
CPI Newsletter – December 2024

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2024-2025 CPI roster: Chair — Robin Page, *Nursing* • Vice-Chair — Jorge Alvarado, *Engineering* • Past Chair — Jessica Bernard, *Arts & Sciences* • *Agriculture & Life Sciences* — Giri Athrey, Rodolfo Cardoso, Courtney Daigle, Bruce Herbert, Sarah White-Springer, Guoyao Wu • *AgriLife Extension* — Tim Hartmann, Jamie Rae Walker • *AgriLife Research* — Katie Lewis, Anil Somenahally, Qingwu Xue • *Architecture* — Michelle Meyer • *Arts & Sciences* — Janet Bluemel, Rebecca Brooker, Mary Campbell, Jessica Fitzsimmons, Jean-Luc Guermond, Wenshe Liu, Annmarie MacNamara, Theresa Morris, Henry Potter • *BUSH* — Laura Dague • *Dentistry* — Hua Zhang • *Education & Human Development* — Paul Hernandez, Gwendolyn Webb • *Engineering* — Daniel Alge, Jorge Alvarado, Suman Chakravorty, Jaime Grunlan, Drew Hamilton, Tracy Hammond, Xingmao 'Samuel' Ma, Jean Ragusa, Nitesh Saxena* (*alt. for Daniel Jiménez) • *Law* — Felix Mormann • *Mays Business* — Katy Lane • *Medicine* — Helene Andrews-Polymenis, Sanjukta Chakraborty, Shannon Glaser • *Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts* — Courtney Starrett • *Pharmacy* — Dai Lu • *Public Health* — Gang Han • *TAMU at Galveston* — Irfan Khan • *TAMU at Qatar* — Nimir Elbashir • *TEES* — Keith Biggers, Nathan Tichenor • *TTI* — Edith Arámbula Mercado, Brianne Glover, James Kovar • *University Libraries* — Laura Sare • *Veterinary Medicine* — Joe Arosh, Dana Gaddy, Jamie Thompson

Update from Dr. Robin Page, 2024-2025 CPI Chair

December CPI News – The Council of Principal Investigators Executive Committee (CPI-EC) met with administrators on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Discussions during the CPI-EC meeting with the administrative leadership began with an update from the Division of Research regarding the upcoming Research Development Fund (RDF) 4.0 five-year program agreement for 2025-2029. Members of the Division of Research have been working diligently to reach an agreement on RDF 4.0 with the contributing entities.

As of the current draft agreement, AgriLife, TAMU, and the HSC will contribute to RDF 4.0. TEES and the College of Engineering have opted not to contribute this year, but may in future years. This new draft agreement directly impacts research PIs within TEES and College of Engineering. Because TEES and College of Engineering (COE) IDC is not making contributions to the RDF, *faculty in these units will not be eligible to apply for RDF funds as principal applicants or as co-investigators, and will not be included on the research development advisory committee.* The CPI Executive Committee strongly disagrees with allowing TEES and COE IDC to opt out of contributing to the RDF. The VPR's Office will present the proposed draft agreement to the full CPI body to respond to at the December 11, 2024 CPI General Meeting.

The Vice President for Research and The System Research Office provided a brief update on the new Executive Order (EO-GA-48 – Hardening State Government - implications for collaboration with coauthors and finishing ongoing research projects). The Texas A&M System Office of General Counsel (OGC) is seeking clarification of the details of the executive order with the Governor's Office. As of the distribution of this newsletter, December 9, 2024, Texas A&M continues under current guidelines, policies and regulations. OGC will distribute further information through the appropriate TAMU channels for researchers when it becomes available.

The CPI Executive Committee also heard new information regarding opportunities and awareness for PI community for EPIC Electronic Health Records at TAMU. The presentation will be shared with the full CPI during the December 11, 2024 CPI General Meeting for additional discussions for the resources and benefit to the PI Community.

During the meeting it was noted the CPI Bylaws have not been reviewed in almost nine years, so this will be something that the CPI full body will also review to see if any changes or updates might be needed.

