**FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RESOURCES**

#### The Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation and a Tier 1 research institution, with an annual budget of approximately $4.7 billion. Through a statewide network of 11 universities and seven state agencies, the Texas A&M System educates more than 160,000 students and makes more than 22 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. Each of the members of the A&M System has its own mission, history, and goals. Together, they strive to provide educational programs, outreach, and community enhancement services as well as research that will improve the lives of people in Texas and beyond.

#### Texas A&M University at College Station (TAMU)

TAMU is one of the 11 universities within the Texas A&M University System. Founded in 1876 as the first public institution of higher education in Texas, TAMU is the largest university in the United States, the largest university in Texas, and is the flagship institution of the Texas A&M University System. TAMU is a land, sea, and space grant university with over 3,800 faculty members and more than 79,000 students on a main campus spanning 5,200 acres. TAMU holds membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities and has produced more than $1.2 billion in annual research expenditures generated by faculty researchers, ranking #3 in NSF funding nationally, and among the top 15 public universities in total research expenditures.

#### Texas A&M University Health Science Center

The Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) campus located approximately 4 miles from the School of Public Health (SPH) complex is home to a Health Professions Building, Medical Research and Education Building, and a dedicated clinical building. The TAMHSC campus houses a state-of-the-art Clinical Learning Resource Center to train and educate students on the latest tools and technology in a hospital environment as well as a Simulation Laboratory.

TAMHSC is part of the REDCap Consortium, which enables access to a secure web application designed exclusively to support data capture for research projects. REDCAP enables users to build and manage on-line surveys and databases in a secure environment. In addition to these resources, the SPH Local Area network (LAN) is connected to the TAMHSC Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), including the Medical Sciences Library, and to Internet2. The TAMHSC Wide Area Network (WAN) consists of a 10 gigabit network ring which connects all of the HSC locations throughout the state. This network infrastructure allows for video conferencing technology to increase communication, cooperation, and connectivity. Teaching and training can be conducted from remote sites to reduce travel time and allow for faculty to be coordinated throughout the state.

#### Texas A&M University School of Public Health (SPH)

Established in 1998, the Texas A&M University School of Public Health (SPH) has campuses in both College Station and McAllen, Texas and is one of seven components of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, a health-related institution (HRI) and part of Texas A&M University. The Health Science Center occupies over 1.5 million square feet of space across 8 campuses. SPH was originally established as The School of Rural Public Health—the first of its kind in the nation. The school’s name was changed in 2014 to reflect the school’s statewide and national presence. While a classic school of public health, it has historically concentrated on traditionally underserved and rural areas.

#### The School of Public Health Centers

***Center for Community Health and Aging*:** The Center for Community Health and Aging (CCHA) promotes population health and successful aging through innovations in research, education, and practice that examine clinical, social, behavioral, economic, environmental, and technological solutions linking academic and real- world health care and community settings. Originally supported through CDC Prevention Research Center funding, CCHA supports prevention research and training on methods for improving population health status. Building upon community-based participatory research methods and a strategy of community health development, CCHA’s goal is to increase local community capacity to meet the health needs of their residents. Thus, the Center works with local community organizations to address specific community health issues, such as diabetes self-management and the prevention of obesity. Working collaboratively with colleagues across diverse fields, the center 1) engages in basic applied research that advances the knowledge on social, behavioral, economic, environmental and technological determinants for health and illness in older populations with an emphasis on identifying factors associated with optimal self-management and living independently with chronic illnesses and disabilities later in life; 2) designs and evaluates multi-level interventions to promote health, prevent disease, postpone disability in older adults, and create more age-friendly environments; and 3) implements and disseminates evidence-based programs for seniors and other vulnerable populations, including providing technical assistance and direction at multiple levels. Through its systematic examination and evaluation of community health development strategies, CCHA contributes to the national research agenda related to population health status improvement, with specific focus on rural and underserved populations, emphasizing the translation and dissemination of established prevention strategies.

***Center for Worker Health:*** Formerly Ergo Center, this Center focuses on impacting worker health across industries and matching skilled graduates with jobs. As our center has expanded, so have the offerings and expertise. The Center for Worker Health’s industry partnerships are the driving force that enables them to educate and graduate professionals ready for the field while staying on the cutting edge of technology and research. Services such as Comprehensive Safety Surveys, Expert Ergonomics Assessments, Advanced Process Development & Improvement, Innovative Human Modeling Systems, and Rigorous Product Validation.

***Southwest Rural Health Research Center:*** The Southwest Rural Health Research Center is one of nine federally funded research centers funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. The center focuses on conducting policy relevant research on meeting the needs of special rural populations, minority populations and health disparities (including border populations), and rural systems building. Research projects have focused on chronic disease management, mental health and substance abuse services, community health workers, medical policy, quality differences in rural and urban nursing homes and assisted living centers, professional shortages, mental health and substance abuse services, and the development of Rural Healthy People 2010, 2020, and 2030: Challenges and Opportunities for the New Decade.

***USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness:*** The USA Center at SPH is unique in that it has a specific rural focus and is charged with supporting and developing the skills and competencies of emergency responders in rural areas of the United States. The USA Center is one of several programs under the Office of Special Programs at SPH aimed at translating the school’s mission of improving the health of underserved and rural populations into practice by cultivating long term relationships with public health agencies, communities, and other universities. Specifically, the Office of Special Programs focuses on improving the rural public health infrastructure via building relationships at the local, regional, state, and national level and improving competencies in the public health workforce via training and development.

