

A SPECIAL BSF CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN A JOINT NSF-BSF PROGRAM IN ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY (ICOB)

The U.S. – Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) is pleased to announce the opening of the first round of applications in a new joint funding program with the Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) division of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in Organismal Biology.

The terms of this program are as follows:

General

1. The call is limited to applications in Organismal Biology, as it is defined by the NSF. **Please note that the NSF definition of Organismal Biology overlaps with multiple BSF funding areas, including life sciences, ecology, environmental research and oceanography.**
2. Applications must be submitted jointly by an Israeli scientist and an American scientist from non-profit research institutions. Adding additional scientists is possible if clearly justified.
3. If awarded a grant, the U.S. scientist will receive a grant from the NSF, while the Israeli scientist will receive a grant from the BSF.
4. The size of the grant to the Israeli is expected to be significantly larger than traditional BSF grants in the same disciplines, possibly up to \$230,000 over the life of the grant.
5. Applications to the NSF-BSF Organismal Biology program will use a two-tier submission process, starting with a short pre-proposal, followed by full proposals of selected applications.
6. Grants will usually be for 3 years.
7. The program is expected to be held annually.
8. The NSF program description and regulations can be downloaded from:
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504768

Eligibility

1. All regulations regarding eligibility of either the BSF (for the Israeli) or the NSF (for the American) will apply to the new program.
2. A scientist will not be permitted to hold both a regular BSF grant, as well as an NSF-BSF grant, except if s/he does not receive financial support from the BSF.
3. A pair/group of scientists who are currently BSF grantees in the regular program will be allowed to submit together to the NSF-BSF program a continuation proposal, or a different proposal. However, if awarded an NSF-BSF grant, they will be required to give up their current BSF grant.
4. A current grantee with a regular grant is not allowed to submit with a scientist from the other country who is not his current collaborator in the grant.
5. A scientist who holds a BSF grant in one of the special programs of the Foundation (Transformative Science or BSF Energy) **is allowed** to submit to any of the NSF-BSF programs.
6. If an investigator is allowed to submit a full proposal to the NSF-BSF program, and chooses to do so, s/he will not be allowed to also submit a regular BSF application in the

2012 round. However, if his/her pre-proposal does not qualify for submission of a full proposal, s/he will be allowed to submit an application to the regular program.

7. U.S. scientists currently holding NSF grants are allowed by the IOS division to submit to the program, as long as the suggested research does not overlap currently supported research by the NSF or by another U.S. government institution.

Evaluation

1. Proposals will be evaluated by the NSF, using its criteria, with some participation of the BSF in the NSF panels, and/or in selecting external reviewers.
2. Full proposals to the program will be reviewed by appropriate people in the Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) division of the NSF, and by external reviewers and ad hoc virtual panels. The BSF will not conduct parallel evaluation of full proposals, but will be part of the NSF lead review process, have access to all reviews, and recommendations will be made jointly by the NSF and BSF.
3. The pre-proposal stage is mostly technical, examining if the topic is within the framework of the present program, and no effort is likely to be made to evaluate the scientific merit of the suggested research project.

Submission

1. Applications of both pre-proposals and full proposals will be made by the U.S. scientist to the NSF using its regulations and submission system and by the Israeli to the BSF, using its regular submission system.
2. Program description (15 pages) and abstracts submitted to both organizations should be identical. **If NSF requirements for these two documents differ from those of the BSF, the NSF regulations and formats should be adopted.** Program description will include a section that describes the cooperation.

Timetable

The BSF website, including detailed submission instructions, will be available for the submission of pre-proposals starting August 1st, 2012. Pre-proposals will be submitted no later than 5 pm (Israel time) on September 6, 2012. Results are expected at the beginning of October 2012.

Full proposals will be submitted no later than 5 pm (Israel time) on December 5, 2012.

Results are expected no later than July 2013.

Applicants are requested to acquaint themselves with the BSF regulations before they submit an application. In particular, they should acquaint themselves with the special document that describes the changes in the submission process from the regular program. The forms and regulations can be downloaded from the BSF website (www.bsf.org.il) under 'Guidelines & Forms'.



Scientists planning to submit an application to this special BSF-NSF program are welcome to discuss the application with the BSF management by mail or phone (972-2-5828239): Dr. Yair Rotstein (yair@bsf.org.il; ext. 105) or Dr. Rachel (Heni) Haring (heni@bsf.org.il; ext 110). Questions regarding the online application system should be directed to Ms. Orli Rozenwajg (orli@bsf.org.il; ext .109) or Mrs. Eti Alfandary (eti@bsf.org.il; ext 101).

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