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**CPI Newsletter – February 2018**

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**Included in this issue:**

- Update from the CPI Chair
- Postdoctoral Professional Development Seminar: “Maximizing your Success Through TEAMS”
- X-Grants
- Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: 2018 NSF CAREER and Other Young Investigator Programs
- NIH Specific Aims Writing Clinic
- Writing Successful Proposals – All Faculty
- Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: NSF Career Writing Groups Organizational Meeting
- Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: Filling Your Toolbox: NIH Proposal Writing Resources
- Demystifying The NSF: NSF Funding Opportunities, Proposal Preparation, And Review Process
- New NIH Tool helps researchers target relevant Study Sections
- New NIH Forms for Grant Submissions on or after January 25, 2018
- Scholars@TAMU – Beta Release
- Research Compliance and Biosafety Customer Service Survey
- CDC to Visit Select Agent Laboratories Feb. 13-15
- Southern Biological Association – Save the Date
- Common Rule Delayed Six Months
- AAALAC Site Visit
- Updated AUP
- Controlled Substances Program
- Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators

**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, Fugen Dou, 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 Bankaitis, 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 Gropp • TAMU at Qatar — Othmane Bouhali • TTI — David Bierling, Mike Lukuc, Dennis Perkinson • University Libraries — Bruce Herbert • Veterinary Medicine — Loren Skow

*The CPI is sponsored annually through equal 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. Penny Riggs, CPI Chair

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**February CPI News** – The CPI executive committee met February 7, 2018, in preparation for today's meeting.

### **CPI Census**

The CPI census data collection is underway, coordinated by Rebecca Luckey. A transition is underway to automate the census of eligible PIs. See the bylaws at [cpi.tamu.edu/archives/bylaws](http://cpi.tamu.edu/archives/bylaws). Note that Principal Investigator (PI) is defined as *any full-time member of Texas A&M University, The Texas A&M Health Science Center, The Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station who is a PI or Co-PI on at least one externally reviewed and funded project or grant within the previous three years.*

The executive committee discussed the PI definition, and the potential for revisions to the census process and bylaws.

### **VPR**

Dr. Mark Barteau began his term as Vice President for Research on Feb. 13. We hope to see him at the April CPI general meeting. Dr. Karen Butler-Purry will remain in the Office of the VPR until mid-May to assist with the transition. CPI thanks Dr. Butler-Purry for her support of CPI during her time as Interim VPR. We look forward to continuing to work with her as she returns to her role as Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies.

### **President's Excellence Fund**

The Triads are forming during the next phase of the T3 program with 295 projects in progress ([t3.tamu.edu](http://t3.tamu.edu)). The X-Grants program has also been launched. For additional information, see: [president.tamu.edu/xgrants](http://president.tamu.edu/xgrants).

### **Federal Demonstration Project Survey**

Please look for a Workload Survey from FDP that will be sent to faculty by email.

### **Administrative Searches**

- Searches for Directors of the Institute for Data Science and Energy Institute are underway.
- Dr. Nancy Fahrenwald, appointed as professor and Dean of the College of Nursing, effective June 1, 2018.
- Dr. Patrick Stover, appointed as Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences, effective March 1, 2018.
- Dr. Robin Means Coleman appointed as vice president and associate provost for diversity, effective April 1, 2018.

### **Board of Regents**

Two items of particular interest to PIs were part of the BoR Agenda last week:

- Consent Agenda Item 6.5 changed System Policy 01.03 to (1) add new language referencing appointment of the vice chancellor and dean, health services; (2) clarifies that while university presidents and agency directors are expected to seek input from key campus or agency stakeholders including administrators, faculty and staff in their decisions associated with the appointment or reappointment of administrators, their appointment decisions shall not be constrained by member rules; and (3) clarifies membership of presidential search committee. The full text can be found beginning on page 61 at this URL: <http://bit.ly/2o61KtB>
- Revisions to System Policy 15.01, Research Agreements. Full text of the agreement is here: <http://bit.ly/2BWIGZf>. In this revision, research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead primary investigator who is a Texas A&M faculty member and administratively located to Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife) shall be routed through, approved, and administered by AgriLife. Likewise, research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead primary investigator who is a Texas A&M faculty member and administratively located to the College of Engineering shall be

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routed through, approved, and administered by Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES).

**CPI Contacts** – 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](mailto:CPI@tamu.edu), or contact me directly at [riggs@tamu.edu](mailto:riggs@tamu.edu) or 979.862.7015.

