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CPI Newsletter – April 2024

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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, Tracy Hammond, Daniel Jiménez, Samuel Ma • Geosciences — Ryan Ewing, Jessica Fitzsimmons, Daniel Thornton • Law — Felix Mormann • Mays — Katy Lane • Medicine — Helene Andrews-Polymeris, 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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**April CPI Chair News** – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators and the Wednesday, April 3, 2024, meeting opened with a brief preliminary demo of the new upcoming Human Subjects Recruitment website and process provided by Aliese Seawright, Division of Research and Justin Hollis, Division of Marketing and Communications. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting with the administrative leadership began with Mr. Jason Boyle and Mr. Henry Judah from the Division of Risk, Ethics and Compliance sharing a brief update on the insurance programs and resources available for research equipment for researchers, departments, etc. at the Texas A&M campuses. A Research Facilities & Infrastructure working group update was provided from Mr. Matt Fry, Ms. Ashlyn Montgomery, The Division of Research and Mr. Aaron Brender, Division of Information Technology. They will provide these updates and resources to the larger PI community at the upcoming August 2024 CPI General Meeting. The CPI-EC membership was provided an update on the TPT Programs which provided opportunities for feedback and discussions. Information from the Division of Research will be sent out for future TPT programs coming available for all researchers having the opportunity to participate.

The upcoming April 10, 2024, CPI General Meeting is an open meeting. Following the April 10<sup>th</sup> 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. The next scheduled CPI General meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. CPI will have the Vice President for Research's Office and the Marketing and Communications Office provide a Research Identity Committee update for CPI Representatives and Guests to provide feedback and have input prior to the committee's report being turned into President Welsh at the end of May. *CPI has two representatives on this Research Identity Committee, Dr. Robin Page ([rpage@tamu.edu](mailto:rpage@tamu.edu)), CPI Vice Chair and Dr. Rebecca Brooker ([rebeccabrooker@tamu.edu](mailto:rebeccabrooker@tamu.edu)), CPI Executive Committee Member. If there are questions, please reach out to these two CPI Members.*

As CPI continues to meet with President Welsh and Texas A&M 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](mailto:cpi@tamu.edu) or Rebecca Luckey, [rluckey@tamu.edu](mailto:rluckey@tamu.edu), our CPI Coordinator.

### **Upcoming AnSRS4U Presentation: Texas A&M Innovation - Supporting Inventors and Commercializing Innovations Across The Texas A&M University System – Thursday April 25, 10-10:50am via Zoom**

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TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host a presentation on the Texas A&M Innovation - Supporting Inventors and Commercializing Innovations Across The Texas A&M University System - Thursday April 25, 10-10:50am via Zoom. Pete Oneill, Chief Innovation Officer will be the presenter.

This session will introduce you to the Texas A&M Innovation Office, and their approach to commercialize new ideas and inventions into products delivering value to the marketplace.

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: Apr 25, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qdO2vqjwqGtM68RiBYtw93CEI8cpUuP\\_a](https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qdO2vqjwqGtM68RiBYtw93CEI8cpUuP_a)

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



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amendment or AUP in iRIS can be found on the iRIS Help Documentation page (authentication required): <https://vpr.tamu.edu/research-compliance-and-biosafety/iris-portal/iris-help-documentation/>. 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.

### **Focus on IACUC Guidelines - On campus transportation**

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 local transportation of live animals on campus (TAMU-G-016). 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.

### **Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Updated Guidance for February-March 2024**

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 IACUC Guidance updated in February-March 2024, including guidelines for the performance of survival surgery in rodents (TAMU-G-013) and non-survival surgery in all species (TAMU-G-022). 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.

### **Resource for Principal Investigators - Utilizing the NC3Rs Experimental Design Assistant (EDA) for Planning Animal Studies**

The Animal Welfare Office offers the following valuable and no cost resource for Principal Investigators (PIs) for designing robust, reliable, and reproducible animal studies: <https://eda.nc3rs.org.uk>. The EDA helps users build a diagram representing an experimental plan, provides customized feedback, and can make suggestions on statistical methods, randomization, blinding, sample sizes, and other critical design aspects. 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.

### **Webinar - NIH Simplified Review Framework for Research Project Grants (RPGs): Implementation and Impact on Funding Opportunities**

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Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

REGISTRATION REQUIRED! [Webinar Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is simplifying the framework for the peer review of most Research Project Grant (RPG) applications, effective for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. These changes are designed to address the complexity of the peer review process and mitigate potential bias. Make plans to hear the latest updates, timelines, and how these changes will impact existing and new funding opportunities. A Q&A with NIH experts will follow the presentation to address additional questions.

### **Available on Demand - Recent AnSRS4u Maestro Researcher Portal: An Effective Tool for Managing Your Research**

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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 \(tamu.edu\)](#)

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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.

## **Panther RISE (PRISE) 2024 Request for Proposals**

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This seed-funding program supports and enhances productive academic collaborations between Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and Texas A&M University.

Administered jointly by PVAMU's Division of Research and Innovation and Texas A&M's Division of Research, PRISE is open to tenured or tenure-track faculty members from all disciplines at both institutions.

To apply, two faculty investigators (one from each institution) must submit a collaborative proposal by Monday, April 29, 2024. Their proposal may support a creative, research or scholarly project.

Successful collaborations will receive \$40,000 total, with PVAMU providing \$20,000 to its investigator and Texas A&M providing \$20,000 to its investigator.

Submission instructions and other details are posted on the [PRISE webpage](#).

