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CPI Newsletter – July 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-Philippe ‘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*

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## Update from Dr. Darren Depoy, CPI Chair

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**July CPI News** –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting were from Dr. Mark Barteau provided the reminder of the FAQs and guidelines for working in labs. Discussions were also on reporting COVID19 cases, if some occur. There is a new form that can be submitted online. The new form and the link is provided below in the newsletter. As updates occur the COVID19 FAQ website is updated.

Congratulations to newly elected 2020-2021 CPI representatives, and to new CPI Vice Chair, Dr. David Stelly. The incoming CPI Chair for 2020-21 is Dr. Stephen Maren. The full election results for 2020 are located at <https://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/elections/2020results>. To view the complete list of all CPI representatives for 2020-21 visit the CPI website at [https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021\\_Membership](https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021_Membership).

The newly appointed 2020-2021 CPI Executive Committee has been approved by the Council of Principal Investigators can be viewed at [https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021\\_Executive\\_Committee.R](https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021_Executive_Committee.R)

### Reminder:

The final General CPI meeting for the 2019-2020 year will be held August 12, from 11:30am-1:15pm via Zoom and TTVN Livestream. The outgoing CPI Representatives will be recognized at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting as their terms end August 31, 2020. Thank you to all CPI representatives who are completing their terms. Your service on behalf of the PIs you represent has been greatly appreciated!

Contact me at [cpi@tamu.edu](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or Rebecca Luckey, [rluckey@tamu.edu](mailto: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 CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at [https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2019-2020\\_Council\\_Membership](https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2019-2020_Council_Membership). Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

## New COVID Report Form

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There is a new online COVID Report Form that should be utilized if you are reporting information on individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Utilize this link:

<https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=4HAMAH98D>

If you are reporting on another individual, please remember to keep all information strictly confidential.

## Research Compliance Committee Meeting Summary Report

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The June 16, 2020 meeting of the TAMUS Research Compliance Committee began with a presentation by Joshua Kisse, Director of Research, Academic, and Health IT Services. He introduced Secure Technologies for Aggie Researchers, or STAR, a set of cloud-based resources for data storage, management, analysis, and more. STAR will enable rapid access to these resources within very short time frames, and allow for adjusting pricing based on the scale and duration of the need for resources. STAR will allow researchers to maintain required security levels for compliance while providing an intuitive, easy-to-use interface to give researchers more independence in selecting and using the resources they need. Next, Aliese Seawright discussed updated requirements for In-Person Human Research Studies, including the need for researchers to make an official plan prior to engaging in research involving humans. She described the requirements needed for project approval, including a new form: “Human Participants Research Infection Control Plan.” Examples of other plans for resuming research are available online at

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the College of Dentistry; VetMed and other programs on campus also have comprehensive plans that can be used as examples.

Lesa Feldhousen briefly talked about updates to the required Responsible Conduct of Research training; the draft Standard Administrative Procedure document will become available once it has been finalized.

*-Candice Brinkmeyer Langford and Rafael Lara-Alecio, CPI representatives for TAMUS Research Compliance Committee*

## NSF CAREER Program Deadline

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In consideration of the challenges facing many in our country, NSF is extending the upcoming proposal deadline for the Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) until 5:00 p.m. submitter's local time on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Please note that the eligibility requirements specified in the solicitation remain unchanged, and proposers must meet all of the eligibility requirements as of the original deadline of July 27, 2020. The Departmental Letter that must be submitted by the Department Chair (or equivalent) must use July 27, 2020 to determine eligibility, regardless of whether the CAREER proposal is submitted before, on, or after July 27, 2020. An untenured assistant professor on July 27, 2020 is eligible to submit a CAREER proposal even if the Principal Investigator is tenured/promoted in the fall. A new faculty member who starts on July 28, 2020 or later is not eligible to submit a CAREER proposal this year.

In order to ensure timely proposal review and decision making, NSF strongly encourages submission of CAREER proposals on or before the original deadline of July 27, 2020. NSF will not consider requests to extend the deadline date beyond 5:00 p.m., submitter's local time on August 11, 2020, except as outlined in PAPPG Chapter I.F.3.

