



Council of Principal Investigators

CPI Newsletter – August 2017

Included in this issue:

- Update from the CPI Chair
- Research Development Fund
- Updates to the Human Research Protection Program
- University Export Control Office - New Director
- Postdoctoral Research Symposium
- Southwest I-Corps NSF Innovation Corps Requesting PI Participation
- New International Research Program with FAPESP, São Paulo, Brazil
- New, Expanded Professional Development Opportunities for Researchers
- Write Winning NIH and NSF Grant Proposals Seminar
- 2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program
- NSF CAREER Academy
- National Institutes of Health Policy News
- Sponsored Research Services
- Sign Up for Notifications about Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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Texas A&M University - Texas A&M Health Science Center – Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station -
Texas A&M AgriLife Research – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Update from Dr. Penny Riggs, CPI Chair

August CPI News

As we approach the close of the academic year, I want to thank outgoing CPI members for their effort and dedication during their CPI terms. The CPI has been very active on behalf of researchers the past few years, and these activities were possible because of the time and effort invested by these members. Thank you to Juan Anciso, Tahir Cagin, Tim Dellapenna, Jamie Foster, Jim Grau, Arum Han, Craig Kaplan, Nauman Sheikh, Jennifer Horney, Michael Smotherman, Victor Ugaz, Teresa Wilcox, Heather Wilkinson, and Joe Zietsman. A very special thanks to Helene Andrews-Polymenis and James Batteas for their terms as officers, and all that they have done to improve the research environment for PIs. Their efforts were substantial and made a difference.

For our general meeting this month, Kristi Billinger, Executive Director of Sponsored Research Services will provide an update on SRS and invites researcher discussion. Leonarda Horvat, Director of Research Information Systems will introduce new features of MAESTRO that were developed in response to PI feedback.

The CPI executive committee met August 2, 2017, in preparation for today's meeting. Dr. Marty Scholtz provided an update from the Division of Research. Implementation of iLabs software for utilization by core facility laboratories will begin since the purchase contract was recently finalized. The Research Development Fund Advisory Committee prepared a summary report of RDF for the RDF Management Committee for discussion about continuance of RDF – set to expire August 31, 2017. An update will be made available on the RDF website.

Annual CPI Survey

Look for our annual survey request next week. The survey results will help set the CPI meeting agenda for the coming year and identify items of most critical importance to PIs. Your input is valuable and appreciated.

Interim Provost

The CPI executive committee met with Dr. Doug Palmer, who will serve as provost until Dr. Carol Fierke arrives in September. Dr. Fierke is scheduled to attend the October general meeting.

Administrator Searches

- The Vice President for Research (VPR) search advisory committee is chaired by Dr. John Gladysz and Dr. Patrick Louchouart. A search website is now live at <http://vprsearch.tamu.edu/>. Your input and nominations are welcomed.
- The search for Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences is ongoing, chaired by Dr. Kathy Banks. Input and nominations are invited via the search website: <http://agrilife.org/vcdeansearch/>.
- The Dean of Nursing search is underway and the search advisory committee is chaired by Dr. Joyce Alexander. Search website: <http://nursingsearch.tamu.edu/>.

Annual CPI Survey

Please look for our annual survey in August. The survey results will help set the CPI meeting agenda for the coming year and identify items of most critical importance to PIs. Your input is valuable and appreciated.

The complete list of all CPI Representatives for 2017-2018 can be found on the CPI website at <http://cpi.tamu.edu/membership>. 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, or contact me directly at riggs@tamu.edu or 979.862.7015.

The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, September 13. This will be a closed meeting for CPI members to discuss survey results and priorities for the coming year. Contact Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu or 979.862.9166 for more information or to suggest agenda items for our monthly meetings.

