
CPI Newsletter – April 2021

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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 • *BUSH* — Laura Dague • *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-Polymenis, 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

April CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Discussions and updates during the CPI-EC were on the IRB and committee structure in order to provide researchers with continued quality services. Ms. Aleise Seawright, Director for the Human Research Protection Program will provide PIs with an update on the Human Research Protection Program at the April 14, 2021 CPI General Meeting.

The CPI Executive Committee has invited Ms. Lesa Feldhousen and representatives to provide updates from Export Control, Conflict of Research Commitment, Conflict of Interest, and Visiting Scholars at the May 12th CPI General Meeting.

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. The CPI Executive Committee continues to meet with the interim president, interim provost and chancellor on a regular basis.

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](#).

AnSRS4U presentation – Time and Effort Reporting

The April Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS) AnSRS4U presentation will be on the topic of Time & Effort Reporting. The presentation will be held via Zoom on April 15, 2021 at 10:00am.

Texas A&M University receives substantial funding from the federal government and other sources in support of sponsored projects. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires recipients of federal funding to maintain a system that documents and supports individual distribution of activities and associated payroll charges to sponsored agreements. Texas A&M University applies these standards through the SSO Time and Effort System.

Do you have questions about time and effort, or are you familiar with time and effort but need a refresher? The Texas A&M Research Administration Office will be answering all your time & effort questions Thursday April 15, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Questions in advance are encouraged. If you have questions on time & effort that you would like to have addressed, please email them in advance to ansrs4u@tamu.edu.

SRS will record the presentation and it will be available at a later time for anyone to access. Recordings and slides of the previous AnSRS4U presentations are available via the SRS website at <https://srs.tamu.edu> under the Resources link and then select AnSRS4U.

Participation will be via Zoom. The Zoom meeting information is below. You will need to register in advance for this presentation.

SRS looks forward to your participation. Feel free to forward this on to your colleagues. If they are not receiving this notices via the SRS listserv they can email ansrs4u@tamu.edu and request to be added to the listserv.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
AnSRS4U Time & Effort Reporting
When: Apr 15, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAlcuGgpj0tGdZiluyDD6X5iDgeKwA5GgnN>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Innovation Partners Updates

Texas A&M University Innovation Partners, in partnership with the TEES Office of Technology Commercialization and Entrepreneurship and the Division of Research, recently hosted a virtual series about SBIR/STTR proposals. Attendees heard from TAMU and community experts on topics such as the pre-proposal work, finance and accounting, and preparing the business and commercialization/executive plan. If you did not get a chance to catch the series live, you can view a recording of the series in its entirety on [Innovation Partners' YouTube page](#).

Have intellectual property questions (whether university-owned or not!) you need answered? Texas A&M University Innovation Partners is hosting virtual intellectual property attorney office hours on Friday, April 23rd. These 30-minute appointments are offered pro bono and on a first come, first served basis. To sign up for an appointment, [please visit see the signup page](#).

Pursuing Funding in Humanities and the Arts

The Pursuing Funding in Humanities and the Arts webinar will take place on April 27, 2021 from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Dr. Kate Kelly, consultant will Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC, will be the presenter at the webinar. The webinar will cover ways to find funding, types of funding and their policies, steps to take when drafting a proposal, and how to respond to success and failure. Please see the attached flier for additional information.

You can register in advance for this meeting:
https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmuAIAyDkrAfvro

Maestro Steering Committee March 10th Meeting Summary

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 TAMUS CIO (Mark Stone) and the TAMU VP for Research (Mark Barteau). The Maestro Steering Committee met on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Items of discussion included:

- (1) Move of the Maestro Recovery Center, presented by Leonarda Horvat.
 - a. Oracle Cloud equipment to be moved from Round Rock to the Austin Data Foundry; move to occur in late March 2021;
 - b. Purpose is to increase infrastructure reliability of the recovery center;
 - c. Contract is through "LEARN", which is present in Data Foundry and is providing high performance networking for a number of universities in Texas; financial implications were presented, these are minor.