All PIs are encouraged to communicate with their CPI representatives, <https://cpi.tamu.edu/council-membership/council-membership/2024-2025-council-membership/>, to bring forward items of concern or interest for the research community. The CPI Executive Committee continues to meet monthly with President Welsh, Provost Sams, Vice President for Research Baldauf, and other Texas A&M and System administrative leadership. I welcome thoughts, concerns, issues and agenda topics that impedes research efforts to all principal investigators within the research infrastructure within the Texas A&M University System. You are welcome to bring research-related issues (and solutions) to my attention at CPI@tamu.edu, or to any of the CPI Representatives.

Reminder: The CPI General meeting for January will be held the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30AM, Rudder 601, due to the winter holiday schedule. There are Zoom options for guests if interested in listening to any of the CPI General Meetings. The monthly CPI General meetings are also recorded, details can be found <https://cpi.tamu.edu/meetings/general-meetings/2024-2025-general-meeting-schedule/>.

Wishing everyone safe travels and time to relax during the winter holiday! The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

The Office of 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 all postdoctoral fellows must complete four (4) hours of face-to-face (F2F) training.

Registration is open for the [4-hour In-person RCR Workshop](#) on Thursday January 9, 2025 (10am – 2:30pm).

An in-person, 1-hour workshop will be offered on [February 5, 2025 – RCR – Scientific Ethics](#).

Finally, registration is open for the following 1-hour Virtual (zoom) workshops scheduled for the Spring semester:

- [February 6, 2025 – RCR – Animal Welfare](#)
- [March 6, 2025 – RCR – Export Controls](#)
- [March 26, 2025 – RCR – Human Subjects](#)
- [April 16, 2025 – RCR - Biosafety](#)

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.

Core Facilities Showcase – January 22nd

The Division of Research will present its [Core Facility Showcase](#) on Jan. 22 in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom 2300. This come-and-go event aims to connect Texas A&M Core Facilities with researchers at the University and local industry professionals.

Event highlights include:

- Vendor exhibits featuring the latest tools and technologies.
- Posters from Texas A&M University core facilities, showcasing their capabilities.
- Researcher posters, presenting innovative studies and findings.
- Networking sessions with local industry representatives.

The showcase is designed to encourage engagement and collaboration across academic and industry sectors. Admission is free, and attendees are encouraged to [RSVP in advance](#).

Upcoming AnSRS4U presentation: Guidance Regarding the Implementation of SB 17 Relating to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – January 23rd

TAMU Sponsored Research Services (SRS) will host an AnSRS4U presentation Guidance Regarding the Implementation of SB 17 Relating to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Thursday January 23 from 10:00 to 11:00am via Zoom.

In 2023, Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 17 into law, “Responsibility of Governing Boards Regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives,” which was adopted as Texas Education Code § 51.3525 effective January 1, 2024. Under this law, public institutions of higher education cannot engage in certain diversity, equity, and inclusion activities as defined in the statute. This presentation by Jacob Becker with Texas A&M University System’s Office of General Counsel (OGC) will address what is prohibited and what is allowed under the law. Specific guidance will be provided on how to comply with SB17 when applying for a grant for research or academic work. This is an important area for discussion as federal

agencies, such as NSF and others, typically require a section of the proposal to describe the broader impacts of the projects, including on targeted populations. Learn what is and is not permissible under the law and talk through creative strategies for continued success. If you have particular issues you would like addressed in the presentation, feel free to email Mr. Becker at jbecker@tamus.edu, and he will do his best to answer your questions and concerns.

This presentation will be recorded and available on demand a few days after the presentation on the SRS website at AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services (tamus.edu)

When: Jan 23, 2025 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: [HERE](#)

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

NIH - Coming Soon: FORMS-I Application Packages

Effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. This includes All application types (New, Resubmission, Renewal, Revision)

You must choose the correct funding opportunity and/or application package for your target due date. Applications submitted using a funding opportunity that is no longer available for a specific due date or submitted using the incorrect form version will be withdrawn and removed from funding consideration. In some cases, a single funding opportunity will support due dates before and after the form transition and include both FORMS-H and FORMS-I packages.

