



**Division of
Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)**

Virtual Office Hours

Welcome!

We will begin at 2pm ET



Questions and Answers

Submit your questions via the Q&A box on your screen

- You may elect to submit your question anonymously.
- For specific questions about your project, please contact a Program Director.

Next MCB Virtual Office Hours

October 11th, 2023: Tool Development for Molecular and Cell Biology
(Tools4Cells DCL: [NSF 23-121](#))

November 8th, 2023: Meet MCB Program Directors
(Core Programs: [NSF 23-548](#))



MCB Virtual Office Hour

Today's Topic:

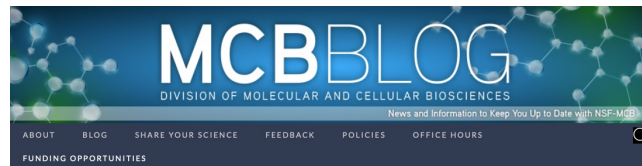
Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

NSF 23-620

Slides and recordings of past presentations at

<https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/2/>

(Example: April 12, 2023 – How to Write a Great NSF Proposal)



Solicitation: NSF23-620

Areas 1 and 2 Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI)

Program Officers
Joel Abraham
John Barthell
Deana Erdner
Andrea Holgado
Daniel Marena
Amanda Simcox

Area 3 Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS)

Program Officers
Diane Jofuku Okamuro
Gerald Schoenknecht
Kan Wang

Deadline November 29, 2023



Overview of the PRFB Program

- Awards intended to support the independent research and training of recent recipients of the doctoral degree, and to foster human resource development in biology
- Fellowships should provide active mentoring of fellows
- Both research and training components are important
- Sponsoring scientists, departments and institutions should offer a significant opportunity to broaden the research focus and training of the applicant
- Proposals must address both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts



Award Information

- Stipend (salary): \$60,000
- Research allowance: \$20,000
 - for research, training, travel, fringe benefits (e.g., health insurance)
- Duration of fellowship:
 - 3 years for all Areas



Program Eligibility

- Applicants must be US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents at the time of application
- Applicants include graduate students and beginning postdocs with a maximum of 15 months tenure in a position requiring a PhD
- Applicants should have a PhD in an appropriate field before starting the fellowship
- Applicants may **not** submit the same research project to another NSF postdoctoral fellowship program



Three Competitive Areas

Area 1
Broadening
Participation of Groups
Underrepresented in
Biology

Area 2**
Integrative Research
Investigating the Rules
of Life Governing
Interactions Between
Genomes, Environment
and Phenotypes

Area 3
Plant Genome
Postdoctoral
Research
Fellowships

***It is anticipated that Competitive Area 2 will run for another 2 years, and the last year will be FY2025. It is anticipated there will be a new area for submission in late fall of 2025 (FY 2026). In future years, it is expected that research incorporating the rules of life criteria could be proposed under other Competitive Areas.*



Research scope in the PRFB

- Basic biology research within purview of NSF-BIO
 - <http://www.nsf.gov/bio>)
- Research may have broader impacts related to medicine and human health
 - Proposals with a biomedical research focus are **not** eligible
- If your application mentions human disease, discuss appropriateness with a Program Officer before you submit
- If you are uncertain about whether your research is appropriate for BIO, contact a Program Officer



Competitive Area 1: Broadening Participation of Groups Underrepresented in Biology

- Goal to increase diversity of scientists **explicitly at the postdoctoral level**
 - *Enhancing diversity at the postdoctoral level will depend on including the participation of the full spectrum of diverse talent in STEM. The goal of the program is to prepare biologists who are underrepresented in their fields and others who share NSF's diversity goals at the post-doctoral level for positions of scientific leadership in academia, industry, and government.*
- Describe how the proposal will diversify biology at the postdoctoral level
 - Applicant does **not** have to be a member of an underrepresented group
- All areas of biology eligible, from molecules to ecosystems



Competitive Area 2: Rules of Life

- Goal to understand how higher-order structures and functions of biological systems are formed
 - How key properties and mechanisms of living systems emerge from the interactions of genomes, environments, and phenotypes
- Produce theories or models with predictive capability
- Combine computational, observational, experimental, or conceptual approaches to elucidate the mechanistic relationships between genomes and phenomes in an environmental context
- Span across scales on the continuum of molecules to ecosystems



Competitive Area 3: Plant Genome Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

- Research and training must address important scientific questions that fall within the scope of the Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP)
 - Formerly called the National Plant Genome Initiative (NPGI) Postdoctoral Research Fellowships program
- Overarching Goals of the PGRP:
 - To investigate the **structure and function of plant genomes**, focusing on generating and integrating large scale datasets to provide a comprehensive understanding relevant to economically important plants and plant processes of economic value; and,
 - To develop innovative **tools, technologies and resources** that are essential to drive plant functional genomics forward.



Next MCB Virtual Office Hours

- Wednesday October 11th, 2023, 2-3 pm ET
Tool Development for Molecular and Cell Biology
- Wednesday November 8th, 2023, 2-3 pm ET
Meet MCB Program Directors

All BIO Divisions host monthly VOH

Biological Infrastructure: 3rd Tuesday (3-4 pm ET)

Environmental Biology: 2nd Monday (1-2 pm ET)

Integrative Organismal Systems: 3rd Thursday (1-2 pm ET)

Molecular and Cellular Biosciences: 2nd Wednesday (2-3 pm ET)



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