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CPI Newsletter – December 2021

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**2021-22 CPI roster:** Chair — David Stelly, COALS • Vice Chair — Debjyoti Banerjee, Engineering • Past Chair — Steve Maren, Liberal Arts • AgriLife Extension — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • AgriLife Research — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • Architecture — Wei Yan • Bush School — Laura Dague • COALS — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Jean-Phillipe 'JP' Pellois, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, Paul Straight, Aaron Tarone • Dentistry — Hongjiao Ouyang • Education — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • Engineering — Raymundo Arroyave, Theodora Chaspari, Melissa Grunlan, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, James Kaihatu, Samuel Ma, Ramesh Talreja • Geosciences — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Daniel Thornton • Law — Felix Mormann • Liberal Arts — Jessica Bernard, Harland Prechel • Mays — Korok Ray • Medicine — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Shannon Glaser, Carl Gregory • Nursing — Robin Page • Pharmacy — Jayshree Mishra • Science — Heath Blackmon, Jennifer 'Jen' Dulin, Rainer Fries, Jean-Luc Guermond, Wenshe Liu • Public Health — Gang Han • TAMU at Galveston — R.J. David Wells • TAMU at Qatar — Konstantinos Kakosimos • TEES — Dean Schneider, Nathan Tichenor • TTI — David Bierling, James Kovar, Dennis Perkinson • University Libraries — Sarah Potvin • Veterinary Medicine — Joe Arosh, Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy

*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. David Stelly, CPI Chair

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*December CPI News* – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with the administrators on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. Discussions and updates included an overview presentation and request for feedback from the Division of Information Technology on their “Next Generation Aggie Network” improvements, planning and timelines for implementation. The asked for feedback from PIs. I have included the survey link <https://u.tamu.edu/nextgennet> where PIs, staff and students are encouraged to take the survey and provide necessary information moving into the planning stage that will be submitted into an executive summary for the Board of Regents in late January 2022. If you choose not to take the Division of Information Technology feedback survey, you can also provide feedback via email at [nextgen-aggienetwork@tamu.edu](mailto:nextgen-aggienetwork@tamu.edu).

I invite you to contact me, Dr. Deb Banerjee, 2021-2022 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. The CPI Executive Committee continues to meet with the president, interim provost, interim vice president for research and chancellor on a regular basis.

*CPI Contacts*–The complete 2021-2022 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at [2021-2022 Council Membership — Council of Principal Investigators \(tamu.edu\)](#). Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

## Updated COVID-19 Related Guidance for In-Person Human Research Activities

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The Division of Research (DOR) has updated the COVID-19 guidance to assist faculty and researchers conducting in-person human research activities. The guidance can be found online as part of the [Research Compliance and Integrity Toolkit](#).

Texas A&M University [Human Subjects Research Guidance for Conducting In-Person Study Visits During COVID-19](#) provides researchers with a plan that minimizes the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 while allowing in-person study visits. Principal Investigators are responsible for carrying out the plan as applicable to their research.

The [Participant Acknowledgement In-Person Human Research during COVID-19](#) is a form describes the precautions researchers are implementing to safeguard participants from contracting COVID-19. The acknowledgement form should be sent to research participants prior to their in-person study visit on the TAMU campus. Researchers should maintain a copy of the signed acknowledgement with their study records.

Please contact the IRB by email, [IRB@tamu.edu](mailto:IRB@tamu.edu), or phone, 979.458.4067, if you have any questions about the updated COVID-19 guidance for in-person human research.

## Save the Date & Polls: REU/SURE Coordination Meeting for Summer 2022

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Dear REU/SURE PIs and Coordinators:

LAUNCH is planning the spring Coordination Meeting where we will discuss updated university policies for REU and other summer undergraduate research programs. This message contains information on the upcoming meeting as well as a request for information (two polls).

