

Office of Science Priority Research Areas for SCGSR Program

Priority Research Areas for SCGSR 2015 Competition 2

The applicants to the SCGSR Program must be pursuing graduate research in an area that is aligned with one or more of the Priority Research Areas for the SCGSR 2015 Competition 2. The applicant's proposed SCGSR research project to be conducted at a DOE laboratory must address stated aims in at least one of the priority areas listed below.

Applicants will need to identify in the online application system which Office of Science priority research area their proposed SCGSR research project is aligned with. Applications with a proposed research project that does not address an Office of Science research priority area and does not make specific reference to the stated aims of one the listed areas will not be considered.

It is recommended that applicant's become familiar with the Office of Science research program(s) most closely aligned with their graduate thesis research and the priority research area(s) below that are most closely aligned with their research objectives as they begin to formulate ideas for a SCGSR research proposal. A short overview of the Office of Science is available here [[link to SCGSR SC overview](#)]. Program descriptions for the Office of Science's six research program offices are summarized below to provide the context for the scientific and technical areas of priority interest to the Office of Science. Specific areas excluded in their research portfolios, and thus excluded in the SCGSR program, are also noted.

I. Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR)

- (a) Applied Mathematics
- (b) Computer Science
- (c) Next Generation Networking for Science

II. Basic Energy Sciences (BES)

- (a) Accelerator and Detector R&D
- (b) Heavy Element Radiochemistry
- (c) Neutron Scattering Research and Instrumentation
- (d) Predictive Materials Science and Chemistry
- (e) Fundamental Electrochemistry related to Energy Transduction, Storage, and Corrosion

III. Biological and Environmental Research (BER)

- (a) Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
- (b) Biological Imaging - Mesoscale to Molecules
- (c) Plant Science for Sustainable Bioenergy
- (d) Environmental System Science
- (e) Atmospheric Systems Research
- (f) Earth System Modeling

- (g) Regional and Global Climate Modeling

IV. Fusion Energy Sciences (FES)

- (a) Burning Plasma Science & Enabling Technologies
- (b) Discovery Plasma Science

V. High Energy Physics (HEP)

- (a) Theoretical and Computational Research in High Energy Physics
- (b) Advanced Technology Research and Development in High Energy Physics
- (c) Experimental Research in High Energy Physics

VI. Nuclear Physics (NP)

- (a) Medium Energy Nuclear Physics
- (b) Heavy Ion Nuclear Physics
- (c) Low Energy Nuclear Physics
- (d) Nuclear Theory
- (e) Nuclear Data and Nuclear Theory Computing
- (f) Isotope Development and Production for Research and Applications
- (g) Accelerator Research and Development for Current and Future Nuclear Physics Facilities

I. Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR)

The mission of the Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) Program is to deliver forefront computational and networking capabilities to extend the frontiers of science. A particular challenge for this program is fulfilling the science potential of emerging multi-core computing systems and other novel "extreme-scale" computing architectures, which will require significant modifications to today's tools and techniques.

Program Website: <http://science.energy.gov/ascr/>

ASCR mission areas:

- To develop mathematical descriptions, models, methods, and algorithms to accurately describe and understand the behavior of complex systems involving processes that span vastly different time and/or length scales.
- To develop the underlying understanding and software to make effective use of computers at extreme scales.
- To transform extreme scale data from experiments and simulations into scientific insight.
- To advance key areas of computational science and discovery that further advance the missions of the Office of Science through mutually beneficial partnerships.
- To deliver the forefront computational and networking capabilities to extend the frontiers of science.
- To develop networking and collaboration tools and facilities that enable scientists worldwide to work together.

The computing resources and high-speed networks required to meet Office of Science needs exceed the state-of-the-art by a significant margin. Furthermore, the algorithms, software tools, the software libraries and the distributed software environments needed to accelerate scientific discovery through modeling and simulation are beyond the realm of commercial interest. To establish and maintain DOE's modeling and simulation leadership in scientific areas that are important to its mission, ASCR operates two Leadership Computing Facilities, a high-performance production computing center, and a high-speed network and implements a broad base research portfolio in applied mathematics, computer science, computational science, and network research to solve complex problems on computational resources that are on a trajectory to reach well beyond the multi-petascale within a few years.

The ASCR's research priority areas for SCGSR program include:

(a) Applied Mathematics

This program supports basic research leading to fundamental mathematical advances and computational breakthroughs across DOE and Office of Science missions. Applied Mathematics research includes and supports efforts to develop robust mathematical models, algorithms and numerical software for enabling predictive scientific simulations of DOE-relevant complex systems. Topic areas of interest include:

1. Innovative mathematics research to improve the fidelity and predictability of continuous and/or distributed complex systems that accurately capture the physics and/or subcomponent interactions across vastly different time and length scales. This includes numerical partial differential equations, multiscale, multiphysics and multicomponent methods and models, optimization techniques, stochastic systems and uncertainty quantification.
2. Scalable solvers for next-generation high-performance computing. Solver research opportunities include new classes of algorithms such as: communication/synchronization hiding and reducing algorithms; mixed-precision-arithmetic algorithms; fault-tolerant and resilient algorithms; energy-efficient algorithms; stochastic algorithms; and algorithms with reproducibility.
3. Rigorous mathematical, statistical and computationally efficient approaches for analyzing and extracting information and insight from large-scale datasets relevant to the DOE missions.

EXCLUSIONS: Development and/or implementation of existing numerical methods to a specific application is NOT within the scope of this program, no matter how challenging the application.

(b) Computer Science

This program supports basic research in computer science needed to create computational capabilities that support DOE and Office of Science mission and goals. Computer science research includes high performance systems hardware and software architecture, languages, compilers, programming models and environments, execution models, runtime systems,

operating systems, scientific data management, data analytics, and visualization of scientific applications running at scale.

