Tips/Lessons Learned in Submitting Proposals

New Automated Proposal Submission Compliance Checks In FastLane

Beginning July 24, 2015, proposals submitted in response to Program Solicitations in FastLane will undergo a new series of automated proposal compliance validation checks to ensure they comply with requirements outlined in the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG). To view a detailed list of all compliance checks, click here.

For more information about the changes, please see Research News below.

Funding Opportunities (from the past 7 days)

For previous funding opportunities, see
http://teesresearch.tamu.edu/funding-opportunities/

LIMITED SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to receive all notices of limited submission opportunities, please email shelly.martin@tamu.edu. Note that if you are on this list, you will receive any and all announcements, whether or not they apply to you. All limited submission opportunities are also posted on the VPR’s site.

Limited Submission NSF Research Experiences for Teachers in Engineering and Computer Science – Email of Intent Due August 5, 2015; Internal Proposal Due August 12, 2015

Limited Submission Nanomaterials Health Implications Research (NHIR): Comprehensive Evaluation of Interactions between Engineered Nanomaterials and Biological System (U01) – Email of Intent Due August 7, 2015; Internal Proposal Due August 14, 2015

NIH

Limited Submission Nanomaterials Health Implications Research (NHIR): Comprehensive Evaluation of Interactions between Engineered Nanomaterials and Biological System (U01) (link)

Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Development of Software Tools and Methods for Biomedical Big Data in Targeted Areas of High Need (U01) (link)
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) to Develop New or Improved Closed Loop Automated Technologies for Diabetes Therapy and Monitoring (R43/R44) (link)

NSF
Limited Submission NSF Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering and Computer Science (link)
Gen-3 Engineering Research Centers (ERC): Partnerships in Transformational Research, Education, and Technology (link)
CISE Research Infrastructure (CRI) (link)
Dear Colleague Letter: Submission of Proposals to NSF Programs that Address the Interdisciplinary Topic of Theoretical Physics Approaches to Cancer Biology (link)

ORAU
National Lab Internships and Opportunities for Undergraduate and Graduate Students (link)

Request for Information

NIH
Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions on a Framework for the NIH-wide Strategic Plan (link)

Upcoming Events
See also http://teesresearch.tamu.edu/events/ for a complete listing and links to handouts/presentations

Register Now! Limited Time!
DARPA – Wait, What? A Future Technology Forum
September 9-11, 2015
St. Louis, MO
Information and registration – Registration closes July 31, 2015.
Description: Held at The America’s Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Missouri, this forum on future technologies will be a fast-paced gathering at which world-renowned thinkers and innovators from inside and outside DARPA will offer perspectives on where today’s advances are heading. Through a variety of channels, everyone will be encouraged to help extend those ideas further into the future. In addition to plenary sessions focused on topics of broad import and interest, Wait, What? will offer multiple themed breakout sessions, allowing participants to dive more deeply into particular topics. An exhibit area will feature displays describing a selection of DARPA programs that reflect the breadth of the agency’s work and range of its performers.

Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals
September 24, 2015
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Rudder Tower, Room 601
Registration required

Description: Faculty will learn how to present their case to review committees using proven tips and strategies; write with a linear progression of logic that leads the reviewers through the application; and write for two review audiences—assigned reviewers reading a proposal in its entirety and non-assigned reviewers reading critical sections only.

3-Part Workshop Series Coming This Fall

Increasing Your Research Funding through Increasing Your Visibility – To the Public, To Your Peers and To Funders

Increasing Your Visibility to the Public – 2-part session
October 7 & 14, 2015
12:40-1:30 p.m.
ETB 2005
Important: Bring your own laptop. Participants will need to attend BOTH sessions.
Description: Many funders are influenced by their perception of your research, especially if the public is aware of the work you have done as a result of the funder’s grant. The first session will be about how to make yourself look good and get more people looking at you. The second session will be on how to actively push your message to the popular press – Presented by Dr. Bruce Gooch, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering.

Increasing Your Visibility to Your Peers – 1 session
October 19, 2015 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
OR
October 23, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
ETB 3002
Important: Bring your laptop. Participants can attend EITHER session.
Description: Participants will know how to maximize their online scholarly identity (a researcher has no reputation if they have a poor online identity because no one can assess their profile), be able to characterize their scholarly impact, and be introduced to publishing strategies that maximize scholarly impact – Presented by Dr. Bruce Herbert, Director of Scholarly Communication, Texas A&M University Libraries.

Increasing Your Visibility to Funders – 1 session
October 30, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
ETB 3002
Important: Bring your laptop.
Description: This workshop will help researchers explain the value proposition of their research to potential funders in 2 minutes or less. The potential types of funders will be discussed along with an overview of what types of descriptions would best engage which funder. – Presented by Dr. Richard Malak, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and Rodney Boehm, Industry Mentor, Engineering Academic and Student Affairs (EASA)
Register Now!

