
CPI Newsletter – November 2018

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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, Gaylon Morgan • *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* — Jane Bolin • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Jay Groppe • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, Mike Lukuc, 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

November CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) did not meet with administrators on November 7, 2018 due to multiple conflicts.

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 that there are agenda items. Both meetings were canceled in November due to no agenda items and other meeting conflicts. 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 next general CPI meeting will be Wednesday, December 12, 2018, Rudder 601. Dr. Patrick Stover, Texas A&M AgriLife Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture Life Sciences, is scheduled to come share his vision for AgriLife and how it intersects with the research enterprise here at Texas A&M. Contact Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu or 979.862.9166, for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

Google AI Impact Challenge Mixer Event – November 14

Google has called to organizations around the world to submit ideas for how AI could be used to address societal challenges. The Texas A&M Institute of Data Science and the Division of Research is hosting a mixer event to promote this challenge. This mixer is meant to help researchers from different disciplines to identify needs and target them through collaborative submissions. If you wish to attend or would like additional information; please refer to the **attached flyer**.

NIH Clarification of Review Criteria: Rigor, Transparency, and Clinical Trials

NIH and AHRQ have announced updates to applications and review criteria for applications submitted on or after January 25, 2019. These updates include the following:

Clarification of the review criteria by replacing the term “scientific premise” with “the rigor of the prior research” and clearly indicating that this should be addressed in the Significance and Approach sections.

Incorporation of new policy requirements for including individuals across the lifespan as participants in research involving human subjects.

Additional information can be found in NOT-OD-18-228 for research grant applications, NOT-OD-18-227 for fellowship applications, and NOT-OD-18-229 for career development award applications.

Revisions to the application guide will be available through the How to Apply – Application Guide website by **November 25, 2018**.

3 Minute Thesis Final Competition Invitation

You're invited to join us for the annual 3 Minute Thesis Final Competition next Thursday, November 15th, from 6-8:30pm in Rudder Forum. The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition aims to bridge the gap between high-level university research and the lay public, and is a perfect opportunity for students, faculty, and staff

alike to gain exposure to the innovative research being conducted by graduate students. In this competition graduate students have 3 minutes and 1 PowerPoint slide to sum up years of research, the winner of this competition moves on to represent Texas A&M in the Regional 3MT Competition in February in Knoxville, Tennessee.

This is a truly unique experience to come learn about the groundbreaking research conducted by graduate students at Texas A&M. Audience members will send in their votes for the People's Choice Award and have an opportunity to win one of two Apple TVs. Reception to follow.

This event is open to the public and free to attend. RSVP here: <http://tx.ag/3mtfinals18>

Updated IBC application

The Institutional Biosafety Committee and the Office of Biosafety recently revised and updated the IBC application for new/three-year renewal submissions. Researchers are invited to review these proposed changes to the form and offer feedback or comments. Email outreachrcb@tamu.edu to receive a copy of the revised IBC application. The projected release date for the new form is early December. Please provide any feedback by **December 1**.

2019 Transformational Teaching & Learning Conference

The **2019 Transformational Teaching & Learning Conference** will be held May 1st in Zachary Engineering Education Complex and May 2nd in the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center. This conference is designed to showcase and promote the culture of teaching excellence at Texas A&M University. Our hope is that the event will serve to encourage dialogue, stimulate interest, and cultivate innovation. With a variety of session formats available, two exciting keynote addresses by two experts for the 2019 conference theme **Active and Inclusive Engagement** and a Student-Faculty Dialogue event within the conference, this promises to be a unique opportunity to learn and network with colleagues. Please take some time to explore the conference website <http://ttlc.tamu.edu>. Read the call for proposals and the associated rubric in their entirety as you consider how you might both contribute to, and benefit from, the event. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ttlc@tamu.edu.

Government Relations Update

ELECTION UPDATE

Overall

- HUGE turnout for a midterm—8.3 million.
- At the end of early voting, the turnout was already higher than the entire vote for the 2012 presidential election.
- As a percentage of registered voters, **largest number to vote in a Texas gubernatorial election since 1970**.
- The five largest metropolitan counties all went “**blue**” in the US Senate race. In the State Senate races, the same occurred except for Ft. Worth, which went “**red**.”

State (Senate)

- Two incumbents lost—Konnice Burton of Colleyville (R) lost to Beverly Powell (D); and Don Huffines of Dallas (R) lost to Nathan Johnson (D).
- New Senate configuration is 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats, a net loss of one Republican. This number is significant since it takes 19 votes to bring up a bill for a vote on the senate floor, so the margin is thin, but a majority nonetheless.

