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CPI Newsletter –August 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* — vacant • *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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**August CPI News** –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting were from Dr. Mark Barteau providing a Division of Research update as Texas A&M continues to prepare and plan for research opportunities for the new academic year ahead. Barteau reminds us that the FAQs and guidelines for working in labs are on the website as well as the information on reporting COVID19 cases, if some occur. The new form can now submitted online the link is provided below in the newsletter. As new updates occur the COVID19 FAQ website is updated. The May 7, 2020, Plan for Resuming Research Operations are still applicable and can be found at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/plan-for-resuming-research-operations-5-7-2020>.

The August 12<sup>th</sup> CPI General Meeting will be held in closed session in order that CPI Representatives could plan for the 2020-21 academic year. 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!

As we transition to a new academic year and my term as CPI Chair comes to an end, I invite you to contact Dr. Steve Maren, 2020-2021 CPI Chair, Dr. David Stelly, 2020-2021 CPI Vice Chair 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 CPI's monthly meetings.

**CPI Contacts**–The complete 2020-2021 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at [https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021\\_Membership](https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021_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.

## AnSRS4U – Presentation on Contract Negotiation

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TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) is providing Answers for You, (AnSRS4U). SRS is offering via Zoom a series of monthly informational sessions on various research administration topics. Our target audience is the department and college staff that support the research enterprise but everyone is welcome to attend. The next presentation will be on **Thursday, August 20 at 10:00am** and the topic is contract negotiation. Zoom meeting registration information will be sent out via the SRS google group at [SRS@lists.tamu.edu](mailto:SRS@lists.tamu.edu). Sign up for the listserv by emailing [ansrs4u@tamu.edu](mailto:ansrs4u@tamu.edu) and request to be added to the listserv.

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## Updates to Existing Proposal & Award Policy-related Guidance

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Dear Colleagues:

The Foundation has made updates to the following guidance on the NSF website based on inquiries that we are receiving from the community:

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on NSF's Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-26](#);
- [FAQs on Current & Pending Support](#); and
- [NSF-approved Formats for the Biographical Sketch](#) website.

Updated guidance includes clarifications on professional appointments, research endeavors, principal investigators working outside the U.S. for an extended period of time, and reporting on in-kind support and outside consulting activities.

Please direct any questions to [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov).

## Research Development Services Calendar

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Attached to the back of the newsletter are two pages entitled 2020-2021 Professional Development Calendar for upcoming to offer seminars & workshops for the Texas A&M research community. These events are aimed to assist PIs in developing competitive grant proposals to the NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies.

## 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 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*

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## External Employment and Faculty Development Leave Process Updates

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System regulations concerning external employment and faculty development leave were recently updated. Please note the following new requirements for each regulation:

TAMUS Regulation [31.05.01 Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment](#): The regulation was revised to include a requirement that any faculty consulting and/or external professional employment with a foreign entity must be reviewed by the member's export controls office prior to submission to the CEO or designee. A copy of the faculty member's application, approval form, and supporting documentation will also be provided to the System Research Security Office.

TAMUS Regulation [31.05.02 External Employment](#): The regulation was revised to include a requirement that if an employee proposes to engage in external employment with a foreign entity, the member will submit the proposed engagement for review to the member's export control office prior to submission to the CEO or designee. A copy of the employee's application, approval form, and supporting documentation must also be provided to the System Research Security Office.

TAMUS Regulation [12.99.01 Faculty Development Leave](#): The regulation was revised to include a requirement that any international activity undertaken by a faculty member on faculty development leave is subject to the reporting and approval requirements of TAMUS 31.05.01 Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment. If the international activities involve a country of concern, as promulgated by the System Research Security Office, the Research Security Office must be consulted as part of the approval process.

Please submit any applications that meet the above requirements to [exportcontrols@tamu.edu](mailto:exportcontrols@tamu.edu). The Export Controls Office will work with the Research Security Office as necessary.

## 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 this link: <https://nationallabsoffice.tamug.edu/laboratories/los-alamos-national-laboratories/collaborative-research-with-los-alamos-national-laboratory/>

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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](#))

## 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.

## 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 ([cjongsma@tamu.edu](mailto:cjongsma@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

# 2020 – 2021 Seminars & Workshops

## Research Development Services (RDS)

<https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/research-development-services/calendar>

**\*\*DUE to COVID and to allow for flexibility, the Fall 2020 workshops will be held virtually. Those registering will be supplied with a zoom link closer to the event date. Please continue to check for updates on <https://vpr.tamu.edu/rds>**

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### **DOE Early Career Research Program Webinar\***

**September 16, 2020, via Zoom**

**\*Registration link coming soon\***

This 3-hour event will include presentations by DoE program officers, the TAMUS National Laboratories Office, and past awardees, including plenty of time for Q&A in smaller breakout sessions, as well as an introduction to the RDS and TAMUS NLO collaborative plan to assist faculty targeting this program.

