
CPI Newsletter – October 2019

Included in this issue:

- Update from the CPI Chair
- Federal Appropriations Update
- University Graduate Education Taskforce
- Research Development Fund – Fall Applications Due October 14, 2019
- PIVOT Workshop
- Fall 2019 NIH Specific Aims Virtual Workshop
- Multidisciplinary, Multi-PI, and Multi-Institutional Proposals Webinar
- Private Foundation Outreach, Cultivation, and Proposal Development Webinar
- Biosafety Program to Establish a Biosafety Compliance Network
- Coming Soon: New Homescreen Features in iRIS
- IRB to Offer Hands on iRIS Training in November
- Texas A&M University Research Compliance Committee Update
- Federal Updates
- Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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

October CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators October 2, 2019. Discussions during the CPI-EC October meeting included the new student research assistant position job title being created for use. CPI-EC working collaboratively with the Student Financial and Employment Office, LAUNCH and Division of Research in creating a student research assistant position so research labs can continue to provide opportunities for Enhancing On-Campus Student Employment for undergraduates interested in working in research labs. CPI-EC members are working collaboratively with the Division of Research and Provost with concerns of faculty appointment time and faculty time-off. CPI-EC is currently working with the Office of Graduate and Professional Students and Sponsored Research Services in regards to payment and funding of graduate fees for TAs and RAs.

CPI Contacts – The 2019-2020 roster of CPI Representatives and the 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 continue to meet with President Young and Provost Fierke each month in order to keep PIs informed. The CPI-EC also meets with Chancellor Sharp every other 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 November CPI General meeting will be Wednesday, November 13, 2019, Rudder 601, 11:30-1:15pm. Dr. Andy Morriss, Dean of the School of Innovation and Vice President of the Office of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, will provide updates on both offices since their creation in 2017. He will detail the 9/1/19 transition of the Office of Technology Translation, the designated member commercialization office for Texas A&M University, to the Office of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development as Texas A&M Innovation Partners. This transition was the result of the multi-year review process for System Regulation 17.01 and created separate commercialization offices for the University and our state agency partners.

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

Federal Appropriations Update

The end of the federal fiscal year is right around the corner (September 30th). What is Congress going to do? Here's what we know:

- As we reported [last month](#), a continuing resolution (CR) is presently in play to extend the current FY19 funding levels through Nov. 21st, allowing the House and Senate time to negotiate a permanent spending deal.
- Last week the House easily passed the continuing resolution, [H.R. 4378 \(116\)](#), sending it to the Senate for consideration, where it is expected to pass later this week. The President has indicated he intends to sign the stopgap funding measure once it hits his desk.

We'll continue to monitor progress of the permanent 12 appropriations measures as the November 21st deadline approaches, 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](#).

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.

University Graduate Education Taskforce

Based on the 2018-2019 CPI white paper recommendations on graduate programs put forth by the CPI breakout committee and presented to the Provost, Vice President for Research, and Associate Provost for Office of Graduate and Professional Students (OGAPS), a taskforce has been created. This newly developed taskforce has been established to study best practices in graduate education. Dr. Jayanth Ramadoss serves as the representative of CPI on the taskforce.

Research Development Fund Fall Applications Due October 14, 2019

Full applications are due Monday, October 14, 2019. The guidelines and application for submission can be found at rdf.tamu.edu or email questions to rdf@tamu.edu.

PIVOT Workshop

October 15th or October 16th , 1:30pm – 2:30pm, virtual meetings via Zoom

Pivot allows research administrators, research development professionals, and individual faculty members the ability to search and track the right research funding opportunities — quickly and easily. This is for faculty, staff researchers, and graduate students. For more information see the attached flyer or contact Shannon Eyre at seyre@tamu.edu, Research Development Services.