Research Development Fund

Reminder that cover pages for the next round of RDF submissions are requested by September 8, with **full applications due September 29, 2017**. More information is available at rdf.tamu.edu or rdf@tamu.edu

Updates to the Human Research Protection Program

The Investigator Manual for Human Subjects Research has been updated on the HRPP website, new forms have been added, and the Standard Operating Procedures have a new format. In addition to the online updates, a new section has been added to the IRB iRIS application in an effort to reduce the length of the application process for researchers. Now, after providing information about the study title, key personnel, and department information, the researcher has the opportunity to fill out a short section to request a human subjects determination, request an external IRB review, or request a delayed onset of human subjects research determination when appropriate for certain funding agencies. Educational sessions on these updates will be announced in the near future. For questions regarding this information, please visit the HRPP website at [rcb.tamu.edu/human subjects](http://rcb.tamu.edu/human%20subjects) or call the office at 979-458-4067.

University Export Control Office - New Director

Effective July 17, 2017, Rayland VanNorman will serve as director of the university's export control compliance program. Mr. VanNorman is a lawyer who has worked at Shell Oil Company for more than 25 years. While at Shell, he held a number of roles including 5 years as an internal auditor, and 7 years as an export control advisor where he was responsible for implementing an export controls compliance program for Shell's Intellectual Technology department. Mr. VanNorman holds a B.A. from Mississippi State University, a J.D. from The University of Mississippi School of Law and a M.S. from Columbia Southern University.

Postdoctoral Research Symposium

Texas A&M Division of Research will be hosting the inaugural **Texas A&M Postdoctoral Research Symposium** on **September 20, 2017**. Please encourage your postdoctoral scholars to submit an abstract. Two awards for Distinguished Flash Talks (\$250 each) and two awards for Distinguished Poster Presentations (\$250 each), as well as several People's Choice Awards (\$100 each), will be presented at the close of the event. The Call for Abstracts is pasted below. For your convenience, a pdf of the call has also been attached.

Southwest I-Corps NSF Innovation Corps Requesting PI Participation

The National Science Foundation's I-Corps program has been extremely successful at Texas A&M. You are invited as a PI with innovations or technology that may be of commercial value to test the innovation and realize the real value of your discovery. Contact for the Southwest I-Corps project here at Texas A&M is Charles Hinton, Director, NSF I-Corps (chinton@mays.tamu.edu) or view on website at <http://www.swicorps.org/>. There is additional information attached to the end of this electronic CPI Newsletter.

New International Research Program with FAPESP, São Paulo, Brazil

The Division of Research at Texas A&M University and the São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP, are pleased to announce a new Cooperation Agreement for Research aiming to implement scientific and technological cooperation through the funding of joint research projects between Texas A&M researchers and researchers from the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The announcement for the TAMU-FAPESP Collaborative Research Grant program was released on **August 1, 2017**. The closing date for proposal submissions is **October 30, 2017**.

Funding for the Texas A&M principal investigator will be US\$10,000 per proposal per year. FAPESP will provide an equivalent amount of funding for their PIs.

One principal investigator is required from Texas A&M and the other from a public and/or private institution of higher education in the State of São Paulo.

Additional details will be announced as soon as they are available.

The São Paulo Research Foundation – FAPESP – is an independent public foundation with the mission to foster research and the scientific and technological development of the State of São Paulo. The agreement between Texas A&M and FAPESP is for a period of five years, which may be extended by mutual agreement between both institutions.

For additional information on the program, please contact Monica Bruno Holder, international programs coordinator, at m-holder@tamu.edu.

New, Expanded Professional Development Opportunities for Researchers

Research Development Services (RDS) in the Division of Research is pleased to announce a schedule of over 20 upcoming seminars, workshops, writing programs, and clinics aimed to assist PIs in submitting more competitive grant proposals to the NIH, NSF, and internal seed grant and international programs. These include multiple NEW opportunities. See <https://u.tamu.edu/RDS-UE> for a chronological list of upcoming events. Below are some highlights of new offerings.

Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy

Through a series of workshops, seminars, and writing groups – provided through a partnership between the Division and TEES – the Junior Faculty Proposal Writing Academy assists early-career researchers in developing more competitive proposals to a variety of funding agencies, including NSF, NSF CAREER, and NIH. Additional information about upcoming Academy news and events will be announced soon.

NIH Proposal Writing and Feedback Groups, Specific Aims Clinic

Principal investigators targeting the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have two new RDS programs designed to help prepare more competitive proposals to the NIH. Participants in the NIH Proposal Writing and Feedback Groups (<https://u.tamu.edu/NIH-PWFG>) in the fall and spring semesters will develop a submission-ready grant proposal (new or resubmission) for the NIH. Participants in the Fall 2017 Specific Aims Clinic (<https://u.tamu.edu/SAC>) will craft a clear, compelling, peer-critiqued Specific Aims page for a future NIH proposal. Both programs offer critical peer review feedback and proposal development strategy insight and assistance.

Texas A&M-FAPESP Research Program

A new international opportunity is available, as the Division has joined the São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP, to establish the Texas A&M-FAPESP Research Program (<https://u.tamu.edu/FAPESP>). This program will implement scientific and technological cooperation through the funding of joint research projects between Texas A&M researchers and researchers from the State of São Paulo, Brazil. The first Call for Proposals for the TAMU-FAPESP Research Grant was released August 1, 2017 (<https://u.tamu.edu/FAPESP2017>).

Write Winning NIH and NSF Grant Proposals Seminar

When: September 21-22, 2017
Three separate sessions: (1) Core: Principles, Funding Priorities, and Preparation of the Overview/Executive Summary; (2) NIH-Focus; (3) NSF-Focus*

Where: 601 Rudder

Contacts: Shannon Prescott, Senior Administrative Coordinator, sprescott@tamu.edu
Jorja Kimball, Executive Director, jkimball@tamu.edu

Registration: Opens August 15, 2017 at <https://u.tamu.edu/GWSW2017Sem>. Deadline is September 6, 2017.

*Not NSF CAREER.

The Division of Research will host a 1-1/2 day professional development seminar for researchers interested in submitting grant proposals to the NIH and NSF. Dr. John Robertson of Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops (GWSW) is presenter.

Texas A&M PI-eligible researchers, research staff, and administrators are eligible to attend. Limited seating may be available for post-doctoral researchers; details at <https://u.tamu.edu/GWSW2017Sem>. The seminar is not open to undergraduate or graduate students.

There is no fee to attend, and registrants may attend any or all sessions. Registration is required for each session an individual plans to attend. Each attendee will receive a free copy of The Grant Application Writer's Workbook, NIH or NSF Version.

September 21, 8:00-12:00, 601 Rudder

Core: Principles, Funding Priorities, and Preparation of the Overview/Executive Summary

Important: Required for all applicants to the 2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program.

September 21, 1:00-4:30, 601 Rudder

PIs Targeting National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH: Rest of the Proposal

Important: Required for all applicants targeting the NIH in the 2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program. (See **Exception** below in the section, 2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program.)

September 22, 8:00-12:00, 601 Rudder

PIs Targeting National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF: Rest of the Proposal*

Important: Required for all applicants targeting the NSF in the 2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program.

***Note:** This seminar is not designed for NSF CAREER applicants. Support for NSF CAREER candidates will be offered through the NSF CAREER Academy. Details on Academy events will be released in August 2017.

2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program

Texas A&M PI-eligible researchers are invited to apply to the six-month **2018 NIH and NSF Grant Proposal Writing Program** offered through the Division of Research. In this program, participants work with Dr. John Robertson, an expert consultant from GWSW, to develop a submission-ready proposal to the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation. A full schedule of program activities and deadlines is online at <https://u.tamu.edu/2018-WS-Sched>.

A maximum of 30 candidates will be accepted to the program. There is no cost to the participant – the \$4,000 fee is paid by the Division (contributing \$2,400) and the PI's department and/or college (providing the remaining \$1,600).

