
CPI Newsletter – February 2020

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2019-20 CPI roster: Chair — Darren DePoy, *Science* • Vice Chair — Stephen Maren, *Liberal Arts* • Past Chair — David Threadgill, *Medicine* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Michael Brewer, Ambika Chandra, Lee Tarpley • *Architecture* — Ergun Akleman • *Bush School* — Kent Portney • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Jean-Phillipe 'JP' Pellois, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, David Stelly, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Jorge Alvarado, Debjyoti Banerjee, Ulisses Braga-Neto, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Melissa Grunlan, Sheng-Jen 'Tony' Hsieh, James Kaihatu, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Gabriel Eckstein • *Liberal Arts* — Sandra Braman, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Kayla Bayless, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Michael Hall, Christian Hilty, Alexei Safonov, Frank Sottile • *SPH* — Gang Han • *TAMU at Galveston* — R.J. David Wells • *TAMCD* — Hongjiao Ouyang • *TAMU at Qatar* — Othmane Bouhali • *TEES* — Dean Schneider • *TTI* — David Bierling, James Kovar, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Bruce Herbert • *Veterinary Medicine* — Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy, Jayanth 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. Darren Depoy, CPI Chair

February CPI News –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting included topics for the February CPI General Meeting to include the reporting update on the last of the CPI Whitepapers on what has been completed as well as what is still pending. Subcommittee 3: Improving Core Labs and Resources will be providing their update at the February 12, 2020 CPI General Meeting.

Further discussions on research related roadblocks and/or obstacles that faculty encounter and how best CPI Representatives can collect insight from research faculty and PIs for a report that CPI-EC can provide President Young and Dr. Mark Barteau, Vice President for Research.

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 **March CPI General meeting date is changed due to the Spring Break Schedule**. The CPI General Meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Rudder 601, 11:30-1:15pm. Please provide me with any items or topics that you feel relevant for CPI to address.

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

BARDA's Division of Research, Innovation & Ventures (DRIVE) Easy Broad Agency Announcement

Although the BAA is written explicitly for diagnostics, they are considering broad proposals. These proposals require only a brief abstract, and are anticipated to be quickly reviewed, with funding contracts in place within 30 days. <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/dee00dafbd564d8da379bb99c0b7f2b6/view>

Project solicitation is here:

https://beta.sam.gov/api/prod/opps/v3/opportunities/resources/files/50beb7bc39524662a596f7dbc2bca2a/c/download?api_key=null&token=

In addition to the BAA, ASPR Tech Watch MCM task force have created a form for “submission of market research packages from interested stakeholders.” creates a single point of entry for companies to submit their technologies or ideas. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/04/hhs-regeneron-collaborate-to-develop-2019-ncov-treatment.html>

NIH Supplemental Funding

Please be advised that NIH supplemental funding is now available through the Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the availability of urgent competitive revisions for research on the 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) per Notice number NOT-AI-20-030 This funding falls under PA-18-935 to expand the scope of an active grant. Administrative supplements for active grants are also available through PA-18-951.

Mass Spectroscopy Symposium

We are pleased to announce Ions@Work 2020, a symposium organized by the Texas A&M Mass Spectrometry Collaborative Core. This symposium, scheduled for Feb. 21, 2020 in the Hawking Auditorium, will consist of 10 lectures given by local and external experts. The symposium will start at 9:00 am with remarks by Dr. Mark Barteau, Vice President for Research. A detailed schedule is available at http://mass-spec.tamu.edu/second_symposium/. Posters from TAMU-based research groups will also be on display during the breaks. If you are interested in mass spectrometry, please consider attending this event which is free of charge. Those planning to attend the symposium are requested to register by visiting this [LINK](#). **Registration is open until Tuesday, February 18th.**

Sigma Xi Awards Nominations

Sigma Xi is accepting applications for the TAMU Chapter [Outstanding Distinguished Scientist Award](#) and [Outstanding Science Communicator](#) until **February 28**. See application details at SigmaXi.tamu.edu.

Microscopy and Imaging Center Lunch & Learns

The Microscopy and Imaging Center (MIC) will have a Lunch & Learn Seminar on Monday, March 2nd from 12:00pm-1:00pm in ILSB 1143. The title will be “Big Data Visualization and Analysis in FIJI” and the talk will be given by Dr. Holly Gibbs. There will also be free pizza to people who RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/mnScZt1wggGm44Mu9>.

