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CPI Newsletter – September 2017

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2017-18 CPI roster: Chair — Penny Riggs , COALS ● Vice Chair — David Threadgill , Veterinary Medicine ● AgriLife Extension — Craig Carpenter, Gaylon Morgan ● AgriLife Research — Michael Brewer, Ambika Chandra, Dou Fugen, Lee Tarpley ● Architecture — Ergun Akleman ● Bush School — Kent Portney ● COALS — Fuller Bazer, Russell Cross, Martin Dickman, Micky Eubanks, Elizabeth Pierson, David Stelly ● Education — Oi-Man Kwok, Jeffrey Liew ● Engineering — Jorge Alvarado, Ulisses Braga-Neto, Zachary Grasley, Melissa Grunlan, Tony Hsieh Sheng-Jen, Daniel Jiménez, Jodie Lutkenhaus, Ramesh Talreja ● Geosciences — Alejandro Orsi, Pamela Plotkin, Brendan Roark ● IBT/PHARM/RCHI — Julian Hurdle ● Law — Susan Fortney ● Liberal Arts — Steve Maren, Harland Prechel ● Medicine — Vytas Bankaitas, Kayla Bayless ● Science — Darren DePoy, Michael Hall, Christian Hilty, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile ● SPH — Jane Bolin ● TAMU at Galveston — R.J. David Wells ● TAMCD — Jay Groppe ● TAMU at Qatar — Othmane Bouhali ● TTI — David Bierling, Mike Lukuc, Dennis Perkinson ● University Libraries — Bruce Herbert ● Veterinary Medicine — Loren Skow

Update from Dr. Penny Riggs, CPI Chair

Annual CPI Survey

Thank you to all who participated and contributed comments for the annual CPI survey. Pls provided valuable input. CPI, through the executive committee, will use the information gathered to continue to push for continual improvement in the research environment for PIs, in order to enhance PI success. These data are valuable so that CPI can speak on behalf of all PIs during interaction with administrators. The specific comments provided are appreciated and are very useful for prioritizing specific areas that need improvement.

As we begin the fall semester, CPI will make special effort to increase communication with PIs. We'll also ask for input so that your questions can be raised directly to our monthly speakers. We look forward to our visit with Provost Carol Fierke at our October general meeting.

September CPI News The CPI EC met September 6, 2017, in preparation for today's meeting. Dr. Karen Butler-Purry provided an update from the Division of Research. The Board of Regents at their August meeting approved three new TAMU centers and institutes: Texas A&M Institute for Data Science, Center for Grand Strategy (Bush School), and the Mays Innovation Research Center. Revision of the commercialization system policy 17.01 was not on the August agenda and President Young has requested additional consideration of best practices and operational efficiencies regarding commercialization service centers across TAMU, TEES, TTI and AgriLife. Dr. Butler-Purry reported that a search committee has been appointed to look for a new Energy Institute Director, and the Data Science Institute will name an interim director.

Dr. Dimitris Lagoudas and Dr. Narasimha Annapareddy (Reddy) provided updates on Texas Engineering Experiment Station, noting renovations on west campus, and development of the Soft Matter Lab, and support from the Research Development. Renovations are also ongoing for the manufacturing institute with advanced robotics along with additional updates at the RELLIS campus. Dr. Reddy is working with approximately 32 centers and institutes at TEES to improve collaboration and coordination. He noted that a water grant RFA will be released soon, funded by the State of Texas Water Resources.

Dr. Craig Nessler provided CPI-EC with an update from AgriLife Research. He highlighted the joint Center of Excellence formed with the UT Medical Branch at Galveston to develop a CDC center for vector-borne disease research and surveillance on nonhuman diseases. Regarding AgriLife infrastructure, Dr. Nessler indicated that the fourth AgriLife Building has been finished and will house Wildlife and Management, a new Plant Pathology building has been approved, and the Dallas research and extension center has an emphasis on "urban agriculture."

Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) are undergoing a system audit internal audit that is looking at processes, system policy and regulations as well as internal regulations. Pls are highly encouraged to participate in the "sandbox" demo installations and give feedback on three potential MAESTRO replacement solutions.

Administrator Searches

- The Vice President for Research (VPR) search advisory committee is chaired by Dr. John Gladysz and Dr. Patrick Louchouarn. A search website can be found at http://vprsearch.tamu.edu/ Your input and nominations are welcomed.
- The search for Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences is ongoing, chaired by Kathy Banks. Input and nominations are invited via the search website: http://agrilife.org/vcdeansearch/.
- The Dean of Nursing search is underway and the search advisory committee is chaired by Dr. Joyce Alexander. Search website: http://nursingsearch.tamu.edu/.
- Four (4) candidates for Vice President for Diversity have been announced. Itineraries for On Campus open forums will be announced in the next week.

The complete list of all CPI Representatives and the executive council for 2017-2018 can be found on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership. All PIs are encouraged to communicate with their representatives 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, or contact me directly at riggs@tamu.edu or 979.862.7015.

The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, October 11. This will be the first open meeting for the new academic year. Dr. Carol Fierke will be addressing CPI as her new role as Provost of Texas A&M University. Contact Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu or 979.862.9166 for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

Research Development Fund

As a reminder, there is still time to submit cover pages for the next round of RDF. The dates have been extended. Cover pages are requested by September 22, with full applications due October 23, 2017. More information is available at rdf.tamu.edu or email questions to rdf@tamu.edu.

Postdoctoral Research Symposium

Texas A&M Division of Research will be hosting the inaugural Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium on September 20, 2017. Please encourage your postdoctoral scholars to submit an abstract. Two awards for Distinguished Flash Talks (\$250 each) and two awards for Distinguished Poster Presentations (\$250 each), as well as several People's Choice Awards (\$100 each), will be presented at the close of the event. The Call for Abstracts is pasted below. For your convenience, a pdf of the call has also been attached.

Southwest I-Corps NSF Innovation Corps Requesting PI Participation

The National Science Foundation's I-Corps program has been extremely successful at Texas A&M. You are invited as a PI with innovations or technology that may be of commercial value to test the innovation and realize the real value of your discovery. Contact for the Southwest I-Corps project here at Texas A&M is Charles Hinton, Director, NSF I-Corps (chinton@mays.tamu.edu) or view on website at http://www.swicorps.org/. There is additional information attached to the end of this electronic CPI Newsletter.

Updates to the Human Research Protection Program

The Investigator Manual for Human Subjects Research has been updated on the HRPP website, new forms have been added, and the Standard Operating Procedures have a new format. In addition to the online updates, a new section has been added to the IRB iRIS application in an effort to reduce the length of the application process for researchers. Now, after providing information about the study title, key personnel, and department information, the researcher has the opportunity to fill out a short section to request a human subjects determination, request an external IRB review, or request a delayed onset of human subjects research determination when appropriate for certain funding agencies. Educational sessions on these updates will be announced in the near future. For questions regarding this information, please visit the HRPP website at rcb.tamu.edu/human subjects or call the office at 979-458-4067.

SAVE THE DATE: October 12, 2017 - FDA Presentation to Human Research **Investigators and Staff**

The Division of Research's Human Research Protection Program has invited Ms. Alanna Bias, Supervisory Consumer Safety Officer-Investigator, from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to speak on campus on October 12. The exact time and location will be announced when it is available. The presentation will cover the following information:

- (1) When is an IND (Investigational New Drug Application) required in human research?
- (2) When does human research with nutritional supplements or conventional foods require an IND?
- (3) When does human research with new investigational devices require an IDE (Investigational Device Exemption)?
- (4) Documentation requirements for human research involving test articles.

Please save the date on your calendar for this event. The event will require an RSVP so boxed lunches can be provided. There is no cost to attend. For more information about the event, please contact RCB Outreach at outreachrcb@tamu.edu or 979-458-1467.

