

SDB Latin American Short Visit Grants

In order to capitalize on the mutual interest and momentum generated from SDB's Latin American initiatives (Latin American-Caribbean Scholarships, Short Courses affiliated to the Latin American Society of Developmental Biology International Meetings, First Pan American Congress in Developmental Biology), the SDB Board of Directors established the Latin American Short Visits Grants to facilitate the travel of Latin American investigators to US- and Canada-based laboratories to learn new techniques and/or approaches. Applications from US-based investigators to Latin American labs will also be considered, but these must present particularly strong justification and need. This program is partially supported by the Society and by proceedings from SDB's official journal *Developmental Biology*.

Objectives: To provide travel assistance to Latin American investigators to visit a host lab in an American or Canadian institution in order to learn new, cutting edge techniques and/or innovative approaches in developmental biology which will further the investigator's own work back in the home institution. Up to three (3) grants of \$2,000 each may be awarded yearly, and it is expected that the host and home institutions/labs will contribute towards the expenses incurred in the stay and training process. These visits may last from one to several months. A list of [Host Labs](#) is available on SDB website. This list will be updated periodically as additional PIs offer to host visitors.

Eligibility: The PI of the host laboratory **must** be a current SDB member and preference will be given to applicants who are SDB members, although applications from non-members will also be considered. Priority will also be given to junior applicants, such as advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members. Once awarded, the grant must be used within the calendar year and is not deferrable. Applicants are advised to include in their planning time for visa application.

Proposal: The proposal must be written **jointly** by the applicant and the host PI with strong commitment from the latter to support the learning activities of the applicant during the short stay in her/his lab. It should be submitted to SDB by May 1 and December 1 each year. The proposal must include the following information:

1. Applicant's name, contact information, résumé with list of publications (2 pages max), clearly indicating the current position rank.
2. Host PI's name, contact information and NIH-style biosketch (2 pages max).
3. A short statement of the purpose and justification for the visit, emphasizing rationale, usefulness/need of the training for subsequent work at home institution; potential dissemination of the learning at home institution/ country.
4. Description of the training program, including techniques/approaches to be learned, lab facilities and personnel available for the applicant, duration of the visit; any additional educational activity which will enhance the value of the visit to the applicant.
5. Letter from the host lab PI committing to provide the training and cover the cost of this training, to assist the applicant to find appropriate accommodation during his/her stay.
6. Letter from the applicant's home institution advisor or department chair supporting this application and training and committing to assist the applicant in his/her return to facilitate the implementation of learned skills.
7. Budget for the travel expenses and the portions to be covered by the SDB grant.

Review process: A review committee will consider all applications and will make recommendations to the SDB Board of Directors at its meeting (January and June/July) for final approval. The evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. Is the applicant ready for this training, both at the educational and language skills levels?
2. Is the host lab the most appropriate one for this particular training?
3. Are the host lab and the home institution genuinely supportive, i.e., by providing financial assistance and facilitating implementation of the learned skills?
4. Has the applicant been to similar trainings previously? Preference will be given to those without prior experience in training abroad, including courses at MBL and CSHL.

All applications must be **received by December 1 of the year prior to visit or May 1 of the visit year** as an email attachment (PDF) to: ichow@sdbonline.org, with "LA visit grant" as subject title.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT REVIEW

September, 2012