Fall 2019 NIH Specific Aims Virtual Workshop

October 23 & November 6, 2019, Noon – 1:30pm, virtual meetings via Zoom

Participants in this interactive two-part workshop will have opportunity to provide and receive feedback on NIH Specific Aims pages, as well as receive feedback from experienced NIH peer reviewers.

Multidisciplinary, Multi-PI, and Multi-Institutional Proposals Webinar

October 24, 2019, 1:30-2:30, via Zoom

Discussion with Q&A on planning and developing a multi-PI plan. Includes best practices for collaborative proposal development.

Register by October 23, 2019 at: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvy15HNt1QQRpHL

Private Foundation Outreach, Cultivation, and Proposal Development Webinar

November 5, 2019, 2:00-3:30, via Skype or Zoom

Introducing development officers and research deans to the nuts and bolts of fostering and sustaining relationships with foundations who sponsor research. This workshop is perfect for all levels of experience.

Biosafety Program to establish a Biosafety Compliance Network

The Biosafety Program provides support to researchers around the state of Texas including 18 cities outside of Brazos County. In addition to annual trips to those locations, the program is forming a biosafety network that will be composed of Biosafety staff and on-site safety and/or compliance representatives from local and remote locations to participate in online meetings quarterly. The long-term goal of these meetings is to establish a sense of cohesiveness among safety representatives by providing a platform for members to ask questions and clarify misconceptions regarding biosafety rules and regulations, to discuss commonly encountered biosafety related issues and share ideas for resolution, and to ensure that practices required to work safely with biohazardous agents are being implemented consistently in laboratories, vivaria, greenhouses, and insectaries. For additional information, contact the Biosafety Program at 979-862-4549 or biosafety@tamu.edu.

Coming Soon: New Homescreen Features in iRIS

The iRIS application used for submitting protocols and permits to the Research Compliance and Biosafety programs is in the process of being updated to include an updated user interface after successful log in. The updates are intended to allow a more direct path to submission and information about existing submissions in the system to better facilitate information for the research community. Implementation is expected to occur by the end of the month. The exact date has not yet been confirmed. When known, the timing and the details of the changes will be sent to all iRIS users in advance of the change to minimize any disruption in service. For any iRIS-related questions please call the technical support line at 979-845-4969 or email outreachrcb@tamu.edu.

IRB to Offer Hands on iRIS Training in November

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 November 4 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and November 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the General Services Complex 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.

<https://apps7.system.tamus.edu/TrainTraq/web/CourseDetails.aspx?cnum=2113977>

The class is free. For additional information for registering for the course, contact RCB at 979-458-1467 or outreachrcb@tamu.edu.

Texas A&M University Research Compliance Committee Update

Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio as one of the two CPI Representatives attended The TAMU University Research Compliance Committee meeting on September 24, 2019.

Main issues presented and discussed were:

- Minors in Laboratories
- Animal Welfare Program
- Biosafety Compliance Network
- BioRaft Updates
- Roundtable by attendees

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 12, 2019, 2:00-3.30 p.m.

For additional information about the September 24, 2019 meeting or if there are items of issues that need to be brought forward, please contact Dr. Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, brinkmeyer@tamu.edu or Dr. Rafael Lara-Alecio, a-lara@tamu.edu. Both are the new CPI representatives for the Texas A&M Research Compliance Committee.

Federal Updates

The Division of Research provided the Council of Principal Investigators a one-page Federal Updates for September 2019. See the back of newsletter for the Division of Research Federal Update summary.

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.

Finding Research Funding Opportunities

October 15 or 16, 2019 1:30 p.m.

Using PIVOT, a Funding Database Available Through the Library

What is Pivot?

Pivot is a database of research funding opportunities provided to the TAMU community by the Texas A&M Libraries and the Vice President for Research. Pivot allows the research community with a mechanism for searching, saving, and being notified of research funding opportunities — based upon their research needs, areas, and profiles. It is a tool for use in diversifying possible funding agencies, and includes private foundations and other non-profit agencies that may provide opportunities for research funding.