**Reminder: The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, April 11, 2018 in Rudder 601. The March meeting is canceled due to spring break and staff holiday.** Contact Rebecca Luckey, [rluckey@tamu.edu](mailto:rluckey@tamu.edu) or 979.862.9166 for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

## **Postdoctoral Professional Development Seminar: “Maximizing your Success Through TEAMS”**

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**When:** February 16, 2018; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** 129 AGLS

**About:** This seminar will discuss the challenges you have faced in working on teams, learn about the make-up of strong teams, and strategies for making a team functional and work for you in your various roles.

**Register:** By 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2018

<http://vpr.tamu.edu/resources/post-doc/registrations/febpostdoc-professional-series/>

**Contacts:** [Shannon Eyre](#), Administrative Coordinator, OVPR

## **X-Grants**

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X-Grants, loosely named for “accelerate,” are larger grants that range from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million per team and involve a larger group of team members. Unlike T3 Grants available only to tenured and tenure-track faculty, X-Grants are open to all faculty, researchers, and staff at Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University-Galveston, and Texas A&M University-Qatar. Leads and co-leads must be Texas A&M PI eligible researchers. The X-Grant process launched on February 13, 2018. Please see a description on the [X-Grants web page](https://president.tamu.edu/xgrants/?utm_source=president&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=xgrants). ([https://president.tamu.edu/xgrants/?utm\\_source=president&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=xgrants](https://president.tamu.edu/xgrants/?utm_source=president&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=xgrants))

## **Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: 2018 NSF CAREER and Other Young Investigator Programs**

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**When:** February 22, 2018; 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** 301 Rudder

**About:** This workshop, part of the Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy, will focus on proposal writing strategies, broader impact collaboration opportunities, and other strategies for writing competitive NSF CAREER and Young Investigator Program (YIP) grant proposals. All junior faculty are encouraged to attend.

**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2018 at

[https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_393SOLdr8rGQqJT](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_393SOLdr8rGQqJT).

**Contacts:** [Laurie Garton](#), Ph.D., Sr. Research Development Officer, TEES

[Jim Izaat](#), Ph.D., Sr. Research Development Officer, RDS

## **NIH Specific Aims Writing Clinic**

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**When:** February 27, March 6, March 27; time TBA.

**Where:** TBA

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**About:** This series of three meetings will help participants draft a NIH Specific Aims section, which is the foundation of any successful NIH grant application. At the initial meeting, a panel of experienced NIH study section members will conduct a mock peer review of the Specific Aims of three participants selected at random. In meetings two and three, participants will “pair-and-share” their draft and revised Specific Aims sections, respectively, to give and receive peer feedback. RDS staff will coordinate and provide critiques on proposal documents.

**Register:** By 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, including your draft Specific Aims. Watch for registration details in January 2018.

**Contact:** [Christina Papke](#), Ph.D., Research Development Officer, RDS  
[John Ivy](#), Ph.D., Sr. Research Development Officer, RDS

## Writing Successful Proposals – All Faculty

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**When:** **March 1, 2018;** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 3147 ILSB  
**About:** This workshop covers the best practices for developing competitive proposals to federal and other funding agencies. Questions will be taken at the end of the session.  
**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2018, at <https://u.tamu.edu/WSP>.  
**Contact:** [Jim Izat](#), Ph.D., Sr. Research Development Officer, RDS

## Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: NSF Career Writing Groups Organizational Meeting

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**When:** **March 7, 2018;** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
**Where:** 3147 ILSB  
**About:** Participants will learn strategies to increase the competitiveness of their NSF CAREER proposal, NSF proposal writing best practices, and key techniques for interacting with the NSF. The group is structured to assist tenure-track faculty in developing and writing an NSF CAREER proposal to be submitted to any NSF Division. Participants from prior years are welcome to attend, or may contact Dr. Jim Izat directly to work one-one-one to develop their CAREER proposal.  
**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on March 7, 2018, at <https://u.tamu.edu/JRPWA-WGM>.  
**Contact:** [Jim Izat](#), Ph.D., Sr. Research Development Officer, RDS

## Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: Filling Your Toolbox: NIH Proposal Writing Resources

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**When:** **March 22, 2018;** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 3147 ILSB  
**About:** Faculty will gain fundamental knowledge and key strategies for navigating the NIH grant process and leveraging NIH funding opportunities to drive their research forward. The overall structure and mission of the NIH will be addressed, along with the process for grant solicitation, review, and award. Approaches for identifying high-priority funding areas and maximizing proposal competitiveness will also be discussed.  
**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on March 22, 2018, at <https://u.tamu.edu/NIHPWR>.  
**Contact:** [Christina Papke](#), Ph.D., Research Development Officer

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

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**When:** **March 28, 2018;** 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 3147 ILSB

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**About:** This workshop will familiarize participants on the mission and structure of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the NSF merit review process, ways to navigate the NSF website, and how to find relevant funding and other NSF-related information.

