CPI Newsletter –December 2020

Included in this issue:

— Update from the CPI Chair

— AnSRS4U- Presentation on Project Administration

— Update on the Texas Library Coalition for United Action's Negotiations with Elsevier

— IACUC Issues Personnel Training Updates for New Animal Use Protocols Beginning January 1, 2021

— Update on Undergraduate Research/LAUNCH Opportunities

— Initial Drone Registrations About to Expire

— Workflow Updates to Aggiebuy to Enhance Compliance with the Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment

— eRA Enhancement: New eRA Commons Home Page & Landing Screen Coming in January 2021

— Updates to Research.gov

— Responsible Conduct of Research- Spring 2021 Workshops

— Maestro Steering Committee

— Reminder of Approved Formats for Bio and C-P

— Reminder of Changes to NSF Project Reporting

— Extended Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications During the COVID-29 Pandemic (NIH NOT-OD-21-026)

— Deadline to Push Resource Offers NIH Proposal Tips and Strategies Leading up to R01 Deadline

— Research Compliance Guidance: Good Laboratory Practices

— Updates to Existing Proposal & Award Policy-related Guidance

— COVID Report Form

— Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

— Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities

— Bulletin for Principal Investigators

Update from Dr. Stephen Maren, CPI Chair

December CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Discussions and updates during the CPI-EC meeting were on the upcoming discussions and updates from Ms. Amy Smith that are scheduled for the December 9th CPI General Meeting as well as Dr. Costas Georghiades providing the council with a core facilities update this information also will be presented to the full CPI at the Wednesday, December 9th CPI General Meeting so it can be recorded and livestreamed for all PIs to have the opportunity to hear.

I invite you to contact me, Dr. David Stelly, 2020-2021 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.

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. Previous membership lists can be found in the council archive.

AnSRS4U – Presentation on Project Administration

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, December 17 at 10:00am*** and the presentation will be on a post award topic.

Register in advance for this meeting at the link below.

https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrf-2grTItGdYsqTZANq5YDL4rge9NZLpt

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you prefer to receive notices of these presentation via the SRS listserv please email ansrs4u@tamu.edu and request to be added to the listserv.

Update on the Texas Library Coalition for United Action's Negotiations with Elsevier
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The A&M Libraries is a member of the newly-established Texas Library Coalition for United Action (TLCUA or "The Coalition"). The Coalition has 42 members and includes both public and private institutions in Texas. Selected examples include all UT and A&M system institutions and private institutions such as Rice and Baylor; all UT medical libraries are members as well. The Coalition has been established to negotiate collaboratively with Elsevier. As most members, the A&M Libraries has a contract that expires December 31, 2020.

The Coalition seeks a successful agreement with Elsevier but we have important goals we want to achieve in a new agreement. All members have agreed that we are willing to walk away from negotiations and potentially lose immediate access to newly published content if our goals are not met. Two key goals include reductions in cost and greater control by faculty over their scholarly content. Should we withdraw, we would join the UC and MIT libraries who have recently withdrawn from negotiations and lost immediate access. The A&M Libraries recently established an "Always Access Task Force" that will develop recommendations and tools for alternate strategies we can employ to provide continuing access to current content published in Elsevier journals.

IACUC Issues Personnel Training Updates for New Animal Use Protocols Beginning January 1, 2021

The IACUC has updated personnel training and certification requirements for new animal use protocols beginning January 1, 2021 **for all campuses**. Investigators are encouraged to review the updated training requirements to avoid unexpected delays in new approvals. For details see TAMU-G-029 Guidelines for Animal Protocol Participation and Handling available at https://rcb.tamu.edu/animals/guidance (TAMU NetID authentication required). Please contact the Animal Welfare Office staff at 979.845.1828 or animalcompliance@tamu.edu for assistance in determining training requirements and required timeline for completion.

Update on Undergraduate Research/LAUNCH Opportunities

Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal
Undergraduates

Please encourage your undergraduate research students to submit. Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.