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- (2) Budget Forecasting Project Plan, presented by Mohammad Al-Banna (technical lead on the budget forecasting project).
 - a. The project will develop an enterprise-wide budget forecasting solution in Maestro, primarily for researchers and secondarily for the TAMUS research administration community;
 - b. Development was prioritized into phases, including within components. For example, in phase 1 the main dashboard will be developed; in phase 2 detailed forecasting for all budget categories except subcontracts will be developed; and in phase 3 detailed forecasting for subcontracts will be included;
 - c. Not all terms and conditions of a project may be included in the forecasting module.
 - (3) Compliance Item Removal, presented by Leonarda Horvat. The steering committee approved removing the item concerning “Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment” because this is now included in the federal government’s uniform administrative requirements for federal awards.
 - (4) A Maestro Status Monitoring Report provided by Leonarda Horvat, which covered both financials status and new Maestro features released in the past two months. Most of the Compliance and Reporting tasks were moved from the proposal stage to the project initiation stage. Created new user role ‘Compliance Administrator’ to be assigned at Member level. Planned for next reporting period: Billing Stage V and Budget Forecasting Module.

Reviewed by Leonarda Horvat. Director, Research Information Systems, TAMU.

Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee (and to the Budget Forecasting Leadership Committee):

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

Research Compliance Committee March 25th Meeting Summary

The Texas A&M University System Research Compliance Committee met on March 25. Katherine Rojo del Busto began the meeting by providing a summary of the Division of Research activities from the last 3 months. John Pryde, TAMU Privacy Officer, next discussed updates to HIPAA and privacy policies. A course is available via TrainTraq to provide HIPAA training to TAMU faculty, staff, and students. Updates to the Human Research Protection Program were outlined by Aliese Seawright, including descriptions of exempt processes. Those whose research involves human subjects can refer to the recent NIH Notice “Continued Extension of Certain Flexibilities for Prospective Basic Experimental Studies With Human Participants” (NOT-OD-21-088).

Next, updates to Conflict of Commitment and Research Security were presented by Lesa Feldhousen. A new format for NIH Biosketch and Other Support documents will take effect in May 2021; see “NOT-OD-21-073: Upcoming Changes to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page for Due Dates on or after May 25, 2021.”

The committee next addressed guidelines for the oversight of human embryonic stem cell research (as of March 2021), presented by Katherine Rojo del Busto. We reviewed a form to be completed by principal investigators wanting to perform research using human embryonic stem cells (hESCs). This form contains fields where investigators can justify their work with hESCs, describe the procedures to be used, and define the desired endpoints of hESC experiments.

Following a roundtable discussion, giving all members opportunity to discuss points of interest, the meeting adjourned. We will next meet June 24, 2021 at 2pm.

NIH Issued Guide Notice NOT-OD-21-073 Update

NIH recently issued Guide Notice [NOT-OD-21-073](#) “Upcoming Changes to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page for Due Dates on or after May 25, 2021.” Notable changes include a requirement to provide copies of translated contracts/other agreements specific to senior/key personnel foreign appointments and/or employment with a foreign institution; a requirement for the recipient to immediately notify NIH when it is discovered that a PI or other Senior/Key personnel failed to disclose Other Support; and a requirement for listing all positions/scientific appointments (foreign and domestic) in Biosketches. Use of the updated format pages will be required for applications and RPPRs submitted for due date on or after May 25, 2021; however, NIH will not begin withdrawing applications that use the previous Biosketch format until January 25, 2022. The Notice also details NIH’s definition of Other Support, and includes all resources made available to a researcher in support of and/or related to all of their research endeavors, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value and regardless of whether they are based at the institution the researcher identifies for the current grant (e.g., office/lab space, equipment, supplies, or employees or students supported by an outside source). Please email coi@tamu.edu with any questions.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Update

