
CPI Newsletter – December 2022

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2022-23 CPI roster: Chair — Debjyoti Banerjee, ENG • Vice-Chair — Jessica Bernard, CAS • Past Chair David Stelly, COALS • *AgriLife Extension* — Luis Ribera, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • *Architecture* — Wei Yan • BUSH — Laura Dague • COALS — Giri Athrey, Rodolfo Cardoso, H. Russell Cross, Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Pierson, Paul Straight, Aaron Tarone • *Dentistry* — Hua Zhang • *Education* — Paul Hernandez, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Daniel Alge, Jorge Alvarado, Raymundo Arroyave, Theodora Chaspari, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, Samuel Ma, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Ryan Ewing, Jessica Fitzsimmons, Daniel Thornton • *Law* — Felix Mormann • *Liberal Arts* — Rebecca Brooker, 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 — Edith Arámbula Mercado, David Bierling, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Sarah Potvin • *Veterinary Medicine* — Joe Arosh, Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy

Update from Dr. Debjyoti Banerjee, 2022-2023 CPI Chair

December CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Discussions and updates during the December CPI-EC were on potential needs for PIs writing R01 Renewals as well as more data scientists. Also, received updates from system, agency and university administrators.

I invite you to contact me, Dr. Jessica Bernard, 2022-2023 CPI Vice Chair at cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, 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 and chancellor on a regular basis.

CPI Contacts–The complete 2022-2023 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at <https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership>. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

For more information on CPI, to suggest agenda items for CPI's monthly meetings, or contact any of the officers, please email cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, our CPI Coordinator.

Innovation Partners Update

Technology Commercialization Webinar Series

Innovation Partners hosted several informational sessions this past fall semester on a variety of topics related to the technology commercialization process and resources available to Texas A&M University researchers. If you missed one of our presentations, you can visit our video library to view recorded events, or browse all educational programs and resources offered on our website.

New Venture Office Hours

Have an innovation based on university intellectual property that you think may be a fit for a startup company that you, a graduate student, post-doc, or a 3rd party might found? Sign up for an introductory meeting with Chris Scotti, serial entrepreneur turned Director of New Ventures at Texas A&M Innovation Partners, to discuss entrepreneurial commercialization and what resources are available to support the effort. Send an email to cscotti@tamu.edu with 2-3 sentences about your innovation, your department, and several available windows of time.

Human Research Protection Program Updates

AAHRPP Site Visit February 14 and 15

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Programs (AAHRPP) will conduct a site visit of the Texas A&M University Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) on February 14 & 15, 2023.

Investigators and other Key Personnel that will be interviewed by the site visitors will be notified of the interview schedule in early January. The HRPP will provide sample questions and other preparatory materials as applicable for each role. Interviews will be conducted remotely via ZOOM.

Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Website Updates

The HRPP is updating their website guidance materials. A new link has been added to help inform the research community of important upcoming events, such as the AAHRPP site visit and the efforts underway to transition to a new online IRB submission system, Huron: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/news-and-updates/>

Conversion to Huron IRB Submission System

Changes to the IRB submission process are anticipated due to the transition to the Huron IRB protocol information management system. IRB an IT staff are currently working with the Huron group to plan the conversion. Investigators will be notified of timelines and anticipated changes as soon as the information becomes available. Investigators interested in testing and/or providing input on the conversion process are encouraged to contact the HRPP director, Aliese Seawright at a.seawright@tamu.edu.

Adoption of BioRAFT for IACUC and Biosafety Inspections

Starting in January, the Animal Welfare Office (AWO) and the Office of Biosafety (OBS) will begin transitioning tracking and management of facility inspections to BioRAFT, an enterprise level software platform currently utilized by TAMU Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). By teaming up with EHS, the AWO and OBS are able to offer investigators and facility managers a one-stop-location for both laboratory safety, biosafety, and animal welfare inspection outcomes. Our goal is to provide users with easy access to their inspection findings, reduce administrative burden, and allow AWO and OBS personnel to manage the inspection process more efficiently.

It is anticipated that full implementation of BioRAFT will occur over 10-12 months as the large number of locations inspected are transitioned into the new platform. Instructional materials and support will be provided to users by AWO and OBS staff as individual inspection locations are moved into BioRAFT. With most investigators and facility managers already familiar with BioRAFT through EHS, it is anticipated that the transition to the IACUC and Biosafety BioRAFT inspection processes, while slightly different, will be fairly smooth. Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 or OBS at biosafety@tamu.edu or 979.862.4549 if you have questions or need assistance.

