CPI Newsletter – October 2023

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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. Jessica Bernard, 2023-2024 CPI Chair

October CPI Chair News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting with the administrative leadership began Ms. Aliese Seawright providing a Huron timeline. This will be presented at the October 11, 2023 for the larger PI Community to hear. Dr. Joe Elabd provided an update from The Texas A&M System Research Office which included sharing the updated website for PIs that might need to contact individuals within the System Research Office, Vice Chancellor for Research - Office of Research (tamus.edu). The CPI-EC membership heard their first update from Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg on the Space Initiative and Dr. Gerianne Alexander provided an update on the Research Development Services team. Both Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg and Dr. Gerianne Alexander with the Research Development Services will be providing updates to the full body of CPI Representatives at the October 11th CPI General Meeting.

The October 11, 2023 CPI General Meeting is an open meeting, so it will be recorded. After the October 11th CPI General Meeting, the YouTube video link will be posted on the cpi.tamu.edu meetings page website for all PIs to have access to view.

As CPI continues to meet with Interim President Welsh and Texas A&M and System administrative leadership this year, I welcome thoughts, concerns, issues and agenda topics that impedes research efforts to all principal investigators within the research infrastructure with the Texas A&M University System. Please contact your CPI Representatives https://cpi.tamu.edu/council-membership/council-membership/2023-2024-council-membership/, or email the CPI Officers at cpi@tamu.edu or Rebecca Luckey, rluckey@tamu.edu, our CPI Coordinator.

Huron Training Sessions – Financial Conflicts of Interest and External Employment Approval Requests

Please see our website for information regarding the Huron disclosure process, including user guides, and Zoom links to various trainings. The Zoom trainings will cover general demonstrations of the Huron System, as well as specific sessions dedicated to Pre-Approval Requests. As a reminder, the Huron disclosure system launched in August, 2022 for the following:

- **Financial Conflicts of Interest**: annual disclosures were previously created in Maestro. This is now captured in Huron.
- **Conflict of Commitment**: annual disclosures previously utilized a hard copy form. This is now captured in Huron.
- **External Employment**: Pre-Approval Requests required under 31.05.01.M1 Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment (TAMUS 31.05.01 Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment and 31.05.02 External Employment) no longer utilize the hard copy paper form. Approval is requested via the Huron Pre-Approval request module, and will route for approvals within Huron.

Please reach out to coi@tamu.edu with any questions.

Texas A&M Innovation Seminar on October 16 – Protecting Intellectual Property

Join Texas A&M Innovation on Monday, October 16 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM for our educational seminar on protecting intellectual property. The presenters will review the standard patent process and discuss recent topics impacting IP protection, including how artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT can constitute an unexpected public disclosure, as well as how IP relates to sponsored research.
The event will include presentations by staff from Texas A&M Innovation and Texas A&M Sponsored Research Services, as well as an external expert in IP law. The seminar is followed by open Q&A and time for one-on-one networking. Learn more and register on our website.

Follow us on social media @TAMInnovation and subscribe to our mailing list to stay up to date on news and timely information related to innovation and commercialization at The Texas A&M University System.

Texas A&M Innovation & Activate Houston Fellowship - Cohort 2024 Now Open to Apply – Deadline October 17

Information from the Texas A&M Innovation website https://innovation.tamus.edu/activate-houston-fellowship-for-science-entrepreneurs/ provides additional information regarding the news clip from Ashley Skow, Texas A&M Innovation. Skow reported, Recruitment for Activate Houston’s first cohort of Fellows is now underway, with applications accepted September 19th – October 17th. Applications will go undergo a careful screening, review, and interview process. Ultimately, only about 10 candidates will be selected to join the prestigious Activate Fellowship which begins June 2024.

According to Dr. Joe Elabd, Vice Chancellor for Research at The Texas A&M University System, the high concentration of talented researchers emerging from Texas A&M make it the perfect recruiting ground for Activate Houston.

Additional information on applying for the Activate Cohort, can also be found https://www.activate.org/apply.

Required Use of SciENcv to Prepare Biographical Sketches and Current and Pending Support -for NSF proposals due on or after October 23, 2023

Friday, October 20, 2023 (5:00 PM submitter's local time) is the last day to upload the NSF fillable PDF format for the biographical sketch and current and pending (other) support. Proposers currently may prepare the biographical sketch and current and pending (other) support using either SciENcv or the NSF fillable PDFs.

The mandate to use SciENcv only for preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending (other) support will go into effect for new proposals submitted or due on or after October 23, 2023.

Investigators are urged to go ahead and start using SciENcv now to create their biosketch and current and pending support and not wait until the proposal is due.

