
CPI Newsletter –September 2020

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2020-21 CPI roster: *Chair* — Steve Maren, *Liberal Arts* • *Vice Chair* — David Stelly, *COALS* • *Past Chair* — Daren Depoy, *Science* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • *Architecture* — Wei Yan • *COALS* — Russell Cross, Kerri Gehring, Wes Osburn, Jean-Phillipe 'JP' Pellois, Elizabeth 'Betsy' Pierson, Aaron Tarone • *Education* — Timothy Elliott, Rafael Lara-Alecio • *Engineering* — Debjyoti Banerjee, Akhilesh Gaharwar, Melissa Grunlan, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, James Kaihatu, Samuel Ma, Scott Socolofsky, Ramesh Talreja • *Geosciences* — Jessica Fitzsimmons, Ethan Grossman, Brendan Roark • *Law* — Gabriel Eckstein • *Liberal Arts* — Jessica Bernard, Harland Prechel • *Mays* — Korok Ray • *Medicine* — Helene Andrews-Polymeris, Shannon Glaser, Carl Gregory • *Nursing* — Nancy Downing • *Pharmacy* — Jayshree Mishra • *Science* — Jennifer 'Jen' Dulin, Rainer Fries, 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, Nathan Tichenor • *TTI* — David Bierling, James Kovar, Dennis Perkinson • *University Libraries* — Sarah Potvin • *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. Stephen Maren, CPI Chair

September CPI News –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting were updates as Texas A&M continues to plan for research opportunities for the new academic. Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto, Associate Vice President, Research Compliance Officer reminds everyone that there are Texas Public Information Act Guidelines that Texas A&M employees need to be aware of as we start a new year. Ms. Rojo del Busto also reminded CPI that there are restrictions in use of drawings when working within human research. Additional information is provided below in a separate heading in the newsletter.

As we transition to the new academic year, I invite you to contact me, Dr. David Stelly, 2020-2021 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.

CPI Contacts–The complete 2020-2021 roster of CPI Representatives and the CPI Executive Committee can be found on the CPI website at https://cpi.tamu.edu/membership/2020-2021_Membership. Previous membership lists can be found in the council [archive](#).

Comparative Medicine Program Update

Beginning September 1, a new research animal colony management system, Mosaic, will go live. In addition to animal tracking this system will also provide investigators additional tools such as breeding colony management and the ability to access colony information in real time. Cage cards for the new system will have a slightly different look but will function in the same manner as the previous system. By mid to late September, mobile card scanning stations will be placed in animal facilities which will allow animal care and investigative staff the ability to manage colonies on the spot.

Lisa Jones, ljones14@tamu.edu will serve as the contact for questions and for training on use of the Mosaic system and the expanded capabilities the system offers.

TMC Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics Information Session

When? Monday, September 14th 11:00am-12:00pm – Attend [here](#).

The process of advancing a therapeutic from the academic setting to the clinic requires an understanding of the business of drug development as well as an experienced team and access to the right resources.

During this presentation, in partnership with the Texas A&M Technology Commercialization, Leah DiMascio, PhD, PMP and Sarah Hein, PhD will cover real life startup experiences, case studies, and how the TMC ACT program and available resources assist in navigating the drug development process. Attendees will have the opportunity to dialogue with the presenters throughout the session.

The TMC ACT program is a CPRIT backed accelerator launched in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Consortium (GCC) and the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). This program provides life science entrepreneurs an accelerated drug development timeline by bringing together cancer researchers, oncologists, executive mentorship, drug development experts, and investors.

Applications are now open here! Please contact Ashley Francis, Program Manager, at afrancis@tmc.edu for additional questions. This session will be recorded and available as part of our educational series.

Update on the Texas Library Coalition for United Action's Negotiations with Elsevier

The A&M Libraries is a member of the newly-established Texas Library Coalition for United Action (TLCUA or "The Coalition"). The Coalition has 42 members and includes both public and private institutions in Texas. Selected examples include all UT and A&M system institutions and private institutions such as Rice and Baylor; all UT medical libraries are members as well. The Coalition has been established to negotiate collaboratively with Elsevier. As most members, the A&M Libraries has a contract that expires December 31, 2020.

