Tips/Lessons Learned in Submitting Proposals

Research the Program You Are Submitting To – Your first step is to decide where and how to pitch your proposal.

1. **Understand the success rate.** Would you be better pursuing this one or one with higher rates of awards funded?
2. **Make sure you understand the review process and criteria.** Will this be peer reviewed? Is the panel a standing group or ad hoc? Will it include professionals outside your field? Will education or diversity aspects weigh heavily in the competition? What will the broader impacts be? NIH lists Integrated Review Groups and Study Section Rosters at [http://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/Pages/default.aspx](http://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/Pages/default.aspx).
3. **Know the review criteria.** Broader impacts are more important for an NSF proposal than one for NIH. NSF seeks to increase participation of women and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, and engineering.
4. **Reviewers will look for Significance, Approach, Innovation, Investigator, and the Environment.** These are discussed in more detail online in the “Writing The Proposal” section.
5. **Consider your target audience of the grant.** Clearly explain your target audience in terms of demographics, size, problems, or challenges faced.

Funding Opportunities (from the past 7 days)
For previous funding opportunities, see [http://teesresearch.tamu.edu/funding-opportunities/](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** Major Research Instrumentation Program: (MRI) – Email of Intent Due October 7, 2015; Internal Proposal Due October 14, 2015
DOD
Air Force Technology Transfer Pilot Project (link)

DOE
Bioenergy Technologies Incubator 2 (link)
DOE Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) Program (link)

NIH
High Impact Neuroscience Research Resource Grants (R24) (link)
Research Centers for Cancer Systems Biology Consortium (U54) (link)
Coordinating Center for the Cancer Systems Biology Consortium and the Physical Sciences-Oncology Network (U24) (link)

NSF
Limited Submission Major Research Instrumentation Program: (MRI) (link)

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

NIH Resubmission Proposal Writing Series Orientation Meeting
September 14, 2015 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Henderson Hall, Room 103
Registration required – Sept. 14
OR
September 15, 2015 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Henderson Hall, Room 103
Registration required – Sept. 15
Description: The Division of Research is offering a semester-long NIH Resubmission Proposal Writing Series, with the goal of preparing a competitive resubmission proposal to submit in 2016. Following an Orientation Meeting (plan to attend either Sep. 14 or Sep. 15), participants will be asked to draft a resubmission proposal Introduction and revised Specific Aims. John Ivy will be available for one-on-one discussions of these documents, your Summary Statement, and your proposal development strategy. Finally, small groups of writers (6-8 members) will meet every two to three weeks during the Fall Semester to critique each others’ writing. If you wish to participate in this series, please plan to attend one of the two Orientation Meetings.

International Research Grants Workshop
September 15, 2015
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
ILSB 3147
Registration required
Description: This session will cover important dates for the International Research Programs funded by the Division of Research with partners in Mexico and Brazil; provide digital and scholarly resources available from the TAMU libraries; present information on international grants and other external funding opportunities from Public Partnership & Outreach; and other international resources.

Writing Successful Proposals Workshop Part 1
September 22, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Henderson Hall, Room 103
Registration required
Description: The workshop will cover the best practices for successful proposals to federal and other funding agencies. Questions will be taken at the end of the session until all have been asked.

Maestro Training for Research Portal Users
Dates: September 23, October 21
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
To register for one of the dates listed above, email maestro@tamus.edu. Regional campuses can receive training via WebEx on request.

CONACYT Writer’s Workshop
September 23, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
ILSB 1143
Registration required
Description: The workshop will cover important dates, eligibility requirements, and best practices for formatting and writing CONACYT grants.

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.

Budget Bits
September 25, 2015
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wisenbaker 236C
Register in TrainTraq for Course #2112550 (Section 2267)
Description: This workshop will focus on planning and tips for strategic budget development to make your proposal more competitive. All sizes of projects—from single PI to multi-
institutional—will be discussed. Major compliance issues will be covered. The intended audience is both new and moderately experienced proposers.

**NSF Proposal Writer’s Group Inaugural Meeting**
September 29, 2015
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Henderson Hall, Room 103
Registration required
Description: The workshop will cover strategies and considerations relevant to the successful creation or resubmission of proposals to the National Science Foundation. Questions will be taken at the end of the session until all have been asked and answered.

**Demystifying the NSF!**
October 1, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Henderson Hall, Room 103
Registration required
Description: The goal of this workshop will be to familiarize participants with the mission and structure of the National Science Foundation, the NSF merit review process, how to navigate the NSF website, and how to find relevant funding and other NSF related information.