Topics of interest for this solicitation are focused on the following key research challenges for exascale and post-exascale platforms, namely:

1. Programming models and environments, compilers, languages, runtime systems, and resource management to realize the potential of extreme-scale computing systems;
2. Data and visualization research that enables the interactive exploration of petabytes to exabytes of scientific data, or the improved understanding of extreme-scale computing system behavior and resource management;
3. Research approaches for enabling and ensuring the scientific computing integrity and cybersecurity of heterogeneous and distributed computing; machine learning approaches that ensure light weight verification, reporting, and/or monitoring of high performance computing systems and application capabilities;
4. Emerging computing paradigms such as quantum, neuromorphic, probabilistic, or optical computing that emphasize solutions for post-exascale computing challenges;

Proposals must explain their relevance to current and future high performance computing platforms as well as their relevance to the mission of the Office of Science and the Advanced Scientific Computing Research programs.

EXCLUSIONS: Topics that are NOT within the scope for this program area include research not addressing the any of the challenges described above, and research primarily focusing on networking, computer-supported collaboration, mathematics, mathematical formulations, social computing, natural language processing/understanding/generation and/or analysis, generalized research in human-computer interaction, discipline-specific data analytics and informatics, research focused on the World Wide Web and/or Internet, or research that is only applicable to hand-held, portable, desktop, embedded or cloud computing.

(c) Next Generation Networking for Science

This program supports research that advances the development, operation, and management of High Performance Networks and Distributed Computing environments. These environments include traditional compute, storage, and visualization resources, but extend deep into numerous scientific communities that operate unique scientific instruments. These globally distributed resources are interconnected via high-performance networks that operate at or above 100 Gbps. For this solicitation topics of interest are:

1. Advanced network architectures and protocols that develop an information-centric science discovery service as opposed to today's data-centric services.
2. Rigorous modeling and simulation capabilities for evaluating the performance, security, and/or operational capabilities of Software Defined Networks (SDN).

3. Advanced analysis or modeling tools that can accurately describe why a distributed application or workflow achieves the observed performance with actionable suggestions when performance is below expectations.

EXCLUSIONS: Topics that are NOT within the scope for this program area include: Proposals with a primary goal of developing hardware components, Intelligent Network Interface Cards, or network acceleration hardware; technologies that optimize wireless or other low-speed network infrastructures; proposals with a primary focus on development or deployment activities; and proposals that suggest incremental upgrades to existing network architectures, protocols, tools, or services.

II. Basic Energy Sciences (BES)

The mission of the Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program is to support fundamental research to understand, predict, and ultimately control matter and energy at the electronic, atomic, and molecular levels in order to provide the foundations for new energy technologies and to support other aspects of DOE missions in energy, environment, and national security. The portfolio supports work in the natural sciences by emphasizing fundamental research in materials sciences, chemistry, geosciences, and physical biosciences. BES-supported scientific facilities provide specialized instrumentation and expertise that enable scientists to carry out experiments not possible at individual laboratories.

Program Website: <http://science.energy.gov/bes/>

BES mission areas:

- To design, model, fabricate, characterize, analyze, assemble, and use a variety of new materials and structures, including metals, alloys, ceramics, polymers, bioinspired and biomimetic materials and more-particularly at the nanoscale-for energy-related applications.
- To understand, model, and control chemical reactivity and energy transfer processes in the gas phase, in solutions, at interfaces, and on surfaces for energy-related applications, employing lessons from inorganic and biological systems.
- To develop new concepts and improve existing methods to assure a secure energy future, e.g., for solar energy conversion and for other energy sources.
- To conceive, design, fabricate, and use new scientific instruments to characterize and ultimately control materials, especially instruments for x-ray, neutron, and electron beam scattering and for use with high magnetic and electric fields.

The BES' priority research areas for SCGSR program include:

(a) Accelerator and Detector R&D

Basic Energy Sciences (BES) supports accelerator and detector research and development in support of its current and future x-ray and neutron sources. These facilities give graduate students the opportunities to work side-by-side with accelerator and instrument scientists that are operating some of the world's cutting edge facilities and also developing advanced technology for next-generation facilities. Accelerator physics has always relied on inventing, developing, and adapting advanced technologies to enable state-of-the-art research. With the adoption of particle accelerator and detector technologies by many scientific fields, the demand for skilled practitioners in these areas has grown significantly. As the scale of particle accelerators and their associated detectors has grown, very few universities have been able to maintain the infrastructure needed to provide such practical training, and students typically have to rely on short residencies at accelerator laboratories to receive such experience. BES is particularly interested in the training of graduate students in radio frequency (rf) engineering, magnet design, beam diagnostics instrumentation, nonlinear beam dynamics analysis, beam optics design, and detector technology.

EXCLUSIONS: Based on programmatic priorities, topics of research that will NOT be considered are: the development of materials for detectors or x-ray optics, or the development of mathematical algorithms for detector data management, which are supported through other DOE programs.

(b) Heavy Element Radiochemistry

This priority research area involves basic research on the chemistry of the elements beyond actinium (atomic number greater than 89), typically uranium, neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium. The unique molecular bonding of these elements is explored using experiment and theory to elucidate electronic and molecular structure as well as reaction thermodynamics. Topics include resolving the f-electron challenge; the chemical and physical properties of these elements to determine solution, interfacial and solid-state bonding and reactivity; fundamental transactinide chemical properties; and the fundamental science underpinning the extraction and separation of the actinides.

Research pursued to resolve the role of the f-electrons is particularly well aligned with current BES research and is one of the three grand challenges identified in the Basic Energy Sciences report *Basic Research Needs for Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems* (August 2006), and echoed in the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee report *Science for Energy Technology: Strengthening the Link between Basic Research and Industry* (August 2010).

EXCLUSIONS: Based on programmatic priorities, topics of research that will NOT be considered are: the processes affecting the transport of subsurface contaminants, the form and mobility of contaminants including wastefoms, projects aimed at optimization of materials properties including radiation damage, device fabrication, or biological systems; which are all supported through other DOE programs.

