
CPI Newsletter – June 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

June CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Discussions and updates during the June CPI-EC were with the Federal Government Relations team. Mr. Scott Sudduth, Associate Vice Chancellor for Federal Programs, The Texas A&M University System Office of Federal Relations, Washington, DC and Dr. Leslee K. Gilbert, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates, Consultant to The Texas A&M University System Office of Federal Relations, Washington, DC provided a federal government update briefing on the Endless Frontier Act. Also, there was a follow update on Institutional support for shortfalls in extramural graduate fellowship support from Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate and Professional Studies.

The CPI Executive Committee have invited Ms. Lesa Feldhousen and representatives to provide updates from Export Control, Conflict of Research Commitment, Conflict of Interest, and Visiting Scholars and Ms. Andi Mitchell and representatives to provide updates on the Animal Welfare Office at the June 9th 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](#).

Nominations for Volunteering on IACUC, IBC, IRB Committees

In regard to discussions during the recent June 9th meeting, PIs interested in volunteering for any of the three committees are welcome and encouraged to submit a nomination form. The three nomination forms (IACUC, IBC, IRB committee forms) can be found attached to the back of the June CPI newsletter. The completed nomination forms should be sent to Kate Goodman, Office of the Vice President for Research, at Mailstop 1112.

Maestro Steering Committee CPI Update

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, May 12, 2021.

Items of discussion included:

(1) Maestro FY22 Budget Assessment (presented by Jarrett Eisenrich)

FY Budget 2022: \$2,986,040. No major changes from previous year. The bulk of the budget is related to salary. The competition for people with IT backgrounds is getting more difficult and may increase salary needs to hire and retain them in the following years. Anticipate rapidly rising costs for personnel in this area.

(2) Budget Forecasting Phase 1 Roadmap (presented by Mohammad Al-Banna)

On-going project. Build a budget forecasting module that can be run on premise, on cloud, or hybrid mode. Working on team skills to ensure utilization of the state of the art technology for the project. Working on the environment setup design to allow move to any cloud system by using an open

source. Currently working on integration and security aspects with existing Maestro modules. Portfolio and forecast management phases will be starting in June (work with designers to develop this portion). Entire system for Phase 1 is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

(3) Budget Forecasting Requirements Discussion (presented by Tamara Lopez)

Could the proposal budget be used to forecast? More than 50% of award budgets differ from proposal budgets. Proposal budgets include to-be-named personnel but forecasting requires actual personnel to be effective. Cumulative cuts/increases imposed by sponsor upon award or reallocations after the award. Therefore, this may not be effective. Therefore, looked at existing screens in MAESTRO, like the anticipated funding screen to see if it could fill this need. Anticipated funding screen might allow for budget categories to be identified rather than just total for future years. Possibly able to tie personnel forecasting to Workday future years entries. Trying to prevent double-entry, which would require end-date to be entered for each person paid on research project in Workday.

Other potential solutions: Budget reallocation feature to allow PI to request budget category reallocations to SRS Project Administration in Maestro, or system to auto perform Terms and Conditions checks for sponsor for budget restrictions, if any – like certain % of funds, no restrictions, etc. Also, looking at post budget reallocations in FAMIS from Maestro to make it more efficient and streamlined.

(4) Maestro Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (presented by Leonarda Horvat)

Strategic Plan provides RIS Goals and objectives within each Goal. The next project on the priority list is to address Cost Sharing Tracking System, followed by looking at TAMU Research Metrics. Budget Development System is also forthcoming.

(5) Status Monitoring Report (presented by Leonarda Horvat)

Improvements – Sponsored Billing Project is completed and works smoothly; working through System members to get everyone using it. Added COVID-19 related expenses field to account screens. Enhancements to Proposal Quality Control Process will go live later this month.

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)

Innovation Partners IP Attorney Hours and Investment Fund

All faculty, staff, and students are invited to register for our self-paced course covering the basics of intellectual property at no cost to you! More information is available [on the Innovation Partners website](#). Intellectual Property – Protecting Your Ideas: In this course, you will gain an understanding of the main issues related to intellectual property, learn about the patent filing process, and learn how an intellectual property attorney can help you with the patent process. The course is designed for faculty wanting to learn how the university protects the inventions coming out of research labs, students who have an idea they think might be patentable but don't know where to start, and graduate students or post docs working in research where intellectual property is being generated.

