

Koret-Berkeley-TAU Call for Visiting Faculty and Trainees

Background: The Koret-Berkeley-TAU (KBT) Initiative in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics is a collaborative initiative between the Center for Computational Biology at UC Berkeley (CCB) and the Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics at Tel Aviv University (EJSCB). The initiative is supported by a generous donation from the Koret Foundation.

The KBT Initiative provides support for visits between TAU and Berkeley scientists to perform research in computational biology and bioinformatics. The goal of the visits is to foster interactions and develop collaborations between UCB and TAU researchers. Faculty visits can be short or long term. There is also a trainee exchange program for students and postdoctoral researchers. Historically, we have been able to fund most exchange travel requests.

Other KBT Initiative activities include joint grants and workshops at Berkeley and TAU.

Visitor categories: We are soliciting applications for three visitor programs:

(I) Faculty short-term visitors:

Faculty visits up to two weeks. Visitors will give a seminar at the host institute, as part of the KBT seminar series, and collaborate with colleagues.

(II) Faculty long-term visitors:

Faculty visits longer than two weeks. Visitors will give at least one seminar (often more) at the host institute as part of the KBT seminar series, and collaborate with colleagues.

(III) Trainee exchange program:

The program supports visits of junior scientists (graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, as well as exceptionally undergraduate students and other research staff) for more than two weeks, to conduct research at the hosting institute. Visitors will be hosted in a laboratory or research group and will work in a concrete project.

Covered expenses: Faculty travel expenses are permitted as governed by the home institution's travel policy. Trainee accommodation and M&IE expenses are capped at \$4000 per month, pro-rated.

Eligibility: The call is open to applications by faculty members and trainees in TAU and UCB. The visitor must be a member of EJSCB or CCB or a trainee in a EJSCB or CCB lab, or a student in a CCB graduate program (Ph.D. or Designated emphasis). EJSCB and CCB affiliates will be also considered, as will instances where the hosting lab is an EJSCB or CCB member or affiliate.

Application process: Interested visitors can apply at any time, allowing at least six weeks before the intended visit for application review. There is no deadline; applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Budget is limited so early application is encouraged. The KBT steering committee reserves its discretion as to awarding the travel grants. The committee's decisions are final.

Application Format: Applications consist of the following documents, sent as one pdf to the home institution at: safra.bio@tauex.tau.ac.il or kbt@berkeley.edu

- (1) Title page, including visitor and host names and affiliations, and dates.
- (2) A letter explaining in detail the goals of the visit, including planned research, lectures and interactions [typically one page].
- (3) Itemized requested budget and brief justification.
- (4) Biosketch of the visitor (in NIH format).
- (5) Support letter from a PI in the hosting institute, including details on complementary funding, if applicable.

Researchers who have active KBT grants, and trainees whose advisor has such grants, cannot apply for visit support.

Reports: Visitors will be required to provide summary report on the visit within two months of the visit end, including a 1 page summary of research accomplished for long-term visits and trainee exchanges. Reports must include an outcomes summary of publications, presentations, software, and resources developed. All public presentations, publications, software, and resources related to the funded visit should acknowledge “The Koret-UCB-TAU Initiative in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics,” and should include authors’ membership/affiliation in CCB or EJSCB.

Workshops: Supported researchers are required to take an active role in the joint activities of the KBT Initiative, including joint workshops.

Evaluation criteria: Applications will be evaluated holistically. Criteria will include scientific excellence and promise, breadth and depth of intended collaboration. Availability of complementary funding may be a consideration. Visits pertaining to experimental work can be supported, but the evaluation will focus on computational biology and bioinformatics innovation and discovery of the project. Visits are expected to yield true collaborative efforts.