

RCN supported travel subsidy for collaborative projects

One of the major goals of the RCN is to facilitate collaborative efforts between scientific groups with complementary interests and expertise in pollen biology. The RCN's role in the Collaboration Enhancement area is solely to promote and facilitate collaborative initiatives by providing a travel subsidy of up to \$1000 per project. These efforts could facilitate research possible only through collaboration because of complementary resources or for pilot experiments to test novel ideas and approaches, among other possibilities. Collaborative groups will have to be self-identified. For the first funding year, we particularly encourage possible collaborations with RCN's working group members.

RCN supported travel subsidy for diversity enhancement

Another goal of the RCN is to enhance interactions between research and primarily undergraduate institutions (PUI). We will provide a travel subsidy (up to \$1000) for research- and teaching-related visits to the PUI or minority-serving institution by faculty, postdocs, and graduate students from research universities, or visits to network laboratories by faculty and students from PUIs.

High School Teacher Summer Interns

The RCN support a three weeks summer internship for high school teachers to provide exposure to the molecular, genetic, cell biological and bioinformatics approaches in current pollen biology, so that they will incorporate the knowledge and the excitement about research in biology to their classroom. It is expected that these teachers will intern within commuting distance of the host laboratories, so that long-term interactions between mentors and interns are possible. Applications for these internships should be initiated by PIs of the host laboratories with an interested teacher already identified. A stipend of \$750 per week is provided.

Application and Selection procedures

To apply, a 1-2 page statement describing the goal and justification for the proposed project should be submitted July 1, especially if a summer project is planned. Recipients will be expected to communicate the outcome of their activities to the Network, provide feedback on the effectiveness of this effort and acknowledge support from the Network for publishable outcomes. The RCN may invite some of the recipients to present their work in future network annual meetings.

A total of 15 collaboration- and diversity-enhancement projects and one high school teacher summer internship are open for application in the first award year. The RCN's Executive Committee will make the first round of selection decisions periodically as applications arrive to facilitate launching of the proposed activities. As our network is learning to coordinate the supported activities in our first award year, we especially encourage projects involving the RCN's working group.