



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. Indeed, a major reason for the formation of the Simons Center for Quantitative Biology is to promote the establishment, expansion, and maintenance of such a collaborative interdisciplinary environment.

The Interdisciplinary Scholars in Experimental and Quantitative Biology (ISEQB) Program, introduced in 2017, is a new and innovative funding opportunity for postdoctoral research and training. The ISEQB Program is designed to address several needs at CSHL: (1) recruitment and retention of talented postdocs who are interested in both wet-lab and dry-lab research; (2) establishment of a true interdisciplinary training program for postdocs, with a balance of experimental and quantitative components and a commitment from mentors in both areas; (3) promotion of new and ongoing collaborative research between experimental and quantitative groups; and (4) promotion of growth and strengthening of the QB community at CSHL.

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. Furthermore, preference will be given to projects that include one of the following QB faculty (M. Hammell, Iossifov, Kinney, Krasnitz, Levy, McCandlish, and Siepel).

Program Structure

One experimental PI and one QB PI must serve jointly as the supervisors and mentors. 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, but in either case the scholar is expected to integrate fully into both research laboratories.

We expect to fund a new scholar when positions open up, so that there will be a total of three scholars at a steady state. Interdisciplinary Scholars will be encouraged to apply for external fellowships, which may permit more individuals to be funded.

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 due at the end of their project budget year.

How to Apply

When positions are available, a formal “Call for Applications” announcement will be made for the deadline dates of **February 1st** and **August 1st**.

Both PIs must jointly apply by emailing a single PDF document containing all application materials to iseqb@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 postdoctoral candidate has been identified for the scholar position, then a **CV and two letters of recommendation** (at least one from someone other than the PIs for this project) for the 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 Irene Gill gill@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.