### REU/SURE Coordination Meeting

- January 27, 2022

- 8:30 AM CT to 10:00 AM CT
- Format TBD (see Poll 1)
- Coordination Meeting Agenda and Tentative Packet:  
[https://launch.tamu.edu/LAUNCH/media/library/UGR/REU-SURE/docs/packet/\(official-11-29-2021\)-2122\\_REU-SURE\\_Agenda\\_Policies.pdf](https://launch.tamu.edu/LAUNCH/media/library/UGR/REU-SURE/docs/packet/(official-11-29-2021)-2122_REU-SURE_Agenda_Policies.pdf)
- Coordination Meeting Resources and Contacts Handout:  
[https://launch.tamu.edu/LAUNCH/media/library/UGR/REU-SURE/docs/packet/\(official-11-29-2021\)-2122\\_REU-SURE\\_Resources\\_Contacts.pdf](https://launch.tamu.edu/LAUNCH/media/library/UGR/REU-SURE/docs/packet/(official-11-29-2021)-2122_REU-SURE_Resources_Contacts.pdf)
- RSVP by January 24:  
[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0oMiojVYrqAW0BM](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0oMiojVYrqAW0BM)

#### Request for Information (2 Polls)

- **Poll 1:** Let us know your preference for our meeting format (virtual vs. in person) by completing this one-question poll:  
[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_42D7PzBR6ejogtw](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42D7PzBR6ejogtw)
- **Poll 2:** Let us know your tentative program format and timeline to help us liaise with Residence Life for summer housing logistics (poll will take less than 2 minutes):  
[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5dQmVeiAymysCai](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5dQmVeiAymysCai)

Please direct questions to [ugr@tamu.edu](mailto:ugr@tamu.edu).

## Maestro Steering Committee Update- November 10, 2021

The Maestro Steering Committee governs Maestro (Modular Application for the Electronic Submission and Tracking of Research Operations), which is an enterprise-wide system that supports researchers and research administration across The Texas A&M University System. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the TAMUS CIO (Mark Stone) and the TAMU interim VP for Research (Jack Baldauf). The Maestro Steering Committee met on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Items of discussion included:

1. **Cost Sharing Module (presented by Crystal Foy).** The Cost Share module will (a) remove duplication of data entry between Maestro and FAMIS; (b) increase visibility by category of requirements and transactions for each account, with detail requirements including Direct and Indirect breakdown of Total; (c) reduce manual entries and manual calculation of IDC on Cost Share transactions; and (d) automate report creation, including sponsor reports of required vs. actuals and internal reports for monitoring Cost Share. Initial screen design was shown. Items in progress: (a) tracking actual cost share transactions; (b) metrics to be recorded on the Administrative Dashboard; (c) Common Searches needed; (d) Pre-Defined Reports requested.
2. **Budget Forecasting Update (presented by Mohammad Al-Banna).** Most discussion focused on the Budget Entry component: (a) will allow Budget Administration to enter awarded budgets on established accounts; (b) will post budget reallocations in FAMIS from Maestro with FAMIS Web Service; (c) for SRS Administrated Projects, AASET (award set-up team) will do budget entry during award set-up; (d) budget entry will feed to Budget Forecasting module for Researcher/Department use; this includes detailed entry for personnel (salaries and benefits categories). Additional features of Sponsored Budget Entry include: (a) all budget entries retained in Maestro budget database; (b) current and historical timeline progress of account budget entries; (c) option to route and approve budget entries; (d) detailed reports and dashboards; and (e) accessible anywhere from any device.
3. **Maestro Evolution Project (presented by Donovan Sherriffs).** Maestro is moving from ADF technology to EVO. There are several reasons for this, including: (a) it is becoming quite difficult to find experienced resources for ADF; (b) Oracle is no longer supporting ADF as a technology, and ADF is more expensive; EVO is backed by Google and VMware and has a large user community; and (c) EVO has greater agility and delivery speed; EVO is cloud native and open source, micro services based, and hybrid multi cloud. Internet Technology will be able to deliver the new

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architecture with current resources and minimal disruption of delivery. Individual system parts will be migrated over time. The service gateway and content are already completed. The move will also enable working from anywhere.

4. **Status Monitoring Report (presented by Donovan Sherriffs).** All System members are using maestro. Projects recently added to the tracking include: (1) Account Budget Entry, which is in the design/development phase; (2) Cost Sharing Module; and (3) Maestro Evolution, which has a planned kick-off date of December 1, 2021.

*Reviewed by Leonarda Horvat, Director, Research Information Systems, TAMU.*

*Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee: Lee Tarpley ([ltarpley@tamu.edu](mailto:ltarpley@tamu.edu)) and Kerri Gehring ([kbgehring@tamu.edu](mailto:kbgehring@tamu.edu))*

## Data Management Plan Assistance from the University Libraries

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Research Data Management Services at the University Libraries can help researchers prepare data management plans (DMPs) for grant opportunities. We offer the following tools and support both virtually and in-person to prepare the DMP:

- [The DMPTool](#) is an online platform guiding DMP development according to the requirements of specific funding agencies. You can request feedback on your DMP through DMPTool.
- Or [schedule a consultation](#) to receive feedback on your DMP for your proposal.

