CPI Newsletter – January 2022

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Update from Dr. David Stelly, CPI Chair

January CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with the administrators on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Discussions on President Banks' working document on "The Path Forward" and the need for CPI Representatives to volunteer for working groups. CPI-EC heard updates from each of the administrative leaders and several provided information in this January Newsletter.

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.

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 Andreea Trache, 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.

AnSRS4u Presentation – FCOI and Foreign Influence

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host an AnSRS4u presentation on FCOI and Foreign Influence, Thursday January 20, 2022 10:00am - 11:00am.   This session will cover what is FCOI, and how has foreign influence changed the way we review it. The presenter will be Lesa Feldhousen, Executive Director, Conflict of Interest and Responsible Conduct of Research.

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.
When: Jan 20, 2022 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Register in advance for this meeting:
https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArdeiorTguGdcbeECUDpozvdq7IZy4vgv2

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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:
- February 2nd (Virtual)
- 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

NASA Human Research Program Investigator's Workshop - Feb 7-10, 2022

As we move into 2022, I call your attention to an important NASA meeting on Human Research in Space (The Investigator's Workshop) Feb. 7 -10, 2022. As noted below, this is the annual meeting for all NASA funded researchers through the Human Research Program (HRP) and the Translational Research Institute for Space Health (TRISH).

Registration is free (it is virtual next year, --- it is traditionally held in Galveston, TX). For those interested in the human spaceflight physiology, medical operations, human factors, the radiation environment, and performance in spaceflight, this is the workshop to attend. Our Aerospace Faculty/students will have papers and posters at this workshop from three NASA funded grants involving Drs. Selva, Diaz Artiles and Dr. Bonnie Dunbar.

We undoubtedly have other TAMUS researchers funded by NASA HRP and hope to identify them by the time we convene our University wide Human Space Workshop in early February (Co-chaired by Dr. Zawieja and myself) under the leadership of Dr. Penny Riggs, Assoc. VP for Research.

You may now access the detailed program for the 2022 HRP Investigators' Workshop. If you have not yet done so, please be sure to register. Submitting an abstract **does not** register you for the workshop. Click here to register.

Please visit the 2022 HRP IWS website for more information on presentations, workshop details, and to preview some of the new fun activities being planned.

Updated COVID-19 Related Guidance for In-Person Human Research Activities
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The Division of Research (DOR) has updated the COVID-19 guidance to assist faculty and researchers conducing in-person human research activities. The guidance can be found online as part of the Research Compliance and Integrity Toolkit.

Texas A&M University Human Subjects Research Guidance for Conducting In-Person Study Visits During COVID-19 provides researchers with a plan that minimizes the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 while allowing in-person study visits. Principal Investigators are responsible for carrying out the plan as applicable to their research.

The *Participant Acknowledgement In-Person Human Research during COVID-19* is a form describes the precautions researchers are implementing to safeguard participants from contracting COVID-19. The acknowledgement form should be sent to research participants prior to their in-person study visit on the TAMU campus. Researchers should maintain a copy of the signed acknowledgement with their study records.

Please contact the IRB by email, IRB@tamu.edu, or phone, 979.458.4067, if you have any questions about the updated COVID-19 guidance for in-person human research.

Save the Date & Polls: REU/SURE Coordination Meeting for Summer 2022

LAUNCH is planning the spring Coordination Meeting where we will discuss updated university policies for REU and other summer undergraduate research programs. This message contains information on the upcoming meeting as well as a request for information (two polls).

REU/SURE Coordination Meeting
- January 27, 2022
- 8:30 AM CT to 10:00 AM CT
- Format TBD (see Poll 1)
- Coordination Meeting Agenda and Tentative Packet: https://launch.tamu.edu/LAUNCH/media/library/UGR/REU-SURE/docs/packet/(official-11-29-2021)-2122_REU-SURE_Agenda_Policies.pdf
- Coordination Meeting Resources and Contacts Handout: https://launch.tamu.edu/LAUNCH/media/library/UGR/REU-SURE/docs/packet/(official-11-29-2021)-2122_REU-SURE_Resources_Contacts.pdf
- RSVP by January 24: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0oMjojVYrqAW0BM

Request for Information (2 Polls)
- **Poll 1:** Let us know your preference for our meeting format (virtual vs. in person) by completing this one-question poll: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42D7PzBR6ejogtw
- **Poll 2:** Let us know your tentative program format and timeline to help us liaise with Residence Life for summer housing logistics (poll will take less than 2 minutes): https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5dQmVeiAymysCai

Please direct questions to ugr@tamu.edu.