(c) Neutron Scattering Research and Instrumentation

There is a critical need for scientific and technical staff with expertise in developing and operating advanced neutron scattering instruments for materials research at the DOE's neutron scattering facilities. Based on the importance of neutron scattering, DOE currently operates two world-leading neutron scattering facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) – the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), a pulsed source with the world's highest pulsed neutron flux, and the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR), a continuous source with an integrated flux rivaling the world's highest intensity neutron scattering facilities. Both of these unique facilities have a number of highly optimized neutron scattering instruments for the study of structure and dynamics in materials by using a broad spectrum of techniques including diffraction, reflectometry, quasielastic and inelastic scattering, and imaging. In concert, BES supports several materials research projects, focused on neutron scattering, at the U.S. universities and national laboratories. Also supported is science-driven development of next-generation instrumentation concepts, novel tools, in-situ capabilities and software infrastructure to accelerate the discovery of advanced materials to address the future energy challenges. This program offers opportunities for graduate students to work with the neutron scattering scientists at these facilities in utilizing the cutting edge techniques for neutron scattering research, interacting with the scientific user community, and planning for the next-generation neutron scattering facilities for U.S. leadership.

(d) Predictive Materials Science and Chemistry

There is a growing need for materials and chemical scientists with expertise and experience in predictive theory and modeling, driven by the goal to reduce the time to develop and deploy new materials and chemical systems as well as by remarkable advances in computer power, algorithms, and data repositories. BES supports the Materials Genome Initiative (MGI), a multi-agency initiative that aims at halving the time to deployment of new materials. The BES MGI-related activities include the development of new, experimentally validated, software tools and associated data that contribute to a fully integrated approach from material discovery to applications, with an emphasis on research that will provide the foundations for new energy technologies. Databases increasingly contain a mixture of experimental and computed data and researchers must be familiar with both. BES supports research that advances *ab-initio* methods for materials and chemical processes and underpins the development of user friendly software that captures the essential physics and chemistry of relevant systems, as well as the associated experimental research on advanced materials synthesis and characterization.

Applications should focus on experiences for graduate students in advanced theory and computational techniques in chemistry and materials science including first principles methods, implementation of new mathematics and algorithms, time dependent response, Monte Carlo and molecular dynamics, data mining, and code generation or optimization on next generation computer systems.

EXCLUSIONS: Based on programmatic priorities, activities that seek collaboration/training in experimental techniques will NOT be considered.

(e) Fundamental Electrochemistry related to Energy Transduction, Storage, and Corrosion

There is a strong need for fundamental research on electrochemistry to enable technological advancement in developing improved batteries for transportation and grid-level storage, to significantly improve chemical energy and solar energy conversion, and to mitigate or prevent corrosion in energy production systems (particularly nuclear and fossil energy plants). However, there are relatively few dedicated academic programs for training graduate students in fundamental electrochemical science at universities in the U.S. The national laboratory system has expertise in this field and has developed advanced experimental and computational capabilities for research to better understand electrochemical mechanisms at a fundamental level. This program will provide opportunities for graduate students to work with scientists with expertise in electrochemistry and to access advanced analytical and computational capabilities at the national laboratories. Areas of particular interest include: high resolution, in-situ studies of electrochemical processes in materials; electrochemistry of non-equilibrium or metastable materials; electrochemistry at the nanoscale (effect of nanoscale morphology); electrochemistry in extreme conditions (at high temperature and/or stress, and in radiation environments); dynamic behavior of catalyst-electrolyte interfaces under reaction conditions; and electrochemistry at catalytic semiconductor surfaces.

Specific issues for electrochemistry in energy transduction, energy storage, and corrosion have been identified in the Basic Energy Sciences reports: *Basic Research Needs for Catalysis for Energy (August 2007)*, *Solar Energy Utilization (April 2005)*, *Electrical Energy Storage (April 2007)*, *Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems (August 2006)*, and *Materials under Extreme Environments (June 2007)*.

EXCLUSIONS: Research that is focused on identifying or producing new or optimized materials for battery systems or corrosion resistance, instead of focusing on electrochemical mechanisms, will NOT be considered.

III. Biological and Environmental Research (BER)

The mission of the Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program is to support fundamental research and scientific user facilities to achieve a predictive understanding of complex biological, climatic, and environmental systems for a secure and sustainable energy future. The program seeks to understand how genomic information is translated to functional capabilities, enabling more confident redesign of microbes and plants for sustainable biofuels production, improved carbon storage, and understanding the biological transformation of materials such as nutrients and contaminants in the environment. BER research also advances understanding of the roles of the earth's biogeochemical systems (the atmosphere, land, oceans, sea ice, and subsurface) in determining climate in order to predict climate decades or centuries into the future to provide information that will inform plans for future energy and resource needs.

Program Website: <http://science.energy.gov/ber>

BER mission areas:

- To obtain new molecular-level insight into the functioning and regulation of plants, microbes, and biological communities to provide the science base for cost-effective production of next generation biofuels as a major secure national energy resource.
- To understand the relationships between climate change and Earth's ecosystems, develop and assess options for carbon sequestration, and provide science to underpin a fully predictive understanding of the complex Earth system and the potential impacts of climate change on ecosystems.
- To understand the behavior of DOE-relevant contaminants in subsurface environments, enabling prediction of their fate and transport in support of long term environmental stewardship and development of new, science-based remediation strategies.
- To make fundamental discoveries at the interface of biology and physics by developing and using new, enabling technologies and resources for DOE's needs in climate, bioenergy, and subsurface science.

The BER program is organized into two divisions, the Biological Systems Science Division (BSSD), and Climate and Environmental Sciences Division (CESD).