SRS hosted a presentation by the TAMU Libraries in May on how to create a biosketch and current and pending support using SciENcv. A recording of this presentation is available via the SRS website at AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu)

SciENcv Training Resources
  • NSF Biographical Sketch video tutorial
  • NSF Current & Pending (Other) Support video tutorial
  • SciENcv help guide with NSF-specific section (includes screenshots and step-by-step instructions)
  • Using SciENcv Frequently Asked Questions
  • SciENcv demo recording from June 2023 NSF Grants Conference (demo starts at the 23:49 minute marker)
Coffee Conversation Series: Supporting Humanities Research at Texas A&M University

There will be an informal series that discusses Texas A&M University’s external grant procedures and opportunities regarding funding for Hispanic Serving Institutions. For additional information, please see Attachment – 2 the coffee conversation series flyer at the back of the newsletter.

Animal Welfare Office Updates

IACUC Conversations. Please join the IACUC Chair, Attending Veterinarian, and Animal Welfare Office Director for a Conversation about the outcome of the most recent AAALAC International accreditation site visit. Updates about shifting submission expectations and recent response/review times will also be addressed. Upcoming conversations: Friday October 13 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the VIDI Building, rm. 106 and Monday October 16 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the MSC Building, rm. 2500. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office staff at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 for more information.

AAALAC Site Revisit. Representatives of AAALAC International will be revisiting the Bryan/College Station and School of Pharmacy in Kingsville portions of Texas A&M University’s animal program in early 2024 (late January - March). AAALAC International is a voluntary accrediting organization that supports quality research, testing and education by promoting humane and responsible animal care and use through triennial assessment of participating institutions, and accreditation of those that meet or exceed applicable standards. It should be noted that the revisit excludes PIs, protocols, activities, and locations associated with the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, as well as activities with client owned animals and most veterinary clinical spaces within the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Additional information as to the schedule, timing and scope of the revisit will be shared with impacted stakeholders as the visit becomes closer. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office staff at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 with any questions you may have about the revisit process.

Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Euthanasia. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Guidance on procedural standards for animal activities is available on a wide variety of topics. Investigators are invited to view current IACUC Guidance related to the performance of humane euthanasia, including physical methods in warm blooded species (TAMU-G-025), use of carbon dioxide (TAMU-G-028), inhaled and non-inhaled agents (TAMU-G-047), and euthanasia of fish, amphibians, and reptiles (TAMU-G-048). IACUC Guidance may be found on the Animal Program web page (requires TAMU authentication): https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance with implementing IACUC procedural standards.

Updated Go-Live Date for Huron IRB Submission System

The go-live date for the Huron IRB submission system is set for Monday, December 11, 2023. New submission deadlines and blackout dates are posted. Please go to the Huron Conversion Webpage (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron/) for timelines and actions items, and to the Huron IRB Knowledge Center (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron-knowledge-center/) for guidance. Contact Denise Puga denisepuga@tamu.edu or Aliese Seawright a.seawright@tamu.edu if you have any questions after viewing the website. Note: IBC and IACUC submissions will continue to use iRIS.
Benefits and Retirement Information Updates

Benefits and Retirement Information for Pre-hire Candidates:
We understand that making a job change requires potential candidates to weigh all options. TAMU Benefit and Retirement Services is happy to assist pre-hire (post acceptance) candidates with any benefits and retirement related questions. Many candidates wish to explore and evaluate the TAMU benefits to determine if they will meet their needs prior to accepting an offer. We have several resources that can be shared with candidates. The benefit and retirement resources are available at Onboarding Services website under New Employee Resources: New Employee Benefits Orientation Overview Video, New Employee Benefits Flyer, and Benefits at a Glance. If sharing these resources with candidates, please also encourage them to reach out to Benefit and Retirement Services with any additional questions they may have: benefits@tamu.edu or 979-862-1718.

Retirement Planning Fall Events:

Register: Free Employee Financial Consultations with TIAA
Oct.11, Oct 12, Nov. 29, & Nov. 30 | General Services Complex, Suite 1201
TIAA Event Flyer

Making decisions about your money can feel difficult, especially when it comes to retirement planning. But you are not alone—access to financial consultants is included as part of your retirement plan, at no cost to you. Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA), one of the approved Texas A&M System financial and retirement vendors, will provide individual in-person employee financial consultations on the College Station campus in September.

Register: Pre-Retirement Counseling Workshops
Held monthly In-person and Virtual
If you are considering retiring during the next 12 months, make plans to attend one of our group workshops for pre-retirement counseling. As a participant, you will receive information as to what forms you will need to complete to plan your retirement, gain a better understanding of your retirement benefits and have the opportunity to get your questions answered by a retirement specialist.

2023-2024 Faculty Seminars & Workshop

The National Science Foundation is hosting multiple seminars and workshops throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. More information can be found at the end of the newsletter provided by the attached flyer.