[Laurie Garton](#)

### **NIH Virtual Specific Aims Workshop\***

**September 17, & October 1, 2020, 12:00 – 1:30, via Zoom**

Participants in this interactive two-part workshop will have the opportunity to provide and receive feedback on NIH Specific Aims pages, as well as receive feedback from experienced NIH peer reviewers.

**REGISTER [here](#).**

[Christina Howard](#)

### **Grants: They have a Language All Their Own**

**October 8, 2020, 9:00-10:00, via Zoom**

**\*Registration link coming soon\***

This seminar is designed for **graduate students and postdocs** as an overview of strategic proposal design and best practices that lead to more competitive research proposals. The information applies to all proposals irrespective of the funding agency.

Applicable to all disciplines.

[Jim Izat](#), DoR, HLKN & OGAPs

### **Writing Successful Proposals\***

**October 21, 2020, 1:30 – 3:00, via Zoom**

A seminar designed to offer faculty an overview of strategic proposal design and best practices to create a competitive research proposal. Applicable to all disciplines.

**REGISTER [here](#).**

[Laurie Garton](#)

### **NSF: The Agency, Proposal Preparation & Review**

**October 28, 2020, 12:00-1:00, via Zoom**

**\*Registration link coming soon\***

For graduate students and postdocs, on applying to funding opportunities to the NSF. It will have an overview of the NSF, aid in identifying appropriate programs and proposal types, and insight into the review process.

[Jim Izat](#), DoR, HLKN & OGAPs

### **Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals**

**October 28 & 29, 2020, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm, via Zoom**

Provides a broad overview of NIH, identifying NIH funding opportunities, proposal submission and review process, and strategies to build a competitive NIH proposal.

**REGISTER [here](#) by October 13, 2020.**

John Robertson, Consultant from [GWSW](#).

### **NSF CAREER and Other Young Investigator Programs Workshop\***

**November 4, 2020, 1:00-5:00 p.m., TBD**

This seminar will familiarize faculty with the NSF CAREER and other federal agency young investigator programs to apply to. More Information at

<https://u.tamu.edu/YIP>.

**REGISTER [here](#).**

[Laurie Garton](#)

### **NSF Proposal Supplementary Documents\***

**November 17, 2020, 1:00-3:00, via Zoom**

Designed to familiarize faculty with the many types of NSF documents required to be included with NSF research proposals. All experience levels.

**REGISTER [here](#).**

[Laurie Garton](#)

\*denotes a Junior Faculty Proposal Academy Session. - <https://jfa.tamu.edu/>

\*\*While Junior Faculty Academy Sessions focus on the needs of junior faculty, all faculty are encouraged and welcome to attend.

# 2020 – 2021 Seminars & Workshops

## Research Development Services (RDS)

<https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/research-development-services/calendar>

### SPRING 2021

#### Professional Development Opportunities

Spring 2021 topics are listed with tentative dates.

Please continue to check for updates on

<https://vpr.tamu.edu/rds>

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#### NSF Broader Impacts & Education Plan Expo and Seminar\*

**February 3, 2021, 1:00 – 5:00, TBD**

**\*Registration link coming soon\***

Presenters will inform attendees in two seminar talks about the strategies and considerations relevant to the Broader Impacts (1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.) and CAREER Education Plan (4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) requirements of grant proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and will include an introduction of campus representatives (2:30 p.m. – 3:14 p.m.) and an expo (3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) for attendees to connect with campus representatives who can provide broader impact resources.

Held jointly by [DoR](#) and TEES

#### NSF CAREER Writing Groups - Initial Meeting\*

**February 10, 2021, 1:30 – 3:00, via Zoom**

The purpose of this meeting is to familiarize faculty with the goals and organization of the TAMU NSF CAREER proposal peer writers' group. Participants will receive resource materials, participate in the Q&A session, and schedule writing meetings March-May.

**REGISTER [here](#).**

[Laurie Garton](#) & [Jim Izat](#)

#### Demystifying the NSF\*

**March 24, 2021, 1:30 – 3:00, via Zoom**

This seminar is designed to offer faculty an overview of the NSF organization, aid in identifying appropriate NSF programs, and an overview of NSF proposal types and proposal review at NSF. Open to all disciplines

**REGISTER [here](#).**

[Laurie Garton](#)

#### Hanover: Securing Department of Defense (DoD) Funding for Research\*

**TBD June 2021, via Zoom**

Attendees will learn best practices associated with proposal development and receive a detailed manual to refer back to as a resource across the proposal development process. Highlighted opportunities will include those programs targeted to early investigators as well as opportunities related to COVID-19.

[Laurie Garton](#) & Sarah Ott

#### NIH Virtual Specific Aims Workshop\*

**TBD, noon – 1:30, via Zoom**

Participants in this interactive two-part workshop will have the opportunity to provide and receive feedback on NIH Specific Aims pages, as well as receive feedback from experienced NIH peer reviewers.

[Christina Howard](#)

\*denotes a Junior Faculty Proposal Academy Session. - <https://jfa.tamu.edu/>

\*\*While Junior Faculty Academy Sessions focus on the needs of junior faculty, all faculty are encouraged and welcome to attend.