



Council of Principal Investigators

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CPI Newsletter – October 2015
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Update from Dr. Helene Andrews-Polymeris, CPI Chair

On September 9, 2015, the CPI Executive Committee held its annual closed session planning meeting to review the results of the 2015 PI Interest Survey and singled out those priority issues identified by our constituents to focus on for the coming year. Top priority areas include improvement to Sponsored Research Services and graduate student support although additional areas were also singled out as priorities.

We have disseminated the results of the 2015 CPI survey. A summary of the survey and the closed session meeting (*including a summary of the CPI [Executive Committee](#) meeting with President Young and Provost Watson that followed the full closed session meeting on September 9th*) have been distributed to the PI community through their respective [CPI representatives](#) and are available at http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/CPI_9.9.2015.pdf. In addition, the compliance related questions, answers, and comments have been disseminated to the appropriate compliance personnel so they are aware of issues raised by the PI community, and can act to improve their services. The CPI will remain engaged with administration on various levels throughout the coming year to identify problem areas and suggest improvements to the research environment.

One of the top priority areas identified in the PI survey was improving the services of the Texas A&M System Sponsored Research Services (SRS). As many of you are aware, SRS was brought back to the TAMU Division of Research on September 1, and is undergoing a rapid evolution to better serve the research community. Dr. Glen Laine met with the CPI Executive Committee on October 7, and will provide an SRS and Division of Research update at the October 14th CPI meeting. A transition services and operations committee (TSOC) has been appointed by Dr. Laine and is working hard to recommend and implement specific changes at SRS. Three faculty members represent you and your research (myself, Wolfgang Bangerth from Mathematics, and Les Morey from Psychology) on TSOC.

Several important changes have been recommended and implemented at SRS that will be discussed at the October 14 CPI general meeting- and many other recommendations are pending. I ask for patience from the PI community while SRS undergoes this critical transition. This transition process is complex and will not be without hiccups. In addition, we must be sure that we are thoughtful and thorough about each change as we strive to improve this essential part of our grants administration process.

B. Don Russell (Engineering) has kindly agreed to provide leadership of SRS during this transition, until a national search can be completed to identify suitable permanent leadership for SRS. A search committee has been formed to identify new leadership for SRS, and Dr. Loren Skow is serving on this committee for the CPI.

Thank you for your participation in the survey! You have provided us with very valuable feedback on the research environment, and we are bringing these issues to the attention of the administration. It is beneficial when PIs are willing to inform the Council of broad issues affecting their ability to perform research. If you have any issues the Council should be aware of, you can send an email to cpi@tamu.edu or call or email me at handrews@medicine.tamhsc.edu or 979.436.0340.

The CPI meeting on Wednesday, October 14th, 2015 will be webcast live at tvn.tamu.edu/webcasts on Channel 20, and videos are stored on the "[Archives](#)" section of the CPI website.

CPI Executive Committee Meeting Summaries

The CPI EC met for its monthly coordination meeting on October 7th with invited research administrators from the Texas A&M Health Science Center, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, TTI, and TEES.

The group discussed nominations for the search committee for the leadership position in Marketing and Communications for TAMU and potential nominees for the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost position; continued discussion on pursuing the 2015-16 priorities; update on the Division of Research and progress on SRS;

discussion on upcoming meeting with Congressman Flores; and suggesting topics for the November and December meetings.

The EC met with President Young and Provost Watson on September 9th and discussed CPI survey; administrative organizational changes; SRS; HSC; Dean of Faculties Search Committee; Campus Carry Task Force; emergency power testing and Research Development Fund update. The EC will meet with Chancellor Sharp on October 20th.

Texas A&M Research Compliance and Biosafety

Texas A&M University's Division of Research publishes a Research Integrity and Compliance Newsletter providing updates about research compliance hot topics, guidance and best practices, educational opportunities, and changes to relevant System policies, regulations and University rules and procedures. This issue highlights-- significant federal changes proposed in the human research and export control arenas; a new review process for dual use research of concern; and an outreach initiative for animal welfare — among other topics. For the link to the current edition [click here](#).

Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) announces 2015-16 Visiting Faculty Fellows

Thirteen world-class scholars from throughout the nation and abroad have accepted invitations to serve as Faculty Fellows of the Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study for the 2015-2016 academic year. These Faculty Fellows, each of whom is recognized as a trailblazing scholar in chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering, genetics, law, literature or physics. Among the new Faculty Fellows are nine members of the nation's National Academies, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a member of Germany's National Academy of Sciences, a founder of legal critical race theory, and a recipient of France's *Palme Académiques*.

Each Faculty Fellow will partner with one or more of the departments offering graduate degrees housed in Texas A&M's colleges or schools, or the Texas A&M Health Science Center. TIAS has been granted resources to provide fellowships for graduate students to work with the incoming Faculty Fellows, as well as funding to support visiting graduate students and post-doctoral researchers affiliated with the Faculty Fellows.