Applications will be submitted via eProposal, the Texas A&M Internal Proposal Submission website, eProposal. The application deadline is October 6, 2017.

Participants must attend a required on-campus workshop and 30-minute individual consultation in College Station on January 24-25, 2018. Out-of-town participants are responsible for travel costs to and from College Station.

Requirements for Participation

All NSF applicants must

- attend the Write Winning NIH and NSF Grant Proposals seminar (Core and NSF-focus sections) on Sep. 21-22, 2018, and
- own a copy of *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook, NSF Version*, January 2017 edition.

Note: This program is not designed for NSF CAREER applicants. NSF CAREER support will be offered through the NSF CAREER Academy. Details on Academy events will be released in August 2017.

NIH applicants must

- attend the Write Winning NIH and NSF Grant Proposals seminar on Sep. 21, 2017 (Core and NIH-focus sections) or have attended the Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals on Sep. 22, 2016, and
- own a copy of *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook, NIH Version*, January 2017 edition.

Exception: NIH applicants who attended the 2016 seminar are *strongly encouraged* to attend the 2017 seminar (Core and NIH-focus sessions). However, PIs who attended only the 2016 seminar are eligible to apply and will receive a copy of the January 2017 edition of the workbook if accepted into the program.

For additional information about the writing program, contact Shannon Prescott, senior administrative coordinator, at sprescott@tamu.edu, or Jorja Kimball, executive director of Research Development Services, at jkimball@tamu.edu

NSF CAREER Academy

TEES and RDS are creating a new eight-month professional development series called **NSF CAREER Academy**. This program will include: the annual NSF CAREER and other Young Investigator Programs workshop; a Broader Impacts workshop; writing groups; and a mock review session. The Division and TEES recently piloted a mock review session that received great reviews and featured Dr. Z. J. Pei, professor in industrial and system engineering, TEES research professor, and NSF rotator, as keynote speaker. The Academy will continue to involve Texas A&M faculty who are prior NSF rotators (program officers) or reviewers.

The Broader Impacts workshop will be expanded in Fall 2017, and open to all PI-eligible researchers. Junior faculty who are planning or considering an NSF CAREER proposal submission in July 2018 are strongly encouraged to attend. They should also consider joining an NSF CAREER writing group, which provides in-depth knowledge of, and practice in, writing proposals to the NSF and, in particular, for the NSF CAREER solicitation each year. The program runs March through July, with biweekly sessions scheduled March to May and one-on-one NSF CAREER proposal consultation and development from May to the July submission deadline.

Additional information about Academy events will be available September 1, 2017.

National Institutes of Health Policy News

Next Generation Researchers Initiative

The June CPI newsletter mentioned the recent [May](#) and [June](#) blogs from Mike Lauer, Deputy Director for Extramural Research, describing NIH's plans to *implement limits on grant support*. These limits were to be based on the Grant Support Index (GSI) (originally the Research Commitment Index, RCI).

Subsequent to those blog posts, and based on extensive research community input and feedback, the [NIH Director announced](#) on June 8 a change in course away from grant support limits in favor of a "bold, more focused approach to bolster support to early- and mid-career investigators while we continue to work with experts on approaches to evaluate our research portfolio." This effort, termed the Next Generation Researchers Initiative, is intended to

- free funds to support additional meritorious early-stage and mid-career investigators;
- place greater emphasis on current NIH funding mechanisms aimed at early- and mid-career investigators.

NIH will track the impact of this initiative on funding awarded to early- and mid-career investigators and encourage multiple approaches to assess the impact of the initiative on scientific progress.

NIH has established a new web page, [Next Generation Researchers Initiative](#), to describe this initiative and provide information regarding its development and implementation as details are determined.

