Welcome to the Virtual Office Hour. We will begin soon.

Please submit questions via the Chat button available to you on Zoom, set to “Everybody”.
Program Directors in attendance today:

- Division of Biological Infrastructure – Amanda Simcox (asimcox@nsf.gov)
- Division of Environmental Biology – Andrea Porras-Alfaro (aporrasa@nsf.gov)
- Division of Integrative Organismal Systems – Jodie Jawor (jjawor@nsf.gov) & Diane Jofuku Okamuro (dokamuro@nsf.gov)
- Division of Molecular and Cellular Biology – Phoebe Lostroh (clostroh@nsf.gov)
HBCU Excellence in Research

Now a stand-alone solicitation HBCU-EiR (NSF 20-542)

• Letter of intent still required – submit to the HBCU-EiR solicitation by July 23rd, 2020
• Full proposal – submit to the HBCU-EiR solicitation by October 6th, 2020
  • Consider supplements* when you are creating your budgets (more in a bit)

Review process:

• Investigators identify a program outside of Education and Human Resources (where HBCU-EiR is housed) for review of their work
• Proposals are transferred to identified program for topic review
• Program officers in review programs suggest recommendation or decline of the work based on reviews and their own reading of the proposal
• If funding is recommended this is provided through HBCU-EiR

It is strongly recommended that you communicate with a program officer in a potential review program prior to submitting your proposal (good) and even before submitting your letter of intent (better)
Four BIO Divisions: Biological Research Across Scales

Life innovates, NSF BIO integrates

Molecule | Gene | Protein | Cell | Organism | Population | Community | Ecosystem | Biosphere

Molecular & Cellular Biosciences (MCB)

Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS)

Environmental Biology (DEB)

Biological Infrastructure (DBI)
Division of Biological Infrastructure DBI

Human Resources

Supporting the training of next generation of scientists

- Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE)
- REU sites
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)

Research Resources

Supporting the infrastructure that makes science possible

- Innovation (IIBR)
- Capacity (ICB)
- Sustaining (SABI)
- Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections
- NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network)

REU Site:
Nanobioengineering
Alabama State University
Award: 1659166

Photo Courtesy David Campbell/Alabama State University
Budget Considerations

• Request what you need to accomplish the research you propose
  • Be sure that what you are asking for in the budget is commiserate with what you propose to do

• Supplements* - additional activities that used to be asked for separately, we like to see them from the start now
  • Research Experience for Undergraduates, Research Opportunity Awards, and Research Assistantships for High School Students

• The budget limits/guidance in the original EiR are no longer a thing

• Non-HBCU partners?

• Course ‘buy outs’?
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Future/Other Funding Opportunities to Think About

• Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) – NSF 14-579 – for investigators at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions
• Small Grants – unique DEB line (NSF 20-502) – total budget $200K, full research projects – just need a smaller budget to achieve
• Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) (NSF 20-525)
  • Pre-tenure faculty. Note – deadline change for 2020 to Aug. 11th
• Transitions to Excellence in Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Research (Transitions) – NSF 20-505 MCB funding opportunity
• Enabling Discovery through Genomic Tools (EDGE) – NSF 20-532
  • IOS funding opportunity
Tips for Writing Competitive Proposals

• Start with describing the big picture, the fundamental question or issue
  • Describe how achieving the goals of your project will lead to progress on the big picture question; your science must be compelling and relevant to fundamental issues

• Experimental plan must be well-matched to hypotheses
  • Are the methods and design the best to test the hypotheses?

• Preliminary data are consistent with the hypotheses

• Newer methods generally require preliminary data or demonstration they work in your hands

• Have you considered alternative experimental outcomes?

• Develop a plan for convincing and significant broader impacts activities

Contact Program Directors with questions about programs!
NSF Merit Review Criteria

• Intellectual Merit:
  • Potential for advancing knowledge in/across fields
  • Qualifications of the investigators
  • Creativity and originality
  • Organization of the ideas/experiments
  • Access to resources
  • Potentially transformative research?

• Broader Impact:
  • Promoting teaching, training, and education
  • Enhancement of infrastructure for research and education
  • Community resources and outreach
  • Participation of underrepresented groups
  • Benefits to society

Contact Program Directors with questions about programs!
NSF Merit Review Criteria

Try to think like a reviewer might, and think of someone not completely familiar with your work – are you covering everything in Intellectual Merit?

**What Applicants want to convey**

- Present a NEW idea
- Explain the expected results and alternative plans
- What you will do, risk mitigation
- Demonstrate your qualifications
  - Preliminary Data
  - Publications

**What Reviewers look for**

- Advancing the field: is it a big or little step in science?
- Will the negative results be important too?
- Can the applicants do the project?

Contact Program Directors with questions about programs!
NSF Merit Review Criteria

Try to think like a reviewer might, and think of someone not completely familiar with your work – are you covering everything in Broader Impacts?

What Applicants want to convey

• Present a clear, integrated plan.
• Document a history of outreach/impact.
• Show who you will impact and how.
• Describe how you will know it works.

What Reviewers look for

• Connected to the research?
• Can it be executed?
• Targeting an appropriate goal/group?
• Will it have an impact and how will the PI know?
What Makes a Proposal Competitive?

- Potential for high impact
- New, original ideas
- Focused, feasible project plan
- Articulated knowledge of subject area, published relevant work
- Experience in essential methods or approaches, and/or collaborator expertise
- Sound scientific rationale
- Realistic amount of work; sufficient detail; critical approach (knows the pitfalls)