
CPI Newsletter – May 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-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

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

May CPI Chair News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrative leadership on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. The Office of Cybersecurity within The Texas A&M University System and Information Technology (IT) provided an update and CPI-EC held discussions on the Member Rule Requirements for System Policy 29.01, Information Resources. EC members shared comments and concerns from a research perspective, particularly focused on the unique and varied research needs in computing, and the desire to work with IT in order to ensure that exceptions, when needed, can be implemented without sacrificing IT security, and while remaining consistent with all University and System rules. There was a great emphasis on communication related to IT and research needs, again recognizing the variability in needs across research groups. CPI-EC asked that the Office of Cybersecurity and Information Technology provide an update to the full Council of Principal Investigators at an upcoming fall meeting so that the research community more broadly is better informed about working with these offices in the context of research. Discussions and planning were held with the Research Identity Co-Chairs Dr. Jack Baldauf and Mr. Ethan Braden as well as Sponsored Research Services, Ms. Kristi Billinger on providing updates and resources to the larger PI community at the upcoming May 8, 2024 CPI General Meeting. The CPI General Meeting is an open meeting. Following the May 8th CPI General Meeting, the YouTube video link will be posted on the cpi.tamu.edu meetings web page for all PIs to have access to view.

The next scheduled CPI General meeting will be June 12, 2024. CPI will have the Division of Research provide an update on Data Stewardship and the Vice President for Research's Office to provide an update.

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

Upcoming AnSRS4U Presentation: OMB revision to Uniform Guidance and Sponsor Updates– **Thursday May 16, 10-10:50am via Zoom**

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host an AnSRS4U presentation, OMB revision to Uniform Guidance and Sponsor Updates on Thursday, May 16, from 10 to 11:00am via Zoom. This presentation will be recorded and available on demand a few days after the presentation on the SRS website at [AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services \(tamu.edu\)](https://srs.tamu.edu)

Presenters will be Jim Izat, Senior Research Development Office, Texas A&M Health, School of Public Health and David Hollingsworth, Director of Professional Development, TAMU Sponsored Research Services.

This session will cover the recent OMB revision to Uniform Guidance and Sponsor Updates including NSF and NIH. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issues guidance regarding government-wide policies for the award and administration of federal financial assistance, often referred to as the Uniform Guidance. An updated version of this guidance was released in April 2024. This version becomes effective October 1, 2024. Updates will also include the NSF PAPPG 24-1 which is effective May 20, 2024 and selected NIH updates.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://tamu.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJcud-6rpjwrG9NKwWqJXb-uEFL-ONoGe1aX>

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

NSF PAPPG NSF 24-1 New Version is Effective **May 20, 2024**

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**.

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).
- **Certifications:** New language add on Malign foreign Talent Recruitment Programs - applies to both Biosketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support.

NSF Spring Grants Conference - **June 3 – 5, 2024**

Save the Date! Join the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Spring 2024 NSF Virtual Grants Conference, to be held during the week of **June 3 – 5, 2024** in Philadelphia, PA. This will be a hybrid event with registration for in person attendance or virtual. The virtual event registration fee is **\$50**. Virtual attendees will have the opportunity to watch all sessions live and submit questions to presenters.

To view the agenda or register go to [2024 SGC – Pre-Registration – NSF Policy Office Outreach \(nsfpolicyoutreach.com\)](#)

Available on Demand - Recent AnSRS4u Texas A&M Innovation – Supporting Inventors and Commercializing Innovations Across the Texas A&M University System

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 video introduces the Texas A&M Innovation office and details the inventor process for the Texas A&M University System. It will discuss intellectual property considerations for sponsor agreements and principal investigator guidance for intellectual property. Presented by Pete O'Neill, Chief Innovation Officer.

Biosafety Updates

Updates to the *NIH Guidelines for Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules*

On April 4th 2024, the NIH Office of Science Policy issued an amended version of the [NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules](https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/NIH_Guidelines.htm) (*NIH Guidelines*) (https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/NIH_Guidelines.htm). The *NIH Guidelines* have been revised to include specific considerations and requirements for conducting research involving Gene Drive Modified Organisms (GDMOs) in contained research settings. The update stipulates the minimum containment requirements for conducting research with GDMOs, describes considerations for performing a risk assessment when working with GDMOs, and defines additional institutional responsibilities regarding Institutional Biosafety Committees and Biosafety Safety Officers. Full details are available in the [Federal Register Notice](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/10/2023-17178/national-institutes-of-health-nih-office-of-science-policy-osp-proposed-changes-to-the-nih) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/10/2023-17178/national-institutes-of-health-nih-office-of-science-policy-osp-proposed-changes-to-the-nih>) outlining the final amendments.

Additional changes include amending the Risk Group categorization of West Nile Virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis Virus in Appendix B to be consistent with the biosafety recommendations in the 6th Edition of the [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories](https://www.cdc.gov/labs/BMBL.html) (BMBL) (<https://www.cdc.gov/labs/BMBL.html>).

