
CPI Newsletter – January 2023

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2022-23 CPI roster: Chair — Debjyoti Banerjee, ENG • Vice-Chair — Jessica Bernard, CAS • Past Chair David Stelly, COALS • AgriLife Extension — Luis Ribera, Jamie Rae Walker • AgriLife Research — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • Architecture — Wei Yan • BUSH — Laura Dague • COALS — Giri Athrey, Rodolfo Cardoso, H. Russell Cross, Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Pierson, Paul Straight, Aaron Tarone • Dentistry — Hua Zhang • Education — Paul Hernandez, Rafael Lara-Alecio • Engineering — Daniel Alge, Jorge Alvarado, Raymundo Arroyave, Theodora Chaspari, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, Samuel Ma, Ramesh Talreja • Geosciences — Ryan Ewing, Jessica Fitzsimmons, Daniel Thornton • Law — Felix Mormann • Liberal Arts — Rebecca Brooker, Harland Prechel • Mays — Korok Ray • Medicine — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Shannon Glaser, Carl Gregory • Nursing — Robin Page • Pharmacy — Jayshree Mishra • Science — Heath Blackmon, Jennifer ‘Jen’ Dulin, Rainer Fries, Jean-Luc Guermond, Wenshe Liu • Public Health — Gang Han • TAMU at Galveston — R.J. David Wells • TAMU at Qatar — Konstantinos Kakosimos • TEES — Dean Schneider, Nathan Tichenor • TTI — Edith Arámbula Mercado, David Bierling, Dennis Perkinson • University Libraries — Sarah Potvin • Veterinary Medicine — Joe Arosh, Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy

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. Debjyoti Banerjee, 2022-2023 CPI Chair

January CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Texas A&M System provided an overview of Indirect Cost Recovery Rate and Facilities and Administration Cost Rate processes. Also, received updates from system, agency and university administrators. The Texas A&M System provided an update to the full CPI membership at Wednesday's CPI General Meeting on January 11.

I invite you to contact me, Dr. Jessica Bernard, 2022-2023 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 and chancellor on a regular basis.

CPI Contacts–The complete 2022-2023 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at <https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership>. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

For more information on CPI, to suggest agenda items for CPI's monthly meetings, or contact any of the officers, please email cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, our CPI Coordinator.

Free Crash Course in NIH Funding: 2023 NIH Grants Conference on Feb. 1-2

Are you new to NIH grants and looking to better understand the processes and policies behind NIH funding? Or are you experienced and want to brush up on the latest policies and information? Consider this your personal invitation to the **2023 NIH Grants Conference**, a free and virtual event on February 1-2, 2023. During this 2-day live event, NIH and HHS experts will share policies, resources, guidance, and case studies in informative and engaging sessions. For more information and to register go to: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2022/12/08/free-crash-course-in-nih-funding-2023-nih-grants-conference-on-feb-1-2/>

Innovation Partners Updates

The Path Forward: Possible Commercialization Strategies

Thursday, February 2, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST via Zoom Webinar

Once an innovation has been evaluated for commercial potential and an initial intellectual property protection decision has been made, there are several pathways that can be pursued in order to bring an invention from the lab to the marketplace. The commercialization office considers many factors as it develops a commercialization strategy. This webinar will provide insight into the different paths to market and considerations in the planning process that help determine which path to take. Attendees can expect to gain a better understanding of:

- Possible paths to market
- Considerations in the development of a commercialization strategy
- How the commercialization office works with the inventor during this process

To register, [click here](#).

Spring 2023 Intellectual Property Attorney Pro Bono Office Hours

- February 7
- March 8
- April 13

Appointments are available at no cost to Texas A&M faculty, staff, and students to meet with an attorney and ask intellectual property-related questions. To learn more about this program or register, [please visit our website](#).

Graduate School Requesting Reviewers – Deadline Monday, January 23, 2023

The Graduate and Professional School is seeking faculty to review the applicants for the 2023-2024 Avilés-Johnson Fellowship Program.

If faculty are interested in assisting with the review of applicants, please have them contact Shannon (shannon@tamu.edu) by Monday, January 23, 2023.

Below you find details regarding the **request for reviewers** for the *Avilés-Johnson Fellowship Program*.

Reviewers needed: 74

Deadline to submit reviewers: Monday, January 23, 2023

Estimated Review timeline*:

[Round 1*] February 9-16, 2023

[Round 2*] March 9-16, 2023

The [Dr. Dionel Avilés '53 and Dr. James Johnson '67 Fellowship Program](#) seeks to increase the diversity of the graduate student population at Texas A&M University and support the development of high achieving scholars who show promise for distinguished careers for the benefit of all students.

