CPI Newsletter – February 2022

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Update from Dr. David Stelly, CPI Chair

February CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with the administrators on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. CPI-EC heard informative updates and resources on iLabs and Core Facilities Directors' Council and invited Dr. Costas Georghiades, Ms. Ashlyn Montgomery and Dr. Kristen Maitland to share their information during the February 9, CPI General Meeting. Received Also, heard covid updates from Dr. Allison Ficht. CPI-EC heard updates from each of the administrative leaders and several will provide additional information as transitions in leadership change and The Path Forward Work Groups begin their meetings.

I invite you to contact me, Dr. Deb Banerjee, 2021-2022 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, 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.

IACUC and IBC Modules Demonstrations

A Huron IACUC and IBC module demonstration was held February 4. Details for the Cayuse IACUC and IBC module demonstrations scheduled for February 15 are below. Please share this link with interested colleagues and research staff.

Cayuse IACUC and IBC Demo (recently purchased iRIS)
February 15, 2022, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
The demo will begin with IACUC and move into IBC at the hour mark.
Zoom Link: https://cayuse.zoom.us/j/99720561393?pwd=eHg1czhXTlA2NnBhenBzV1JlMjJZUT09
        Meeting ID: 997 2056 1393
        Password: 768524

A short survey will be circulated after each demonstration so that participants can provide feedback on each module. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact outreachrcb@tamu.edu.

AnSRS4u Presentation- Updates from SRS Leadership

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host an AnSRS4u presentation on, Updates from SRS Leadership on Wednesday February 23, 2022 10:00am - 11:00am.   The presenters will be the SRS executive leadership and they will provide updates on the SRS processes and initiatives.   They will share some of the statistics and metrics that SRS tracks.

Questions in advance are encouraged. If you have questions that you would like to have addressed, please email them in advance to ansrs4u@tamu.edu.

SRS will record the presentation and it will available at a later time for anyone to access. Recordings and slides of the previous AnSRS4u presentations are available via the SRS website at https://srs.tamu.edu under the Resources link and then select AnSRS4u.

Participation will be via Zoom. The Zoom meeting information is below.   You will need to register in advance for this presentation.

SRS looks forward to your participation.   Feel free to forward this on to your colleagues.   If they are not receiving this notices via the SRS listserv they can email ansrs4u@tamu.edu and request to be added to the listserv.

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You are invited to a Zoom meeting: **Updates from SRS Leadership**
When: Feb 23, 2022 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting:
https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scuurqjwrGtB1jL3r4-Nb7gB2VD0C_0W2
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Call for Faculty Judges- Pathways Student Research Symposium

The 2022 Pathways Student Research Symposium is approaching fast, and the Grad School would like to recruit your help to serve as a judge **for undergraduate and master's posters and oral presentations, as well as five-minute doctoral lightning talks (i.e., research elevator pitches) for the symposium**. The event will take place on Thursday, March 3rd and Friday, March 4th, 2022, on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station.

Participating as a judge represents an opportunity for networking with faculty and students from Texas A&M and all 10 other Texas A&M System Universities. Please click here to register and select your comfort level (comfortable judging, if needed, uncomfortable judging) for the categories and subfields you select. For more information on the categories and a preliminary schedule please visit our webpage here.

Cayuse Learning Session Announcement

Cayuse Proposals is a tool that is designed for administrators and/or researchers to use for the preparation of proposals. Some researchers have requested training in order to access the system, upload documents, and in some instances, assist with preparation of their proposals. In response to these requests informational sessions for researchers will be offered. As always, SRS Proposal Administrators will continue to provide full proposal preparation services.

SRS will be providing quarterly information sessions for researchers via Zoom to offer guidance on the use of Cayuse Proposals. Sessions will be held the following days/times in 2022.
If you are interested in signing up for one of the sessions below, please select the desired date/time below and complete the registration.
- Thursday, May 5, 2022 10:00-11:30am
- Thursday, August 4, 2022 10:00-11:30am
- Thursday, November 3, 2022 10:00-11:30am

If the established dates or times do not work for an individual, we can accommodate personalized sessions. **Below is the link for participants/attendees to submit questions before the session.**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=44HzaNpGuUe6V28yK48NodgsgBcEC_hAqkij23uJXahUMVJHUVhJWjMxQUhFV0pJU1FVVDVRQVFLVC4u

Elimination of USDA Annual Continuing Review Requirement for Regulated Species
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Effective December 27, 2021 the USDA no longer requires the IACUC to conduct annual continuing reviews of activities. Instead, the USDA now requires a complete review of approved activities every three years (see, USDA APHIS | FAQs: AWA Research Facility Registration Updates, Reviews, and Reports). Principal Investigators performing research, teaching or testing that falls under the Animal Welfare Act are now no longer required to submit a Continuing Review annually in iRIS.

There are no changes to the three-year expiration/complete review process for continuing projects. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sponsored Research Services (SRS) Webpage for Sponsor Updates
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Trying to recall the latest format for NIH biographical sketch or trying to find that SRS email about a sponsor update? SRS has made it easier to locate these items. On the SRS website under the resources tab SRS Updates – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu) is the SRS Updates page. Timely and pertinent information from various sponsors will be posted.   Any changes to SRS internal processes and related TAMU requirements that affect researcher will be found here.   Bookmark this page and view it often to avail yourself of the latest information.

AnSRS4u Presentation – FCOI and Foreign Influence - available on demand
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Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research hosted an AnSRS4u presentation on Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) and Foreign Influence. The presenter was Lesa Feldhousen, Executive Director, Conflict of Interest and Responsible Conduct of Research. This session covered what is FCOI, conflict of commitment and foreign influence. The presentation explained the reporting requirements for these areas and the disclosure process.

This presentation is now available to view on demand via the SRS website under the Resources tab at AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu) Faculty are encouraged to view this presentation to learn more about FCOI, conflict of commitment and federal agency disclosure requirements for foreign influence.

New DOE Conflict of Interest Policy

On December 20, 2021, DOE issued Financial Assistance Letter FAL 2022-02 to implement the DOE Interim Conflict of Interest Policy requirements for Financial Assistance. It was effective upon issuance.

The interim policy requires each Investigator who is planning to participate in the DOE award to disclose the Investigator's significant financial interests (and those of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children) no later than the time of proposal for the DOE award. Disclosures must be made at least annually, thereafter, and within 30 days of acquiring a new significant financial interest.

Finally, the DOE interim policy requires Investigator complete COI training prior to engaging in projects related to any DOE financial assistance award and at least every four years.

Fortunately, to minimize the implementation burden on non-Federal entities, the interim COI policy is largely aligned with the long-standing conflict of interest regulations established by the Public Health Service at 42 CFR part 50, Subpart F.   TAMU Researchers should follow the current process for FCOI reporting.

NIH Biosketch Form Update

Effective January 25, 2022, for NIH Proposals submitted on or after this date- Use NIH Form G for the Biosketch:

A main change for the Biosketch format for type (R) research applications is that there is no longer a Section D. Research Support. The information previously captured in that section has been moved to Section A. Personal Statement.

Below are NIH links regarding the changes to the Biosketch:
- [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples | grants.nih.gov](#)

- [application-guide-biosketch-instructions-rev-06-28-2021.docx (live.com)](#)

Other Support <u>includes</u> *all* resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their research endeavors, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value and regardless of whether they are based at the institution the researcher identifies for the current grant.
Updated Requirements for Recipients ([NOT-OD-21-073](#))**:** Main changes are as follows:

- Note the requirement for Principal Investigators and Senior/Key personnel to sign and date the form

- Supporting documentation, which includes copies of contracts/agreements specific to senior/key-personnel foreign appointments and/or employment with a foreign institution for all foreign activities and resources that are reported in Other Support. If the contracts/agreements are not in English, recipients must provide translated copies.

Not sure whether a particular activity should be reported in the biosketch, other support, or annual project reports? Check out this new resource – **NIH Pre-award and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support**.

New Faculty-Fellow Position to Direct Texas A&M University's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

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Sent on behalf of Interim Vice President for Research Jack G. Baldauf

To members of the Texas A&M research community:

The Division of Research has established a new faculty-fellow position to direct Texas A&M University's recently created Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, which will serve as our central resource for issues related to postdoctoral research.

To fill this position, we have selected Associate Professor <u>Andreea Trache</u>, a faculty member with both the Department of Medical Physiology, College of Medicine, and the Department of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering. Gerianne Alexander, associate vice president for research and professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, will collaborate with Dr. Trache on this new initiative.
Under her leadership, the new office will:

- Advocate for postdoctoral researchers.
- Provide access to professional-development training.
- Create career-development opportunities in academic and other professional settings.

- Work closely with the university's postdoctoral associations to address the interests and concerns of postdoctoral scholars.
- Educate the campus community on issues related to postdoctoral training.
- Collaborate with local offices and national organizations to address the unique needs of postdoctoral researchers.

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

Notice Number: NOT-OD-22-018

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: • Applications submitted for due dates on or before January 24, 2022 • Applications submitted under NIH Late Policy 2-week window of consideration for intended due dates on or before January 24, 2022 • Applications submitted by February 1, 2022 under NIH Continuous Submission Policy for the January 7, 2022 AIDS intended due date	FORMS-F application package
On or after January 25, 2022, including: • Applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2022 • All application types (New, Resubmission, Renewal, Revision) • Applications submitted early for intended due dates on or after January 25, 2022	FORMS-G application package

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

Certified Research Administrator (CRA) Exam Review Sessions

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) beginning February 2, 2022 will host a series of weekly review sessions in preparation for the Certified Research Administrator (CRA) exam. These sessions held via Zoom consist of thirteen one hour weekly presentations and study material.

Earning the designation of Certified Research Administrator means that an individual has met the requirements of the Research Administrators Certification Council's (RACC) eligibility requirements and has demonstrated a level of knowledge necessary for a person to be a professional research administrator. To learn more about RACC and the certification process visit the RACC website at | RACC (cra-cert.org)

Typically staff working in sponsored research in a central office or in a college or department pursue the CRA designation. If you desire to participate in the review sessions or just want more information, contact David Hollingsworth, Director of Research Education and Outreach in TAMU Sponsored Research Services at dhollingsworth@tamu.edu

Update on Huron Conflict of Interest and IRB Modules and Participation Opportunities
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In a customer satisfaction survey, researchers expressed an interest in transitioning from iMedRIS/iRIS to another protocol management system. Several demos of the Huron protocol management system took place and were well attended by faculty, staff, and System member representatives (i.e., TEES, AgriLife, etc.). The university decided to move forward with the Conflict of Interest and IRB Modules.

Huron's Conflict of Interest Module is expected to streamline Conflict of Interest, Conflict of Commitment and External Employment processes. The Conflict of Interest onboarding process began at the end of 2021. As the team works toward implementation of the module, there will be opportunities for the university community to participate in viewing how the system flows as a part of the process.

Huron's IRB module is considered the gold standard for protocol management systems across the country. It is used by many Association of American Universities (AAU) institutions. Unlike other known protocol management tools, Huron is guaranteed to meet regulatory requirements and reflects industry best practices. It is also user friendly. Plans are underway to implement Huron's IRB module during 2022-2023, following implementation of the Conflict of Interest module.

If you have an interest in providing feedback on either module as they work through the onboarding and implementation processes please contact Tiffany Inbody at t-inbody@tamu.edu or 847-9364.

New NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan Policy

Get Ready, 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.   This policy applies to all research, funded or conducted in whole or in part by NIH, that results in the generation of scientific data. The plan will be part of the budget justification section of the proposal and will be limited to two pages or less.

The following elements should be included in each plan.

- Data Type
- Related Tools
- Software and/or Code, data Standards
- Data Preservation, Access, and Associated Timelines
- Access, Distribution, or Reuse Considerations
- Oversight of Data Management and Sharing.

The following information is provided by NIH for additional information.

- NOT-OD-21-013 Final Policy for Data Management and Sharing.
- NOT-OD-21-014 Elements of Data Management and Sharing Plan.
- NOT-OD-21-015 Allowable Costs for Data Management and Sharing.
- NOT-OD-21-016 Resources on Selecting a Repository.

Get help from the TAMU Libraries: Do you have questions about creating your data management plan? Reach out to the TAMU Library Data Management section.   They have resources available. Go to Data Management Plans (tamu.edu)

- Use the DMPTool to create a data management plan
- Get feedback on your data management plan

- Share your data in the Texas Data Repository
- Attend a data management plan workshop

Plan ahead and be ready to include a data management plan in your research applications beginning January 25, 2023.

2022 TAMUS-LANL Research Collaboration Program Announcement

The TAMUS-LANL (Los Alamos National Laboratory) Research Collaboration Program has announced funding opportunities and development fellowships for 2022. More information can be found on the attached flyers at the end of this newsletter.

Innovation Partners Pro Bono IP Office Hours

In person and virtual appointments are available at no cost to Texas A&M faculty, staff, and students to meet with an attorney and answer intellectual property questions. Learn more about this program or register for one of the spring dates at the link below.

Available Dates:
- March 10th (In-person)
- April 22nd (Virtual)

For more information OR to register, please visit our website.

SBIR/STTR Workshop Series

Save the date for our second annual SBIR/STTR Workshop Series! The event is hosted by Texas A&M University Innovation Partners, the TEES Office of Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, and Research Development Services in the Texas A&M University Division of Research.

This year's event will be offered in-person and online. Event details and registration will be posted on our website soon at https://tamuip.tamu.edu/events/.

- March 29 & 30, 2022 - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
- April 5 & 6, 2022 - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Topics include:
- Benefits of public/private partnerships
- Pre-proposal requirements
- Best practices for submitting a successful proposal
- Q&A with a panel of experts with successful SBIR/STTR proposals

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) for the latest updates, guidance, testing and reporting forms.

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 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).

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.

Call for Faculty Judges
17th Annual Texas A&M University System
Pathways Student Research Symposium

Save the Date!
Noon Thursday, March 3rd – Noon Friday, March 4th, 2022
College Station, TX
Kyle Field and Memorial Student Center

The 2022 Pathways Student Research Symposium is approaching fast, and the Grad School would like to recruit your help to serve as a judge. The event will take place on Thursday, March 3rd and Friday, March 4th, 2022, on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station.

The Pathways Student Research Symposium is open to all Texas A&M University System students with separate categories for undergraduate, masters, and doctoral level research. The symposium provides students the opportunity to showcase their research efforts, network with faculty, gain exposure to graduate and post-graduate opportunities, and form lasting collaborative relationships for future research. The event rotates annually among the different Texas A&M University System institutions. This year, the flagship in College Station gets to showcase our campus and student research.

Please consider serving as judges for undergraduate and master's posters and oral presentations, as well as five-minute doctoral lightning talks (i.e., research elevator pitches) for the symposium.

BENEFITS: In addition to supporting student research, participating as a judge represents an opportunity for networking with faculty and students from Texas A&M and all 10 other Texas A&M System Universities. Another benefit of serving as a judge is that it gives you the opportunity to recruit undergraduate and master's students to your master's and doctoral programs or to build relationships with students whom you have extended admissions offers who may not have finalized their grad school plans yet.

COMMITMENT: A minimum of one to two hours of judging. We also hope you will join us for other symposium events, including our welcome lunch (Thursday 11am-1pm), symposium dinner (Thursday 5pm-7pm) and awards ceremony and lunch (Friday 12pm-1:30pm).

REGISTRATION: Please click here to register. In the registration you will include your comfort level (comfortable judging, if needed, uncomfortable judging) for the categories and subfields you select. You will also select the times you are available to judge (dependent on your area). For more information on the categories and a preliminary schedule please visit our webpage here.

Please save the dates on your calendar and join us as a judge for this exciting event to connect students, faculty, and staff and strengthen the Texas A&M University System research community.

Thanks for your support of this important Texas A&M University Systems event.

Questions? Please email grad@tamu.edu, SUBJECT: Pathways Symposium Inquiry

2022 TAMUS-LANL Research Collaboration Program Funding Opportunity

Development Fellowship Announcement

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.

Description of Development Fellowships

The Development Fellowship is the second element of three funding opportunities offered through the TAMUS NLO Collaborative Research Program with LANL. While receipt of each of the three elements is not required, the program is designed to assist TAMUS researchers moving through developmental stages of increasing collaborative engagement with LANL researchers. https://nationallabsoffice.tamus.edu/laboratories/los-alamos-national-laboratories/collaborative-research-with-los-alamos-national-laboratory/

The Development Fellowship program helps TAMUS researchers develop and deepen collaborative research partnerships with LANL technical staff members in areas of interest to the laboratory. Faculty who spend time at LANL learning the laboratory's missions and problem sets are more likely to develop long-term partnerships with the laboratory's technical staff members. Development Fellowships aim to help researchers achieve such partnerships.

Funding for a typical Development Fellowship supports a one-year (or shorter) collaborative research project. Funding supports up to 1½ months of salary for the TAMUS researcher and reimburse travel costs up to $5,000 for the TAMUS researcher to visit one or more LANL technical staff members for several weeks. The visit enables the research partners to take tangible steps toward long-term funded collaborative research. A typical deliverable would be a joint publication or proposal. This funding opportunity is not intended to support a student.

Applicants should propose alternate uses of approximately the described amount of funding, and/or alternate deliverables if appropriate to better support the goal of establishing a partnership that can secure future funding for longer-term projects. Expenses incurred prior to application approval will not be reimbursed.

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.

Individuals holding postdoctoral appointments are not eligible to apply. Priority may be given to early-career tenure-line faculty. Note: TAMUS researchers who already have an established collaborative partnership with LANL technical staff members are encouraged to consider applying to the Research Projects element of the Research Collaboration Program.

The application must identify at least one LANL staff member who has agreed to collaborate with the TAMUS applicant to execute the proposed effort. Applicants must specify what will be delivered (publication, proposal, etc.) upon completion of the proposed effort.

Reviewers chosen by the NLO and LANL will select applications for funding in accordance with joint TAMUS-LANL priorities, subject to availability of funds.

Applying for Development Fellowships

Applications must be submitted via email to **lanl-engage@nlo.tamus.edu** by **February 1, 2022**. Notification of awards will be made by summer 2022. PDF documents are preferred for the application and TAMUS applicant's curriculum vitae. The application should be organized as follows:

1. Applicant information – Provide information about the TAMUS researcher requesting funds, including:

    - Name
    - Title (e.g., Assistant Professor)
    - TAMUS entity and department (e.g., PVAMU Mathematics)
    - Citizenship (e.g., U.S. permanent resident)
    - Email address and phone number
    - Curriculum vitae (PDF format)

2. Collaborator information – Provide information about the identified LANL collaborator(s), including:

    - Name
    - Title (e.g., Scientist 3)
    - Division and group (e.g., CCS-2)
    - Evidence that the named LANL collaborator(s) have agreed to partner with the TAMUS applicant to execute the proposed effort (e.g., email from collaborator(s))
    - LANL collaborator(s) curriculum vitae or resume (PDF format)

3. Proposed effort – Describe the research area that you and your collaborator(s) are interested in exploring over the long-term, details of the proposed effort and the tangible outcome ("deliverable"). It is best if you can show a connection to long-term LANL missions, "capability pillars" or initiatives (this is heavily weighted in the review process). Also, specifically discuss the impact that the completed effort will have (i.e., what difference will it make?). The narrative should be less than three pages.

4. Cost and timeline – Provide a cost breakdown and approximate timeline, including the date by which the deliverable will be given to the National Laboratories Office (NLO). This

information can be presented as a paragraph or two, a bulleted list, or a combination of both. Include a total budget for each category of expenses (salaries, fringe, travel), not just a description of costs. A formal budget generated by research services is not required. Fellowships are internally funded and include no overhead costs.

Development Fellowship Review Procedure

The NLO's Fellowship Review Panel (FRP) will review all fellowship applications once the application window has closed. The FRP is comprised of researchers and executives from TAMUS members and departments who have a working knowledge of LANL missions and TAMUS goals.

Once the proposal has passed the initial screening (element completion, allowable citizenship, etc.) it will be moved to the second step, in which the FRP will review each viable proposal and assess it against the following criteria:

- Technical merit (originality, creativity, and potential for impact).

- Applicant's career history and potential for long-term collaboration with LANL.

- Alignment with LANL missions and/or its capability needs.

- Strength of collaboration plan.

The FRP will make the final selections from the proposals that receive the highest assessments. The FRP is committed to making unbiased diverse decisions based on technical merit and mission alignment across all TAMUS organizations and areas of research.

Conflict of Interest Disclaimer: Should any member of the FRP have a biased interest in an application, submit an application themselves or be unable to complete their duties, an alternative board member will be assigned in their place.

*Any work produced from Development Fellowship support must include the following acknowledgement: "This work was supported by a Development Fellowship from the Texas A&M University System National Laboratories Office."

Questions should be directed to **lanl-engage@nlo.tamus.edu**.

[1] In this document the term "research" includes a broad range of research and development activities.

2022 TAMUS-LANL Research Collaboration Program

Research Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement

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.

Description of Research Projects

Research Projects are the third and most extensive element of three funding opportunities offered through the TAMUS NLO Collaborative Research Program with LANL.

https://nationallabsoffice.tamus.edu/laboratories/los-alamos-national-laboratories/collaborative-research-with-los-alamos-national-laboratory/

Funding for a typical Research Project supports one graduate student (stipend, tuition, and fees) and one month of time for a TAMUS researcher (the student's advisor) per year, for up to four years. The student should be identified in the proposal if possible and employed for the life of the project. Funded students are expected to spend one or more summers (or similar time periods) at LANL under the supervision of a LANL co-advisor, who is typically a co-author of the proposal and co-executor of the research. Continued funding throughout the proposed project period is contingent upon satisfactory progress and availability of funds.

Applicants are free to propose different allocations of approximately the same level of funding described above. Funding is provided jointly by the NLO and LANL: the NLO will support PI effort and LANL will issue contracts to support the student, travel, and related expenses. Expenses incurred prior to application approval will not be reimbursed.

Applications will be accepted from any full-time PI-eligible researcher (except those with postdoctoral appointments) from any TAMUS Member entity. Applications with the following characteristics have the best chance of receiving funding:

- TAMUS and LANL researchers have a history of a budding partnership that has not yet progressed to the point of jointly proposing on outside funding.
- LANL leadership sees value in a long-term relationship with proposed TAMUS researcher(s).
- Proposed research and development improve a key LANL capability and/or address one of its mission needs and relates to a research area for which the laboratory has stable, long-term funding.
- Proposed research and development have potential for high impact.
- Project engages one graduate student for their duration, with potential for LANL employment.

- Proposed TAMUS researcher, or researcher's group, appears likely to produce a new and steady stream of graduates with potential for LANL employment, for many years to come.

The application must name at least one LANL technical staff member who has agreed to partner with the TAMUS researcher(s) on the proposed effort, supervise the funded student during their stays at LANL, and serve on the student's research advisory committee.

Funded partners must participate in a kickoff meeting, and submit annual progress reports and complete a joint panel review in March of each year starting in 2023. A final project report is required. The annual joint panel review, while not a complete technical review, will ensure that progress is being made, assist in possible larger applications, provide assistance to mitigate ongoing barriers, and review student pipeline opportunities.

Proposal reviewers chosen by the NLO and LANL will select applications for funding in accordance with joint TAMUS-LANL priorities, subject to availability of funds. The review process is described below.

A major goal of this program is to launch collaborations that have the potential to secure long-term funding from sources external to LANL. This will not affect the technical evaluation of a proposal submitted by a previous program awardee, but given the limited number of awards per year, it may affect the final funding decisions made by the Strategic Review Panel and LANL leadership.

How to Apply for A Research Project

Applications must be submitted via email to lanl-engage@nlo.tamus.edu by February 1, 2022. The Review Committee will notify awardees by summer 2022. Application materials should be submitted as PDF documents. TAMUS Sponsored Research Services does not need to be involved at this initial stage of proposal submittal.

The application should contain the following documents:

1. Personnel Description, with two Sections
2. Proposal Narrative
3. Budget and Timeline
4. Curriculum Vitae/Resumes

Document arrangement should be as follows:

1. Section 1 of Personnel Description Document: Texas A&M System Applicant Information – Provide information about the TAMUS principal investigator (and co-principal investigators, if any), including:
   - Name
   - Title (e.g., Assistant Professor)
   - TAMUS entity and department (e.g., PVAMU Mathematics)
   - Citizenship (e.g., U.S. permanent resident)
   - Email address and phone number
   - Student information: Explain how project leaders will ensure that the student chosen for funding have the potential for LANL employment.