- Undergraduates are invited to submit to the journal. The process begins with a synopsis due **in late-January, early-February.** Team submissions are accepted. If the synopsis is selected to move forward, the student(s) will be invited to submit a full manuscript by mid-March. If selected, undergraduate(s) attend an Author Orientation and are assigned an editing team to work with throughout the remainder of the semester. Before publication, a faculty mentor overseeing the project must sign off on the work. Additional information and approvals, including copyright and media releases, are collected from undergraduate authors between April and May. Please encourage your students to submit.
- **Synopses**
  - **Synopsis Deadline:** February 1, 2021 at noon
  - **Synopsis Application Link:** https://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Explorations-Synopsis-Submission
- **Full Manuscripts**
  - **Full Manuscript Deadline:** March 16, 2021 at noon
  - **Full Manuscript Application Link:** TBA

Faculty
- Faculty can mentor undergraduate researchers and encourage them to apply to the board and/or to submit to the journal. If a student's full manuscript is selected to move forward for publication, the work must be approved by the faculty mentor overseeing the project.
- Faculty can also review for the journal. Reviewer registration is collected on a rolling basis. Submissions are assigned by discipline and expertise. Faculty will be asked to review up to 3 submissions at a time. ***Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.***
- **Volume 13 Review Timeline**
  - **February 2, 2021:** Synopses distributed for review no later than this date
  - **February 16, 2021:** Deadline to return synopsis reviews
  - **March 17, 2021:** Full manuscripts distributed to reviewers no later than this date
  - **March 30, 2021:** Deadline to submit full manuscript reviews
- **Registration Deadline for Volume 13 Synopses:** January 29, 2021
- **Registration Link:** https://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Faculty-Reviewer-Registration

Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS)
Faculty Participation at the URS Symposium
<mark>Email ugr@tamu.edu to volunteer and we will invite you to complete the registration form.</mark>

This year the Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium will kick off virtually on February 24, 2021 and be open to the campus community until March 3, 2021. With all of the disruptions this year it is more important than ever for us to support our students. We know you might feel overwhelmed, but if you could find an hour or two to volunteer as an active listener again it would really mean a lot to our students.

Active Listeners are asked to focus on the four areas below and provide helpful written feedback. The purpose of these presentations is to help students improve their oral communication skills as well as their virtual presentation skills. Remember, this might be a student's very first time presenting.

The format of the event will look different than in the past:

- All presentations are virtual and will be made available to the public online on the ForagerOne Symposium platform. Presentations will remain available for Active Listeners to review from February 24-March 3, 2021.
- All students will present on camera and provide a video of their research presentation. Each presentation will be 10 minutes maximum.
- Students may also prepare supplemental materials such as a poster PDF, PowerPoint Slides, or an embedded video (of a performance, creative artifact, etc.) to accompany their research presentation.
- Active Listeners will complete a Feedback Form in Google Docs for assigned presentations. Assigned presentations will be emailed prior to the event.

We ask active listeners to comment on the following in the Feedback Form (in Google Docs):

1. Body language and delivery
2. Effective communication of the research question and why it is important
3. Effective visual aids (if used)
4. <mark>NEW:</mark> Effective presentation skills in a virtual space

REU/SURE Coordination Meeting
1. January 28, 2021
2. 8:30 AM CST to 10:00 AM CST
3. via Zoom (*Meeting ID: 919 8399 5805; Passcode: 523081*)
4. Bring your own danish and coffee! 😊
5. RSVP by January 25: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5bBH4TYvma0OSwJ

At this meeting, we will discuss policies for summer programs including the process for admissions, course enrollment, fee waivers, general deposit, student health services, international students, on-campus housing, as well as Title IX, honor code, student conduct, and other summer activities. We will also provide available updates on COVID-19 policies and guidance on planning for contingencies.

Initial Drone Registrations About to Expire

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is reminding everyone whose drone registrations expire in December that the DroneZone is the FAA's official website for registration. All drones must be registered, except those that weigh .55 pounds or less (less than 250 grams) and are flown exclusively under the Exception for Recreational Flyers (PDF). If you completed your drone registration directly with the

FAA before the DroneZone was established in January 2018, a DroneZone account was created for you using the information you provided. If you registered using a third-party service, contact that company to request your DroneZone login credentials. Please do your part to keep the skies safe and renew your registration today.

For more information, see https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=96100&omniRss=news_updatesAoc&cid=101_N_U.

Workflow updates to Aggiebuy to enhance compliance with the Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

A new workflow has been added to Aggiebuy to enhance compliance with Public Law 115-232. Section 889. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunication and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment.

This law prohibits Federal agencies from procuring "covered telecommunications equipment or services". This includes equipment and/or services produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of those entities) and certain video surveillance products or telecommunications equipment and services produced or provided by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company or Dahua Technology (or any subsidiary or affiliate of those entities).

This requirement flows down to recipient of federal funds. Sponsored Research Services (SRS) is seeing this requirement in federal agreements well as some state sponsors and federal flow though agreements.