2nd NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding & Grants Administration
October 14-16, 2015
San Diego, CA

Information
Registration required

Description: The NIH Regional Seminar offers a comprehensive program for the NIH extramural community about the NIH grants process and related policies, including such topics as Fundamentals of the NIH, compliance, peer review, grant writing for success, pre-award and post-award issues for administrators and investigators, animal and human subject research, and how to interact electronically with NIH. In addition to a strong, track for administrators, a redesigned track for new investigators will provide step-by-step guidance on mapping your career, an understanding of the funding process and what can be expected up to the time of award. To add to the array of topic choices, special interest sessions are provided on topics like research integrity, data sharing, foreign collaborations, and more.

Cancer Prevention and Research Institute (CPRIT) Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference
November 9-10, 2015
Renaissance Arboretum Hotel
Austin, Texas

Information – Registration to be announced
Call for abstracts instructions: Deadline is July 31, 2015.

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**Research News**

**Bhattacharya Awarded AFOSR Grant to Improve Space Situational Awareness**

Dr. Raktim Bhattacharya, associate professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering and director of the Laboratory for Uncertainty Quantification at Texas A&M University, has received a $670,000 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to develop new algorithms for space situational awareness. The grant covers a three-year time period. Space situational awareness (SSA) refers to the ability to view, understand and predict the physical location of natural and manmade objects in orbit around the Earth, with the objective of avoiding collisions. As space becomes more congested, maintaining a timely and accurate picture of space activities becomes both more important and difficult.

To view the complete story, please visit the [website](#).

**Yu, Research Group Develop Low-cost Bi-functional Carbon Nanotube Sponges**

Dr. Choongho Yu, the Gulf/Oil Thomas A. Dietz Career Development Professor II in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University, and his group in mechanical
Yu’s paper, “Scalable synthesis of bi-functional high-performance carbon nanotube sponge catalysts and electrodes with optimum C–N–Fe coordination for oxygen reduction reaction,” focuses on developing new non-precious metal based catalysts as alternatives to the benchmark Pt-based catalysts for the sluggish oxygen reduction reaction in various electrochemical systems such as proton exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs).

Yu and his Ph.D. students, Gang Yang, Woongchul Choi and Xiong Pu, have developed a new low-cost and scalable method to synthesize 3-D sponge-like carbon nanotubes, which are self-standing and highly porous. After post-treatment, striking catalytic activity and stability are found to be comparable to or better than those of Pt-based catalysts in both acidic and basic environments. More importantly, by eliminating the precious metal and gas diffusion layer, the cost of this catalyst is only 1/50 of Pt-based catalysts, which would help to commercialize current lab-based electrochemical cells as well as reduce the cost of the commercial fuel cell stacks.

To view the complete story, please visit the [website](http://example.com).

**NSF Releases Updates to Fastlane**

On July 24, 2015, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released updates to FastLane that may impact the way you work.

As part of NSF’s efforts to reduce the workload associated with manually compliance checking proposals, NSF continues to focus on implementing automated proposal compliance checks. The next series of automated proposal compliance checks were released in FastLane on July 24 to ensure that proposals submitted in response to Program Solicitations comply with requirements outlined in the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (Chapter II.C.2 of the Grant Proposal Guide [GPG]).

The new set of automated compliance checks in FastLane will trigger warning messages if the following proposal sections do not exist for proposals submitted in response to a Program Solicitation for the applicable funding mechanism type (Conference, Equipment, Ideas Lab, Facility/Center, and Fellowship):

- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget Justification: Primary Organization
- Budget Justification: Sub recipient Organization
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources

For example, if a Conference proposal submitted in response to a Program Solicitation does not include the Current and Pending Support section (required for certain solicitations), FastLane
will trigger a warning message directing the proposer to review the requirements specified in the solicitation.

Warning messages will not prevent a proposal from being submitted. However, proposals that receive error messages will not be able to be submitted.

Please note that the new set of compliance checks are in addition to the compliance checks that currently exist in FastLane. You can view a complete list of FastLane auto-compliance checks, including the new set, by clicking here. The list specifies which checks are run depending on type of submission (GPG, Program Description, Program Announcement, or Program Solicitation) and funding mechanism (Research, RAPID, EAGER, Ideas Lab, Conference, Equipment, International Travel, Facility/Center, or Fellowship). It also specifies whether the check triggers a “warning” or “error” message for non-compliant proposals.

Additionally, proposers submitting through Grants.gov should be aware that Grants.gov will allow a proposal to be submitted, even if it does not comply with these proposal preparation requirements. Should NSF receive a proposal from Grants.gov that is not compliant, it may be returned without review.

We encourage you to share this information with your colleagues. For system-related questions, contact the FastLane/Research.gov Help Desk at 703-292-HELP (x4357) or ithelpcentral@nsf.gov. Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov.

To view the online, please visit the website.

**Collaborators Corner**

If you are looking for collaborators for a project/proposal or a piece of equipment, email your request to researchnews@tees.tamus.edu for inclusion in the next newsletter. If you can help, please email the requestor directly.

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