
CPI Newsletter – March 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

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. David Threadgill, CPI Chair

March CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on March 6, 2019. Discussions during the March meeting were updates on the X-Grants process; Dr. Barteau provided CPI-EC with an update on international collaborations. CPI-EC then discussed the upcoming CPI subcommittee workgroups that will be presenting their recommendations to each of the agency leaders at the April CPI General Meeting to be held April 10, 2019, Rudder 601.

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: The April CPI General meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, 2019, Rudder 601.

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

NIH Specific Aims Writing Clinic

When: March 27, April 17; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Where: HPEB LL43B

About: Participants in this three-meeting series will edit and refine their NIH Specific Aims section, which is the foundation of any successful NIH grant application. Participants should plan to attend all three meetings. At the initial meeting, a panel of experienced NIH study section members will conduct a mock peer review of the Specific Aims of three participants selected at random. In meetings two and three, participants will “pair-and-share” their draft and revised Specific Aims sections, respectively, to give and receive peer feedback. RDS staff will coordinate the meetings and will provide critiques on proposal documents.

Register: By 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019 at <https://u.tamu.edu/SAC-Spring19>. Please also email a copy of your Specific Aims page and biosketch to Christina Howard.

Contact: Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, c-howard@tamu.edu
Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, seyre@tamu.edu

President’s Excellence Fund Symposium

When: April 4; 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Frymire Auditorium, Walter and Leonore Annenberg Presidential Conference Center

About: The Symposium will kick off with keynote speaker Cecilia Conrad, managing director, 100&Change, MacArthur Fellows, and the MacArthur Awards for Creative and Effective Institutions, and Chief Executive Officer, Lever for Change, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, presenting “Inspiring Creativity and Bold Solutions.” T3 poster presentations will be held in Room 1011 B and C from 12:00-1:30 pm, and X-Grant presentations will run from 1:30 pm-5:00 p.m. Parking is available in Lot 43.

Link: For additional information, see <https://vpr.tamu.edu/pef>.

Export Controls Designated Liaison Network–Update

The University's Export Control Designated Liaison Network consists of TAMU offices with responsibility for administering components of TAMU's export control compliance program. The department/unit representatives coordinate with the Export Controls Office on export control compliance. Representatives from the AgriLife and TEES Export Control offices also participate. The group meets on a periodic basis to discuss export control issues of concern, ensure coordination of compliance efforts, assist each other on developing enhancements to existing processes and procedures, and to share training resources and best practices. Mr. Ray VanNorman (Raylandc@tamu.edu), the Director of the TAMU Export Controls Office (exportcontrols@tamu.edu), is the Facilitator of the Network.

In addition to representatives of TAMU offices with responsibility for administering components of the export control compliance program, faculty representation through the CPI was requested for the group. The faculty representatives do not serve as department/unit designated liaisons but do provide input to the group from a faculty perspective.

Some notes from the February 28 meeting:

- 1) Meeting was chaired by Lesa Feldhousen.
- 2) **Department of Commerce – Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)** had previously issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting comments on criteria for identifying emerging technologies that are essential to U.S. national security. As an update, BIS received many comments, and several of those stressed the importance of maintaining the fundamental research exclusion; BIS plans to follow up with another ANPRM on “foundational technologies.” BIS has not given a timeline for this; however, the Export Controls Office will update as they know more.
- 3) **Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS)** includes members of the Department of Defense, State, Commerce, and recently Homeland Security. They are authorized to review certain transactions involving foreign investment in the U.S. There is a pilot program that expands CFIUS' jurisdiction to cover additional transactions that it had no authority over previously. This includes minority investments by foreign persons in U.S. businesses that develop critical technologies in 27 designated industries. Their primary concern is to ensure that technology or funds from an acquired U.S. business are not transferred to a sanctioned country. The major change here is that previously, this was a voluntary review. Now, the review is mandatory if certain critical technologies are involved. CFIUS acknowledged that this process is still so new that they don't know the impact yet; however, hope to within the next 6-12 months.
- 4) **Foreign Talent Program (FTP)**: On February 1, 2019, DOE announced a new policy prohibiting DOE federal and contractor personnel from participating in talent recruitment programs sponsored by countries determined by DOE to be seeking to exploit our scientific and technological expertise. It should be noted that while DOE has not clarified, there is a concern that “contractor personnel” may include grant recipients. The Export Controls Office will update as soon as this is clarified. DOD is also working to strengthen their policy on FTPs.
- 5) **Foreign Influence on NIH funded research**: NIH has expressed concern that some employees, including grant recipients, may be receiving benefits from foreign entities and not reporting them. HHS, OIG, DOJ, and the FBI are now looking into this issue.
- 6) **Huawei Corporate Entities**: Possible ban on specific equipment (certain 5G pieces).
- 7) **TAMU International Shipping Survey**: 115 responses were received. The Export Controls Office is reviewing the responses, and will identify ways to provide updated guidance to departments.

Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu), AgriLife Research, Beaumont; off-campus representative

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.