

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

physics from Columbia University. From 1954 to 1961 he served on the physics faculty at Ohio State University, and he then joined the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory (now LBNL) as a theoretical physicist. During his tenure as the lab's director from 1973 to 1980, the annual budget tripled to \$146 million. Sessler's theoretical work, primarily in the physics of particle beams, has led to a deeper understanding of accelerators and colliders and has opened the door to new devices. As an advocate of arms control and human rights, he served on the APS Study of Directed Energy Weapons in the mid-1980s and helped found the group Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Sharansky.

In other results of the APS elections, the new chair-elect of the APS nominating committee, which selects the slate of candidates for elections, is Gerard M. Crawley of Michigan State University. The four new general councilors are Daniel Auerbach of the IBM Almaden Research Center, Donald Hamann of AT&T Bell Laboratories, Susan J. Seestrom of Los Alamos National Laboratory and Ronald Walsworth of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

1996 Vice President of AAPT is O'Kuma

Members of the American Association of Physics Teachers recently elected a new vice president: Thomas L. O'Kuma of Lee College in Baytown, Texas. On 1 January he succeeded Ronald D. Edge, who is now AAPT's president-elect. This year's president is Robert C. Hilborn.

O'Kuma earned a BS in physics and mathematics in 1971 and an MS in physics in 1972, both from Louisiana Technical University; he did additional graduate work at the University of Florida and the University of Houston. In 1976 he became a physics and mathematics instructor at San Jacinto College, and in 1989 he joined Lee College as a physics instructor. In O'Kuma's physics education research, he has been studying how students' problem-solving abilities develop and how laboratory activities affect their understanding of physical phenomena.

Several other newly elected AAPT officers also began their terms this month: Alexander K. Dickison of Seminole Community College in Sanford, Florida, is the new AAPT treasurer, and Yvette A. Van Hise of High Technology High School in Lincroft, New Jersey, is now the high school representative on the AAPT executive board.

In Brief

The 107-inch telescope at the McDonald Observatory near Fort Davis, Texas, has been renamed in honor of Harlan J. Smith, who was director of the observatory for 26 years. Smith, who died in 1991, also served as chairman of the astronomy department at the University of Texas at Austin, which operates the observatory. The telescope was planned and built during Smith's tenure at the observatory; as he had insisted, it remains open to the public for viewing several hours each month.

Germany's breeder reactor facility in Kalkar will be reborn as the "Nuclear Water Wonderland," complete with hotels, sports facilities and water rides. The nearly completed power plant, begun in 1973, had been largely abandoned after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Proposals to convert it into a conventional power plant or a nuclear

waste storage site fell through, and so it went up for sale in early 1995. This fall it was picked up by a businessman who owns a chain of amusement parks in the Netherlands.

James Powell and Morris Reich, two senior engineers at Brookhaven National Laboratory, have founded a consortium to develop, demonstrate and implement new technologies aimed at helping rebuild the nation's infrastructure. In addition to Brookhaven, the consortium, known officially as the National Infrastructure Center for Engineering Systems and Technology, includes Northrop-Grumman, Raytheon-Ebasco and 13 universities in New York State. It has received an initial grant of \$500 000 from the New York State Science and Technology Foundation. Among the technologies under development is a magnetic imaging technique to locate underground pipes and determine their state of corrosion. ■

Challenge to Scholarly Surveys Again Rejected

Following a recent court ruling, the American Physical Society and the American Institute of Physics issued the following joint statement:

Judge Leonard B. Sand, of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, issued a decision on November 2, 1995, reaffirming the First Amendment right to publish surveys analyzing the prices of scientific journals. The decision represents a significant confirmation of the legal protection afforded speech, and is of importance to the scholarly community.

In 1986 and 1988 The American Physical Society (APS) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP) published surveys, prepared by Professor Henry Barschall of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, analyzing the comparative prices of physics journals. A suit challenging the articles was brought by Gordon & Breach Science Publishers (G&B). As noted by Judge Sand, "[a]s it happened, journals published by AIP and APS scored near the top of the articles' rankings and several of G&B's journals were ranked at or near the bottom." G&B filed suit in New York, as well as a series of related actions in Europe, claiming that the articles constituted false or misleading advertising.

The recent decision arises from G&B's request that the court modify its previous decision holding that publication of the articles was speech entitled to constitutional protection. Judge Sand stated that "it is plainly inconsonant with justice to grant [G&B's] requested relief," noting that G&B

"seek[s] back-door entry to revisit the issue, after undertaking the exact discovery that the court cautioned against in the first instance."

G&B also challenged various "secondary uses" of the surveys, including advertising, letters, and presentations by APS and AIP officials. Judge Sand ruled for AIP and APS on several of these claims, but found there were factual issues as to others that had to be resolved at trial. For the remaining secondary uses, G&B will now have to show that the surveys were false or misleading—claims that have previously been rejected in Switzerland and Germany after thorough review.

C. Kumar N. Patel, President of The APS, and Roland W. Schmitt, Chair of the AIP Governing Board, stated that "we are extremely gratified by Judge Sand's decision. His action provides important protection for studies of an issue of significant importance to the scientific community as a whole, and to libraries—the escalating price of journals in a period of declining library budgets."

They said, however, "we are distressed that, in having to litigate the remaining secondary uses, AIP and APS will have to defend again in the US what has previously been found in Germany and Switzerland—that the surveys are not false or misleading. Although we are confident that we will prevail on the remaining issues, the scholarly community is not served by the diversion of scarce resources into the defense against G&B's lawsuits."