Maestro Steering Committee Update- November 10, 2021

The Maestro Steering Committee governs Maestro (Modular Application for the Electronic Submission and Tracking of Research Operations), which is an enterprise-wide system that supports researchers and research administration across The Texas A&M University System. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the TAMUS CIO (Mark Stone) and the TAMU interim VP for Research (Jack Baldauf). The Maestro Steering Committee met on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Items of discussion included:
1. **Cost Sharing Module (presented by Crystal Foy).** The Cost Share module will (a) remove duplication of data entry between Maestro and FAMIS; (b) increase visibility by category of requirements and transactions for each account, with detail requirements including Direct and Indirect breakdown of Total; (c) reduce manual entries and manual calculation of IDC on Cost Share transactions; and (d) automate report creation, including sponsor reports of required vs. actuals and internal reports for monitoring Cost Share. Initial screen design was shown. Items in progress: (a) tracking actual cost share transactions; (b) metrics to be recorded on the Administrative Dashboard; (c) Common Searches needed; (d) Pre-Defined Reports requested.
2. **Budget Forecasting Update (presented by Mohammad Al-Banna).** Most discussion focused on the Budget Entry component: (a) will allow Budget Administration to enter awarded budgets on

established accounts; (b) will post budget reallocations in FAMIS from Maestro with FAMIS Web Service; (c) for SRS Administrated Projects, AASET (award set-up team) will do budget entry during award set-up; (d) budget entry will feed to Budget Forecasting module for Researcher/Department use; this includes detailed entry for personnel (salaries and benefits categories). Additional features of Sponsored Budget Entry include: (a) all budget entries retained in Maestro budget database; (b) current and historical timeline progress of account budget entries; (c) option to route and approve budget entries; (d) detailed reports and dashboards; and (e) accessible anywhere from any device.

3. **Maestro Evolution Project (presented by Donovan Sherriffs).** Maestro is moving from ADF technology to EVO. There are several reasons for this, including: (a) it is becoming quite difficult to find experienced resources for ADF; (b) Oracle is no longer supporting ADF as a technology, and ADF is more expensive; EVO is backed by Google and VMware and has a large user community; and (c) EVO has greater agility and delivery speed; EVO is cloud native and open source, micro services based, and hybrid multi cloud. Internet Technology will be able to deliver the new architecture with current resources and minimal disruption of delivery. Individual system parts will be migrated over time. The service gateway and content are already completed. The move will also enable working from anywhere.

4. **Status Monitoring Report (presented by Donovan Sherriffs).** All System members are using maestro. Projects recently added to the tracking include: (1) Account Budget Entry, which is in the design/development phase; (2) Cost Sharing Module; and (3) Maestro Evolution, which has a planned kick-off date of December 1, 2021.

Reviewed by Leonarda Horvat. Director, Research Information Systems, TAMU.
Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee: Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu) and Kerri Gehring (kbgehring@tamu.edu)

Data Management Plan Assistance from the University Libraries
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Research Data Management Services at the University Libraries can help researchers prepare data management plans (DMPs) for grant opportunities. We offer the following tools and support both virtually and in-person to prepare the DMP:

- The DMPTool is an online platform guiding DMP development according to the requirements of specific funding agencies. You can request feedback on your DMP through DMPTool.
- Or schedule a consultation to receive feedback on your DMP for your proposal.

Innovation Partners- Basics of Technology Transfer Online Course
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Looking for some professional development to complete over the holiday break? Why not learn how to advance your discoveries and innovations out of the lab and into the marketplace! Innovation Partners has developed a course in partnership with AUTM that will help university researchers understand the basics of technology transfer beginning with invention disclosure, all the way to marketing the invention so that it can be licensed.

Discover the fundamental building blocks of technology transfer – from compliance, policy and intellectual property to technology transfer agreements, terms and forms. This course is being offered to TAMU faculty and staff at no cost. For more information, please visit our website.

Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal

Undergraduates

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

- Undergraduates are invited to submit to the journal. The process begins with a synopsis due **in early-February.** Team submissions are accepted. If the synopsis is selected to move forward, the student(s) will be invited to submit a full manuscript in March. If selected, undergraduate(s) attend an Author Orientation and are assigned an editing team to work with throughout the remainder of the semester. Before publication, a faculty mentor overseeing the project must sign off on the work. Additional information and approvals, including copyright and media releases, are collected from undergraduate authors between April and May. Please encourage your students to submit.
- **Synopses**
    - **Synopsis Deadline:** February 7, 2022 at noon
    - **Synopsis Application Link:** https://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Explorations-Synopsis-Submission
- **Full Manuscripts**
    - **Full Manuscript Deadline:** March 23, 2022 at noon
    - **Full Manuscript Application Link:** TBA

