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CPI Newsletter – November 2023

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**2023-24 CPI roster:** Chair — Jessica Bernard, CAS • Vice-Chair — Robin Page, Nursing • Past Chair Debjyoti Banerjee, ENG • AgriLife Extension — Tim Hartmann, Jamie Rae Walker • AgriLife Research — Katie Lewis, Anil Somenahally, Qingwu Xue • Architecture — Michelle Meyer • BUSH — Laura Dague • CAS — Lane Baker, Heath Blackmon, Rebecca Brooker, Ryan Ewing, Jessica Fitzsimmons, Jean-Luc Guermond, Wenshe Liu, Daniel Thornton • COALS — Giri Athrey, Rodolfo Cardoso, Paul Straight, Aaron Tarone, Sarah White-Springer. Guoyao Wu • Dentistry — Hua Zhang • Education — Paul Hernandez, Rafael Lara-Alecio • Engineering — Daniel Alge, Jorge Alvarado, Raymundo Arroyave, Suman Chakravorty, Theodora Chaspari, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, Samuel Ma • Geosciences — Ryan Ewing, Jessica Fitzsimmons, Daniel Thornton • Law — Felix Mormann • Mays — Katy Lane • Medicine — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Shannon Glaser, Carl Gregory • Nursing — Robin Page • Pharmacy — Jayshree Mishra • Public Health — Gang Han • TAMU at Galveston — Irfan Khan • TAMU at Qatar — Nimir Elbashir • TEES — Keith Biggers, Nathan Tichenor • TTI — Edith Arámbula Mercado • University Libraries — Laura Sare • Veterinary Medicine — Joe Arosh, Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford, Dana Gaddy

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## Update from Dr. Jessica Bernard, 2023-2024 CPI Chair

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**November CPI Chair News** – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting with the administrative leadership began Dr. Michael Johnson providing an update from the Academic Freedom Working Group. The CPI-EC membership held conversations with Dr. Jack Baldauf, Vice President for Research, on SB17. A future meeting is being scheduled to have The Texas A&M University System Office of General Council come speak directly with the CPI on updates on SB17 as it impacts PIs research. Discussions were held on F31s and F32s with SRS and Texas A&M Graduate School Interim Dean. Future updates and more communications with CPI will continue to also include the financial aid office and others as needed to help reduce the burdens on graduate students and postdocs.

The November 8, 2023 CPI General Meeting is an open meeting, so it will be recorded. Following the November 8<sup>th</sup> CPI General Meeting, the YouTube video link will be posted on the [cpi.tamu.edu meetings](https://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](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or Rebecca Luckey, [rluckey@tamu.edu](mailto:rluckey@tamu.edu), our CPI Coordinator.

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

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**It is finally here.** The mandate to use SciENCv only for preparation of the biographical sketch and current and pending (other) support went into effect for new proposals submitted or due on or after October 23, 2023.

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 \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.srs.tamu.edu/AnSRS4U-Sponsored-Research-Services)

### 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)

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

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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-CrrjMqGtFrDt0ITx7npo2ltOJ5N0Cg>

Once registered you will receive the Zoom meeting invite.

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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.

## **CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 1) Long-term Career Plan and Prior Achievements **November 9, 2023 11:45 – 1:00 PM****

### **Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Required and recommended sections to include in a project description, effective ways to connect an NSF CAREER plan to long-term goals, why having a section on "Prior Achievements" is recommended, and what to include in the "Prior Achievements" section.

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>*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Down @ McFerrin – November 10, 5-7 PM**

Texas A&M Innovation is partnering with The McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship to connect fellow innovators and entrepreneurs at **1<sup>st</sup> Down @ McFerrin** for food, drinks and networking. 1<sup>st</sup> Downs are held ahead of Fightin' Texas Aggie Game Day Saturdays. We have invited two Texas A&M spinout leaders, Ashlee Jahnke, Ph.D., co-founder of Sugar Plastics, LLC as well as Director of Research and Development for Teysha Technologies, and Carlos Rodriguez, MBA, CEO and co-founder of Humanate Digital, LLC to share their entrepreneurship journey.