For more about information about the CAREER Program please visit [www.nsf.gov/career](http://www.nsf.gov/career).

## 2020 Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium

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The TAMU PDA, HSC PDA, and CVM PDA are excited to announce the 2020 Postdoctoral Research Symposium! We are accepting submissions for three-minute flash talks and poster presentations. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top-rated presenters, courtesy of the TAMU, Division of Research.

Postdoctoral researchers from **all disciplines** are welcomed and encouraged to present! **If you would like to present, please submit a title, author list (note presenter name and e-mail contact), an abstract (no more than 300 words) to [seyre@tamu.edu](mailto:seyre@tamu.edu) by July 22, and indicate if you would like to participate with a flash talk or poster presentation.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will be held virtually, so we expect a large and diverse audience to be able to access the presentations.

## Engaging in Activities with Individuals in Embargoed Countries

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We are living in unprecedented times and many of the activities that normally take place in the university setting are now taking place remotely. As such, we need to be mindful of what information we share online, with whom we share it and how we share it. We also need to remember that even when activities are taking place remotely we still must comply with applicable regulations, including export control regulations.

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As many of you may know, the U.S. government has in place comprehensive embargoes that affect several countries. The current countries with a comprehensive embargo in place are: Iran, Syria, North Korea, Cuba and the Crimea Region. The current regulations for each individual country govern the activities that are permitted as well as those activities that are prohibited. Although there are some general licenses available for different type of activities in each country, generally most of the activities involving an embargoed country will require a license from the U.S. government prior to engaging in the activity. Offering courses remotely to international students in another country may also raise export control concerns. In order to provide courses in certain countries, the university may need to request a license from the government.

It is important for faculty and researchers to contact the Export Control Office if there is a need to engage in any teaching or research activities with an individual residing in an embargoed country. Likewise, they should contact the Export Control Office if approached by anyone residing in an embargoed country prior to engaging in any activity.

Please feel free to contact the Export Control Office at [exportcontrols@tamu.edu](mailto:exportcontrols@tamu.edu).

## LANL – TAMUS Collaboration Research Program

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The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) National Laboratories Office (NLO) has developed a multi-element program to help TAMUS researchers collaborate, obtain funding, and formalize long-term relationships with researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). These programs include:

- **Applying for Exploration Mini-Grants**
- **Applying for Development Fellowships**
- **The Collaborative Research Projects Program**

The detailed information regarding each of these opportunities, along with the contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## Patent Analytics Course using Patent Vector

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### *Free self-paced course*

Visit <https://innovation.catalog.instructure.com/courses/patent-vector-analytics> for more information and to enroll.

The School of Innovation is excited to announce a free self-paced course in patent analytics using Patent Vector. Texas A&M University is the only university to have FREE access to Patent Vector! This course will guide you in using a web-based program called Patent Vector to analyze patents, technology, and innovation trends. Patent Vector not only provides users with access to viewing thousands of patents from across the globe, but also provides tools to analyze the importance and impact of the patent, the assignees and the inventors. Available to all faculty, staff and students

## Virtual IP Attorney Office Hours for Summer 2020

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### *Standing monthly appointments*

Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f45a8a62ea6f85-summer> for dates and times available.

The School of Innovation and TAMU Innovation Partners are sponsoring IP Attorney Office Hours at no cost to TAMUS faculty, staff, and students. 30-minute appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis with IP Attorneys from firms across Texas. Got an intellectual property question? Book an appointment! Not sure you are ready to meet with an Intellectual Property attorney? Check out our [YouTube videos](#) to find out how an IP attorney can help you! For questions and additional information, email [Grace Tiller](mailto:Grace.Tiller).

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## Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities Newsletter and COVID-19 Bulletin

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The Division of Research, Research Development Services (RDS), publishes a bi-weekly newsletter featuring large multidisciplinary funding opportunities (excluding limited submissions). RDS also publishes a weekly bulletin featuring COVID-19 funding opportunities. [Click here to subscribe](#) to the Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities Newsletter and COVID-19 Bulletin.

