



<http://www.csuci.edu/ira/index.htm>

**Application**  
**Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request**  
**2011-2012 Academic Year**  
**DEADLINE: Fall and Academic Year 3/31/11**  
**Spring 2012 deadline is 10/31/11**

Applications must first be sent to the appropriate program chair. Chairs will then recommend and route them to the Dean's Office for review and authorization. The Dean's Office will then forward them to the IRA Committee for consideration.

**Activity Title:**

Project Sponsor/Staff (Name/Phone): **Dr. Nitika Parmar**  
Activity/Event Date(s): **March 29-31, 2012 and April 21-25, 2012**  
Date Funding Needed By: **February 1, 2012**

*\*\*Please Note that for Fall Requests the earliest that you will be notified of funding availability will be early June 2011 and for Spring Requests early January 2012.*

**Please check if any of the following apply to your IRA:**

- Equipment Purchase
- Event
- IT Requirements
- International Travel
- Space/OPC Requirements
- Infrastructure/Remodel
- Other (Research Conference)
- Field Trip
- Participant data collection for public dissemination, i.e. interviews/surveys that result is a journal/poster session/newsletter
- Risk Management Consultation
- Late Submission

Previously Funded: YES NO Yes, Request # **383**  
\*If previously funded, please attach copy of IRA Report

Does your proposal require IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval: Yes No

Assessment submitted for previously Funded Activity: YES NO

Academic Program or Center Name and Budget Code: **Biology 720**

Date of Submission: **October 27, 2011**

Amount Requested: **\$2830**  
(Should match item 2. E. on page 4)

Estimated Number of Students Participating: **4**

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**Conditions and Considerations**

**Equipment Purchase**-If requesting large equipment, Project Sponsor must show proof of correspondence with OPC Administration. In addition, all other purchases must follow Procurement Guidelines.

**Events**-For a large event, consultation with the events coordinator is recommended.

**Participant Data Collection for Public Dissemination**-If Project Sponsor proposes to conduct research with human participants then it may be subject to IRB (Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects) review. It is the Project Sponsor's responsibility to inquire with the IRB **prior** to IRA application submission to determine if the project is exempt from IRB review so that funding is not delayed. Please indicate on the cover page if your project is exempt from IRB review.

**Field Trip**-If approved, Identified Risks of Participation and Release Agreement must be submitted for each student to the Program Office (Public Folders-HR Forms).

**IT Requirements**-Requires proof of correspondence and approval from IT Administration

**International Travel**-Requires International Travel application be submitted to Center for International Affairs.

**Risk Management Consultation**-Requires proof of correspondence with Risk Management.

**Space/OPC Requirements, Infrastructure/Remodel**-Requires proof of correspondence with OPC Administration .

**Late Submission** - Requires explanation for emergency funding.

**Fiscal Management:** Project Sponsor's program will be responsible for all costs incurred over and above what is funded through the IRA award and will be responsible for seeing that any revenue that is intended to offset the amount of the IRA award is transferred accordingly.

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**Requirements and Signatures**

Please provide the following in your application:

1. **Brief Activity Description.** Describe the activity and its relationship to the educational objectives of the students' program or major.

Funds are being requested for student travel to two conferences- (i) the Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research, NCUR in March (29-31, 2012) in Ogden, UT and (ii) the ASBMB (The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) Experimental Biology conference in April (21-25, 2012) in San Diego, CA.

Two students will be presenting their work in the form of a poster and/or a talk at the ASBMB meeting while two other students will be presenting their work at the NCUR meeting. These students have been working on their projects for the past 9-12 months and have generated exciting data. Such a presentation completely aligns with the Biology program's educational objective of providing students with hands-on laboratory experiences which in turn lead to students' presenting their findings at national conferences. Biology program's learning outcomes of communicating effectively in written and oral forms will be satisfied by participation in these conferences.

2. **Relation to IRA to Course Offerings.** All IRAs must be integrally related to the formal instructional offerings of the University and must be associated with scheduled credit courses. Please list all classes that relate to the program proposed.

Students presenting their work are presently enrolled in BIOL494 (Independent Research) with me and will continue conducting research in the spring semester as well. All learning objectives of this class (designing and implementation of experiments as well as dissemination of results) are expected to be fulfilled as a result of participation in these meetings.

3. **Activity Assessment.** Describe the assessment process and measures that the program will use to determine if it has attained its educational goals. **Please note a report will be due at the end of the semester.**

Students receiving funding for attending these two conferences will be provided a survey at the conclusion of these two activities to determine whether learning objectives of the Biology program as well as the individual course were in fact satisfied. Students will also be required to present a report to the faculty mentor indicating how they advanced their knowledge at these conferences, how they established networks and finally how such activities will help them in their future careers.