Research Development Services Events

*Introduction of the NSF CAREER Program
October 12, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301
An introduction to the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, including PI eligibility, deadlines, proposal requirements, what makes the CAREER program different from other NSF programs, why CAREER proposals are not typical research proposals, how CAREER proposals are reviewed differently from typical research proposals, and available resources to assist faculty with preparing CAREER proposals.
Presenter: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

For updates, registration, and complete list of Fall and Spring 2023-2024 offerings see: https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar

*Timeline and Strategies for Developing a CAREER Proposal
October 25, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Zachry Engineering Education Complex, Chevron, Room 298
Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees
Timeline and strategies to develop a successful NSF CAREER proposal, how to decide what research topics to pursue, how to find a home program at NSF, when to submit, and how to build a competitive case.
Contact: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

For updates, registration, and complete list of Fall and Spring 2023-2024 offerings see: https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar

Coffee Conversations Series: Supporting Humanities Research at Texas A&M University
October 5 & 12, 2023, 1:30 pm, Glasscock Center, Room 311
Sponsored by the Glasscock Center & Division of Research
An informal series over coffee and refreshments that overviews two funding opportunities for Hispanic Serving Institutions! Bring your questions for answers and comments by 1) a recently funded NEH Faculty Fellow on the individual awards for faculty at HISs. NEH Institutional proposals will also be part of the discussion over coffee.
Contact: Shannon Eyre, RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator

For updates, registration, and complete list of Fall and Spring 2023-2024 offerings see: https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar

Division of Research & Research Development Services Opportunity Kick-Off
There will be multiple livestreamed events within the Division of Research and Research Development Services. Please see attached for more information regarding registration.

IACUC Conversations – Program Updates
Please join the IACUC Chair, Attending Veterinarian and Animal Welfare Office Director for a Conversation about the outcome of the most recent AAALAC International accreditation site visit. Updates about shifting submission expectations and recent response/review times will also be addressed. There will be ample opportunity for Q&A.

Who should attend?
Investigators, study and facility contacts, regardless of participation in the AAALAC accreditation, are all welcome to join the Conversation.

Friday October 13, 9-10:30 am
VIDI 106

Monday October 16, 1-2:30 pm
MSC 2500

Please join the Conversation at the time/location that works best for you!

Fall Eminent Scholar Lecture – Dr. Howard Frumkin
The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study invites you to attend the Fall Eminent Scholar Lecture by Dr. Howard Frumkin. Howard Frumkin, senior vice president, of the Trust for Public Land and professor emeritus of Environmental and Occupational Sciences at the University of Washington School of Public
Health, is a leading researcher in planetary health, health and nature, and environmental health. Frumkin is an internist, environmental and occupational medicine specialist, and epidemiologist.

His research interests include public health aspects of the built environment, climate change, energy policy, and nature contact. He has served on the boards of the Bullitt Foundation, the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Washington Global Health Alliance, the American Public Health Association, the US Green Building Council, the Children and Nature Network, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. Frumkin is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and is a fellow in the American College of Physicians, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, and the Collegium Ramazzini.

He is a Fellow of the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University. Previously he was head of the Our Planet, Our Health initiative at the Wellcome Trust in London (2018-19), Director of the National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2005-10), and Professor and Chair of Environmental and Occupational Health, and Professor of Medicine, at Emory University (1990-2005).


Frumkin was educated at Brown (A.B.), the University of Pennsylvania (M.D.), and Harvard (M.P.H. and Dr.P.H.). He lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington, across the water from Seattle, with his wife Joanne Silberner, a global health journalist. He has two children, Gabe, an attorney, and Amara, a physician. He is an avid cyclist, paddler, and hiker.

**AnSRS4U Presentation – Avoiding Turbulence When Traveling Internationally – First Class Tips for a Smooth Trip**

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host a presentation on International Travel, “Avoiding Turbulence When Traveling Internationally – First Class Tips for a Smooth Trip” on Thursday, October 19 from 10:00 to 11:00am via Zoom. The presentation will focus on the essentials of traveling abroad – export control considerations, Concur, and resources that are available. Presenters will be Tressie Truett from the Division of Research and Jason Boyle from the Division of Risk, Ethics & Compliance. The registration link is below.

Register in advance for this meeting: [https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlud-mgpj4uEtKWy8SPWEB60KqmlJden6bZ](https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlud-mgpj4uEtKWy8SPWEB60KqmlJden6bZ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The session will be recorded and available within a few days on demand via the SRS website at [AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu)](https://tamu.edu)

SRS looks forward to your participation. Feel free to forward this on to your colleagues. If they are not receiving these notices via the SRS listserv they can email [ansrs4u@tamu.edu](mailto:ansrs4u@tamu.edu) and request to be added to the listserv.
AnSRS4U On-Demand Presentation – Global Engagement / International Activities

The recent Sponsored Research Services AnSRS4U presentation on Global Engagement / International Activities is now available to watch on-demand. This session covered considerations and requirements for international activities, including the new Global Engagement system regulation and university rule that require additional approvals for activities involving a country of concern. The slides and the recording of the presentation are available from the SRS website at under the Resources tab at https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/

Informational Sessions for Researchers Offers Guidance on the Use of Cayuse Proposals (S2S)- Thursday November 9, 10:00 to 11:00am.