Featured active opportunities include:

- NSF Centers for Chemical Innovation (CCI) (details [here](#))
- NSF Gen-4 Engineering Research Centers (ERC) (details [here](#))
- DOD Multidisciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative (MURI) (details [here](#))
- NIH Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (details [here](#))

### NIH Virtual Specific Aims Workshop

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**When:** July 8 and July 22, 2020; Noon – 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Attend virtually via Zoom

**About:** At this series of two virtual meetings, participants will provide and receive peer feedback on NIH Specific Aims page drafts, in preparation for an NIH proposal submission. Participants should plan to attend both meetings. Each participant will also receive one written critique of their Specific Aims page from an experienced NIH study section member.

**Register:** By 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, including your draft Specific Aims page.

Register at <https://u.tamu.edu/July2020AimsNIH>. To complete registration, please email your draft Specific Aims page to Christina Howard ([c-howard@tamu.edu](mailto:c-howard@tamu.edu)).

**Contact:** [Christina Howard](#), Ph.D., Research Development Officer, RDS  
[Shannon Eyre](#), Sr. Administrative Coordinator, RDS

### Funding Opportunities and Resources for COVID-19 Research

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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>).

### Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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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](mailto:limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu) or Shelly Martin at 979-862-2233.

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## Free Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities

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The Division of Research, Research Development Services, offers free assistance to teams pursuing large multidisciplinary funding opportunities. To learn more about the types of assistance offered or to request assistance, see the one-pager included in this edition of the CPI newsletter, click [here](#), or contact Dr. Candice Jongsma ([cgjongsma@tamu.edu](mailto:cgjongsma@tamu.edu)).

## Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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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



TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

# POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

## ONLINE EVENT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

1:00 - 5:00 PM

*If you would like to present, please submit a title, author list (note presenter name and e-mail contact), and an abstract (no more than 300 words) to [seyre@tamu.edu](mailto:seyre@tamu.edu) by July 22 and indicate if you would like to participate with a flash talk or poster presentation.*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NANCY RYAN GRAY, PHD  
PRESIDENT & CEO

GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCES

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS  
JULY 1 - 22

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT [SEYRE@TAMU.EDU](mailto:SEYRE@TAMU.EDU)



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Division of Research

FLASH TALKS | POSTER PRESENTATIONS | AWARDS



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## Collaborative Research with Los Alamos National Laboratory

### The Texas A&M University System National Laboratories Office

The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) National Laboratories Office (NLO) has developed a multi-element program to help TAMUS researchers:

- develop collaborative ties with researchers at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL);
- obtain funding for TAMUS-LANL collaborative research projects; and
- formalize long-term relationships where appropriate, for example via joint appointments.

The goal is to increase the number and depth of research<sup>1</sup> collaborations that benefit TAMUS, LANL, and the individuals involved. A key strategy toward that goal is to encourage and enable TAMUS researchers to spend time with LANL researchers and learn about LANL missions that are supported by research in their areas of interest. Spending time establishing relationships with LANL staff, and learning about its missions and key unsolved problems, greatly increase the likelihood of long-term funded collaborations that benefit all parties. Elements of the program are summarized below. Details and applications for each program element are provided below.

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<sup>1</sup> In this document the term “research” includes a broad range of research and development activities.





## Exploration Mini-Grants

The Exploration Mini-grant program helps The Texas A&M University System researchers initiate collaborations with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) technical staff members (TSMs) in topical areas of interest to the laboratory. Faculty who spend time at LANL learning its missions and problem sets are more likely to develop long-term partnerships with the laboratory's technical staff members. The exploration mini-grants help researchers make progress toward such partnerships. A typical exploration mini-grant would pay travel costs (no salary included) for an A&M System researcher to visit one or more LANL researchers to explore whether there is mutual interest in pursuing a long-term collaboration. The visits to the laboratory are short, typically one week.