The BSSD supports research that integrates discovery- and hypothesis-driven science with technology development on plant and microbial systems relevant to DOE bioenergy mission needs. Systems biology is the multidisciplinary study of complex interactions specifying the function of entire biological systems—from single cells to multicellular organisms—rather than the study of individual components. BSSD focuses on utilizing systems biology approaches to define the functional principles that drive living systems, from microbes and microbial communities to plants and other whole organisms. The division also supports operation of a scientific user facility, the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI), and use of structural biology facilities through the development of instrumentation at DOE's national user facilities.

The CESD supports fundamental science and research capabilities that enable major scientific developments in climate-relevant atmospheric-process and ecosystem research and modeling, in support of DOE's mission goals for basic science, energy, and national security. This includes research on clouds, aerosols, and the terrestrial carbon cycle; large-scale climate change and earth system modeling; the effects of climate change on ecosystems; and integrated analysis of climate change impacts on energy and related infrastructures. It also supports subsurface biogeochemical research that advances fundamental understanding of coupled physical, chemical, and biological processes controlling the environmental fate and transport of energy byproducts. CESD also supports two national scientific user facilities: the Atmospheric Radiation Measurements Climate Research Facility (ARM) and the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL). ARM provides unique, multi-instrumented capabilities for continuous, long-term observations needed to develop and test understanding of the central role of clouds and aerosols on the earth's climate. EMSL provides integrated experimental and computational resources needed to understand the physical, chemical, and biological processes that underlie DOE's energy and environmental mission.

The BER's priority research areas for SCGSR program include:

(a) Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Major advances in high throughput DNA sequencing and other "-omics" technologies have vastly increased the volume and complexity of data available to researchers and have far outpaced the ability to test and interpret systems-level biological information. New approaches to systems biology research that emphasize the close coupling of genomic information with high-throughput experimentation and computational simulation form the basis for DOE's fundamental science programs in bioenergy and the environment. Systems biology approaches allow integration of quantitative data across spatial, temporal, and functional scales to develop predictive multiscale models that can be used to derive testable hypotheses about emergent properties, functions, and dynamics of organismal systems. Future research efforts in systems biology within BER's Genomic Science Program, the Joint Genome Institute (JGI), the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL), and the Systems Biology Knowledgebase (KBase) will require basic life science researchers trained in interdisciplinary fields of computational biology and bioinformatics to advance a predictive understanding and design of biological processes in order to remain competitive in the global drive to develop renewable resources. *Candidates for this topic should focus on modeling, simulation of biological phenomena, processes and systems relevant to BER science, and analysis of biological networks using computational systems biology approaches relevant to BER science.*

(b) Biological Imaging - Mesoscale to Molecules

Starting with the genetic potential encoded by organisms' genomes, BER scientists seek to define the principles guiding translation of the genetic code into functional proteins and the metabolic and regulatory networks underlying plant and microbial systems. Biological imaging studies based on quantitative measurement of *in situ* chemical reactions and the effects of perturbations of these chemical reactions at the mesoscale (defined by approximately 1 cubic micron to 100's of cubic microns resolution) will play a critical role in systems biology by connecting fundamental molecular scale processes with the function of whole organism. Imaging and measurement technologies that can resolve multiple key metabolic processes over time within or among cells will act as a crucial bridge toward linking molecular-scale information to whole-cell, systems-level understanding. *Candidates for this topic should be carrying out research that seeks to link technologies toward this goal.* Future research efforts will require a scientific workforce trained in, for example, microfluidics, advanced microscopies, and multimodal technology integration to develop multiscale integrative analysis of biological systems relevant to BER science.

(c) Plant Science for Sustainable Bioenergy

Crops grown for bioenergy purposes will possess characteristics quite different from those required of plants grown for food. Decreased or altered lignin composition, a longer juvenile period for increased biomass, and in some cases a perennial life style are beneficial traits for bioenergy feed stocks. Current DOE Genomic Science Program research efforts in renewable

feed stocks for bioenergy focus on the manipulation of metabolic pathways and carbon allocation in plant tissues to produce plant strains with enhanced biofuel production characteristics. *Candidates for this topic should focus on genomic research seeking improved bioenergy crop characteristics such as high biomass yields, modified cell walls, and optimized growth and development.* Future DOE bioenergy research will require plant scientists trained in genetics and breeding to translate such metabolic studies to the field.

(d) Environmental Systems Science: Coupling Subsurface Measurements with Terrestrial Model Frameworks

Current climate and ecosystem models ignore, or lack the complexity to adequately represent, subsurface processes (e.g., soil biogeochemistry, plant-soil interactions, reactive transport, microbial ecology, hydrology, etc.). The inadequate representation of these critically important ecosystem processes represents a major roadblock in our ability to predictively understand our changing environment. Improving our representation of the complex Earth system requires a new paradigm whereby climate modeling research is tightly coupled with empirical, process level ecosystem research. This coupled approach brings together process and modeling scientists to identify critical uncertainties in current generation climate models, and then co-design and implement studies that iteratively and directly refine and improve the representation of terrestrial ecosystem processes. DOE's Climate and Environmental Science programs have identified a critical need in the scientific workforce, namely increasing the number of doctoral-level ecologists, biogeochemists, and climate scientists trained in coupled modeling-experimental approaches with a strategic focus in subsurface ecological processes. *Candidates for this topic would be required to engage and develop skills through research projects that integrate and couple empirical subsurface process research with climate or ecological modeling components.* Developing a workforce with experience in innovative, coupled modeling-experimental approaches in subsurface ecology will enable DOE to make significant advances in the high resolution predictive understanding of the Earth system and to foster innovative research.

