National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Astrobiology Faculty Diversity Program

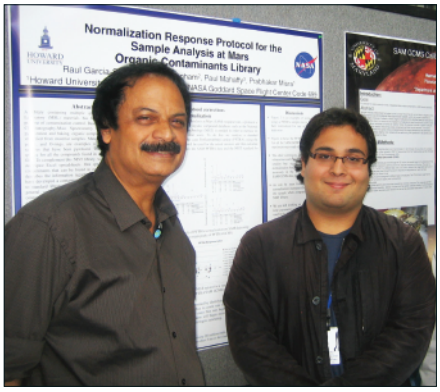
NASA Astrobiology Institute

Astrobiology is the study of the origins, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe. This interdisciplinary field includes biologists, chemists, geologists, planetary scientists, astronomers, physicists, engineers and other technologists.

The Astrobiology Faculty Diversity (AFD) Program provides opportunities for faculty from institutions serving underrepresented minority students (MSIs), or faculty who are underrepresented minorities themselves, to collaborate NASA Astrobiology Program researchers.

The goals of the program are collectively to increase the diversity of astrobiology researchers through:

- recruiting new researchers into the astrobiology community
- inspiring and encouraging underrepresented students to enter the field of astrobiology
- strengthening the infrastructure of astrobiology research at MSIs

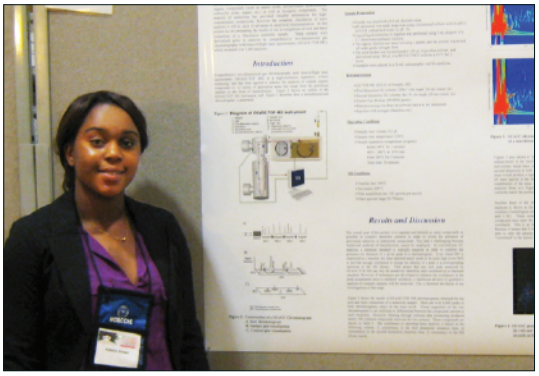


Prabhakar Misra and Raul Garcia-Sanchez from Howard University at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center poster session

The program provides funding for a faculty sabbatical stipend, housing and travel, as well as follow-up opportunities for participating faculty. The research support provided through the program is intended to lead to continuing collaborations and increased visibility for researchers from under-represented communities in the field of astrobiology.

Components of the AFD Program:

- Stipends, travel allowance, and follow-up support for participating faculty
- **Year round opportunities** for research and collaboration with astrobiologists in the US
- Up to 10 weeks of support with a stipend of $1,000 per week
- Up to $5,000 for housing and travel
- An award of $10,000 following the sabbatical intended to continue the research and/or develop astrobiology laboratories or curriculum at the faculty's home institution.



Adeola Akapo with her poster at the Annual Meeting of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE)

The eligible candidate must be:

- A faculty member at a US college or university designated by the US Department of Education as a Minority Serving Institution, *https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html* or a faculty member from an underrepresented minority group
- Prepared to conduct scientific research in astrobiology
- A US Citizen or Permanent US Resident

Application Process:

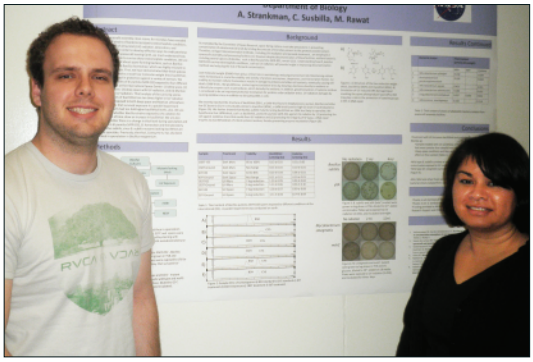
The application for the Research Sabbatical is online at ***https://nai.nasa.gov/funding/afdp***.

Components of the application include:

1. A 5 page research proposal, written by the applicant, that outlines a collaboration with a NASA Astrobiology Program researcher and provides details of the research to be conducted based on the goals of the Astrobiology Program
2. A description of the applicant's interests and qualifications relevant to the field of astrobiology documenting:
   a) The applicant's prior research experience
   b) The expected benefit of participation to the applicant, the applicant's home university and students, and the Astrobiology Program researcher
   c) Plans for future funding to sustain a research or teaching program related to astrobiology after the sabbatical ends
3. A letter of commitment from a host NASA Astrobiology Program researcher
4. A letter of endorsement from the applicant's home institution

Submission Deadline: Spring of each year.

Genet Duke and student at Northeastern Illinois University



Andrew Strankman and Mamta Rawat at the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) Conference

Cortez Smith from Morgan State University, student of Dr. James Wachira, at AbSciCon 2017

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