OPEN to faculty, staff researchers, post-doctoral associates, and graduate students. It will only be offered virtually, via ZOOM, so you must register to obtain the zoom link.

Pivot is a tool that:

- Provides access to a comprehensive database of global source of funding opportunities
- Pushes search results automatically to researchers via periodic email. Search results are guided by researcher profiles including keywords of interests and expertise.
- Enhances communication, monitoring, and tracking amongst individual faculty, teams, or researchers and the Research Development office through group notification functions.

[Register here for October 15th](#)

[Register here for October 16th](#)

Zoom link will be provided to participants upon registration

Contact information:

Shannon Eyre
(seyre@tamu.edu)

Research Development Services
Division of Research
Texas A&M University
979.845.1811

Jointly sponsored by the

 Texas A&M University Libraries

And

 | DIVISION OF RESEARCH
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Presenter: Dr. Bruce Herbert, title
Texas A&M University Libraries



Fall 2019 NIH Specific Aims Virtual Workshop

INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF YOUR NIH PROPOSALS

Eligibility:

- PI-eligible Texas A&M University researchers are invited to participate (<https://vpr.tamu.edu/initiate-research/pi-eligibility>)

Goals:

- Craft a clear, compelling, peer-critiqued NIH Specific Aims page
- Receive critique from an experienced NIH review panelist
- Provide and receive critical peer feedback in two sessions

Important Dates:

- October 10: Registration deadline for participation
- October 21-22: Participants receive Aims critiques from NIH review panelists
- **October 23:** Virtual meeting via Zoom to receive and provide peer critiques of Specific Aims pages
- November 4: Participants submit revised Aims drafts
- **November 6:** Virtual meeting via Zoom to receive and provide peer critiques of revised Specific Aims pages

How to Register:

- Submit a draft of your NIH Specific Aims page to Christina Howard (c-howard@tamu.edu) by 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2019
- Zoom link will be provided to participants upon registration

Registration Deadline
October 10, 2019
5:00 p.m.

Fall 2019 NIH Specific Aims Virtual Workshop

Wednesday, October 23
Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Participate via Zoom

Wednesday, November 6
Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Participate via Zoom

Contact

Christina Howard, PhD
(c-howard@tamu.edu)
Shannon Eyre
(seyre@tamu.edu)

Research Development Services
Division of Research
Texas A&M University
979.845.1811



PRIVATE FOUNDATION OUTREACH, CULTIVATION, AND PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

NOVEMBER 5, 2019
2-3:30P.M.

This webinar will provide an overview of private foundation grantseeking for faculty, administrators, and development staff. We will cover:

- *Differences between private and public funders*
- *The private foundation grantseeking process*
- *The importance of relationship cultivation*
- *Best practices for building relationships and winning private foundation grants*

The purpose of this event is to introduce attendees to private foundation funders offering grants to support research. Discussion will include how to establish and sustain relationships with private foundation funders and the importance of stewardship. This workshop is perfect for all levels of experience. Each College at Texas A&M University has a development foundation person, and researchers are encouraged to discuss with your associate dean for research the specifics associated with seeking funding from private foundations.

Participants will come away with a clear understanding of the private foundation grant process and the essential elements of private foundation grant success.

****This webinar can be will be available ONLINE ONLY!**

REGISTER HERE!





MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTI-PI, AND MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WEBINAR

Thursday, October 24, 2019
1:30p.m.-2:30p.m. – via Zoom

The Division of Research will host a webinar via Zoom by Hanover Research. Open to all faculty and staff members interested in advancing from single investigator proposals to collaborative funding opportunities, or participating in multidisciplinary research proposals.

REGISTER: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvy15HNt1QQRpHL.

Questions on registration or use of Zoom may be directed to Shannon Eyre (seyre@tamu.edu). Hanover Research is a global research and grant development firm that works with higher education institutions to pursue external funding for research and scholarship.

