Postdoctoral Fellows, Sabbaticals, and Workshops at The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center

The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) is a new NSF-funded center in Durham, North Carolina. Our Center represents a collaborative effort by three Universities in North Carolina's Research Triangle: Duke, NC State, and UNC-Chapel Hill. Our goal is to help foster a grand synthesis of the biological disciplines through the unifying principle of descent with modification.

NESCent announces a call for proposals for Postdoctoral Fellows, Sabbaticals, and two kinds of workshops (Catalysis Meetings and Working Groups). NESCent will be targeting 7 postdocs, 5 sabbatical faculty, and 4 groups. Proposals are welcome from scientists of all nationalities and successful applicants will join our on-site community of scientists as well as interacting with many visiting working groups. The range of activities supported by the center will include ambitious efforts to synthesize existing data from a wide range of disciplines, database development and exploitation, and theoretical research of all kinds.

Postdoctoral Fellows will be supported for two years at a salary of $36 K per year plus research expenses. Sabbatical fellowships fall under two categories: “traditional” half-salary fellowships; and our novel “targeted sabbatical” program. Targeted full-salary fellowships will support individuals committed to increasing the number of applicants to evolutionary biology programs from Minority Serving Institutions. Each researcher will have a primary project of their own design, but as a whole the group will have a great deal of "free energy" to take advantage of new opportunities for synthesis and collaboration as they arise.

Cross-Disciplinary Network Catalysis Meetings are one-time meetings to bring together ~ 30 scientists from diverse disciplines to focus on a major question or research area. These meetings are intended to identify avenues for synthesis, and classes of primary data that must be collected before grand-scale synthesis is possible. These meetings are intended to increase the scale and ambition of our scientific vision.

Working Group Meetings involve small groups of scientists (10-12 participants) collaborating intensively on the analysis or synthesis of data, models or both, to address a major question in evolutionary biology, or to solve a particular analytical problem. NESCent will not fund collection of new data or field research, but encourages the mining of public and private databases.

The deadline is October 15 for positions and groups beginning in the Summer or Fall of 2006. For complete application instructions and other details, please visit our website at www.nescent.org. Duke University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.