4. **Activity Budget.** Please enclose a complete detailed budget of the entire Activity **bold** specific items of requested IRA funding. (Page 4)

**IRA funds are being requested for the following expenses:**

- a. **NCUR conference, March 29-31, 2012, Ogden, UT:** Two students will be attending this meeting and presenting their research findings.

Student registration: \$185 per student (total  $\$185 \times 2 = \$370$ )  
Airfare from LAX to Salt Lake City, UT: \$290 (total  $\$300 \times 2 = \$600$ )  
Accommodations, **students will be sharing a room** (3 nights,  $\$150 \times 3$ ): \$450  
Airport transfers (Ogden is 43 miles north of Salt Lake City and a shuttle will be utilized to reach Ogden from the airport): \$130 (for two students combined)

TOTAL COSTS for 2 students = **\$1550**

**Note:** Funds are not being requested for food (\$100), travel insurance (\$20) and poster printing (\$25). These costs will be borne by the students themselves.

Out-of-pocket costs for students:  $\$145 \times 2 = \$290$

- b. **ASBMB conference, April 21-25, 2012, San Diego, CA:** Two students will be attending this meeting and presenting their research findings.

Abstract fee: \$65 (total  $\$65 \times 2 = \$130$ )  
Transportation from Los Angeles to San Diego (car rental and gas): \$350  
Accommodations, **room will be shared by the 2 students** (4 nights,  $\$200 \times 4$ ): \$800

TOTAL COSTS for 2 students = **\$1280**

**Note:** Funds are not being requested for ASBMB membership (\$20), food (\$200), travel insurance (\$20) and poster printing (\$25). These costs will be borne by the students themselves.

Out-of-pocket costs for students:  $\$265 \times 2 = \$530$

**Total IRA funds request for both conferences =  $\$1550 + \$1280 = \$2830$**

**Total out-of-pocket costs =  $\$290 + \$530 = \$820$**

**COMBINED OVERALL COSTS FOR BOTH CONFERENCES:  $\$2830 + \$820 = \$3650$**

5. **Sources of Activity Support.** Please list the other sources of funding, and additional support for the activity.

No other support is available at this point.

7. **Acknowledgment.** Project Sponsor and Program Chair acknowledge that they have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations detailed on page 2.

Signatures and Dates

Nitika Parmar 10/27/11  
Project Sponsor Date

Amy Denton 10/27/2011  
Program Chair/Director Date

[Signature] 11/8/11  
Academic Affairs AVP Date

Nitika Parmar  
Amy Denton  
Karen Carey

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**ACTIVITY BUDGET FOR 2011-2012**

1. Operating Expense Budget

- A. Supplies \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Vendor Printing \_\_\_\_\_
- C. In-State Travel \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Out-of-State Travel \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Equipment Rental \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Equipment Purchase \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Contracts/Independent Contractors \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Honorarium \_\_\_\_\_
- I. OPC Chargeback \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Copier Chargeback \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Expenses                    **\$3650 (details provided above)**

2. Revenue

- A. Course Fees \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Ticket Sales \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Out of Pocket Student Fees  
(exclusive of course fees)    **\$820 (details provided above)**
- D. Additional Sources of  
funding  
(Please specify  
And indicate source) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Revenue                    \_\_\_\_\_

E. **Total Requested from IRA**                    **\$2830 (details provided above)**

Instructional Related Activities  
Report Form (IRA # 383)

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Dr. Nitika Parmar	Biology

ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
Presentation of research by students at two national conferences- ASBMB and ASM meetings.	April 9-13, 2011 and May 21-24, 2011.

**PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY; (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S); AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS.**

**1. DESCRIPTION:** Two students presented their work at the ASBMB meeting while one student presented her work at the ASM meeting; work was presented in the form of posters. This work was a culmination of 15-24 months of research experimentation conducted in research mentor's lab.

**2. RELATION TO COURSE:** Students presenting their work were enrolled in BIOL494 (Independent Research) with me. All learning objectives of this class (designing and implementation of experiments as well as dissemination of results) were fulfilled as a result of participation in these meetings.

**3. LEARNING:** Students gained valuable skills in presenting their research data with confidence and in a scientific professional manner as a result of being exposed to these national conferences. In addition, one student (Ashley Bonneau) who presented her work at the ASBMB meeting actually won the top Thematic Award for best poster in the RNA category. Her poster was judged the best amongst 1000 poster presentations.

Students were also able to network with several other individuals in their field and build useful relationships. One student (Simon Majeno) who attended the ASBMB meeting was able to network with international students who were attending the same conference, which directly led him to explore the possibilities of pursuing a graduate degree in Australia. He recently visited Sydney and Melbourne and is applying for a Masters' program at some of the universities located in these cities.