Translational Investment Fund

Letters of Interest due no later than June 28, 2021.

Visit <http://tx.ag/zGbAaiW> for more information, or to submit an LOI.

Innovation Partners has opened its second annual round of funding from its Translational Investment Fund, which provides investments into the development of disclosed technologies toward commercially relevant ends. Faculty and staff inventors serviced by Innovation Partners may apply for investments of up to \$75,000 to facilitate year-long projects. The number of awards will depend on funding and submission levels. The goal of this program is to provide an opportunity for Texas A&M University researchers to bridge the common gaps that arise in development of early-stage technologies that have the potential to address a commercial or industrial need and ultimately impact the community, nation, and the world. Submissions will be accepted from current TAMU inventors with a previously filed invention disclosure that has been assigned an invention number and is managed by Innovation Partners. The subject of the project must be a disclosed invention that has at least completed a proof-of-concept stage and is backed by the inventor(s)

commitment to taking steps toward commercialization. Project proposals should demonstrate a market need for the technology, a proposed solution, commercial benefit(s), awareness of existing competition, and feasibility of project scope. For complete eligibility and selection criteria, please visit the website link above or contact Megan Brown at tif@tamu.edu with any questions.

Innovation Partners will host virtual IP attorney office hours in June:

June 10: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f45a8a62ea6f85-june>

June 24: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f45a8a62ea6f85-june1>

June 25: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f45a8a62ea6f85-june2>

SBIR/STTR webinars from March/April are on the Innovation Partners YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLslrrxNkfmt-yiAtfjL_erCodIKYCx-KO

NIH Announcing New Inbox for Inquiries Related to Changes to Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page

Do you have Questions related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates? With the focus on foreign influence there has been a lot of discussion and some confusion on what needs to be reported and on which document.

NIH has created a central email inbox for inquiries related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates in response to the high volume of inquiries received. Please send inquiries related to changes to the biographical sketch and other support templates to nihosbiosketch@nih.gov

NIH encourages the research community to review the currently available resources related to this effort:

Updated Biosketch resources, including FAQs and sample Biosketch format pages can be found [here](#).

Updated Other Support resources, including FAQs and sample Other Support format pages can be found [here](#).

Availability of Slides and Videos from May 2021 Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) held their latest meeting virtually in May 2021. The presentation slides and videos are available at the following link:

[May 2021 Meeting - The Federal Demonstration Partnership \(thefdp.org\)](https://www.thefdp.org/)

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a cooperative initiative among 10 federal agencies and 217 institutional recipients of federal funds whose purpose is to reduce the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts. The interaction between FDP's 450 or so university and federal representatives takes place in FDP's 3 annual meetings and, more extensively, in the many collaborative working groups and task forces that meet often by conference calls in order to develop specific work products

NSF Spring Virtual Grants Conference – June 7 to 11, 2021 (resubmission from May 2021)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will be hosting the Spring 2021 NSF Virtual Grants Conference from June 7 to 11, 2021. The conference is designed to give new faculty, researchers, and administrators key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF. NSF program officers will be providing up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and answering attendee questions.

Registration will be free of charge and opens on **Wednesday, May 5 at 12 p.m. EST**. For those who cannot attend the live conference, **all recorded conference sessions will be available on-demand** shortly after the event.

To stay informed about NSF Proposal & Award-Related News and Upcoming Events you can sign up at the link below:

[Get Notified – NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nsfpolicyoutreach.com\)](https://www.nsf.gov/policy/outreach)

Information on the conference is available on the link below:

[Spring 2021 Virtual Grants Conference – NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nsfpolicyoutreach.com\)](https://www.nsf.gov/policy/outreach)

AnSRS4U Presentation – Cost Share

The Sponsored Research Services (SRS) AnSRS4U presentation series will take a break for the month of June and will return in July. The July presentation will be on the subject of cost share.

If you have had these or other questions about these topics, you will want to attend the next AnSRS4U presentation on July 15, 2021 at 10:00am.

Questions in advance are encouraged. If you have questions 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 notice 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 Presentation – Cost Share
When: Jul 15, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://tamu.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

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

Responsible Conduct of Research- Summer 2021 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>.

NIH Issues Updated Guide Notice on Implementation of Changes to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page - NIH NOT-OD-21-110

On April 28, 2021, NIH published [NOT-OD-21-110](#), *Implementation of Changes to the Biographical Sketch and Other Support Format Page*.

