CPI Newsletter – March 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 — Girl 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 Aramba 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

March CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. The CPI-EC received updates from system that Dr. Bruce Whitney retired and there is a search in place to fill the Chief Research Compliance Officer, a Texas A&M University System position. The Acting Chief Research Compliance Officer is Dr. Sharmila Pathikonda. The committee also received other updates from agencies and units, and the meeting adjourned in order for CPI-EC to convene in an executive session to plan for the March 6th meeting with President Banks.

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.

NSF Office Hour on New Requirement for Safe and Inclusive Work Environments Plan

Several solicitations from the Directorates for Biological Sciences (BIO) and Geological Sciences (GEO) will soon require the submission of a Safe and Inclusive Work Environments Plan that will be considered as part of the Broader Impacts criteria during the proposal review process.

A virtual office hour was held on February 7. Slides and a recording are available at https://beta.nsf.gov/events/safe-inclusive-working-environments-requirements/2023-02-07

A second Virtual Office Hour will occur on March 20, 2023 from 3 – 4 PM ET. Program Officers from BIO and GEO will provide an overview of the new requirement and take your questions and comments.

If you are planning a submission that will involve off-campus or off-site research, defined as data/information/samples being collected off-campus or off-site including via fieldwork and research activities on vessels and aircraft, we encourage you to join this webinar.

Register for the webinar at this website: Webinar Registration - Zoom (zoomgov.com)

AnSRS4U Presentation – Grants verses Gift

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host a presentation on Grants verses Gifts on Thursday March 30 from 10:00 to 11:00am. This presentation will provide insights on how to determine if funding should be categorized as a grant or a gift.

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)
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 anrsrs4u@tamu.edu and request to be added to the listserv.

Grants verses Gifts
You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Mar 30, 2023 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0uceGqqDMuE9C98KR0jyNUeJ6jzP2hOpSY

3rd Annual Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Workshop Series
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Our annual SBIR/STTR workshop series, co-hosted by Innovation Partners and TEES Office for Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, brings 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 series will include popular elements covered in years past, incorporate new topics based on feedback received from past participants, and conclude with a networking reception. Further details on session topics and speakers are forthcoming. We hope you will join us!

Event Information:
March 27 & 28, 2023 and April 3 & 4, 2023
Rudder Tower, Room 701
Sessions will take place from 2:00-4:00 p.m. each day.

Registration is available for attendance in-person or virtually. To register or to learn more, please visit our website.

Informational sessions for researchers via Zoom to offer guidance on the use of Cayuse Proposals– April 6th
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Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has implemented a cloud-based system-to-system software (S2S) platform, Cayuse Proposals. With Cayuse Proposals, SRS proposal administrators are able to enrich the federal submission process for all researchers using the system’s advanced validation system. This has been an exciting enhancement to our electronic research information system (eRA), MAESTRO.

Since implementing Cayuse Proposals in 2019, SRS has experienced successful submissions for NIH, NSF, USDA, and EPA. SRS Pre-award staff are familiar with the system and understand its capabilities in system-to-system interfaces with various sponsors. Cayuse Proposals is a tool that is designed for administrators and/or researchers to use for the preparation of proposals. Some researchers have requested training in order to access the system, upload documents, and in some instances, assist with preparation of their proposals. In response to these requests informational sessions for researchers will be offered. As always, SRS Proposal Administrators will continue to provide full proposal preparation services. For researchers who would like more information on using Cayuse Proposals, the informational session will provide guidance so that individuals are prepared to access the system and upload documents. Depending on sponsor requirements, investigators may be asked to complete forms or questions within the application as they relate to the specifics of the project.

SRS will be providing information sessions for researchers via Zoom to offer guidance on the use of Cayuse Proposals. As briefly stated above, these sessions are intended to enhance the researcher’s proposal
submission experience through a more streamlined process for completing forms, uploading documents, and an overall reduction of administrative burden. The first sessions will be held Thursday, April 6th with another session to be determined in the Fall. An update will be provided once a date and time are finalized for the Fall session.

Please register [HERE](#) to attend the training session.

**IP Attorney Office Hours on Thursday, April 13th**

Office hours are available at no cost to Texas A&M faculty, staff, and students. Thirty-minute appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis with intellectual property attorneys from firms across Texas, including many who contract with the Texas A&M University System to provide legal services for Texas A&M System-owned intellectual property. [Visit our website to register for an appointment!](#)

**AnSRS4U Presentation – Safe and Inclusive Working Environment**

Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) of the Division of Research will host a presentation on Safe and Inclusive Working Environment, on Thursday April 20, from 10:00 to 11:00am.