To help ensure compliance with the requirements a new workflow has been added to Aggiebuy. The workflow will identify the keywords underlined in the above paragraph. The new workflow inserts the member approval for the purchase of the referenced telecommunication equipment and services. If the member approves the purchase then the workflow will route to Sponsored Research Services (SRS) to perform the usual checks for allowability on the project.

Since the purchase process starts at the departmental level it is important for PIs and departments to be aware of this requirement and not initiate purchases from the prohibited entities. The TAMUS Research Security Office can be contacted for a list of these vendors and their subsidiary or affiliate entities.

eRA Enhancement: New eRA Commons Home Page & Landing Screen Coming in January 2021

Say farewell to the legacy eRA Commons home and landing screens. Introducing the 2021 edition.

eRA is excited to announce a newly redesigned home screen (log-in screen) and landing screen (screen when first logged in) for the eRA Commons module. The redesign is scheduled for release in January 2021.

The modernized screens provide a simpler interface that reflect user feedback. It's not just a pretty face! The new look comes with enhanced security and stability for the Commons module.

Key features

- Key information will be front and center – eRA Service Desk contact info, links to register an organization, how to create an account, how to submit a reference letter and to learn more about how to use eRA systems.

- Easy access to 'quick queries'; the queries help users figure out if their organization is already registered in Commons, which grants are pending closeout and more.
- System updates will be provided in the Recent News section.

Key Features (after log-in)
- A significant improvement will be that once logged in, easy access to other eRA modules within eRA Commons will be through a 9-square apps menu at the top left of the screen . Clicking the icon will present a dropdown menu to navigate to other eRA modules (see Figure 3).
- Gone are the days of cluttered navigation bars. After login, prominent buttons for the frequently used modules, Status, ASSIST, Personal Profile, and Account Management, will get you to where you want to go quickly.
- Large buttons under "Learn How to Use eRA Systems" provide access to eRA informational webpages for applicants, grantees, and reviewers.

Updates to Research.gov

National Science Foundation (NSF) enabled three new proposal types in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System. These are the Rapid Response Research (RAPID), EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), and Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) proposal types.

RAPID, EAGER, and RAISE Proposals
- Proposers can now select a RAPID, EAGER, or RAISE proposal in the Research.gov proposal creation wizard, in addition to the existing Research proposal option.
- New automated compliance checks for RAPID, EAGER, and RAISE proposals have been added to Research.gov

Prior to submission of a RAPID or Eager proposal, PI(s) must contact the NSF Program Officer(s) whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topic to ascertain that submission of a proposal is appropriate. For a RAISE proposal the PI(s) must receive approval to submit a proposal from at least two NSF Program Officers, in intellectually distinct programs, whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topics.

Responsible Conduct of Research – Spring 2021 Workshops

Texas A&M University SAP https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/15.99.99.M0.04 requires certain graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to complete four hours of face-to-face training regarding Responsible Conduct of Research training. Workshop information, including registration links, may be found at: https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/responsible-conduct-of-research/workshop-information.

Maestro Steering Committee

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 VP for Research (Mark Barteau). The Maestro Steering Committee met on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.
Items of discussion included:
  (1) Status of the Budget Forecasting Project, presented by Tamara Lopez and Brooke Schneider.
      a. The project will develop an enterprise-wide budget forecasting solution in Maestro, primarily for researchers and secondarily for the TAMU research administration community.
      b. The Budget Forecasting Working Group, under the oversight of the Budget Forecasting Leadership Committee, is currently in the Discovery Phase: defining the problem/opportunity

statement; setting in/out of scope boundaries; brainstorming potential solutions; and planning the project.

(2) Update on Compliance Statement Redesign, presented by Leonarda Horvat. Of note, compliance will be shifting from the proposal level to the award level.

(3) A Maestro Status Monitoring Report provided by Leonarda Horvat, which covered both financials status and new Maestro features released in the past two months. "Maestro Research Portal" training course has been added to TAMUS TrainTraq. Discussion about how to handle foreign gifts in FAMIS.

Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee (and to the Budget Forecasting Leadership Committee):
Kerri Gehring (kbgehring@tamu.edu) and Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu

Reminder of Approved Formats for Bio and C-P

The requirement to use an NSF-approved format for preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending support form went into effect for new proposals submitted or due on or after **October 5, 2020.**

Approved formats for creating biographical sketches and the current and pending support form are:
- SciENcv
- NSF Fillable PDF

For more information on the biosketch go to https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/biosketch.jsp
For more information on the current and pending support go to https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/cps.jsp

Reminder of Changes to NSF Project Reporting

PIs with active NSF projects please take note:

New Question for Project Reports with Active Other Support Changes

On October 5, 2020, NSF added the following new question to the Edit Participants screen:
> *Has there been a change in the active other support of the PI/PD(s) since the last reporting period?*
If Principal Investigators (PIs)/Project Directors (PDs) and co-PIs/co-PDs select "Yes," they will be required to upload their most up-to-date Current and Pending Support document in an NSF-approved format to notify NSF that active other support has changed since the award was made or since the most recent annual report.

Current and Pending Support documents not in an NSF-approved format will trigger a compliance error preventing document upload and submission of the annual or final project report. The NSF-approved formats for Current and Pending Support are SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae and an NSF fillable PDF.

Additional New Questions from the Revised RPPR

Beginning October 5, 2020, NSF also added the following three questions to the "Impact" and "Changes/Problems" tabs:

- What was the impact on teaching and educational experiences? *(Impact tab)*;
- What percentage of the award's budget was spent in a foreign country? *(Impact tab)*; and
- Has there been a change in primary performance site location from that originally proposed? *(Changes/Problems tab)*.

Extended Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications During the COVID-19 Pandemic (NIH NOT-OD-21-026)

This Notice provides guidance for investigators and institutions preparing NIH grant applications for the May 2021 Council round, beginning with applications submitted for the September 25, 2020 due date.

NIH grant applications should NOT include contingency plans that would outline steps needed to recover from temporary, emergency situations, or institutional return-to-the-workplace plans, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contingency plans will not be considered in peer review but, if needed, COVID-19 contingency plans will be requested and carefully considered by NIH staff before funding.

The full text of this notice can be read at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-026.html

Deadline Push Resource Offers NIH Proposal Tips and Strategies Leading Up to R01 Deadline
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The Division of Research purchased a membership for Texas A&M University researchers to on-demand NIH webinars by Meg Bouvier Medical Writing, LLC. Texas A&M's subscription includes Deadline Push, a 10-week email program leading up to R-series deadlines, which offers NIH expertise and up-to-the-minute proposal writing strategies. Signup available at https://vpr.tamu.edu/division-units/research-development-services/files/MBMW.pdf

Research Compliance Guidance: Good Laboratory Practices

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MAKING COMMITMENTS ABOUT GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES

Following Good Laboratory Practices (GLPs) means more than practicing good science when conducting research experiments. GLPs describe how nonclinical laboratory studies should be planned, performed, monitored, recorded, reported, and archived as set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) international guidelines. The requirements are complex and meeting GLP standards is stringent, costly and burdensome.

GLPs apply when conducting in-vitro or in-vivo safety studies and in some cases efficacy studies on certain regulated products. Some examples include:

- Non-clinical laboratory studies that support or are meant to support applications for research, or marketing permits for products regulated by the FDA, including food and color additives, animal feed additives, human and animal drugs, medical devices for human use, biological products, and electronic products (see, 21 CFR Part 58).
- Studies that support or are intended to support applications for research or marketing permits for pesticide products regulated by the EPA (see, 40 CFR Part 160).
- Studies relating to health effects, environmental effects, and chemical fate testing of chemicals that are regulated under the Toxic Substance Control Act, including but not limited to polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos, radon and lead-based paints (see, 40 CFR Part 792).

Texas A&M University does not maintain a GLP program to support compliance with GLP regulations. Therefore, it should not agree to terms and conditions requiring certification of GLP compliance. If an investigator has an interest in conducting GLP related work, the office conducting the contract

negotiations (i.e. SRS) should be consulted first to determine what, if any, terms and conditions may serve as an appropriate alternative (i.e. sponsor has ultimate responsibility for GLP compliance, and the work is being conducted at a facility operated and under the sponsor's oversight and control).

See the official guidelines attached to the back of this newsletter.

Updates to Existing Proposal & Award Policy-related Guidance

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.

COVID Report Form

Reminder, 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=4HAMAHC98D

If you are reporting on another individual, please remember to keep all information strictly confidential.

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The Division of Research has implemented a brand new proposal submission and review portal. The system will be used for limited submissions and most internal grant programs. You will find available opportunities at: https://tamu.infoready4.com/#limitedsubmissions. The limited submission office will be phasing in the portal as new limited submission opportunities arise. If you have any questions, please contact limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu or Shelly Martin at 979-862-2233.

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).

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.