SRS is holding an Informational session for researchers on the Use of Cayuse Proposals (S2S)- Thursday November 9, 10:00 to 11:00am.

This will be offered via Zoom. Please register in advance HERE to attend this session or paste the following address in your browser to go to the registration page. https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpf-CrrjMqGtFrDl0ITx7npo2ItOJ5N0Cg
Once registered you will receive the Zoom meeting invite.

Background: Sponsored Research Services (SRS) has implemented a cloud-based system-to-system software (S2S) platform, Cayuse Proposals. With Cayuse Proposals, SRS Pre-award Research Administrators are able to enrich the federal submission process for all researchers using the system’s advanced validation system. This has been an exciting enhancement to our electronic research information system (eRA), MAESTRO.

Cayuse Proposals is a tool that is designed for administrators and/or researchers to use for the preparation of proposals. Some researchers have requested training in order to access the system, upload documents, and in some instances, assist with preparation of their proposals. In response to these requests informational sessions for researchers will be offered. As always, SRS Pre-award Research Administrators will continue to provide full proposal preparation services. For researchers who would like more information on using Cayuse Proposals, the informational session will provide guidance so that individuals may take an active role in proposal preparation without undue burden.

NIH - Budgeting Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Costs

Currently, the NIH How to Apply - Application Guide states that costs to support activities described in the DMS plan, including personnel costs, must be noted on the R&R Budget Form as a single line item titled “Data Management and Sharing Costs.”

Effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after October 5, 2023, NIH will no longer require the use of the single DMS cost line item. NIH recognizes that DMS costs may be requested in many cost categories.

Therefore, in line with NIH’s standard budget instructions, DMS costs must be requested in the appropriate cost category, e.g., personnel, equipment, supplies, and other expenses, following the instructions for the R&R Budget Form or PHS 398 Modular Budget Form, as applicable.

While the single cost line item is no longer required, NIH will require applicants to specify estimated DMS cost details within the “Budget Justification” attachment of the R&R Budget Form or “Additional Narrative Justification” attachment of the PHS 398 Modular Budget Form, pursuant to the instructions.
OMB **Proposed Updates** to the Uniform Guidance

FYI - On September 22, OMB posted a blog highlighting proposed updates to the Uniform Guidance (2CFR Parts 1, 25, 170, 175, 180, 182, 183 and 200) and an 'unofficial' draft of the revised text. The official version will be in a forthcoming Federal Register publication. Once these changes are posted to the Federal Register, a 60-day comment period will begin. OMB invites interested persons or organizations to submit comments.

Selected highlights of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Increasing the Single Audit Act audit threshold from threshold $750,000 to $1 million
- Increasing the threshold from $5,000 to $10,000 for determining items that are considered to be equipment
- Revise the section 200.314 on supplies to raise the threshold from $5,000 to $10,000
- Increasing the amount of subaward costs that can be counted within the MTDC base from $25,000 to $50,000
- Increasing the *de minimis* indirect cost rate to 15 percent of MTDC
- Removing the “simplified acquisition threshold” cap for fixed amount subawards currently in place
- In section 200.407, OMB has removed ten items from the prior written approval requirements

**AnSRS4U Presentation – Global Engagement / International Activities**

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host a presentation on Global Engagement / International Activities – Thursday, September 21 from 10:00 to 11:00am via Zoom, see registration information below. This session covers considerations and requirements for international activities, including the new Global Engagement system regulation and university rule that require additional approvals for activities involving a country of concern. Presented by Lesa Feldhousen, Executive Director, Conflict of Interest and Responsible Conduct of Research.

Register in advance for this meeting: [https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErd–prjIoE90i9OX7fL18ea1MgaQcLU-Z](https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErd–prjIoE90i9OX7fL18ea1MgaQcLU-Z)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The session will be recorded and available within a few days on demand via the SRS website at AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu)

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.

**New Videos Available at AnSRS4U Express**

AnSRS4U Express are short 5 to 7 minute videos on various research topics. These videos are designed to give you needed information in a short time frame. Currently there are 31 videos available. Some recent topics that have been added to the TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) webpage are as follows:

- Facilities and Administrative Costs
- Uniform Guidance
- Federal Acquisition Regulations
- Using SRS Budget Spreadsheet

These are located on the SRS website under the Resources tab at AnSRS4U Express – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu)
NIH Application Instruction Updates – Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Costs

Currently, the NIH How to Apply - Application Guide states that costs to support activities described in the DMS plan, including personnel costs, must be noted on the R&R Budget Form as a single line item titled “Data Management and Sharing Costs.”

Effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after October 5, 2023, NIH will no longer require the use of the single DMS cost line item. NIH recognizes that DMS costs may be requested in many cost categories.

Therefore, in line with NIH’s standard budget instructions, DMS costs must be requested in the appropriate cost category, e.g., personnel, equipment, supplies, and other expenses, following the instructions for the R&R Budget Form or PHS 398 Modular Budget Form, as applicable.

While the single cost line item is no longer required, NIH will require applicants to specify estimated DMS cost details within the “Budget Justification” attachment of the R&R Budget Form or “Additional Narrative Justification” attachment of the PHS 398 Modular Budget Form, pursuant to the instructions.

NSF Policy Office Webinar Series: Eligibility for NSF Funding Opportunities

The National Science Foundation is pleased to announce it will be hosting another webinar in the 2023 NSF Policy Office Webinar Series, covering Eligibility for NSF Funding Opportunities: Organizational Eligibility and Categories of Proposers Formats, which will take place Thursday, September 28, 2023, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST. There is no cost to participate.

The NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) identifies the types of organizations that are eligible to submit proposals to NSF. Program solicitations, however, can limit both the types of organizations that are eligible to submit proposals as well as impose limitations on Principal Investigators (PIs). This webinar will cover eligibility in detail and provide examples of funding opportunities that restrict the general PAPPG eligibility policy.

Registration is open! To register for this event, visit our website: https://nsfpolicyoutreach.com/
For those who cannot attend the live webinar, all recorded sessions will be available on-demand shortly after the event and posted on our Resource Center and our YouTube page.

Change in IACUC Submission Expectations

The Animal Welfare Program would like to notify principal investigators (PIs) that they may be asked to provide additional information in the animal use protocol (AUP) that has not been requested by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in the past. This is to ensure that the contents of the AUP meets all federal regulatory requirements, as well as AAALAC expectations to maintain accreditation, and institutional and system policies and procedures. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on ensuring that responses provided within the AUP are consistent with field and section instructions (including help text) and that any redundancy and inconsistency found within the submission is addressed.

PIs are reminded to incorporate flexibility in the timeline provided in the experimental design section, and elsewhere in the AUP as applicable. The Animal Welfare Office staff will assist PIs to meet the new IACUC expectations through a more thorough administrative pre-review process. Please ensure submissions are received with sufficient lead time to accommodate this change. Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance with these new IACUC expectations.
Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Drugs and Compounds

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Guidance on procedural standards for animal activities is available on a wide variety of topics. Investigators are invited to view current IACUC Guidance related to the utilization of drugs and compounds, including anesthesia and analgesia (TAMU-G-002, TAMU-G-003, TAMU-G-021), use of pharmaceutical and nonpharmaceutical grade drugs and compounds (TAMU-G-010), neuromuscular blockers (TAMU-G-011), and expired drugs and compounds (TAMU-G-024). IACUC Guidance may be found on the Animal Program web page (requires TAMU authentication): https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance with implementing IACUC procedural standards.

Modification of Animal Use Protocols

Principal Investigators (PIs) are reminded that proposed modifications to their animal use protocol (AUP) must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC, or undergo completion of the veterinary verification and consultation (VVC) process (as applicable to the requested modification), prior to implementation of the change to avoid noncompliance. Select modifications to funding, personnel and animal housing and use location may be administratively processed by Animal Welfare Office staff as well. The Animal Welfare Program encourages PIs to view the AUP as a "contract" between the PI and the IACUC stipulating that the proposed activities with animals will follow all institutional requirements and procedures, and be performed as described within the AUP. Like a contract, the AUP should be accurate and amended anytime a variance, change or modification is needed.

For more information on the amendment and VVC processes, please visit: https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/approval-process-for-research-teaching-with-animals/how-to-change-an-approved-animal-use-protocol/ Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance.

Biosafety Occupational Health Program (BOHP) Updates

To streamline processes and procedures and ensure personnel continue to receive the appropriate occupational health services needed to maintain a safe and healthy work environment, the BOHP recently collaborated with the occupational health provider to update the occupational health enrollment process. These changes went into effect on September 1, 2023 and are summarized below.

- A NetID is no longer needed to access and complete the enrollment form.
- An updated enrollment questionnaire includes more targeted questions to make it easier for the occupational health provider to assess an individual's risk level.
- Enrollment questionnaires now route directly to the occupational health provider for review instead of routing through the BOHP portal.