College/School	Total Reviewers Needed
Ag & Life Sciences	10
Architecture	2
Arts and Sciences	28
Bush School	4
Business	2
Education	4
Engineering	18
Interdisciplinary	2
Performance, Visualization, Fine Arts	2
Vet Med	2

**Reviewers are only expected to participate in one round of reviews.*

From year to year, it is difficult to precisely determine the number of reviewers needed. There is always the chance that we may need to request additional reviewers or that some secured reviewers may not be utilized based on the number of nominations.

Please send your reviewer submissions to me at shannon@tamu.edu.

Animal Welfare Office Updates

AAALAC Site Visit

Representatives of AAALAC International will be visiting the Bryan/College Station and School of Pharmacy-Kingsville portions of Texas A&M University's animal program February 27-March 3, 2023. AAALAC International is a voluntary accrediting organization that supports quality research, testing and education by promoting humane and responsible animal care and use through triennial assessment of participating institutions, and accreditation of those that meet or exceed applicable standards. It should be noted that the visit excludes PIs, protocols, activities and locations associated with the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, as well as activities with client owned animals and most veterinary clinical spaces within the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Additional information as to the schedule and timing for the site visit will be shared with impacted stakeholders as the visit becomes closer. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 with any questions you may have about the site visit process.

Reporting of Animal Concerns and Unanticipated Adverse Events

The Animal Welfare Office (AWO) would like to remind Principal Investigators (PIs) that per TAMU Rule 15.99.07.M1 *Use of Vertebrate Animals* PIs are required to notify the IACUC as soon as possible after the discovery of any unanticipated or adverse event not described in the IACUC approved AUP that impacts the health or safety of live vertebrate animals used for research, teaching and testing; including the reporting any animal concerns or noncompliance. *TAMU-G-015 Guidelines for Reporting Animal Concerns, Unanticipated or Adverse Events, and Potential Noncompliance* on the Animals in Research and Teaching Guidance page provides information from the IACUC on meeting this requirement, including examples of reportable events and mechanisms of reporting (requires TAMU authentication): <https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/> Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 for assistance.

Animal Use Protocol Closeout

The Animal Welfare Office (AWO) reminds Principal Investigators (PIs) to close approved animal use protocols (AUPs) prior to departing from the institution. The PI may email or complete a Final Report of Expiring AUP in iRIS to request closure of the AUP. The PI must ensure that no animals remain on the AUP prior to closure. This same process may also be utilized whenever a project is complete and the AUP is no longer needed by the PI. Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance.

Certified Research Administrator (CRA) Exam Review Sessions

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) beginning January 31, 2023 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 \(cra-cert.org\)](http://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

Texas A&M University Research Compliance Committee Update

The Texas A&M University Research Compliance Committee met December 13, 2022. Items of discussion included:

- **Division of Research Updates** (Katherine Rojo del Busto, Associate Vice President for Research) AAALAC site visits are scheduled for February 27-March 3; AAHRPP site visit – February 14-15; and CDC March 6-10.
 - State Controlled substances audit in progress. Looking for faculty volunteers to provide advice and guidance for the Huron implementation for human studies. If interested in providing advice and/or guidance for the Huron implementation for human studies, please contact Aliese Seawright, a.seawright@tamu.edu.
- **Lighthouse Project: Red Flag AI Tool** (Jian Tao, TAMIDS Assistant Director for Project Development and Assistant Professor, Department of Visualization)
 - Software portal to reduce risk of noncompliance. Will survey pdfs of proposals and other materials and identify key terms that identify potential need for compliance review and/or approval. Beta site: <http://datahub.geos.tamu.edu:8989/>
 - Presentation: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tu9gOsQAwcB8M3fplhy8GYyfMJXj3KXxEicVBAAddIFc/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Safeguarding and Classifying Research Data** (Dr. Joshua Kisse, Asst. Vice President of Research IT; Mr. Adam Mikeal, Interim Chief Information Security Officer, Technology Services)
 - New Technology Services Unit plans for new Research Technology Function – single point of overall responsibility for providing research technology, e.g. will supervise compliance with respect to data and storage. Discussion of data stewardship and discussion of the Data Classification Tool <https://it.tamu.edu/community/tools/data-classification.php#question-1> (from a series of questions, suggests appropriate data repository, transmission strategies and disposal mechanisms for sensitive data).
 - NIH data security checklist available: <https://it.tamu.edu/health/health-it-services/cloud-collaboration-file-sharing-and-backup/nih-compliance-checklist.pdf>
- **International Collaborations** (Lesia Feldhousen, Executive Director of Export Controls/Conflict of Interest/Responsible Conduct of Research).
 - National security presidential memorandum-33.
 - Upcoming program covering cybersecurity, foreign travel, research security, export control. Countries of concern: China, Russia, Iran, N. Korea. Approval required for interactions with or without compensation but is currently limited to countries of concern. Export control training every 2 years. Spreadsheet of “no-go” institutes and entities becoming available
- **Export Regulations Safeguarding Semiconductors** (Amber Oehlke, Assistant Director, Export Controls/Conflict of Interest/Responsible Conduct of Research).
 - Commerce Dept new regulations aimed at limiting certain technology development in China, involving advanced computing and semiconductor systems. Covered activities: shipping, providing services and support. Definition of rules still in process.

