
CPI Newsletter – March 2022

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2021-22 CPI roster: Chair — David Stelly, *COALS* • Vice Chair — Debjyoti Banerjee, *Engineering* • Past Chair — Steve Maren, *Liberal Arts* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • *Architecture* — Wei Yan • *Bush School* — Laura Dague • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Jean-Phillipe 'JP' Pellois, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, Paul Straight, Aaron Tarone • *Dentistry* — Hongjiao Ouyang • *Education* — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Raymundo Arroyave, Theodora Chaspari, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, James Kaihatu, Samuel Ma, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Daniel Thornton • *Law* — Felix Mormann • *Liberal Arts* — Jessica Bernard, 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 Guermont, Wenshe Liu • *Public Health* — Gang Han • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMU at Qatar* — Konstantinos Kakosimos • *TEES* — Dean Schneider, Nathan Tichenor • *TTI* — David Bierling, James Kovar, 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. David Stelly, CPI Chair

March CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with the administrators on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. CPI-EC heard informative updates and resources Dr. Henry Fadamiro on AgriLife. Also Drs. Costas Georgiades, Jorja Kimball, Candice Jongsma, and Laurie Garton shared services and resources that are available to PIs within the Research Development Services Unit within the Division of Research. Research Development Services will share their information to the broader community during the March 9, CPI General Meeting.

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 \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/cpi/2021-2022-Council-Membership). Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

CPI's Collaborative Leadership in the Creation of the GREAT Program- Dr. Stephen Maren, Past CPI Chair

The CPI applauds the TAMU administration for implementing the **Graduate Recruitment Enhancement and Travel (GREAT)** (<https://tinyurl.com/4jyj4am3>) program. In so doing, it makes a major, multi-year commitment to graduate education, recruiting elite graduate students and elevating our institutional competitiveness. In FY20-21, the CPI Executive Committee discussed the dependence of our institution's reputation on PI-led research and the major degree to which success of the research hinges on our graduate students.

Although COVID-related matters dominated many of our discussions with institutional administration during the difficult pandemic year (2020-21), the CPI-EC put forth the idea of "upping our game" in recruiting elite graduate students in discussions with Chancellor Sharp, Interim President Junkins and President Banks, Vice President for Research Mark Barteau and Interim Vice President for Research Jack Baldauf, and the Dean of the Graduate and Professional School Karen Butler-Purry. The GREAT program that was recently announced, promises to be a "game changer" in the recruitment of outstanding, diverse graduate students to TAMU. It will incentivize efforts to secure extramural funding by both individual students (external fellowships) and graduate programs (training grants) and help grow the research funding portfolio of the University. It also enhances the stability of support for graduate students who successfully compete for external funding.

We encourage all PIs to review the GREAT PROGRAM, hope that the CPI membership is as excited as we are about this outstanding new opportunity to augment the graduate training experience at TAMU/S.

Announcing the GREAT Program

The Graduate and Professional School is excited to announce the Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement and Travel (GREAT) Program. The GREAT Program provides funding to supplement external national fellowships (multi-year and dissertation), federal training grants, and federal research grant supplements promoting diversity, as well as to cover travel expenses for prospective fellows to visit our campus. The attached two-pager provides a brief summary of the program components.

Through the GREAT Program, we will better position ourselves to attract elite graduate students to Texas A&M graduate and professional programs by offering funding for national fellows and trainees that is

competitive with the nation's top graduate schools. We have developed a flyer (attached) to use in advertising this program to prospective graduate students. For future use, the flyer is located on our website at grad.tamu.edu/GREAT-Flyer.

For more details or a list of fellowships, training grant programs, and federal research grant supplements that are eligible for GREAT Program funding, visit grad.tamu.edu/GREAT. For questions about the program, email GREAT@tamu.edu. Please see the attached flyers at the end of the newsletter.

AnSRS4u Presentation – Intellectual Property Considerations in Sponsored Research

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host an AnSRS4u presentation on Intellectual Property Considerations in Sponsored Research, **Thursday March 24, 2022 10:00am - 11:30am**. This presentation will cover the types of intellectual property commonly generated when conducting sponsored research and some of the pitfalls to be aware of. Federal requirements for the disclosing and reporting of intellectual property will be discussed.