Sponsored Research Services

Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services (SRS) Pre-Award Team is committed to providing timely, accurate, and courteous assistance to our faculty, external sponsors, and other university personnel. Proposal administrators assist researchers in the preparation and submission of proposals to sponsors for external funding. They prepare the budgetary and administrative components of the proposal, ensure compliance with TAMUS policies, system member's requirements, state and federal regulations, and adherence to the funding opportunity specific terms and conditions, as well as route for institutional approvals. Pre-award administration is a complex process that requires necessary preparation time prior to submission to the sponsor. SRS is able to add the most value to the proposal submission process if sufficient time is available to prepare SRS-generated portions of the proposal, and to conduct a thorough quality review. As a commitment to our mission in providing faculty and researchers with the utmost level of support to produce the highest quality proposal possible, SRS has developed a proposal submission guideline. In writing this guideline, we called upon several groups on campus that have a vested interest in the research enterprise. The Council of Principal Investigators (CPI), Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EXC), University Research Council (URC), Faculty Senate, and the Texas A&M Stakeholders Operations Committee (TSOC) have all provided thoughtful input to this guideline, and as a result of the combined efforts, we issue the following guidelines for proposal submissions. *(See Proposal Submission Guidelines attached at the back of this newsletter.)*

Sign Up for Notifications about 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 issues a brief weekly bulletin for Principal Investigators that highlights research accomplishments and projects, funding opportunities, honors and promotions, workshops, and other items that may be of interest to the PI community. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the bulletin.

2nd Annual
**POSTDOCTORAL
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Noon–6:00 p.m.

Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM '56 Equine Complex

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstract Submission Deadline: August 15, 2017

The Division of Research invites you to participate in the 2nd Annual **Texas A&M University Postdoctoral Research Symposium**. This event coincides with National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week held by the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA). The symposium will highlight the work of postdoctoral scholars across Texas A&M. Please join us!

vpr.tamu.edu/postdoc_abstract_submission

For more information contact **Shannon Eyre** seyre@tamu.edu



DIVISION OF RESEARCH
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Sponsored Research Services Proposal Submission Guidelines

Purpose: To describe relevant procedures for investigators who are submitting proposals for external funding

Sponsored Research Services (SRS) strives to provide TAMU and the agency research community with excellent sponsored project administration services. Pre-award administration is a complex process that requires sufficient preparation time prior to submission to the sponsor. Adequate preparation time will ensure that sponsor requirements, System Member rules, SAPs or guidelines are followed and proposals are submitted by the sponsor's deadline. SRS is able to add the most value to the proposal submission process when sufficient time is available to prepare SRS generated portions of the proposal, and to conduct a thorough quality review. To ensure that SRS provides investigators with the highest level of support we issue the following guidelines for proposal services:

1. Initial contact with SRS

- a. Researchers are asked to contact SRS pre-award staff with their intent to submit a proposal a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the sponsor deadline date.
- b. Complex proposals (e.g. the proposal contains subcontracts or cost share/match, etc..) or solicitations containing terms and conditions may need additional preparation time (longer than 3 weeks). Therefore, researchers are encouraged to contact SRS as soon as possible to facilitate the proposal submission.
- c. The initial communication should include the sponsor proposal announcement. In the event that an announcement is not available, the communication should include sponsor name, program, deadline and other critical elements of the proposal so that SRS may assign a proposal administrator to facilitate the submission.

2. Preparation of Administrative portions of the proposal - SRS requests the following documents (when applicable) **5 business days** in advance of the sponsor deadline:

- a. Budget
- b. Budget justification
- c. Draft abstract or statement of work (to use in routing to obtain system member approval)
- d. Relevant approved waivers
- e. Subcontract documents
- f. Biosketches
- g. Current & pending
- h. Data Management Plan
- i. Facilities & Equipment

3. Technical Portions of the proposal - All technical portions of the proposal should be submitted to SRS, in final format, no later than 1 business day prior to the sponsor deadline.

