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Update from Dr. Darren Depoy, CPI Chair  

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**December CPI News** – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators December 4, 2019. Discussions during the CPI-EC December meeting included topics for the December CPI General Meeting to include an update from the Provost, Dr. Fierke and a Division of Research update from Dr. Barteau that will both be presenting at the December 11th CPI General Meeting.

**CPI Contacts** – The complete 2019-2020 roster of CPI Representatives and the new CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2019-2020_Council_Membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council archive.

The CPI-EC will continue to meet with President Young and Provost Fierke each month in order to keep PIs informed. The CPI-EC will meet with Chancellor Sharp next 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 January CPI General meeting will be one week later due to the holiday break, Wednesday, January 15, 2020, Rudder 601, 11:30-1:15pm. The CPI Subcommittees from the 2019 CPI working whitepapers will provide updates since last presented at CPI.

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

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**Export Controls Designated Liaison Network, November 21, 2019**  

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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 November 21 meeting:

1) Meeting was chaired by Lesa Feldhousen;
2) The meeting focused on activities by various federal agencies addressing foreign influences on funded research, and included recent guidance from each agency. The discussion included information from a recent report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs that identified weaknesses in the response across agencies to protect against foreign influences.
3) Autumn Biggers discussed the procedures related to hosting Visiting Scholars, including remote access and foreign influence concerns.
4) CPI members can expect to receive occasional updates on relevant federal agency and TAMUS actions concerning foreign influences.

Lee Tarpley  
CPI representative to the Export Controls Designated Liaison Network
Research Compliance Updates

November 6, 2019 Supplemental Guidance – Foreign Influence From Vice President for Research to the Texas A&M Research Community

On November 6, 2019, the Vice President for Research provided supplemental guidance on foreign influence in research to the research community. The Supplemental Guidance includes:

- Reminders regarding external employment, intellectual property, export controls, conflicts of interest, hosting visiting scholars, and the peer review process.
- Further updates/reminders expressed by federal agencies since as of June 2019.

(See: https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/guidance-foreign-influence-in-research-11-6-19).

Required Use of a Single IRB for Federally Funded (HHS) Cooperative Research

The 2018 (revised) Common Rule that went into effect on January 19, 2019 requires federally funded studies that involve more than one institution to use a Single IRB when IRB review and approval is required. The effective date of the requirement is January 20, 2020.

Researchers whose studies are federally funded and approved by the IRB before January 20, 2020 under the Revised Common Rule will not be impacted by this regulatory change. The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) granted an exception to the Single IRB requirement for all federally funded cooperative research subject to the 2018 Common Rule that has or will receive initial approval by an IRB before January 20, 2020.


For federally funded studies approved after January 20, 2020 that are subject to the Single IRB requirement, Texas A&M University plans to use the SMART IRB platform to facilitate compliance with the Single IRB requirement. SMART IRB is not an IRB but an online platform that offers a master IRB reliance agreement and a central process for participating institutions and their investigators to request, track, and document study specific reliance arrangements.

(For additional information see, https://smartirb.org/).

The Single IRB rule applies to federally funded research and all research sites within the United States except when governed by American Indian or Alaskan Native tribal law or when the funding agency determines that the use of a Single IRB is not appropriate.

More information on how to use the SMART IRB and other available options for Single IRB will be posted on the HRPP website soon. For Single IRB questions, contact the IRB at 979-458-4067 or irb@tamu.edu.

Recent Enhancements to the University’s Animal Care and Use Program

The Animal Welfare Office web page has been updated with materials to assist investigators with their research. Selecting the “Guidance” hyperlink (https://rcb.tamu.edu/animals/guidance) from the table of contents on the Research Compliance and Biosafety Animal Care and Use page (https://rcb.tamu.edu/animals) takes users to a list of IACUC Guidance materials on various research related topics. Sample document templates (e.g., surgical and training records, labels signs, etc.) and iRIS help information and manuals are available for investigator use.

Additionally, the Animal Welfare Office is pleased to announce that, where appropriate, investigators may now combine animal use protocols (AUP) into a single AUP where the research has the same or similar emphasis. This should reduce the number of amendments, personnel change requests and renewals that must be performed. AUPs may be combined by amendment, during renewal, or by initiating a new AUP.
Please contact the Animal Welfare Office staff for assistance with these items or any other questions you may have about the program at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828.

IRB to Offer Hands on iRIS Training in January

To assist students and first-time iRIS users with completing the IRB Application, the Human Research Protection Program is offering in-person training in a computer lab setting on January 13 from 9 to 11 a.m. and January 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the General Services Complex in room 2100. Class attendees will be guided through each section of the IRB application and provided with useful tips to successfully navigate their first submission. This will be an interactive class. Register through TrainTraq for course 2113977 for either date. The class is free to attend. For additional information for registering for the course, contact Research Compliance and Biosafety at 979-458-1467 or outreachrcb@tamu.edu. (See: https://apps7.system.tamus.edu/TrainTraq/web/CourseDetails.aspx?cnum=2113977).

NIH Resubmission Applications: Advice From Experts

When: Wednesday, January 22, 2020; 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Where: HPEB LL46
About: What happens when the proposal resubmission you’ve worked on for months arrives at the NIH? What do study section members look for in a proposal resubmission? What makes some resubmissions more powerful than others? These and other questions will be addressed during this 90-minute panel discussion and Q&A with Texas A&M faculty who have served as NIH study section reviewers. Remote viewing will be available for participants outside the Bryan/College Station area.
Register: By 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lp7y3Sn44130AB.
Contact: Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, RDS Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, RDS

NIH Virtual Specific Aims Workshop

When: February 12 and February 26; Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Where: Attend virtually via Zoom
About: This series of two meetings will help participants edit and refine their NIH Specific Aims section, which is the foundation of any successful NIH grant application. Participants should plan to attend both meetings, and will “pair-and-share” their draft and revised Specific Aims sections, respectively, to give and receive peer feedback. Additionally, prior to the first meeting, experienced NIH study section members will provide written critiques of Aims pages.
Register: By 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 30, including your draft Specific Aims.
Register at https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Xk1okncnVMKeTr. To complete registration, please email your draft Specific Aims page to Christina Howard (c-howard@tamu.edu).
Contact: Christina Howard, Ph.D., Research Development Officer, RDS Shannon Eyre, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, RDS
NIH to Host Informational Webinar on the Draft NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing and Supplemental Draft Guidance

NIH will be hosting an informational public webinar on the Draft NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing and Supplemental Draft Guidance on Monday, December 16, 2019, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET. The purpose of this webinar is to provide information on the draft policy and answer any clarifying questions about the public comment process. Public comments will NOT be accepted via the webinar but must instead be sent through the link provided below.

Instructions for Accessing Webinar:
- To view the webinar presentation, please click here.
- To call-in to the webinar:
  - U.S. and Canadian participants can dial: 866-844-9416 and enter passcode: 4009108
  - For international participants, please refer to the table of toll-free numbers found here.

Please note that while you will be able to view the webinar through WebEx, you must use the specified phone line to be connected to the audio. You will be unable to call-in via your computer.

Participants may also send questions in advance of the webinar to SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov.

Comments on the draft policy and draft supplemental guidance can be made electronically here through Friday, January 10, 2020.

Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal

Undergraduates
***Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.***
- Undergraduates are invited to submit to the journal. The process with a synopsis due in late-January, early-February. Team submissions are accepted. If the synopsis is selected to move forward, the student(s) will be invited to submit a full manuscript by mid-March. If selected, undergraduate(s) attend an Author Orientation and are assigned an editing team to work with throughout the remainder of the semester. Before publication, a faculty mentor overseeing the project must sign off on the work. Additional information and approvals, including copyright and media releases, are collected from undergraduate authors between April and May.

