
CPI Newsletter – July 2021

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2020-21 CPI roster: Chair — Steve Maren, *Liberal Arts* • Vice Chair — David Stelly, *COALS* • Past Chair — Daren Depoy, *Science* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • *Architecture* — Wei Yan • *BUSH* — Laura Dague • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Jean-Phillipe 'JP' Pellois, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Debjyoti Banerjee, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Melissa Grunlan, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, James Kaihatu, Samuel Ma, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Gabriel Eckstein • *Liberal Arts* — Jessica Bernard, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Shannon Glaser, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Jennifer 'Jen' Dulin, Rainer Fries, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile • *SPH* — Gang Han • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Hongjiao Ouyang • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider, Nathan Tichenor • *TTI* — David Bierling, James Kovar, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Sarah Potvin • *Veterinary Medicine* — Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy, Jayanth Ramadoss

The CPI is sponsored annually through funding from Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Update from Dr. Stephen Maren, CPI Chair

There are no Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee or general meetings scheduled for the month July. The upcoming August CPI-EC meetings as well as the August 11, 2021 General CPI Meeting will all be canceled.

CPI is finalizing its annual elections of new CPI Representatives. The 2021-2022 CPI Vice Chair election will be held in the next coming weeks. The August 2021 CPI Newsletter will contain the complete list of newly elected 2021-2022 representatives along with the announcement of the new vice-chair.

As a reminder, I invite you to contact me, Dr. David Stelly, 2020-2021 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.

CPI Contacts—The complete 2020-2021 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021_Membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

NSF issues revised version of their Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide

NSF is pleased to announce that a revised version of the NSF [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 22-1) has been issued.

The new PAPPG will be effective for **proposals submitted or due on or after October 4, 2021**. Significant changes include:

- A new section covering requests for reasonable and accessibility accommodations regarding the proposal process or requests for accessibility accommodations to access NSF's electronic systems, websites and other digital content;
- A table entitled, [NSF Pre-award and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support](#). This table identifies where pre- and post-award current and pending support disclosure information must be provided. Proposers and awardees may begin using this table immediately;
- Increasing the page limit for the biographical sketch from two to three pages;
- Updates to the current and pending support section of NSF proposals to require that information on objectives and overlap with other projects is provided to help NSF and reviewers assess overlap/duplication;
- Adding planning proposals and Career-Life Balance supplemental funding requests as new proposal types;
- Updates to travel proposals will require that AORs certify that prior to the proposer's participation in the meeting for which NSF travel support is being requested, the proposer will assure that the meeting organizer has a written policy or code-of-conduct addressing harassment.

You are encouraged to review the by-chapter summary of changes provided in the Introduction section of the PAPPG.

NSF plans to conduct a webinar covering these changes. Visit the [NSF policy outreach website](#) to sign up for notifications about this and other outreach events.

While this version of the PAPPG becomes effective on October 4, 2021, in the interim, the guidelines contained in the current PAPPG (NSF 20-1) continue to apply

On demand presentations are now available for the NSF Spring 2021 Virtual Grants Conference

The NSF Spring 2021 Virtual Grants Conference was held June 7 to 11, 2021. The slides and the video presentations are available on demand via the NSF website.

The power point presentations are available via the NSF Policy Office Outreach Resource Center website at [Resource Center - NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nsfpolicyoutreach.com\)](https://www.nsf.gov/policy/outreach)

All sessions have been recorded to YouTube and are available on demand at the following link. [Agenda - NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nsfpolicyoutreach.com\)](https://www.nsf.gov/policy/outreach)

The sessions are as follows:

- Introduction and NSF Overview – recommended for anyone new to working with NSF and those wanting to learn some of the background of NSF
- Proposal Preparation
- Award Management
- Proposal and Award Policy Q&A – Audience questions answered by Jean Feldman, head of the NSF policy office
- Merit Review Process – how to keep the proposal from being returned without review, the ad hoc and panel review process and the steps that NSF takes to ensure unbiased reviews
- NSF CAREER Program this will answer many of the questions concerning preparation of a CAREER proposal that are due in July.
- Promoting and Protecting the U.S. Science and Engineering Enterprise – requirements on the disclosure of information of affiliation with foreign institutions

Directorate Overviews

Directorate for Education and Human Resources

Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Directorate for Engineering

Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering

Directorate for Biological Sciences

Directorate for Geosciences

Hanover Research: Higher Education Grant Projections

The following information outlines the projected federal grant competitions of interest to higher education institutions from July to September 2021 (see [here](#) for all previously announced Grant Alerts prospects).