Presenters will be as follows:

- Mark Kelley, Intellectual Property Attorney, TAMUS Office of General Counsel
- Janie Hurley, Program Director, AgriLife Intellectual Property and Commercialization
- Travis Young, Assistant Director, TAMU Sponsored Research Services

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 be 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 these 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: Mar 24, 2022 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrcuqvjrj0tHdEbMXvd3qFDkvZih-Efhiyu](https://tamu.zoom.us/join/https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrcuqvjrj0tHdEbMXvd3qFDkvZih-Efhiyu)

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

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AnSRS4u Presentation – SRS Update/Metrics/Accomplishments - available on demand

The latest AnSRS4u presentation SRS Update/Metrics/Accomplishments that was held on February 23, 2022 is now available via the SRS website at under the Resources tab at [AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](http://AnSRS4U-SponsoredResearchServices.tamu.edu)

The recording of the presentation as well as the presentation slides can be accessed. The recording and slides give many key metrics of the various SRS function areas. Also included are SRS professional development and outreach initiatives and Maestro 2021 accomplishments and current projects.

AnSRS4u Express – New video on the TAMU Limited Proposal Submission Process

A short 5-minute video on the TAMU limited proposal submission process is the latest SRS AnSRS4u Express video available from the SRS website at [AnSRS4U Express – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](#). This video walks you through the TAMU limited submission process that is managed by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Many funding agencies issue funding opportunity announcements that limit the number of applications they will accept from an institution. Texas A&M University, working in partnership with The Texas A&M University System research agencies has established a process to identify limited submission funding opportunities and internally select applicants to submit full proposals in response to a particular program. More information on the process can be found at [InfoReady Review \(infoready4.com\)](#)

SRS 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

AnSRS4u Presentation – FCOI and Foreign Influence - available on demand

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research hosted an AnSRS4u presentation on Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) and Foreign Influence. The presenter was Lesa Feldhousen, Executive Director, Conflict of Interest and Responsible Conduct of Research. This session covered what is FCOI, conflict of commitment and foreign influence. The presentation explained the reporting requirements for these areas and the disclosure process.

This presentation is now available to view on demand via the SRS website under the Resources tab at [AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](#). Faculty are encouraged to view this presentation to learn more about FCOI, conflict of commitment and federal agency disclosure requirements for foreign influence.

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:

- March 10th (In-person)
- April 22nd (Virtual)

For more information OR to register, [please visit our website.](#)

2022 SBIR/STTR Workshop Series

Our second annual SBIR/STTR workshop series, co-hosted by Innovation Partners, TEES Office for Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, and Research Development Services of Texas A&M University's Division of Research, will bring together experts internal and external to Texas A&M to provide an

introduction to the program, help those interested discern whether to submit a proposal, and cover key items in crafting successful proposals. This year's event will again offer a Q&A panel featuring A&M faculty who have previously received SBIR or STTR awards and conclude with a special topics session for university start-ups and a networking reception. We hope you will join us!

This year's event will be offered in-person and online. Event details and registration are available now [on our website](#). Attend individual sessions or purchase an all-access pass to attend every session.

- March 29, 2022 - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, Rudder #701 or virtual
- March 30, 2022 - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, Rudder #701 or virtual
- April 5, 2022 - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, Rudder #701 or virtual
- April 6, 2022 - 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, Rudder #701 or virtual
- April 6, 2022 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm, A&M Hotel and Conference Center, in person only
(Following final session, there will be a Closing Networking Reception, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm, A&M Hotel and Conference Center)

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
- How to avoid the biggest start-up mistakes

Guidance on Salary Limitation for NIH Awards

NIH announcement NOT-OD-22-076 released on February 10, 2022 provides guidance on the salary cap on NIH awards which is limited to the current Executive Level II of the Federal Executive Pay Scale. At this time, NIH has not received an FY 2022 appropriation and is operating under a Continuing Resolution that applies the terms and conditions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

The Office of Personnel Management released new salary levels for the Executive Pay Scale and effective January 2, 2022, the salary limitation for Executive Level II is \$203,700.

Grant applicants and contract offerors can use the new salary limitation for Executive Level II of \$203,700 when preparing grant applications and contract proposals. Recipients may rebudget funds to accommodate the current Executive Level II salary level if adequate funds are available in active awards and the salary cap increase is consistent with the institutional base salary.

