
CPI Newsletter – June 2019

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2018-19 CPI roster: Chair — David Threadgill, *Veterinary Medicine* • Vice Chair — Darren DePoy, *Science* • Past Chair — Penny Riggs, *COALS* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter • *AgriLife Research* — Michael Brewer, Ambika Chandra, Lee Tarpley • *Architecture* — Ergun Akleman • *Bush School* — Kent Portney • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Pierson, David Stelly, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Oi-Man Kwok, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Jorge Alvarado, Ulisses Braga-Neto, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Zach Grasley, Melissa Grunlan, Sheng-Jen ‘Tony’ Hsieh, Jodie Lutkenhaus, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Alejandro Orsi, Pamela Plotkin, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Susan Fortney • *Liberal Arts* — Sandra Braman, Steve Maren, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Vytas Bankaitis, Kayla Bayless, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Michael Hall, Christian Hilty, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile • *SPH* — Mark Benden • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Jay Groppe • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Bruce Herbert • *Veterinary Medicine* — Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Jay Ramadoss

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Update from Dr. David Threadgill, CPI Chair

June CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators June 5, 2019. Michael O’Quinn, Vice President for Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives, provided us with a state legislative update, with the current session just ending. Michael noted this is one of the best years yet for Texas A&M, but commented that nothing is set in stone until after the veto period which is June 16, 2019. Discussions on the proposed enhancing on-campus student employment was discussed during the meeting, and the impacts it potentially could have within research labs. CPI-EC will be meeting early next week with this steering committee to discuss the impacts.

Further discussions during the CPI-EC June meeting were updates on Sponsored Research Services (SRS). SRS will be providing CPI an update and opportunities to learn and utilize Cayuse at the August 14, 2019 General Meeting. The Human Subjects regulations was discussed and is being revised to make consistent with the new Common Rule. See the update at the end of this June newsletter. Costas Georghiades discussed round two of X-Grants, indicating there were 72 PIs involved in the application process and that there was board department representation. There will be a distribution going out regarding the X-Grants soon. Costas also announced that Darren DePoy has been appointed chair of the President's Excellence Fund Steering Committee. Narasimha Reddy provided a TEES update to the CPI-EC and commented that they are working jointly with the Army Futures Command, with more to come in the future as they are still in the planning stages. TEES/TAMU is working with the University of Texas on the autonomous vehicles project.

CPI Contacts – The complete 2018-19 roster of CPI Representatives and the executive committee can be found on the CPI website at http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/18-19_membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#). Thank you to all the CPI representatives who have served as representatives for PIs during the past year.

The CPI-EC continues to meet with President Young and Provost Fierke each month in order to keep PIs informed. The CPI-EC also meets with Chancellor Sharp every other month. If there are items of concern that impact the research environment, we would like to hear from you. All PIs are encouraged to communicate with their representatives to bring forward items of concern or interest for the research community. Please continue to bring research-related issues (and solutions) to my attention at CPI@tamu.edu.

Reminder: There will not be a July general meeting. The next CPI General meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, 2019, Rudder 601. The newly elected CPI Representatives for 2019 are invited to join the currently elected CPI Representatives.

Contact Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu or 979.862.9166, for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

AAALAC Site Visit – June 11-14

Site visitors from AAALAC International will be visiting the Bryan/College Station portion of Texas A&M University’s animal program June 11-14, 2019. 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. The visit excludes those protocols, activities and locations solely associated with the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences. Additional information as to the schedule and timing of the site visit will be shared with the animal research and teaching community as the site visit becomes closer. For questions, call 979-845-1828 or email animalcompliance@tamu.edu.

UPDATE to NSF Biographical Sketch:

Synergistic Activities –The synergistic activities required within the biographical sketch should include up to five distinct examples that demonstrate the broader impact of the individual’s professional and scholarly activities that focuses on the integration and transfer of knowledge as well as its creation. *NSF warns that these should be limited to five specific examples; not five bullets listing a variety of items (i.e. presentations, awards, etc.)* See link for example:

https://www.nsf.gov/bio/bioac/members/bio_sketch/Raymond_NSF_Biographical_Sketch.pdf

Export Controls Update: Five Technologies Added to the Commerce Control List

United States export control regulations are continually evolving in response to new technologies and changing threats. On May 23, 2019, the Bureau of Industry and Security (“BIS”) published a final rule on “emerging technologies” that adds new controls on these items found in the Commerce Control List (“CCL”). Specifically, this rule adds discrete microwave transistors (a major component of wideband semiconductors), continuity of operation software, post-quantum cryptography, underwater transducers designed to operate as hydrophones, and air-launch platforms. This recent change illustrates the importance of being aware of export controls and consulting with the Export Controls Office prior to engaging in international activities including, travel, shipping, visiting scholars, and collaborations. The Export Controls Office will guide faculty and staff through the applicable regulations and determine if an export license is required for a given activity. Please contact the Export Controls Office at 979.862.6419 or exportcontrols@tamu.edu with any questions.

Draft Updates to University Rule on Human Subjects Research

University Rule 15.99.01.M1 Human Subjects in Research is in the process of being updated. Proposed revisions are intended to simplify the rule with a focus on roles and responsibilities. Feedback on draft revisions may be provided to Rebecca Luckey, CPI Coordinator at cpi@tamu.edu by July 1, 2019. See attached Word file or PDF link: [RULE HUMAN 15.99.01.M1 \(ver 6-4-19\) CPI Review.pdf](#).

Animal Welfare Office (AWO): Tips to Avoid Delays in the Award Process

The AWO would like to remind PIs to add new funding and associated activities to the AUP to avoid delays in the award process. It should be noted that the AUP must be amended, and the amendment request approved by the IACUC, before implementing modifications to animal studies or activities. This applies to both funded and unfunded activities. For any questions, contact the Animal Welfare Office at 979.8451828.

