COUNCIL of PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY | TEES TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION | TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH | EXTENSION | Texas A&M Transportation Institute

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CPI Newsletter – June 2024

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

June CPI Chair News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrative leadership on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. The Division of Research combined with the Texas A&M University Libraries provided an update with CPI-EC discussions on Data Stewardship (Research Data Catalog). They are enlisting CPI's assistance in providing awareness of services available to researchers as well as to increase collaborative opportunities. Targeted Proposal Teams (TPT) Funding Opportunities discussions were held with The Division of Research during the meeting. The Full CPI was provided the draft report and asked to send in feedback to the Division of Research. Opportunities for additional feedback from the larger PI community will follow the June 12th CPI General Meeting discussions. The Graduate and Professional School provided updates and rollout information regarding graduate assistant stipend rates, The GREAT Program and the newly created Doctoral Research Excellence Assistantship and the CPI Executive Committee members work with the Texas A&M System to have implemented to high achieving doctoral students. These presenters are on the agenda to provide updates to the full CPI membership during the June 12th CPI General Meeting, which will be an open meeting. Following the June 12th 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.

There will not be any CPI meetings during the month of July. The next scheduled CPI General meeting will be August 21, 2024. Note the meeting is scheduled for one week later than usual to accommodate PIs having the opportunity to get back on campus for the fall 2024 semester. CPI will have the Division of Research provide an update on Research Infrastructure Network and Research Infrastructure Database Demonstration, Global Engagement Update and Technology Services will provide a Next Generation Aggie Network Project Update.

CPI continues to meet with President Welsh, The Texas A&M System administrative leadership and the Provost and Vice President for Research administrative leadership. We 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.

Faculty/ PI Workshop: How NSF's New Mentoring Requirements Can Improve

Your Research Agenda June 18, 2024

NSF is hosting a workshop about How NSF's New Mentoring Requirements Can Improve Your Research Agenda on June 18, 2024, from 2:00pm-3:30pm ET.

In this 90-minute virtual workshop, participants will learn about NSF's new graduate student mentoring requirements for grants submitted on or after May 22, 2024. NSF leaders will begin the event with information about the new requirements, which apply to any grant that provides support to graduate students. Next, disciplinary society leaders and faculty with distinguished records as researchers and mentors will provide strategies and examples for improving both mentoring and research outcomes. Registration can be found here.

The workshop is the second in a series designed to prepare institutions and researchers for the new requirement. Participants are invited to view the recording of the first webinar, held in April, where NSF leadership and graduate deans and senior research administrators discussed the new requirements as well as university communications to faculty researchers about the change. The June webinar, tailored specifically to faculty and other researchers on NSF grants, will provide more detailed information about the requirement and resources for mentoring graduate students. Participants will also receive an FAQ

document that provides answers to questions raised in the first workshop and a curated list of resources on mentoring. The workshop is free of charge.

Speakers:

- **Jacqueline Huntoon**, Division Director, Division of Graduate Education, National Science Foundation
- **Daniel Denecke**, Lead Program Director, Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Program, National Science Foundation
- **Corrie Kuniyoshi**, Senior Portfolio Manager, Student Experiences Office, American Chemical Society and PI of NSF IGE grant, Impact Indicators and Instruments for Individuals Development Plans (IDPs)
- **Adam Matzgar**, Charles G. Overberger Collegiate Professor of Chemistry and Macromolecular Science & Engineering, University of Michigan
- **Ricardo Cortez**, Pendergraft William Larkin Duren Professor, School of Science and Engineering, Tulane University
- **Ruth Varner**, Professor, Earth Science, University of New Hampshire

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you experience difficulty, please check that you meet the [system requirements.](#)

NSF PAPPG NSF 24-1 New Version - 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.

Human Research Protection Program Updates

Aggie Research Volunteers – Recruitment Website

This is a reminder that the research recruitment website is ready for investigators to start submitting the AggieResearchVolunteers_Form.docx (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/toolkit/templates/) to the IRB for review and approval. The Aggie Research Volunteers Form contains the information necessary to complete the website posting.

The form can be submitted as a modification to update any recruitment plan on an active or pending study including exemptions. After IRB approval, don't forget to submit the form to arv@tamu.edu when you are ready to start recruiting participants.

The website will open as soon as there are enough studies to generate public interest (approximately 50 studies). The website posting can remain active on the Aggie Research Volunteers Recruitment Website for 3, 6, or 12 months with an option to renew at the end of the designated period.