## Innovation Partners- Basics of Technology Transfer Online Course

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Looking for some professional development to complete over the holiday break? Why not learn how to advance your discoveries and innovations out of the lab and into the marketplace! Innovation Partners has developed a course in partnership with AUTM that will help university researchers understand the basics of technology transfer beginning with invention disclosure, all the way to marketing the invention so that it can be licensed.

Discover the fundamental building blocks of technology transfer – from compliance, policy and intellectual property to technology transfer agreements, terms and forms. This course is being offered to TAMU faculty and staff at no cost. For more information, [please visit our website](#).

## Reminder to use NIH Form G for due dates on or after January 25, 2022

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This Notice reminds the applicant and recipient community that applicants must use FORMS-G application packages for due dates on or after January 25, 2022 and must use FORMS-F application packages for due dates on or before January 24, 2022.

For a transition period, both FORMS-F and FORMS-G application packages will be active simultaneously. Applicants must choose the appropriate application package for their due date when presented with both FORMS-F and FORMS-G application packages on the same FOA (see table below).

If your intended due date is...	You must use...
On or before January 24, 2022, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications submitted for due dates on or before January 24, 2022</li><li>• Applications submitted under <a href="#">NIH Late Policy</a> 2-week window of consideration for intended due dates on or before January 24, 2022</li></ul>	FORMS-F application package

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applications submitted by February 1, 2022 under NIH <a href="#">Continuous Submission Policy</a> for the January 7, 2022 AIDS intended due date</li> </ul>	
<p>On or after January 25, 2022, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2022</li> <li>All application types (New, Resubmission, Renewal, Revision)</li> <li>Applications submitted early for intended due dates on or after January 25, 2022</li> </ul>	FORMS-G application package

Applications submitted using the incorrect application package for their due date may be withdrawn and removed from funding consideration.

## AnSRS4u Express – Short Videos on Research Administration

During your day do questions on research administration come up? We at TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) understand everyone is busy and sometimes just needs a quick answer or refresher on a research administration topic. That is why SRS has developed AnSRS4u Express. This is a series of short videos (5minutes or less) on various research administration topics available via the SRS website at AnSRS4U Express – Sponsored Research Services ([tamu.edu](http://tamu.edu)). As researchers, some topics that may be of interest include: “NSF Current and Pending Support,” “NIH Biographical Sketch,” “Getting Started on a Proposal,” “Data Use Agreements,” and many more!

We will be adding new videos so visit this site often. If you have an idea for a research administration topic that would lend itself to a short video, please feel free to send your idea to [ansrs4u@tamu.edu](mailto:ansrs4u@tamu.edu)

## NSF Virtual Grants Conference Recordings

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Fall 2021 NSF Virtual Grants Conference was held on October 4 through 8. In case you were not able to watch live, all conference sessions were recorded and are now available on NSF’s Policy Office Outreach website: <https://nspfpolicyoutreach.com/>

Additionally, you may view the recordings on the NSF [YouTube](#) page.

## NIH Regional Seminar Recordings

Each year, the Office of Extramural Research (OER) sponsors the **NIH Regional Seminars** on Program Funding and Grants Administration. These **seminars** are intended to help demystify the application and review process, clarify Federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern. The most recent conference was held November 1 through November 4, 2021. In case you were not able to watch live, all conference sessions were recorded and are now available on NIH website at this link: [2021 NIH Virtual Seminar Presentation Materials | grants.nih.gov](https://grants.nih.gov/2021-nih-virtual-seminar-presentation-materials/)

## COVID-19 Guidance, Testing and Reporting

Reminder, check the Texas A&M COVID-19 webpage [COVID-19 Guidance - Texas A&M University, College Station, TX \(tamu.edu\)](https://tamu.edu/covid-19) for the latest updates, guidance, testing and reporting forms.

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## Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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The Division of Research has a limited 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>. If you have any questions, please contact [shelly.martin@tamu.edu](mailto:shelly.martin@tamu.edu) or 979-862-2233.

## 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.