Human Subjects Research: Common Rule Update

COGR, AAMC, AAU and APLU sent a letter to HHS Office for Human Research Protections on June 21 requesting a one-year delay in the compliance date of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Common Rule) from January 19, 2018 to January 19, 2019. The request is currently under consideration.

Below is a link to the final revised Common Rule published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2017, together with an Overview and Summary Table generated by COGR.

Summary of Changes Made to the Common Rule

COGR Common Rule Summary Table

Final Revised Common Rule

SACHRP Guidance on Broad Consent under the Revised Common Rule

Fall Laboratory Refresh/Controlled Substances Disposal

As the new semester begins, it is a good time to check your research spaces, including animal housing and procedure locations. Research spaces should be clean and orderly. Items that have expired or are no longer needed should be removed and appropriately discarded. For assistance, please contact the Animal Welfare Office (AWO) at 979-845-1828.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is no longer hosting single-day annual events for disposal of controlled substances. They will now work with a reverse distributor on an individual basis. Please contact EHS' Jeffrey Truss at ictruss@tamu.edu and he will assist you with the disposal process.

National Biosafety Month

October is National Biosafety Month. This annual initiative was started in 2014 by NIH and other DHHS agencies to promote stewardship of the life sciences and biosafety awareness. Principal investigators play an important role with respect to biosafety in their laboratories and are responsible for developing comprehensive SOPs and ensuring all personnel are trained and familiar with these SOPs. Researchers (including students) working with biohazardous materials are encouraged to take this opportunity to reinforce their attention to biosafety policies, practices and procedures.

The Biosafety Occupational Health Program (BOHP) is an integral component of the Office of Biosafety within the Division of Research. BOHP serves all researchers who work with potentially infectious biohazards and/or animals in the context of their research, teaching or testing activities. Recently, the TAMU BOHP expanded its scope to include all health science center researchers at occupational risk of exposure to infectious biological materials or animals. BOHP can be reached at bohp@tamu.edu or 979-845-6649.

Export Controls

Much of the research conducted at Texas A&M University may be excluded from United States export regulations, if it meets definition for "Fundamental Research" under the Fundamental Research Exclusion. However, this exclusion does not extend to physical items being shipped, mailed, or carried out of the United States.

Purchasing: If you are procuring an "U.S. origin item" that you intend to export from the United States, please be sure the Purchasing Department is aware of your intention to export (i.e. the country destination, what it will be used for and by whom). They can work with you, TAMU's Export Control Office as well as the vendor and/or manufacturer to determine if there are any export control issues associated with the item, the destination, the end-use or end-user, early in your process and avoid any unnecessary delays to your research.

Shipping Internationally: If you are shipping or carrying items out of the United States and you think they might be export controlled to the non-U.S. destination(s); please contact TAMU's Export Control Office for support. Also, we encourage you:

- -To consider using an experienced freight forwarding company to assist you with all the customs, export and shipping requirements. For example, TAMU has a successful history with Lognet, as an International Logistics partner. Or alternatively,
- To work with the vendor or manufacturer of the item, and have them ship the item for you. They should be very familiar with the export requirements as they relate to their products.
- "Deemed Export": Please be aware that if you are purchasing export controlled items, even if they never leave the US, if you have a Foreign Person working with you, "using" that export controlled item; such use may be deemed to be an export to the Foreign Person's country of origin.

Additionally, even if you do not intend to ship the item or allow a Foreign Person to use the item; it may be a TAMU asset for many years. Accordingly, if it may be export controlled, please discuss this aspect with Purchasing and/or contact TAMU's Export Control Office. We have procedures in place to control the risks of future exports or deemed exports for the life of the asset, that can be implemented.

TAMU's Export Control Office is here to support you. Please contact us with any questions or concerns http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/export-controls or you can contact TAMU's Export Control Director, Rayland C. VanNorman at Raylandc@tamu.edu or (979) 862-6419.