Background: Effective January 30, 2023, NSF’s new requirement states that there must be a plan for a safe and inclusive work environment created, and distributed to each participant, in advance of departure for an off-campus research activity. At the time of proposal submission for each proposal that proposes to conduct research off-campus or off site, the Authorized Organizational Representative must complete a certification that the organization has a plan in place for that proposal. Thus, prior to the submission of the proposal, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will require the PI to certify that a plan has been created.

This presentation will briefly discuss the new NSF plan requirements. In addition, NSF has new Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirements that become effective July 31, 2023. The Responsible Conduct of Research office will discuss the TAMU implementation plan to meet this requirement. The bulk of the presentation will be presented by Jennifer Smith, Assistant Vice President & Title IX Coordinator, University Risk, Ethics, and Compliance and will discuss safe research environments – those that promote inclusion and are free of discriminatory harassment and components of plans for safe and inclusive work/research environments.

**Contracts and Negotiation Taskforce Committee**

Report from the CPI Representative Rafael Lara-Alecio

The newly created Contracts and Negotiation Taskforce Committee met for the first time on Tuesday February 14, 2023 at the JKW Building. After a welcome note from Mr. John Crawford, Vice-President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, there were introductions from representatives of the different offices including Colleges, Schools, and the CPI representative. Multiple issues were presented and discussed including the Taskforce charge, timelines, identification of issues impacting contracts and negotiation, deliverables, barriers, and implementation plan development.

Main goals for this Taskforce were presented including: Formalizing process and procedures; creating a culture of improvement as well as to prioritize contract negotiation, delegating purchases authority. Other goals included reducing the time intake to signature, delegation purchasing authority as well as to offer workshops to educate key stakeholders about decisions and policies in place and revising flowchart in place to secure procurements.

This taskforce committee will be meeting biweekly.
As your CPI representative to this new taskforce, I would appreciate any comment and/or recommendation that I can share to this Taskforce so CPI colleagues can receive the benefits of this important and critical area. Please email me at a-lara@tamu.edu

What’s new in NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) 2023?

The requirements regarding archiving of data, software, and publications have been strengthened. In particular:

1) Publications (or as-accepted manuscripts) that derive from ROSES-2023 awards must be publicly available at the time of publication

2) Data and software developed using ROSES funding in support of a peer-reviewed publication shall be made publicly available at the time of publication,

3) Scientifically useful data and software developed during the award that was not already published must be made available by the end of the award, and

4) To be eligible to receive funding, PIs and Co-Is must provide their digital persistent identifier (e.g., ORCID) via NSPIRES under Account Management -> Personal Profile.

Most proposers to ROSES-2023 must provide an "Open Science and Data Management Plan", (formerly called the Data Management Plan) or an explanation of why one is not necessary given the nature of the work proposed. This Open Science and Data Management Plan (OSDMP) must address how publications, data, and software will be made available. The budget for the proposal should include any costs needed to implement the OSDMP.

The 2023 version of Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science (ROSES-2023) was posted at https://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2023 on February 14, 2023.

NASA Requires Inclusion Plan for Selected Proposals

Inclusion is defined here as the full participation, belonging, and contribution of groups and individuals within an organization or endeavor. Note that inclusion is distinct and different from diversity. Inclusion requires that all individuals can participate fully, regardless of the diversity dimension, do their best work and advance, and feel welcomed, valued, connected, engaged, and supported to reach their full potential. The Inclusion Plan should focus on inclusion, not diversity or accessibility.

Inclusion Plan Pilot Study - A growing number of program elements in ROSES require an Inclusion Plan. Those that do so will indicate this clearly. In general, two pages are allocated for this plan but see individual program elements for the required proposal location and page limits for Inclusion Plans.

NSF New Requirement for a Safe and Inclusive Work Environment

Effective January 30, 2023, with the implementation of the NSF 23-1 PAPPG, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has a new requirement which states that there must be a plan for a safe and inclusive work environment created and distributed to each participant, in advance of departure for an off-campus research activity. Off-campus or off-site research is defined by NSF for this requirement as "data/information/samples being collected off-campus or off-site, such as fieldwork or research activities on vessels and aircraft."
At the time of proposal submission for each proposal that proposes to conduct research off-campus or off site, the Authorized Organizational Representative must complete a certification that the organization has a plan in place for that proposal. Thus, prior to the submission of the proposal, Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will require the PI to certify that a plan has been created.

Several solicitations from the Directorates for Biological Sciences (BIO) and Geological Sciences (GEO) will soon require the submission of a Safe and Inclusive Work Environments Plan that will be considered as part of the Broader Impacts criteria during the review process.