MIC is planning to have additional Lunch & Learns on the first Monday of every month. To see the upcoming Lunch & Learns, visit <https://microscopy.tamu.edu/events/>. See flyer attached.

TAMU 2020 Data Science Competition

The Texas A&M Institute of Data Science (TAMIDS) is excited to announce the 2020 Data Science Competition!

Competition Details: Students will work in teams of 1 to 5 students. Undergraduate and graduate teams will be judged separately. Teams composed of one or more graduate students

compete in the graduate student competition. Teams have the option of using a faculty mentor to facilitate problem solving; however, competition judges are not allowed to mentor teams.

Team registration opens February 12 and closes March 3. No team additions are allowed after March 3. Each team will appoint a spokesperson who will submit the names of all team members along with their UIN (student number).

Data are available on March 4 at the eCampus Community site for the 2020 competition. Contestants will have until April 8 to complete their analysis and submit their solution. From these entries, judges will work to narrow down and select the top submissions to move forward to the final round of the competition. The chosen finalists will present their analysis to the judging panel as part of a one-day event, the evening of April 22, where the ultimate winner be determined.

Further details: <https://tamids.tamu.edu/2020/02/10/2020-data-science-competition-call/>

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/XeMMj4CzpNYRHgZc8>

Contact information: Ms. Jennifer South, TAMIDS, jsouth@tamu.edu

Research Development Fund Spring Applications due March 30, 2020

Full applications are due at noon on Monday, March 30th, 2020. The guidelines and application for submission can be found at rdf.tamu.edu or email questions to rdf@tamu.edu.

Travel Alert Related to Exporting Research Materials

In light of recent situations involving researchers attempting to export research materials abroad, the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) recently reminded its members that the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies have increased their surveillance efforts to identify the transport of research materials and verify that those exports comply with federal laws. These efforts are believed to be part of a nation-wide enforcement action to control the transport of biological materials that may present a threat to our national security, and/or reduce the theft of intellectual property developed in the U.S.

Transporting certain materials may require import/export permits or other documentation from federal agencies, including US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the FDA, USDA, Fish and Wildlife, and the CDC.

Individuals seeking to transport tangible material (e.g. biological materials, transgenic plants and animals, etc.) should seek guidance from the relevant university office(s) **before** transporting the research material to ensure that appropriate institutional approvals are in place.

For Guidance:

The **Export Controls Office** can provide guidance on international travel safeguards and federal export license requirements. They also publish a number of useful educational tools such as:

- “**Export Control Basics: International Travel**” at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls/export-controls-basics-for-international-travel>.

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- “Texas A&M University Export Control Shipping Guidelines for Principal Investigators” at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls/ShippingGuidelinesFinal101817RevAttachmentA52218.pdf>.
 - “Export Control Basics: Biological Agents and Toxins” at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/export-controls/biological-agents>.

For activities involving the use of biohazardous materials, including their transport, contact the **Office of Biosafety** at (979) 862-4549 or via email at biosafety@tamu.edu.

The **Environmental Health and Safety Office** can provide guidance on shipping hazardous material. Additional information available at <https://ehs.tamu.edu/programs/hazardous-material-shipping/>.

The transfer of research material may require a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) before the material may be provided or received. Contact the **Texas A&M Research Administration Office** for guidance at (979) 862-1769 or via email at negotiations@tamu.edu.

Related News:

<https://www.universalhub.com/2019/chinese-cancer-researcher-not-allowed-leave>

<https://www.universalhub.com/2019/chinese-researcher-nabbed-liquid-filled-vials>

Announcing NSF OIG Audit

On October 4th, 2019 the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced that Texas A&M University will be undergoing an audit of NSF awards to examine expenditures posted to NSF awards for the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019. The NSF OIG has contracted with the audit firm Cotton & Company to conduct the audit at Texas A&M University.

Why is Texas A&M being audited? The OIG reports that there is not a specific concern that prompted the audit, it is not uncommon for universities to be audited on a rotating schedule. It's simply just our turn.

What are the auditors examining? The auditors will be looking at expenditures posted on NSF awards during the period of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019. The auditors will be investigating details regarding the allowability and allocability of charges posted to NSF awards.