New International Research Program with FAPESP, San Paolo, Brazil

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University and the São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP, are pleased to announce a new Cooperation Agreement for Research aiming to implement scientific and technological cooperation through the funding of joint research projects between Texas A&M researchers and researchers from the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The announcement for the TAMU-FAPESP Collaborative Research Grant program was released on August 1, 2017. The closing date for proposal submissions is October 30, 2017.

Funding for the Texas A&M principal investigator will be US\$10,000 per proposal per year. FAPESP will provide an equivalent amount of funding for their Pls.

One principal investigator is required from Texas A&M and the other from a public and/or private institution of higher education in the State of São Paulo.

Additional details will be announced as soon as they are available.

The São Paulo Research Foundation - FAPESP - is an independent public foundation with the mission to foster research and the scientific and technological development of the State of São Paulo. The agreement between Texas A&M and FAPESP is for a period of five years, which may be extended by mutual agreement between both institutions.

For additional information on the program, please contact Monica Bruno Holder, international programs coordinator, at m-holder@tamu.edu.

Professional Development Opportunities for Researchers

In AY 2018, the Division of Research will offer over 20 seminars, workshops, writing programs, and clinics for the Texas A&M research community. Aimed to assist PIs in developing competitive grant proposals to the NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies, these include several new opportunities and information on internal seed grant and international programs. Information and registration links for these events are online at https://u.tamu.edu/RDSPD (topical list) or https://u.tamu.edu/RDS-UE (chronological list). Upcoming registration deadlines:

Texas A&M-CONACYT Writer's Workshop

September 14, 2:00-3:00, 3147 ILSB

Registration Deadline: 10:00 a.m. September 14

Write Winning NIH and NSF Grant Proposals Seminar

Core: September 21, 8:00-12:00, 601 Rudder NIH: September 21, 1:00-4:30, 601 Rudder NSF: September 22, 8:00-12:00, 601 Rudder

Registration Deadline: September 14

Demystifying the NSF: NSF Funding Opportunities, Proposal Preparation, and Review Process

October 3, 1:00-4:00, 3147 ILSB

Registration Deadline: 10:00 a.m. October 3

Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: Writing Successful Proposals

October 4, 1:00-4:00, 301 Rudder

Registration Deadline: 10:00 a.m. October 4

PESCA Internal Seed Grant Writer's Workshop

October 11, 1:00-4:00, 3147 ILSB

Registration Deadline: 10:00 a.m. October 11

Writing Successful Proposals - All Faculty

October 18, 1:00-4:00, 3147 ILSB

Registration Deadline: 10:00 a.m. October 18

Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy – http://jfa.tamu.edu

Through a series of workshops, seminars, and writing groups – provided through a partnership between the Division and TEES – the Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy assists early-career researchers in developing more competitive proposals to a variety of funding agencies, including NIH, NSF CAREER program and DOD and other Young Investigator programs.

Texas A&M Internal & International Seed Grant Programs

Important dates and deadlines have been set for internal and international seed grant programs managed by the Division of Research. The following provides a brief synopsis of each; principal investigators are encouraged to visit the program's webpage for full information.

Texas A&M-FAPESP Research Program - NEW!

Call for Proposals: August 1, 2017 October 30, 2017 Proposals due:

Website: https://u.tamu.edu/FAPESP2017

The Division and São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) have established the Texas A&M-FAPESP Research Program to implement scientific and technological cooperation through the funding of joint research projects between Texas A&M researchers and researchers from the State of São Paulo, Brazil. Funding for the Texas A&M principal investigator is US \$10,000 per proposal per award. FAPESP will provide an equivalent amount of funding for their Pls.

