
CPI Newsletter –November 2020

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2020-21 CPI roster: *Chair* — Steve Maren, *Liberal Arts* • *Vice Chair* — David Stelly, *COALS* • *Past Chair* — Daren Depoy, *Science* • *AgriLife Extension* — Craig Carpenter, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Anil Somenahally, Lee Tarpley, Qingwu Xue • *Architecture* — Wei Yan • *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

November CPI News –The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Discussions and updates during the CPI-EC meeting were on the Texas A&M Graduate and Professional School and an update from Texas A&M Information Technology. Discussions were also brought forward regarding the Texas Library Coalition’s Negotiations with Elsevier with the expiring deadline of December 31, 2020. They are providing this information to the full CPI at the Wednesday, November 11th CPI General Meeting so it can be recorded and livestreamed for all PIs to have the opportunity to hear.

I invite you to contact me, Dr. David Stelly, 2020-2021 CPI Vice Chair at cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, for more information or to suggest agenda items for CPI’s monthly meetings.

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

Update on LAUNCH and REU/SURE Coordination Meeting

This is a reminder that LAUNCH is planning the spring REU/SURE coordination meeting. This message contains information on the upcoming REU/SURE Coordination meeting, a few updates, and a request for information (poll).

1. REU/SURE Coordination Meeting

1. January 28, 2021
2. 8:30 AM CST to 10:00 AM CST
3. via Zoom (*Meeting ID: 919 8399 5805; Passcode: 523081*)
4. Bring your own Danish and coffee!
5. Tentative Coordination Meeting Agenda coming in late-November
6. RSVP by January 25: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5bBH4TYvma0OSwJ

2. Summer 2021 Updates

1. Summer 2021 program planning, participant selection, and acceptance should proceed with the caveat that, if circumstances require, summer programs may be restricted or cancelled as they were during summer 2020. Plan for contingencies and let students know program plans as soon as possible.

Please direct questions to ugr@tamu.edu.

Free Virtual Grant Conferences from NSF

NSF Grants Conference

Virtual NSF Grants Conference during the weeks of November 16 and November 30. Sessions will be recorded and available on demand. Registration is free and will open on Thursday October 29. This two-day conference is a must, especially for;

- new faculty

-
- researchers and administrators who want to gain key insight into a wide range of current issues at NSF including
 - the state of current funding;
 - new and current policies and procedures;
 - and pertinent administrative issues.

NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and answer your questions

To receive information on this conference and other NSF information go to <https://nspolicyoutreach.com/> and select the Get Notified button.

AnSRS4U – Presentation on Project Administration

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) is providing Answers for You, (AnSRS4U). SRS is offering via Zoom a series of monthly informational sessions on various research administration topics. Our target audience is the department and college staff that support the research enterprise but everyone is welcome to attend.

The next presentation will be on **Thursday, December 17 at 10:00am** and the presentation will be on a post award topic.

Register in advance for this meeting at the link below.

<https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrf-2grTltGdYsqTZANq5YDL4rge9NZLpt>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you prefer to receive notices of these presentation via the SRS listserv please email ansrs4u@tamu.edu and request to be added to the listserv.

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

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

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

IACUC Issues Personnel Training Updates for New Animal Use Protocols Beginning January 1, 2021

The IACUC has updated personnel training and certification requirements for new animal use protocols beginning January 1, 2021 **for all campuses**. Investigators are encouraged to review the updated training requirements to avoid unexpected delays in new approvals. For details see TAMU-G-029 Guidelines for Animal Protocol Participation and Handling available at <https://rcb.tamu.edu/animals/guidance> (TAMU NetID authentication required). Please contact the Animal Welfare Office staff at 979.845.1828 or animalcompliance@tamu.edu for assistance in determining training requirements and required timeline for completion.

Reminder of Approved Formats for Bio and C-P

The requirement to use an NSF-approved format for preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending support form went into effect for new proposals submitted or due on or after **October 5, 2020**.

Approved formats for creating biographical sketches and the current and pending support form are:

- SciENCv
- [NSF Fillable PDF](#)

For more information on the biosketch go to <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/biosketch.jsp>

For more information on the current and pending support go to <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/cps.jsp>

Reminder of Changes to NSF Project Reporting

PIs with active NSF projects please take note:

New Question for Project Reports with Active Other Support Changes

On October 5, 2020, NSF added the following new question to the Edit Participants screen:

Has there been a change in the active other support of the PI/PD(s) since the last reporting period?

If Principal Investigators (PIs)/Project Directors (PDs) and co-PIs/co-PDs select "Yes," they will be required to upload their most up-to-date Current and Pending Support document in an NSF-approved format to notify NSF that active other support has changed since the award was made or since the most recent annual report.

Current and Pending Support documents not in an NSF-approved format will trigger a compliance error preventing document upload and submission of the annual or final project report. The NSF-approved formats for Current and Pending Support are [SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) and an [NSF fillable PDF](#).

Additional New Questions from the Revised RPPR

Beginning October 5, 2020, NSF also added the following three questions to the "Impact" and "Changes/Problems" tabs:

- What was the impact on teaching and educational experiences? (**Impact tab**);
- What percentage of the award's budget was spent in a foreign country? (**Impact tab**); and
- Has there been a change in primary performance site location from that originally proposed? (**Changes/Problems tab**).