- **Synopsis**
  - **Synopsis Deadline:** February 3, 2020 at noon
  - **Synopsis Application Link:** [http://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Explorations-Synopsis-Submission](http://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Explorations-Synopsis-Submission)

- **Full Manuscripts**
  - **Full Manuscript Deadline:** March 18, 2020 at noon
  - **Full Manuscript Application Link:** TBA

Faculty
- Faculty can mentor undergraduate researchers and encourage them to apply to the board and/or to submit to the journal. If a student’s full manuscript is selected to move forward for publication, the work must be approved by the faculty mentor overseeing the project.
• Faculty can also review for the journal. Reviewer registration is collected on a rolling basis. Submissions are assigned by discipline and expertise. Faculty will be asked to review up to 3 submissions at a time. ***Publishing in Explorations does not preclude students from publishing in a professional journal because our journal is designed for articles in a short format meant for a general audience.***

• **Volume 12 Review Timeline**
  o February 7, 2020: Synopses distributed for review no later than this date
  o February 19, 2020: Deadline to return synopsis reviews
  o March 20, 2020: Full manuscripts distributed to reviewers no later than this date
  o April 1, 2020: Deadline to submit full manuscript reviews

• **Registration Deadline for Volume 12 Synopses:** January 20, 2020
• **Registration Link:** [http://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Faculty-Reviewer-Registration](http://launch.tamu.edu/Applications/Explorations/Faculty-Reviewer-Registration)

**Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS)**

**Faculty Participation at the URS Symposium**

• LAUNCH: UGR is seeking faculty to be active listeners.

• Third Annual Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) Symposium on February 26, 2020 in the MSC. LAUNCH: UGR is offering this new venue for our LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars to present their research projects and get feedback before their final theses are due in April. Presentations at this event will fulfill the program’s requirement.

• To help our URS presenters, we ask faculty and staff to focus on the following three areas with students and provide feedback as they interact with the students during their presentations:
  o Body language and delivery
  o Effective communication of the research question and why it is important
  o Effective visual aids (if used)

• Looking for 1 hour commitments on February 26, 2020.
  o **Active Listener Registration Link:** [https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bC15Z8chz5j6Tm5](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bC15Z8chz5j6Tm5)
  o **Active Listener Registration Deadline:** February 17, 2020

• More information about the URS Symposium can be found at [http://tx.ag/urssymposium](http://tx.ag/urssymposium).

**REU/SURE Coordination Meeting**

• January 30, 2020 from 8:30-10:00 AM in MSC 2406.
• Coffee and pastries will be provided.
• At this meeting, we will discuss updated university policies for summer programs (fee waiver, enrollment, general deposit, student health services, and international students), as well as on-campus housing and summer activities. See attached file Package for CPI for the agenda and most recent handouts.

**Foreign Influence in Research – Texas A&M University Guidance Information**

As a follow up from November 6, 2019 distribution, Texas A&M University continues to support 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.

This guidance further updates the email dated June 10, 2019 from Dr. Carol A. Fierke, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Dr. Mark A. Barteau, Vice President for Research, which included updates
as of June 10, 2019, as well as reminders regarding external employment, intellectual property, export controls, conflicts of interest, hosting visiting scholars, and the peer review process. Below is the link on the Texas A&M University Division of Research website where researchers can find further updates and reminders regarding the growing foreign influence concerns expressed by federal agencies.

https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/guidance-foreign-influence-in-research-11-6-19

MaroonBase

MaroonBase (MORE DETAILED VERSION):
MaroonBase is comprised of two components – 1. An online resource guide and 2. The student mobile app. The resource guide is an online platform that can be used by anyone (faculty, staff, students, community members, etc.) to find detailed information on all of the opportunities in the Texas A&M and Bryan/College Station community centered around innovation, creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurship all in one place. Going beyond a traditional directory listing, the resource guide provides valuable information like access, usage criteria, and contact information for a designated expert on the resource.

The student mobile app is a point-based incentive platform to encourage Texas A&M undergrad, grad, and professional students to attend events and use campus resources. Points give the students chances to earn monetary prizes applied to their financial account. The MaroonBase Student app is designed to encourage students to get out of their comfort zone and attend events or use resources that they didn’t think they applied to them or their major. For faculty, staff and community members it is an opportunity to increase diversity and attendance for their events and resources. Other TAMU schools will have the opportunity to utilize this platform to help increase and diversify their student engagement.