## **2024-2025 Southeastern Conference Emerging Scholars Program Call for Applications – Postdoctoral Scholars**

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***Submission deadline for applications is Friday, May 3, 2024 at 11:59 pm CDT***

### **Description of program:**

The SEC Provosts established the SEC Emerging Scholars Program to aid in preparing future faculty members. The program is designed to provide professional development and networking opportunities for current doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who are considering careers in higher education.

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) Emerging Scholars Program is a competitive 1-year fellowship program. ***Two postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded.***

**Selected scholars MUST participate in the inter-institutional SEC Emerging Scholars Career Preparation workshop hosted by the University of Georgia, September 15-18, 2024. Faculty advisors must commit to supporting this participation.**

### **Eligibility:**

This program call is only for postdoctoral trainees that aspire and have the potential to pursue a career in academia. All active TAMU postdoctoral scholars (U.S. citizens, permanent residents and international postdocs) seeking an academic faculty position are eligible to apply. Postdocs must remain as a TAMU postdoc through the academic year (until August 2025) to receive full benefit and compensation for the program. The funding is subject to proration if the program is not completed.

Primary intents of the program are for the Scholar to participate in professional development events, and prepare application materials for next-stage academic positions. *This fellowship is NOT intended to finance data collection or the completion of on-going research work.*

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### **Funding and Benefits of the SEC Emerging Scholars Program:**

1. 2024-2025 Fellowship will consist of \$8,000 that could be used for professional development opportunities by participating at professional conferences (including SEC 2024); travel costs to visit labs at other universities or participate in skill-building courses/workshops to learn new skills, etc. The fellowship funding will be deposited in an account in the postdoc department and subject to proration if the program is not completed.
2. Formal professional development opportunities
3. Job networking opportunities with other SEC institutions through participation at the SEC Workshop
4. Faculty-provided feedback of common academic job application materials

### **Requirements of the SEC Emerging Scholars:**

If selected, the following will be required of a Scholar:

1. Prepare an academic C.V., Research Statement, and Teaching Statement for the LOCAL Preparation Workshop to be held late August 2024 (date TBD).  
*Texas A&M University offers a LOCAL Preparation Workshop ahead of the SEC conference as detailed below.*
2. Attend the LOCAL Preparation Workshop late August 2024 (date TBD) hosted by the Graduate and Professional School in collaboration with the Texas A&M Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (duration ~ 2 hours)
3. Attend the Fall 2024 SEC Emerging Scholars Conference hosted by the University of Georgia September 15-18 (travel and accommodations paid and included in this scholarship). Each participant is responsible for their own travel arrangements.
4. Participate in at least 2 professional development workshops organized by the Texas A&M Office of Postdoctoral Affairs in the 2024-2025 academic year. These workshops are typically 1 to 2 hours in length.
5. Provide a half-page reflection of your overall experience of the program in Spring 2025 (date TBD).

### **COMPLETE APPLICATION INFORMATION AND FAQs ARE POSTED AT THE WEBSITE**

<https://vpr.tamu.edu/research-resources/office-of-postdoctoral-affairs/sec-emerging-scholars-fellowship/>

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 [PAPPG \(NSF 23-1\)](#) 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).

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## Texas A&M Innovation – InnovationU Seminar Series

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### [InnovationU Seminar Series](#)

A Startup Case Study: Sage Spectra  
**April 16, 2024 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM CST**

#### Register for Virtual or In-Person Attendance:

In-person: TAMU Memorial Student Center, Room 2406A/B;  
[\(275 Joe Routh Blvd, College Station, TX 77843\)](#),  
Virtual: Via live webinar

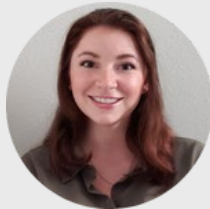
**About the Event:** Join us on Tuesday, April 16 at 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. CST for the next seminar in our InnovationU series, “A Startup Case Study: SageSpectra” where our panelists will share their experiences on the challenges they are facing, the strategies that are propelling their growth, and the lessons being learned along the way. Following discussion and Q&A, there will be brief networking time with event speakers and participants where light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

#### Meet our Speakers

Our panel of experts will provide a deep dive into various perspectives and experiences.



**John Hanks** is a founder and inventor at SageSpectra that has licensed technology with Texas A&M University. He is a Professor of Practice at Texas A&M and an experienced industry veteran with more than 30 years of corporate and startup experience. Hanks will discuss the growth, strategies, and challenges from an inventor perspective.



**Madi Heck** is a co-founder and current Chief Executive Officer at SageSpectra. A recent MBA and Master of Engineering graduate from Texas A&M University she is passionate about engineering solutions to improve patient quality of life. She has spoken to over 200 healthcare and startup experts while conducting customer discovery and market research for SageSpectra's PAD screening device. Heck will share her perspective as a company officer.



**Pete O'Neill** is the Chief Innovation Officer of Texas A&M Innovation. He has previous experience in both healthcare and aerospace commercialization, and also has experience leading startup companies as CEO of the Cleveland Clinic spin-off company Custom Orthopaedic Solutions and CEO of PedialyDx Inc. O'Neill will serve as the moderator.

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

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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 \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/AnSRS4U)

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 – April 18-19, 2024

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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](mailto:seyre@tamu.edu))

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

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[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 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**



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[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 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

**Current and future ORISE Research Participation Programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), go to their website at <https://orise.orau.gov/epa/current-research-opportunities.html>**

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

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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](mailto:GREAT@tamu.edu).

## Updates to Countries of Concern

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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](mailto:exportcontrols@tamu.edu) with any questions.

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## 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).

## Innovation and Commercialization at Texas A&M University

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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.