

The University of Mississippi



NSF EPSCoR RII Track-4 EPSCoR Fellows

ORSP INFORMATION SESSIONS
WINTER 2018

JAN 18, 10AM: WEIR 107

JAN 26, 11AM: WEIR 107

JAN 31, 3PM: WEIR 107

Brief Introductions



- Attendees:
 - ✦ Name, Rank, and Department
 - ✦ First NSF Track-4 Proposal?
 - ✦ Any prior NSF proposal experience/success?
- Research Development Fellows
 - ✦ Name, Rank, Department
- ORSP Personnel

What is EPSCoR Fellows Program



- Solicitation page 5 (sections I.C and II), page 5-6
 - Spend extended periods of time at research premier research facilities
 - The fellowship period may be used to:
 - ✦ initiate new collaborative relationships
 - ✦ expand existing partnerships in ambitious new direction
 - ✦ make use of unique equipment not available at UM
 - ✦ ANY of the ABOVE (does NOT have to be ALL three)
 - Successful fellowships will
 - ✦ positively impact and potentially transform recipient's research career trajectory
 - ✦ Improve the institution's (UM's) scientific competitiveness

Eligibility



- Solicitation I.B (page 4)
- Mississippi, an EPSCoR state, can submit 3 proposals
- Tenure Track, Not-yet-tenured faculty (at time of submission)
- Long-term positions outside of tenure track also eligible

Host Site Requirements



- Host Sites for Fellowship projects :
 - Must be located within the United States, its territories, or possessions.
 - May be a government laboratory, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), a commercial or non-profit research center, or an academic institution

Budget Things



- Budget Limit \$300K (including F&A) but likely **much lower**
- We will use the Off Campus Research Indirect Rate 26%
- Grant pays for salary, fringes, for the faculty and up to one trainee-level researcher (grad student or post-doc)
 - 6 months max, for the period of time at the host (summer or academic months)
 - Also, tuition for the graduate student during that 6 months, if applicable
- Up to \$75K in combined Travel Expenses for faculty & trainee
 - Up to \$20K for travel between home and host, including at host
 - Up to \$50K for living expenses (lodging/meals/incidentals) at host
 - Up to 5K for other related travel (e.g., conferences)
- Up to \$10K in additional direct costs
 - Shipping, supplies, facilities user fees, publication charges, etc.
- **No salary or fringes to host collaborators**

Standard NSF Review Criteria



- **Merit criteria:** Potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge; assessment based on appropriate metrics
- **Broader Impact:** potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.
- **Review elements:**
 1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to: a. **advance knowledge**
b. **benefit society**
 2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore **creative, original, or potentially transformative** concepts?
 3. Is the **plan** for carrying out the proposed activities **well-reasoned**, with a mechanism to **assess success**?
 4. How well **qualified** is the PI and team?
 5. Are there **adequate resources** available to the PI?

Special Review Criteria for Track-4



- Evidence of outcomes achievability
- Likely impact on faculty's research career trajectory
- Benefits to the home institution/jurisdiction
- Home and Host resources availability

UM EPSCoR Track-4 History



- 2017, UM Faculty Members received Track-4 grants
- Program started in 2017
- 136 Proposals considered by NSF
- 30 awards made across 27 universities
- 22% funding rate
- UM was one of three universities to receive two awards
 - ✦ Ryan Garrick Biology to visit Ohio State University
 - ✦ Sasha Kocic Mathematics to visit UC, Irvine
- <https://news.olemiss.edu/two-um-faculty-win-inaugural-national-science-foundation-fellowships/>

Two UM Faculty Win Inaugural National Science Foundation Fellowships

Ryan Garrick and Saša Kocić among 30 nationwide selected for competitive research program

 SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 BY EDWIN SMITH



Ryan Garrick, UM assistant professor of biology, examines insects as part of his research on the effects of environmental change. Photo by Robert Jordan/Ole Miss Communications

EPSCoR-eligible states develop career-spanning collaborative premiere research institutions around the nation.

Garrick will conduct his fellowship at Ohio State University at Irvine.