4. SRS pledge to the research community

- a. Proposals in final format received at SRS by the timeline outlined above will receive a complete and thorough quality review.
- b. For proposals completed and submitted to SRS within this timeframe, SRS will work with the PI to make necessary changes to ensure that the proposal is administratively compliant.

c. SRS pledges to submit on-time proposals, with limited exceptions, prior to the sponsor's deadline. Proposals with the required materials submitted to SRS within the timeframe outlined above will receive priority over proposals received with shorter lead time.

d. SRS staff will make every effort to submit all proposals. In the event that a proposal is received outside of the requested timeframe, the investigator will assume the risk for proposals found to be non-compliant or does not meet the sponsor's deadline.

5. **Agency Deadline** - Unless the deadline is specifically defined as earlier than 5 p.m. by the sponsor, the submission deadline for SRS is 5 p.m. local time on the sponsor's specified deadline date (even if the sponsor allows submissions beyond 5 p.m.).
6. **Approvals** - If a proposal is submitted to the sponsor without SRS or System Member review, the proposal may be withdrawn if it is determined to be non-compliant with the System Member rules, SAPs or guidelines.

Approved By: Dr. Glen A. Laine, Vice President for Research

Approved By: Kristi M. Billinger, Executive Director, Sponsored Research Services

Approved: 05/15/2017

Effective: Immediately

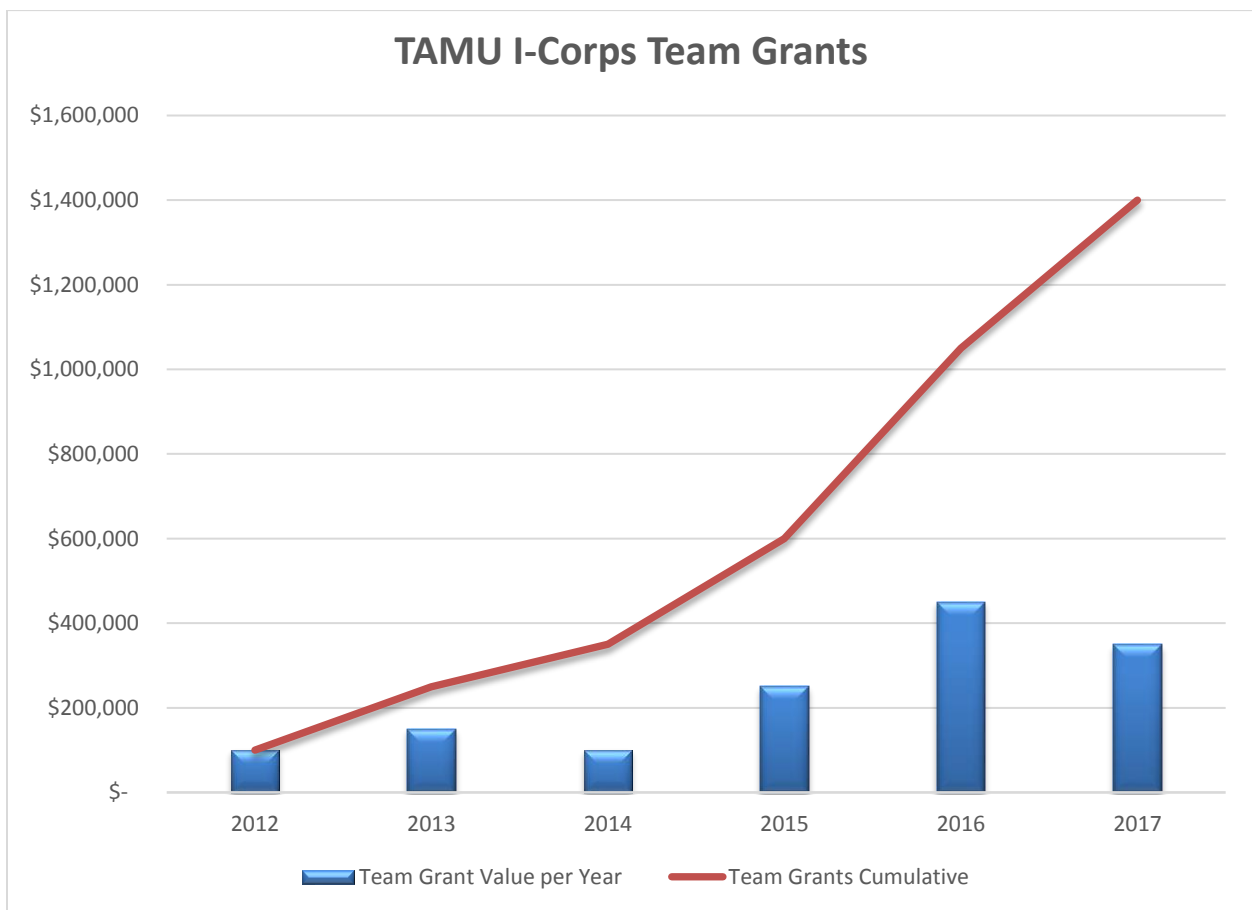
Review Cycle: Annual



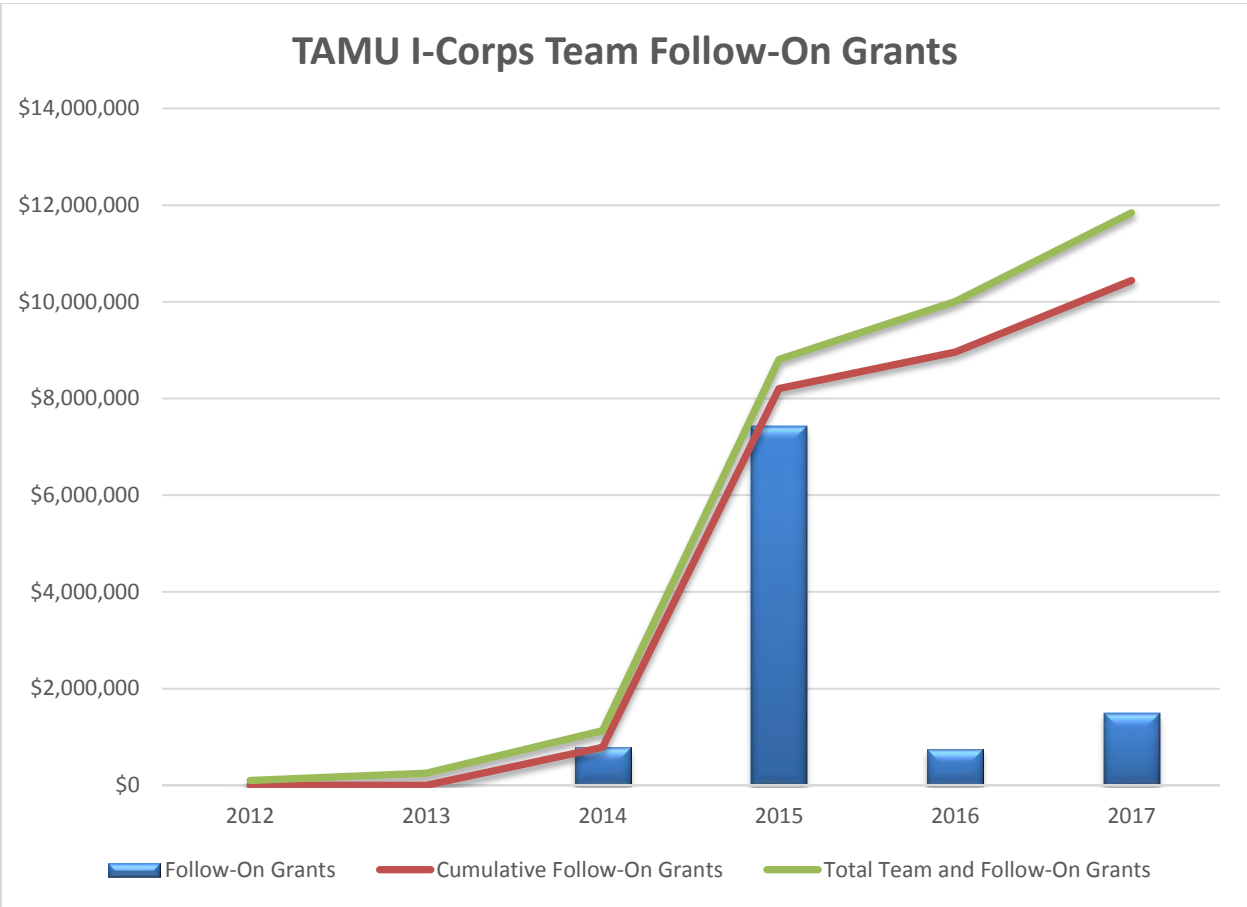
TAMU I-Corps Team Metrics

Summer 2017

There are over 1000 I-Corps teams nation-wide that have trained in the I-Corps technology commercialization methodology and 81% of those teams are still active with their innovation. More than 400 startups have resulted from this experience. Texas has produced more I-Corps teams than any other state with over 70 teams and TAMU has produced 39% of all the teams from the state.