MaroonBase (CONDENSED VERSION):
The MaroonBase Resource Guide is an online platform that can be used by anyone (faculty, staff, students, community members, etc.) to find detailed information on all of the opportunities in the Texas A&M and Bryan/College Station community centered around innovation, creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurship all in one place. The MaroonBase Student Mobile App encourages students to earn points by attending events and using campus resources to explore all that Texas A&M has to offer. Points give the students chances to earn monetary prizes applied to their financial account. For faculty, staff and community members it is an opportunity to increase diversity and attendance for their events and resources.

Pro Bono Office Hours:
Pro Bono intellectual property office hours are offered as a way for faculty and students to receive advice from attorneys related to IP free of charge. The attorneys have a wide range of experience in areas such as engineering, computer sciences, and biomedical sciences, and have worked with a variety of clients, from individual inventors to large companies and corporations. Each announcement and link for sign up is sent via listserv to all faculty, staff, graduate students, and post docs.

Next Pro Bono office hours session - January 30, 2020 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm
Office hours are held in Heep Lab Building on main campus (not to be confused with Heep Buildings on west campus)

Sign up link available as of 12/5/19
https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70A0F45A8A62EA6F85-january2
BioRaft Update

As part of our commitment to safety, EHS has commenced the rollout of BioRAFT, an enterprise software solution that will help maintain a healthy and safe environment for Texas A&M and the research community. Our goal is to provide researchers with easy access to their lab’s safety information, reduce administrative burden, and allow EHS personnel to more efficiently manage safety information. BioRAFT will be used to manage records of lab members, training, hazard identification, inspections, reporting, chemical inventory, and more.

As your laboratory becomes due for its annual inspection, researchers will be asked to set up their labs in BioRAFT and confirm their lab spaces. However, you do not have to wait until your scheduled lab inspection. You can begin using BioRAFT immediately by logging in at https://tamu.bioraft.com/.

If you have questions, need assistance, or would like to provide feedback, please email bioraft@tamu.edu or visit the BioRAFT webpage at https://ehs.tamu.edu/programs/laboratory-safety/bioraft/ for more BioRAFT information. EHS is here to assist in any way we can.

TSAC Meeting Summary

The Texas A&M Transportation Services Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. The meeting reviewed projects, issues, and future prospects for the TSAC.

Mr. Peter Lange gave a brief update on Polo Road Garage. Construction is progressing rapidly, and the structure is 2/3 complete. The top parking deck is finished. The final 1/3 on the south side is expected to be complete by February.

Mr. Lange announced the discontinuation of our contract with the VeoRide dockless bike share company. We’ve given VeoRide 30-day notice of termination by Dec 31, 2019, unless they come up with a rack-to-rack and end-of-trip locking system. We gave them two months to come up with a solution. We will communicate this situation to our customers in various ways, to include through the app, and to the university community.

Ms. Madeline Dillard gave a presentation about fall 2020 Transit services. The presentation can be found at: https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx.

Ms. Debbie Hoffmann presented a carry-forward topic from our last meeting, concerning business parking in Lots 54 and 55. Much was discussed; numerous proposals and questions were brought forward to attention. See presentation at: https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx.

TAMU Immunology Consortium

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, thanks for your continued and enthusiastic support of the Immunology Consortium in general, and for providing funds for our upcoming 2019 Retreat to be held December 13th & 14th in the new Medical Research and Education Building #2 on the HSC-Bryan campus.

--The Immunology Consortium is an inter-collegiate organization of faculty, staff and students that work to increase the scientific and community awareness, technical capabilities, and curriculum offerings covering the field of immunology.--
Immunology is now a key pillar in all basic and clinical biomedical sciences and our College departments are integrating “immunology” more and more into their discrete disciplines.

The Immunology Consortium has sponsored a monthly seminar series (going on 4+ years) that has investigators across the TAMUS present their latest research, to foster collaboration and community among researchers.

The Retreat that in the past has attracted over 120 attendees from many departments and colleges across the Texas A&M University System including Temple, Houston, Dallas, and College Station. The Retreat is organized around oral scientific presentations plus a robust scientific poster session, and vendor demos on the latest immunologic technology.

In addition, there will be a networking social (after Keynote Address), and topical workshops.

- The Immunology Consortium Retreat is the preeminent immunology focused event at Texas A&M!

This year’s Retreat looks to be even bigger and better than our last two Retreats in 2015 (College Station) and in 2017 (Houston).