The Texas A&M System researchers who have the skills, knowledge and interest to develop long-term collaborative ties with LANL researchers, but do not already have such ties, are encouraged to apply. A&M System researchers who already have such ties are encouraged to consider applying for Development Fellowships or Research Projects, which are other elements of the A&M/LANL Research Collaboration Program. While principal-investigator-eligible research faculty and staff in every A&M System component are eligible to apply, priority may be given to early-career tenure-line faculty at A&M System universities.

The application **must identify at least one LANL potential collaborator** who has agreed to spend time with the A&M System researcher to explore whether there is mutual interest in pursuing a long-term collaboration. Aspiring applicants who do not know appropriate hosts can ask the A&M System's National Laboratories Office (NLO) to work with LANL managers to try to identify potential LANL host technical staff members. Within 30 days of travel completion, grant recipients must submit a **brief report summarizing the outcome** of the exploratory engagement and meet with a NLO member to review potential future opportunities.

The grant will pay up to \$1,500 per person (in accordance with A&M System guidelines) for successful applicants to travel to LANL to engage with potential collaborators. If it is more useful for the LANL technical staff member to visit the A&M System researcher, the NLO can help the identified technical staff member to secure travel funding from within LANL. Expenses incurred prior to application approval will not be reimbursed.

The NLO will select applications for funding in accordance with priorities established collaboratively with LANL, subject to availability of funds.

*Applying for Exploration Mini-grants*



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Applications (or questions) can be submitted via email at any time to [lanl-engage@nlo.tamug.edu](mailto:lanl-engage@nlo.tamug.edu). **There is no application deadline.** PDF documents are preferred for the application and the applicant's curriculum vitae.

The application should be organized as follows:

1. **Applicant information** – Provide information about yourself, including at least:
  - Name
  - Title (e.g., Assistant professor)
  - A&M System entity and department (e.g., PVAMU Math)
  - Citizenship (e.g., U.S. permanent resident)
  - Email address and phone number
  - Curriculum vitae
2. **Collaborator information** – Provide information about the identified LANL collaborator(s), including at least:
  - Name
  - Title (e.g., Scientist 3)
  - Division and group (e.g., CCS-2)
  - Evidence that at least one identified LANL collaborator has agreed to spend time with the applicant to explore collaboration possibilities and meet with the applicant if travel to LANL is proposed (e.g., an email from the collaborator)
3. **Research area** – Describe the research area that you and your collaborator(s) are interested in exploring. A single paragraph can suffice. If you know how the area is connected to LANL missions or its “capability pillars,” please include this information.
4. **Cost and timeline** – Describe how and when you will spend the mini-grant funds if your application is selected for funding and *specify the date* on which your summary report will be delivered to the NLO. Mini-grants are internally funded and therefore have no associated overhead costs.



## Development Fellowships

The Development Fellowship program helps The Texas A&M University System researchers develop and deepen collaborative research partnerships with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) technical staff members (TSMs) in areas of interest to the laboratory. Faculty who spend time at LANL learning the laboratory's missions and problem sets are more likely to develop long-term partnerships with the laboratory's technical staff members. Development fellowships aim to help researchers achieve such partnerships. A typical development fellowship would involve a one-year (or shorter) research project. Funding would cover up to 1.5 months of salary for the A&M System researcher and reimburse travel costs up to \$5,000 for the A&M System researcher to visit one or more LANL technical staff members for several weeks. The visit would enable the research partners to take tangible steps toward long-term funded collaborative research. A typical deliverable would be a joint publication or joint proposal.

Applicants should propose alternate uses of approximately the described amount of funding, and/or alternate deliverables, if appropriate to better support the goal of establishing a partnership that can secure future funding for longer-term projects. Expenses incurred prior to application approval will not be reimbursed.

Texas A&M System researchers with the skills, knowledge and interest to develop long-term collaborative ties with LANL technical staff members — and who have one or more laboratory technical staff members identified who are willing and able to partner on collaborative research — are encouraged to apply. Texas A&M System researchers who already have mature collaborative partnerships with LANL technical staff members are encouraged to consider applying to the Research Projects element of the Research Collaboration Program.