**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on March 28, 2018, at <https://u.tamu.edu/DemystNSFMar28>.

**Contact:** [Jim Izat](#), Ph.D., Senior Research Development Officer

## **New NIH Tool helps researchers target relevant Study Sections**

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The Center for Scientific Review at NIH has developed the [Assisted Referral Tool \(ART\)](#) to help NIH applicants match their research proposals with the most relevant Study Section(s). In addition to providing suggestions for strong and potential matches, the tool provides direct links to study section descriptions and rosters of reviewers.

## **New NIH Forms for Grant Submissions on or after January 25, 2018**

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NIH will begin requiring the use of Forms E for all applications due on or after January 25, 2018. Applications submitted using the incorrect application package for their due date may be withdrawn and removed from funding consideration. See NOT-OD-18-009 for further details. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-009.html>

## **Scholars@TAMU – Beta Release**

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The Texas A&M University Libraries is pleased to announce the beta version of Scholars@TAMU ([scholars.tamu.edu](http://scholars.tamu.edu)), a researcher profile system that showcases our research, supports the creation of interdisciplinary research teams, and allows outsiders to search through the range of Texas A&M expertise.

## **Research Compliance and Biosafety Customer Service Survey**

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Later this month, researchers who utilize services in the area of research compliance and biosafety will receive a notification for a survey of customer service. Each year, feedback is used for enhancing ongoing efforts to provide the best possible service to the research community. If you have any questions regarding the surveys, please contact Research Compliance and Biosafety at [outreachrcb@tamu.edu](mailto:outreachrcb@tamu.edu) or call 979-458-1467.

## **CDC to Visit Select Agent Laboratories Feb. 13 – 15**

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Division of Select Agents and Toxins (CDC DSAT) will conduct a regular, scheduled site visit to campus Feb. 13-15. This inspection is one of the requirements for renewal of the University's Select Agent registration and is intended to evaluate compliance with federal select agent regulations. Researchers who will be involved in the review have already been contacted in preparation for the visit.

## **Southern Biological Association – Save the Date**

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The Southern Biological Association, which is an affiliate of the American Biological Safety Association, will host its annual spring symposium at Texas A&M University April 11-13. More details including presentation description will be shared in the coming weeks.

## **Common Rule Delayed Six Months**

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On January 17, 2018 – HHS and 15 Other Federal Departments and Agencies Announce an Interim Final Rule That Delays Both the Effective Date and General Compliance Date of the Revisions to the Federal

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Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects to July 19, 2018. Click on the following link to read the notice: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2018-00997.pdf>

## AAALAC Site Visit

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AAALAC, International will be conducting their triennial site visit of the TAMU campus this summer. The site visitors will visit every location that animals are housed or used for procedures. Please review your protocols to ensure the appropriate staff members have been added or removed and that all personnel listed on the protocols are familiar with all procedures listed on the protocol. Please discard all expired items or appropriately label them as expired and store them away from in-date items. Please contact the AWO office (979-845-1828 or [animalcompliance@tamu.edu](mailto:animalcompliance@tamu.edu)) if you have any questions or need assistance with preparing for the AAALAC site visit.

## Updated AUP

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The IACUC is currently updating the Animal Use Protocol to streamline the form to make it easier to complete and review. If you would like to review the updated AUP before it is live in iRIS, email [outreachrcb@tamu.edu](mailto:outreachrcb@tamu.edu) by February 16.

## Controlled Substances Program

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TAMU requires that all researchers who use controlled substances must have their own DEA license. The license fee is waived for researchers associated with a public institution. If you need assistance with obtaining a DEA license or have questions about the program, please contact the AWO office (979-845-1828) or visit the controlled substance program website.

Link: <http://rcb.tamu.edu/more/guidelines-for-the-purchase-storage-use-and-disposal-of-controlled-substances-in-research-and-teaching-at-texas-a-m-university>

## Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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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](mailto:shelly.martin@tamu.edu).

## Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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The Division of Research at Texas A&M University issues a brief weekly bulletin for Principal Investigators. The 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, publications, presentations, and appearances in news media. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin.