
CPI Newsletter – April 2020

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2019-20 CPI roster: *Chair* — Darren DePoy, *Science* • *Vice Chair* — Stephen Maren, *Liberal Arts* • *Past Chair* — David Threadgill, *Medicine* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Michael Brewer, Ambika Chandra, Lee Tarpley • *Architecture* — Ergun Akleman • *Bush School* — Kent Portney • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Jean-Phillipe ‘JP’ Pellois, Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Pierson, David Stelly, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Jorge Alvarado, Debjyoti Banerjee, Ulisses Braga-Neto, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Melissa Grunlan, Sheng-Jen ‘Tony’ Hsieh, James Kaihatu, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Gabriel Eckstein • *Liberal Arts* — Sandra Braman, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Kayla Bayless, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Michael Hall, Christian Hilty, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile • *SPH* — Gang Han • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Hongjiao Ouyang • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, James Kovar, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Bruce Herbert • *Veterinary Medicine* — Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy, Jayanth Ramadoss *The CPI is sponsored annually through funding from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute*

Update from Dr. Darren Depoy, CPI Chair

April CPI News –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting were to prepare for CPI to go virtual for the next several months while staying in regular communications with research leaders within Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and Extension, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, and Texas Transportation Institute. Meeting monthly with these administrative leaders provides for PIs to have consistent messages as things change sometimes daily within the research infrastructure. The CPI General Meeting for April is planned to provide PIs an update on what the newly formed Graduate School Task Force is discussing as well as hearing from the Vice President for Research on any new updates the Division of Research has from last week's meeting. The Federal Government Relations Office will be providing an update on the CARES Act.

The CPI-EC will continue to meet virtually with President Young, Provost Fierke and Dr. Mark Barteau, Vice President for Research each month in order to keep PIs informed. The CPI-EC will meet with Chancellor Sharp in late-April. If there are items of concern that impact the research environment, we would like to hear from you. All PIs are encouraged to communicate with their elected representatives within the Council of Principal Investigators to bring forward items of concern or interest for the research community. Please continue to bring research-related issues (and solutions) to my attention at CPI@tamu.edu.

Reminder: The May CPI General Meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Ms. Lesa Feldhousen has been asked to come provide CPI with an update on Export Control, Visiting Scholars and Conflict of Commitment. As TAMU procedures and accommodations over the next couple of months continue to be monitored, CPI will continue communications with PIs and make plans to hold its May 13th CPI General Meeting and potentially the June 10th meeting electronically via TTVN Livestream and Zoom. As we continue to move forward, please provide me with any items or topics that you feel relevant for CPI to address.

Contact me at cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

CPI Contacts–The complete 2019-2020 roster of CPI Representatives and the new CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2019-2020_Council_Membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

Research Guidance during COVID-19

On April 2, 2020, Vice President for Research Mark A. Barteau issued [guidance for essential research](#), based on Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-14 of March 31, 2020. He has also provided an update on COVID-19 for Texas A&M faculty-researchers and their teams as well as vital information about proper protocols for cleaning laboratories.

The Division of Research's web page, [Research Guidance During COVID-19](#), is in FAQ format and contains the most up-to-date information for A&M researchers, including research funding announcements for COVID-19.

As a reminder, The Vice President for Research has established a [webpage](#) that will be accessible from the [TAMU.edu/coronavirus](https://tamu.edu/coronavirus) webpage and will provide regular information updates. In the meantime, we are sharing the initial content for immediate guidance in FAQ format so that faculty and researchers on all campuses with active research programs can plan to best manage their ongoing research programs.

For additional information, please go to [TAMU.edu/coronavirus](https://tamu.edu/coronavirus) for the most current Texas A&M University response concerning the coronavirus.

Research Development Fund “Classic” Deadline April 13th

The RDF full applications submission deadline has been **extended to Monday April 13, 2020**. The guidelines and application for submission can be found at rdf.tamu.edu or email questions to rdf@tamu.edu.