For more information about the Aggie Research Volunteers – Recruitment Website, send your questions to arv@tamu.edu or visit the following website: Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) – Division of Research (tamu.edu) (https://vpr.tamu.edu/human-research-protection-program/news-and-updates/)

Summer 2024 Fellowship Application Writing Boot Camp

The Graduate and Professional School, in collaboration with the Texas A&M University System - Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TAMUS LSAMP) program, is proud to announce a comprehensive series of sessions slated for summer 2024. These sessions are designed to equip aspiring scholars with the essential skills and insight needed to craft compelling and successful national fellowship applications (e.g., NSF GRFP, NIH F31, Fulbright). Covering every aspect of the application process, from the identification of funding opportunities to the development of research proposals and personal statements, this series promises to be a transformative experience for participants.

A fellowship awardee who actively engaged in last year's boot camp series, expressed, *"The lectures really helped me to get serious about the application process, so thank you for your work in putting those on."*

Interested in learning more about what sessions will be offered this summer? Please visit our registration page for the current schedule:
tx.ag/2024SummerBootCamp

This series is open to undergraduate, graduate, and REU/Summer Research Program students at Texas A&M University. Sessions are designed for undergraduate and graduate students unless otherwise noted.

Would you like your fellowship application reviewed before submission?
Don't miss the opportunity to have your application reviewed by seasoned experts before submission. We understand the importance of a second pair of eyes in fine-tuning your materials for maximum impact. For participants who have **attended a minimum of 4 boot camp sessions,** we will reach out to you at the

conclusion of the series to offer matching with a skilled reviewer. Those interested will be asked to complete the following **no later than Friday, August 30, 2024**:

- Reviewer Request Form *(available after the boot camp series)*
- Personal statement (draft)
- Research statement (draft)

Have questions about the series? Email grad-award-admin@tamu.edu (please note "Summer 2024 Fellowship Application Writing Boot Camp" in the subject line).

We look forward to your participation this summer!

The Summer 2024 Fellowship Application Writing Boot Camp Team
Shannon D. Walton, Ph.D. '98 | Assistant Dean
Isah Veronica D. Juranek, M.S. | Student Success Coordinator
Kayla L. Duncan, M.S. | Recruitment Coordinator
John Avila | Program Specialist II
Niyazi Erdogan, Ph.D. | Post-Doctoral Researcher
Teagen Hruska | Program Aide
Akshit Bansal | Student Technician
Subarna Mandal | Student Assistant
Desireé Mosely | Student Assistant

ph: 979.845.3631 | grad-award-admin@tamu.edu

The Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program (TAMUS LSAMP) is supported by a grant (HRD-1911375) from the National Science Foundation.

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

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 ONeill, Chief Innovation Officer.

Biosafety Updates

Updates to the United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (PEPP)

On May 6, 2024, the National Institutes of Health's Office of Science and Technology Policy (NIH OSTP) issued a new policy*, United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential* ("Policy") (https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/USG-Policy-for-Oversight-of-DURC-and-PEPP.pdf). The Policy supersedes the

2012 United States Government Policy for Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern (Federal DURC Policy), the 2014 United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern (Institutional DURC Policy), and the Recommended Policy Guidance for Departmental Development of Review Mechanisms for Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight (P3CO Framework). The new policy goes into effect May 6, 2026.

To assist Institutional Biosafety Committees, Biosafety Officers, and Principal Investigators in implementation of this Policy, NIH OSTP has developed a **guidance document** (https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/USG-DURC-PEPP-Implementation-Guidance.pdf) to help ensure the safe and responsible conduct of research involving DURC and PEPP.

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 Policy and other anticipated 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

Reporting of Animal Concerns and Unanticipated Adverse Events

The Animal Welfare Office (AWO) would like to remind Principal Investigators (PIs) that per TAMU Rule 15.99.07.M1 Use of Vertebrate Animals PIs are required to notify the IACUC as soon as possible after the discovery of any unanticipated or adverse event not described in the IACUC approved AUP that impacts the health or safety of live vertebrate animals used for research, teaching and testing; including the reporting any animal concerns or noncompliance. TAMU-G-015 Guidelines for Reporting Animal Concerns, Unanticipated or Adverse Events, and Potential Noncompliance on the Animals in Research and Teaching Guidance page provides information from the IACUC on meeting this requirement, including examples of reportable events and mechanisms of reporting (requires TAMU authentication): https://vpr.tamu.edu/animals-in-research-and-teaching/texas-am-iacuc-guidance/. Please contact the AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu or 979.845.1828 for assistance.