(e) Atmospheric Systems Research: Coupling Atmospheric Observational Data with Numerical Models

Cloud and aerosol feedbacks remain a large source of uncertainty in model projections of future climate change. Inadequate representation of the detailed processes controlling aerosol and cloud life cycles at the appropriate spatial scales inhibits our ability to predict climate change and its impacts on energy and related infrastructure. Important processes that need to be better represented in climate models to improve climate projections include aerosol particle formation, growth, absorption, and aging; cloud microphysical processes such as ice nucleation, drizzle and precipitation formation, and phase partitioning; land-atmosphere interactions that impact aerosol and cloud formation; and interactions between clouds and the environment such as entrainment, convective initiation, cold pools, and organization on a range of scales. High priority research efforts in atmospheric sciences within DOE's Climate and Environmental

Sciences Division (CESD) require new expertise in coupling observational data from the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Climate Research Facility with high resolution numerical models to advance predictive understanding of aerosol and cloud processes. *Applications for this topic can include projects for observationally-focused graduate students to develop skills in numerical modeling or for modeling-focused graduate students to develop skills in working with advanced observational data.*

(f) Earth System Modeling: Computational Climate Modeling

In order to advance the predictive capabilities of climate models, there is ongoing need to improve climate model complexity, Earth system process representation and model resolution. At the same time, computing capabilities continue to advance and computer architectures are becoming increasingly complex. These computational advances present both a challenge and opportunity for climate modeling research, and there is need for the combined skill-set of computational and climate sciences, in order to design and optimize climate model codes with methods that can effectively utilize the evolution and advances of computer systems. *Candidates for this topic should therefore be developing new algorithms or computational methods for climate and Earth system model codes that will both advance climate science and be designed to effectively utilize emerging generations of Leadership class computers.*

(g) Regional and Global Climate Modeling: Analysis of High-latitude Climate Feedbacks

Under climate change, the most dramatic changes in the climate system are found at high latitudes, and these changes, in turn, provide a significant feedback on climate. The climate system interacts in a web of feedbacks, and understanding and predicting the fate of the high-latitude Earth system requires a strong interdisciplinary approach. Global and regional climate and earth system models are often used as tools to understand and predict these interactions. Developing model evaluation metrics that will quantify the ability of global and regional, climate and earth system models to capture these feedbacks in the climate system will facilitate evaluation of the veracity of models participating in the next phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP). *Candidates for this topic should analyze or use models of varying complexity to isolate, identify, and quantify these high-latitude climate feedbacks. A workforce trained in analysis of the interdisciplinary interactions between various components of the high-latitude Earth system, will enable us to identify and reduce uncertainties in feedbacks and help enhance a predictive understanding of the Earth System.*

EXCLUSIONS: The following areas are NOT within the scope of the BER program of this solicitation:

- Bioenergy from sewage processing, bioremediation of organics, phytoremediation, marine biology, and oceanography;

- Existing or newly proposed processes for commercial, industrial, residential, and municipal solid and liquid waste management, even if those processes hold potential to positively impact the carbon cycle, nitrogen cycle, etc.;
- Experimentation in support of industrial processes, including feedstock substitutions, emissions scrubbing, and other processes designed for greenhouse gas emissions;
- Policy and implementation studies related to climate change;
- General human behavioral research, even as it applies to such areas as biofuels acceptance and climate change; however, economic and risk research is very much on point and encouraged;
- Marine experimentation in support of climate research, including understanding of marine organisms and marine ecology even when it may impact carbon, nutrient, and other cycles and/or hold potential for marine carbon sequestration;
- Observations and experimentation on ocean currents, ocean heat transfer, and other physical ocean properties;
- Engineering of systems or instrumentation or deployment of innovative combinations of existing probes where basic research is not the main thrust;
- Technology development and testing for climate change mitigation or adaptation technology development;
- Air pollution measurements, control technology development or evaluation;
- Site-specific scientific studies of climate change where research may be focused on a particular community, localized resource, or region, but where more generalized extensions and interpretations of the research are not a central component;
- Medically related research; plant pests, biomass process engineering optimization, molecular dynamics simulations towards enzyme engineering; or DNA sequencing technology.

IV. Fusion Energy Sciences (FES)

The mission of the Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) program is to expand the fundamental understanding of matter at very high temperature and density and to build the scientific foundation needed to develop a fusion energy source. This is accomplished by studying plasma and its interaction with its surroundings across wide ranges of temperature and density, developing advanced diagnostics to make detailed measurements of its properties and dynamics, and creating theoretical and computational models to resolve the essential physics principles. The National Research Council report *Plasma Science: Advancing Knowledge in the National Interest* has recognized that plasma science has a coherent intellectual framework unified by physical processes that are common to many subfields. Because of the wide range of plasma densities and temperatures encountered in fusion applications, it is valuable to support plasma science across many of its subfields in order to advance the fusion energy mission.

Program Website: <http://science.energy.gov/fes/>

The size and complexity of world-leading experiments in the field of plasma physics are rapidly expanding beyond the scale of the single university investigator. Prime examples of this are research in burning plasma science and high-energy-density plasmas. It is essential that the U.S. develop a workforce with the necessary skills and experience in *burning plasma science* to maintain U.S. leadership in fusion and to fully capitalize on the U.S. investment in ITER and its operation in the coming decade. This means enabling students to pursue grand-challenge problems in burning plasma science by providing them access to parameter regimes only available at the highest pressures (thermal and magnetic) as well as state-of-the-art diagnostics, both of which are only available at FES's major magnetic confinement fusion science facilities. Student accessibility to these premier facilities is important for developing a workforce with the critical scientific and team-building skills necessary to achieve our mission and secure U.S. leadership in this emergent field of science in the coming decades.

The FES's priority research areas for SCGSR program include:

(a) Burning Plasma Science & Enabling Technologies

Research supported in this area will advance the predictive understanding of plasma confinement, dynamics, and interactions with surrounding materials, through the use of major magnetic confinement fusion research facilities or leadership-class computing resources. Among the topics addressed by this program are the macroscopic stability and dynamics of fusion plasmas; the understanding and control of turbulent transport processes; radiofrequency (RF) heating and current drive; energetic particle dynamics; multi-scale and multi-physics processes at the plasma edge; and the interaction and interface of the hot plasma boundary with the material walls.