Our Keynote Speaker this year is:

**Dr. Stefan H.E. Kaufmann, PhD**
Director Emeritus of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology.
Faculty Fellow of the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University

For more information, please contact Alaniz, Robert C. <robert_alaniz@tamu.edu>

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**Cayuse Update**

As you know, Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has been working to implement a cloud-based system-to-system software (S2S) platform, Cayuse 424. With Cayuse 424, SRS proposal administrators will be able to enhance the federal submission process for all researchers using the system’s advanced validation system. This is an exciting enhancement to our electronic research information system (eRA), MAESTRO.

Recently, two lead members of our implementation team successfully submitted proposals to NIH, NSF, USDA, and EPA, using the new system. With this success, SRS has introduced the updated routing packet, in MAESTRO, to its members. Therefore, as we continue to move towards full integration, you will begin to see these new documents in the routing package.

SRS has targeted an NIH proposal submission for January 2020. This will be the first official go-live submission for the entire SRS team, with plans to integrate all federal submissions by May 2020.

SRS will continue to update you as we move forward with this exciting new application. In the interim, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lesley Bell at lbell@tamu.edu

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**President’s Excellence Fund Symposium**

Texas A&M’s Research Communications is hosting the President’s Excellence Fund Symposium at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center on Monday, April 20, 2020. Additional details are to follow; see flyer attached.
DeBakey Executive Research Leadership Program
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The Director and Executive Director of the Michael E. DeBakey Institute at Texas A&M leverage a combined 50 years of leadership experience to conduct the DeBakey Executive Research Leadership Program. This new program is designed to train junior faculty, postdocs and doctoral students in the Aggie Research Program to successfully lead to a multifaceted high-end operation, conveying critical skills to lead, manage and direct high-achieving students and staff at all levels.

To learn more, contact the Aggie Research Program Office or see flyer attached. AggieResearch@tamu.edu
979-845-2645

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
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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
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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.
SAVE THE DATE

President's Excellence Fund Symposium

Monday, April 20, 2020

Texas A&M Hotel
and Conference Center

T3XGRANTS

Round 2 Funding Posters
Round 2 Funding Presentations

Additional details to follow.

Questions, contact:
Research Communications

Produced by Research Communications
The Aggie Research Program announces a partnership with the DeBakey Institute to create the DeBakey Executive Research Leadership Program. This unique program prepares junior faculty, postdocs and doctoral students to successfully lead a multifaceted high-end research operation, conveying critical skills to lead, manage and direct high-achieving students and staff at all levels. Although elite executive leadership training programs typically require prior experience leading collaborative teams, this program provides a concurrent research leadership experience through the Aggie Research Program so that participants can apply leadership principles, analyze the impact of their leadership choices, consult with expert leaders, and document their successes.

Because participation is free and all disciplines across Texas A&M are invited to apply, space may be limited. To learn more about requirements to join this spring, visit http://aggieresearch.tamu.edu/research-leadership

Optional information sessions: http://aggieresearch.tamu.edu/calendar

Or contact the Aggie Research Program Office:
AggieResearch@tamu.edu
979-845-2645

The Aggie Research Program is an exponentially-growing professional development program providing research leadership opportunities to graduate students, postdocs, and junior faculty throughout all colleges of Texas A&M. Since 2016, the Director and Executive Director have created over 400 research leadership opportunities supporting what has become one of the largest undergraduate research programs in the nation, creating more than 800 undergraduate research opportunities in 2019 alone.

Christopher M Quick, Executive Director Aggie Research Program
Eppright Professor of Undergraduate Teaching Excellence

Andrew McNeely, Director Aggie Research Program
Sociology Doctoral Candidate

The Michael E. DeBakey Institute provides a unique environment for engineers, scientists and clinicians from Texas A&M University and the UT Medical School in Houston to collaborate. The institute is an incubator for innovations in research, including what became the Aggie Research Program. The Director and Executive Director of the Michael E. DeBakey Institute leverage over 50 years of leadership experience.

Trudy Bennett, Executive Director Michael E. DeBakey Institute
Assistant Department Head, Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology

Glen A Laine, Director Michael E. DeBakey Institute
Regents Professor and Emeritus Vice President for Research