



Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

SIMONS CENTER FOR QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY

## Interdisciplinary Scholars in Experimental and Quantitative Biology (ISEQB) Program

A unique strength of the research environment at CSHL is the presence of leading experimental and quantitative biologists working closely together on problems of mutual interest. To further encourage research and training at the interface of experimental and quantitative biology, the Simons Center for Quantitative Biology and the CSHL leadership introduced the Interdisciplinary Scholars in Experimental and Quantitative Biology (ISEQB) Program in 2017. The ISEQB program provides partial support for postdoctoral scholars who are jointly mentored by one quantitative and one experimental PI on the CSHL faculty for a period of up to three years. The program serves several key purposes, including (1) recruitment and retention of talented postdocs who are interested in both wet-lab and dry-lab research; (2) providing first-rate interdisciplinary training for postdocs, with a balance of experimental and quantitative components and a commitment from mentors in both areas; and (3) promotion of collaborative research between experimental and quantitative research groups, which may result in new scientific discoveries, new technologies, and new funding opportunities.

The ISEQB Program is open to applications in all areas of research at CSHL, including basic molecular biology and genetics, cancer, plant biology, and neuroscience. It can be used either for the recruitment of new postdocs or as a funding mechanism for postdocs who are already at CSHL. The main constraints are that each application must lay out a well-defined collaborative research project with a length of no more than three years, and with a designated experimental PI and a designated QB PI.

### **Program Structure**

One experimental PI and one quantitative PI must serve jointly as the supervisors and mentors. On the quantitative side, preference will be given to core members of the QB faculty and other faculty members with a major focus on computational research (roughly 50% or more of their research activity). Together, the PIs may either propose to hire a new postdoctoral scholar into the ISEQB Program, or to promote someone who is already on campus into this role. In either case the scholar is expected to integrate fully into both research laboratories.

Interdisciplinary Scholars are funded at 50% of the standard Postdoc Computational stipend and fringe benefit rate for a period of up to three years with an annual review.

In addition, the ISEQB Program will provide up to \$10,000 per year for computing, storage, experimental supplies, and/or participation in courses and workshops, depending on needs.

Interdisciplinary Scholars will be expected to participate actively in the QB community, for example, by attending QB seminars, the New York Area QB meetings, the QB Tea, and meeting with visitors and job candidates.

Interdisciplinary Scholars will be expected to submit a summary progress report at the end of each budget year.

Because funds are limited, new scholars will generally be funded only when previous positions are vacated, with a maximum of three scholars at a time. Therefore, current Interdisciplinary Scholars are encouraged to apply for external fellowships even before their term is up, to permit more individuals to be funded.

### **How to Apply**

When positions are available, a formal “Call for Applications” announcement will be made for a specific deadline. The next deadline is **September 1, 2021**.

Both PIs must jointly apply by emailing a single PDF document containing all application materials to [kbrenner@cshl.edu](mailto:kbrenner@cshl.edu).

Applications should include:

1. Project Title
2. Abstract (250 words)
3. Research Project Description (2-3 pages, not including references)
4. Training Statement (<1 page)
5. Budget should include the standard Post Doc Computational stipend and fringe benefit rate
6. Budget Justification

The research project description should include a brief motivation for the work, a summary of relevant previous and ongoing research, and an outline of a project appropriate in scope for a three-year postdoctoral appointment, including major aims, the approach, and the expected outcomes.

The training statement should detail the plan for mentoring by each PI, for involvement in the two research laboratories, for participation in QB activities, and any additional training activities such as courses or workshops.

The budget and budget justification should address how the balance of the scholar’s stipend and fringe benefits will be paid and justify any funds requested for computing, storage, experimental supplies, or workshops (up to \$10,000 per year). If the project depends on additional resources that are provided separately, these should be described, and the relevant sources of funding listed.

If a specific candidate has been identified (as opposed to a position to be filled), then a **CV and two letters of recommendation** (at least one from someone other than the PIs for this project) for this individual must also be provided.

### **How Funding Decisions are made**

All proposals will be reviewed by a committee of CSHL faculty members, with representation from both QB and experimental groups. As positions open up, we will solicit applications for a new scholar, but may decide to fund more than one or not to fund any, depending on the strengths of the applications received. PIs may receive funding for at most one ISEQB scholar at a time.

### **Progress Reporting**

Progress reports are due on the last day of the budget year. The Scholar should submit an annual progress report (< 2 pages) that includes a brief summary of scientific progress, training activities, new publications or oral presentations, participation in QB events, and other relevant activities. Please email progress reports to Katie Brenner [kbrenner@cshl.edu](mailto:kbrenner@cshl.edu) with subject line: ISEQB Progress Report.

Progress reports will be included in the QB Center’s Annual Report to the Simons Foundation, and the QB Center’s External Advisory Committee meetings.

Questions regarding this program may be addressed to Adam Siepel [asiepel@cshl.edu](mailto:asiepel@cshl.edu).