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CPI Newsletter – February 2019

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**2018-19 CPI roster:** Chair — David Threadgill, *Veterinary Medicine* • Vice Chair — Darren DePoy, *Science* • Past Chair — Penny Riggs, *COALS* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter • *AgriLife Research* — Michael Brewer, Ambika Chandra, Lee Tarpley • *Architecture* — Ergun Akleman • *Bush School* — Kent Portney • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, David Stelly, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Oi-Man Kwok, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Jorge Alvarado, Ulisses Braga-Neto, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Zach Grasley, Melissa Grunlan, Sheng-Jen 'Tony' Hsieh, Jodie Lutkenhaus, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Alejandro Orsi, Pamela Plotkin, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Susan Fortney • *Liberal Arts* — Sandra Braman, Steve Maren, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Vytas Bankaitis, Kayla Bayless, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Michael Hall, Christian Hilty, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile • *SPH* — Mark Benden • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Jay Groppe • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Bruce Herbert • *Veterinary Medicine* — Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Jay 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. David Threadgill, CPI Chair

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**February CPI News** – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on February 6, 2019. Discussions during the February meeting were: Dr. Costas Georgiades provided a short update on the X-Grants process. Each application would have three reviewers. CPI-EC discussed the upcoming CPI subcommittee workgroups that will be presenting their recommendations to each of the agency leaders at the April CPI General Meeting to be held April 10, 2019, Rudder 601.

The CPI Census for 2019-2020 is underway. From the census, it is anticipated there will be nine (9) units holding elections for CPI representative end-of-term seats: Agriculture & Life Sciences (2 seats); Dentistry (1 seat); Education & Human Development (1 seat); Engineering (2 seats); Geosciences (2 seats); Law School (1 seat); Medicine (1 seat); School of Public Health (1 seat); Texas A&M Transportation Institute (1 seat) for a total of 12 seats. A call for nominations will go out to these nine units late February, with elections to begin mid- to late- March.

**CPI Contacts** – The complete 2018-19 roster of CPI Representatives and the executive committee can be found on the CPI website at [http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/18-19\\_membership](http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/18-19_membership). Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#). Thank you to all the CPI representatives who have served as representatives for Pls during the past year.

The CPI-EC continues to meet with President Young and Provost Fierke each month in order to keep Pls informed. The CPI-EC also meets with Chancellor Sharp every other month. If there are items of concern that impact the research environment, we would like to hear from you. All Pls 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).

**Reminder:** Due to Spring Break, the March General CPI meeting will be one week later. The March CPI General meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2019, Rudder 601.

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.

## Nominations for Texas A&M Chapter of Sigma Xi Awards

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Nominations for the Texas A&M Chapter of *Sigma Xi's* Outstanding Distinguished Scientist, Outstanding Science Communicator, and Outstanding Math and Science Teacher Awards close on **Wednesday, February 13, 2019**.

For information on the awards, how to submit nominations and a list of previous winners, go to [sigmaxi.tamu.edu/awards](http://sigmaxi.tamu.edu/awards).

## Inside NIH Peer Review: Grant Application Advice from NIH Peer Reviewers

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**When:** February 14, 2019; 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Where:** 601 Rudder

**About:** What happens when the grant proposal you've worked on for months arrives at the NIH? How do study section reviewers discuss and score proposals? What makes some proposals more powerful than others? These and other questions will be addressed during this 90-minute seminar and Q&A with Texas A&M faculty who have served as NIH study section reviewers. Remote viewing will be available for participants outside the Bryan/College Station area.

**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at <https://u.tamu.edu/NIHPRW19>.

**Contacts:** Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, [c-howard@tamu.edu](mailto:c-howard@tamu.edu)  
Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, [seyre@tamu.edu](mailto:seyre@tamu.edu)

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## Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy: NIH Proposal Writing Resources

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**When:** February 26, 2019; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** 401 Rudder

**About:** Faculty will gain fundamental knowledge and 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 tips for taking full advantage of key NIH tools and resources.

**Register:** By 10:00 a.m. on February 26, 2019, at <https://u.tamu.edu/NIHResources19>.

**Contact:** Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, [c-howard@tamu.edu](mailto:c-howard@tamu.edu)

## Genome Editing Symposium Committee Recruitment of Graduate Students

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The Texas A&M Genome Editing Symposium began in 2018 with the hopes of bringing together leading experts in the field of genome editing and related topics. We are currently beginning to plan for the second symposium in this series, which will take place in October 2019. This event is completely student led and the organizing committee is currently accepting applications for our 2019 event: Improving Nutrition in Consumer Markets: Put your money where your mouth is.

Participation in this committee is a great opportunity to improve your teamwork and leadership skills while also allowing you to interact with leaders in the field of genome editing. If you would like to apply, **send your resume/C.V. to [tamu.gesymposium@gmail.com](mailto:tamu.gesymposium@gmail.com) by Friday, March 1, 2019.** Interviews will follow for qualified candidates.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Has to be enrolled in a current graduate program at Texas A&M University with an interest in Genome Editing.
- Proficiency in written and oral communication in English.
- Ability to work well in a team-like setting
- Ability to attend weekly meetings until October 2019 and commit 4 to 6 hours of work per week related to planning the symposium.
- An interest in learning website design, video editing, budgets and finances, social media marketing is desired.

Preference will be given to individuals with graduation date after Dec 2020. For additional information contact: Karina Morales, 2019 Organizing Committee Chair, [kymorales11@tamu.edu](mailto:kymorales11@tamu.edu).

## Research Development Fund

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Deadline for fall applications has been extended to **March 4, 2019.** More information is available at [rdf.tamu.edu](http://rdf.tamu.edu) or email questions to [rdf@tamu.edu](mailto:rdf@tamu.edu).

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## International Computational Science and Engineering Conference

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**When:** Abstract Submissions due **March 15**; Conference – **October 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Where:** *Doha, Qatar*  
**About:** The Third International Computational Science and Engineering Conference (ICSEC19) will gather researchers, experts and stakeholders locally and globally to discuss recent research topics in computational science and its role to tackle the most complex problems locally and globally. Local researchers and collaborators are invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations through the website below.  
**Register:** <http://icsec.qatar.tamu.edu/>; Refer to attached flyer for more details  
**Contact:** To contact the organizers of the conference refer to the website link above

## NIH Specific Aims Writing Clinic

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**When:** **March 20, March 27, April 17**; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
**Where:** *HPEB LL43B*  
**About:** Participants in this three-meeting series will edit and refine their NIH Specific Aims section, which is the foundation of any successful NIH grant application. Participants should plan to attend all three meetings. 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 the meetings and will provide critiques on proposal documents.  
**Register:** By 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019 at <https://u.tamu.edu/SAC-Spring19>. Please also email a copy of your Specific Aims page and biosketch to Christina Howard.  
**Contact:** Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, [c-howard@tamu.edu](mailto:c-howard@tamu.edu)  
Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, [seyre@tamu.edu](mailto:seyre@tamu.edu)

## US Department of Education’s Funding Criteria Opportunity

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PI’s across the university interested in learning more about the US Department of Education’s funding criteria should mark **May 14**, 1-2:30 pm, on their calendars. The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) Research & Development Office is presenting a DOE/Institute of Education Sciences Mock Proposal Review featuring 4 Texas A&M faculty plus others from University of Houston and UT-Austin who regularly serve on DOE/IES peer review panels. More information will be made available as the event gets closer, but for additional information, contact Dr. Kimber Vannest (CEHD Research Fellow) at [kvannest@tamu.edu](mailto:kvannest@tamu.edu).

## Moving Research Laboratories – Reminder

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With the beginning of 2019 well underway, a number of new buildings on campus will be ready for occupancy. Researchers who will be moving their labs are reminded to follow the process outlined in the Laboratory Decommissioning SAP (24.01.01.M4.04) and should coordinate their moves with both EHSD and Biosafety. Please contact the Office of Biosafety at [biosafety@tamu.edu](mailto:biosafety@tamu.edu) with any questions or concerns.