Many funding opportunities will be reissued for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. Funding opportunities reissued for these initiatives will only include due dates on or after January 25, 2025, and will only include FORMS-I application packages. While their predecessors will only support earlier due dates and FORMS-H application packages. More information can be found at [Updated Application Forms and Instructions \(FORMS-I\) | Grants & Funding](#).

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Town Hall Meetings

With the goal of establishing clear transparent lines of direct communication with investigators, the IRB will begin in January 2025 holding monthly Town Hall style meetings as another avenue for sharing information and updates as well as addressing any questions or concerns investigators may have about the IRB process.

The IRB Town Hall sessions will be a first-hand method for all faculty, staff and student investigators to hear the latest news from the IRB and to seek solutions on matters important to them.

The IRB Town Hall sessions will be held in person (with a Zoom option) on the last Wednesday of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Blocker building, Room 220. The first meeting will take place January 29th. The sessions will be announced to investigators through the CPI newsletter, HRPP website and above signature lines in IRB email correspondence.

General questions or concerns that may benefit all can be discussed in open session. As an option, individual break out rooms will be available for investigators that may need help with their specific protocols. Investigators will be encouraged to send in their questions, concerns or other items to irb@tamus.edu prior to the meetings to help the IRB prepare the agendas and provide more complete responses.

If investigators need immediate help with their submissions, the IRB staff has Zoom office hours available Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. excluding holidays. If you have any questions, please contact Aliese Seawright, HRPP Director, at a.seawright@tamus.edu or Heather Cline, IRB Manger, at hcline@tamus.edu.

Research Development Service Offers Faculty Seminars & Workshops

Annually RDS hosts opportunities for the Texas A&M Research Community to increase their knowledge and skills in research proposal development to federal funding agencies. Academic Year 24-25 Professional Development opportunities are offered in in-person and virtual formats. Registration is required for BOTH types of events. Virtual events will supply Zoom links upon registration. These events are for all faculty. Offerings of professional development for postdocs and graduate students are listed on their organizational webpages.

The next seminar will be on Broader Research Impacts. January 28, 2025, 1-2pm, virtual. Come to gain a better understanding for and transform the way you think about the National Science Foundation's Broader Impacts review criterion and learn where to go for broader impacts resources on campus and how to create a broader impacts plan. (Same content as October 28, 2024, in-person event)

Please see the attached flyer for additional opportunities.

Research Network Annual Meeting – Feb.13th

Researchers are encouraged to participate in the [Research Network Annual Meeting](#) scheduled for Feb. 13 at Rudder Forum and Exhibit Hall. The meeting will feature presentations from Texas A&M University Facilities Services and SSC Services for education on procedures and best practices for managing research spaces.

In preparation for the meeting, the Division of Research's Infrastructure team is touring research spaces across campus to become more familiar with facilities, researchers, and maintenance concerns. These walkthroughs are designed to engage with researchers, address infrastructure needs, and establish a point of contact in each lab.

As part of this initiative, the team will soon visit the George P. Mitchell '40 Physics Building, the Anthropology Building, and the Psychology Building.

Recent walkthroughs included several College of Arts and Sciences buildings:

- Halbouty Geosciences Building
- Eller Oceanography & Meteorology Building
- Butler Hall
- Biological Sciences Building East
- Biological Sciences Building West
- Chemistry Complex

Researchers who missed an opportunity to meet with the team during these visits are encouraged to email amontgomery@tamu.edu to schedule a follow-up.

Building A Resilient Texas Conference – Feb. 23-25, 2025

Mark your calendars to join Building A Resilient Texas. Symposium on the Food, Energy, Water and Health (FEWH) nexus as a catalyst for sustainability in Texas and Beyond. The conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in College Station, Texas.

Animal Welfare Updates

The Animal Welfare Office (AWO) invites investigators that need help with their Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) submission or who have other IACUC-related questions to join the AWO Zoom Office Hours on Tuesdays from 2:00-3:00 pm and Fridays from 10:00-11:00 am. Please contact the

AWO at animalcompliance@tamu.edu for Zoom connection information or to schedule a one-on-one session with a staff member.

AAALAC International Accreditation

The Animal Welfare Program is pleased to announce that Texas A&M University's animal program, including the main campus and the College of Pharmacy in Kingsville, has successfully received continuing Full Accreditation from AAALAC International. A celebration to recognize this achievement is planned for early 2025, with details to be announced to stakeholders at a later date.