Principal-investigator-eligible (PI-eligible) research faculty and staff in every A&M System component, including branch campus locations, are eligible to apply, with the exception that holders of postdoctoral appointments are not eligible to apply. Priority may be given to early-career tenure-line faculty.

The application **must identify at least one LANL collaborator** who has agreed to collaborate with the A&M System applicant to execute the proposed effort. **Applicants must specify what will be delivered** (publication, proposal, etc.) upon completion of the proposed effort.

Reviewers chosen by the A&M System's National Laboratories Office and LANL will select applications for funding in accordance with joint A&M System-LANL priorities, subject to availability of funds.



### *Applying for Development Fellowships*

Applications must be submitted via email by to [lanl-engage@nlo.tamus.edu](mailto:lanl-engage@nlo.tamus.edu) by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Notification of awards will be made by Winter Break 2020. PDF documents are preferred for the application and the A&M System applicant's curriculum vitae. The application should be organized as follows:

1. **Applicant information** – Provide information about the TAMUS researcher requesting funds, including at least:
  - Name
  - Title (e.g., Assistant professor)
  - TAMUS System Entity and Department (e.g., PVAMU Math)
  - Citizenship (e.g., US Permanent Resident)
  - Email address and phone number
  - Curriculum vitae (PDF format)
2. **Collaborator information** – Provide information about the identified LANL collaborator(s), including at least:
  - Name
  - Title (e.g., Scientist 3)
  - Division and group (e.g., CCS-2)
  - Evidence that the named LANL collaborator(s) have agreed to partner with the A&M System applicant to execute the proposed effort (e.g., email from collaborator(s))
  - LANL collaborator(s) curriculum vitae or resume (PDF format)
3. **Proposed effort** – Describe the proposed effort and tangible outcome (“deliverable”). Describe the research area that you and your collaborator(s) are interested in exploring over the long-term. It is best if you can show a connection to long-term LANL missions, “capability pillars,” or initiatives. Also describe the impact that completion of the effort will have (i.e, what difference will it make?). The narrative should be less than three pages.
4. **Cost and timeline** – Provide a cost breakdown and approximate timeline, *including the date* by which the deliverable will be given to the A&M System's National Laboratories Office. This information can be presented as a paragraph or two, and/or bulleted lists. Total budget should be included, not just a description of costs, but a formal budget generated by research services is not required. Fellowships are internally funded and therefore include no overhead costs.

### *Review Procedure*

The National Lab Office's Fellowship Review Panel (FRP) will review all fellowship applications once the application window has closed. The FRP comprises researchers and executives from TAMUS members and departments who have a working knowledge of LANL missions and TAMUS goals. Once the proposal has passed the initial screening (element completion, allowable citizenship, etc.) it will be moved to the





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second step. In the second step, the FRP will review each viable proposal and assess it against the following criteria:

- Technical merit (originality, creativity, and potential for impact)
- Applicant's career history and potential for long-term collaboration with LANL
- Alignment with LANL missions and/or its capability needs
- Strength of collaboration plan

The FRP will discuss the proposals that receive the highest assessments with counterparts at LANL, and the FRP and LANL will jointly make the final selections. The FRP is committed to making unbiased diverse decisions based on technical merit and mission alignment across all TAMUS organizations and areas of research.

Conflict of Interest Disclaimer: Should any member of the FRP have a biased interest in an application, submit an application themselves, or be unable to complete their duties, an alternative board member will be assigned in their place.



## Research Projects

The Collaborative Research Projects program funds multi-year research and development projects collaboratively executed by The Texas A&M University System and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) researchers.

Funding for a typical research project would support one graduate student (GAR stipend, tuition, and fees) and one month of time for an A&M System researcher (typically the student's advisor) per year for up to four years. Funded students are expected to spend one or more summers (or similar time periods) at LANL under the supervision of a LANL co-advisor, who is typically a co-author of the proposal and co-executer of the research. Continued funding throughout the proposed project period is contingent upon satisfactory progress and availability of funds. Applicants are free to propose different allocations of approximately the same level of funding described above. Funding is provided jointly by the A&M System's National Laboratory Office (NLO) and LANL. Expenses incurred prior to application approval will not be reimbursed.

