

Principal Investigators' Symposium Hosted on Campus for Texas A&M and Mexican Researchers

February 4, 2008

COLLEGE STATION, Texas -- On Wednesday, February 6 through Friday, February 8, 2008, Texas A&M University will host the Annual Principal Investigators' Symposium for researchers funded under the Texas A&M University and National Council on Science and Technology for Mexico (CONACYT) Collaborative Research Grant Program. This 5 year program was established in 2001 between the University and CONACYT in order to enhance collaborative research opportunities between both institutions.

Jim Calvin, interim vice president for research, believes the relationship between CONACYT and Texas A&M University is an important partnership.

"Texas A&M's relationship with CONACYT is significant," said Calvin, "as this relationship continues to promote bilateral research projects and enhance A&M's relationship with Mexico. We have experienced excellent cooperation between researchers and consider the partnership with CONACYT to be a huge success for both institutions."

Under the agreement, research proposals jointly developed by a principal investigator from Texas A&M and a principal investigator from Mexico are submitted for review. Since 2001, over 92 collaborative research proposals have been funded. The priority research areas under this agreement are: Health, Telecommunications/Information Technologies, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Environment, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Energy, Urban Development and Sustainability, and Humanities. Recipients from the 2006 grant cycle will be participating in this year's symposium. On February 7, ten bilateral research teams in addition to seven A&M principal investigators will present their research findings here on campus. These presentations will be followed by an open forum in which the participants will have the opportunity to further discuss their research findings. Additionally on February 7 through February 8, principal investigators from Mexico will have the opportunity to meet privately with their research counterparts as well as other A&M faculty and researchers in order to further enhance their collaborative research projects.

Based on the success of this agreement, Texas A&M University and CONACYT decided to renew this agreement for an additional five years. This renewal includes two separate agreements, higher education and research. Texas A&M University will sign the new five year agreements with CONACYT in the near future.