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CPI Newsletter – December 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

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

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

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**December CPI Chair News** – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting with the administrative leadership began Ms. Julie Mosbo Ballestro, University Librarian and Assistant Provost of University Libraries providing an update on the Texas A&M University Libraries. The CPI-EC membership was provided a Research Compliance Update from Ms. Katherine Rojo del Busto regarding the rollout of Huron for the IRB protocols. Held additional conversations with Dr. Jack Baldauf, Vice President for Research, on SB17 and the timeline for information being sent out to the research community. A future meeting is still trying to be 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. Dr. Henry Fadamiro provided a brief update on active working groups for various strategic initiatives and more information will be sent out via email for PIs to be involved. An update was provided by Dr. Fuhui Tong, Texas A&M Interim Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate and Professional School, regarding the GREAT Program report.

The December 13, 2023 CPI General Meeting is an open meeting, so it will be recorded. Following the December 13, 2023 CPI General Meeting, the YouTube video link will be posted on the [cpi.tamu.edu](https://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings) 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.

## Microscopy and Imaging Center and Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies Joint Open House – February 1, 2024

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The Microscopy and Imaging Center and Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies are hosting a joint Open House on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There will be lectures at the TIPS auditorium with overview of both facilities, presentations on some of the research currently using these facilities, and an opportunity for tours.

If you would like to attend please fill out the [RSVP form](#) to ensure you have lunch provided. Additionally you are welcome to forward this to any relevant colleagues or students. Please see the flyer on the back of this page for a save the date.

## Ask the Expert: Q&A Panel – February 9, 2024

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The Division of Research is putting on an event on February 9, 2024 and we are looking to locate the correct person(s) in your department to come and represent. We are looking for the person(s) who would best have questions for experts from groups such as the Property office, Surplus, SSC, Keyless, Aggieworks, Emergency Management, EHS, Facility Management and others. This representative is someone who best knows the lab groups in your department and can come on behalf of those doing research while benefitting from networking with peers in equivalent positions.

If you know of someone who should be included in this event, please send an email to Ashlyn Montgomery, [amontgomery@tamu.edu](mailto:amontgomery@tamu.edu) to get them on the list. The Save the Date flyer is included on the back of this newsletter.

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## Export Controls & Research in Restricted Countries

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Texas A&M acknowledges the importance and benefit of global collaborations; however, some countries require multi-layered levels of review and approval prior to initiating research activities.

Currently, the following countries are heavily sanctioned by the [US Government](#) and/or are defined as “Countries of Concern” by Texas A&M System (pursuant to System regulation [15.05.04, High Risk Global Engagement and High Risk International Collaborations](#)):

- Cuba
- Iran
- North Korea
- People’s Republic of China (PRC, mainland)
- Syria
- Russia/Belarus
- Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions

Shipping items to these countries and/or engaging in collaborations or other activities with parties located in these countries (or residents of these countries) requires higher levels of scrutiny at multiple levels including: Texas A&M University, Texas A&M System, and/or the federal government. Review times for activities in or with these countries can be lengthy and may potentially result in denial (not approved).

Please note that approval of an activity is based on a particular set of facts and regulations at the time of the review, and prior approval does not preclude subsequent review of future activities. For more information visit the Export Control website: [International Research Collaboration / Foreign Influence – Division of Research \(tamuedu\)](#) or contact [exportcontrols@tamuedu](mailto:exportcontrols@tamuedu) with any questions.

## Responsible Conduct of Research

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The RCR office is hosting a [4-hour in-person workshop](#) on **January 11, 2024**, that meets the RCR Face-to-Face (F2F) training requirement for graduate students and postdocs as outlined in [University SAP 15.99.99.M0.04](#). The following topics will be covered:

- RCR – Research Data Management
- RCR – Research Security/IT Awareness
- RCR – Safe & Inclusive Research Environments
- RCR – Research Misconduct, Authorship & Peer Review

Please visit our [website](#) for more detailed RCR training requirements for students and postdocs. Information on the 1-hour workshops offered through other departments and those hosted by the RCR office can be found there as well.