Applications will be accepted from any full-time PI-eligible researcher (except those with postdoctoral appointments) from any TAMU System Member entity. Applications with the following characteristics have the best chance of receiving funding:

- Proposed A&M System-LANL researchers have a history of partnership;
- LANL leadership sees value in a long-term relationship with proposed A&M System researcher(s);
- Proposed research and development improves a key LANL capability and/or addresses one of its mission needs and relates to a research area for which the laboratory has stable, long-term funding;
- Proposed research and development has potential for high impact;
- Project engages one or more graduate students with potential for LANL employment;
- Proposed A&M System researcher, or researcher's group, appears likely to produce a steady stream of graduates with potential for LANL employment, for many years to come.

The application **must name at least one LANL technical staff member** who has agreed to partner with the A&M System researcher(s) on the proposed effort, supervise funded student(s) during their stays at LANL, and serve on the students' research advisory committees. Funded partners must submit **annual progress reports**, except for the final year in which a **final project report** is required.

Reviewers chosen by NLO and LANL will select applications for funding in accordance with joint A&M System-LANL priorities, subject to availability of funds. The review process is described below.

*Applying for Research Projects*



Applications must be submitted via email to [lanl-engage@nlo.tamug.edu](mailto:lanl-engage@nlo.tamug.edu) by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Review Committee will notify awardees by Winter Break 2020. Application materials should be submitted as PDF documents. Sponsored Research Services does not need to be involved at this initial stage.

The application should contain the following documents:

- Personnel description
- Proposal narrative
- Budget and timeline
- Curriculum vitae/resumes

Document contents are as follows:

1. **Section 1 of Personnel Document: Texas A&M System applicant information** – Provide information about the A&M System principal investigator (and co-principal investigators, if any), including at least:
  - a. Name
  - b. Title (e.g., assistant professor)
  - c. A&M System entity and department (e.g., PVAMU Math)
  - d. Citizenship (e.g., U.S. permanent resident)
  - e. Email address and phone number
  - f. Student information: Explain how project leaders will ensure that students chosen for funding have the potential for LANL employment
  - g. Pipeline information: Briefly discuss long-term prospects for A&M System researcher's program to produce future graduates with potential for LANL employment
2. **Section 2 of Personnel Document: LANL collaborator information** – Provide information about the identified LANL collaborator(s), including at least:
  - a. Name
  - b. Title (e.g., Engineer 4)
  - c. Division and group (e.g., CCS-2)
  - d. Evidence that the named LANL collaborator(s) have agreed to partner with the A&M System applicant to execute the proposed effort, supervise the funded student(s) when at LANL, and serve on the students' research committees (e.g., an email from collaborator(s))
  - e. Description of previous collaborative efforts between proposed A&M System and LANL collaborators (e.g., joint publications, joint proposals, co-supervised students)
3. **Proposal Narrative Document:** Describe the proposed research project and explain how it supports [long-term LANL missions](#), [capability pillars](#), or initiatives. Also explain the expected impact of the proposed project. Include the following sections, but do not exceed 10 pages total (including summary and references):
  - a. Summary (one page or less, explaining—in a way that a technical person from a different discipline can understand—what is proposed, what motivates the research, and what the impact will be)



- b. Motivation (current state of the topic area with references to previous work and why improvements are needed)
  - c. Proposed activities (what will be done, what new knowledge or technology will be gained, etc.)
  - d. Expected impact (for example, on the technical field, on key LANL capabilities, on LANL mission delivery, etc.)
  - e. Roles (who will do what)
  - f. LANL visits: list time periods planned for A&M System personnel to be at LANL (with understanding that plans may evolve)
  - g. References
4. **Budget and Timeline Document:** Provide a budget breakdown per year and an approximate timeline. A formal budget generated by research services will be required if the proposal is selected for funding. At application time, only an itemization of expenses is required. For example:
- a. Dr. X salary support: one month plus benefits per year
  - b. GAR support: \$2,200/month + tuition + fees; Texas A&M College of Science
  - c. Travel: student travel once/year to Los Alamos, student lodging near LANL two months/year, Dr. X travel to LANL once/year, Dr. X and student travel to conference once/year
  - d. Equipment: (list and estimate costs)
  - e. Materials and supplies: (list and estimate costs)
  - f. Other: (list and estimate costs)
- Do not included overhead costs at this stage. If selected these will be appropriately allocated at a later time.
5. **A&M System researcher curriculum vitae** (PDF document)
  6. **LANL researcher curriculum vitae or resume** (PDF document)