Closing Biosafety Laboratories

The Office of Biosafety (OBS) reminds Principal Investigators (PIs) to terminate their IBC permits and decommission their laboratory of all biohazardous materials before moving to another location on campus and/or leaving the university. Biosafety laboratories must also be decommissioned prior to any major renovations or whenever biohazardous materials are no longer in use. To simplify and streamline the process for researchers, the OBS has developed a one-page flow chart outlining the steps required to complete the process. Links are embedded within the chart for accessibility. For questions or concerns, or to obtain copies of the flow chart, please contact biosafety@tamu.edu or 979.862.4549.

Biosafety and Biosecurity Month

Although maintaining safe and secure biosafety laboratories should be an ongoing, year-round process, observation of the 9th annual Biosafety and Biosecurity month in December serves as an excellent opportunity to focus on promoting the core components of ethical research, transparency, training, engagement, and stewardship of biosafety and biosecurity on our campus.

Principal Investigators serve as role models and mentors to their students, post-docs and laboratory support personnel and are encouraged to work collaboratively with the Office of Biosafety to ask for guidance and to foster open communication related to Biosafety and Biosecurity. In coordination with the TAMU Biosafety Program and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), the Division of Research asks all researchers to participate in this campaign and to focus their attention to biosafety and biosecurity standards by:

- Including a description of the biosafety and biosecurity practices in your laboratory when publishing your research.
- Developing policies that consider both the risks and benefits of the research being done.

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- Reviewing and updating your laboratory-specific training and standard operating procedures, as well as participating in laboratory drills and exercises.
 - Cultivating a positive relationship with biosafety program staff, encouraging a strong safety culture among peers, students, etc.
 - Attending an IBC meeting or joining the Biosafety Compliance Network to share resources and ideas.

As always, you are encouraged to contact the Biosafety Program at biosafety@tamu.edu or 979.862.4549 with any biosafety related questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement.

AnSRS4u Presentation Sponsor Updates available on demand

The recent Sponsored Research Services (SRS) AnSRS4U recording of the presentation on Sponsor Updates is now available for viewing from the SRS website at under the Resources tab at <https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/>

This session covered recent updates announced by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and Department of Energy that affect the preparation of proposal applications.

CHIPS Act Expanded RECR Training

CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 – NSF Provisions. Expands required Responsible & Ethical Conduct of Research training. In addition to the current requirement for undergrads, graduate students and postdocs, this training will now be required for faculty and senior personnel working on NSF funded projects beginning the end of July 2023. New Topics: Mentor training, mentorship, awareness of potential research security threats, export controls (disclosure and reporting).

DOE applications require PIER plan

Beginning with the government FY 2023 fiscal year, October 1, 2023, all Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and DOE National Lab Announcements and other funding solicitations began requiring applicants to submit a Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as an appendix to their proposal narrative. PIER Plans should describe the activities and strategies applicants will incorporate to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in their research projects. PIER Plans will be evaluated as part of the merit review process and will be used to inform funding decisions. Read full article at [GRANTS Promoting Inclusive and E... | U.S. DOE Office of Science\(SC\) \(osti.gov\)](#)

NSF releases revised PAPPG

The National Science Foundation releases revised version of the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 23-1). The new PAPPG will be effective for proposals submitted or due on or after **January 30, 2023**. The PAPPG can be accessed in either html or a PDF format at <https://beta.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1>

NIH Update on Simplifying Review Criteria: A Request for Information

NIH has issued a request for information (RFI) seeking feedback on revising and simplifying the peer review framework for research project grant applications. The proposed changes will allow peer reviewers to focus on scientific merit by evaluating 1) the scientific impact, research rigor, and feasibility of the proposed research without the distraction of administrative questions and 2) whether or not appropriate expertise and resources are available to conduct the research, thus mitigating the undue influence of the reputation of the institution or investigator.

Through the RFI, NIH continues to seek further public input on the proposed changes before moving forward with implementation. The RFI will be open for a 90-day period, until March 10, 2023. NIH looks forward to your **comments**. For more information and to provide your input go to [Update on Simplifying Review Criteria: A Request for Information – NIH Extramural Nexus](#)

Free Crash Course in NIH Funding: 2023 NIH Grants Conference on Feb. 1-2

Are you new to NIH grants and looking to better understand the processes and policies behind NIH funding? Or are you experienced and want to brush up on the latest policies and information? Consider this your personal invitation to the **2023 NIH Grants Conference**, a free and virtual event on February 1-2, 2023. During this 2-day live event, NIH and HHS experts will share policies, resources, guidance, and case studies in informative and engaging sessions. For more information and to register go to: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2022/12/08/free-crash-course-in-nih-funding-2023-nih-grants-conference-on-feb-1-2/>

NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

Reminder of New NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan Policy

Be prepared for the new NIH policy on Data Management and Sharing that is effective for applications submitted on January 25, 2023 and after. Beginning on this date NIH will require researchers to submit a data management plan as part of their application. The plan will be part of the budget justification section of the proposal and will be limited to two pages or less.