Texas A&M University-CONACYT: Collaborative Research Grant Program

Release of RFP: September 14, 2017 Letters of Intent due: October 23, 2017 Invitation for full proposal: After November 1, 2017 January 12, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Full proposals due:

Award Notifications: After May 2018

Award Period (TENT): September 1, 2018-August 31, 2019

Transfer of funds (TENT): September 2018 (All compliance documents must be in place for funding

to occur.)

Website: https://u.tamu.edu/CONACYT

Texas A&M University and the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia (CONACYT) began the Collaborative Research Grant Program in 2001. This competitive, peer-reviewed program advances interinstitutional cooperation in science, technology, and scholarly activities through the complementary efforts of scientists and scholars from Texas A&M and Mexican institutions. Principal investigators (PIs) may apply for a Type I Award providing up to \$24,000 in joint funding or a Type II Award providing up to \$50,000 in joint funding. Pls may not submit proposals to both award programs.

Arts & Humanities Fellows Program

Opening date for Submissions: Jan. 8. 2018.

A&H Fellows Program Seminars: Nov. 1, and 30, 2017 March 7, 2018, 5:00 p.m. Deadline for Finalizing Proposals: Award Notifications: First week of May. 2018.

May 15, 2018 (If no compliance review is necessary.) Estimated date of grant funding:

Website: https://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/funding/internal/arts-and-humanities/ahfp

The Arts & Humanities Fellows Program was created to stimulate interactions among scholarly and artistic faculty at Texas A&M University as well as nationally and internationally. The program recognizes extraordinary scholarship and creativity and provides faculty a supportive environment through which to advance their scholarship and creative work, and reward scholarly and artistic merit in their chosen discipline. It is also hoped that recognition as a fellow will build, strengthen, and sustain long-term relationships with fellows outside their chosen discipline. Fellows receive a \$15,000 fellowship stipend funded in equal disbursements over the three-year fellowship period.

PESCA Grant Program

Opening date for Submissions: Sep. 1, 2017

PESCA Grant Program Seminars: Sep. 7, 2017, and Oct. 11, 2017

Deadline for Finalizing Proposals: Oct. 30, 2017 Award Notifications: Dec. 18, 2017 Estimated date of grant funding: May 1, 2018 (Pending receipt of any required compliance approvals.) Website: https://vpr.tamu.edu/researchdevelopment/funding/internal/PESCA

The Division funds the PESCA Grant Program to support significant research and scholarly projects that have the potential to lead to the awarding of external funding by agencies and endowments such as national endowments, major federal research funding agencies, institutes, foundations and councils. The maximum award amount is \$10,000 for single-authored proposals; \$18,000 for co-authored proposals; and \$25,000 for proposals with three or more authors.

DARPA Young Faculty Award (YFA) Announced

Department of Defense (DOD) DARPA - Defense Sciences Office Young Faculty Award (YFA) The executive summary is due Oct. 2 and the full proposal is due Dec. 4. http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=297218

Sponsored Research Services

Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) Pre-Award Team is committed to providing timely, accurate, and courteous assistance to our faculty, external sponsors, and other university personnel. Proposal administrators assist researchers in the preparation and submission of proposals to sponsors for external funding. They prepare the budgetary and administrative components of the proposal, ensure compliance with TAMUS policies, system member's requirements, state and federal regulations, and adherence to the funding opportunity specific terms and conditions, as well as route for institutional approvals. Pre-award administration is a complex process that requires necessary preparation time prior to submission to the sponsor. SRS is able to add the most value to the proposal submission process if sufficient time is available to prepare SRS-generated portions of the proposal, and to conduct a thorough quality review. As a commitment to our mission in providing faculty and researchers with the utmost level of support to produce the highest quality proposal possible, SRS has developed a proposal submission quideline. In writing this guideline, we called upon several groups on campus that have a vested interest in the research enterprise. The Council of Principal Investigators (CPI), Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EXC), University Research Council (URC), Faculty Senate, and the Texas A&M Stakeholders Operations Committee (TSOC) have all provided thoughtful input to this guideline, and as a result of the combined efforts, we issue the following guidelines for proposal submissions. (See Proposal Submission Guidelines attached at the back of this newsletter.)

