
CPI Newsletter – May 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

May CPI News –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, May 6, 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 May will have Dr. Mark A. Barteau visiting with CPI Members about the recent guidelines for reopening labs and him providing a Division of Research update. Other presenters for the May 13 meeting Ms. Lesa Feldhousen, Ms. Amanda Oehlke and Ms. Autumn Biggers will provide updates to PIs on conflict of commitment, export control and visiting research scholars. The Federal Government Relations Office Mr. Michael O’Quinn and Mr. Michael Hardy will be providing a federal government update.

The CPI-EC continues 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 also meets with Chancellor Sharp. 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 June CPI General Meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Dr. Jack Baldauf has been invited to come provide CPI with an update on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). 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 CPI General Meetings electronically via TTVN Livestream and Zoom. As we continue to move forward, please provide CPI Representatives or 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](#).

Plan for Resuming Research & Research Guidance during COVID-19

On May 7, 2020, Vice President for Research Mark A. Barteau issued a [plan for resuming research](#) that can be found on the **Division of Research’s web page**, [Research Guidance During COVID-19](#), in a FAQ format that contains the most up-to-date information for A&M researchers, including research funding announcements for COVID-19.

For additional information, please go to TAMU.edu/coronavirus for the most current Texas A&M University response concerning the coronavirus.

National Science Board Vision 2030 Report

The National Science Board just distributed their vision 2030. The full report can be found at the following link <https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2020/nsb202015.pdf>.

NSF Webinar on Approved Format Biograph & Support Letters Format

NSF recently recorded [a webinar about the requirement to use an NSF-approved format](#) for both the biographical sketch and current & pending support documents as part of proposals submitted to NSF. The policy, outlined in the NSF [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 20-1), goes into effect for proposals submitted or due, on or after June 1, 2020. The two NSF-approved formats are [SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#), and an NSF Fillable PDF.

Webinar topics include:

- the policy guidance for preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending support sections of the proposal;
- a walk-through of the user experience in accessing these formats in NSF systems;
- detailed guidance from NIH on using SciENcv for preparing both documents; and
- answers to a number of frequently asked questions.

For additional information, see the NSF pages for the [biographical sketch](#) and [current and pending support](#). We would like your feedback on these formats prior to the June 1st requirement. Please provide your comments and questions to policy@nsf.gov.

Personnel Training Updates for Animal Use Protocols

The IACUC has updated personnel training requirements for animal use protocols (AUPs). Effective July 1, 2020, individuals listed on approved AUPs will have three years to complete new activity dependent training. In addition, beginning January 2021, new training requirements will take effect for personnel on new AUPs. For details see TAMU-G-029 *Guidelines for Animal Protocol Participation and Handling* available here [TAMU NetID authentication required]: <https://rcb.tamu.edu/animals/guidance>. The updated training requirements apply to all campuses. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office staff at 979.845.1828 or animalcompliance@tamu.edu for assistance in determining training requirements and required timeline for completion.

Graduate Task Force Information

The TAMU Graduate School Task Force would like your input on the establishment of a Graduate School. Please visit the Task Force [webpage](#) to review the proposal and presentation and share your thoughts in the “feedback” section of the [webpage](#).

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](#)).

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