Research Development Fund “Reoccurring Funds” Extended to April 13th

The RDF-RF full applications submission deadline has been **extended to Monday April 13, 2020**.

TAMU Research Compliance Committee Update – *provided by Drs. Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford & Rafael Lara-Alecio*

The Texas A&M University Research Compliance Committee met on March 26, 2020. There were several interesting points presented and discussed during the meeting. There were updates on Research related to COVID-19. Included, were the Human Research Protection Program, The Animal Welfare Office, The Biosafety Office and the Export Control Office.

Human and animal research related to COVID-19 is being prioritized at this time by the Human Research Protection Program (Aliese Seawright, director) and Animal Welfare Office (Andi Mitchell, director). All offices are continuing to meet remotely to review submissions; however, at this time researchers are encouraged to scale back activities and not start any new projects unless related to COVID-19.

The biosafety office is working on a more centralized mechanism for sharing PPE with area medical facilities. They plan to launch an online portal where researchers can list what PPE they have available to share, and what local needs are. Note that if PPE were purchased with sponsored funds, researchers must first ask for approval from funding agency before donation.

Ms. Lesa Feldhousen, J.D., Executive Director of Conflict of Interest and Responsible Conduct of Research presented the new topic and form titled “Conflict of Commitment”.

The fact that Conflict of Commitment is a new topic and it has called national attention for the multiple implications, particularly for international research commitments. President Young has received approval recently for a new form (University SAP 15.99.99.M0.02), (approved 1/9/2020), and I have attached this information through the following link, University SAP 15.99.99.M0.02 Conflict of Commitment <https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.99.M0.02.pdf>

Funding Opportunities and Resources for COVID-19 Research

The Texas A&M Emergency Management Advisory Group (<https://temag.tamu.edu/>) has posted opportunities to join collaborative efforts on COVID-19 research (<https://temag.tamu.edu/opportunities-to-collaborate/>). Additionally, the Division of Research has an updated list of COVID-19 federal research funding opportunities (<https://vpr.tamu.edu/covid-19#research-funding-announcements>) as well as research guidance during COVID-19 (<https://vpr.tamu.edu/covid-19>).

New formats required for NSF proposal Biosketches and Current & Pending

The [Biographical Sketch](#) and [Current and Pending Support](#) sections of National Science Foundation proposals will be required to be submitted using NSF-approved formats starting June 1, 2020, when the latest [Proposal & Award policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\) \(NSF 20-1\)](#) becomes effective. PIs are being encouraged to start using these new formats now, as the conversion to using them will not be trivial. Approved formats include using [SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) or the recently made available NSF fillable pdfs ([Biosketch fillable](#), [C&P fillable](#)).

Federal Funding Agency Deadlines

PLEASE NOTE As many researchers are working on federal grants with various federal funding agencies, applicants should check the specific funding opportunity number on grants.gov and visit program websites to determine if a deadline has been extended. Federal funding agencies are evaluating deadlines as needed. Please do not assume that all federal deadlines will be extended.

Sponsored Research Services Still Providing All Services

During this time, we would like to remind you that Sponsored Research Services is still providing all services according to our standard operating procedures.

As a reminder, you should continue working with your proposal administrator for all proposal submissions in response to an RFA or in collaboration with a faculty member at another institution. The proposal administrators are also working together to communicate information regarding deadlines that are being adjusted to accommodate disruptions due to Covid19.

SRS project administrators are available for all post award needs and to facilitate questions/concerns you may have with a sponsor regarding your grant or contract activity.

Thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time.

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The Division of Research has implemented a brand new proposal submission and review portal. The system will be used for limited submissions and most internal grant programs. You will find available opportunities at: <https://tamu.infoready4.com/#limitedsubmissions>. The limited submission office will be phasing in the portal as new limited submission opportunities arise. If you have any questions, please contact limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu or Shelly Martin at 979-862-2233.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University publishes a weekly bulletin about research. The Research 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, presentations, and appearances in news media. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin