
CPI Newsletter – January 2018

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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* — Sandra Braman, Steve Maren, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *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 Groppe • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, Mike Lukuc, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Bruce Herbert • *Veterinary Medicine* — Loren Skow

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

Update from Dr. Penny Riggs, CPI Chair

Welcome back to campus as we kick off the Spring 2018 Semester today!

January CPI News – The CPI executive committee met January 10, 2018, in preparation for today's meeting. Mr. Andy Morriss, Dean of the School of Innovation and Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development for Texas A&M University provided an overview and brief discussion about "The I-School" and its goals as a resource for researchers. Dr. Dimitris Lagoudas, Deputy Director of Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) provided an update with their recent DOD activities along with new facilities. Both will provide more detail during the January CPI meeting.

Dr. Mark Zoran, Professor and Acting Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies, Texas A&M University provided an update from the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) regarding newly developed resource information that graduate and professional students can view online and utilize as an introduction to library resources, copyright and intellectual property, along with research compliance, animal use, and biohazards. OGAPS will provide faculty with more information so they can share with their graduate and professional students if they wish to utilize this resource. Dr. Zoran will present an overview at an upcoming CPI meeting.

President's Excellence Fund – Dr. Karen Butler-Purry provided an update on the T3 program, that currently has about 60 projects posted on the website (t3.tamu.edu). Dr. Butler-Purry encouraged faculty to browse projects and faculty profiles at the site. Note key dates: Projects can be posted until January 31st, and Triad formation occur during February. A meet and greet for project owners to present their ideas to any interested faculty will take place Friday, January 19th from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Hildebrand Equine Center. Presentations and networking times can be scheduled via the website. A faculty advisory task force continues to meet to assist with the development of the "large project initiative." Dr. Butler-Purry anticipates that the process and guidelines from this task force will be released by the end of January.

Government Relations Update – A special thank you is due to Representative Bill Flores for his personal efforts in ensuring that graduate student provisions in the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* were protected during the conference committee process. We appreciate the commitment of Rep. Flores and Senators Cornyn and Cruz to higher education, and for investment in students and research activities that are critical for driving the innovation and discovery to enable America to remain competitive in the world economy.

The work of our graduate students and postdocs is important. Since departments and colleges sometimes write profiles about graduate student researchers, we'd like to collect and highlight some of these student stories as they are published. Please forward URLs to Rebecca or to Jason Whisenant, GR@tamu.edu, and when possible, let us know the student's state or country of residence.

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, or contact me directly at riggs@tamu.edu or 979.862.7015.

Reminder: The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, February 14, 2018 back in CPI's normal meeting room, Rudder 601. Contact Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu or 979.862.9166, for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

-Penny

New NIH Tool helps researchers target relevant Study Sections

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

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>

Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) visit reminder

AAHRPP will be on campus for the re-accreditation site visit on February 5-6, 2018. AAHRPP accreditation is a gold standard recognizing adherence to a rigorous set of human subjects protection standards that go beyond federal and state requirements. It communicates to the public the university's commitment to the protection of human participants in research and instills trust amongst our research collaborators and sponsors.

The accreditation process involves an evaluation of the TAMU Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) and its standard operating procedures. Equally important is the site visit which is focused on interviews with selected members of the research community (researchers, IRB, administrators) to see how well we adhere to our written procedures. AAHRPP will check our practices by going through our records, first. Then they will check our knowledge through interviews.

Update on Revised Common Rule

On January 4, 2018, HHS transmitted to the federal Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (a part of the Office of Management and Budget within the Executive Office of the President), for its review, a final rule entitled, "Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects." Information about the status of OIRA's review of the rule can be found at: www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoDetails?rrid=127821

Grant Application Advice from NIH Peer Reviewers

When: February 6, 2018; 2:00-3:30 p.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.

Register: By 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at <https://u.tamu.edu/NIHPRW>.

Contacts: John Ivy, Sr. Research Development Officer, Ph.D. johnivy@tamu.edu
Christina Papke, Research Development Officer, Ph.D. cpapke@tamu.edu

Informational Meeting: An Introduction to the Texas A&M-FAPESP Research Program

When: February 8, 2018; 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Where: 3147 ILSB

About: In Summer 2017, the Division of Research at Texas A&M University and the São Paulo Research Foundation ([FAPESP](#)) announced the Texas A&M-FAPESP Research Program to build research cooperation between Texas A&M researchers and researchers from the State of São Paulo, Brazil. Funding for the Texas A&M principal investigator is US\$10,000 per proposal per year. FAPESP will provide an equivalent amount of funding for their PIs. This meeting will introduce you to the program and provide information on this opportunity.

Register: By 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018 [here](#).

Contacts: [Monica Bruno Holder](#), M.S., International Programs Coordinator

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

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.

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

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

NIH Specific Aims Writing Clinic

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

Where: TBA

About: This series of three meetings will help participants draft an 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

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

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

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

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

Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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.