As a reminder, this 2-page supplementary document must address the following four sections:

1. a brief description of the field setting and unique challenges for the team;
2. the steps the proposing organization will take to nurture an inclusive off-campus or off-site working environment, including processes to establish shared team definitions of roles, responsibilities, and culture, e.g., codes of conduct, trainings, mentor/mentee mechanisms and field support that might include regular check-ins, and/or developmental events;
3. communication processes within the off-site team and to the organization(s) that minimize singular points within the communication pathway (e.g., there should not be a single person overseeing access to a single satellite phone); and
4. the organizational mechanisms that will be used for reporting, responding to, and resolving issues of harassment if they arise.

The Office of Hispanic Serving Institution Proposal Development
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The Office of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and Inclusivity Research Services assists research faculty with proposal development for HSI federal funding. The Office’s Goal is to increase knowledge of and accessibility to resources for the Texas A&M Research community and assist with research proposals targeting HSIs and/or inclusivity.

Inclusivity can be defined as including all types of people, things or ideas and treating them all fairly and equally. We also work with Texas A&M's Office for Diversity on the university’s HSI Priorities (scroll down link for listing) set by Texas A&M University.

Activities and services of the office include:

1. Proposal Development
   • Working with researchers and their teams to strategically develop HSI proposals.
   • Helping develop text related to HSI or DEI requirements for proposals.
   Template on A&M as HSI with data
2. Resource Development & Communication
   • Creating resources to enhance development of required diversity, equity, and inclusion proposal components.
   • Expanding communication and knowledge of HSI funding opportunities electronically.
3. Linkages & Contacts
   • Forming relationships with existing programs to link and leverage in HSI proposals.
   • Linking researchers to A&M System HSI institutions with similar interests or desired expertise

Contact: Jorja Kimball, Executive Director
979.458.5794
jkimball@tamu.edu
AnSRS4U On-Demand Presentation - Facilities and Administrative Costs

The recent ASRS4U presentation on Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A) is now available to watch on-demand. This presentation provided an overview of the Facilities & Administration (F&A) Cost Rate (Indirect Cost Recovery Rate) process and reviewed the F&A calculation. Presenters were Teresa Bass and Monica Poehl. The slides and the recording of the presentation are available from the SRS website at https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/.

TAMU Innovation Partners Updates

SBIR/STTR Workshop Series
Our annual SBIR/STTR workshop series, co-hosted by Innovation Partners and TEES Office for Commercialization & Entrepreneurship, brings 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 series will include popular elements covered in years past, incorporate new topics based on feedback received from past participants, and conclude with a networking reception. Additional details can be found on our website.

We hope you will join us!
- March 27, March 28, April 3, April 4
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. CST
- Rudder Tower 701 or virtually
- No cost for TAMU faculty, staff, students

Spring 2023 Intellectual Property Attorney Pro Bono Office Hours
- 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.

Call for Internal Reviewers—Office of the Vice President for Research Selection Advisory Panel

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is seeking nominations and self-nominations for the Selection Advisory Panel, a standing pool of reviewers in one of the four areas: Life & Biomedical Sciences, Science & Engineering, Social Sciences, and Arts & Humanities. Review panels for internal and limited submission programs will be created from this standing pool of reviewers as appropriate for each call. Nominations for the Selection Advisory Panel can be submitted here and will be accepted until March 24, 2023.

Credit Assignment for Faculty Supporting Proposal Reviews¹
The OVPR relies on the service of faculty members to perform internal reviews for limited submission and internal funding opportunities. This is an extremely important service that faculty provide toward identifying proposals that best represent Texas A&M University in current and future external funding competitions. The review process involves the research and scholarly expertise of faculty members, akin to the role of peer reviewers for conferences, journals, and funding agencies, and assists our colleagues in developing stronger proposals. Consequently, proposal reviewers will receive an acknowledgement from the OVPR commensurate with the impact, number, length, and type of internal proposals reviewed each year with each two-page application reviewed being equivalent to one hour of service. Additional hours are added for longer applications and more detailed reviews. In this way, the OVPR documents the service of faculty members for annual reviews.
Reminder of New NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan Policy

The new NIH policy on Data Management and Sharing is now effective. It went into effect 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.