Examples of audit findings at other universities include but are not limited to:

- Untimely cost transfers
- Poorly documented/unsupported expenditures
- Purchases made at or near the end of the award period
- Purchases made after the end of the award period
- Timeliness and accuracy of effort reporting
- Travel charges for individuals who are not paid on the award
- Travel that does not clearly benefit the project
- Tuition and or fees should be prorated to match the % of appointment for students charged to the project
- Timeliness and accuracy of technical reports
- Timeliness and accuracy of financial reports
- Letter of credit draws
- Revenue recognition
- Close out

What does this mean for investigators/staff? Questions to investigators and staff by Cotton & Company will be coordinated through the Sponsored Research Services (SRS) office. As the audit progresses it is possible that a member from SRS may contact investigators or departmental staff to request documentation of expenditures, or additional justification regarding expenditures. It is *critical* to the success of the audit that if investigators or departmental staff receive questions from SRS, that timely and thorough responses are received. SRS will coordinate with the Division of Research (DOR) on formal responses to the contracted audit firm.

What are findings of previous audits? NSF makes findings of previous audits publicly available at: <https://www.nsf.gov/oig/reports/reviews.jsp#external>

This is an appropriate time to remind investigators that the questions and clarifications sometimes made by the departmental staff, SRS or otherwise are to ensure that TAMU is following university and sponsor requirements.

We appreciate support from the Texas A&M research community throughout the audit process. We will provide updates periodically as the audit progresses.

SRS has AnSRS4U- Answers for You

Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) is excited to announce that we will be beginning a series of monthly informational sessions. The sessions are titled “**AnSRS4U** - Answers for You”. The goal of the sessions is to provide valuable information to our customers. The sessions will address various research administration topics and issues. Our target audience is the department and college staff that support the research enterprise, but everyone is welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom. The session will be held at SRS, 400 Harvey Mitchell Parkway, Suite 300 in Room 109 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The first session is February 13, 2020, and will be an overview of SRS. Researchers are encouraged to share this information with their staff. Sign up information for participation either in person or via Zoom will be forthcoming.

SRS Google group – Sponsored Research Services @lists.tamu.edu

Join our Listserv to get updates on **AnSRS4U** presentations and other important research administration news. E-mail Rachel Vaughn at rvaughn@tamu.edu to be added to the group.

Student Research Week: Faculty Judges Needed

Student Research Week (SRW) is a four day research symposium at Texas A&M University, and will take place at the Memorial Student Center on March 16th-20th, 2020. SRW is the largest university-wide student run research symposium in the United States, and has proudly provided students with the opportunity to present research for at no cost for 23 years. Student of all majors attend SRW, and every year, many faculty volunteer as judges for the conference. Faculty judges give critical feedback to students on the content, methodology, and conclusion of students’ research. Judges also have the opportunity to build connections with students and recruit potential graduate candidates. **For more information or to register, please visit <https://srw.tamu.edu/>**

Please see attached flyer at end of the CPI Newsletter.

New Single IRB Requirement for Federally Funded Cooperative Research Goes into Effect January 20, 2020

The 2018 Revised Common Rule 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 expecting to receive a federal award in the near future for a collaborative research project that requires IRB review should contact the TAMU IRB to develop a plan to address the Single IRB requirement for that study.

All studies requiring Single IRB review will be routed through the TAMU IRB for the processing of institutional requirements prior to any Single IRB ethical review.

The Single IRB requirement 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.

Please contact the IRB at irb@tamu.edu or 979.458.4067 for assistance.

For additional information, see:

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/single-irb-requirement/114b-exception1/index.html>).

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:
 - Body language and delivery
 - Effective communication of the research question and why it is important
 - Effective visual aids (if used)
- Looking for 1 hour commitments on February 26, 2020.
 - **Active Listener Registration Link:** https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bC15Z8chz5j6Tm5
 - **Active Listener Registration Deadline:** February 17, 2020
- More information about the URS Symposium can be found at <http://tx.ag/urssymposium>.

REU/SURE Coordination Meeting

- January 30, 2020 from 8:30-10:00 AM in MSC 2406.
- Please RSVP at https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6D521RfHGo10zIz by January 27, 2020.
- 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.

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. For more information on the President's Excellence Fund, visit: <https://president.tamu.edu/initiatives/>

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The list of current Limited Submission Proposal (LSP) opportunities, maintained by the Division of Research, is available at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/lsp>. To receive notifications about new LSP opportunities as soon as they are announced you can subscribe to the Division of Research newsletter. [Click here to Subscribe](#) to the Limited Submission newsletter or email Ms. Shelly Martin at shelly.martin@tamu.edu.