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

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.



Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Noon-6:00 p.m.

Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM '56 Equine Complex

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstract Submission Deadline: August 15, 2017

The Division of Research invites you to participate in the 2nd Annual **Texas A&M University Postdoctoral Research Symposium**. This event coincides with National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week held by the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA). The symposium will highlight the work of postdoctoral scholars across Texas A&M. Please join us!

vpr.tamu.edu/postdoc_abstract_submission

For more information contact **Shannon Eyre** seyre@tamu.edu



Sponsored Research Services Proposal Submission Guidelines

Purpose: To describe relevant procedures for investigators who are submitting proposals for external funding

Sponsored Research Services (SRS) strives to provide TAMU and the agency research community with excellent sponsored project administration services. Pre-award administration is a complex process that requires sufficient preparation time prior to submission to the sponsor. Adequate preparation time will ensure that sponsor requirements, System Member rules, SAPs or guidelines are followed and proposals are submitted by the sponsor's deadline. SRS is able to add the most value to the proposal submission process when sufficient time is available to prepare SRS generated portions of the proposal, and to conduct a thorough quality review. To ensure that SRS provides investigators with the highest level of support we issue the following guidelines for proposal services:

1. Initial contact with SRS

- a. Researchers are asked to contact SRS pre-award staff with their intent to submit a proposal a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the sponsor deadline date.
- b. Complex proposals (e.g. the proposal contains subcontracts or cost share/match, etc..) or solicitations containing terms and conditions may need additional preparation time (longer than 3 weeks). Therefore, researchers are encouraged to contact SRS as soon as possible to facilitate the proposal submission.
- c. The initial communication should include the sponsor proposal announcement. In the event that an announcement is not available, the communication should include sponsor name, program, deadline and other critical elements of the proposal so that SRS may assign a proposal administrator to facilitate the submission.
- **2. Preparation of Administrative portions of the proposal** SRS requests the following documents (when applicable) **5 business days** in advance of the sponsor deadline:
 - a. Budget
 - b. Budget justification
 - c. Draft abstract or statement of work (to use in routing to obtain system member approval)
 - d. Relevant approved waivers
 - e. Subcontract documents
 - f. Biosketches
 - q. Current & pending
 - h. Data Management Plan
 - i. Facilities & Equipment
- **3. Technical Portions of the proposal** All technical portions of the proposal should be submitted to SRS, in final format, no later than 1 business day prior to the sponsor deadline.

4. SRS pledge to the research community

- a. Proposals in final format received at SRS by the timeline outlined above will receive a complete and thorough quality review.
- b. For proposals completed and submitted to SRS within this timeframe, SRS will work with the PI to make necessary changes to ensure that the proposal is administratively compliant.

- c. SRS pledges to submit on-time proposals, with limited exceptions, prior to the sponsor's deadline. Proposals with the required materials submitted to SRS within the timeframe outlined above will receive priority over proposals received with shorter lead time.
- d. SRS staff will make every effort to submit all proposals. In the event that a proposal is received outside of the requested timeframe, the investigator will assume the risk for proposals found to be non-compliant or does not meet the sponsor's deadline.
- **5. Agency Deadline** Unless the deadline is specifically defined as earlier than 5 p.m. by the sponsor, the submission deadline for SRS is 5 p.m. local time on the sponsor's specified deadline date (even if the sponsor allows submissions beyond 5 p.m.).
- **6. Approvals** If a proposal is submitted to the sponsor without SRS or System Member review, the proposal may be withdrawn if it is determined to be non-compliant with the System Member rules, SAPs or guidelines.

Approved By: Dr. Glen A. Laine, Vice President for Research

Approved By: Kristi M. Billinger, Executive Director, Sponsored Research Services

Approved: 05/15/2017 Effective: Immediately Review Cycle: Annual