Extended Guidance for Applicants Preparing Applications During the COVID-19 Pandemic (NIH NOT-OD-21-026)

This Notice provides guidance for investigators and institutions preparing NIH grant applications for the May 2021 Council round, beginning with applications submitted for the September 25, 2020 due date.

NIH grant applications should NOT include contingency plans that would outline steps needed to recover from temporary, emergency situations, or institutional return-to-the-workplace plans, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contingency plans will not be considered in peer review but, if needed, COVID-19 contingency plans will be requested and carefully considered by NIH staff before funding.

The full text of this notice can be read at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-026.html>

Deadline Push Resource Offers NIH Proposal Tips and Strategies Leading Up to R01 Deadline

The Division of Research purchased a membership for Texas A&M University researchers to on-demand NIH webinars by Meg Bouvier Medical Writing, LLC. Texas A&M's subscription includes Deadline Push, a 10-week email program leading up to R-series deadlines, which offers NIH expertise and up-to-the-minute proposal writing strategies. Signup available at <https://vpr.tamu.edu/division-units/research-development-services/files/MBMW.pdf>

Research Compliance Guidance: Good Laboratory Practices

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MAKING COMMITMENTS ABOUT GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES

Following Good Laboratory Practices (GLPs) means more than practicing good science when conducting research experiments. GLPs describe how nonclinical laboratory studies should be planned, performed, monitored, recorded, reported, and archived as set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) international guidelines. The requirements are complex and meeting GLP standards is stringent, costly and burdensome.

GLPs apply when conducting in-vitro or in-vivo safety studies and in some cases efficacy studies on certain regulated products. Some examples include:

- Non-clinical laboratory studies that support or are meant to support applications for research, or marketing permits for products regulated by the FDA, including food and color additives, animal feed additives, human and animal drugs, medical devices for human use, biological products, and electronic products (see, 21 CFR Part 58).
- Studies that support or are intended to support applications for research or marketing permits for pesticide products regulated by the EPA (see, 40 CFR Part 160).
- Studies relating to health effects, environmental effects, and chemical fate testing of chemicals that are regulated under the Toxic Substance Control Act, including but not limited to polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos, radon and lead-based paints (see, 40 CFR Part 792).

Texas A&M University does not maintain a GLP program to support compliance with GLP regulations. Therefore, it should not agree to terms and conditions requiring certification of GLP compliance. If an investigator has an interest in conducting GLP related work, the office conducting the contract

negotiations (i.e. SRS) should be consulted first to determine what, if any, terms and conditions may serve as an appropriate alternative (i.e. sponsor has ultimate responsibility for GLP compliance, and the work is being conducted at a facility operated and under the sponsor's oversight and control).

See the official guidelines attached to the back of this newsletter.

Innovation Partners Office Inventor's Guide

Innovation Partners and the School of Innovation in partnership with the Mays Innovation Research Center will issue a call for proposals November 23, 2020 for the next round of Innovation[X] Faculty Grants. This program, which provides grants that allow multidisciplinary teams of faculty, undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs to work together to address complex real-world challenges has already helped 21 teams to advance their research. Faculty may apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to facilitate year-long projects. The number of grants to be awarded will depend on funding and application levels. Funding begins September 1, 2021. The deadline for proposals is January 19, 2021. See [our faculty Innovation\[X\] page](#) for details to be published soon.

Innovation Partners published [An Inventor's Guide to Commercialization](#) to provide details related to commercialization, including assessment of an invention disclosure, research considerations, marketing an invention, and ownership of intellectual property. After you review the guide, send any questions to the Innovation Partners team at tamuip@tamu.edu.

GCA Cybersecurity for Startups Training Series, Presented by the Global Cyber Alliance (GCA), in collaboration with the Texas A&M University Innovation Partners, Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation, Plug and Play, and Draper Startup House.

November 24, 2020 from 10:00 – 11:00 am, Data and Systems Backup and Recover/Protect Your Email and Reputation

View more [information](#).

Register [here](#).

Texas A&M University Innovation Partners hosts IP Attorney Office Hours at no cost to Texas A&M faculty, staff, and students. Thirty-minute appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis with IP attorneys from firms across Texas, including many who contract with the Texas A&M University System to provide legal services for Texas A&M System-owned intellectual property. If you are not sure you are ready to meet with an intellectual property attorney, check out our YouTube videos to learn how an IP attorney can help you.

View [more information](#) about office hours. [Sign up for an appointment](#) for Friday, 11/13 or 11/20.

Contact [Grace Tiller](#) with any scheduling questions.

Innovation Partners provides a number of different programs to the university community it serves to enhance the commercialization-related efforts of faculty and staff. [See our educational programs in detail](#) and contact [Beth Deuermeyer](#) if you have questions or would like more information.

Website for Research Development Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

COVID Report Form

Reminder, there is a new online COVID Report Form that should be utilized if you are reporting information on individuals with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. Utilize this link: <https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=4HAMAH98D>

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

Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

The Division of Research has implemented a brand new proposal submission and review portal. The system will be used for limited submissions and most internal grant programs. You will find available opportunities at: <https://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 (cqjongsma@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.



RESEARCH COMPLIANCE GUIDANCE, OCTOBER 2020

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MAKING COMMITMENTS ABOUT GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES

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