Reported by CPI representatives to the Research Compliance Committee: Carl Gregory (cgregory@tamu.edu) and Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford (cbrinkmeyer@cvm.tamu.edu).

AnSRS4u Presentation - Sponsored Research Procurement

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host a presentation on Sponsored Research Procurement on Thursday January 19 from 10:00 to 11:00am. This presentation will leverage the experience and expertise of the TAMU, AgriLife & TEES buying teams to efficiently navigate the procurement of goods and services. The topics to be covered include:

1. Procurement Cycle
2. Uniform Guidance Requirements (Existing Inventory, Sole Source, Buy American)
3. Subaward vs. Subcontractor/Vendor
4. Q&A

Presenters:

- Mary Williams, TEES & TTI
- Robby Bounds, TAMU
- Noel Mason, AgriLife

Participation will be via Zoom. The Zoom meeting information is below. You will need to register in advance for this presentation. The session will be recorded and will be available later on demand via the SRS website at [AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](https://ansrs4u.tamu.edu)

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.

When: Jan 19, 2023 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJllcOyhqT0uEtV5zOuM6BKUNlg2AgXcRPOI](https://tamu.zoom.us/j/94461234567)

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

Innovation Partners Update

Technology Commercialization Webinar Series

Innovation Partners hosted several informational sessions this past fall semester on a variety of topics related to the technology commercialization process and resources available to Texas A&M University researchers. If you missed one of our presentations, you can visit our video library to view recorded events, or browse all educational programs and resources offered on our website.

New Venture Office Hours

Have an innovation based on university intellectual property that you think may be a fit for a startup company that you, a graduate student, post-doc, or a 3rd party might found? Sign up for an introductory meeting with Chris Scotti, serial entrepreneur turned Director of New Ventures at Texas A&M Innovation Partners, to discuss entrepreneurial commercialization and what resources are available to support the effort. Send an email to cscotti@tamu.edu with 2-3 sentences about your innovation, your department, and several available windows of time.

Human Research Protection Program Updates

AAHRPP Site Visit February 14 and 15

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Programs (AAHRPP) will conduct a site visit of the Texas A&M University Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) on February 14 & 15, 2023.

Investigators and other Key Personnel that will be interviewed by the site visitors will be notified of the interview schedule in early January. The HRPP will provide sample questions and other preparatory materials as applicable for each role. Interviews will be conducted remotely via ZOOM.

Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) Website Updates

The HRPP is updating their website guidance materials. A new link has been added to help inform the research community of important upcoming events, such as the AAHRPP site visit and the efforts underway to transition to a new online IRB submission system, Huron: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/news-and-updates/>

Conversion to Huron IRB Submission System

Changes to the IRB submission process are anticipated due to the transition to the Huron IRB protocol information management system. IRB an IT staff are currently working with the Huron group to plan the conversion. Investigators will be notified of timelines and anticipated changes as soon as the information becomes available. Investigators interested in testing and/or providing input on the conversion process are encouraged to contact the HRPP director, Aliese Seawright at a.seawright@tamu.edu.

Adoption of BioRAFT for IACUC and Biosafety Inspections

Starting in January, the Animal Welfare Office (AWO) and the Office of Biosafety (OBS) will begin transitioning tracking and management of facility inspections to BioRAFT, an enterprise level software platform currently utilized by TAMU Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). By teaming up with EHS, the AWO and OBS are able to offer investigators and facility managers a one-stop-location for both laboratory safety, biosafety, and animal welfare inspection outcomes. Our goal is to provide users with easy access to their inspection findings, reduce administrative burden, and allow AWO and OBS personnel to manage the inspection process more efficiently.