There have been several export control changes with regard to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, more commonly referred to as drones. The change that has the biggest effect at Texas A&M is the addition of DJI to the BIS Entity List in December 2020. DJI is one of the largest and most popular drone manufactures in the world. The addition of DJI to the Entity List does not mean Texas A&M cannot continue using these drones, but there are some areas of increased risk that should be considered. As an Entity List party, it is prohibited to export anything subject to the EAR to DJI. This includes drones manufactured by DJI. Issues could arise in cases of return, replacement, repair, etc. Also, DJI drones are configured to automatically send flight data back to DJI in China. There are scenarios where this flight data could be subject to the EAR and thus prohibited from being sent to DJI. This feature should be disabled to ensure no data will be automatically exported to China. Although purchases or transactions with DJI are not expressly prohibited, doing business with DJI is a red flag. Extra caution is needed in dealing with a party on the Entity List. The Export Controls Office is working to contact the drone users we know may be impacted directly by these changes. Drone guidance will be published on the Division of Research Website soon. Please email exportcontrols@tamu.edu with any questions.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Workshops

The Spring 2021 RCR Workshops are wrapping up. Due to multiple requests, additional workshops will be offered during the Summer. Please visit our [website](#) as the Summer schedule will be posted soon. Please email rcr@tamu.edu with any questions.

Prohibition on Telecommunications Update

Initially, the Prohibition on Contracting for Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment applied to only those awards that specifically included the clause. However, the associated FAR clauses (FAR 52.204-24 and FAR 52.204-25) have now been included in the federal government’s uniform administrative requirements for federal awards. Thus, all federal awards from the implementation date will be subject to these clauses going forward as opposed to a select few. The clause pertains to telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities); and, for the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation,

Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities). Please email exportcontrols@tamu.edu with any questions.

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.

eRA Commons landing page updates and implementation of a Two-Factor Authentication process effective September 15, 2021 (*resubmission from February 2021*)

eRA Commons will be unveiling a new landing page Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The streamlined design will utilize a navigation icon in the upper left corner of the page. For more information and screenshots, please click the following link: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2020/12/22/new-era-commons-screens-are-almost-here/>

According to the NIH eRA Commons website, a new log-in method (login.gov) will be required in 2021 for the users of eRA Commons, Commons Mobile, IAP and ASSIST. This new initiative will allow researchers and administrators the ability to log into multiple sites using a single username and password.

The requirement will be phased in for reviewers meeting by meeting, effective for review meetings February 1, 2021 and beyond. As the reviewers are enabled for meetings, their accounts will be transitioned to require login.gov to access IAR. All users of eRA Commons, ASSIST, IAR and Commons Mobile are encouraged to switch prior to the **mandatory deadline of September 15, 2021**.

At this time, you may only have one login.gov account associated with one eRA Commons account. (If you have multiple TAMU affiliated eRA Commons accounts, you will need a login.gov account for each Commons account.)

Guidance for investigators can be found at <https://era.nih.gov/register-accounts/access-era-modules-via-login-gov.htm>, under the "Initial Setup at login.gov" heading. There is also a link for frequently asked questions that may be of assistance. <https://era.nih.gov/faqs.htm#XXIV>

Should you have any questions, you may contact your SRS proposal administrator.

FREE Microscopy Consultations MIC (*resubmission from February 2021*)

The Microscopy and Imaging Center is offering FREE microscopy consultations if you are willing to *walk* and *talk* around campus following [social distancing protocols](#). How it works: Email the staff member you would like to have a free microscopy consultation with and schedule a walking session. Meet up outside of ILSB at the scheduled time and walk around campus following social distancing protocols and asking all of your microscopy-related questions.

You MUST maintain a distance of 6 feet or greater between you and the staff member of your choice.

You **MUST** wear a mask. More information can be found at: <https://microscopy.tamu.edu/event/free-microscopy-consultations/>.

Change to NIH Salary Cap (*resubmission from February 2021*)

Since 1990, Congress has legislatively mandated a limitation on direct salary for individuals under NIH awards. The mandate appears in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* ([Public Law 116-260](#)), signed into law on December 27, 2020, which provides authority for NIH to incur obligations for Fiscal Year 2021.

