CPI Newsletter – March 2024

Included in this issue:

- Update from CPI Chair
- Upcoming AnSRS4U Presentation: Maestro Researcher Portal: An Effective Tool for Managing Your Research, – Thursday March 28, 10-11:00am via Zoom
- NSF PAPPG NSF 24-1 New Version Has Been Issued
- Texas A&M Innovation for the March CPI Newsletter
- A&M System Guidance Regarding Non-Standard IP Review and Approval Process
- Available on Demand - Recent AnSRS4u presentation Navigating NSF: A Roadmap for New Proposals in Research.gov
- Planning & Writing Proposals in the Arts & Humanities Workshop
- Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) – EPA Internships & Fellowships
- Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement and Travel (GREAT) Program Travel Award Requests
- Updates to Countries of Concern
- Animal Program Updates
- Arts and Humanities Fellowship Application
- Human Research Protection Program Update
- Biosafety/Select Agent Program Updates
- Available on Demand – Recent AnSRS4U presentation on Fulbright Opportunities and How They Can Work for You
- Guidance on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperation Agreements FY 2024
- NIH Enforcement of Unilateral Closeout Reporting in the System for Award Management
- Plagiarism Detection Software Available
- Limited Submission Proposal Opportunities
- Proposal Assistance for Large Multidisciplinary Funding Opportunities
- Bulletin for Principal Investigators
- Innovation and Commercialization at Texas A&M University

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

March CPI Chair News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with Texas A&M and Agency administrators on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 where all provided updates on upcoming events and opportunities that will be pushed out at the upcoming CPI General Meetings as well as the monthly CPI Newsletter.

The 2024 CPI Survey was briefly discussed with the full discussion noted to take place with CPI Membership at the March 20, 2024 CPI General meeting. After the summary with CPI Membership, the information will posted on the CPI Website for all interested to be able to view.

The March 20, 2024 CPI General Meeting is an open meeting, so it will be recorded. Following the March 20th CPI General Meeting, the YouTube video link will be posted on the website at cpi.tamu.edu in the meetings page section for all PIs to have access to view.

CPI will continue to meet with President Welsh, Texas A&M leadership as well as The System administrative leadership this spring. 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, fluckey@tamu.edu, our CPI Coordinator.

Upcoming AnSRS4U Presentation: Maestro Researcher Portal: An Effective Tool for Managing Your Research, – Thursday March 28, 10-11:00am via Zoom

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host a presentation on the Maestro Researcher Portal: An Effective Tool for Managing Your Research, Thursday March 28, 10-11:00am via Zoom. Learn how the Maestro Researcher Portal is used by researchers to create, view and approve proposals, view project terms and conditions, check account balances, transactions, payroll activity and revenue. Explore the Researcher Dashboard which is the landing page where the system summarizes all actions researchers need to perform with easy navigation path, and gives them different alerts for their proposals, projects or accounts. Receive answers to commonly asked questions and learn about suggested best practices in utilizing Maestro to manage your research projects.

Register at the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you are not able to attend the live presentation it will be recorded and placed on the SRS website https://srs.tamu.edu/resources/ansrs4u/ within a couple of days after the presentation.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: March 28, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada). Register in advance for this meeting:
https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIsde-rrz4jE9FJu0HVU-EIOYrdvuzJ_LG1

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

NSF PAPPG NSF 24-1 New Version Has Been Issued

NSF has announced that a revised version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1) has been issued. The new PAPPG will be effective for proposals submitted or due on or after May 20, 2024.
You can review the by-chapter **Summary of Changes** provided in the PAPPG. NSF will present information about these changes in a webinar on **March 12th at 2 PM EST**. Sign up on the **Policy Office outreach website** to be notified once registration opens. While this version of the PAPPG becomes effective on May 20, 2024, in the interim, the guidelines contained in the current **PAPG (NSF 23-1)** continue to apply.

