



Ellen Williams Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Research Topic: Time-Domain Nanoscience

To honor the outstanding contributions and leadership of Professor Ellen Williams in nanoscience and nanotechnology, the NanoCenter - in collaboration with three Colleges (ENGR, CMPS, CLFS) -has created a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship program to attract the best and brightest to targeted research areas of interest to faculty in the NanoCenter. This announcement represents the initial phase of the program.

Overview

Short proposals are solicited from UMD faculty for funding to support outstanding postdoctoral fellows in pursuit of new research directions that emphasize the dynamics in nanoscale phenomena, including but not limited to ultrafast time scales. With partial funding support from a NIST grant and from its three Colleges (ENGR, CMPS, CLFS), the NanoCenter seeks to establish UMD as a leader in time-domain nanoscience and to attract some of the most talented Postdoctoral Fellows to this effort.

This program is specifically aimed at assisting faculty at more junior levels, i.e. Assistant and Associate Professors, in order to assist their development into research leaders of international prominence. Funds will be used to support 1/2 to 2/3 the cost of a new two-year Postdoctoral Fellow at a salary level sufficient to attract top talent. The remainder of salary-associated costs must be committed by the faculty awardee.

Proposal submission

Proposals should be submitted electronically **by Feb 15, 2010** to mobaidin@umd.edu, with cc to rubloff@umd.edu. A **technical description (3 pages maximum)** should include: (1) the area of research opportunity, (2) the goal and proposed research, (3) ability of the group to pursue the direction, (4) its potential impact in terms of science, technology, and funding growth. Proposers should attach to the technical description a list of references and informal budget (no routing needed). The budget should indicate salary level sufficient to recruit outstanding postdocs in the field, and the source of funding the faculty awardee will commit for the remaining portion of salary-associated costs. In exceptional cases, the program may consider, though cannot promise, awarding modest additional funds for unique materials or equipment requirements.

Eligibility

The program is open to UMD College Park faculty, including NanoCenter Members and also nonmembers. The technical scope of time-domain nanoscience may in fact foster new players in the nano arena. Faculty at all levels are eligible, though in general preference will be given to those at Assistant and Associate levels, as explained above. Proposing faculty may wish to identify or describe relevant collaborators in the proposed work, but the awards will be done with the single proposer.

Proposal review and award

Proposals will be reviewed by a small committee reflecting the research diversity of the NanoCenter. We anticipate making about 6 awards by March 1. Each faculty awardee will then provide a short project summary to be used in advertising the positions on the NanoCenter and other websites as one of several channels the faculty awardee may use to recruit the postdoc. Each of these postdoctoral fellows will then carry the title **Ellen Williams Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow**.

Expectations

Faculty awardees are expected to pursue an exciting program of time-domain nano research and to leverage it toward growth and leadership in the field as well as development and submission of large multi-year multi-million dollar research proposals. The NanoCenter further requires a short progress report (1 page max) at the midpoint of the project term and a highlight (NSF “nugget” style in ppt) at its conclusion.

Questions

For questions please send an email to rubloff@umd.edu.