Faculty
- Faculty can mentor undergraduate researchers and encourage them to apply to the board and/or to submit to the journal. If a student's full manuscript is selected to move forward for publication, the work must be approved by the faculty mentor overseeing the project.
- Faculty can also review for the journal. Reviewer registration is collected on a rolling basis. Submissions are assigned by discipline and expertise. Faculty will be asked to review up to 3 submissions at a time.
    - **Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.**
- **Volume 13 Review Timeline**
    - **February 10, 2022:** Synopses distributed for review no later than this date
    - **February 24, 2022:** Deadline to return synopsis reviews
    - **March 24, 2022:** Full manuscripts distributed to reviewers no later than this date
    - **April 06, 2022:** Deadline to submit full manuscript reviews
- **Registration Deadline for Volume 14 Synopses:** January 25, 2022 at noon
- **Registration Link:** https://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Faculty-Reviewer-Registration

Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS)
Faculty Participation at the URS Symposium

This year the Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium will kick off virtually on February 23, 2022 and be open to the campus community until March 2, 2022. We decided to use the ForagerOne-Symposium platform again this year based on positive feedback we received from students and to be able to accommodate all students and Active Listeners during the ongoing pandemic. Email ugr@tamu.edu to volunteer and we will invite you to complete the registration form.

This symposium is designed to give students constructive and positive feedback on their presentations of research projects they are working on for the URS thesis program (they may be presenting for the first time ever!). There are no judges or prizes at the URS Symposium. We are giving students a place to practice, share new knowledge with the campus community, and receive comments to help them improve their projects and presentation skills—and this year they are even learning to do it in a virtual environment.

- All presentations are virtual and will be made available to the public online on the ForagerOne Symposium platform. Presentations will remain available for Active Listeners to review from February 23-March 2, 2022.
- All students will present on camera and provide a video of their research presentation. Each presentation will be 10 minutes maximum.
- Students may also prepare supplemental materials such as a poster PDF, PowerPoint Slides, or an embedded video (of a performance, creative artifact, etc.) to accompany their research presentation.
- Active Listeners will complete a Feedback Form in the ForagerOne-Symposium platform for assigned presentations.

We ask active listeners to comment on the following in the Feedback Form:
1. Body language and delivery
2. Effective communication of the research question and why it is important
3. Effective visual aids (if used)
4. Effective presentation skills in a virtual space

REU/SURE Coordination Meeting
1. January 27, 2022
2. 8:30 AM CT to 10:00 AM CT
3. Format TBD
4. RSVP by January 24: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0oMjojVYrqAW0BM
5. At this meeting, we will discuss policies for REU and other summer undergraduate research programs, including the process for admissions, course enrollment, fee waivers, general deposit, student health services, international students, on-campus housing, as well as Title IX, honor code, student conduct, and other summer activities.
6. Email ugr@tamu.edu to get on the REU/SURE Coordination Mailing List.

Call for Undergraduate Research Ambassador Applications
Please encourage your undergraduate research students to submit.
The LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Ambassadors work to inspire broader engagement in undergraduate research by educating and serving the Texas A&M University community and beyond. New Ambassadors are chosen each spring.

Students in the Undergraduate Research Ambassador program share advice with fellow undergraduates on how to get started in research, find projects, and communicate with faculty members. Ambassadors represent LAUNCH at research, recruiting, and outreach events, such as the UGR Expo, URS Symposium, Getting Started in Research Workshops, and more. They are also available for customized presentations to students, staff, and faculty.

Students in the program will gain knowledge in networking, public speaking, leadership opportunities, and will have increased competitiveness on graduate and professional school applications. Ambassadors often receive additional grant opportunities and other professional development experiences as a result of their involvement.

LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research seeks Ambassadors that will represent diverse academic disciplines across campus, including science, engineering, arts, humanities, business, and social sciences.

Applications are accepted until March 4, 2022 at noon. A letter of recommendation from a faculty research mentor is required as part of the application.

Application Details: http://launch.tamu.edu/Undergraduate-Research/Ambassadors/Apply

AnSRS4u Express- Short Videos on Research Administration

During your day do questions on research administration come up?   We at TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) understand everyone is busy and sometimes just needs a quick answer or refresher on a research administration topic.   That is why SRS has developed AnSRS4u Express.   This is a series of short videos (5minutes or less) on various research administration topics available via the SRS website at AnSRS4U Express – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu). As researchers, some topics that may be of interest include: "NSF Current and Pending Support," "NIH Biographical Sketch," "Getting Started on a Proposal," "Data Use Agreements," and many more!

We will be adding new videos so visit this site often.   If you have an idea for a research administration topic that would lend itself to a short video, please feel free to send your idea to ansrs4u@tamu.edu

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.

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.