The event will be held on **Friday, November 10, 2023, from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm CT**. Meet us at The McFerrin Center before the Aggies take on Mississippi State for good ol' Aggie camaraderie! **Register at this [link](#).**

## **Writing Successful Proposals – November 15, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 PM 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

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

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## Commercialization Funding Mechanisms Seminar – December 4, 4-6 PM

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Join Texas A&M Innovation for an educational seminar on **Monday, December 4 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm CT** as we explore the various funding opportunities to advance research innovations toward commercialization. Our speakers will discuss topics such as founder funding, competitions, grants, equity investments, and more. The seminar is followed by open Q&A and networking.

This seminar is tailored toward researchers, faculty, staff, and students throughout The Texas A&M University System. We're offering two attendance options: in person at the McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship (1700 Research Parkway, Suite 130, College Station, TX 77845), or virtually. 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.

## NSF Virtual Grants Conference - December 4-7, 2023

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) will be hosting a free virtual event, ([2023 Fall NSF Virtual Grants Conference](#)) for anyone new to NSF looking to learn key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF, and for those who are experienced and would like to be caught up on the latest agency policies and program information. During the live event, NSF staff will provide up-to-date information about policies and procedures, specific funding opportunities and answer attendee questions.

**Registration opens Wednesday, November 8, 2023.** A link for registration and the agenda will be added to the conference website once available. Go to [2023 Fall NSF Grants Conference – Pre-Registration – NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nsfpolicyoutreach.com\)](#) For those who cannot attend the live conference, all recorded conference sessions will be available on-demand shortly after the event.

## Important Reminders: IRB Conversion to Huron

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**November 6, 2023**     *Deadline to submit all new study initial applications in iRIS.*

**November 13, 2023**     *Deadline to submit all other applications (amendments, continuing reviews, personnel changes, administrative check-ins) in iRIS*

**December 1, 2023 to December 10, 2023**

*BLACKOUT PERIOD: Both iRIS and Huron are closed to all users*

**December 11, 2023**     *Go-Live date for the Huron IRB Submission System*

**\*Note: IBC and IACUC submissions will continue to use iRIS.**

**Do not get caught unprepared!** For what to expect and for important conversion timeline information see: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron/>

**Familiarize yourself with the Huron Knowledge Center.** The Huron Knowledge Center was established to help investigators navigate the new electronic IRB submission system. Visit the Huron Knowledge Center to access step-by-step instructional guidance materials: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron-knowledge-center/>

**Enroll in a Huron training session.** Virtual training sessions will be available daily, Monday through Friday, twice a day starting November 13, 2023, until Huron goes live on December 11. Morning sessions will be offered at 9 AM and afternoon sessions at 2 PM. To schedule a Huron training session, please contact Denise Puga at [denisepuga@tamu.edu](mailto:denisepuga@tamu.edu).

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## Animal Program: Resources and Reminders

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### Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Laboratory Rodent Breeding and Associated Activities

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 breeding of laboratory rodents (TAMU-G-040), genotyping (TAMU-G-007) and identification (TAMU-G-014). 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](mailto:animalcompliance@tamu.edu) or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance with implementing IACUC procedural standards.

### Webinar on Utilizing the NC3Rs Experimental Design Assistant for Planning Animal Studies

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) has released a webinar which investigators may find valuable in strengthening rigor, reproducibility and translatability while planning their animal research: *Improving Experimental Design: Ethical Implications and How the Experimental Design Assistant (EDA) Can Help*. To view the webinar and available materials, please visit <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2023-09-14.htm>. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at [animalcompliance@tamu.edu](mailto:animalcompliance@tamu.edu) or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance.

### Animal Research/Teaching Collaboration

the Animal Welfare Office (AWO) would like to remind investigators that the performance of activities with vertebrate animals at a location under the oversight of an external IACUC on behalf of a Texas A&M investigator (e.g.: subaward, contract/subcontract, fee for service, unfunded collaboration, etc.), or by Texas A&M faculty, staff or students (as a function employment or completion of a degree), also requires oversight by the TAMU IACUC in the form of an External Protocol. For more information, please visit the Animal Welfare Program webpage outlining the approval process for research/teaching with animals: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/approval-process-for-research-teaching-with-animals/>. Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at [animalcompliance@tamu.edu](mailto:animalcompliance@tamu.edu) or 979.845.1828 if you have questions or need assistance.