### *Review Procedure*

The National Lab Office's Strategic Review Board (SRB) will oversee and complete the final selection of all research project applications once the application window has closed. The SRB comprises researchers and executives from TAMUS members and departments, along with technical and administrative representatives from LANL.

Once the proposal has passed the initial screening (element completion, allowable citizenship, etc.), the proposal will move to the second step. In the second step, each proposal will be assigned multiple technical reviewers, some from LANL and some from TAMU, who have expertise in the proposed area. Technical assessments and comments will be returned to the SRB based on the criteria below.





<b>TAMUS-LANL Collaborative Research Proposal Review Criteria</b>			
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Innovation and Creativity (33.3%)</b>	<b>Potential for Transformative Impact (33.3%)</b>	<b>Research Methodology (33.4%)</b>
Outstanding-5	The proposal articulates a highly innovative intellectual advance and/or a creative new approach to expanding scientific knowledge or understanding; and/or new methods, processes, tools or devices that make possible the reduction of emerging scientific and technical advances to practice. Conceptually surprising and very intriguing.	Potential for major impact on a technical field and/or a method/approach. Significantly expands upon the limits of what is currently possible, and/or challenges prevailing paradigms. Likely to lead to development of disruptive technologies or to solve a problem that has historically evaded solution. Strong likelihood of high-profile publications in leading journals and/or of significant intellectual property.	Flawlessly clear and well-designed research approach. The scientific methodology of the project is clearly articulated and planned out, and the proposed work is hypothesis-driven when possible. The planned approach is informed by both the theoretical and experimental contexts of the field; if both theoretical and experimental
Excellent-4	Innovation is striking, and the proposed work is clearly differentiated from past work in the field.	Addresses important problems for the technical field that should have high impact. May advance the frontiers of science or engineering. Likely to lead to development of new technologies. Likelihood of publishing in leading journals in the field and/or intellectual property.	The research methodology is solid, although the formulation of scientific and/or technical questions may show minor gaps. There may be minor weaknesses in awareness of the theoretical and experimental contexts of the field, or in the coordination of
Good-3	Proposal shows some identifiable signs of innovation, but creative aspects do not stand out. Differentiation from past work in the field may be somewhat unconvincing.	Identifiable but perhaps limited impact on technical field. The expected outcomes may be incremental. Only modest potential for publication and/or intellectual property.	The formulation of the research hypotheses may be imperfect. Connection of underlying principles to the proposed work exists but may be incomplete. Connections between theory and experiment, either external to or within the project, may have
Fair-2	Innovation is minimal. Likely advances are only incremental.	Very limited impact on technical field, with largely incremental outcomes. Minimal potential for publication or intellectual property.	Research approach is inadequate or contains major flaws. There is little evidence of a research hypothesis or of connection of
Poor-1	Proposal is not innovative.	No evidence of impact on technical field. Very little or no potential for publication or intellectual property.	Proposal is implausible or fundamentally flawed.

SRB will focus its attention on the proposals with the highest technical assessments. For this group of proposals, the board will consider strategic factors such as alignment with mission, needs for strengthened capabilities, and availability of long-term funding. Based on combined technical and strategic considerations, the SRB will form recommendations and present them to LANL leadership for approval.

Conflict of Interest Disclaimer: Should any member of the SRB have a biased interest in an application, submit an application themselves, or be unable to complete their duties, an alternative board member will be assigned in their place. Identifiable information about applicants and reviewers will not be released to anyone other than SRB members.