected for a twelve-minute oral presentations. To register and upload an abstract, see <https://u.tamu.edu/IS-Oct2016-Abstracts>. Questions may be sent to Shannon Prescott at [sprescott@tamu.edu](mailto:sprescott@tamu.edu).

Browse [a list of all workshops, seminars, and programs](#) presented by the Division of Research.

## LIMITED SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITIES

[Browse](#) a full and current list.