Personnel who may have an occupational risk of exposure to infectious biohazards or who have contact with animals are required to enroll in the BOHP. Enrolling annually in the program allows individuals an opportunity to evaluate their potential workplace hazards and new or existing health concerns that may be affected by these hazards. Annual enrollment also is an excellent opportunity for individuals with questions or concerns regarding their personal health status and potential occupational exposures to request a confidential consult with the occupational health provider.

The program thanks the faculty who provided input and feedback relative to these updates as well as the IBC, IACUC, EHS, IT, Privacy Officer, and other staff.

E-mail reminders will be sent from the BOHP to individuals when enrollment forms are due. Please ensure that you and all personnel under your direct supervision are currently enrolled in the BOHP and update your BOHP enrollment questionnaire annually.
The new BOHP enrollment questionnaire can be accessed here: Biosafety Occupational Health Program – Division of Research (tamu.edu). Please contact the BOHP at bohp@tamu.edu if you have additional questions.

Proposed Changes to Federal Oversight of Research Involving Biohazardous and Recombinant/Synthetic Nucleic Acid Materials

Important policy changes are on the horizon for research involving biohazardous and recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid materials. We encourage all Principal Investigators who work with biohazardous materials, including genetically modified plants, animals, and insects, to review the proposed policy changes described below and provide feedback using the links provided.

1. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Science Policy (OSP) is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines). The proposal seeks to strengthen biosafety practices for research involving gene drive modified organisms (GDMOs) in contained research settings.

   - Clarify the minimum containment requirement for research involving GDMOs.
   - Articulate considerations for risk assessment of research involving GDMOs.
   - Define responsibilities for Institutional Biosafety Committees and Biosafety Officers at institutions conducting research involving GDMOs.

These proposed changes are consistent with recommendations contained in the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NExTRAC) report, Gene Drives in Biomedical Research.

The full proposal can be found in the Request for Public Comment: Proposed Revisions to NIH Guidelines for Gene Drive Research. Public comments will be accepted on the proposal until October 10, 2023. Comments must be submitted using the electronic comment form.

2. In response to the updated report from the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, which provided recommendations aimed at improving the oversight of research involving pathogens and toxins, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is collaborating with federal agencies to review and revise the policies for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) and the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Policy Framework in accordance with the 2022 National Biodefense Strategy and Implementation Plan. The aim is to mitigate risks associated with DURC and research with enhanced potential pandemic pathogens while minimizing any undue burdens on institutions. Specifically, the goals of the policy review and revision process are three-fold:

   - Assess whether and how to merge existing policies into a single policy for the oversight of research with pathogens and toxins.
   - Consider expanding the scope of existing policies to include a broader range of pathogens and toxins (e.g., not limited to select agents and toxins) that impact animals and humans.
   - Determine strategies to strengthen effective implementation of oversight for life sciences research on pathogens and toxins throughout the research lifecycle.

The White House OSTP has issued a Request for Information (RFI) in the Federal Register, seeking input on these potential changes to oversight policies. Feedback received through this RFI will inform policy evaluations and issuance of a revised policy. Public comments are being accepted until October 16, 2023. The document and instructions for providing public comment can be found at: Request for Information: Potential Changes to the Policies for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Policy Framework.
Maestro Steering Committee Update from 9/13/23 Meeting – Dr. Lee Tarpley & Dr. Kerri Gehring

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 TAMUS. The committee is co-chaired by TAMUS CIO (Mark Stone) and TAMU VP for Research (Jack Baldauf). The committee met on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

1) **Deliverable Uploads (presented by Mary Levien and Leonarda Horvat).** Currently, the PI is not asked to upload the project deliverable document to Maestro unless required as an attachment to a Sponsored invoice; if a PI delegate indicates completion of a deliverable, then the delegate must upload the document. A request was made by a System Member to require deliverable documents to be uploaded (a PI of the Member had passed away and the deliverable document could not be located.). However, some deliverables, such as massive datasets cannot be readily uploaded. Discussion included providing the option for a statement to be provided as an alternative to the deliverable when there are technical or confidentiality concerns with uploading the deliverable. Decision: Allow each Member to define this rule for their own institution/agency.

2) **Status Monitoring Report (Leonarda Horvat).** Maestro is used by all System members. Technical and functional improvements made during the current reporting period were mentioned. These included the implementation of new features to enable a Maestro‒Huron IRB interface that will be activated when the new IRB module becomes functional. Planned for the next reporting period/s: Phase II of the Agreements module; Proposal Administrator Dashboard; and continued migration to EVO.

3) **Maestro – 15th year Anniversary (Leonarda Horvat):** Maestro has grown and improved during the last 15 years. A nice overview of Maestro’s mission, organization, history (from several perspectives – technological, functional deliverables, etc.), accomplishments, and future was provided.

Reviewed by Leonarda Horvat. Director, Research Information Systems, TAMU.
Reported by CPI representatives to the Steering Committee: Lee Tarpley (ltarpley@tamu.edu) and Kerri Gehring (kbgehring@tamu.edu)

**Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities**

The Division of Research has a limited 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](https://tamu.infoready4.com/#limitedsubmissions). If you have any questions, please contact limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu.