Focus on IACUC Guidelines – Sheep

IACUC Guidance on procedural standards for animal activities is available on a wide variety of topics. Investigators are invited to view current IACUC Guidance related to working with sheep housed outdoors (TAMU-G-034) on the Animal Program web page [here](#) (requires TAMU authentication). 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 November-December 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 updated IACUC Guidance on inhaled and non-inhaled agents of euthanasia (TAMU-G-047) and environmental enrichment for agricultural species (TAMU-G-012). IACUC Guidance may be found on the Animal Program web page: <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.

How to Prepare for NIH's Adoption of Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support by May 25, 2025

May 25, 2025 may seem a long way off but NIH wants to give researchers an early notice of this coming change so that they will have time to prepare. NIH is adopting the Biographical Sketch Common Form and the Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form in 2025.

What you can do now to prepare? ·

Familiarize yourself with Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae ([SciENcv](#)).

- SciENcv is a researcher profile system for all individuals who apply for, receive, or are associated with research investments from federal agencies.
- You will be required to use [SciENcv](#) to complete Common Forms (i.e., Biographical Sketch, Current and Pending (Other) Support) and the NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement to produce digitally certified PDF(s) for use in application submission. ·

Get an [ORCID](#) ID.

- ORCID is a free, unique, persistent identifier (PID) for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities.
- All senior/key personnel listed on an application for a due date on or after May 25, 2025, must have an ORCID ID and the ID must be linked to their eRA Commons Personal Profile.

AnSRS4u Presentation Available on Demand: Contracting with Industry on Sponsored Projects

Working with industry on sponsored projects can provide opportunities and challenges. This session will describe practices to help smooth the process when contracting with industry on sponsored research. We will discuss when a non-disclosure agreement is needed and touch on budget preparation. The focus of the presentation will be on negotiating industry contracts and some of the challenges that may be unique to working with industry. You have the opportunity to watch it on demand via the SRS website at [AnSRS4U – Sponsored Research Services](#).

NSF Requiring Multi-factor Authentication for Research.gov Log-in as of Oct. 27th

NSF issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on October 11 about a new requirement for use of multi-factor authentication (MFA) to log in to Research.gov effective October 27. A notice about this new requirement has also been added atop the Research.gov homepage. Effective on October 27, all external users must first complete a one-time MFA enrollment process and use the selected MFA method to sign into Research.gov. Users will be required to use MFA each time they sign into Research.gov.

Recordings are Available for the NIH Grants Process Primer: Application to Award

The NIH Grants Process Primer: Application to Award, was a two-part live virtual event on November 13 and 14, 2024. A recording and slides for both sessions are available at [Calendar of Events | Grants & Funding](#)

Note these sessions were designed for those who are new to or have limited experience working with the NIH extramural grants application process?

Part One - An Overview of NIH and the Pre-Award Process

Part Two – An Interactive Experience Focused on NIH Systems, Tools, and Resources

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 [here](#). 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](#).

Research 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.

Texas A&M High Performance Research Computing (HPRC)

HPRC offers an ongoing series of short training courses for beginning, intermediate and advanced researchers. These short courses are free of charge and available to any employee or student at Texas A&M.

Registration is required [here](#). (Prerequisites: current ACES account or HPRC account)

University Libraries

The University Libraries presents a series of online workshops in research-related subjects (such as managing citations, managing research data, searching databases, and publishing and copyright) for the Texas A&M community. Register [here](#).



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY®

DIVISION OF RESEARCH

CORE FACILITIES SHOWCASE

COME-AND-GO event will include the following: Core Facility showcase posters, research highlight posters, vendor exhibits, refreshments and more!

This event is FREE but we request your
RSVP.