The Coalition seeks a successful agreement with Elsevier but we have important goals we want to achieve in a new agreement. All members have agreed that we are willing to walk away from negotiations and potentially lose immediate access to newly published content if our goals are not met. Two key goals include reductions in cost and greater control by faculty over their scholarly content. Should we withdraw, we would join the UC and MIT libraries who have recently withdrawn from negotiations and lost immediate access. The A&M Libraries recently established an "Always Access Task Force" that will develop recommendations and tools for alternate strategies we can employ to provide continuing access to current content published in Elsevier journals.

Maestro Steering Committee

The Maestro Steering Committee governs Maestro (Modular Application for the Electronic Submission and Tracking of Research Operations), which is an enterprise-wide system that supports researchers and research administration across The Texas A&M University System. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the TAMU VP for Research (Mark Barteau) and the TAMUS CIO (Mark Stone). The Maestro Steering Committee met on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Items of discussion included:

- (1) development of the Budget Forecasting Project, which is a high-priority project just underway, presented by Carolyn Engledow. A temporary account trends screen might be implemented as an interim tool to assist with budgeting.
- (2) A new research compliance item concerning Representation or Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (2. Section 889(a)(1)(A) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Pub. L. 115-232); FAR 52.204-24 & FAR 52.204.25), which will be incorporated into portion of Maestro compliance statement managed by research administration, presented by Lauren Schroeder.
- (3) A Maestro Status Monitoring Report provided by Leonarda Horvat, which covered both financials status and new Maestro features released in the past two months.

Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee:

Kerri Gehring (kagehring@tamu.edu) and Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu)

New Postdoctoral Association (PDA) Website

The Texas A&M University Postdoctoral Association (TAMU PDA) is a postdoc-led organization supported by the Division of Research (DoR). Our mission is to foster a sense of community among postdoctoral scholars, to be an advocate and a representative voice of postdocs, and to improve the quality of the postdoctoral experience at TAMU.

For more information, please visit our new [website](#) and subscribe to our [listserv](#).

We are currently recruiting PDA departmental liaisons: PDA departmental representatives serve as delegates to foster communication between postdocs in their home department and the TAMU PDA. If you are interested in representing your department please contact us at pda@tamu.edu.

Updates for LAUNCH Undergraduate Research

NEW University SAP 15.99.99.M0.04, Responsible Conduct for Research

[NEW University SAP 15.99.99.M0.04, Responsible Conduct for Research](#) was recently approved. This SAP establishes University requirements for the training of students and postdoctoral researchers involved in University-related research, regardless of funding.

Those who will be impacted include:

- Undergraduate students: any undergraduate student who participates in research must complete online RCR training within 60 days from their initial involvement in the research activity.
- Graduate students: depending on the type of research activity, graduate students must complete online RCR training within 60 days from commencement of the research activity and four hours of face-to-face training within the first six months of involvement with externally funded research.
- Postdoctoral researchers: all must complete online RCR training within 60 days of employment, and complete an additional four hours of fact-to-face training within the first six months of employment.

Example Resource for Colleges/Departments: Research Approval Form

In response to COVID-19 policies, the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics has implemented a new undergraduate research compliance approval for COVID-19 safety form to track active projects and approved personnel. They have kindly made it available as an example resource if other departments wish to implement similar regulations. **(Attached)**

Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis Program

The Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis program seeks to provide eligible undergraduates with a graduate student experience by allowing them to participate in research and communicate their findings as principal authors to the University's scholarly community.

Students worried about or limited by COVID-19-related restrictions and/or disruptions may now also choose to use the NEW Journal Style Thesis if they are:

- Unable to do in-person research
- Lacking funding for your research project
- Limited by travel restrictions
- Limited by timeframe to conduct a full-scale research project
- Conducting an interdisciplinary project where you lack a team member with a particular skill or a lab environment with access to particular equipment

Learn more about the new Journal Style thesis option at <https://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/URS/Journal-Style-Thesis>.

