

Grants Support R&D Collaborations Between US and Former Soviet Union

American researchers interested in collaborating with colleagues in the former Soviet Union and central and eastern Europe have several sources of funding available to them.

The newest grant program is sponsored by the US Civilian Research and Development Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage "productive civilian employment alternatives" for former defense scientists living in the FSU, as well as to provide opportunities for entrepreneurial R&D activities in that region.

The creation of the CRDF was announced by President Clinton on 10 May 1995 during his trip to Moscow, and it received funding three months later in the form of a \$10 million endowment from the National Science Foundation. Half of that came from the Department of Defense's Nunn-Lugar program to promote demilitarization in the FSU, and the rest consisted of a matching gift from philanthropist-financier George Soros.

Of the initial endowment, the CRDF has allotted \$6 million to the cooperative grants program, which will award grants of between \$10 000 and \$80 000 on a competitive basis.

Two programs administered by the National Research Council's Office for Central Europe and Eurasia also foster collaborations. The Cooperation in Applied Science and Technology program supports US scientists and engineers who wish to host colleagues from the FSU for "joint research in applied scientific fields." The CAST grants are awarded for 6- or 12-month stays.

The NRC's Collaboration in Basic Science and Engineering program provides grants to Americans who plan to establish research partnerships with colleagues in the FSU and central and eastern Europe. Two types of grants are available: Short-term grants enable US researchers to host or visit their foreign colleagues for two-week periods to prepare research proposals for submission to NSF; long-term grants enable US researchers to host or visit their colleagues to do research for up to six months. The CAST and COBASE grants cover travel and living expenses.

The proposal deadline for both the CRDF and CAST programs is 1 March.

The next deadline for short-term grants through COBASE is 8 April and for long-term grants, 8 July.

Information on the CRDF program is available from the foundation at 1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1106, Arlington, Virginia 22209; phone 703-526-9720, fax 703-526-9721, e-mail information@crdf.org. The CRDF home page on the World Wide Web is at <http://www.internext.com/crdf>. Information on the CAST and COBASE programs is available from the NRC's Office for Central Europe and Eurasia, 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20418; phone 202-334-3680, fax 202-334-2614, e-mail oce@nas.edu. Information is also available at the office's home page at <http://www.nas.edu/ocee/index.html>.

Modest Gains Reported in Latest AIP Salary Survey

Though six-figure salaries in physics are a rarity, the typical physicist still earns a decent living, according to the American Institute of Physics's latest survey of its member societies. In 1994 the median annual salary for PhD physicists was \$64 000, up \$4000 from two years earlier. A smaller rise was seen in salaries for master's degree physicists, from \$50 000 to \$51 000.

Conducted every two years, the survey polls a random sample of members of AIP's ten member societies to find out how much they earn and how and where they earn it. The 1994 study, prepared by Jean M. Curtin and Raymond Y. Chu of the AIP education and employment statistics division, had a response rate of 67 percent.

Salary differences among physicists reflect their work sector, education and years of experience, as well as sex and locale. Hospitals and the medical services pay the highest median salaries—\$77 000 for respondents with PhDs and \$71 000 for those with master's degrees. Industry, which employs one-fifth of PhDs and one-third of master's recipients, pays median salaries of \$75 000 and \$60 000, respectively. Four-year college employees are the least well paid among PhDs, earning about \$45 000 a year, while junior college and high

school teachers have the lowest salaries among master's recipients, \$41 000. Median salaries for postdocs range from \$31 000 in universities to \$44 000 in industry.

Like the previous two surveys, the 1994 survey found that women in nearly every work sector earn less than their male colleagues, even when years of experience are factored in. Among industry and government employees, for example, women's salaries are 12–15% lower than men's. Only among assistant professors is there no such disparity. There is also a gender gap in the proportion of younger PhD holders (defined as those who earned their doctorates within the last ten years) working part-time: 6.5% of women versus 3.0% of men. But that gap appears to be closing; the comparable 1990 figures were 8.3% for women and 1.2% for men. The unemployment rate for women PhDs is also down, from 3.3% in 1992 to 2.0% in 1994, while among men it has grown slightly, from 1.4% to 1.7%.

When the survey looked at 17 US cities, it found the highest median annual salaries—adjusted for cost of living—in Houston (\$76 600) and the lowest in San Diego (\$47 200). When looked at by state, those in New Jersey, a majority of whom work in industry, earn the highest median salary (\$72 000). Kansas had the lowest median salary (\$43 000); more than 70% of the PhD physicists polled there work in academia, the survey report noted.

A summary of the report's findings is available free of charge; single copies of the full report are \$15 and multiple copies are \$10 each. Contact: Raymond Y. Chu, American Institute of Physics, Education and Employment Statistics Division, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, Maryland 20740-3843; phone 301-209-3070.

Sessler Will Lead APS in 1998

On 1 January Andrew M. Sessler of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory began his term as vice president of the American Physical Society; he will become the group's president in 1998. Sessler was elected by APS members to succeed D. Allan Bromley, who is now the APS president-elect. J. Robert Schrieffer is APS's president for 1996.

Sessler holds a BS from Harvard University and an MS and PhD in