## 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).

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## 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.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> International Computational Science and Engineering Conference

21 – 22 October 2019

Doha, Qatar

<http://icsec.qatar.tamu.edu/>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Computational Science and Engineering Conference will be held in Doha, Qatar on 21 and 22 October 2019. The conference aims to bring together researchers from academia and industry from Qatar and abroad to discuss recent research advances and plan future collaborations. The conference consists of keynote lectures and oral presentations.

The main themes of the conference are:

- A. *Computational Materials Science and Engineering,*
- B. *Computational Biology,*
- C. *Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and High Performance Computing.*

A list of representative topics includes:

- A. Computational Materials Science and Engineering:
  1. Different computational techniques at various time and length scales (quantum mechanics, Molecular Dynamics, Metropolis Monte Carlo simulations, etc.),
  2. Different types of materials (soft materials, electronic materials, hybrid materials, etc.),
  3. Energy capture and storage,
  4. Reservoir modeling and simulation.
- B. Computational Biology:
  1. Genome analysis / annotation, Comparative genomics and Genome variations,
  2. Sequence analysis, and Genome-wide association study,
  3. Epigenomics and transcriptomics data analysis
  4. Computational methods in personalized medicine,
  5. Structural Bioinformatics,
  6. Modeling and simulation of biological networks.
- C. AI, Data Science and High Performance Computing
  1. Artificial intelligence and its applications in engineering and science,
  2. Large Scale Computing, parallel and distributed computing, cloud computing,
  3. Hardware and software HPC architecture,
  4. State-of the art data management and data mining techniques,
  5. Big Data Science, data-driven techniques and systems-related,
  6. 3D scientific visualization techniques.

**Keynote and Invited Speakers:**

- ✓ Prof. Ilja Siepmann, University of Minnesota
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence and its applications, TBA
- ✓ Big Data Science and computational biology, TBA

**Abstract submission deadline: 15 March 2019**

You are kindly invited to submit your abstract electronically through the conference website, at <http://icsec.qatar.tamu.edu/>. Please use the template provided in the conference website for your abstract. Oral presentations at the conference will be based on a peer-reviewed selection of abstracts.

Moreover, full papers from the conference will be published in a special issue of the **Journal of Computational Science**, based on a standard peer-review process.

**Important deadlines:**

- ✓ 27 January 2019: Abstract submission opens,
- ✓ 15 March 2019: Abstract submission ends,
- ✓ 15 April 2019: Abstract acceptance notification,
- ✓ Post-conference: Full paper submission to the Journal of Computational Science.

**Conference contact points:** [icsec@qatar.tamu.edu](mailto:icsec@qatar.tamu.edu)

- ✓ Othmane Bouhali, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Conference Chairman,
- ✓ Ioannis G. Economou, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Conference Program Chair,
- ✓ Fadwa El-Mellouhi, Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

**Conference organizing committee:**

- ✓ Abbes Amira, Qatar University
- ✓ Halima Bensmail, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- ✓ Faycal Bensaali, Qatar University
- ✓ Joseph Boutros, Texas A&M University at Qatar
- ✓ Abdesselam Bouzardoum, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- ✓ Othmane Bouhali, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- ✓ Ioannis G. Economou, Texas A&M University at Qatar
- ✓ Fadwa El-Mellouhi, Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute, HBKU
- ✓ Tamer Elsayed, Qatar University
- ✓ Mohamed nounou, Texas A&M University at Qatar
- ✓ Mourad Ouazani, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

✓ Munir Tag, Qatar National Research Fund

**Venue:** The conference venue will be announced later.

**Accommodation, Visa, etc.:** Additional details about accommodation, transportation, visa and other practical matters for participants from outside Doha can be found at the conference website.

We hope to see you all in Doha in October 2019!