Additionally, FES actively encourages applications that utilize and advance technology needed to enhance the capabilities for existing and next-generation fusion research facilities, enabling these facilities to achieve higher levels of performance and flexibility needed to explore new science regimes. This includes but is not limited to RF and neutral beam physics and engineering.

This priority area also supports the development of advanced diagnostic capabilities to enable close coupling of experiments and theory/computations for existing facilities; diagnostic systems relevant for the extreme conditions to be encountered in ITER; and sensors and actuators required for active control of plasma properties to optimize device operation and plasma performance.

(b) Discovery Plasma Science

The ability to create and manipulate plasmas with densities and temperatures spanning many orders of magnitude has led to the establishment of plasma science as a multi-disciplinary field, necessary for understanding the flow of energy and momentum in astrophysical plasmas, as well as enabling the development of breakthrough technologies. Research supported in this priority area must be directed toward addressing problems at the frontiers of plasma science. Specifically in the areas of:

- *General Plasma Science* – Understanding the behavior of non-neutral and single-component plasmas, ultra-cold neutral plasmas, dusty plasmas, and micro-plasmas, as well as the study of dynamical processes in classical plasmas including turbulence and turbulent transport, plasma waves, structures, and flows.
- *High Energy Density Laboratory Plasmas* – Structural and dynamical studies of ionized matter at extreme densities and temperatures.
- *Exploratory Magnetized Plasma* – Research on complex, magnetized plasma systems that spontaneously evolve toward a state of long-range order through dissipative processes (e.g., compact toroidal plasma).

V. High Energy Physics (HEP)

The mission of the High Energy Physics (HEP) program is to understand how our universe works at its most fundamental level. We do this by discovering the elementary constituents of matter and energy, probing the interactions between them, and exploring the basic nature of space and time. This effort is part of a global enterprise of discovery, with students and scientists world-wide working side-by-side to unlock the secrets of the universe.

Program Website: <http://science.energy.gov/hep>

The HEP experimental research program focuses on three scientific frontiers:

- *The Energy Frontier*, where powerful accelerators are used to create new particles, reveal their interactions, and investigate fundamental forces;
- *The Intensity Frontier*, where intense particle beams and highly sensitive detectors are used to pursue alternate pathways to investigate fundamental forces and particle interactions by studying events that occur rarely in nature, and to provide precision measurements of these phenomena; and
- *The Cosmic Frontier*, where non-accelerator-based experiments observe the cosmos and detect cosmic particles, making measurements of natural phenomena that can provide information about the nature of dark matter, dark energy, and other fundamental properties of the Universe that impact our understanding of matter and energy.

Together, these three interrelated and complementary discovery frontiers offer the opportunity to answer some of the most basic questions about the world around us. Also integral to the mission of HEP are four cross-cutting research areas that enable new scientific opportunities by developing the necessary tools and methods for discoveries:

- *Theoretical High Energy Physics*, where the vision and mathematical framework for understanding and extending the knowledge of particles, forces, space-time, and the universe are developed;
- *Computational High Energy Physics*, where the framework of simulation and computational techniques are developed for advancing the HEP mission;
- *Accelerator Science and Technology Research and Development*, where the technologies

and basic science needed to design, build, and operate the accelerator facilities essential for making new discoveries are developed; and

- *Particle Detector Research and Development*, where the technologies and basic science needed to design, build, and operate the detector facilities essential for making new discoveries are developed.

The scientific objectives and priorities for the field recommended by the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel are detailed in the long-range plan available at:

http://science.energy.gov/~media/hep/pdf/files/pdfs/p5_report_06022008.pdf

A thriving program in HEP theory and computation is essential for identifying new directions and opportunities for the field; moreover, the fields of experimental HEP and accelerator physics have always relied on inventing, developing, and adapting advanced technologies in order to enable new discoveries. In particular, HEP supports graduate training in priority areas that emphasize connections to current and future particle physics research facilities. These facilities give students the opportunities to work side-by-side with leading scientists on the latest research topics. With the adoption of many of the techniques and technologies used in HEP research by a wide range of scientific fields, the demand for skilled practitioners in many of these areas has grown significantly, while few universities have been able to maintain the infrastructure needed to provide practical, hands-on training. The SCGSR program supports students for extended residencies at HEP laboratories to receive this critical experience.

The HEP's priority research areas for SCGSR program include:

(a) Theoretical and Computational Research in High Energy Physics

This priority area supports activities that range from detailed calculations of the predictions of the Standard Model to the extrapolation of current knowledge to a new level of understanding, and the identification of the means to experimentally verify such predictions. It also supports computational, simulation, and data tools that are important for HEP research – in particular those that exploit near-term advanced architectures and computational solutions that can be applied across the HEP science drivers. Topics studied in this priority area include, but are not limited to: phenomenological and theoretical studies that support experimental HEP research at the Energy, Intensity and Cosmic Frontiers, both in understanding the data and in finding new directions for experimental exploration; development of analytical and numerical computational techniques for these studies; computational science and simulations that advance theoretical high energy physics or scientific discovery aligned with the HEP mission; and construction and exploration of theoretical frameworks for understanding fundamental particles and forces at the deepest level possible.

(b) Advanced Technology Research & Development in High Energy Physics

The advanced technology R&D priority area develops the next generation of particle accelerators and detectors and related technologies for discovery science; and also for possible applications in industry, medicine and other fields. This priority area supports world-leading

research in the physics of particle beams and particle detection, particularly exploratory research aimed at developing new concepts. Proposals which address advanced training in critical supporting engineering disciplines or topical areas will also be considered (see below).

Topics studied in the advanced accelerator technology R&D priority area include, but are not limited to: accelerator and beam physics, including analytic and computational techniques for modeling particle beams and simulation of accelerator systems; novel acceleration concepts; the science of high gradients in accelerating cavities and structures; high-power radio frequency (RF) sources; high-brightness beam sources; and beam instrumentation. Also of interest are superconducting materials and conductor development; innovative magnet design and development of high-field superconducting magnets; as well as associated testing and cryogenic systems. Proposals which address advanced training in RF engineering, cryogenic engineering or superconducting magnet engineering as applied to accelerator technologies will also be considered.