The plan elements are as follows:

- Element 1 Data Type
- Element 2 Related Tools, Software and/or Code
- Element 3 standards
- Element 4 Data Preservation, Access and Associated Timelines
- Element 5 Access, distribution, or Reuse Considerations
- Element 6 Oversight of Data Management and Sharing
  - Describe how compliance with this Plan will be monitored and managed, frequency of oversight, and by whom at your institution (e.g., titles, roles).
  - Note there have been some questions on who is responsible for Element 6. Ultimately the PI is responsible. DMPTool’s suggested answer text for element 6 may be a helpful starting point:
  - Lead PI [name], ORCID: [ORCID ID], will be responsible for the day-to-day oversight of lab/team data management activities and data sharing. Broader issues of DMS Plan compliance oversight and reporting will be handled by the PI and Co-I team as part of general [campus(es)] stewardship, reporting, and compliance processes.

Please visit this link for a presentation about the new plan: AnSRS4U Express NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan.

TAMU Libraries Research Data Management Services

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

Office of Hispanic Serving Institution and Inclusivity Research Services

The Vice President for Research established the Office of HSI & Inclusivity Research Services to assist the Texas A&M research community with HSI and inclusivity-related federal funding opportunities. For a list of HSI Funding Opportunities, see https://vpr.tamu.edu/research-development-services/hispanic-serving-institutions-funding-opportunities/. If you are in need of assistance from the Office of HSI & Inclusivity Research Services or any other service offered by Research Development Services, complete this request.

Responsible Conduct of Research

The NIH and NSF have recently released revisions with respect to Responsible Conduct of Research training. The NIH included multiple subject matter revisions and the addition of a new topic regarding safe research environments. TAMU offers multiple Face-to-Face Workshops to assist in meeting both NIH and TAMU training requirements. More trainings will be added as they become available.

Effective July 31, 2023, the NSF requires RCR training for all faculty, and other senior personnel, in addition to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, associated with the
research. PIs and other senior lab personnel will begin to receive TrainTraq notifications to complete online (CITI) RCR training to meet this requirement.

Contact RCR@tamu.edu for more information. Additionally, effective now, PIs of all NSF proposals that conduct off-campus or off-site research will be required to certify with SRS that they have a plan in place to foster a safe and inclusive research environment.

**AnSRS4u On-Demand Presentation - Sponsored Research Procurement**

In case you missed it the recent ASRS4u presentation on Sponsored Research Procurement it is now available to watch on-demand. The slides and the recording of the presentation are available from the SRS website at under the Resources tab at https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/

This presentation covered the:
1. Procurement Cycle
2. Uniform Guidance Requirements (Existing Inventory, Sole Source, Buy American)
3. Subaward vs. Subcontractor/Vendor

**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

**NSF Safe and Inclusive Working Environment Plan**

Effective January 30, 2023, if you submit a new or renewal proposal, engaging in off-campus research activities, NSF will require that Principal Investigators (PIs) take an additional step to safeguard participants.

NSF's new requirement states that there must be a plan for a safe and inclusive work environment created—and distributed to each participant—in advance of departure for an off-campus research activity. Off-campus or off-site research is defined by NSF for this requirement as "data/information/samples being collected off-campus or off-site, such as fieldwork or research activities on vessels and aircraft." The underlying premise is that all participants need to know how to recognize and report inappropriate behavior and receive guidance in advance about how to feel safe and protected, even when they are away from campus.

At the time of proposal submission for each proposal that proposes to conduct research off-campus or off site, the Authorized Organizational Representative must complete a certification that the organization has a plan in place for that proposal. Thus, prior to the submission of the proposal, Sponsored Research
Services (SRS) will require the PI to certify that a plan has been created. Sample certification statement is attached.

The NSF general PAPPG guidance states that the plan is Not to be submitted to NSF. However, several solicitations from the NSF BIO and GEO directorates will soon require the submission of a Safe and Inclusive Work Environments Plan to be included in the proposal supplemental documents and will be considered as part of the Broader Impacts criteria during the review process.

The attached document lists those solicitations as well as registration information for a virtual office hour session where Program Officers from BIO and GEO will provide an overview of the new requirement and take your questions and comments.

**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](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. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Research Bulletin, email: research-communications@tamu.edu.

**TAMU CHIPS and Science Act Task Force**

The TAMU CHIPS and Science Act Task Force’s goal is to develop, coordinate, and implement a TAMU-wide strategy for responding to opportunities presented by the CHIPS and Science Act. The task force also facilitates communication across all the members from the flagship campus (TAMU, TEES, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and TTI) and System. One of the objectives is to document TAMU’s strengths, capacity, and capabilities in relation to the CHIPS and Science Act. Information about the Task Force and related funding opportunities can be found in the TAMU CHIPS ACT Resources Drive. Faculty can request access to the Drive by contacting Dr. Sharmila Pathikonda (sharmila.pathikonda@tamu.edu), and for additional information, please contact Dr. Henry Fadamiro (henry.fadamiro@tamu.edu).