Digest of Items of Interest to the Caucus of Academic Reps – August 23, 2013

Funding Opportunities:

For recent funding announcements first log in to the ASA web site then go to the ASA Community: *Funding Opportunities*. General information about funding sources is always available at http://www.amstat.org/careers/efs.cfm

- DOD Releases FY 2014 MURI BAA
- Office of Naval Research Releases FY 2014 BAA for Young Investigator Program

Position Announcements:

- Two tenured/tenure-track positions in Biostatistics at U of Minnesota
- Supervisory Survey Statistician at the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

Workshops:

- Dimension Reduction and High Dimensional Inference
- 2014 Building Future Faculty Program Announcement

Funding opportunities

DOD Releases FY 2014 MURI BAA

On August 19, the Department of Defense (DOD) released its fiscal year (FY) 2014 Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the popular Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program. MURI is one of DOD’s cornerstone university research programs, supporting basic research projects at the intersection of multiple scientific disciplines in areas of interest to DOD. DOD indicates that it will award a total of up to $250 million for MURI projects in FY 2014. While the BAA was released through the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Army Research Office (ARO) and Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) also partake in the program. Each of the service branch research offices administers specific topic areas within the BAA (see below). Researchers submit proposals directly to the office responsible for the topic area to which they are responding.

The FY 2014 MURI topics reflect a number of crosscutting priority areas for DOD, including energy, advanced materials, biology and synthetic biology, and computational and information sciences. These areas map with topics recently identified by senior DOD research officials as enduring science and technology priorities despite budget pressure caused by sequestration and other spending reductions. New for FY 2014, DOD stipulates the funding amount and desired team size for each individual topic area rather than providing general guidelines, as was previous practice. Details are included in the complete description of each topic area contained in the full BAA. FY 2014 MURI topic areas by service branch are:
Army Research Office

- Attosecond Electron Dynamics
- Force-Activated Synthetic Biology
- Nonlinear Dynamics of Energy Hypersurfaces Governing Reaction Networks
- Strongly Linked Multiscale Models for Predicting Novel Functional Materials
- Multistep Catalysis
- Innovation in Prokaryotic Evolution
- Ultracold Molecular Ion Reactions
- The Skin-Microbe Interactome

Office of Naval Research

- Understanding Energy Harvesting Mechanisms in Polymer-Based Photovoltaics
- Role of Bidirectional Computation in Visual Scene Analysis
- Exploring the Atomic and Electronic Structure of Materials to Predict Functional Material Properties
- Optical Computing
- Quantum optomechanics
- Air-Sea Interaction and RF Propagation in Maritime Atmospheric Boundary Layers
- Hydrodynamics of Non-traditional Propulsion

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

- Time-resolved quantum dynamics of complex systems
- Computational Foundation of Mathematics and Information
- Transport and Utilization of Energy Using Plasmon-induced Processes
- Design Rules for Biobased and Bioinspired Materials
- Control of Coherent Structures in Plasmas for Reconfigurable Metamaterial-Based Devices
- Multifunctional Quantum Transduction of Photons, Electrons and Phonons
- Control of Light Propagation through Metasurfaces
- Goal-Driven, Multi-Source Algorithms for Complex Resilient Multi-Physics Systems
- Security Theory of Nano-Scale Devices

Letters of Intent: Letters of intent are not required. However, DOD encourages interested researchers to submit white papers to the appropriate program manager in advance of preparing a full proposal. Program managers provide feedback on the extent to which ideas align with current DOD priorities. The deadline for submitting white papers is 4:00 PM EDT on October 15. The BAA states that DOD will provide feedback on white papers by October 29.

Due Dates: As noted above, white papers are due by October 15. For those receiving positive responses to white papers, the deadline for submitting full proposals is December 16, 2013. Full proposals must be submitted electronically through grants.gov. While white papers are not required in order to submit a full proposal, DOD strongly encourages this initial step.
Total Funding and Award Size: DOD anticipates awarding a total of $250 million through this BAA subject to future appropriations. Individual awards range from $1 million-$2.5 million per year, with most awards between $1.25 million and $1.5 million. Awards are for an initial three year period with the possibility of one two year extension. Detailed funding levels for each topic area are in the full BAA.

Eligibility and Limitations: The MURI competition is open to U.S. universities with degree-granting programs in science and engineering. DOD encourages submissions from Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions, but will not set aside any funding specifically for these entities. Teams of researchers from multiple institutions can apply for a topic area, but the proposal must designate one lead institution and one lead investigator from that institution to serve as the primary interface with DOD. Desired team sizes for each topic area are in the full BAA.

Sources and Additional Background:

- The full FY 2014 MURI BAA is available by searching “ONRBA13-022” at grants.gov.
- For reference, the list of selected projects through the FY 2013 MURI competition is at http://www.defense.gov/news/2013MURITeams.pdf.

DOD: Office of Naval Research Releases FY 2014 BAA for Young Investigator Program

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) released its fiscal year (FY) 2014 Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the Young Investigator Program (YIP). This popular program, which is also offered by other DOD branches like the Army Research Office and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, provides early career university faculty a path into the Navy’s research enterprise through multi-year research grants. With this program, ONR identifies promising young tenure-track faculty in their first or second year who demonstrate the ability to deliver innovative research aligned with ONR’s research priorities. Competition for this program has been intense in recent years; ONR awarded 16 proposals out of 369 for the FY 2013 competition.

Like other BAAs, DOD will accept any proposals that address research areas outlined in ONR’s broad research portfolio. A complete list of topics of interest to each of ONR’s six departments – Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism (Code 30); Command, Control Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (Code 31); Ocean Battlespace Sensing (Code 32); Sea Warfare and Weapons (Code 33); Warfighter Performance (Code 34); and Naval Air Warfare and Weapons (Code 35) – are available on ONR’s science and technology homepage located at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments.aspx.