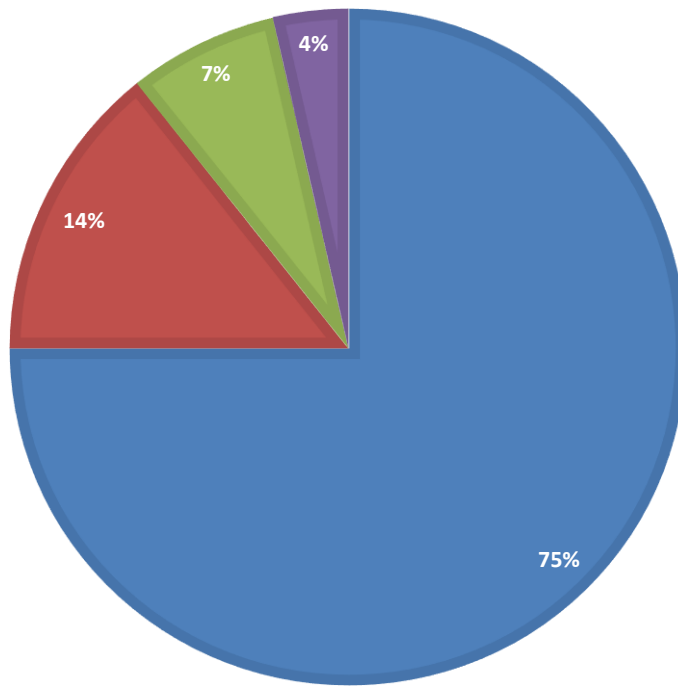
TAMUS has produced 31 teams that applied for an I-Corps Team Grant and 28 (90% success rate) have been awarded grants. The total team grants amount to \$1,400,000. There were 5 I-Corps team grants made to TAMU teams prior to the Southwest I-Corps Node formation and there have been 23 teams awarded grants since the Node was created.



Follow-On grants to teams following I-Corps cohorts have been significant. There is usually a 1-3 year lag between cohort attendance, grant applications and awards. The follow-on grants and equity raises for I-Corps PIs total \$10,440,634.

TAMU I-CORPS TEAMS BY COLLEGE

- 21 Engineering Teams
- 4 Agri-Life Sciences Teams
- 2 Health Science Center Teams
- 1 College of Science Team



TAMU I-CORPS ENGINEERING TEAMS BY DEPARTMENT

- 6 Electrical & Computer Engineering
- 5 Mechanical Engineering
- 1 Industrial Systems & Engineering
- 1 Civil Engineering
- 2 Material Science
- 2 Chemical Engineering
- 2 Biomedical Engineering
- 2 Aerospace Engineering