The amended *NIH Guidelines* (April 2024) and other information of relevance is now available on the NIH Office of Science Policy Website at: <https://osp.od.nih.gov/policies/biosafety-and-biosecurity-policy#tab2/>

To assist Institutional Biosafety Committees, Biosafety Officers, and Principal Investigators in implementation of these changes, OSP has developed a [reference document](https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/gdmo-reference.pdf) (<https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/gdmo-reference.pdf>) to help ensure the safe and responsible conduct of research involving GDMOs.

The Office of Biosafety, in coordination with the Texas A&M Institutional Biosafety Committee, will be providing the research community with additional information, training, and guidance on the revised Guidelines and other anticipated policy changes as soon as they become available.

Please contact the Jessica Bourquin, Director of Biosafety, at jrbourquin@tamu.edu or 979.845.7189 [for questions or concerns](#).

Animal Welfare Updates

Focus on IACUC Guidelines – Zebrafish

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 working with Zebrafish (TAMU-G-008). Related Guidance which may also be of interest includes TAMU-G-035 *Guidelines for Performing Surgery in Fish* and TAMU-G-048 *Guidelines for Euthanasia of Fish, Amphibians and Reptiles*. 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 for March-April 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 on feed and bedding storage (TAMU-G-019) updated in March-April 2024. 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.

Responsible Conduct of Research

As outlined in [University SAP 15.99.99.M0.04](#), RCR training is required for students and postdocs participating in research. ALL students and postdocs participating in research are required to complete online [CITI RCR Training](#).

Additionally, externally funded graduate students and postdoctoral fellows must complete four hours of face-to-face (F2F) training.

The RCR office will have multiple opportunities during the summer to meet this four-hour requirement:

- The following Virtual (Zoom) 1-hour RCR Workshops will be offered:
 - [June 13, 2024 – RCR – Human Subjects](#)
 - [June 20, 2024 – RCR – Animal Welfare](#)
 - [July 10, 2024 – RCR – Export Controls](#)
 - [July 17, 2024 – RCR – Biosafety](#)
- Alternatively, the RCR office is hosting a [4-hour in-person workshop](#) on **August 15, 2024**. 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 for RCR credit can be found there as well.

Contact RCR@tamu.edu for more information.

Pre-Approval Requests for FY25

A friendly reminder that Pre-Approval Requests (PARs) are required for activities that fall under A&M System Regulations [31.05.01 Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment](#) and [31.05.02 External Employment and University Rule 31.05.01.M1 Faculty Consulting and/or External Professional Employment](#). PARs must be submitted and approved prior to the activity and are submitted via Huron. Pursuant to the referenced regulations, PARs are only valid for each fiscal year, and must be resubmitted each year for ongoing activities. For FY25 (9/01/2024 – 8/31/2025), PAR submissions to request authorization to engage in outside activities opens in Huron on **July 1, 2024**. Please see our [website](#) for guidance regarding outside activities. We have included user guides related to the submission and review of PARs below:

- Pre-approval Request Reviewer's Guide [\[PDF\]](#)
- Pre-approval Request User's Guide [\[PDF\]](#)
- Create a Copy of an Existing Pre-Approval Request User's Guide [\[PDF\]](#)

Training is available regarding how to submit both a Disclosure and a Pre-Approval Request (PAR). To register, please click [here](#) and select a training date. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the training. Please reach out to our office if you would like to schedule a separate training for your office/unit/department. coi@tamu.edu

International Travel

With the busy summer travel season approaching, we want to remind you that if you are traveling internationally and plan to conduct any university business while traveling, you are required to obtain prior approval. This can be obtained through the Concur system and/or the Huron system, depending on the destination. Travel to countries of concern (China, Hong Kong, Macau, Russia, Iran, and North Korea) should be submitted as a Pre-Approval Request (PAR) through Huron to ensure proper review under System Regulation 15.05.04.

In addition, University employees who will be conducting university business while traveling are required to use Technology Services managed equipment that has the proper protections including device level encryption applied. This also applies to any and all external storage devices that might be utilized. Please note that while loaner laptops are strongly recommended for all international travel, they are required for all travel to a country of concern. University owned devices are not permitted for travel to a country of concern. Questions? exportcontrols@tamu.edu

Huron Tips – PAR Submissions

Ongoing activities that require a new Pre-Approval Request (PAR) each year can simply be copied. You can update necessary information without having to recreate the entire request. See our [user guide](#) for step by step instructions.

We also offer **office hours** if you would like any assistance with Huron processes. **Thursdays at 10 am** you can visit via Zoom and get your questions answered. Click [here](#) to access a session. If you prefer to set up a one-on-one meeting at a more convenient time, please click [here](#).

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

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 \(tamu.edu\)](#)

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.

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

[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 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>

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

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