
CPI Newsletter – November 2019

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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

November CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators November 6, 2019. Discussions during the CPI-EC November meeting included topics for upcoming CPI General Meetings to include an update from the Provost, Dr. Fierke and a Division of Research update from Dr. Barteau. Dr. Andy Morriss and Dr. Karen Butler-Purry met with CPI-EC for discussions on the upcoming updates they both will provide at the November 13th 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 December CPI General meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Rudder 601, 11:30-1:15pm. Dr. Carol Fierke, Provost, Texas A&M University and Dr. Mark Barteau, Vice President for Research have been invited to come provide CPI with updates pertaining to faculty appointment time for upcoming academic/fiscal years including faculty summer salary discussions and a Division of Research update.

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

Federal Relations Update – November 7, 2019

Federal Appropriations Update

As reported in our last update, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) [H.R. 4378 \(116\)](#) to extend current FY19 funding levels through November 21, 2019, allowing time for the House and Senate to negotiate a permanent spending deal.

Since our last update, a brewing political storm in D.C. has made the potential for a shutdown a looming issue.

With the current CR set to expire on Nov. 21st, we are hearing there is the potential for another CR that could extend to either mid-December or to the end of December. Again, with only a handful of joint working days between the House and the Senate, the potential for a shutdown looms.

As the November 21st deadline approaches, we'll continue to monitor the progress of an agreement on another CR, and provide updates as appropriate.

Engaging the Federal Government

As a reminder, to assist with lobbying disclosure requirements, and to help make trips to Washington D.C. more strategic and effective: faculty, staff and students are encouraged to complete a brief [online form](#) prior to traveling to D.C.

Additional resources on engaging the federal government can also be found on the GR Website:
<https://governmentrelations.tamu.edu/federal/visiting-dc.html>

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

Government Relations | Texas A&M University
1246 TAMU | College Station, TX 77843-1246
ph: 979.458.0282 | gr@tamu.edu

National Drone Safety Awareness Week: November 4 – 10, 2019

<http://www.faa.gov/go/DroneWeek/>

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), also known as “drones,” have exploded onto the scene in recent years. Drones are robust tools used widely in research, education, recreation, mapping, agricultural monitoring, building inspection, search and rescue, and many other areas. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is encouraging Americans to spread the word on drone safety with the first **National Drone Safety Awareness Week** during **November 4-10, 2019**. The FAA reminds drone pilots and users that airspace safety is everyone’s responsibility.

National Drone Safety Awareness Week will help educate the public about drone safety by highlighting how key sectors of the drone community are engaging with the public and spreading awareness throughout all 50 states. It can also be an opportunity for drone stakeholders and users to kick off new safety initiatives and learn the latest about safe drone operations.

Texas A&M University has established University Rule 24.01.07.M0.01, **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**, which defines the requirements to oversee safe and compliant UAS activity on or above university property or on university business.

Due to our proximity to Easterwood Airport, campus properties are in stringently regulated/controlled airspace, which impacts all UAS operations and limits flight ceiling height. At this time, Texas A&M does not permit hobbyist or recreational UAS flights on university properties. Following are helpful links to UAS flight information at Texas A&M and to the online flight request form:

The Texas A&M University System Regulation for UAS Operations - <http://policies.tamus.edu/24-01-07.pdf>

Texas A&M University Rule for UAS - <https://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/24.01.07.M0.01.pdf>

Texas A&M University Program for UAS Operations - <https://ehs.tamu.edu/programs/unmanned-aerial-systems/>

Texas A&M System UAS Flight Application - <https://www.tamus.edu/business/risk-management/uas/uas-application/>

The university’s Supervising Authority (SA) Committee meets monthly to consider application requests. UAS flight request applications must be submitted to the SA Committee for compliance review at least 15 days prior to planned flight operations. Approvals are granted by the designated university SA. Any

unapproved UAS/UAV flights are disruptive to university operations and will be referred for appropriate disciplinary action.

For further information on using UAS (drones) safely at Texas A&M, please contact Environmental Health & Safety at (979)845-2132 or ehsd@tamu.edu.

Guidance-Foreign Influence in Research

Members of the Texas A&M research community:

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 are further updates and reminders regarding the growing foreign influence concerns expressed by federal agencies:

1. NIH

NIH issued [Guide Notice NOT-OD-19-114](#) on July 10, 2019 to remind investigators about the need to report foreign and domestic activities relevant to their sponsored projects through careful documentation of other support, foreign components, and adherence to financial conflict of interest reporting processes.