Changes that affect proposal preparation

- **Biographical Sketch(es):** This section has been revised to remove the 3-page limitation for the biographical sketch. There is no page limitation for this section of the proposal. The Synergistic Activities section has been removed from the biographical sketch. This information must now be submitted by individuals designated as senior/key persons as part of the senior/key personnel documents in Research.gov.

- **Mentoring Plan:** Proposals will require a mentoring plan for postdoctoral researchers or graduate students supported on the project. This page limitation for the Mentoring Plan remains one page.

- **New checkbox on the Cover Sheet to indicate if there are “Potential Impacts on Tribal Nations.”** NSF will not award projects that may impact Tribal Resources or Interests unless the project has prior written approval from officials designated by the relevant Tribal Nations(s).

**Texas A&M Innovation**

The Division of Research announced a call for pre-proposals for the Advancing Discovery to Market (ADM) investment program which focuses on developing the commercial potential of new discoveries within the TAMU research enterprise. Learn more at the **ADM website**. Pre-proposals are due March 28, 2024.

Pete O’Neill, Texas A&M Innovation Chief Innovation Officer, will provide a seminar on April 17 to researchers with Research & Innovation, led by Dr. Ahmed Mahdy at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, on April 18 to researchers with Research & Innovation, led by Dr. Jose Espiritu at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and on May 6 to researchers with Research Innovation & Economic Development led by Dr. Rupa Iyer at Tarleton State University. The sessions will include education on different forms of IP, patents, licensing, inventorship, and the benefits of commercialization. **Email** Texas A&M Innovation to request a workshop.

**A&M System Guidance Regarding Non-Standard IP Review and Approval Process**

On March 6, 2023, Chancellor John Sharp distributed a memorandum entitled “System Members’ Authorization to License System Owned Intellectual Property” reiterating A&M System’s ownership of intellectual property (IP) developed by faculty, staff and students employed by an A&M System member in accordance with existing A&M System IP policies and regulations (System Policy Series 17, *Intellectual Property*, and its related regulations). The memo notes that the Board of Regents has delegated to the Chancellor the responsibility for the management of such system-owned IP and that the Chancellor has delegated authority to the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) to execute legal documents and agreements relating to system-owned IP, including the licensing and assignment of such rights. Accordingly, all agreements, including sponsored agreements, that assign or license (grant right to use) system-owned IP to third parties require review by the Texas A&M Innovation office (TI) followed by OGC review for legal sufficiency and VCR approval (non-standard IP review and approval process), unless they fall within the following exceptions:
1. Agreements that grant a nonexclusive, royalty-free (NERF) license to new system-owned IP developed under the agreement only for non-commercial, internal research and development use;
2. Agreements that grant a license to use new system-owned IP under a grant or contract with the federal government (or under a federally-funded subcontract or subaward); or
3. Testing agreements if certain conditions are met.

Investigators should be aware that any agreement that waives ownership of or grants rights to system-owned IP and does not fall within one of the above three exceptions must undergo this non-standard IP review and approval process, which begins with a review by TI. If a non-standard IP review is required, the office negotiating the agreement (i.e., Sponsored Research Services or the member’s research administration or contracts administration offices) will submit the agreement for such review and approval.

Available on Demand - Recent AnSRS4u presentation Navigating NSF: A Roadmap for New Proposals in Research.gov

If you were not able to watch this presentation live, you have the opportunity to watch it on demand via the SRs website at AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu)

This presentation will walk you step by step through the process of creating a proposal in Research.gov. You will learn what areas of the proposal are the responsibility of the principal investigator and what areas of the proposal that SRS will complete.

Planning & Writing Proposals in the Arts & Humanities Workshop

This two-day workshop will cover fundamental concepts of proposal planning and writing for Arts and Humanities faculty supported by tips and operational strategies for planning and longer-term sustainability. Please see flyer attached at the back of the newsletter for more information.