Due to DOD’s continued emphasis on seven research thrusts outlined by former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Zach Lemnios (autonomy, counter weapons of mass destruction, cyber, data-to-decisions, electronic warfare and protection, human systems, and engineering resilient
systems), ONR continues to map its individual research foci to these priorities. Most recently, DOD officials have emphasized cognitive sciences, synthetic biology, advanced materials, and quantum information sciences within these areas. Faculty are encouraged to contact the appropriate program manager to discuss research proposals and how they align with ONR’s research foci and the above priorities. ONR will accept brief white papers to facilitate discussion.

**Letters of Intent:** None required. ONR encourages researchers to submit white papers to ONR technical leads to discuss the applicability of proposed research topics to ONR’s interests.

**Due Dates:** January 3, 2014.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** ONR anticipates having $9.6 million for YIP awards in FY 2014, with individual awards up to $170,000 per year for three years. ONR anticipates making approximately 15 awards for this competition. Budget uncertainties caused by sequestration may alter this funding for FY 2014 and beyond.

**Eligibility and Limitations:** This BAA is open to first or second year tenure-track faculty from institutions of higher education that award degrees in science, engineering, and/or mathematics. Note that ONR makes awards to institutions, not individuals. Researchers therefore must submit proposals along with a letter of support from the university through appropriate administrators.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

- Further information on awards, application processes, and technical requirements can be found in the full announcement located at http://www.onr.navy.mil/~media/Files/Funding-Announcements/BAA/2013/13-023.ashx.
- Information on ONR’s research focus areas can be found at http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments.aspx.

**Position announcements**

**Two tenured/tenure-track positions in Biostatistics at U of Minnesota**

The Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, at the University of Minnesota is announcing openings for two tenured or tenure-track faculty positions at the Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor rank.

We are especially interested in individuals with academic and research records in (1) the development of innovative approaches, methods, and software for the manipulation and analysis of big data in the biomedical sciences, (2) methods for survey sampling small area estimation, and (3) structural equation modeling (SEM), causal analysis, and other methods useful for accounting for latent factors in observational data. We will
however consider applications from candidates in other important related research areas, as well as those with PhDs in areas besides biostatistics or statistics.

Applications received before November 15, 2013 will be given first consideration for an interview. However we will continue to accept applications until the positions are filled.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, current curriculum vitae, and the names of at least three references online at <https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=113880>. Please reference requisition # 174298. In addition, a letter of recommendation from each of the three references should be sent to: Biostatistics Search Committee, Division of Biostatistics, A460 Mayo Building, MMC 303, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. For questions contact Sally Olander (brown198@umn.edu).

**Supervisory Survey Statistician at the Energy Information Administration (EIA)**
The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is hiring a Supervisory Survey Statistician (GS-15) in Washington, DC. See the below links for further information.
All U.S. Citizens: [https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/349986400](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/349986400)
Current/Former Federal Employees and Veterans: [https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/349986100](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/349986100)

**Workshops**

**University of Florida Department of Statistics 2014 Winter Workshop: Dimension Reduction and High Dimensional Inference**

January 17-18, 2014

The workshop will focus on recent developments in Dimension Reduction and High Dimensional Inference. A major purpose of the workshop is to discuss many recent significant developments and to identify important problems and new research directions. All sessions are plenary. The invited speakers are Andreas Buja, Florentina Bunea, Lisha Chen, Francesca Chiaromonte, Dennis Cook, Bing Li, Lexin Li, Yanyuan Ma, Adam Rothman, Ming Yuan, Harrison Huibin Zhou and Ji Zhu. The workshop will also include a contributed poster session. Funding is expected to support a limited number of young researchers to attend the workshop. The organizing committee is soliciting applications from senior graduate students (4th year or higher) and researchers who received their Ph.D. in or after 2008. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, a one-page abstract, and two reference letters, including one from a major professor who is supervising (or has
supervised) the applicant's research. Researchers receiving support are expected to present their work at the poster session. Applications should be e-mailed and received by November 11, 2013. Women and under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. Funding applications and workshop registration link are found on the Workshop web page. Application should be sent to Zhuhua (Sophia) Su: zhihuasu@stat.ufl.edu.

For more information, see www.stat.ufl.edu/symposium/2014/index.html

2014 Building Future Faculty Program Announcement

As someone who works with graduate students and post-doctoral students, I would like to draw your attention to a unique opportunity to engage future faculty members in an enriching, preparatory experience. North Carolina State University will offer the 2014 Building Future Faculty Program on April 2-5, 2014. This is an all-expenses paid workshop for diverse graduate students and post-docs who are preparing for a faculty career. It is targeted to students who are currently about one year away from beginning a faculty job search. The workshop provides information about what to expect as a faculty member, the kinds of resources available to faculty for teaching, and the type of research productivity that is expected of faculty. During the workshop, participants spend time with faculty and department heads in their discipline discussing how to best prepare for this type of work, what the life of a faculty member is like, and receiving personal tips and feedback. The program aims to increase faculty diversity and inclusion.

Past participants had the following things to say about the program:

- All of these sessions were incredibly informative and have brought a number of concerns to my attention that I would not have been mindful of without running into issues first.
- The department visit was a great platform to ask questions that might not be appropriate in an interview.
- This experience has certainly prepared me for the job market as a future faculty member. The knowledge I have gained and the contacts that I have acquired have been invaluable. I would recommend this program to anyone pursuing a career in academia.

More information about the 2014 Building Future Faculty Program is available at http://oied.ncsu.edu/faculty/building-future-faculty-program/ along with the application form. Applications are due by November 10, 2013. Thank you very much, Marcia

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