The full text of the announcement is available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-076.html>

Cayuse Proposal (S2S) Software Learning Session is available on demand

On February 3, 2022 SRS held an informational session for researchers on Cayuse Proposals. This session was recorded and is now available via the SRS website at [Cayuse Proposals \(S2S\) – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](#). The “review the prerecorded session [here](#) link” will take you to the recording.

Cayuse Proposals is a tool that is designed for administrators and/or researchers to use for the preparation of proposals.

SRS will be providing quarterly information sessions for researchers via Zoom to offer guidance on the use of Cayuse Proposals. Sessions will be held the following days/times in 2022.

If you are interested in signing up for one of the sessions below, please select the desired date/time below and complete the registration.

- [Thursday, May 5, 2022 10:00-11:30am](#)
- [Thursday, August 4, 2022 10:00-11:30am](#)
- [Thursday, November 3, 2022 10:00-11:30am](#)

If the established dates or times do not work for an individual, we can accommodate personalized sessions. **Below is the link for participants/attendees to submit questions before the session.**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=44HzaNpGuUe6V28yK48NodgsgBcEC_hAqkij23uJXahUMVJHUVhJWjMxQUhFV0pJU1FVVDVRQVFLVC4u

Research Compliance Updates, March 2022

The Division of Research has several Research Compliance updates to share with the PI community for March. These compliance updates can be found at the back of the newsletter in a PDF format and include hyperlinks for each of the updates for additional information.

Elimination of USDA Annual Continuing Review Requirement for Regulated Species

Effective December 27, 2021 the USDA no longer requires the IACUC to conduct annual continuing reviews of activities. Instead, the USDA now requires a complete review of approved activities every three years (see, [USDA APHIS | FAQs: AWA Research Facility Registration Updates, Reviews, and Reports](#)). Principal Investigators performing research, teaching or testing that falls under the Animal Welfare Act are now no longer required to submit a Continuing Review annually in iRIS.

There are no changes to the three-year expiration/complete review process for continuing projects. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sponsored Research Services (SRS) Webpage for Sponsor Updates

Trying to recall the latest format for NIH biographical sketch or trying to find that SRS email about a sponsor update? SRS has made it easier to locate these items. On the SRS website under the resources tab [SRS Updates – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](#) is the SRS Updates page. Timely and pertinent information from various sponsors will be posted. Any changes to SRS internal processes and related TAMU requirements that affect researcher will be found here. Bookmark this page and view it often to avail yourself of the latest information.

New DOE Conflict of Interest Policy

On December 20, 2021, DOE issued Financial Assistance Letter FAL 2022-02 to implement the DOE Interim Conflict of Interest Policy requirements for Financial Assistance. It was effective upon issuance.

The interim policy requires each Investigator who is planning to participate in the DOE award to disclose the Investigator's significant financial interests (and those of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children) no later than the time of proposal for the DOE award. Disclosures must be made at least annually, thereafter, and within 30 days of acquiring a new significant financial interest.

Finally, the DOE interim policy requires Investigator complete COI training prior to engaging in projects related to any DOE financial assistance award and at least every four years.

Fortunately, to minimize the implementation burden on non-Federal entities, the interim COI policy is largely aligned with the long-standing conflict of interest regulations established by the Public Health Service at 42 CFR part 50, Subpart F. TAMU Researchers should follow the current process for FCOI reporting.

NIH Biosketch Form Update

Effective January 25, 2022, for NIH Proposals submitted on or after this date- Use NIH Form G for the Biosketch:

A main change for the Biosketch format for type (R) research applications is that there is no longer a Section D. Research Support. The information previously captured in that section has been moved to Section A. Personal Statement.

Below are NIH links regarding the changes to the Biosketch:

- [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples | grants.nih.gov](#)
- [application-guide-biosketch-instructions-rev-06-28-2021.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Other Support includes *all* resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their research endeavors, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value and regardless of whether they are based at the institution the researcher identifies for the current grant.

Updated Requirements for Recipients ([NOT-OD-21-073](#)): Main changes are as follows:

- Note the requirement for Principal Investigators and Senior/Key personnel to sign and date the form
- Supporting documentation, which includes copies of contracts/agreements specific to senior/key-personnel foreign appointments and/or employment with a foreign institution for all foreign activities and resources that are reported in Other Support. If the contracts/agreements are not in English, recipients must provide translated copies.