Topics studied in the advanced particle detector R&D priority area include, but are not limited to: low- mass, high channel density charged particle tracking detectors; high resolution, fast-readout calorimeters and particle identification detectors; techniques for improving the radiation tolerance of particle detectors; and advanced electronics and data acquisition systems. Proposals which address advanced training in cryogenic engineering or low-radioactivity materials as applied to particle detector technologies will also be considered.

(c) Experimental Research in High Energy Physics

The experimental HEP research effort supports experiments utilizing man-made and naturally occurring particle sources to study fundamental particles and their interactions. Topics studied in the experimental research program include, but are not limited to: proton-proton collisions at the highest possible energies; studies of neutrino properties using accelerator-produced neutrino beams as well as neutrinos from nuclear reactors; sensitive measurements of rarely occurring phenomena that can indicate new physics beyond the Standard Model; measurements of dark energy; and detection of the particles that make up cosmic dark matter.

Applications to this priority area should explicitly address how the proposed training will enhance the applicant's experience and abilities in the critical areas of particle detector instrumentation and/or computational science and large-scale computing for HEP. Programmatic priority in this topic will be given to those applications that most effectively address this issue.

VI. Nuclear Physics (NP)

One of the enduring mysteries of the universe is the nature of matter—what are its basic constituents and how do they interact to form the properties we observe? The largest contribution by far to the mass of the matter we are familiar with comes from the nuclei of atoms. The mission of the Nuclear Physics (NP) program is to discover, explore, and understand all forms of nuclear matter. Although the fundamental particles that compose nuclear

matter—quarks and gluons—are themselves relatively well understood, exactly how they interact and combine to form the different types of matter observed in the universe today and during its evolution remains largely unknown.

Program Website: <http://science.energy.gov/np/>

The priority areas for NP include the following:

- Understand how nucleons—protons and neutrons—combine to form atomic nuclei and how these nuclei have emerged since the origin of the cosmos.
- Using particle accelerators illuminate the structure of the nucleon—the core building block of matter; understand how quarks and gluons assemble to form matter’s core; and study the properties of the quark gluon plasma.
- Penetrate mysteries surrounding the fundamental properties of the neutron and the neutrino.
- Conceive, construct, and operate national scientific user facilities.
- Steward Isotope development, production, and technologies for research and applications.

To carry out its mission and address these priorities, the NP program focuses on three frontiers, Quantum Chromodynamics; Nuclei and Nuclear Astrophysics; and Fundamental Symmetries and Neutrinos. NP supports basic research in five subprograms: Medium Energy, Heavy Ion, Low Energy, Nuclear Theory, and Nuclear Data and Nuclear Theory Computing. The program is the steward of the DOE Isotope Program for the nation and supports the development of the tools and capabilities that make fundamental research possible.

The NP’s priority research areas for SCGSR program include:

(a) Medium Energy Nuclear Physics

The Medium Energy Nuclear Physics subprogram focuses primarily on experimental tests of the mathematical description of how quarks and gluons in nuclear matter interact, referred to as Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) and in particular, the behavior of quarks inside protons and neutrons. Specific questions addressed include: *What is the internal landscape of the protons and neutrons (collectively known as nucleons)? What does QCD predict for the properties of strongly interacting matter? What governs the transition of quarks and gluons into pions and nucleons? What is the role of gluons and gluon self-interactions in nucleons and nuclei?* Various experimental approaches are pursued to determine the distribution of up, down, and strange quarks (and implicitly their antiquarks) in nucleons, as well as the roles of the gluons that bind the quarks; the effects of the quark and gluon spins within the nucleon; and the effect of the nuclear environment on the quarks and gluons. The subprogram also produces and studies higher-mass “excited states” of hadrons (composite particles, including nucleons, made of quarks, antiquarks, and gluons) predicted by QCD in order to determine how the theory leads to the observed properties of these strongly interacting particles. In pursuing these goals, the

Medium Energy subprogram supports experimental research primarily at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF) and the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC).

(b) Heavy Ion Nuclear Physics

The Heavy Ion Nuclear Physics subprogram focuses on studies of nuclear matter at extremely high densities and temperatures that are directed primarily at answering the overarching questions defining one of the three nuclear physics frontiers—Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD). The fundamental questions addressed include: *What are the phases of strongly interacting matter, and what roles do they play in the cosmos? What governs the transition of quarks and gluons into pions and nucleons? What determines the key features of QCD, and what is their relation to the nature of gravity and space-time?* With careful measurements, scientists are accumulating data which offers insights into the processes early in the creation of the universe, and how protons, neutrons, and other bits of normal matter developed from the quark-gluon plasma predicted to exist about 1 microsecond after the Big Bang. Important avenues of investigation are directed at learning more about the physical characteristics of the quark-gluon plasma created in relativistic collisions of nuclei including exploring the energy loss mechanism for quarks and gluons traversing the plasma, determining the speed of sound in the plasma and locating the critical point for the transition between the plasma and normal matter. Experimental research is carried out primarily using the U.S. Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) facility and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

