*19July 2010 cm*

## Postdoctoral Exchange Program

To increase collaboration among the Synthesis Centers and enhance training for Postdoctoral Fellows, NESCent will provide support for fellows to work on-site at another center for a period of one week to one month.

Proposals can be for any type of synthetic project involving areas of interest to the Centers, and focused on collaboration between a current Center Postdoctoral Fellow and resident at another Center. Collaborations between Postdoctoral Fellows from different Centers are particularly encouraged. Proposal for training in a new method, software, or skill will also be considered.

Postdoctoral Exchange project proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to address the following:
- address an important and outstanding question
- be innovative and challenging
- reflect the Center's scientific mission to advance research by integrating methods, concepts, and data within and across disciplines
- demonstrate the availability of sufficient data to tackle the question
- demonstrate that appropriate analytical tools are available or will be developed during project
- produce products that typically fall into (but are not restricted to) three broad categories:
  - Synthetic empirical papers or reviews
  - Databases allowing others to build on your foundation
  - Software or mathematical tools that solve a major analytical problem

Proposals are considered four times a year, with deadlines on January 1, April 1, July 1, and September 1. Representatives of both the home and host Centers will evaluate proposals in terms of both the scientific value of the project and the qualifications of the applicant. Visitors will receive support for travel to and from the host center, a housing allowance, and a meal per diem provide by the home center.

### Application
All applicants are encouraged to Craig McClain for feedback on project ideas. Proposals will be submitted to Craig McClain.

Proposals for postdoctoral exchange program are short, not to exceed 2 single-spaced (12-pt type) pages, plus a 2-page CV. Proposals should be organized as follows:
1. Title (80 characters max)
2. Name and contact information

3. Project Summary (250 words max)
4. Introduction and Goals – A statement of the outstanding question being addressed and a concise review of the concept and the literature to place the project in context.
5. Proposed Activities - A clear statement of any specific data (include citations or urls) and analytical tools that will be required for the project.  The proposal should also include a clear statement on how synthesis will occur.
6. Rationale for Exchange Program - Why can this activity be most effectively conducted at another center?
7. Proposed Timetable - include start date, month, and year
8. Anticipated IT Needs - Briefly describe any needs for IT support that are important to the success of the proposed project. Please indicate whether development of a database or software will be required.
9. Anticipated Results - include a clear statement of anticipated papers, data and software products, and anticipated public release of data and products
10. Letter of support from collaborator at host center.
11. Short CV of the applicant (2 pages)