OXFORD, Miss. – Two **University of Mississippi** professors have been honored for innovative research in their respective fields by being selected for fellowships in a competitive



Saša Kocić, UM assistant professor of mathematics, is continuing his study of dynamic systems and mathematical physics, which promises to help scientists better understand such diverse phenomena as heart function and stock market fluctuations. Photo by Thomas Graining/Ole Miss Communications

Key Dates, 2018 Competition



- 12/14/2017 NSF solicitation released
- 12/15/2017 UM Today Announcement
- 1/18, 1/26, 1/31 ORSP Information Sessions
- 1/29/2018 PAPPG NSF 18-1 effective
- 2/5/2018 Internal Pre-Proposals due to ORSP
- 2/12/2018 3 UM Pre-Proposals selected
- 3/6/2018 Proposal & Transmittal due to ORSP
- 3/13/2018 Full proposal due to NSF

UM Internal Proposals



- **Project Summary:** 1-page NSF-style Project Summary, including working title.
- **Abbreviated Project Description:** (3-5 pages)
- **Preliminary Letter of Support from Primary Research Collaborator/Partner** (does not have to be the final, complete letter that would be submitted with the proposal to NSF, but should make it clear to UM internal reviewers that the collaborator is willing to host the PI at their institution.)

UM Internal Proposals



- **Letter of Support from Administrative Supervisor of PI** (e.g., Chair). This one as well need not be final, but should make it clear that the supervisor thinks the fellowship will only help, and not in anyway hurt, the PI's career trajectory, and that, if selected, the PI would be allowed to conduct the fellowship during the time indicated.
- **NSF-Style Biographical Sketch** (should be compliant and largely complete)

UM Internal Review Criteria



- 5 points Faculty Career Impact
- 5 points Broader Impacts
- 5 points Strength of Proposed Partnership
- 5 points General Quality of Proposal/Writing
- 5 points Planning, Specificity, and Achievability
- 5 points Support of Chair

30 points Total

Criterion: Faculty Career Impact



Criterion: Faculty Career Impact Based on what is written, what is the likelihood that the full proposal will convince NSF reviewers that this fellowship will have a trajectory changing impact on the faculty member's career, well beyond the grant period?

Rating Choices (circle one): (0: absent; 1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent)

Comments:

Criterion: Broader Impacts



Based on what is written, what is the likelihood that the full proposal will convince NSF reviewers that the faculty member will proactively and creatively leverage this fellowship to improve the research competitiveness of faculty member's home department, institution, and/or state.

1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent

Comments:

Criterion: Strength of Partnership



Based on the letter from the host, the location of the host, the resources at available at the host, the need for an extended visit, and any previous work/collaborations of the faculty member with/at the collaborators/host, how likely does it seem that the NSF reviewers will see this fellowship as leading to strong collaboration/impact that would not likely be possible without the fellowship.

1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent

Criterion: Quality of Proposal



How clear is the proposal in conveying the purpose and potential benefits of the fellowship? Is it professionally written? Easy to understand? Is it sufficiently specific in describing the objectives, activities, expected costs, and measurable specific outcomes? Are motivation and context explained using language understandable to a scientific audience with broad disciplinary expertise?

1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent

Criterion: Planning, Specificity, Achievability



Is the proposal sufficiently specific in describing the objectives, activities, expected costs, and specific outcomes, and how success will be assessed? Do the proposed outcomes seem achievable? Is a timetable included?

1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent

Comments:

Criterion: Support of Chair



How likely that Chair's final letter will convince the NSF reviewers that he/she: 1) will approve any time away during the academic year (if applicable), 2) believes this fellowship will have only positive impacts on the faculty member's career, and 3) agrees with the faculty member's assessment of the potential impact the fellowship will have within the department, institution, and/or state?

1: poor; 2: fair; 3: good; 4: very good; 5: excellent

Research Development Fellows



- ORSP Research Development Fellows
 - ✦ Greg Easson, Professor of Geological Engineering, Director of Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute
 - ✦ Christian Sellar, Associate Professor of Public Policy Leadership
 - ✦ Nathan Hammer, Associate Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Mission is to help faculty be more competitive for grant proposals, including interdisciplinary proposals)
- Available for discussions, enhanced reviews of Track-4 proposal ideas, draft proposals, and full proposals
- E-mail researchfellows@olemiss.edu

ORSP UM Grant Mentors Program



- Proposer: Identify a potential UM Mentor for a funding opportunity
 - ✦ UM faculty member with recent success in extramural funding competitions
 - ✦ ORSP can assist in identifying/vetting mentors
- Mentor and Proposer: Agree to work together on the proposal
 - ✦ Complete a Mentor Agreement Form
 - ✦ Obtain sign-off from Chair and Dean of Mentor and Proposer
 - ✦ Upload the signed form to the online transmittal (TSS)
- Develop and submit proposal
 - ✦ Mentor receives \$500 in extra pay for extra work (from Proposer's dept./school)
 - ✦ If proposal is funded, mentor receives \$500 award pay from ORSP

Questions/Discussion