It is anticipated that full implementation of BioRAFT will occur over 10-12 months as the large number of locations inspected are transitioned into the new platform. Instructional materials and support will be provided to users by AWO and OBS staff as individual inspection locations are moved into BioRAFT. With most investigators and facility managers already familiar with BioRAFT through EHS, it is anticipated that the transition to the IACUC and Biosafety BioRAFT inspection processes, while slightly different, will be fairly smooth. Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 or OBS at biosafety@tamu.edu or 979.862.4549 if you have questions or need assistance.

Closing Biosafety Laboratories

The Office of Biosafety (OBS) reminds Principal Investigators (PIs) to terminate their IBC permits and decommission their laboratory of all biohazardous materials before moving to another location on campus and/or leaving the university. Biosafety laboratories must also be decommissioned prior to any major renovations or whenever biohazardous materials are no longer in use. To simplify and streamline the process for researchers, the OBS has developed a one-page flow chart outlining the steps required to complete the process. Links are embedded within the chart for accessibility. For questions or concerns, or to obtain copies of the flow chart, please contact biosafety@tamu.edu or 979.862.4549.

CHIPS Act Expanded RECR Training

CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 – NSF Provisions. Expands required Responsible & Ethical Conduct of Research training. In addition to the current requirement for undergrads, graduate students and postdocs, this training will now be required for faculty and senior personnel working on NSF funded projects beginning the end of July 2023. New Topics: Mentor training, mentorship, awareness of potential research security threats, export controls (disclosure and reporting).

DOE applications require PIER plan

Beginning with the government FY 2023 fiscal year, October 1, 2023, all Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and DOE National Lab Announcements and other funding solicitations began requiring applicants to submit a Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plan as an appendix to their proposal narrative. PIER Plans should describe the activities and strategies applicants will incorporate to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in their research projects. PIER Plans will be evaluated as part of the merit review process and will be used to inform funding decisions. Read full article at [GRANTS Promoting Inclusive and E... | U.S. DOE Office of Science\(SC\) \(osti.gov\)](#)

NSF releases revised PAPPG

The National Science Foundation releases revised version of the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 23-1). The new PAPPG will be effective for proposals submitted or due on or after **January 30, 2023**. The PAPPG can be accessed in either html or a PDF format at <https://beta.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1>

NIH Update on Simplifying Review Criteria: A Request for Information

NIH has issued a request for information (RFI) seeking feedback on revising and simplifying the peer review framework for research project grant applications. The proposed changes will allow peer reviewers to focus on scientific merit by evaluating 1) the scientific impact, research rigor, and feasibility of the proposed research without the distraction of administrative questions and 2) whether or not appropriate expertise and resources are available to conduct the research, thus mitigating the undue influence of the reputation of the institution or investigator.

Through the RFI, NIH continues to seek further public input on the proposed changes before moving forward with implementation. The RFI will be open for a 90-day period, until March 10, 2023. NIH looks forward to your **comments**. For more information and to provide your input go to [Update on Simplifying Review Criteria: A Request for Information – NIH Extramural Nexus](#)

NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy

Reminder of New NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan Policy

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. The plan will be part of the budget justification section of the proposal and will be limited to two pages or less.

New NIH Website on Scientific Data Sharing

NIH has announced the availability of a [new website on Scientific Data Sharing](#). Whether you are involved in an NIH-funded project and want to understand [which sharing policies apply to your research](#) and how to comply, or you are a researcher looking to [access scientific data](#) from NIH-affiliated repositories, this site provides helpful information on the process:

To learn more about this new website you can go to the NEXUS announcement.

<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2022/04/05/introducing-nih-new-scientific-data-sharing-website/>

TAMU Libraries Research Data Management Services

Go to [Research Data Management Services \(tamu.edu\)](#) Use the DMPTool to create a data management plan

NIH Forms H

Notice Number: NOT-OD-22-195

Applicants must use FORMS-H application packages for due dates on or after January 25, 2023 and must use FORMS-G application packages for due dates on or before January 24, 2023. Applications submitted using an incorrect forms package for their intended due date will be withdrawn and removed from funding consideration.

For NIH, as part of the implementation of the 2023 NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy, a new "Other Plan(s)" attachment field has been added to the PHS 398 Research Plan Form and the PHS 398Career Development Award Supplemental Form. Applicants must attach the required Data Management and Sharing Plan in this new field in FORMS-H applications.

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 limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu.

Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities

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, click [here](#).

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.