

## **BMB Trainee Early-career Award for Mentoring in Unexplored Problems (TEAM-UP) Postdoctoral Award - Request for Applications**

Funds are available to support (or match support) for up to two researchers (e.g., postdoctoral associates) per year for up to two years to conduct research under the mentorship of a team of two or more BMB faculty, with the objective to generate preliminary results in an area of research relevant to BMB that is not currently funded. Complementary expertise of the mentors that will afford synergistic gains in terms of postdoctoral training is essential.

### **Application Process**

The application process consists of two steps:

- 1) A BMB Team (defined below) will submit a proposal that will be externally evaluated (see below). The two-page<sup>1</sup> proposal should address the following:
  - a) Brief description of the scientific problem that the BMB Team intends to address and its significance as well as innovation
  - b) Justification for the need of a researcher for two years to meet appropriate milestones, and description of the qualifications of the ideal researcher candidate
  - c) Mentoring plan that the BMB Team will use to advance the career aspirations of the researcher, and evidence that funds to support the research needs of the researcher are available
  - d) Projection of where the BMB Team expects to be positioned after two years, and plan for how the team intends to continue to support the project (and the researcher if necessary) after two years
- 2) Up to two BMB Teams selected from Step 1 will be invited to submit credentials for researcher candidates, which will be evaluated internally (see below).

### **Eligibility**

The BMB Team should be formed by two or more faculty members, and at least two should be tenured-track salaried (20% or more) in BMB (no restrictions on others, but their participation needs to be well justified). The ideal researcher should not be currently in a similar position at MSU, and should have obtained a PhD less than three years prior to the date of appointment for this opportunity (exceptions will be considered, but need to be justified). While this opportunity is intended for postdoctoral fellows, other types of researchers will be considered if properly justified. This opportunity will provide a competitive salary, plus \$5,000/year to the researcher for travel and career advancement.

### **Timelines**

Step 1 - complete applications should be submitted to Jeff Mason ([masonje6@msu.edu](mailto:masonje6@msu.edu)) by the due date. Applicants will be notified of the external review decisions within 45 days. Selected teams will then have up to six months to present candidate researcher's credentials (CV, 3+ letters of reference, interview summary), which will then be internally evaluated before final candidate may be selected.

### **Evaluation**

Step 1 will be evaluated by a panel of 2-3 qualified individuals from outside MSU based on a rubric that will include importance and novelty of the research mainstay, impact that the researcher can make, potential of the project to attract significant new funding, and alignment of the qualifications of the researcher to be identified with the project. Step 2 will be evaluated within MSU. Progress (metrics to be provided) towards the overall goals will be evaluated after the researcher has been at MSU for nine months before funds for the second year are provided.

<sup>1</sup> Page limits will be strictly enforced. Font should be Arial 10 pt or larger, and the document should have one-inch margins. Figures but not references are included in the two-page limit.