(c) Low Energy Nuclear Physics

The Low Energy Nuclear Physics subprogram is the most diverse within the NP portfolio, supporting research activities aligned with scientific thrusts focusing primarily on answering the overarching questions associated with two science frontiers: Nuclei and Nuclear Astrophysics, and Fundamental Symmetries and Neutrinos. Questions associated with the Nuclei and Nuclear Astrophysics frontier include: *What is the nature of the nuclear force that binds protons and neutrons into stable nuclei and rare isotopes? What is the origin of simple patterns in complex nuclei? What is the nature of neutron stars and dense nuclear matter? What is the origin of the elements in the cosmos? What are the nuclear reactions that drive stars and stellar explosions?* One major goal of this subprogram is to develop a comprehensive description of nuclei using beams of stable and rare isotopes to yield new insights and reveal new nuclear phenomena. A second is to measure the cross sections of nuclear reactions powering stars and resulting in spectacular stellar explosions responsible for the synthesis of the elements. Questions addressed in the Fundamental Symmetries and Neutrinos frontier, which uses neutrinos and neutrons as primary probes, include: *What experimental approach for a next generation, ton-scale neutrino- less double beta decay detector is capable of achieving the sensitivity necessary to determine if the neutrino is its own anti-particle? Is there evidence from the electric-dipole moments of atomic nuclei and the neutron that demonstrate our current understanding of the fundamental laws governing nuclear physics is incomplete? Does evidence for parity*

violation in electron scattering and possible lepton number violation in the decay of nuclei indicate forces present at the dawn of the universe that disappeared from view as the universe evolved? This subprogram also seeks to measure or set a limit on the neutrino mass and to determine if the neutrino is its own anti-particle (a Majorana particle). Neutrino properties are believed to play an important role in the evolution of the cosmos. Beams of cold and ultra-cold neutrons are used to study fundamental properties of neutrons. Precision studies to observe or set a limit on violation of time-reversal invariance in nucleonic, nuclear, and atomic systems investigate the origin of dominance of matter over antimatter in the universe, addressing fundamental questions in nuclear and particle physics, astrophysics, and cosmology.

(d) Nuclear Theory

The Nuclear Theory subprogram provides the theoretical support needed to interpret the wide range of data obtained from the experimental nuclear science subprograms, and to advance new ideas and hypotheses that identify potential areas for future experimental investigations. Nuclear Theory addresses all three of NP's scientific frontiers. One major theme of theoretical research is the development of an understanding of the mechanisms and effects of quark confinement and deconfinement. A quantitative description of these phenomena, QCD, is one of this subprogram's greatest intellectual challenges. New theoretical and computational tools are also being developed to describe nuclear many-body phenomena; these approaches will likely also see important applications in condensed matter physics and in other areas of the physical sciences. Another major research area is nuclear astrophysics, which includes efforts to understand the origins of the elements and the consequences that neutrino masses have for nuclear astrophysics and for the current Standard Model of elementary particles and forces.

(e) Nuclear Data and Nuclear Theory Computing

The mission of the United States Nuclear Data Program (USNDP) is to provide current, accurate, authoritative data for workers in pure and applied areas of nuclear science and engineering. The USNDP also addresses gaps in the data, through targeted experimental studies, and the use of theoretical models. The USNDP involves the efforts of ~ 50 nuclear physicists at ~ 15 national labs, research centers, institutes and universities, and is an important resource for workers in a wide range of pure and applied topics in nuclear physics.

Nuclear Theory Computing supports research in nuclear physics with "extreme" computational requirements, which has been enabled by the advent of high performance computing (HPC). Funding for NP research involving HPC is currently provided primarily through the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computation (SciDAC) program, through major joint projects with the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) and the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA). The three current NP SciDAC projects use HPC techniques and facilities to investigate the properties of quark and gluon bound states and the QCD phase diagram using lattice QCD, and the properties of nuclei, calculated using various approximate techniques. Resources for NP HPC activities are also provided by the National Energy Research Scientific

Computing (NERSC) center.

Theoretical NP research involving HPC, and both theoretical and experimental work of relevance to Nuclear Data, could be considered under this subprogram.

(f) Isotope Development and Production for Research and Applications

The Isotope Development and Production for Research and Applications subprogram supports the production, distribution, and development of production techniques for radioactive and enriched isotopes in short supply and critical to the Nation. Isotopes are commodities of strategic importance for the Nation that are essential for energy exploration and innovation, medical applications, national security, and basic research. An important goal of the program is to make key isotopes more readily available to meet U.S. needs. To achieve this goal, the program provides facilities and capabilities for the production of research and commercial stable and radioactive isotopes, scientific and technical staff associated with general isotope research and production, and a supply of critical isotopes. Isotopes are made available by using the Department's unique facilities, the Brookhaven Linear Isotope Producer (BLIP) at BNL and the Isotope Production Facility (IPF) at LANL, of which the subprogram has stewardship responsibilities. The Program also coordinates and supports isotope production at a suite of university, national laboratory, and commercial accelerator and reactor facilities throughout the Nation to promote a reliable supply of domestic isotopes. Topics of interest include research to develop new or improved production or separation techniques for high priority isotopes in short supply. Examples for planned research include the need for positron-emitting radionuclides to support the rapidly growing area of medical imaging using positron emission tomography (PET), development of isotopes that support medical research used to diagnose and treat diseases, development of production methods for alpha-emitting radionuclides that exhibit great potential in disease treatment, development and use of research isotopes for various biomedical applications, development of stable isotope enrichment technologies, and the need for alternative isotope supplies for national security applications and advanced power sources. One of the high priorities is to conduct R&D aimed at re-establishing a domestic capability for stable isotope enrichment in the U.S. All R&D activities are peer reviewed. Another high priority is to provide opportunities for workforce development in the areas of nuclear chemistry and radiochemistry. These disciplines are essential to the long-term health of the fields of radioisotope production and applications.

(g) Accelerator Research and Development for Current and Future Nuclear Physics Facilities

The Nuclear Physics program supports a broad range of activities aimed at research and development related to the science, engineering, and technology of heavy-ion, electron, and proton accelerators and associated systems. Areas of interest include the R&D technologies of the Brookhaven National Laboratory's Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), with heavy ion and polarized proton beam; the development of a future Nuclear Physics accelerator facility such as an electron-ion collider (EIC); linear accelerators such as the Continuous Electron Beam

Accelerator Facility (CEBAF) at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF); and development of devices and/or methods that would be useful in the generation of intense rare isotope beams for the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB).

EXCLUSIONS: NP does NOT support investigations into the development of nuclear reactors for purposes outside the scope of the NP priority areas described above and are NOT within the scope of this solicitation.