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- We now have two Aggies in the Senate (Sen. Bettencourt and Sen. Flores).

State (House)

- Democrats pick up 12 seats, gains in Houston and Dallas.
- New House configuration is 83 Republicans and 67 Democrats. It was 95 Republicans to 55 Democrats.
- With Speaker Joe Straus stepping down, the increase in Democrats will, according to members, add a new wrinkle for race to become Speaker of the House.
- We now have 23 Aggies in the House.

FEDERAL UPDATE

- The midterm elections saw all 435 House seats up for election and 35 Senate seats up for election.
- For the first time since 2010, the **Democrats have regained control of the majority of the House** (currently 225 Democrats and 199 Republicans), with 11 races having yet to be decided. Once the results are certified, Democrats will likely end up with around 230 seats and the Republicans around 205 seats.
- In the Senate, **Republicans will maintain their majority with at least 51 seats**. Two races (Florida and Arizona) are too close to call, and a third race (Mississippi) is headed to a run-off. Currently, the Republican candidate is leading in both Arizona and Florida, and it is expected the Republican candidate will win in Mississippi. Should those three races in fact go to the Republicans, they would expand their majority to 54 seats (currently at 51), with Democrats holding 44 seats, along with two Independents who both caucus with the Democrats, making the Senate 54-46.

So what does this all mean for the rest of the year?

- Current members head back to DC to attempt tackling the remaining appropriations bills, which include the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Agriculture, State, Interior, and Transportation, all of which are operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) until December 7th.
- **These agencies account for about 25% of all federal annual discretionary spending**, and must be decided before the 115th Congress adjourns. Congress will head back into Session next week with a targeted adjournment of December 13th, meaning they only have about three legislative weeks (Congress is out of town Thanksgiving week) to work out any issues, or move forward with another CR.
- In addition to the remaining appropriations bills, **we will be closely monitoring the leadership races for the next Congress**, all of which will be hammered out in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss state or federal higher education matters in greater detail, please let us know.

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.

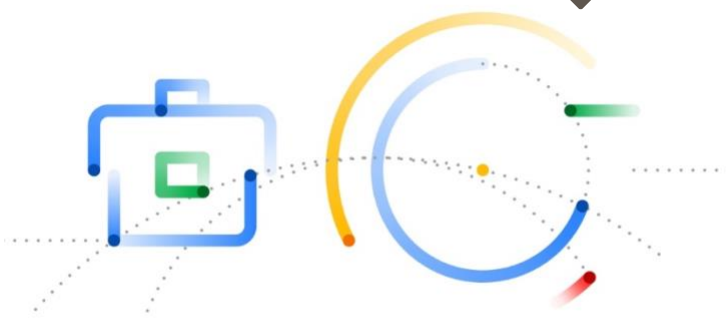
Research Bulletin

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.

November 15, 2018

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

301 Rudder Tower



Google AI Impact Challenge Mixer Event

Google AI Impact Challenge: <https://ai.google/social-good/impact-challenge>

Google has issued an open call to organizations around the world to submit their ideas for how they could use AI to help address societal challenges. Selected organizations will receive support from Google's AI experts, Google.org grant funding from a \$25M pool, credit and consulting from Google Cloud, and more. The call is open to non-profit organizations including universities. Multiple submissions from different PIs within an organization are permitted.

The Texas A&M Institute of Data Science and the Division of Research is organizing a mixer event around this challenge. The purpose of this event is to help researchers from different disciplines identify possible collaborative submissions to this call, or elsewhere.

Please register for this event if you wish to attend. Registrants must be PI eligible but may bring or nominate other collaborators e.g. students and/or postdocs. Participants are encouraged to present a short talk on their ideas for a response (up to 5 minutes, depending on demand) and/or a poster presentation. Registration of talks/posters must be completed by end of Tuesday, November 13, 2018, and presentations sent to seyre@tamu.edu by end of Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

The event will commence with a brief overview of activities planned in the Texas A&M Institute of Data Science in the forthcoming year, given by the TAMIDS Director, Dr. Nick Duffield.

REGISTER HERE:

https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d712HR3SREYesId

Contact: Shannon Eyre (seyre@tamu.edu)





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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH | 6:00 - 8:30 PM | RUDDER FORUM

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