TREX/NHLBI Programs for Genomic Analysis Project
Visiting Investigator Program Application Guidelines

Introduction:

Initial sequencing of the human genome – the first step in the full decoding of the genome – is nearing completion. To optimally apply this knowledge, however, scientists must still decipher many of the individual genes and their specific functions. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the US National Institutes of Health has created a set of Programs for Genomic Analysis (PGAs) to identify the human genes particularly relevant to heart, lung, blood, and sleep functions by expanding upon the data and technologies developed to map and sequence the human genome.

The TREX PGA represents a collaboration between research scientists at The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR), The Jackson Laboratory, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Boston University, Duke University, and the University of Pennsylvania. TREX has been funded to use mouse and rat microarrays to analyze gene expression in rodent phenotypes of relevance to the study of heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders.

The microarray resources developed by TREX are being made available to qualified individuals through a Visiting Investigator Program that will allow participants to spend one to two weeks at TIGR collaborating with TIGR scientists to generate and analyze data. Research scientists interested in participating in this program are asked to submit an application (described below) that will be reviewed by the TREX PGA Directors and approved by the NHLBI PGA Coordinating Committee. Applications will be selected based on scientific merit and feasibility. Participants are expected to provide necessary funds necessary to travel to TIGR and to stay through the completion of the project. Reagents necessary to complete the proposed studies at TIGR will be made available through TREX and some limited funds to support travel may be available. *All data generated under this program will be subject to the PGA data release policy.*

Data Release Policy:

The NHLBI has funded the PGAs to generate genomic resources to facilitate the study of heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders. Consistent with that goal, and in accordance with the funding guidelines and requirements, all microarray expression data generated by our PGA, including data generated as part of our Visiting Investigator Program, will be made available to the public through the TIGR website within 60 days of generation.

Application Procedure:

1. Applicants are requested to complete the application and attach a description of their proposed research, focusing on its relevance to heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders.
As all research conducted as part of this visiting investigator program will be subject to the immediate data release policies of the NIH/NHLBI, therefore, all

applications must be signed by the applicant as well an official authorized to sign for the applicant's home institution. In addition, please note that any unique research resources developed as part of the Visitor Investigator Program will be subject to the Principles and Guidelines established by
the NIH (December 1999) (<http://www.nih.gov/od/ott/Rtguide_final.htm>) on the transfer of research materials and tools.

2. Applications received will be reviewed quarterly (at a minimum) by the component directors of this PGA. Applications will be judged on scientific merit, feasibility, relevance to the mission of our PGA, and impact (including, but not limited to the impact on the applicant's research). Young investigators are encouraged to apply.
3. Applications will be ranked and selected in consideration of the resources available at TIGR through the NHLBI PGA award. Selected applications will be reviewed by the directors of the other ten NHLBI-funded PGAs and NHLBI staff to assure impartial evaluation.

Application:

Please use the following format to apply to the Visiting Investigator Program. The application should be submitted in twelve point type and should not exceed four (4) pages in total.

1. **Specific Aims.** Briefly describe (in 500 words or less) the goal or goals of your proposed research.
2. **Background.** Outline the importance of your proposed research (1 page or less).
3. **Research Plan.** Describe your proposed research plan, focusing on experimental design. Include an estimate of the number of assays you believe would be necessary for your proposed study.
4. **Significance.** Please describe the potential impact of your proposed study, both on your research and on the field in general.
5. **Supplementary Material: Travel.** If travel support will be necessary, please provide an estimate of expenses and a justification, as well as a statement certifying that no other funds are available.

Additional Information:

All participants in the Visiting Investigator Program will also be required to provide TIGR with a copy of your institution's IRB or IACUC proposal and approval letter, as appropriate. All samples must be collected under the guidelines approved by your home institution and TIGR's IACUC.