Attendance and presentation at such conferences is particularly critical for students who intend to pursue a graduate degree and strengthens their prospects of successfully seeking admission in top schools (as evidenced by Ashley's admission to Yale University for a PhD program)

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

- 1. ASHLEY BONNEAU (ASBMB MEETING)**
- 2. SIMON MAJENO (ASBMB MEETING)**
- 3. PARAMJIT SINGH (ASM MEETING)**

**\*\*Please attach assessment forms from students, list of attendees, peoplesoft program report**

**E-mail to the Dean's Office  
30 days after activity**





Channel Islands  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Nancy Gill

Director of Communication & Marketing

805-437-8456

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## **CI senior receives prestigious award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

Camarillo, Calif., May 17, 2011 – CSU Channel Islands (CI) graduating senior Ashley Bonneau recently received an award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) at their annual meeting held in Washington DC.

A biology major at CI, Bonneau won the Thematic Best Poster Award from a field of more than 1,000 poster presentations. In excess of 10,000 attendees, both scientists and students, from around the globe, attended the meeting and shared Bonneau's triumph at winning the top prize in her category, entitled "RNA Theme." Her particular poster was titled, "Double knockdown of the Rheb gene in mammalian cells using RNA interference." This award included a cash prize.

Bonneau, named a Goldwater Scholar last year for her academic excellence, has been working for the past thirty months with Nitika Parmar, Assistant Professor of Biology, investigating the effects of gene silencing on the growth of human cells.

Bonneau has shown a prodigious work ethic and an insatiable curiosity which have fueled her research. Parmar, noted for making herself available to her students whenever they need her, has worked closely with Bonneau. Parmar's passion exists in the research and in infusing young developing scientists with her enthusiasm for discovery. Bonneau has also been able to mentor and inspire younger students as they enter this field.

Bonneau has been accepted at Yale University to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular biology. Parmar admits that she is thrilled at the prospects in Bonneau's future but will miss having her as a student.

### ***About California State University Channel Islands***

*CSU Channel Islands (CI) is the only four-year, public university in Ventura County and is known for its interdisciplinary, multicultural and international perspectives, and its emphasis on experiential and service learning. CI's strong academic programs focus on business, sciences, liberal studies, teaching credentials, and innovative master's degrees. Students benefit from individual attention, up-to-date technology, and classroom instruction augmented by outstanding faculty research.*

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**Assessment:** Please find below an e-mail received from my student Paramjit Singh who attended the ASM meeting in May, 2011 in New Orleans. She presented her work in the form of a poster. (*Hard copy of original e-mail available upon request*)

Hi Dr. Parmar

I am extremely sorry I wasn't able to write to you earlier but my kaplan class started which is a lot of work and takes a lot of my time and I also had to do few extra shifts at work. But anyways, ASM was awesome. I had a great time, met few Indians as well! My poster presentation went really well, in fact there were some people who were so interested in knowing more and gave me their email address and several people that asked for ours (just a side note, I have not send anyone any information in writing even if they had asked me). The only thing I was missing was that several of the poster presentations had a 1 pg summary/smaller version of their posters that they handed out with their presentation, that would've helped as several people asked for mine. Most of the questions I was asked, I was able to answer and were similar to CSUPERB and SCCUR questions. A lot of people also suggested that we should do yield study comparison between the novel species and already known bioproductors to compare production of PHB. I was so glad that I knew the names of Micromidas and the other companies using PHB in commercial scale because a lot of people asked if there is any work in the industry field currently. They were also very interested in the upcoming experiments involved in molecular/gene cloning project. Surprisingly nobody was really interested in the NMR studies (maybe because mostly were biologist/microbiologists), so that was kind of nice as I didn't had to explain that basis of NMR.

There were a lot of people interested in seeing the actual PHB and a professor from Touro college in New York actually suggested that I should've brought the sample of PHB extracted! Anyways the conference was quiet large and there were talks every 15 minutes I believe. I heard a talk about siRNAs and that reminded of Ashley's project.

Another talk that I think would've been very helpful if I was applying for grad school was a talk/workshop where they were suggesting tips to improve your resume/personal statement/ interviews. Anyways I think that will also help me with apps to med school. I was actually surprised to see that there was a big hall where a lot of the companies had stations/workshops where they were actually showing their products and were selling laboratory instruments and new technologies, that was kind of neat although I didn't find anyone selling techs to extract PHB, I think that would be awesome!

Anyways, I am usually in the library on campus studying, please let me know when you'll be around campus and I'll stop by your office and talk some more about ASM and research for the summer!

Thank you,  
Param

On Wed, Jun 1, 2011 at 12:35 PM, Parmar, Nitika S.  
<[nitika.parmar@csuci.edu](mailto:nitika.parmar@csuci.edu)> wrote:

Hi,  
I have not heard back from you about ASM. Please update me on the meeting and your poster. Thanks.

Dr. P

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