Guidance – Foreign Influence in Research

This information below was distributed via Distribution List A on Monday, June 10, 2019, sent on behalf of Carol A. Fierke, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Mark A. Barteau, Vice President for Research. Wanted to ensure the CPI Community received this notice, so forwarding within the CPI Newsletter.

Members of the Texas A&M research community:

Texas A&M University supports academic freedom and the ability of researchers and scholars to communicate, exchange ideas and collaborate with the brightest minds in the world to advance knowledge and the application of that knowledge to benefit the nation and the world. Texas A&M has a long history of

supporting cooperation and collaboration with global partners and welcomes students, faculty and researchers from all over the world.

There have been growing concerns expressed by federal agencies that support research, federal intelligence and security agencies, Congress and the administration about systematic programs by some foreign governments to unduly influence and capitalize on U.S. taxpayer funded research to obtain a competitive advantage in critical areas of research and innovation. We want to ensure these matters are brought to your attention as the federal agencies work to update regulations and policies to support protection of critical technologies, controlled information and intellectual property, and to limit undue influence, including through foreign talent programs by countries seeking to exploit U.S. technology.

NIH has expressed specific concerns about:

- Diversion of intellectual property in grant applications or produced by NIH supported biomedical research to other entities, including other countries;
- Sharing of confidential information on grant applications by NIH peer reviewers with others, including foreign entities, or otherwise attempting to influence funding decisions; and
- Failure by some researchers working at NIH-funded institutions in the U.S. to disclose substantial resources from other organizations, including foreign governments, which threatens to distort decisions about the appropriate use of NIH funds.

NIH has reminded the research community that it is required to disclose all forms of support and financial interests via other and pending support in proposals and significant financial disclosure processes. Focus is on improved compliance with respect to mandatory reporting of all sources of research support, financial interests and relevant affiliations, as well as steps to reduce risk to intellectual property security.

NSF shares the same serious concerns with respect to NSF supported basic and applied research. NSF expects principal investigators and senior personnel to list any activity that provides funding for their work and/or a commitment of time by the individual in the same manner as listed above for NIH.

Given these heightened sensitivities:

Be Transparent

- Be thorough and complete in disclosures to sponsors. Check your sponsor's current disclosure requirements carefully, including disclosure requirements related to foreign travel and collaborations involving foreign sites. If in doubt, disclose to the sponsor.

Below are links to NIH and NSF guidance materials. Other federal sponsors may have different requirements. You should check the specific funding opportunity announcement and relevant agency grant policies for individual applications and review/update support documentation.

NIH: [Other Support](#)

NIH: [Biosketch Format, Instructions and Samples](#)

PHS: [Promoting Objectivity in Research](#)

NSF: [Current and Pending Support](#)

NSF: [Biographical Sketch\(es\) – Synergistic Activities](#)

NSF: [Collaborations and Other Affiliations](#)

- Be thorough and complete in disclosures to the University. If in doubt, disclose.

Disclose all research related Significant Financial Interests, including stipends, living expenses, payments and travel reimbursements received from foreign governments and institutions.

See, <https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/COI>

Disclose outside professional activities and financial relationships, whether compensated or uncompensated. Such disclosures must include all work for, or financial interests received from, a foreign institution of higher education or the government or quasi-governmental organization of another country.

See, <http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/31.05.01.M1.pdf>
<http://policies.tamus.edu/31-05.pdf>
<http://policies.tamus.edu/31-05-01.pdf> and
<http://policies.tamus.edu/31-05-02.pdf>

Comply with Export Controls

- Export control laws and regulations are complex and subject to frequent change. Individuals who are traveling internationally and attending conferences; participating in international collaborations; using proprietary information; working with international staff or students; hosting international visitors; shipping or carrying items or materials internationally; or engaging in international transactions must comply with export control requirements.

Consult with the Export Controls Office if you have any questions about export controls.

See, <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls>

Follow University Processes When Hosting Visiting Scholars

- Be sure that individuals are properly vetted, and that their access to space and systems is appropriate for the proposed work.
- Be diligent in evaluating the nature of any visiting collaborators: visitors with extended stays, or who do not have the appropriate background for the anticipated research activity, must be carefully scrutinized.

See, <https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/visiting-scholars-program>

Disclose Intellectual Property and Take Steps to Protect Intellectual Property, Data and Materials

- Promptly disclose intellectual property to the Office of Technology Commercialization (TTC).

See, <http://techtransfer.tamu.edu/ForInventors/DisclosingInventions.shtml>

- Depending on the nature of the research, formal agreements may be necessary when sharing materials or data with other institutions, foreign or otherwise. Examples of such agreements include material transfer agreements (MTA), data use agreements (DUA) and nondisclosure agreements (NDA) to govern use of those materials, data or information. Having an agreement in place also affords the University the ability to complete all required internal controls and checks. For guidance, contact Texas A&M's Office of Research Administration at negotiations@tamu.edu.

Also see, <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.03.pdf>

Maintain Confidentiality in the Peer Review Process

- When serving on NIH, NSF or other federal agency scientific peer review panels, note and comply with all requirements to maintain the confidentiality of the information in research grant applications. Never share information gained through peer review processes—whether reviewing grant applications or publications. This information is confidential.

We want to emphasize our commitment to our existing and future international collaborations and research. Texas A&M supports academic freedom and is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living and working environment for all members of the University community.

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The list of current Limited Submission Proposal (LSP) opportunities, maintained by the Division of Research, is available at <https://u.tamu.edu/LSP>. To receive notifications about new LSP opportunities as soon as they are announced, email Ms. Shelly Martin at shelly.martin@tamu.edu.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University 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.