Focus on IACUC Guidelines - Thermoregulatory Support

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 the appropriate mechanisms for providing procedural thermoregulatory support described in the various Surgical Guidelines (TAMU-G-013, TAMU-G-018, TAMU-G-022, TAMU-G-035, TAMU-G-049). As a reminder, the IACUC recommends the use of safer equipment to replace heat lamps and non-thermoregulating electric heating pads. 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 April-May 2024 – SECOND REMINDER

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 the identification of research animals (TAMU-G-014) updated in April-May 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

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

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.

Summer 2024 Fellowship Application Writing Bootcamp

June 4 - Strategies to Identify Fellowship Opportunities

June 6 - Applying to Graduate School

June 11 - Obtaining Strong Recommendation Letters

June 18 - Writing Compelling Research Statements

June 25 - Preparing Powerful Personal Statements

July 9 - Overview of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

July 16 - Preparing a Competitive F31 Application

July 23 - Overview of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program

July 30 - Submitting Successful National Dissertation Fellowship Applications

August 6 - Tips and Stratgies from Fellowship Winners

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Graduate and Professional School

The Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

NSF

Please register using the QR code!

Summer 2024 Fellowship Application Writing Boot Camp

GOALS

- Support students in securing external national fellowship funding.
- Develop students' written communication and time management skills by preparing and submitting applications to highly competitive and prestigious national fellowships.
- Provide students with information and tips regarding completing a national fellowship application.
- Foster opportunity for students to engage in networking and group collaboration while providing mutual support during the application development process.

HISTORY AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

- Initiative started with the Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TAMUS LSAMP) Bridge to the Doctorate (BTD) program.
- Expanded collaborations with the Texas A&M University System—Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (TAMUS AGEP) and GRAD Aggies.
- In Summer 2019, began broadening participation for STEM and non-STEM undergraduate and graduate students.

The Texas A&M University System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program (TAMUS LSAMP) is supported by a grant (HRD-1911375) from the National Science Foundation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **NSF GRFP:**
  - **22** Awarded
    2009-2020: 4 BTD, 6 BTD and AGEP Participants
    2021: 8 Boot Camp Participants
    2021: 3 TAMUS LSAMP Undergrad Participants
    2023: 1 Boot Camp participant
  - **10** Honorable Mentions
    2009-2017: 3 BTD, 1 BTD and AGEP Participants
    2020: 2 Boot Camp Participants
    2021: 2 Boot Camp Participants
    2022: 2 Boot Camp Participants
- **Fulbright U.S. Student Program**:
  - 2020: 1 BTD Participant
- **Dissertation Fellowships (AAUW and Ford Foundation):**
  - 2016: 1 AGEP Participant
- **Texas Space Grant Graduate Fellowship:**
  - 2017-2020: 1 BTD, 1 BTD and AGEP Participants
- **SMART Fellowship:**
  - 2017: 1 BTD and AGEP Participant
- **Kinesis Foundation Fellowship:**
  - 2018: 1 BTD Participant
- **NIH Ruth Kirschstein Predoctoral Fellowship:**
  - 2018: 1 BTD and AGEP Participant
- **GEM Fellowship:**
  - 2021: 1 BTD Participant
- **Department of Defense National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (DoD NDSEG):**
  - 2022: 1 Boot Camp Participant
  - 2023: 1 Boot Camp Participant

SUMMER 2024

Components of a Successful Application (June):

- Strategies to Identify Fellowship Opportunities
- Applying to Graduate School
- Obtaining Strong Recommendation Letters
- Writing Compelling Research Statements
- Preparing Powerful Personal Statements

Funding Sources & Awardee Panel (July/Early August):

- Overview of the NSF GRFP
- Preparing a Competitive F31 Application
- Overview of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program
- Submitting National Dissertation Fellowship Apps
- Fellowship Awardee Panel

Registration: tx.ag/2024SummerBootCamp

September - December 2024: Students will complete and submit fellowship applications.

PROPOSED FACULTY AND STAFF INVOLVEMENT

- Assist students with application review process:
  - Provide 1:1 mentorship and application feedback (September 2024 - December 2024).
  - Max # of students assigned to faculty: 5
- Provide feedback and ways to expand series.
- Mentor students during the application process.