Register here: https://u.tamu.edu/ATG

Any questions, please contact Shannon Eyre (seyre@tamu.edu)

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) – EPA Internships & Fellowships

The Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) is accepting applications for paid internship and fellowship opportunities at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Apply now!

EPA Fellowship in Science Communication, Data Analysis, and Public Outreach to Reduce the Risks of Lead in Water
Location: Cincinnati, Ohio
Degree: Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 24 months
Citizenship: LPR or U.S. Citizen
Deadline: May 24, 2024

EPA Fellowship Data Curation and Analysis of Nanomaterial Database
**Location:** Research Triangle Park, North Carolina  
**Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing  
**Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen  
**Deadline:** May 24, 2024

**EPA Fellowship on Development and Application of Systematic Read-across Approaches to Predict Toxicity Outcomes**  
**Location:** Research Triangle Park, North Carolina  
**Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months  
**Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen  
**Deadline:** June 7, 2024

**EPA Applying Bayesian Networks to Groundwater Contaminant Transport and Remediation Fellowship**  
**Location:** Cincinnati, Ohio or Ada, Oklahoma  
**Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 36 months or currently pursuing  
**Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen  
**Deadline:** April 12, 2024

**EPA Research & Analysis on Issues Related to National Water Programs Fellowship**  
**Location:** Washington, DC  
**Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 6/30/2024  
**Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen  
**Deadline:** April 12, 2024

**EPA Fellowship on Investigating Emerging Contaminants in Water, with Emphasis on Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances and their Treatment**  
**Location:** Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Degree:** Master’s Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing  
**Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen  
**Deadline:** June 21, 2024

---

**Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement and Travel (GREAT) Program Travel Award Requests**

This is a reminder that the Graduate and Professional School is accepting Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement and Travel (GREAT) Program prospective student travel award requests for travel conducted between 9/1/23 – 8/31/24. Departments will be reimbursed up to $1,000 for each approved request.

Prospective **doctoral students** should be:
1. A recipient of a GREAT Program eligible external fellowship; or
2. A competitive candidate for a GREAT Program eligible external fellowship or GREAT Program eligible federal training grant; and
3. In their last year of undergraduate or master’s studies.

Department/program requests will (1) identify the GREAT Program external fellowship(s)/grant(s) that the prospective student has received, or (2) provide a brief summary of the prospective student’s credentials demonstrating their competitiveness for one or more eligible external fellowship or training grant.

For questions, please visit the GREAT Program Staff and Faculty Resources webpage, or email GREAT@tamu.edu.

Updates to Countries of Concern
----------------------------------------------------
As discussed at the October 11, 2023 CPI General Meeting, please note the Countries of Concern list has been updated to include Hong Kong and Macau effective February 1, 2024. Countries of Concern are currently China (now including Hong Kong and Macau), Iran, North Korea, and Russia. Please remember any global engagement or international collaboration involving a country of concern requires prior approval pursuant to System Regulation 15.05.04 High Risk Global Engagements and High Risk International Collaborations and University Rule 15.05.04.M1 High Risk Global Engagement and High Risk International Collaborations. Please contact exportcontrols@tamu.edu with any questions.

Animal Program Updates
----------------------------------------------------
Animal Welfare Program Outreach to Departments and Colleges. The Animal Welfare Office welcomes the opportunity to speak at departmental or college faculty meetings on topics of interest related to the use of vertebrate animals. Have an area of special concern or want more information on a particular issue? Looking for ways to reduce your burden or streamline compliance obligations? Please contact the Animal Welfare Office at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 to discuss and schedule a presentation.

Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Satellite 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 on the steps needed to request and maintain a PI maintained satellite housing location (TAMU-G-005). 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.

Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Updated Guidance. 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 updated IACUC Guidance revised since January 1, 2024, including guidelines for the use of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical grade drugs and compounds (TAMU-G-010), survival surgery in rodents (TAMU-G-013), feed and bedding storage (TAMU-G-019), non-survival surgery (TAMU-G-022) and working with sheep housed outdoors (TAMU-G-034). 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.
Arts and Humanities Fellowship Application

Apply now to become a 2024 Arts and Humanities Fellow. This fellowship is three years and will include $15,000 award in year one and has no budget. Please refer to the flyer at the back of the newsletter for more information.

Human Research Protection Program Update

Huron IRB Submission System Update
The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) has added a frequently asked questions Huron FAQ – Division of Research (tamu.edu) (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron-knowledge-center/huron-faq) page to the HRPP website. The FAQs will help investigators with questions about the Huron messaging system, PI Proxies, Primary Contacts, adding students and Adjunct/Affiliate personnel to studies and logging into the CITI website.

Please check the Huron Knowledge Center – Division of Research (tamu.edu) (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/huron-knowledge-center/) on a regular basis. We add guidance and instructions to our Huron Knowledge Center and FAQs as needed to assist you with navigating through the Huron IRB submission system.

Please continue to send your feedback and comments to My IRB Contact – Division of Research (tamu.edu) (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/my-irb-contact/) or irb@tamu.edu.

Biosafety/Select Agent Program Updates

Proposed Changes to the HHS/CDC Select Agent Policies
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has presented important policy changes regarding the HHS list of select agents and toxins. Those who work with biological select agents and toxins are encouraged to review the proposed policy changes and provide feedback as indicated in the Federal Register Notice by April 1, 2024 (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/01/30/2024-01513/possession-use-and-transfer-of-select-agents-and-toxins-biennial-review-of-the-list-of-select-agents).

Below are highlights of the proposed amendments to the list:
- Removing three biological agents
  - Brucella abortus, Brucella suis, and Brucella melitensis,
- Raising one toxin’s exclusion amounts
  - Short, Paralytic Alpha Conotoxins,
- Renaming a virus
  - Ebola Virus to the Genus Ebolavirus,
- Designating a current agent as a Tier 1 agent, and
  - Nipah Virus
- Removing the designation of Tier 1 status from one agent
  - Botulinum Neurotoxin Producing Species of Clostridium.
- HHS/CDC also proposes to clarify language and add requirements.

Please contact Susan Gater, Associate Director & Responsible Official at gaters@tamu.edu or at 979-458-3524 for questions or concerns.
Available on Demand - Recent AnSRS4U presentation on Fulbright Opportunities and How They Can Work for You

If you were not able to watch this presentation live, you have the opportunity to watch it on demand via the SRs website at AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamu.edu)

Traci Lacey of the Global Engagement office did an excellent job on covering the eligibility and application process for the program. Professor Marty Regan of the School of Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts, gave an inspiring account on how being a Fulbright Fellow opened many doors for him in Japan and how the experience furthered his research and scholarship and provided additional resources to enhance his teaching at TAMU.

Guidance on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements FY 2024

NIH NOT-OD-24-057, released January 29, 2024. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 restricts the amount of direct salary to Executive Level II of the Federal Executive pay scale. The Office of Personnel Management recently released new salary levels for the Executive Pay Scale. Effective January 1, 2024, the salary limitation for Executive Level II is $221,900.

For active awards, including awards that have been issued in FY 2024 (continuation and new) that were restricted to Executive Level II, if adequate funds are available, and if the salary cap increase is consistent with the institutional base salary, recipients may rebudget funds to accommodate the current Executive Level II salary level.

NIH Enforcement of Unilateral Closeout Reporting in the System for Award Management

NIH NOT-OD-24-055, Released January 23, 2024: NIH is strengthening enforcement of longstanding closeout requirements. NIH will report all unilateral closeouts of NIH awards as a Responsibility/Qualification (formerly FAPIIS) record in the entity’s information in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). Please be reminded that, without prior approval from the awarding institute or center for a delay in closeout, NIH will initiate unilateral closeout for all awards that fail to meet closeout requirements within 120 days.