## Oak Ridge National Lab Fellowship and Funding Opportunities

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Oak Ridge National Lab is offering a two-year **\$115K/yr fellowship + \$150,000 in R&D funding** to researchers whose early stage innovations are presently too challenging or technically uncertain to pursue in a venture capital-financed startup. We will host a webinar for all interested parties on [Thursday, November 9, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. ET](#).

<https://innovationcrossroads.ornl.gov/apply>.

## Enterprise/ National Rewards Program Promotion

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Enterprise/National, one of our contracted rental car companies is currently running a promotion. Use the link below to claim your Emerald Membership. If you already have an Emerald Club membership, still click the link below to link your account to our corporate contract to receive all of the benefits.

### [CLAIM YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

Benefits of this program includes:

- Earn 1 rental credit for every car rental and receive a free rental day when you get 7 credits
- Checkout can be done with the mobile Emerald Checkout
- Choose any car (midsize and above) and only pay the midsize rate
- No additional fees for second driver
- If you already have elevated status with another rental car provider, Enterprise/National will match it. [Learn more](#)

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## Detailed Travel Itinerary Required on State Funds

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The itinerary form has been approved by the state. The form is posted on the [Travel](#) website in the Forms section along with the [Concur Training Website](#) under the Forms tab. This form should be populated, saved, and attached to every expense report that is wholly or partially funded by a state account. This requirement applies to any expense report submissions starting 10/16/23 regardless of the travel dates.

Please contact [travel@tamu.edu](mailto:travel@tamu.edu) if you have any questions.

## Continuous Service Improvement Governance Group (CSIGG)

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The Continuous Service Improvement Governance Group (CSIGG) was established as a result of the Finance process improvement initiatives over the past year. During spring and summer of this year the initial membership was seated, processes defined, and tools created. The CSIGG is now operational and is already evaluating the first six process improvement proposals.

If you would like to submit a request or proposal to improve a Division of Finance & Business Services process, please click on the link below and complete the intake form. We look forward to working with you!

[CSIGG Website](#)

[CSIGG Intake Form](#)

## Responsible Conduct of Research

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[University SAP 15.99.99.M0.04](#) requires completion of [online CITI RCR training](#) and (based on specific criteria) four hours of [Face-to-Face \(F2F\) RCR workshop training](#) for students and postdocs participating in research. Please visit our [website](#) for more detailed individual requirements.

- The RCR office will be hosting a [4-hour in-person workshop](#) on January 11, 2024, to assist applicable graduate students and postdocs meet this F2F requirement.
- The RCR office has implemented a new F2F training opportunity where [Lab Specific](#) training provided by the PI (or their designee) may be utilized for one hour of credit.

Contact [RCR@tamu.edu](mailto:RCR@tamu.edu) for more information.

## Responsible Conduct of Research training is required by NSF

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Per NSF's recently updated Responsible Conduct of Research training requirements, RCR Training is required for all undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty and other senior personnel who will be supported by the NSF.

[Learn More](#)

## AnSRS4U On-Demand Presentation – Avoiding Turbulence When Traveling Internationally – First Class Tips for a Smooth Trip

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The recent Sponsored Research Services AnSRS4U presentation Avoiding Turbulence When Traveling Internationally – First Class Tips for a Smooth Trip is now available to watch on-demand. This session

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covered essentials for traveling abroad – export control considerations, Concur, and resources that are available. The presenters were Tressie Truett from the Division of Research and Jason Boyle from the Division of Risk, Ethics & Compliance.

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/](https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/)

## **AnSRS4U Presentation - Outgoing PI Transfers: Steps When a Sponsored Project is Being Transfer**

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host a presentation on Outgoing PI Transfers: Steps When a Sponsored Project is Being Transfer on Thursday, November 30, from 10:00 to 11:00am via Zoom. The presentation will focus on the steps to take when a PI is leaving the institution and the institution will transfer their sponsored projects to the new institution. The registration link is below.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Nov 30, 2023 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlqf-2vrjstH9V9W0yaci0m3BpPQWI9zwEJ>

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](mailto:ansrs4u@tamu.edu) and request to be added to the listserv.

## **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.

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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

## Animal Welfare Office Updates

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/) (<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/) (<https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron-knowledge-center/>) for guidance.