In addition to relevant information about each award, this [grid](#) includes the following:

- Projected submission deadlines (subject to change upon release of funding announcements)

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- Approximate support deadlines for new clients to enlist Hanover's proposal development services for each corresponding funding announcement:
 - Full proposal production - Foundation: 6-8 weeks; Federal: 9-10 weeks;
 - Revision and resubmission consulting - Foundation: 4-6 weeks; Federal: 5-6 weeks; and
 - Proposal Review - Foundation: 2-4 weeks; Federal: 3-4 weeks

As always, your dedicated Content Director and Relationship Director are ready to help with custom research solutions to the challenges you are facing.

To download a PDF of all available grant opportunities, which includes quick links to competition websites, [click here.](#)

NSF Revised FAQs Regarding Current and Pending Support

On June 29, 2021, NSF issued revised [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) Regarding Current and Pending Support](#). These FAQs have been revised for consistency with the newly developed table entitled, [NSF Pre-award and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support](#). Please contact coi@tamu.edu with any questions.

NSF Convergence Accelerator 2021 Expo

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Convergence Accelerator invites you to attend the Convergence Accelerator Expo 2021, scheduled virtually for July 28 – 29, 2021.

This “must-attend” virtual event is an attendee’s opportunity to see unique use-inspired research solutions funded by the NSF Convergence Accelerator. Last year’s inaugural event drew over 1,500 attendees from academia, industry, non-profit, government across 25 countries, and this year’s event is expected to be even larger.

To register for Expo 2021 visit, <https://nsf-ca.vfairs.com/>. Registration is complimentary.

Please see attached PDF flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information.

NIH Faculty Learning Community NIH Ready: R Series

Dates (all sessions 10:00-11:30am)

- Week 1 Preparation July 14
- Week 2 Specific Aims and July 21 Significance
- Week 3 Approach July 28
- Week 4 Mistakes Commonly Made on NIH Submissions August 4

Each week, the zoom sessions from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. will begin with a video from the Meg Bouvier Medical Writing NIH Ready: R Series followed by an open Q&A led by Research Development Services proposal development experts. The Faculty Learning Community format will introduce participants to other faculty learning about NIH as well as research development professionals, in a welcoming environment for open discussion and reflection of the proposal development process.

The videos presented each week will be from the Meg Bouvier Medical Writing NIH R-series designed for those preparing to write an R-series submission for an upcoming grant deadline. This video series, as well

as writing courses for K, P, U, and T32 proposals, and other NIH grantsmanship trainings are available on-demand at no cost to all Texas A&M University researchers through a membership purchased by the Division of Research.

Please see attached PDF flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information.

Nominations for Volunteering on IACUC, IBC, IRB Committees

In regard to discussions during the recent June 9th meeting, PIs interested in volunteering for any of the three committees are welcome and encouraged to submit a nomination form. The three nomination forms (IACUC, IBC, IRB committee forms) can be found attached to the back of the June CPI newsletter. The completed nomination forms should be sent to Kate Goodman, Office of the Vice President for Research, at Mailstop 1112.

Maestro Steering Committee CPI Update

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 VP for Research (Mark Barteau). The Maestro Steering Committee met on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Items of discussion included:

(1) Maestro FY22 Budget Assessment (presented by Jarrett Eisenrich)

FY Budget 2022: \$2,986,040. No major changes from previous year. The bulk of the budget is related to salary. The competition for people with IT backgrounds is getting more difficult and may increase salary needs to hire and retain them in the following years. Anticipate rapidly rising costs for personnel in this area.

(2) Budget Forecasting Phase 1 Roadmap (presented by Mohammad Al-Banna)

On-going project. Build a budget forecasting module that can be run on premise, on cloud, or hybrid mode. Working on team skills to ensure utilization of the state of the art technology for the project. Working on the environment setup design to allow move to any cloud system by using an open source. Currently working on integration and security aspects with existing Maestro modules. Portfolio and forecast management phases will be starting in June (work with designers to develop this portion). Entire system for Phase 1 is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

(3) Budget Forecasting Requirements Discussion (presented by Tamara Lopez)

Could the proposal budget be used to forecast? More than 50% of award budgets differ from proposal budgets. Proposal budgets include to-be-named personnel but forecasting requires actual personnel to be effective. Cumulative cuts/increases imposed by sponsor upon award or reallocations after the award. Therefore, this may not be effective. Therefore, looked at existing screens in MAESTRO, like the anticipated funding screen to see if it could fill this need. Anticipated funding screen might allow for budget categories to be identified rather than just total for future years. Possibly able to tie personnel forecasting to Workday future years entries. Trying to prevent double-entry, which would require end-date to be entered for each person paid on research project in Workday.

