Mathematics Opportunities

Travel Grants for ICM-98, Berlin

The American Mathematical Society has applied to several funding agencies for funds to permit partial travel support for U.S. mathematicians attending the 1998 International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM-98) August 18–27, 1998, in Berlin, Germany. In anticipation of the availability of funds, the Society is preparing to administer the selection process, which would be similar to previous programs funded in 1990 and 1994.

Applications for support may be made using the form found in the back of this issue or by using the downloadable form available on e-MATH (at `http://www.ams.org/profession/icm98.html`). All completed application forms must be mailed to the AMS by **October 31, 1997**. This travel grants program, if funded, will be administered by the Professional Programs Department, AMS, P.O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940; `icm98@ams.org`; telephone 401-455-4105.

This program is open to U.S. mathematicians (those who are currently affiliated with a U.S. institution). Junior mathematicians (those within six years of their doctorates), women, and members of U.S. minority groups are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications will be evaluated by a panel of mathematical scientists under the terms of a proposal submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the Society.

Should the proposal to the NSF be funded, the following conditions will apply: mathematicians accepting grants for partial support of the travel to ICM-98 may not supplement them with any other NSF funds. Currently it is the intention of the NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences to provide no additional funds on its other regular research grants for travel to ICM in 1998. However, an individual mathematician who does not receive a travel grant may use regular NSF grant funds, subject to the usual restrictions and prior approval requirements.

All information currently available about the ICM-98 program, organization, and registration procedure is located on the ICM-98 Web site at `http://elib.zib.de/icm98/`.

—AMS Announcement

American Mathematical Society Centennial Fellowships

Invitation for Applications for Awards for 1998–1999

Deadline: December 1, 1997

The AMS Centennial Research Fellowship Program makes awards annually to outstanding mathematicians to help further their careers in research. Recently the AMS Council approved changes in the rules for the fellowships. From 1984–1996 the fellowship program was aimed at midcareer mathematicians. The changes adopted two years ago redirected the fellowship program toward recent Ph.D.s. The eligibility rules are as follows.

Applicants must: (1) be citizens or permanent residents of a country in North America, (2) have held their doctoral degrees for at least two years at the time of the award, (3) not have permanent tenure, and (4) have held less than two years of research support at the time of the award. (Each year of a full-time teaching appointment with teaching load less than four [respectively, five] courses per year on the semester [respectively, quarter] system will count in this respect as one-half year of research support.) Recipients may not hold the Centennial Fellowship concurrently with other research fellowships (e.g., Sloan Foundation Fellowships or National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships), they may not use the stipend solely to reduce teaching at the home institution, and they are expected to spend some of the fellowship period at another institution that has a stimulating research environment suited to the candidate's research development.

The stipend for fellowships awarded for 1998–99 is expected to be approximately $36,000, with an additional expense allowance of about $1,500. Acceptance of the fellowship cannot be postponed. Fellowship holders may use their stipend as full support for a year or may combine it

with half-time teaching and use it as half support over a two-year period.

The number of fellowships to be awarded is small and depends on the amount of money contributed to the program. The Trustees have arranged a matching program from general funds in such a way that funds for at least one fellowship are guaranteed. Because of the generosity of the AMS membership, it has been possible to award two to five fellowships a year for the past ten years.

Applications should include a short research plan describing both an outline of the research to be pursued and a program for using the fellowship, including institutions at which it will be used and reasons for the choices. The selection committee will base its decision on both the research potential of the applicant, based upon track record and letters of recommendation, and on the quality and feasibility of the research plan.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **December 1, 1997**. Awards will be announced in February 1998 or earlier if possible.

For application forms, write to the Executive Director, American Mathematical Society, P.O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940-6248, or send electronic mail to `ams@ams.org`, or call 401-455-4103. Application forms are also available via the Internet at URL `http://www.ams.org/committee/profession/`. **Please note that completed application and reference forms should not be sent to the AMS, but to the address given on the forms**.

—AMS Announcement

New STC Competition for FY 1998

The National Science Board, the policymaking body for the National Science Foundation (NSF), has approved the initiation of a new competition for Science and Technology Center (STC) grants for fiscal year 1998. The decision came after extensive evaluation of the STC program, which found that the center mode of funding has been a useful component of the NSF's portfolio of programs. The evaluation included reports by the National Academy of Public Administrators, Abt Associates, and the National Research Council.

The STC program began in August 1987 and at its peak funded 25 centers, representing less than 3% of NSF's budget. Two centers were funded in mathematics: The Geometry Center in Minneapolis, which was funded in the first round of STC awards in 1989; and DIMACS (Center for Discrete Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science) in New Jersey, which was funded in the second round in 1991. NSF plans stipulate closure of the centers after a maximum of eleven years of funding.

After the new competition in fiscal 1998, subsequent competitions will be held at approximately three-year intervals. Each new center will have the possibility of NSF support for a maximum of ten years, and funding will terminate after eleven years unless the center is successful in an open competition.

The program announcement for the new STC competition was not available at the time of this writing. For further information check the Web site `http://www.nsf.gov/od/osti/` or contact: Office of Science and Technology Infrastructure, Room 1270, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230; 703-306-1040; e-mail `sti@nsf.gov`.

—Allyn Jackson

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program of the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is designed to permit recipients to choose research environments that will have maximal impact on their future scientific development. Awards will be made for appropriate research in pure mathematics, applied mathematics and operations research, and statistics at appropriate nonprofit United States institutions.

The fellowships will be offered only to persons who (1) are citizens, nationals, or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens of the United States as of January 1, 1998; (2) will have earned, by the beginning of their fellowship tenure, a doctoral degree in one of the mathematical sciences; (3) will have held the doctorate for no more than five years as of January 1, 1998; and (4) will not previously have held any other NSF postdoctoral fellowship. Subject to the availability of funds, it is expected that in fiscal year 1998 twenty-five to thirty awards will be made. The evaluation of applicants will be based in part on ability as evidenced by past research work and letters of recommendation, likely impact on the future scientific development of the applicant, and scientific quality of the research likely to emerge. Applicants' qualifications will be evaluated by a panel of mathematical scientists. Women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to submit applications.

Copies of the program announcement are available electronically through the World Wide Web at `http://www.nsf.gov/mps/dms/dmsdead.htm` (the DMS Program Deadline page—look for October 17). For further information, contact the Infrastructure Program, Room 1025, Division of Mathematical Sciences, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230; telephone 703-306-1870; e-mail `msprf@nsf.gov`; or the American Mathematical Society, telephone 401-455-4105, e-mail `nsfpostdocs@ams.org`.

The deadline for applications is Friday, **October 17, 1997**.

—DMS Announcement