

Call for Applications: International Conference on Arabidopsis Research Minority Fund Awards

The North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee (NAASC) has applied for a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to specifically aid researchers from U.S. labs that are either members of under-represented minority groups OR researchers from U.S. Minority-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and 1890 Institutions. Depending on whether the grants are awarded, the NAASC plans to provide **up to 8 awards to fully support conference registration, meals and economy accommodations and travel to the 18th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research** (Beijing, China, June 20-23, 2007: for conference information go to www.arabidopsis2007.com or www.arabidopsis.org/portals/masc/ICAR2007.jsp). On behalf of the whole community, we thank the NSF for their generous continuing support. The anticipated awards include: early-bird registration fee (must register by March 20th, 2007), economy accommodations (a shared double room for the 4 conference nights, or approximately \$110 towards your room of choice), and up to \$1400 for travel (receipts and original boarding passes must be submitted prior to reimbursement).

Selection Criteria: (1) The strength of the statement about how attending the meeting will impact the applicant's career, (2) whether the applicant has received minority funds from the NAASC before, (3) strength of the curriculum vitae, (4) strength of the recommendation

Eligibility: Awardees must be full-time scientists (graduate students, postdocs or faculty) and either members of under-represented minorities (the ethnic groups that are significantly underrepresented at advanced levels of science and engineering in the U.S., i.e., Native Americans, including American Indians and Alaskan Natives, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Pacific Islanders) OR at a Minority Serving Institution, Historically Black College or University, or 1890 Institution in the U.S. (citizenship/permanent residency is not required, but you must be a legal resident or legal visitor to the U.S.). Awardees need not themselves be members of an under-represented minority group, as long as their participation would further the long-term goal of increased participation of under-represented groups in the Arabidopsis community. **To apply for funding you need not submit an abstract to the meeting.**

- Awards will be announced before the early application deadline, but will be **paid as reimbursements** after the meeting.

- Applications must be received by **February 28th, 2007**. Applicants will be notified of decisions by **March 15th**.

- Note: the early deadline for reduced registration fee is **March 20th, 2007**. If you do not register by this deadline, you will be reimbursed only the price of the early-bird fee and must make up the difference personally.

Please read and check that you acknowledge these requirements (incomplete applications will not be considered)

☐ I understand that I must have a valid passport AND a Business or Tourist visa to enter China (passports and visas may take several months to acquire and must be applied for well in advance. For more information on passports:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html, for visa information: <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/hzqz/zgqz/default.htm>. Once you register for the meeting, an invitation letter will be provided for you to include in your visa application. Visas can be obtained in person at the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C., or at one of 5 U.S. Consulates. If visiting the Chinese Embassy or Consulate is not convenient or possible for you, travel and visa agencies also handle the visa process for a fee, which must be covered personally.)

☐ I acknowledge that if I am unable to attend the meeting due to lack of a visa, or any other reason, I will not receive any minority award funds.

☐ I understand that awards cover the cost of 'early-bird registration' only and I must register by March 20th, 2007 to receive the discounted price. Failure to register on time will require that awardees pay the difference in registration costs themselves.

Directions: Complete this form and send by email along with the following (must be in **one** Word or PDF file to jdfriesner@stanford.edu;

Please Note: Adviser's letter of recommendation, if required, may be emailed separately):

- Brief Curriculum vitae (1-2 pages maximum which must include undergraduate, graduate education and degree attainment, professional appointments, if applicable; should also include awards and fellowships, relevant activities and up to 5 recent publications)
- Adviser's Letter of Recommendation (faculty do not have to submit the letter of recommendation)
- Current and pending support (faculty only)
- Brief paragraph (up to 250 words) describing why attending the ICAR is important to you and your career
- If appropriate, title and abstract of proposed presentation at the meeting

Applicant Name (First, Last):

Adviser's Name (graduate students and post-doctoral researchers only):

Adviser's email address:

Check one: ☐ Graduate Student ☐ Postdoctoral researcher ☐ Faculty

Applicant's Telephone:

Fax:

Email address:

Applicant's Institution:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Have you previously received travel support from the NAASC to attend an ICAR? ☐ Yes (what year/location?)

☐ No

For reporting purposes please provide the following: Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female; Ethnicity:

Race:

- Please note that US federal funds may only be used to support air travel by a US flag carrier.

- Please direct any questions to Joanna Friesner, MASC/NAASC Coordinator, at jdfriesner@stanford.edu

- Important Visa Information: you must have a valid passport and business or tourist visa to enter China. We strongly recommend that you begin the application process early, e.g. no later than the end of March. See weblinks above for further information. Upon registration, organizers will provide an invitation letter to facilitate visa application.