Plant Sciences Institute  
Faculty Scholars Program  

Request for Applications

Deadline for applications: October 13, 2014
Effective date of awards: January 1, 2015

Programmatic and informational workshops will be held early during the Fall 2014 semester.

The Plant Sciences Institute requests applications for the appointment of outstanding researchers as PSI Faculty Scholars. The Scholars program is intended to identify, support and empower talented researchers who have the potential to significantly contribute to the complex and rapidly emerging discipline of predictive phenomics. Selected Scholars will build upon their existing strong funding and publication track records to achieve even greater success and enhance Iowa State University’s international prominence in plant science research.

PRIORITIES/DESIRED OUTCOMES

PSI Scholars will utilize innovative approaches to capitalize on traditional ISU strengths (plant breeding/crop improvement, crop genetics/genomics, bioinformatics, statistics, engineering) as well as the emerging discipline of Big Data. Scholars’ research will provide new biological insights, develop new methods for analyzing phenomics-related data sets, and create new measurement tools that will deepen our understanding of the relationships among genotype, environment and phenotype and thereby further strengthen ISU’s reputation as a leader in plant science research. Collaboration with scholars on and off-campus is encouraged whenever the research program of the applicant could benefit from such collaboration. If desired, the PSI and VPR can create a committee to work with successful applicants on administrative and collaborative issues related to the PSI Faculty Scholars program.

ELIGIBILITY

Ph.D. with tenure or tenure-track position as an assistant professor or higher academic rank at Iowa State University. Adjunct faculty are also eligible to apply.

APPLICATION

The application will include the following documents:

- An overview of the applicant’s current and proposed research programs and a statement of how the proposed research will contribute to advancing the field of predictive phenomics (three page maximum)
- A list of colleagues (ISU and non-ISU) with whom the applicant has collaborated on
related research or may collaborate with on the proposed research

- A document identifying individuals (collaborators, co-authors, co-editors, graduate and postdoctoral advisors/advisees and other affiliates) with whom the applicant may have a conflict of interest
- A curriculum vitae (CV), which includes a complete bibliography (with the five most significant publications identified). The CV should also include a link to the applicant’s Google Scholar profile with citation indices, including h-index (no page limit)
- A list of research support which includes all current and pending awards and past awards that have expired within the last five years. This document also should include all internal funding for the last five years and the impacts from that funding (no page limit)
- The names of three references
- While a detailed budget is not required, applicants should provide a brief overview of their spending plan (one page maximum)

Application materials should be emailed to Deanne Brill as a single pdf file. Questions regarding the application may be directed to Brill via email or telephone at 515-294-5255. Questions regarding the PSI Scholars program may be directed to Patrick Schnable, PSI director, via email.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by a team of ISU and external scientists, excluding individuals with known conflicts of interest. Applicants may benefit from participating in the Fall 2014 workshops. Top ranked applicants from the initial review process will be invited to make an on-campus research presentation. Final award decisions will be made by the PSI director, in consultation with the Office of the Vice President for Research. Notification of selection will take place by the end of the year.

The PSI will serve as the administering unit and will provide post-award administrative services for this and all subsequent awards resulting from the PSI Scholars program. The PSI will also provide pre-award proposal services for subsequent proposals that result from participation in the PSI Scholars program.

FUNDING

- Awards will range from $100,000 to $300,000 per year for up to three years per Scholar, and funds must be expended within the fiscal year for which they are awarded (i.e., no carry-over of funds will be allowed from one fiscal year to the next)
- Funding in years two and three is not guaranteed, but will be renewable subject to annual review of progress by a three-person committee, including the PSI director.
- All expenditures are subject to applicable university, state and federal requirements for allowability, appropriateness and adequate documentation.