The requirement for timely closeout is generally a recipient responsibility. However, NIH may initiate unilateral closeout if a recipient does not provide timely, accurate closeout reports or does not respond timely to NIH requests to reconcile discrepancies in grant records. In an effort to comply with the regulations, NIH will report unilateral closeout actions in SAM.gov retroactively, beginning with all unilateral closeout actions taken since January 1, 2023.

Plagiarism Detection Software Available

iThenticate is the leading provider of professional plagiarism detection and prevention technology used worldwide by scholarly publishers, funding agencies, and researchers to ensure the originality of written work before publication.

The Division of Research makes iThenticate available to TAMU researchers free of charge. Faculty are strongly encouraged to use the tool as a pre-submission check of papers, proposals, or any other document that will be made available to the broader research community. Login is available at iThenticate – Division of Research (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. 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.

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.

Innovation and Commercialization at Texas A&M University
--------------------------------------------------
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.
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Open to all Texas A&M faculty members engaged in the humanities or the creative arts

Standard three-year fellowship includes $15,000 award in year one; no budget required

New opportunity for individuals or teams — Emerging Technologies: Perspectives from the Arts & Humanities

Applications end April 20 (9 p.m. CDT)
Award notifications set for June

tx.ag/AandHfellowship
RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BRINGS YOU:

APRIL 18 & 19, 2024

ATKISSON TRAINING GROUP

PLANNING & WRITING SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS IN THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

Workshop

DATE & TIME

THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH
1 PM – 5 PM

AND

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH
8 AM – 12 PM

WHERE & WHAT

MELBERN G. GLASSCOCK CENTER
FOR HUMANITIES RESEARCH
LIBRARY, ROOM 311

This two-day workshop will cover fundamental concepts of proposal planning and writing for Arts and Humanities faculty supported by tips and operational strategies for planning and longer-term sustainability.

REGISTER HERE!
M.S. (Peg) AtKisson, PhD
President & Founder
AtKisson Training Group

M.S. (Peg) AtKisson, PhD, trained in neuroscience, but in 2001 made her science grant proposals and research development. She started the research development group at Tufts University, working on large, multi-investigator proposals. After eight years with Grant Writers’ Seminars and Workshops, she left in 2017 to found ATG to create new approaches to grantsmanship training and developing integrated and holistic support for faculty research and leadership development. She still considers herself a neuroscientist first, and she still writes grant proposals.

Barbara Endemaño Walker, PhD
Director of Strategic Research Initiatives
University of California Santa Barbara

Barbara Endemaño Walker is the Director of Strategic Research Initiatives at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). She has a Ph.D. and M.A. in Geography from UC Berkeley and a B.A. in Anthropology and African Studies from UCLA. Her research and publications focus on broadening participation in higher education and STEM, and the gendered political ecology of marine resources in Ghana and French Polynesia. Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, NOAA Sea Grant, the Social Science Research Council, and the Department of Education, among others. She was a founding board member of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP), and she leads national and state-wide projects that focus on broadening participation in higher education in the context of the research enterprise, including the NSF-funded Center for Research, Excellence, and Diversity in Team Scholarship (CREDITS) and the California Alliance for Hispanic-serving Social Science Advancement (CAHSSA). She serves on the National Science Foundation Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE). She is also co-author of the book Funding Your Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences: A Practical Guide to Grant and Fellowship Proposals (Routledge 2017).

LIST OF TOPICS

- Stakeholder Analysis
- Reading the RFP
- Critical Page 1 Framework
- Rest of the Proposal
- Title Development
- Making the Argument
- PI Qualifications
- Style-Writing & Flow of Logic

WHY ATTEND?

ATG’s approach to grant writing includes “stop and practice” moments, group discussions, “in-classroom flipped classroom” and moments for shared metacognition.