New NIH Website on Scientific Data Sharing

NIH has announced the availability of a [new website on Scientific Data Sharing](#). Whether you are involved in an NIH-funded project and want to understand [which sharing policies apply to your research](#) and how to comply, or you are a researcher looking to [access scientific data](#) from NIH-affiliated repositories, this site provides helpful information on the process:

To learn more about this new website you can go to the NEXUS announcement.

<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2022/04/05/introducing-nih-new-scientific-data-sharing-website/>

TAMU Libraries Research Data Management Services

Go to [Research Data Management Services \(tamu.edu\)](#) Use the DMPTool to create a data management plan

NIH Forms H

Notice Number: NOT-OD-22-195

Applicants must use FORMS-H application packages for due dates on or after January 25, 2023 and must use FORMS-G application packages for due dates on or before January 24, 2023. Applications submitted using an incorrect forms package for their intended due date will be withdrawn and removed from funding consideration.

For NIH, as part of the implementation of the 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy, a new “Other Plan(s)” attachment field has been added to the PHS 398 Research Plan Form and the PHS 398 Career Development Award Supplemental Form. Applicants must attach the required Data Management and Sharing Plan in this new field in FORMS-H applications.

NSF Virtual Grants Conference- recordings available on demand

The National Science Foundation (NSF) hosted the Fall 2022 NSF Virtual Grants Conference the week of November 14 -17, 2022. Visit the Resource Center [Resource Center – NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nspolicyoutreach.com\)](https://nspolicyoutreach.com) to view the event presentations.

The NSF Grants Conference is designed to give new faculty, researchers and administrators key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF. Presentations include NSF program officers providing up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and policy updates.

LANL Collaborative Research Program- RPF Now Open

TAMUS-Los Alamos National Laboratory Joint Collaborative Research Program
Apply Now - Deadline is December 23, 2022

Development Fellowship

Development Fellowships, sponsored by the Texas A&M University System National Laboratories Office (TAMUS NLO), fund inaugural research and development efforts collaboratively executed by TAMUS and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) researchers. These Fellowships support the laboratory missions and develop researcher collaborations with an eye toward more extensive collaborative research in the near future.

TAMUS researchers who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

- Possess the skills, knowledge, and interest to develop long-term collaborative ties with LANL technical staff members.
- Have identified one or more laboratory technical staff members willing and able to partner on collaborative research.
- Hold a principal-investigator-eligible (PI-eligible) faculty or staff position in any TAMUS entity. (Post-Doc are not eligible)

Joint Collaborative Research Projects

Research Projects, a joint effort by the Texas A&M University System National Laboratories Office (TAMUS NLO) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), fund multi-year research and development projects collaboratively executed by TAMUS and LANL researchers. These Projects support the laboratory missions, develop researcher collaborations with an eye toward future external collaborative research, and provide a pipeline of students interested in working with LANL.

For 2023, LANL has identified the following three thematic areas as priorities for these collaborations:

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- Nuclear Detection, Measurement and Reactor Design supports LANL's Nuclear and Particle Futures and the Science of Signatures Capability Pillars
 - Data Management and High-Performance Computing supports LANL's Information Science and Technology Pillar
 - Energy Resilience and Materials for Clean energy supports LANL's Materials for the Future and Complex Natural and Engineered Systems Capability Pillars
 - **Open door for Innovation** – Compelling and timely ideas that match well with all capability pillars of LANL, independent of these stated priorities. Priority will be given to multidisciplinary proposals that aim at solving big problems among LANL's capability pillars outside of these year's stated priorities.

For full details on these research opportunities, please refer to:

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

The NLO looks forward to assisting all interested researchers with furthering their relationships and opportunities with LANL and other National Laboratories. Any questions or submissions should be sent to lanl-engage@nlo.tamug.edu.

Export Controls Regulation Update

The Export Administration Regulations were recently amended to include additional export controls to China for items, technology, and end-uses related to advanced computing. The areas affected are semiconductor chips, integrated circuits, supercomputers, artificial intelligence, semiconductor manufacturing, and other related technologies. Even offering support in these areas to certain entities working in or with China could now be prohibited without an export license. If your work may be impacted by the new controls, please contact the Export Controls Office so we can provide assistance: exportcontrols@tamug.edu

AAALAC Site Visit and Updates

AAALAC Site Visit Tip for Success - Expired Materials

In preparation for the 2023 AAALAC International site visit, the Animal Welfare Program would like to remind investigators that all drugs, compounds, and medical materials administered to live vertebrate animal must be used within their expiration date. The administration of expired drugs, compounds, or agents, and the use of expired medical supplies and devices in live vertebrate animals is not considered acceptable veterinary practice and does not constitute adequate veterinary care as described in federal animal welfare regulations. For more information on IACUC expectations, please see TAMU-G-024 *Guidelines for the Use of Expired Medical Materials* (TAMU authentication required). Animal Welfare Office staff is available to assist the PI in developing mechanisms to manage expired materials to reduce the potential for use in live animals and reduce IACUC inspection findings related to the presence of expired drugs, compounds and medical materials in animal housing and laboratory spaces. Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamug.edu or 979.845.1828 for assistance.