The *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* restricts the amount of direct salary to Executive Level II of the Federal Executive pay scale. The Office of Personnel Management recently released new salary levels for the Executive Pay Scale. Effective January 3, 2021, the salary limitation for Executive Level II is \$199,300.

Reference:

[NOT-OD-21-057: Guidance on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements FY 2021 \(nih.gov\)](#)

Certified Research Administrator Exam Review Sessions (*resubmission from February 2021*)

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) beginning in February 2021 will host a series of review sessions in preparation for the Certified Research Administrator (CRA) exam. These sessions held via Zoom consist of weekly presentations and additional study material. SRS has been continually offering these sessions since 2016. For the fall 2020 session, there were participants from TAMU, TAMHSC, TAMUG, AgriLife, TTI, TEES, TAMUCC and TAMUI.

The TAMU Vice President for Research, Dr. Mark Barteau and SRS encourages their staff engaged in research administration to earn the CRA certification. An eligibility requirement for the CRA is a combination of years of profession experience in research administration and education. The sessions are open to all TAMU staff. Over 55 employees on the College Station campus have obtained the CRA designation. Earning the designation of Certified Research Administrator means that an individual has met the requirements of the Research Administrators Certification Council's (RACC) eligibility requirements and has demonstrated a level of knowledge necessary for a person to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator. RACC was created to promote a culture of integrity and competency in the profession of sponsored research administration. To learn more about RACC and the certification process visit the RACC website at [RACC \(cra-cert.org\)](#).

Contact David Hollingsworth, dhollingsworth@tamu.edu in SRS if you want to participate in the review sessions or want more information.

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.

Updates to Research.gov

National Science Foundation (NSF) enabled three new proposal types in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System. These are the Rapid Response Research (RAPID), EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), and Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) proposal types.

RAPID, EAGER, and RAISE Proposals

- Proposers can now select a RAPID, EAGER, or RAISE proposal in the Research.gov proposal creation wizard, in addition to the existing Research proposal option.
- New automated compliance checks for RAPID, EAGER, and RAISE proposals have been added to Research.gov

Prior to submission of a RAPID or Eager proposal, PI(s) must contact the NSF Program Officer(s) whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topic to ascertain that submission of a proposal is appropriate. For a RAISE proposal the PI(s) must receive approval to submit a proposal from at least two NSF Program Officers, in intellectually distinct programs, whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topics.

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://tamu.infoready4.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).

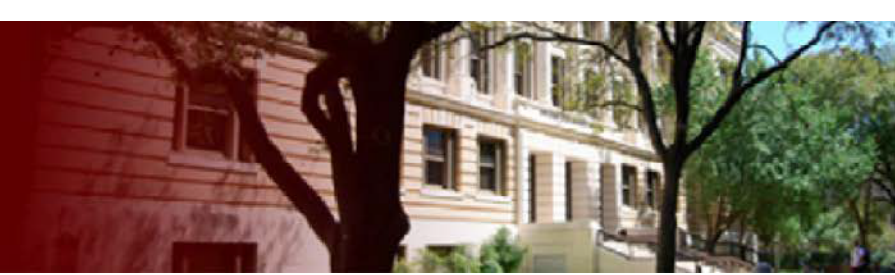
Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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

Melbern G. Glasscock
Center for Humanities Research



Pursuing Funding in Humanities and the Arts

2-Hour Webinar that Covers:

- Finding funding in a competitive landscape
- Types of funding and their policies (grants, fellowships, contracts, gifts; internal vs external funding)
- Pre-writing steps before drafting the proposal
- Drafting & re-drafting
- Responding to success or failure

Question-and-Answer session will follow.

2021

Webinar Presenter:

The presenter is **Kate Kelly, Ph.D.**, consultant with *Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC*. Dr. Kelly is a retired English professor from Texas A&M University. She has received funding from multiple funders in the humanities, and is author of several books and numerous articles. She served as a contributing editor for an academic journal for five years, and currently consults with universities across the nation on grant proposals in the Humanities.

April 27, 2021

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Register: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_dmuAIAYDkrAfvro



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Division of Research