The deadline for students to apply to the program is September 14, 2020 at noon. Application instructions can be found at <https://launch.tamu.edu/Undergraduate-Research/URS/Apply>. Direct questions to ugr@tamu.edu.

Undergraduate Research Expo: LAUNCH can help you recruit undergraduate researchers.

The LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Expo is going virtual! We may not be able to see you in person this year, but we strive to bring the same level of awareness to undergraduate research opportunities in a new

format! From September 28-October 2, we will spotlight research opportunities and resources for undergraduates.

There are two ways to contribute [Deadline for submissions is September 11]:

1. Submit your undergraduate research opportunities to our database, including:
 - a. Open undergraduate research positions
 - b. Presentation and publication venues
 - c. Funding options
2. Submit a 2-minute video promoting your opportunities and/or resources, including:
 - a. Open undergraduate research positions*
 - b. Presentation and publication venues*
 - c. Funding options*
 - d. Campus resources

Submitting to the Research Opportunities Database

- Complete the submission form: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3PmnD6khePJ4VA9
- See examples on the database: <https://tx.ag/ROdatabase>

Submitting a 2-Minute Video

- Complete the submission and registration form: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zaR8JSqzps30zP
- Video requirements:
 - Participants must host videos on their existing college, department, unit, or organizational YouTube channels.
 - Submit your YouTube link and closed captions as part of the registration form.
 - Closed captions/video transcripts are required. Videos that do not contain closed captions/video transcripts will not be advertised.

LAUNCH COVID-19 Page

LAUNCH is maintaining a running list of COVID-19 updates from the Office of the Provost and the Vice President for Research that impact undergraduate students in LAUNCH programs. Check it out at <https://launch.tamu.edu/COVID-19>.

Innovation Partners Office Inventor's Guide

Texas A&M Innovation Partners has published an [Inventor's Guide](#) designed to be a convenient and comprehensive "one-stop" resource for quickly and easily finding out about many relevant policies and processes in regard to intellectual property, commercialization, and entrepreneurship for the Texas A&M University community. If more information is desired after consulting this guide, please contact the Innovation Partners office by emailing tamuip@tamu.edu.

Texas A&M University Innovation Partners and the School of Innovation are hosting on-line intellectual property attorney office hours every Friday during the months of September and October. To sign up for September, [click here](#). To sign up for October appointments, [click here](#).

NSF Issuance of Proposal Preparation & Award Administration FAQs related to PAPPG (NSF 20-1)

NSF announces the issuance of a set of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on proposal preparation and award administration](#) related to NSF [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\) \(NSF 20-1\)](#).

Some of the topics addressed in the FAQs include conference proposals, cost sharing, deadline dates, indirect costs, international activities/considerations and participant support.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact the DIAS/Policy Office by email at policy@nsf.gov.

Responsible Conduct of Research – New SAP & Workshops

Texas A&M University SAP <https://rulesadmin.tamu.edu/rules/download/15.99.99.M0.04> requires certain graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to complete four hours of face-to-face training regarding Responsible Conduct of Research training. Workshop information, including registration links, may be found at: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/manage-research/responsible-conduct-of-research/workshop-information>.

Reminder of the Faculty Ombuds Officer Resource

Dr. George Welch would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the role he serves as the Faculty Ombuds Officer resource at Texas A&M. In this role, Dr. Welch serves as a confidential and neutral resource for faculty members to raise and clarify issues and concerns, identify options, and request assistance to informally resolve workplace conflicts.

If you feel the need to consult with Dr. Welch, there are several ways you can contact him. By phone, you can call his office at 979-458-7735. Dr. Welch will also respond quickly via email at grw@tamu.edu or george@grwelch.com if you prefer an off-campus address. As a reminder, please don't put anything confidential in email.

Best regards, Dr. George Welch

New Website for Research Development Services

Research Development Services (RDS) is excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website. Visit us at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/division-units/research-development-services/>. After months of hard work and dedication, we are delighted to officially announce the launch on September 1, 2020. We wanted to make this new website a one-stop-shop for all information and resources related to proposal development.