Not sure whether a particular activity should be reported in the biosketch, other support, or annual project reports? Check out this new resource – [NIH Pre-award and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support.](#)

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

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.

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.

Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement, And Travel (GREAT) Program

The **Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement, and Travel (GREAT) Program** provides supplemental funding to eligible: (i) nationally competitive external fellowships awarded to students, (ii) federal training grant fellowships awarded to faculty or departments, and (iii) federal research grant supplements awarded to faculty to promote diversity. Also, the **GREAT program provides travel awards** for faculty to bring high-achieving prospective doctoral students to campus who may have received or would be competitive for nationally competitive external fellowships. The goal of this program is to elevate Texas A&M's national competitiveness in attracting high achieving students.

GRADUATE SUPPLEMENTS

Doctoral students, faculty, and graduate programs are strongly encouraged to seek funding from sources external to Texas A&M University. Annual graduate "top-off" supplements will be provided to encourage this activity and amplify its impact. The goal of the supplements is to provide a full funding package for eligible nationally competitive dissertation and multi-year external fellowships, federal training grants, and federal research grant supplements promoting diversity. A full funding package annually includes a monthly stipend of at least \$3,000 per month or up to the monthly amount of the fellowship/training grant stipend if greater than \$3,000 per month, funding for full tuition and required university and college fees, 12 months of student health insurance, and a \$1,500 scholarship for professional development opportunities, conference travel, research travel, books, etc.

Doctoral Student Expectations:

Doctoral students receiving the supplements must participate in research leadership (e.g., Aggie Research Program) and mentoring (e.g., TAMU Graduate Mentoring Academy) development programs.

Faculty/ Research Advisor Expectations:

Faculty / Research advisors will be strongly encouraged to participate in the TAMU Graduate Mentoring Academy or the TAMU Faculty Mentoring Academy program.

Category I: Supplements for external fellowships awarded directly to individual students

When Texas A&M doctoral students compete successfully for highly competitive external fellowships like the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP), National Institutes of Health F31 Predoctoral Fellowship, and Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, the graduate supplements will provide full funding packages for up to five years.

Supplements will fund **external fellowships** as described below:

- Is a nationally competitive, prestigious fellowship which is open to students in multiple fields or a single field of study.
- Dissertation fellowships – one to two years, significant funding (at least \$2,000/month)
- Other fellowships – typically multi-year, significant funding (at least \$2,000/month)

View the list of eligible fellowships on the [GREAT Program](#) webpage. Please note that the listing of external fellowships is not comprehensive. Contact the Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional School to discuss possible eligibility of an external fellowship that is not included on the list.

Funding conditions:

- For external fellowships with five years of stipend funding, the supplements will top off fellowship funding to ensure the fellowship recipient receives a full funding package for up to five years.
- For multi-year external fellowships with less than five years of stipend funding, the supplements will top off fellowship funding in years of active fellowship funding, and faculty, department, or college assistantship or fellowship funding in other years to ensure the fellowship recipient receives a full funding package for up to five years.

- For one- to two-year dissertation fellowships, the supplements will top off fellowship funding to ensure the fellowship recipient receives a full funding package for the duration of the fellowship tenure.

Category II: Supplements for federal training grants awarded to faculty or graduate programs

When faculty or graduate programs compete successfully for federal training grants like National Institutes of Health (NIH) T32 predoctoral training grant, Department of Education (DoE) Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) grant, USDA National Needs Graduate Fellowship (NNF), or National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT), the graduate supplements will ensure the doctoral trainees receive full funding packages for up to five years.

Supplements will top off training grant funding in year(s) of active training grant stipend funding, and faculty, department, or college assistantship or fellowship funding in other years to ensure the training grant recipient receives a full funding package for up to five years.

Category III: Supplements for federal research grants awarded to faculty to promote diversity

When faculty secure research supplements for federal research grants to promote diversity like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Admin Supp), National Science Foundation MPS Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate: Graduate Research Supplements (AGEP-GRS), or National Science Foundation MPS Graduate Research Supplement for Veterans (MPS-GRSV), the graduate supplements will top off the federal research grant supplement funding to ensure the doctoral recipient receives a full funding package during the years that the student receives the federal research grant supplement funding.

