

Call for Cooperation Proposals

The **Tel Aviv University (TAU)** and **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU)** wish to intensify their cooperation in the field of biological and soft matter physics. Therefore they call for proposals to be funded in a bilateral funding scheme.

§ 1 - Framework and Eligibility

The two universities agree to fund this cooperation with 25.000 \$ each per year from January 2014 until December 2016.

Funding is available for bilateral collaborative research projects comprising researchers or research teams from the two participating universities. The main goal of the program is to support the ongoing and stimulate new collaborations between the research groups of the two Universities.

Within a project, the number of respective national researchers/research teams should be balanced. Applicants are required to meet any national requirements for funding and follow the general regulations of their respective university. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be considered.

Special emphasis is laid on the following experimental and theoretical topics:

- i. Structure, conformational changes, and interactions of single protein and DNA molecules as well as complexes thereof;
- ii. Photobiophysics of artificial antenna systems and biomolecular switches, for example for advancing photodynamic therapy;
- iii. Statistical physics and nonlinear dynamics in biosystems, such as molecular motors, in networks and in neurophysics;
- iv. Physical properties of assemblies of small G-proteins and focal adhesion (FA) proteins;
- v. Structure and dynamics of large bio-molecular aggregates as well as physical properties and biological function of lipid and protein domains in membranes;
- vi. Structure and dynamics of cell membranes and cytoskeleton, protein mediated fusion and fission of membranes;
- vii. Dynamics of cell shape and cell motion on substrates having different rigidities, as well as cytoskeleton controlled dynamics of intracellular organelles, such as Golgi complexes;
- viii. The role of electrostatic interactions on surfaces (including membranes) and charged macromolecules in ionic aqueous solution (buffered water);
- ix. The interactions between intercellular signaling and cell morphology during embryonic development;
- x. Biomaterials for responsive tissue engineering.

§ 2 - Criteria for project selection

Important criteria applied in the selection process are the following:

- scientific quality and innovativeness of the research project,
- feasibility of the research plan, lasting no longer than two years,
- cost-effectiveness of the budgetary plan,
- competence and expertise of the researchers or research teams,
- effective communication and cooperation between the researchers in each country and added value of the collaboration, mobility of researchers between the participating countries.

The proposed activities should be balanced between the two universities.

§ 3 - Selection process

Peer review committees from the two universities will review all proposals. The final decision, which projects are to be funded, shall be made unanimously by the peer review committees.

Committee members are not allowed to submit applications.

§ 4 - Allowable costs

Successful projects will be funded for up to two years. Each university will fund its researchers in the collaboration based on its funding rules.

Funds shall be used to trigger and establish joined projects between groups of TAU and HU setting also the basis for future larger joined grant applications. Researcher mobility between the two universities is strongly encouraged.

Mutual visits from the two universities will be financed as follows: the home university will cover international flights and the host university will provide the local accommodation and domestic travel costs. All requested cost items must be in accordance with the national administrative regulations, respectively.

§ 5 - Submission of project applications

Applicants of a bilateral collaborative project within this call must submit their joint application simultaneously to their respective university. All documents and respective forms must be submitted in English.

Applications arriving late and applications not meeting the requirements will not be considered. No legal entitlement can be derived from the submission of a project description.

The joint application must include the following information:

- cover page with a reference to the "Tel Aviv-University - Humboldt Universität Joint Call for Cooperation Proposals" as well as name and address of the principle investigators and the funding timeframe applied for,
- joint abstract (one page maximum, 12pt and 1.5 line spacing),
- joint research plan with a general description of the project including scope, topic, relevance, overall approach, a clear description of the planned research collaboration with responsibilities of the partners, (3 pages maximum, 12pt and 1.5 line spacing),
- a rough budget up to a maximum of US \$ 10,000 p.a.
- annex with a short CV for each principal investigator (including up to five selected publications for each investigator).

The proposals are to be submitted in MSWord or .pdf format by email to:

elvira.gottardi@iri-lifesciences.de (Humboldt-Universität) &

urbakh@post.tau.ac.il and michk@post.tau.ac.il (Tel Aviv University).

All proposals must be submitted by December 15th of each year.

§ 6 - Notification of results

Applicants will be informed in writing of the results of the review and, where applicable, of the administrative steps that will follow in accordance with the respective national regulations. The first selection of projects will take place by the end of January of each year. Successful applicants may start their projects immediately and must not start later than six months after notification.

§ 7 - Completion of projects

Successful applicants will have to submit a financial and academic report at the end of the respective project. This report should also outline the next steps envisaged to further the cooperation.