- Pipeline information: Briefly discuss long-term prospects for TAMUS researcher's program to produce future graduates with potential for LANL employment.

Section 2 of Personnel Description Document: LANL Collaborator Information – Provide information about the identified LANL collaborator(s), including:

- Name
- Title (e.g., Engineer 4)
- Division and group (e.g., CCS-2)
- Evidence that the named LANL collaborator(s) have agreed to partner with the TAMUS applicant to execute the proposed effort, supervise the funded student(s) when at LANL and serve on the students' research committees (e.g., an email from collaborator(s)).
- Description of previous collaborative efforts between proposed TAMUS and LANL collaborators (e.g., joint publications, joint proposals, co-supervised students).

2. Proposal Narrative Document – Describe the proposed research project and explain how it supports long-term LANL missions, capability pillars, or initiatives and the expected impact of the proposed project. Include the following sections, but do not exceed ten (10) pages total (including summary and references):
   - Summary: In one (1) page or less, explain what is proposed, what motivates the research, and what the impact will be. Explanation should allow a technical person from a different discipline to understand.
   - Motivation: Explain the current state of the topic area with references to previous work and why improvements are needed.
   - Proposed activities: Describe what will be done, what new knowledge or technology will be gained, etc.
   - Expected impact: How will the research impact areas such as the technical field, key LANL capabilities, LANL mission delivery, etc.?
   - Roles: Who will do what?
   - LANL visits: List time periods planned for TAMUS personnel to be at LANL (with understanding that plans may evolve).
   - Annual reviews: Annual reviews will be conducted in March of each year, starting in March 2023. A written (2-3 pages) and oral (half-hour presentation) component are required.
   - References

3. Budget and Timeline Document – Provide a budget breakdown per year and an approximate timeline. A formal budget generated by TAMUS Sponsored Research Services will only be required if the proposal is selected for funding. At application time, only an itemization of expenses is required. For example:
   - X salary support: one month plus benefits per year.
   - GAR support: $2,200/month + tuition + fees; Texas A&M College of Science.
   - Travel: student travel once/year to Los Alamos, New Mexico, with student lodging near LANL two months/year; Dr. X travel to LANL once/year; Dr. X and student travel to conference once/year.
   - Equipment: list and estimate costs.
   - Materials and supplies: list and estimate costs.
   - Other: list and estimate costs.
   - Do not included overhead costs at this stage. If selected, these will be appropriately allocated at a later time.

4. TAMUS researcher(s) and student (if available) Curriculum Vitae (PDF documents) and LANL researcher(s) Curriculum Vitae or Resume(s) (PDF documents).

Application Review Procedure

The NLO's Strategic Review Panel (SRP) will oversee and complete the final selection of all research project applications once the application window has closed. The SRP is comprised of researchers and executives from TAMUS members and departments, along with technical and administrative representatives from LANL.

Once the proposal has passed the initial screening (element completion, allowable citizenship, etc.), the proposal will move to the second step. In this second step, each proposal will be assigned multiple technical reviewers, some from LANL and some from TAMUS, who have expertise in the proposed area. Technical assessments and comments will be returned to the SRP based on the criteria below.

Research Project Rating Criteria

The SRP will focus its attention on the proposals with the highest technical assessments. For this group of proposals, the SRP will consider strategic factors such as alignment with mission, needs for strengthened capabilities and availability of long-term funding. Based on combined technical and strategic considerations, the SRP will form recommendations and present them to LANL leadership for approval.

Conflict of Interest Disclaimer: Should any member of the SRP have a biased interest in an application, submit an application themselves, or be unable to complete their duties, an alternative panel member will be assigned in their place. Identifiable information about applicants and reviewers will not be released to anyone other than SRP members.

Questions should be directed to lanl-engage@nlo.tamus.edu.

[1] In this document the term "research" includes a broad range of research and development activities.

[2] A separate element of the TAMUS-LANL Research Collaboration Program, the "Development Fellowship" element, provides a possible avenue for establishing such a history.