More information about the members of the 2015-2016 set of Faculty Fellows, and the academic areas in which they will serve, is available from the Texas A&M TODAY September 23, 2015 story at <http://today.tamu.edu/2015/09/23/tias-announces-2015-16-faculty-fellows/>.

Contact:

Dr. John L. Junkins, Director, TIAS – junkins@tamu.edu, 979.845.3912

Dr. Clifford Fry, Associate Director, TIAS - cfry@tamu.edu or 979.458.5723

Upcoming Agency Deadlines from Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

Fall 2015 Upcoming Agency Deadlines:

In preparation for a busy fall 2015, SRS would like to update you on upcoming agency deadlines:

NIH

- October 16 – New R21/R03 Submissions
- November 5 – Renewal and Revised R01 Submissions
- November 16 – Renewal and Revised R21/R03 Submissions

NSF

- Physics Programs – Beginning October 28
- Mathematics – November 1-15

NIH Notice regarding ASSIST

NIH Announces New Policies Regarding 1) Inclusion of Sex as a Biological Variable and 2) Improvement of Reproducibility in applications and progress reports:

Beginning with applications due January 25, 2016, PIs will have to demonstrate strong scientific premise, rigorous experimental design, and consideration of sex and other biological variables in the Research Strategy section of their applications. Reviewers will factor this information into their overall impact scores. [Click here](#) for more information.

Contact:

Dr. Jim Joyce, Customer Service Liaison – jrjoyce@tamu.edu, 979-458-5852

Sign up for notifications about Limited Submission Proposal opportunities

The list of current Limited Submission Proposal (LSP) opportunities, maintained by the Division of Research, is available at <https://u.tamu.edu/LSP>.

To receive notifications about new LSP opportunities as soon as they are announced, email Ms. Shelly Martin at shelly.martin@tamu.edu.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators – Issued weekly by the Division of Research, Texas A&M University

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University issues a brief weekly bulletin for Principal Investigators that highlights research accomplishments and projects, funding opportunities, honors and promotions, workshops, and other items that may be of interest to the PI community.

[Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin. [Click here](#) to submit items for consideration for an upcoming bulletin.

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>.

Upcoming Deadlines for Seed Grant Programs

DIVERSITY MATTERS Seed Grant Program

Call for Proposals (Note: DEADLINE EXTENDED TO October 28, 2015, 4 p.m.)

The Office for Diversity will make available up to \$20,000 in funds for this program. These are state funds and expended costs must be accounted for by the receiving unit by the end of August 2016. Any given proposal may request a maximum of \$5,000, although requests for lower amounts may be appropriate depending on the nature of the project. The award does not include faculty release time.

Award Edibility: All Texas A&M University faculty (tenured, tenure track, or academic professional track) or staff are eligible to submit proposals as individuals or in partnership with existing units on campus or elsewhere (e.g., other accredited universities), as relevant to the project. Letters of support from appropriate individuals in other relevant units are required when partnerships are indicated in the proposal.

It is strongly recommended that projects be discussed with the relevant Diversity Operations Committee representative(s) prior to submission. A list of the committee members can be accessed here:

<http://diversity.tamu.edu/Diversity-Operations-Committee>. Application deadline is 4 pm on October 28, 2015.

Award decisions will be made by early to mid-November, 2015.

Email Inquiries: Individuals/units desiring an additional opportunity to discuss possible project ideas and/or find potential collaborators from other units are encouraged to contact the Office for Diversity (979-458-2905) for assistance. All inquiries related to the Seed Grant may be directed to Dr. Jyotsna Vaid, Director for Organizational Development, Research and Equity, Office for Diversity, jvaid@tamu.edu

Website: Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to peruse the Office for Diversity's website for information about existing initiatives and resources: <http://diversity.tamu.edu>

INTERDISCIPLINARY Seed Grants for Cybersecurity

Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station and the Dwight Look College of Engineering in Partnership with Texas A&M University Division of Research

Who Should Apply?

All researchers who wish to expand their research programs to address interdisciplinary cybersecurity topics can apply. As a seed grant program, funds should not be requested to incrementally extend currently ongoing research programs. Discipline-wide, interdisciplinary teams – This RFP is an opportunity to generate preliminary research results. Moreover, it should foster new collaborations necessary to substantially increase the level of cybersecurity research activity throughout Texas A&M. Teams must consist of no less than two Texas A&M PI-eligible researchers from differing disciplines.

Who is Eligible to Submit a Proposal?

PIs and Co-PIs: All PI-eligible researchers holding appointments within the Texas A&M System units headquartered in Brazos County are eligible to serve as PIs or Co-PIs on proposals. There should be only one PI per proposal. Each proposal must have at least one Co-PI who is also PI-eligible.

Questions should be directed to Dr. Margaret Hobson, Director of Research Development, TEES, email: m-hobson@tamu.edu phone (979) 458-9285 or Dr. Jorja Kimball, Executive Director, Research Development Services, Division of Research, email: j-kimball@tamu.edu phone (979) 845-1811.