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University publishes a weekly bulletin about research. The Research Bulletin accepts news items about researchers and their teams from the colleges, schools, campuses and agencies within the Texas A&M research enterprise, including honors, funding, presentations, and appearances in news media. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin

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2020 SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020

8:30 AM	Coffee & Poster Session (Lobby MPHY)
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks by Mark Barteau , Vice President for Research
9:15 AM	Opening Remarks by François Gabbai , Symposium Organizer
9:30 AM	Katherine Freeman , Penn State, <i>"Tracking Life's Fingerprint with Molecules and Isotopes"</i>
10:15 AM	Yige Zhang , Texas A&M University, <i>"The Consumption of a Natural CO₂ Pulse, 16 Million Years Ago: Ancient Lakes, Fossil Leaves, Biomarkers, and Isotopes"</i>
10:40 AM	Daniel Breecker , University of Texas at Austin, <i>"Has Eastern China Always Been Summer-wet? Evidence for Changes in Precipitation Seasonality from Isotope Ratios of Paleosol Carbonates"</i>
11:05 AM	Crayton Yapp , Southern Methodist University, <i>"Rusty Isotopic Archives of Continental Weathering Environments-An Example from the Late Miocene Subtropics"</i>
11:30 AM	Poster Session (Lobby MPHY) & Lunch Break
1:00 PM	Keri Hornbuckle , The University of Iowa, <i>"High Throughput Analysis of PCBs in Complex Environmental Matrices Using Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometry"</i>
1:40 PM	Chris Kerth , Texas A&M University, <i>"Metabolomics-the Latest Technology to Determine Flavor Potential"</i>
2:05 PM	Michael Shields , Texas A&M University, <i>"Ions at Work in the Environment: Tools for Quantifying and Characterizing Contaminants and Natural Organic Matter"</i>
2:30 PM	Coffee Break & Poster Session (Lobby MPHY)
3:00 PM	Remarks by David Russell
3:10 PM	Erin Baker , North Carolina State University, <i>"Applying Advanced Separations and Visualization Techniques for a Multi-omic Assessment of Complex Systems"</i>
3:45 PM	Arthur Laganowsky , Texas A&M University, <i>"Mass Spectrometry of Intact Membrane Protein Complexes"</i>
4:15 PM	Gary Patti , Washington University at St. Louis, <i>"Untargeted Metabolomics: A Last Resort or the Next Frontier?"</i>
4:50 PM	Closing Remarks by Arul Jayaraman
5:00 PM	Poster Session & Reception (Lobbies of MPHY and MIST)

Organized by the Texas A&M University Mass Spectrometry Core
 For any questions, please contact gabbai_asst@chem.tamu.edu

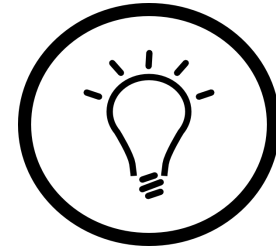
Venue: Hawking Auditorium, Texas A&M University



Microscopy
& Imaging Center



LUNCH & LEARN



----- SEMINAR -----

FREE PIZZA if you RSVP!!

Big Data Visualization and Analysis in FIJI

Dr. Holly Gibbs

March 2nd, 2020 12:00PM-1:00PM

Room 1143 ILSB



Texas A&M University Student Research Week

Howdy!

Student Research Week (SRW) is the largest student run research symposium in the nation and has been a valuable tool in meeting the university's mission of academic, research, and service excellence for the past 20 years.

This four-days competition highlights student research occurring on the Texas A&M campus. In last year, **856 students** participated to present their work through either oral presentation or poster sessions. The event is in need of **industry professionals, faculty, research personnel, and graduate students** to serve as judges for 84 subject areas. Students appreciate the chance to present the depth and breadth of research conducted at the Aggieland and getting critical feedback from judges. Judges have the chance to hear the finalists talk about their research, build relationships with students and recruit potential graduates.

Currently, we are seeking **300** judges from **March 16–March 20**. A gift bag with SRW logo will be served to judges.

There are 9 *categories* including 84 subject area are open to register:

1. Engineering
2. Agriculture & Life Science
3. Science
4. Liberal Art
5. Geoscience
6. Education & Humane Development
7. Veterinary Medicine
8. Business & Public Service
9. Professional Health

For more information and to register as a judge, click the link [here](#)

Thanks & Gig'em,

Xue Gong | Judge Coordinator of Student Research week
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Texas A&M University