This notice describes implementation of the updated Other Support and Biosketch format pages and associated instructions, as outlined in [NOT-OD-21-073](#).

To align applicant and recipient systems with NIH's longstanding policy requirements and application requirement updates, **NIH expects applicants and recipients to use the updated biosketch and other support format for applications, Just-in-Time (JIT) Reports, and Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs) as of May 25, 2021.**

NIH will require the use of the updated format pages for the previously mentioned submissions for anything on and after January 25, 2022. Failure to follow the appropriate formats on or after January 25, 2022 may cause NIH to withdraw applications from or delay consideration of funding.

Please note, applicants and recipients remain responsible for disclosing all research endeavors regardless of the version of the forms used. Therefore, if applicants and recipients choose not to use the updated format pages before they are required, applicants and recipients must still capture all the necessary information.

NIH is fully committed to implementing the SciENCv template for Other Support in early FY 2022.

Publication of the Revised NIH Grants Policy Statement (Rev. April 2021) for Fiscal Year 2021 (NOT-OD-21-107)

While the update does not introduce any new material for the first time, it incorporates new and modified requirements, clarifies certain policies, and implements changes in statutes, regulations, and policies that have been implemented through appropriate legal and/or policy processes since the previous version of the NIHGPS.

This revision is applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2020. Previous versions of the NIHGPS remain applicable as standard terms and conditions of award for all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods that began prior to October 1, 2020.

The current version of the NIHGPS, in both HTML and PDF formats, as well as previous versions of the NIHGPS and documents summarizing significant changes implemented with each revision, are available [here](#).

2021 Summer Fellowship Application Boot Camp Series

The Graduate and Professional School, in collaboration with TAMUS LSAMP, will host a series of workshops during Summer 2021 focused on submitting successful national fellowship applications. The workshop series include various components of a fellowship application process from identifying opportunities to developing research statements. For additional details regarding the series or to volunteer to provide 1:1 mentorship and application feedback, please refer to our flyer.

TEES Updates

1. [Texas A&M Engineering and Lockheed Martin sign master research agreement](#)
2. **NSF ERC Full Proposals – Under development**
 - Dr. Cynthia Hipwell led “*NSF Engineering Research Center for Future INterfaces Extending SomatoSensory Expertise -- FINESSE*” with the lead institution Northwestern
 - Dr. Jean Figlus led “*NSF Engineering Research Center for Sustainably Engineered Riverine-Coastal Systems (SERCS)*” with the lead institution UGA
2. **NSF CAREER Awards**
 - Dr. Dileep Kalathil – NSF: *CAREER: Towards a Principled Framework for Resilient, Data Efficient and Scalable Reinforcement Learning for Control*
 - Dr. Sara Abedi – NSF: *CAREER: An integrated experimental-theoretical framework for understanding the multiscale mechanical response of rock-reactive brine interaction*
 - Dr. Chao Ma – NSF: *CAREER: An Integrated Research and Education Program of Ceramic Additive Manufacturing*
 - Dr. Maryam Zahabi – NSF: *CAREER: Adaptive Driver Assistance Systems and Personalized Training for Law Enforcement Officers (ADAPT-LEO)*
 - Dr. Vinayak Krishnamurthy – NSF: *CAREER: Partitive Solid Geometry for Computer-Aided Design: Principles, Algorithms, Workflows, & Applications*
 - Dr. Xingyong Song – NSF: *CAREER: Control of a Long and Curved String for Deep Underground Exploration*
3. **Other Awards**
 - Dr. Anthony McDonald – NSF: *Measuring and modeling the impact of dynamic trust in automated vehicles on driver behavior*
 - Dr. Raymundo Arroyave – ARPA-E: *Batch-wise Improvement in Reduced Design Space using a Holistic Optimization Technique (BIRDSHOT)*
 - Dr. Srikanth Saripalli – DoD: ARL: *Distributed Autonomous Robotic Experiments and Simulations (DARES) (II.A.9 ARMY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE (AITF) RESEARCH*
 - Dr. Duncan Maitland – NIH: *Biopsy Tract Sealing Device with Magnetic Resonance and X-Ray Image Contrast*
 - Dr. Hamid Toliyat – ARPA-E: *Multi-Physical Co-Design of Next Generation Axial Motors for Aerospace Applications*

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=4HAMAHC98D>

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://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.