Jan 22, 2025 | 10-4pm | MSC Ballroom 2300



2024 – 2025 Faculty Seminars & Workshops

Research Development Service (RDS)

<https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar>

Annually RDS hosts opportunities for the Texas A&M Research Community to increase their knowledge and skills in research proposal development to federal funding agencies. Academic Year 24-25 Professional Development opportunities are offered in in-person and virtual formats. Registration is required for BOTH types of events. Virtual events will supply Zoom links upon registration. These events are for all faculty. Offerings of professional development for [postdocs](#) and [graduate students](#) are listed on their organizational webpages.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)

CAREER: Writing Groups Kick-Off

February 4, 2025, 9:00-10:00 am, Virtual

This meeting is to familiarize faculty with the goals and organization of the TAMU NSF CAREER proposal peer writing groups, including resource materials, Q&A session, and scheduling of writing meetings for February – May. The groups will then meet bi-weekly going through the entire preparation process of their CAREER proposal with peer review and input as they write each section of their CAREER proposals.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

CAREER: Project Summary and Structuring and Formatting Proposals for Reviewers

March 17, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 pm (lunch provided), MSC 1400

Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees

Discussion of what is required for the Project Summary will include tips on how to write it most effectively for an NSF CAREER proposal, and how to make a positive lasting impression on reviewers. Also included will be tips for making an NSF CAREER proposal stand out, section hierarchy and structuring of the proposal, using NSF language, graphics advice, formatting (e.g., fonts & white space), and features of strong departmental letters.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

CAREER: The Education Plan

March 25, 2025, 12:00 – 1:30 pm (lunch provided), Rudder 701

This working lunch session will begin with discussion of education goals and objectives, creating quantifiable metrics and specific plans for success, integration of research and education, leveraging Texas A&M's HSI status, and examples of good and bad education objectives. Bring ideas for your education plan and explore campus programs you can leverage in your plan development.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

CAREER: Project Summary Feedback

Roundtable Discussion

April 17, 2025, 11:30 – 1:00 pm, (lunch provided), MSC 2500

Participants will bring their CAREER project summaries to a group to get feedback on strengths and weaknesses from former program directors, recent CAREER awardees, research development staff, and peer attendees. Each group will review 4 – 6 project summaries.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

General Proposal Writing

Writing Successful Proposals

February 14, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual

A seminar designed to offer faculty an overview of strategic proposal design and best practices to create a competitive research proposal. Applicable to all disciplines. Early Career faculty are encouraged to attend.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

Broader Research Impacts

Broader Impacts 101

January 28, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Virtual

Come to gain a better understanding for and transform the way you think about the National Science Foundation's Broader Impacts review criterion and learn where to go for broader impacts resources on campus and how to create a broader impacts plan. (Same content as October 28, 2024, in-person event)

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

Education and Outreach Expo

February 25, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Exhibit Hall

Presentation and Expo

This interactive networking event will start with faculty viewing on-line introductions to 20+ campus representatives in programs that faculty can collaborate on the education and outreach aspects of their NSF proposals. Then, at the expo, attendees will have opportunity to network with these campus program representatives. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

Broader Research Impacts at Federal Agencies

April 22, 2025, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Virtual

This informational session will discuss how different federal agencies address the broader impacts of the research they fund in the requirements for proposals researchers write for funding. Discussion will include, among others: National Science Foundation Broader Impacts, Department of Energy Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plans, and National Institutes of Health Inclusion Policies.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate

Young Investigator Programs

Introduction to Young Investigator Programs and Faculty Fellowships

January 23, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual

Programs targeting young investigators provide an opportunity for assistant professors to compete among equals, often for prestigious awards. Faculty Fellowships can help prepare faculty for successfully competing for these awards. This event will discuss advantages and strategies in applying to these young investigator programs and faculty fellowships. Details and best practices for applying to programs at federal agencies and foundations will include Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and NASA, as well as the Gulf Research Program and American Chemical Society.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

2ND ANNUAL RESEARCH LAB NETWORK

We are looking for one member from every lab to attend the 2nd Annual Research Lab Network Meeting. Texas A&M Facilities and SSC will be available to answer all of your questions and hear all of your concerns. Lunch, networking social, and a vendor show will all be provided! Sign up at the QR code below.



Rudder Forum and Exhibit Hall
Thursday, February 13, 2025
9:00am-3:00pm
Food provided!

RSVP NOW!



Questions? amontgomery@tamu.edu