The new RDS site is divided into three categories: Proposal Support, Proposal Resources, and Funding Opportunities.

Proposal Support: Full description of services for multidisciplinary proposal development support lead by Dr. Jongsma; and Single Investigator, Early Career, and NIH proposal support services lead by Dr. Kimball, are available online. Please contact them for services that are available at no cost to you. Additionally, full biographies of our Research Development staff who could be assisting you in your proposal development efforts are available online.

Proposal Resources: This is an exciting new section we hope will help TAMU Researchers in their proposal development efforts. It includes funding agency templates, checklists, resources, proposal development FAQ's, and general writing guides and tools available for download and secured behind the TAMU SSO login. Additionally, we also offer professional development opportunities throughout the year. Visit our site for an updated listing of upcoming opportunities.

Funding Opportunities: Searching for Research Funding? Check out the funding section for all external, internal, international, and limited submission opportunities that are available. You can also sign up for email newsletters that are sent on a bi-weekly basis.

We feel we are off to a great start, but we are not done yet!! We will continue to strive to develop more resources and services that will assist the TAMU research community with their proposal development efforts. If you have any suggestions that could help enhance this site, please email your ideas to [Dr. Jongsma](mailto:Dr.Jongsma).

Sincerely,
Research Development Services

Human Research Protection Program Update

To avoid running afoul of Texas gambling laws, researchers need to determine whether or not their use of a drawing for a chance to win a prize constitutes a lottery. Lotteries are illegal because they are considered “gambling” under Texas Penal Code Chapter 47.

A "lottery" is defined as any scheme or procedure whereby one or more prizes are distributed by chance among persons who have paid or promised consideration for a chance to win anything of value, whether such scheme or procedure is called a pool, lottery, raffle, gift, gift enterprise, sale, policy game, or some other name

Please see attached flyer for more information. Should you have any questions contact the Human Research Protection Program by phone at 979.458.4067 or by email at irb@tamu.edu

AnSRS4U – Presentation on Contract Negotiation

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) is providing Answers for You, (AnSRS4U). SRS is offering via Zoom a series of monthly informational sessions on various research administration topics. Our target audience is the department and college staff that support the research enterprise but everyone is welcome to attend. The next presentation will be on **Thursday, August 20 at 10:00am** and the topic is contract negotiation. Zoom meeting registration information will be sent out via the SRS google group at SRS@lists.tamu.edu. Sign up for the listserv by emailing ansrs4u@tamu.edu and request to be added to the listserv.

Updates to Existing Proposal & Award Policy-related Guidance

The Foundation has made updates to the following guidance on the NSF website based on inquiries that we are receiving from the community:

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on NSF's Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-26](#);
- [FAQs on Current & Pending Support](#); and
- [NSF-approved Formats for the Biographical Sketch](#) website.

Updated guidance includes clarifications on professional appointments, research endeavors, principal investigators working outside the U.S. for an extended period of time, and reporting on in-kind support and outside consulting activities.

Please direct any questions to policy@nsf.gov.

Research Development Services Calendar

Attached to the back of the newsletter are two pages entitled 2020-2021 Professional Development Calendar for upcoming to offer seminars & workshops for the Texas A&M research community. These events are aimed to assist PIs in developing competitive grant proposals to the NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies.

COVID Report Form

Reminder, there is a new online COVID Report Form that should be utilized if you are reporting information on individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Utilize this link:

<https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=4HAMAH98D>

If you are reporting on another individual, please remember to keep all information strictly confidential.

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The Division of Research has implemented a brand new 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://tamufoready4.com/#limitedsubmissions>. The limited submission office will be phasing in the portal as new limited submission opportunities arise. If you have any questions, please contact limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu or Shelly Martin at 979-862-2233.

Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities

The Division of Research, Research Development Services, offers free assistance to teams pursuing large multidisciplinary funding opportunities. To learn more about the types of assistance offered or to request assistance, see the one-pager included in this edition of the CPI newsletter, click [here](#), or contact Dr. Candice Jongsma (cjongsma@tamu.edu).

Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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



Texas A&M University | TMC Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) Information Session

Monday, September 14th 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Attend the virtual meeting [here](#)

The process of advancing a therapeutic from the academic setting to the clinic requires an understanding of the business of drug development as well as an experienced team and access to the right resources.

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CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS



Please contact Ashley Francis, Program Manager, at afrancis@tmc.edu for additional questions.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS

Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics Undergraduate Research Compliance Form for COVID-19 Safety

The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at Texas A&M University requires that all undergraduate students working in departmental laboratories for research purposes, either for pay or 491 research credit, follow and comply with all university, college, and department COVID-19 related safety regulations while conducting research. Each undergraduate student should read the information below and sign and date the form indicating agreement to follow the stated instructions. Information on University COVID-19 regulations and policies can be found here: <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/index.html>.

Students will not be registered for 491 research credit until this form has been submitted to the undergraduate office

I agree to the following:

1. In the 7 days prior to signing this document I have not tested positive for the virus causing COVID-19 nor exhibited any the known COVID-19 symptoms including, fever, sore throat, loss of taste/smell, dry cough, large muscle pain, breathing difficulty, lethargy.
2. In the 14 days prior to signing this document I have not been in contact with any person known to me to have tested positive for the virus causing COVID-19 or had COVID-19 symptoms.
3. I will follow all University regulations for [wearing masks](#) and [research guidelines](#).
4. Additionally, I have reviewed the department and laboratory specific safety regulations specific to COVID-19 with my research advisor prior to starting research. These regulations include but are not limited to the following:
 - While in the laboratory or department building common areas a face mask or other appropriate PPE will be worn at all times.
 - Six (6) feet of separation from all other laboratory personnel will be maintained at all times.
 - In situations where close-quarters contact is unavoidable, such as when being trained, both a face mask and a face shield must be worn. Close-quarters instruction will be coordinated with my faculty advisor.
 - If I have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for the virus causing COVID-19 I will not come to the laboratory, I will notify my research advisor, and I will report my symptoms at the University [COVID-19 Reporting Portal](#).
 - I will not return to the laboratory for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and I have been fever/symptom free for at least 3 days without medication.
5. Violation of these regulations will result in immediate prohibition from in-lab participation even if that results in a grade of F for 491 research credit.

Signature of undergraduate student

Date

Printed name of undergraduate student

UIN

Signature of laboratory research supervisor

Date

Printed name of laboratory research supervisor

A copy of this form must be given to the department undergraduate office upon completion. Electronic versions are preferable and should be emailed to biobiougradadv@tamu.edu.



HUMAN RESEARCH PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE, SEPTEMBER 2020

DON'T RUN AFOUL OF TEXAS GAMBLING LAWS: WHAT HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCHERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ACCEPTABLE USE OF DRAWINGS AS COMPENSATION OR AN INCENTIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

To avoid running afoul of Texas gambling laws, researchers need to determine whether or not their use of a drawing for a chance to win a prize constitutes a lottery. Lotteries are illegal because they are considered “gambling” under Texas Penal Code Chapter 47.

A "lottery" is defined as any scheme or procedure whereby one or more prizes are distributed by chance among persons who have paid or promised consideration for a chance to win anything of value, whether such scheme or procedure is called a pool, lottery, raffle, gift, gift enterprise, sale, policy game, or some other name.

Given the possible implications to researchers using drawings as a form of compensation or an incentive to participate in research, the Division of Research, in conjunction with the Office of General Counsel, has identified a framework for the acceptable use of drawings in human research at Texas A&M University:

1. The compensation is appropriate when it is not large enough to be considered an inducement (undue influence).
2. The participant is not told that entry or eligibility for the drawing is conditioned on completing the study. This means that everyone is eligible for the drawing upon providing consent to participate in the study and cannot be told they must complete the study.
3. The time, effort, and inconvenience of the participant cannot be substantial.

Substantial time and effort is determined on a case by case basis and considers the procedures involved such as what is asked of the participant and the amount of time involved.

4. This approach is not limited to exempt research.

Should you have any questions contact the Human Research Protection Program by phone at 979.458.4067 or by email at irb@tamu.edu.