**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, [click here](https://tamu.infoready4.com/#limitedsubmissions).

**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. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Research Bulletin, email: research-communications@tamu.edu.
COFFEE CONVERSATION SERIES:
Supporting Humanities Research at Texas A&M University

October 5, 2023
1:30pm
GLAS 311
Navigating External Grants in the Humanities

October 12, 2023
1:30pm
GLAS 311
NEH Funding Opportunities for HSIs

An informal series over coffee and refreshments that overviews Texas A&M’s external grant procedures as well as funding opportunities for Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Bring your questions and listen to comments on the process by recently-funded faculty.
Annually RDS hosts opportunities for the Texas A&M Research Community to increase their knowledge and skills in research proposal development to federal funding agencies. Academic Year 23-24 Professional Development opportunities are offered in in-person and virtual formats. Registration is required for BOTH types of events. Virtual events will supply Zoom links upon registration. These events are for faculty. Offerings of professional development for postdocs and graduate students are listed on the organizational webpage.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

**Getting to Know the NSF**
**September 14, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual**
An overview of the National Science Foundation (NSF) covering the organization, proposal types, proposal review, and review criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), as well as discussion about what’s new at the NSF. Useful to researchers when deciding whether to submit a proposal to NSF and to which program to submit. Open to all faculty levels.

Presenter: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

**NSF Proposal Supplementary Documents**
**September 27, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual**
Discussing supplementary documents required for NSF proposals, including recent changes to Biosketch and Current & Pending Support. It will also provide information on available resources to assist faculty with developing these documents. Open to all faculty levels.

Presenter: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

**CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 1) Long-term Career Plan and Prior Achievements**
**November 9, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301**
Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees

Research goals and objectives, scope of the project, best practices and common mistakes, differences between fundamental research and development work, why many reviewers are in favor of hypothesis-driven research, why having a section on “Relationship to the Present State of Knowledge in the Field” is recommended, and common research plan weaknesses.

Contact: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

**Education and Outreach Expo**
**February 7, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601**
Presentation and Expo

This interactive event will start with introducing 20+ campus representatives in programs that faculty can collaborate on the education and outreach aspects of their NSF proposals, to be followed by an expo for attendees to network with these campus program representatives. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Contact: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

**NSF CAREER Writing Groups - Initial Meeting**
**February 15, 2024, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, Virtual**
This meeting is to familiarize faculty with the goals and organization of the TAMU NSF CAREER proposal peer writing groups, including resource materials, Q&A session, and scheduling of writing meetings for March – May. The groups will then meet bi-weekly going through the entire preparation process of their CAREER proposal with peer review and input as they write each section of their CAREER proposals.

Presenter: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director

For updates, registration, and complete list of Fall and Spring 2023-2024 offerings see: [https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar](https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar)
**Department of Energy (DoE)**

**Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Research Program**

*September 15, 2023, 9:00-11:00am OR 1:00-4:00pm (TBD)*

**Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics & Astronomy, Hawking Auditorium, In-person**

This 3-hour event will include presentations by DOE program officers and past TAMU awardees, and the DOE Early Career Award Network, including time for Q&A. The RDS and DOE ECAN collaborative has a comprehensive plan to assist faculty targeting this funding opportunity and will present information on developing a competitive proposal for this program.

*Contact: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director*

**National Institute of Health (NIH)**

**GWSW - Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals**

*February 22, 2024, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Rudder 601*

The seminar provides a broad overview of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), identifying NIH funding opportunities, the NIH proposal submission and review process, and strategies to build a competitive NIH proposal.

*Presenter: Dr. John Robertson, Consultant from GWSW.*

*Contact: Shannon Eyre, RDS, Sr. Administrative Coordinator*

**General Proposal Writing**

**Writing Successful Proposals**

*November 15, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00pm, Virtual*

A seminar designed to offer faculty an overview of strategic proposal design and best practices to create a competitive research proposal. Applicable to all disciplines. Early Career faculty are encouraged to attend.

*Presenter: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director*

**Humanities**

**Planning and Writing Successful Grant Proposals in the Arts & Humanities**

*Spring 2024, Two 4 hours sessions, TIME TBD, Virtual*

*Contact: Shannon Eyre, RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator*

This 2-part webinar will combine lecture format and engagement activities for arts and humanities faculty in planning and writing successful grant proposals. The presentation will take into account research proposals vs. fellowships vs. performance. Topics will include stakeholders, reading the RFP, framework for the critical first page, and the rest of the proposal. The webinar will be presented by the AtKisson Training Group.