Webinar training is targeted for researchers interested in developing a holistic strategy to advance from single Principle Investigator (PI) proposals to multi-PI proposals. Following a discussion of the potential pros- and cons- when considering a multi-PI proposal, discussing will be on best practices associated with planning complex, collaborative proposals. Other items from the webinar will include

- team composition and the development of team responsibilities
- Exploration on how proposal development teams can create strong multi-PI plans, to include rationale and justification for the approach, the organizational structure of the team, procedures for resolving conflict, and the decision making process.
- Examples of exemplary multi-PI plans and additional resources to help investigators determine if a multi-PI proposal is appropriate for individual career trajectories and will contribute to the success of a proposed project.

Presenter: Dr. Bryan DeBusk, Senior Grants Consultant, Hanover Research



Ph.D., Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Mississippi
B.S., Biology, Ouachita Baptist University

Bryan specializes in program design, research design, and proposal development to efforts of basic and clinical researchers, higher education faculty, and other college and university staff. Since transitioning from a university faculty appointment to full-time grant writing in 2008, Bryan has helped clients obtain more than \$280 million in funding from NIH, NSF, HRSA, DOL, ED, other federal & state agencies, and private foundations.

For more information on assistance with large multi-disciplinary proposals at Texas A&M contact, Dr. Candice Jongsma (cgjongsma@tamu.edu) in Research Development Services

**FEDERAL UPDATES:
SEPTEMBER 2019****Department of Energy (DOE): New Requirements that Govern Participation in Foreign Government Talent Recruitment Programs**

On February 1, 2019, DOE issued a policy statement prohibiting DOE and contractor employees from participating in talent recruitment programs sponsored by countries determined sensitive by DOE. DOE issued an order formally implementing this policy on June 13, 2019 (DOE O 486.1). The order applies to DOE employees and contractors. For additional information see, <https://www.energy.gov/management/downloads/pf-2019-25-doe-order-4861-department-energy-foreign-government-talent>

National Institutes of Health (NIH): New Guidance on Other Support and on Policies Related to Financial Conflicts of Interest and Foreign Components

On July 10, 2019, NIH issued new guidance on Other Support and on policies related to Financial Conflicts of Interest and Foreign Components (see, NOT-OD-19-114, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-114.html>) The Notice includes a link to FAQs (see, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/faq-other-support-foreign-components.htm>).

NIH Extends the Delay in Registering and Reporting Basic Research Studies in ClinicalTrials.gov through September 24, 2021

On July 24, 2019, NIH issued a Notice (see, NOT-OD-19-126, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-126.html>) delaying the time period for investigators to register and report their basic research studies on humans in ClinicalTrials.gov through September 24, 2021. The delay applies only to basic experimental studies with humans (see NOT-OD-18-212, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-212.html>). During the period of the delay, NIH continues to expect registration and reporting for studies submitted to Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required FOAs, with additional flexibility to allow reporting on existing basic science portals, with the expectation that data will eventually be transported to ClinicalTrials.gov. The July Notice includes a link to FAQs (see, https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_clinical_trial-specific_FOAs.htm#5701).

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR): Prohibition on Telecommunications Equipment and Services from certain Chinese technology companies, in Government Contracts

Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued an interim rule which became effective on August 13, 2019 (see, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-08-13/pdf/2019-17201.pdf>). It implements a portion of section 889 of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act relating to the prohibition on government procurement of any equipment, system or service that uses “covered telecommunications equipment or services” from certain Chinese companies, such as Huawei and ZTE. The interim rule defines “covered telecommunications equipment and services” to include any telecommunications equipment or services from Huawei or ZTE (or any affiliate) and certain video surveillance and telecommunications equipment or services from other Chinese companies (or their affiliates). It includes a new solicitation and contract requirement requiring a representation on whether or not the offer includes covered telecommunications equipment or services.