RECRUITMENT TRAVEL AWARDS

To actively recruit prospective doctoral students who have received external fellowships or prospective doctoral students who would be great candidates for nationally competitive external fellowships, the **GREAT program provides** \$1,000 travel awards for faculty to bring such students for campus visits. The prospective doctoral students should be in their last year of undergraduate studies or master's studies.

GREAT PROGRAM WEBSITE

Visit the [GREAT program](#) web page for additional information.

Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement, And Travel (GREAT) Program

The GREAT Program provides supplemental funding for Texas A&M doctoral students with multi-year national fellowships to create financial packages competitive with the nation's top universities.



Supplements combined with fellowship funding would provide, for up to five years, total packages consisting of:

- | \$3,000 monthly stipend
- | Full tuition and required university and college fees
- | Student health insurance
- | Annual \$1,500 scholarship for professional development
- | Participation in research leadership and mentoring development programs

#6 in the nation

for the number of doctoral degrees earned

#5 in Life Sciences

#11 in Education

#4 in Engineering

#12 in Physical & Earth Sciences

-NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates, 2020

Find a list of eligible fellowships and more details about the GREAT program at grad.tamu.edu/GREAT



RESEARCH COMPLIANCE UPDATES, MARCH 2022

USDA Request for Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is soliciting public comments on a proposal to amend the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations to establish new regulations and standards governing the humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds. The proposed regulations would apply to captive birds not bred for use in research. This proposed rule will be available on the [Federal Register](#). The public comment period opened February 22, 2022 and closes April 25, 2022. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions.

Maestro Compliance Authorization for Animal Activities

The Animal Welfare Office would like to remind faculty that both the fund source and associated activities must be included on the approved animal use protocol (AUP) before compliance authorization is granted in Maestro. This may occur by either submitting a new AUP or an amendment to an existing AUP (when appropriate), and including the fund source from the Maestro notification. Instructions for completing an amendment or AUP in iRIS can be found at [iRIS Help Documentation](#) (authentication required). Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at 979.845.1828 or animalcompliance@tamu.edu if you have questions or need assistance.

AAALAC International Site Visit

The upcoming AAALAC International triennial accreditation site visit for the main campus animal care and use program has moved to winter 2023 and will occur between January and March (exact date to be determined). Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or would like additional information on preparing for the visit.

NIH Webinars on Grant-related Processes and Common Compliance Scenarios Related to Research with Animals

The Animal Welfare Office would like to share information about two sessions from the [2021 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration](#) available for on-demand viewing on the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare [Webinars and Podcasts webpage](#).

- [Research Involving Animals](#) revisits the basics of using animals in NIH-funded research, defines 'animal' as it relates to NIH oversight, describes the requirements for the Vertebrate Animals Section (VAS) of grant applications, discusses the significance of verifying IACUC approval, identifies the three types of Animal Welfare Assurances, and describes what situations qualify as noncompliance and the implications of noncompliance.
- [Animals in Research: Tips to Keep Out of the Doghouse](#) will help the PI avoid running afoul of the most common regulatory mistakes that can interrupt their project.

Biosafety Cabinet Reminder

Researchers are reminded that biosafety cabinets (BSC) in BSL-2 laboratories must be certified annually or whenever they are moved from one location to another. If the certification expires, the BSC may not be used for activities requiring BSL-2 containment until it has been recertified.

To prevent exposure of personnel to infectious agents, the HEPA filter must be professionally decontaminated before the BSC is moved from one building to another or sent to surplus. HEPA filters should never be accessed or removed prior to being professionally decontaminated. The University has a contract with [Precision Air Technologies](#) to perform these services at a fixed cost. Requests to schedule services should be e-mailed to andrewx338@gmail.com. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Office of Biosafety at biosafety@tamu.edu or refer to the [TAMU Biosafety Manual](#) if they have questions regarding the need to decontaminate the HEPA filter in their BSC.

CDC to Visit Select Agent Laboratories April 19-21

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT) will conduct a regular, scheduled site visit to campus during the week of April 18th. The purpose of this visit is to inspect currently registered Select Agent facilities at CVM and HSC. They will also review facilities at the Texas A&M Global Health Research Complex and the Office of the Texas State Chemist so they may be added to the TAMU Select Agent registration. Researchers who will be involved in the review have already been contacted in preparation for the visit. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Office of Biosafety at biosafety@tamu.edu with related questions.