**3-Part Workshop Series in October**
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 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
ETB 2005
Important: Bring your own laptop. Participants will need to attend BOTH sessions.
Registration: No registration required.
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.
Registration: No registration required.
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.
**Registration:** No registration required.
**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)

**NSF Broader Impacts Workshop**
October 7, 2015
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Henderson Hall, Room 103
**Registration required**
**Description:** The workshop will cover the strategies and considerations relevant to the Broader Impacts requirement of grant proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation. Questions will be taken at the end of the session until all have been asked and answered.

**New Date**
**Lunch and Learn – RIG: Cybersecurity & Security of Cyberphysical Systems**
October 9, 2015
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Wisenbaker 236C
**Registration required**. Lunch will be provided.
**Description:** The goal of this research interest group (RIG) is to familiarize participants with the vision and goals of the newly formed Cybersecurity Initiative, to review upcoming activities and events, and to engage in focused dialogue. The intended audience is faculty and others interested in collaborating on cybersecurity initiatives in an effort to substantially increase our level of research activity in this vitally important area.

**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 of
sessions 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.

**Finding and Responding to Funding Opportunities**
October 23, 2015
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wisenbaker 236C
Register in TrainTraq for Course #2112551 (Section 2268)
**Description:** The intended audience is both new and moderately experienced proposers.
Potential federal and state funders will be discussed including agency culture, finding
funding opportunities, assessing competitiveness, contacting program officers, and reading
RFPs. This workshop requires computer access for hands-in interactions. Participants are
responsible for providing their own access via laptop or tablet.

**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

**Review Process**
November 13, 2015
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wisenbaker 236C
Register in TrainTraq for Course #2112552 (Section 2269)
**Description:** Interactive workshop includes mock review panels, discussion of the review
process and provides tips to successfully maneuver through the proposal review process.

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**Research News**

**Mechanical Engineering’s Li Receives $100,000 NSF Grant to Study Combined
Reaction of Two Greenhouse Gases**

Dr. Ying Li, professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University
and holder of the Pioneer Natural Resources Faculty Fellow III Professorship, is the principal
investigator for a $100,000 research grant funded by the National Science Foundation.

Li and his colleague received the grant for their research, “Photo-Thermo-Chemical CO2
Reforming of CH4 by Concentrated Sunlight,” which studies the combined heat-and light-driven
reaction of two greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide and methane—to produce carbon monoxide and hydrogen that can be used to generate fuels or chemicals while decreasing levels of greenhouse gases.

The Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) is the sponsor on the grant.

To view the complete story, please visit the website.

Department of Energy Announces Office of Science Graduate Student Research 2015 Solicitation 2

The Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Science is pleased to announce that the Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) program is now accepting applications for the 2015 Solicitation 2. Applications are due 5:00pm ET on Tuesday December 15, 2015.

Update for the 2015 Solicitation 2: The SCGSR program is now open to graduate students with Permanent Resident status, in addition to U.S. Citizens, who meet all other eligibility requirements. Detailed information about the program, including eligibility requirements and access to the online application system, can be found at: http://science.energy.gov/wdts/scgsr/.

The SCGSR program supports supplemental awards to outstanding U.S. graduate students to conduct part of their graduate thesis research at a DOE national laboratory in collaboration with a DOE laboratory scientist for a period of 3 to 12 consecutive months—with the goal of preparing graduate students for scientific and technical careers critically important to the DOE Office of Science mission.

The SCGSR program is open to current Ph.D. students in qualified graduate programs at accredited U.S. academic institutions, who are conducting their graduate thesis research in targeted areas of importance to the DOE Office of Science. The research opportunity is expected to advance the graduate students’ overall doctoral thesis while providing access to the expertise, resources, and capabilities available at the DOE laboratories. The supplemental award provides for additional, incremental costs for living and travel expenses directly associated with conducting the SCGSR research project at the DOE host laboratory during the award period.

The Office of Science expects to make approximately 50 awards in 2015 Solicitation 2, for project periods beginning anytime between June 1, 2016 and September 30, 2016.

The 2014 program solicitation and the 2015 Solicitation 1 have resulted in awards to a total of 112 graduate students from more than 50 different universities to conduct thesis research at 15 DOE national laboratories.

The SCGSR program is sponsored and managed by the DOE Office of Science’s Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists (WDTS), in collaboration with the six Office of Science research programs offices and the DOE national laboratories, and the Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (ORISE).
For any questions, please contact the SCGSR Program Manager, Dr. Ping Ge, at sc.scgsr@science.doe.gov.

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<th>Collaborators Corner</th>
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<td>If you are looking for collaborators for a project/proposal or a piece of equipment, email your request to <a href="mailto:researchnews@tees.tamus.edu">researchnews@tees.tamus.edu</a> for inclusion in the next newsletter. If you can help, please email the requestor directly.</td>
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Prepared by TEES Research Development under the auspices of the Associate Agency Director for Strategic Initiatives and Centers. For questions, email researchnews@tees.tamus.edu.