Contact Denise Puga [denisepuga@tamu.edu](mailto:denisepuga@tamu.edu) or Aliese Seawright [a.seawright@tamu.edu](mailto:a.seawright@tamu.edu) if you have any questions after viewing the website. Note: IBC and IACUC submissions will continue to use iRIS.



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## Benefits and Retirement Information Updates

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### 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](mailto: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

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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

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### \*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/RDSalendar>

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### \*Timeline and Strategies for Developing a CAREER Proposal

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**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>

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**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>

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**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.

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**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!

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**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

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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).

He is the author or co-author of over 300 scientific journal articles and chapters. His ten books include *Making Healthy Places: Designing and Building for Health, Well-Being, and Sustainability* (Island Press, 2011 and 2022), *Environmental Health: From Global to Local* (Jossey-Bass, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2016), *Planetary Health: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves* (Island Press, 2020), and *Planetary Health: Safeguarding Human Health and the Environment in the Anthropocene* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

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.

## Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities

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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>. If you have any questions, please contact [limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu](mailto:limitedsubmissions@tamu.edu).

## Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities

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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](#).

## Bulletin for Principal Investigators

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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](mailto:research-communications@tamu.edu).

# 2023 – 2024 Faculty Seminars & Workshops

Research Development Service (RDS)

<https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar>

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

**REGISTER**

### 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

**REGISTER**

### \*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

**REGISTER**

### \*Timeline and Strategies for Developing a CAREER Proposal

**October 25, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301**

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

**REGISTER**

### \*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

Required and recommended sections to include in a project description, effective ways to connect an NSF CAREER plan to long-term goals, why having a section on "Prior Achievements" is recommended, and what to include in the "Prior Achievements" section.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 2) Research Plan

**December 6, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601**

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

**REGISTER**

### \*CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 3) Education Plan

**January 23, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301**

Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees

Education goals and objectives, creating quantifiable metrics and specific plans for success, integration of research and education, leveraging Texas A&M's HSI status, and examples of good and bad education objectives.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### 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

**REGISTER**

### \*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

**REGISTER**

### **\*Structuring and Formatting CAREER Proposals for Reviewers**

**February 21, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301**

#### **Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Tips for making an NSF CAREER proposal stand out, section hierarchy and structuring of the proposal, using NSF language, graphics advice, formatting (e.g., fonts & white space), and features of strong departmental letters.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### **\*CAREER Proposal Project Summary**

**March 6, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601**

#### **Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Discussion of what is required for the Project Summary. Tips on how to write it most effectively for an NSF CAREER proposal. Why this might be the only document some reviewers read.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### **\*Tips from Recent NSF CAREER Awardees**

**March 19, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601**

#### **Presentations and Q&A**

Several recent CAREER awardees from Texas A&M University will share their experience and advice on how to write successful CAREER proposals.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### **How to Address NSF Reviewer Comments from Previous Submissions**

**April 11, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301**

#### **Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

How and where to address reviewers' comments in a re-write, whether every comment should be addressed, and benefits of talking with NSF program directors on declined proposals.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### **\*NSF CAREER Project Summary Feedback Session**

**April 24, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601**

#### **Roundtable Discussion**

Participants will bring their CAREER project summaries to a group to get feedback on strengths and weaknesses from former program directors, recent CAREER awardees, research development staff, and peer attendees. Each group will review 4 – 6 project summaries.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

## **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

**REGISTER**

## **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

**REGISTER**

## **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

**REGISTER**

## **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

**REGISTER**

## **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.

**REGISTER**

### **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

discussion over coffee.

Contact: [Shannon Eyre](#), RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator

**REGISTER**

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



**Howard Frumkin, M.D., Dr.P.H.**

2023 Eminent Scholar Lecturer  
Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

*Senior VP, Trust for Public Land  
Professor Emeritus, University of Washington  
Hagler Fellow, Texas A&M University*

*Eminent Scholar Lecture*

# 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](mailto:hias@tamu.edu)



**HAGLER INSTITUTE  
FOR ADVANCED STUDY**  
*at Texas A&M University*

**November 9, 2023 / 4:00 PM**  
MSC Gates Ballroom, Rm 2400  
*Reception immediately to follow*

**[hias.tamu.edu](http://hias.tamu.edu)**