AAALAC Site Visit Tip for Success – Record Keeping

In preparation for the 2023 AAALAC International site visit, the Animal Welfare Program offers the following resource for investigators regarding IACUC required recordkeeping and labelling. Animal activities routinely involve recordkeeping. Semiannual facility inspection by the IACUC, triennial site visit by AAALAC, and post-approval monitoring performed by the Animal Welfare Office (AWO) may all include a review of various animal records including daily care, sanitation, temperature and humidity logs for housing locations, sanitation logs for PI maintained equipment, health, surgical, and/or monitoring records, training records, and other logs or records related to the maintenance of animals or the performance of the animal use protocol. Investigators are encourage to review AWO-O-052 Reference to IACUC Required Recordkeeping

on the Animals in Research and Teaching Guidance page to ensure records and labels meet current IACUC requirements (requires TAMU authentication): <https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/> Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance.

AAALAC Site Visit - Preparation Outreach

The Animal Welfare Office (AWO) welcomes the opportunity to speak with individual labs and at departmental faculty meetings to assist in the preparation for the 2023 AAALAC International site visit. Are you ready for AAALAC? Want to know what to expect and how to prepare for a successful visit? Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 to schedule a presentation.

PI Orientation

New and seasoned investigators are invited to take advantage of the services available from the Animal Welfare Office (AWO) to streamline animal compliance tasks. This individualized support moves users from start to finish, directing the creation of a sound application submission founded in current IACUC expectations and federal regulation. Your animal work will be complemented by our customizable tools and records. For more information or to schedule orientation, please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828.

On-Demand Presentation on Hosting Visiting Scholars at TAMU

The recent Sponsored Research Services (SRS) AnSRS4U recording of the presentation on Hosting Visiting Scholars at TAMU is now available for viewing from the SRS website at under the Resources tab at <https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/>

National Science Foundation releases revised version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide

The National Science Foundation releases revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) (NSF 23-1). The new PAPPG will be effective for proposals submitted or due on or after **January 30, 2023**. The PAPPG can be accessed in either a html or a PDF format at <https://beta.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1>

NSF will present information about these changes at the upcoming NSF Grants Conference as part of the Proposal and Award Policy Update session on November 17th. Additional information and no-cost registration are available at: <https://nsfpolicyoutreach.com/22-grants-conference/>.

SciENCv Updates

NSF delays implementation of requirement to use SciENCv

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has delayed the implementation of requirement to use SciENCv for the preparation of biographical sketch and current and pending support until October 2023. This requirement was originally proposed to be effective January 2023 but due to feedback, NSF has decided to allow more time for the transition to SciENCv.

Help and assistance with SciENCv is available

The Texas A&M University Libraries has put together a website with instructions and resources to walk you step by step through the process of creating an ORCID account and creating your biosketch with SciENCv. The site is available at the following address: [Home - Create Your Biosketch with SciENCv - Research Guides at Texas A&M University \(libguides.com\)](https://libguides.com)

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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 limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu.

Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities

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, click [here](#).

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.

CLOSING OR MOVING BIOSAFETY LABORATORIES



01



Submit Notice of Decommissioning Form^{1,2}

Office of Biosafety (OBS) and EHS will contact PI to schedule final inspection based on expected date of vacancy

02



Submit a room change amendment or IBC permit termination request in iRIS

03



Biohazards must be destroyed according to the Biohazardous Waste Disposal Guidelines or must be transferred to another laboratory

04



Equipment, furniture, benches, etc. must be emptied, cleaned, and decontaminated using appropriate disinfectants

Equipment should be labeled with Equipment Decontamination Form prior to being relocated or sent to surplus

05



Final decommissioning inspection will be conducted by OBS and EHS³

OBS will post a notice of decommissioning as appropriate

1. Department Heads (DHs) are responsible for verifying that PIs notify OBS and EHS via NOD form
2. In the event PI leaves TAMU without fulfilling responsibility or is deceased, the DH is responsible for delegating the responsibility of the laboratory and the hazards present in the laboratory
3. [Texas A&M University Lab Decommissioning SAP link](#)

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