***Center for Health Equity and Evaluation Research:*** The mission of the Center for Health Equity and Evaluation Research (CHEER) is to leverage innovative health equity research to improve quality of life and health outcomes across the lifespan among at-risk populations globally. The center conducts program evaluations through a health equity lens for state, national, and private agencies to improve health outcomes in disenfranchised communities and socially marginalized populations.

***Center for Health and Nature.*** The Center for Health and Nature is a collaboration between Houston Methodist, Texan by Nature, and the Texas A&M Health Science Center and focuses on enhancing health and healing through nature. Researchers study the impact of nature on health with evidence-based programs that complement the full continuum of health care: prevention, treatment, and recovery.

#### Office and Meeting Space

The SPH occupies a 99,000 square foot, three building complex on the College Station, Texas campus. The complex has a dedicated laboratory building, an educational/conference and classroom facility, and an administrative building. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ will be housed in the SPH administrative building. He will have dedicated office space, featuring a personal computer, telephone, locking storage cabinets, and locking doors. The graduate research assistant (GRA) will have access to a student research assistant shared space when they will be assisting with the implementation of the activities in the Education Plan. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_, the student and expert advisory board members, and the GRA will have access to meeting rooms equipped with computers, projectors, phones, Zoom, and webcams.

#### Personal Computing Resources

The Investigators will have the necessary equipment to execute the proposed project including a dedicated, password protected, up-to-date Windows PC laptop. The laptop has all the programs relevant to this project installed and updated to current versions including Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, Zoom, and EndNote. The GRA’s shared office space will have desktop computers for each student. The investigators will receive technological support from the Division of Information Technology.

#### Analytical Software Resources

TAMU has a campus site license for the Qualtrics survey application. Qualtrics is a preferred tool for campus surveys because it meets stringent information security requirements not found in most free online survey tools. Qualtrics also has important quality control features, such as preventing multiple submissions from a single survey participant. All surveys used in the proposed project will be conducted using Qualtrics software. TAMU also has a campus site license for IBM’s SPSS Statistical Software Package. The School of Public Health has access to the SPSS version 29 and can download the SPSS at no additional cost to the project onto his university password-protected laptop, while any Graduate Assistants will have access to SPSS on the computers in the shared research assistant office.

#### Virtual Storage Resources

TAMU has a campus site license for Google Drive that is available at no additional cost for university faculty, staff and students. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_, the student and advisory board members, and the GRA will need to enter their university username, password, and two-factor authentication to access files on Google Drive. Personal identifiable information (PII) stored on servers and workstations will be protected via a variety of process and procedural compliance security measures, such as data encryption, regular review and verification of access permissions, and ensured compliance with data handling procedures via audit.

#### The School of Public Health Office of Research (SPH OOR)

The SPH OR is the research award administration office for the SPH. The SPH OOR team works directly with faculty, institute administration, strategic partners and funders to facilitate research program funding and award management.The SPH OR post-award staff assists researchers with the coordination of award documentation and management of post-award financial activities.

#### Texas A&M University Sponsored Research Services (SRS)

SRS is the research award administration office at the Texas A&M University system level. SRS works in close collaboration with the TAMU Division of Research’s Office of Research Administration. SRS is a consortium of Texas A&M University System members that brings together talent, expertise, and best practices to enhance research administration. SRS ensures that all proposal submission and grant administration requirements are followed. The project administration team provides financial management services to the Texas A&M University research community and serves as a liaison to the funding organization. It also establishes and monitors sponsored-project award accounts and provides:

* A summary of award regulations and requirements for each account to the researcher and departmental administrators.
* Expenditure monitoring to ensure compliance with federal regulations, agency specific requirements, and state and TAMU system policies and procedures.
* Assistance with interpretation of grant agreements, contract terms, and regulations for awards.
* Assistance with making necessary changes to various financial aspects of a project including cost transfers, budget interpretation, revision, and support.
* Assistance with requests for funding organization prior approvals, requesting no-cost extensions, and transfer and/or closeout of awards.
* Audit responses and support

SRS project administrators also interpret Texas A&M University System policies regarding sponsored research administration and furnish administrative support for research projects and their associated personnel. The Principal Investigator/Faculty Advisory Committee (PIFAC) is a key component in the governance of SRS that represents the sponsored research administration concerns of the research community system wide.

#### Library Resources

TAMU faculty and students may use the resources available through the Texas A&M University Libraries. Currently, University Libraries holdings include 5.8 million volumes, 1.8 million eBooks, approximately 1.1K databases, 250,000 maps, over 21,000 linear feet of archival and manuscript collections, and approximately 124,000 serial titles (including some 150 state, national and foreign newspapers). The University Libraries also offer access to over 114,000 e-journals, more than 2,600 electronic databases, and an outstanding collection of science and engineering technical reports. Materials not owned by the university libraries can be obtained through the “Get It for Me” interlibrary loan service.

Additionally, the University Libraries manage the Texas Data Repository (TDR). The TDR is an institutional, open access data repository that is used for the dissemination and archiving of university research data. Curators at the University Libraries will review submissions and work with researchers to comply with data sharing requirements in ways that make data FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable). The TDR provides long-term preservation of digital objects using an off-site backup and assigns a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) for citations. By default, data is shared with a Creative Commons 2.0 public domain dedication. All archived data will be accompanied by the appropriate documentation, metadata, and code to facilitate reuse and provide the potential for interoperability with similar data sets. The TDR repository provides bit-level preservation and ensures ongoing access to research data, including associated metadata and documentation, for a minimum period of ten years after it is deposited.