NIH requires this information to prevent scientific, budgetary, or commitment overlap, and to ensure proper oversight of financial conflicts of interest before and while NIH funds are being expended. NIH views these updated instructions as “clarifications” rather than policy changes, although in practice there do seem to be some significant revisions, including:

A. *Other Support: Expanded List of Reportable Items*

The updated definition includes “all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their research endeavors, regardless of whether they have monetary value and regardless of whether they are based at the institution the researcher identifies for the current grant.” It should be noted that in their FAQs, NIH indicates that foreign collaborations that “directly benefit” an investigator’s research must be reported even if the investigator is not involved and the project is not funded with NIH dollars.

B. *Foreign Component: Slightly Expanded Definition*

The updated definition now states that the prior approval requirement to designate a foreign component of a grant would be triggered if a separately-funded collaborator outside of the U.S. performs experiments in support of the investigator’s project, even if no NIH funding is involved. It should be noted that NIH is currently considering whether this definition will include work that is done in a foreign location (e.g. postdoc working on the NIH grant decides to return to home country and wants to continue working on the grant).

C. *Other Support/Biosketch: Appointment Listings*

The Biosketch appointment definitions have been slightly updated to include “all positions and scientific appointments held by senior/key personnel that are relevant to an application.” This includes paid and unpaid appointments at foreign institutions that do not involve explicit time commitments.

Please ensure that you are properly reporting to NIH. Please review this [Guide Notice](#) and its accompanying [FAQs](#) carefully so that your NIH proposals, just-in-time submissions, and continuation progress reports are fully accurate and complete. As a PI/PD or as senior/key personnel, note that you remain personally responsible for the completeness and accuracy of your documents, even if departmental research administrative staff have assisted you in document preparation.

2. NSF

NSF issued a Dear Colleague Letter: Research Protection on July 11, 2019 clarifying multiple steps NSF is taking to mitigate risks from “activities threatening our research community, such as certain foreign-government-sponsored talent requirement programs.” NSF has proposed clarification of the proposal disclosure requirements and reporting requirements for both current and pending support and professional appointments. Those clarifications are included in the draft Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (NSF 20-1). Effective January 2020, NSF also proposes to use an electronic format for submission of biographical sketches, including disclosure of all appointments, and disclosure of current and pending support information.

3. DOE

DOE issued a directive dated June 7, 2019 prohibiting their employees and contractors from participating in foreign talent recruitment programs from certain countries. The extent and reach of this requirement to recipients and subrecipients of DOE funding is not yet known as the requirement is being first implemented within DOE national labs, which are requiring a certification regarding involvement with foreign talent programs.

A separate policy covering university-based grantees is expected to follow. It should be noted that DOE views participation in a foreign talent program a conflict of interest that needs to be reported.

4. DOD

DOD released a letter on October 10, 2019 addressed to the academic community describing threats to our collaborative research environment by foreign governments and outlining steps taken by DOD and other federal agencies to protect the integrity of the research enterprise. Specifically, DOD reiterates the need for research personnel to fully disclose conflicts of interest and commitment as follows: “all research and research-related educational activities conducted through DOD research grants, cooperative agreements, technology investment agreements, and other non-procurement transactions require key-personnel to disclose all current and pending projects, time commitments to other projects, and funding sources at the time of application.”

5. OSTP

The Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a letter to the research community on September 16, 2019 regarding efforts to ensure openness, transparency, reciprocity, and security in international scientific collaborations. OSTP is working on: (i) coordinating outreach and engagement with Federal agencies, academic research institutions, companies, non-governmental organizations, researchers, and students; (ii) establishing and coordinating disclosure requirements for participation in federally funded projects; (iii) developing best practices for academic research institutions; and (iv) developing methods for identification, assessment, and management of risk.

6. NASA

As a reminder, NASA has long-standing restrictions on using NASA funds to enter into agreements “to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company, at the prime recipient level or at any sub recipient level, whether the bilateral involvement is funded or performed under a no-exchange of funds arrangement.” This prohibits TAMU from collaborating with (even if unfunded) or issuing a sub award to China or a Chinese-owned company as part of a NASA project.

In addition, as a general reminder, please remember to limit acknowledgments in published work (e.g., peer reviewed journal articles) to only those projects that actually supported the work discussed in the paper.

Please contact the Division of Research with any questions at 979.862.6419 or coi@tamu.edu.

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

See: <https://hias.tamu.edu/faculty-fellows/2018-19/stefan-h-e-kaufmann>

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

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

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

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

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

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.



PRESIDENT'S
EXCELLENCE FUND
SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE

President's Excellence
Fund Symposium

Monday, April 20, 2020

Texas A&M Hotel
and Conference Center

T3 | **X-GRANTS**

Round 2 Funding
Posters

Round 2 Funding
Presentations

Additional details to follow.

Questions, contact:
[Research Communications](#)

Produced by Research Communications

DEBAKEY EXECUTIVE RESEARCH LEADERSHIP



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