

## **Supplements to U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants in Taxonomy To Promote Collaborative Research & Training with CETAF (the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities)**

Upon the invitation of CETAF, the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (see <http://www.cetaf.org> ), and in order to promote interaction and collaboration with systematists in Europe, particularly in designated activities such as PEET (Partnerships to Enhance Expertise in Taxonomy), REVSYS (Revisionary Syntheses in Systematics), and PBI (Planetary Biodiversity Inventories) – all of which have as their goal the invigoration of a modern taxonomic research and training enterprise – the Cluster for Systematic Biology and Biodiversity Inventories at NSF expresses its interest to support supplementary activities on currently funded NSF projects whereby U.S. researchers and students can utilize European taxonomic facilities, and correspondingly, European researchers and students can travel to the U.S. to utilize facilities here. The long-term goal of these collaborative efforts is a greater and sustained integration of taxonomic resources worldwide, both human and cyber-based, in the service of modern taxonomic research and training.

We envision two classes of supplement activities, generally of the nature of short term research visits (few to several months). Proposing U.S. institutions can request, within a budget not to exceed \$25K-\$35K total (see below), a supplement supporting one or both classes of these activities:

1. NSF can provide funds allowing U.S. investigators (researchers, students) to visit and use the collections of European partners ( check [www.cetaf.org](http://www.cetaf.org) site for membership and contact persons), where these facilities (and sponsoring partners) are relevant to the scope of the NSF-funded grant;
2. NSF can provide funds allowing European investigators (researchers, students) from a participating CETAF institution to visit the U.S., to utilize the facilities and expertise of the sponsoring U.S. colleagues for research relevant to the NSF-funded grant.

Eligible expenses would include travel costs associated with the visit; stipend for the duration of the research visit; bench fees and research-related supplies. NSF funds may not be used to support research and training of the foreign-country participants at their home institutions. NSF expects to make only a limited number of such supplements in any particular fiscal year. Preference will be given to projects showing promise of long-term collaboration between the U.S. and European partners.

Projects eligible for supplements must be new or currently active NSF grants in the PEET, REVSYS, and PBI programs (see <http://www.nhm.ku.edu/peet/> for PEET; <http://www.nsf.gov/bio/pubs/awards/revsys.htm> for REVSYS; and <http://www.nsf.gov/bio/pubs/awards/pbify03.htm> or [http://clade.acnatsci.org/allcatfish/ACSI/idx\\_pages/PBI\\_index.html](http://clade.acnatsci.org/allcatfish/ACSI/idx_pages/PBI_index.html) for PBI, for listings of projects and Principal Investigators with their associated e-mail addresses).

European partners in the supplement activities should be members of the CETAF (see list of the now-25 member institutions, with contact information, at <http://www.cetaf.org> ). It is the responsibility of the cooperating scientists to initiate these contacts, make plans for the research visits, and satisfy whatever review may be required at the European institution. A letter of endorsement from the participating European TAF must be included with the supplement request (and can be inserted in the Supplementary Documentation module of the FastLane request).

To initiate a cooperative project, interested investigators must contact one another and arrange a research topic and research plan (see the websites listed above, for PEET, REVSYS, and PBI, for principal investigators, abstracts of the NSF grants, and address information). Supplemental requests can be submitted at any time, and generally will be reviewed within 4-8 weeks. The request must be submitted by the U.S. grantee institution, and is accomplished by submitting via the NSF FastLane system. The supplement request must include:

1. succinct statement of the research topic and plan, with brief explanation of relevance to the parent NSF grant and general significance to systematic biology;
2. brief explanation of methods, materials, and procedures to be used to accomplish the work;
3. brief explanation of informatics resources needed or to be produced as part of the work;
4. brief explanation of the roles of the sponsoring scientist and the visiting participant, and any plans for long-term collaboration;

5. qualifications of the visiting participant, using the NSF format for Biographical Sketches (this Biographical Sketch, or “mini CV”, can be inserted in the Supplementary Documentation module of the FastLane request); and
6. TAF endorsement letter from sponsoring host (see above).

Preparation of a supplement should follow the instructions given in this communication and in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?gpg> ). For the NSF budget Form 1030, please use category F. Participant Support Costs where appropriate (for travel, supplies, and stipend). A supplement request should not exceed \$25-35K total (direct and indirect costs).

The NSF Principal Investigator(s) is responsible for obtaining any required visas for foreign travel and, through the U.S. host research institution, for providing documentation in support of U.S. visas for foreign counterpart investigators. Information about obtaining visas for foreign visitors to the U.S. can be found at the following site: [http://www.nsf.gov/home/int/int\\_travel.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/home/int/int_travel.htm) . PIs are also responsible for obtaining research permits and import/export documents where necessary.

Reminder about NSF policy on data-sharing and intellectual property: as stated in the Grant Proposal Guide (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?gpg>), NSF “expects PIs to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the data, samples, physical collections and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of the work.” The policy applies to all personnel deriving benefits from the NSF grant.