Upcoming Virtual (Zoom) 1-hour RCR Workshops:

- [January 31, 2024 – RCR – Human Subjects](#)
- [February 21, 2024 – RCR – Animal Welfare](#)
- [March 20, 2024 – RCR Scientific Ethics](#)
- [April 10, 2024 – RCR Biosafety](#)

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

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## Animal Program: Resources and Reminders

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**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). For more information, please visit the **2024 AAALAC Site Revisit** webpage: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/aaalac-international-main-campus-kingsville-accreditation-revisit-2024-late-january-march/>. 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.

**Updates to IACUC Required Training.** The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has updated personnel training requirements for protocols submitted on or after January 1, 2021, to address concerns raised by the AAALAC International accreditation visit. Investigators are encouraged to review the updated training requirements to avoid unexpected delays in new approvals. For details see **TAMU-G-029 Guidelines for Animal Protocol Participation and Handling** available on the Animal Program Guidance 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 in determining training requirements and required timeline for completion.

**Focus on IACUC Guidelines – Enrichment and Single Housing.** 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 environmental enrichment and single housing of social biomedical species housed indoors (TAMU-G-027), and environmental enrichment for agricultural species (TAMU-G-012). 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.

**IACUC Membership Nominations.** Faculty with animal research or teaching experience are invited to volunteer for service as a member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at [animalcompliance@tamu.edu](mailto:animalcompliance@tamu.edu) or 979.845.1828 to learn more about the nomination process and becoming a member of this important compliance committee.

## GWSW - Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals

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Rudder Tower 601

Register: <https://u.tamu.edu/GWSW2024>

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 Information:**

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

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## Texas A&M Innovation Educational Seminars for Researchers

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On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Texas A&M Innovation conducted a “Commercialization Funding Mechanisms” seminar, where more than 120 researchers attended, both in person and virtually, to learn about the various funding opportunities to advance research innovations toward commercialization. Discussion topics included internal funding through programs like National Science Foundation’s Innovation Corps (NSF iCorps), Advancing Discovery to Market (ADM) and the Translational Investment Fund (TIF), non-dilutive funding sources, such as SBIR/STTR grants and competitions such as the Texas A&M New Ventures Competition (TNVC), and for-profit dilutive funding and private investments, which is essential for entrepreneurial commercialization. In case you missed it, you can access a recording [on our website](#).

**Save the date for our next seminar on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM CST** as we explore the topic of starting a company. More details to come. 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.

## 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](#)

## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

## 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).

# TIPS & MIC OPEN HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE

February 1st 2024

Lectures, Lunch, and tours!!

More information coming soon

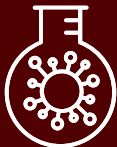


RSVP [HERE](#)

Texas A&M University Division of Research

**invites all LAB  
COORDINATORS/MANAGERS  
to the 1st Annual**

# **ASK THE EXPERT: Q&A PANEL**



**February 9, 2024**

**Rudder Forum and Exhibit Hall**

**Panel experts from the following:**

Property, Surplus, SSC, Keyless,  
Aggieworks, Emergency Management,  
EHS, Facility Management and more!



More information to follow

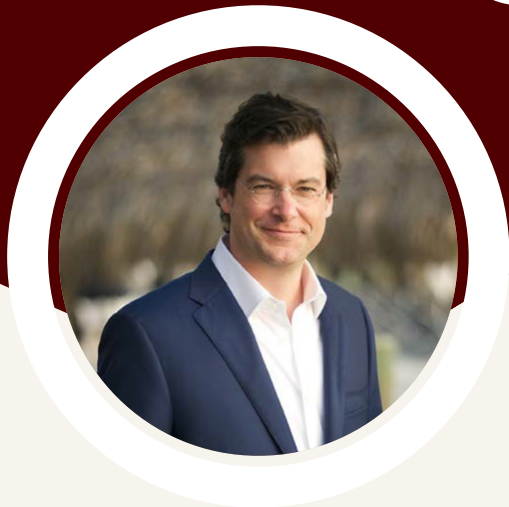


# Save the Date!

Research Development Services Presents

# WRITE WINNING NIH GRANT PROPOSALS SEMINAR

[REGISTER!](#)



**DR. JOHN D.  
ROBERTSON**

SPEAKER



**FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

**8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**RUDDER TOWER 601**

This 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.