Other potential solutions: Budget reallocation feature to allow PI to request budget category reallocations to SRS Project Administration in Maestro, or system to auto perform Terms and Conditions checks for sponsor for budget restrictions, if any – like certain % of funds, no restrictions, etc. Also, looking at post budget reallocations in FAMIS from Maestro to make it more efficient and streamlined.

(4) Maestro Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (presented by Leonarda Horvat)

Strategic Plan provides RIS Goals and objectives within each Goal. The next project on the priority list is to address Cost Sharing Tracking System, followed by looking at TAMU Research Metrics. Budget Development System is also forthcoming.

(5) Status Monitoring Report (presented by Leonarda Horvat)

Improvements – Sponsored Billing Project is completed and works smoothly; working through System members to get everyone using it. Added COVID-19 related expenses field to account screens. Enhancements to Proposal Quality Control Process will go live later this month.

Reviewed by Leonarda Horvat, Director, Research Information Systems, TAMU.

Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee (and to the Budget Forecasting Leadership Committee): Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu) and Kerri Gehring (kbgehring@tamu.edu)

NIH Announcing New Inbox for Inquiries Related to Changes to Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page

Do you have Questions related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates? With the focus on foreign influence there has been a lot of discussion and some confusion on what needs to be reported and on which document.

NIH has created a central email inbox for inquiries related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates in response to the high volume of inquiries received. Please send inquiries related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates to nihosbiosketch@nih.gov

NIH encourages the research community to review the currently available resources related to this effort:

Updated Biosketch resources, including FAQs and sample Biosketch format pages can be found [here](#).

Updated Other Support resources, including FAQs and sample Other Support format pages can be found [here](#).

Availability of Slides and Videos from May 2021 Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) held their latest meeting virtually in May 2021. The presentation slides and videos are available at the following link:

[May 2021 Meeting - The Federal Demonstration Partnership \(thefdp.org\)](https://www.thefdp.org/2021/05/2021-meeting/)

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a cooperative initiative among 10 federal agencies and 217 institutional recipients of federal funds whose purpose is to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts. The interaction between FDP's 450 or so university and federal representatives takes place in FDP's 3 annual meetings and, more extensively, in the many collaborative working groups and task forces that meet often by conference calls in order to develop specific work products

Responsible Conduct of Research- Summer 2021 Workshops

Texas A&M University SAP <https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/15.99.99.M0.04> requires certain graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to complete four hours of face-to-face training regarding Responsible Conduct of Research training. Workshop information, including registration links, may be found at: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/responsible-conduct-of-research/workshop-information> .

COVID Report Form

Reminder, there is a new online COVID Report Form that should be utilized if you are reporting information on individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Utilize this link:

<https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=4HAMAH98D>

If you are reporting on another individual, please remember to keep all information strictly confidential.

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The Division of Research has implemented a brand new 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>. The limited submission office will be phasing in the portal as new limited submission opportunities arise. If you have any questions, please contact limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu or Shelly Martin at 979-862-2233.

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, see the one-pager included in this edition of the CPI newsletter, click [here](#), or contact Dr. Candice Jongsma (cjongsma@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.



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This “must-attend” virtual event is an attendee’s opportunity to see unique use-inspired research solutions funded by the NSF Convergence Accelerator. During the event, you will have the opportunity to connect with our funded research teams and see live solution demos every 15 minutes across five research tracks, as well as network with other researchers, innovators, and business and technical practitioners from academia, industry, government, non-profit, and other communities of practice.

Featured Research Track Topics

- AI-Driven Data Sharing & Modeling
- Future of Work
- Open Knowledge Networks
- Quantum Technology
- Special Topic: EcoManufacturing



Who Should Attend

Expo 2021 is open to the public and media, but we are encouraging researchers, innovators, and tech and business practitioners from academia, industry, government, non-profits, and other communities to attend.

Registration

To register for Expo 2021 visit, nsf-ca.vfairs.com. Registration is complimentary.



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Register Here: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3sctk7ucw5Z4jDU



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Division of Research