**Coffee Conversations**

An informal series over coffee and refreshments. *Sponsored by the Glasscock Center & Division of Research*

*October 5, 2023, 1:30 pm, Glasscock Center, Room 311*

Grants 101 for Arts and Humanities Faculty. A discussion of Texas A&M resources and where to begin when starting the grant funding process. Funded faculty will be on hand to answer questions.

*Contact: Shannon Eyre, RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator*

*October 12, 2023, 1:30 pm, Glasscock Center, Room 311*

Overview of two funding opportunities for Hispanic Serving Institutions! Bring your questions for answers and comments by a recently funded NEH Faculty Fellow on the individual awards for faculty at HSIs. NEH Institutional proposals will also be part of the

**Department of Defense (DoD)**

**Introduction to Young Investigator Programs and Faculty Fellowships**

*March 5, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual*

Programs targeting young investigators provide an opportunity for assistant professors to compete among equals, often for prestigious awards. Faculty Fellowships can help prepare faculty for successfully competing for these awards. This event will discuss advantages and strategies in applying to these young investigator programs and faculty fellowships. Details and best practices for applying to programs at federal agencies and foundations will include Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and NASA, as well as the Gulf Research Program and American Chemical Society.

*Contact: Dr. Laurie Garton, RDS Associate Director*
discussion over coffee.
Contact: Shannon Eyre, RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator

For updates, registration, and complete list of Fall and Spring 2023-2024 offerings see: https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar
Upcoming livestreamed events:

October 20th, 1:30pm – Opportunity Kick-Off

At this event Dr. Meg Bouvier will present ten reasons to love our Texas A&M membership to Bouvier Grant Group for NIH training and resources.

October 25th, 11:00am-4:00pm – NIH R-series Boot Camp

Designed for those preparing to write an RO1 or similar submission to the NIH for an upcoming grant deadline and the people who advise them.

October 25th and 26th, 11:00am-4:00pm – NIH K-series Boot Camp

The K-series bootcamp includes the R-series event on Oct. 25, as well as a second day for K-series specifics.

Register for any of these events at: https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar
The Division of Research at Texas A&M has purchased access to NIH grantsmanship training from the Bouvier Grant Group (https://bouviergrant.com) available free to all TAMU faculty, staff, and students.

Join us for a livestreamed Opportunity Kick-off with Dr. Meg Bouvier on October 20 to highlight all this program has to offer. Register at the link at the bottom of this page.

**Why Meg Bouvier?** Meg’s experience at NIH as both a bench scientist and staff writer greatly informs her approach to NIH grantwriting. Meg received a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in 1995. She worked as a staff writer for long-standing NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins in the Office of Press, Policy, and Communications for the Human Genome Project and NHGRI. Since 2007, Meg has specialized in editing and advising on NIH submissions and began offering virtual courses in 2015. She currently supports 2 of the top 3-ranked hospitals; 4 of the top 6 cancer hospitals; and 3 of the top 6-ranked medical schools for research in the country. She has helped clients land over $400 million in federal funding.

You have access to virtual, self-paced training courses such as:

- Master the R Series
- Master Resubmissions
- Master the T32
- Master the P and U Series
- The 4 Rigor Scoring Criteria
- The Human Subjects Form
- Navigate the Review Process
- Checklist to Avoid Top Mistakes
- 10-Week Workplan

**How it Works**

All courses are hosted at www.bouviergrant.com. Even if you’re not actively working on a submission, we encourage you to register now at https://bouviergrant.com/NIHLibrary/TAMU2020 to take full advantage of the offering.

Courses are divided into short segments that are on average 30 minutes each. Try one today to view the quality and value!

Membership benefits beyond the on-line on-demand courses, include her “10 Week Deadline Push” planning program of helpful email reminders leading up to your R01 submission. She also has “Ask the Grantwriting Expert”; a live, 30-minute monthly online opportunity to get your NIH questions answered live by Dr. Bouvier and guests.

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Register for any of these events at: https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar
The Health Benefits of Nature Contact: From Intuition to Science to Policy

Most people intuitively like contact with natural settings—a walk in a park, a view of the ocean, an afternoon working in the garden, a vacation in a verdant setting. But the human-nature link is not just a matter of intuition. A growing body of empirical evidence suggests that nature contact provides substantial health benefits. These benefits range widely, from stress reduction to pain control to better birth outcomes. This, in turn, raises a host of questions, from the mechanistic to the practical. How does nature contact confer these benefits? Who benefits most? Who currently most lacks nature contact? What forms of nature contact are most effective in promoting health? Should we be recommending a minimum daily dose, as we do for vitamins and physical activity? What are the implications for architecture and urban planning? This lecture will review current evidence for the health benefits of nature contact, identify outstanding scientific questions, and consider how to apply what we now know in our behavioral choices, professional practice, and public policy.

Please RSVP to hias@tamu.edu