



BROWN

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

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## **The Biology of Aging Initiative Announces the Availability of Funds for Students and Postdocs to Attend Practical Workshops and Courses**

DATE: June 5, 2017  
FROM: John Sedivy  
TO: Biology of Aging Students, Postdocs and Faculty

There are a several mechanisms at Brown to help support the costs of attending meetings, including funds from the Division of Biology, training grants, and individual graduate programs. This is not the case for practical workshops or courses, such as those offered at Cold Spring Harbor, Marine Biological Laboratory, Sanger Wellcome Center in Cambridge UK, and others.

At scientific meetings students and postdocs listen to talks, participate in poster sessions, and may be chosen to present a talk. While these are invaluable learning and career opportunities, they do not provide practical, hands-on experience in a focused area of expertise. Students and postdocs that have attended practical courses bring back with them skills that can take their projects to new dimensions by allowing them to apply the most current methods and techniques. Such courses also typically feature leaders in the field as lecturers and instructors, providing direct access to cutting edge technologies. Students and postdocs I have spoken to that have attended such courses in the past uniformly report it to have been a transformative experience.

There are, however, barriers to attending such courses. The courses are of considerable duration (1-3 weeks or even longer) and require registration, room, board and travel, making them more expensive than a typical meeting. In order to provide financial support the BioMed Division and most graduate programs require students or postdocs to present a poster or talk, which typically are not part of practical courses. While fellowships are often available from the course or workshop venue, most of the costs have typically been borne by the P.I.

To allow students and postdocs to take fuller advantage of these valuable experiences, to catalyze their research projects, and to bring new cutting edge techniques to Brown, the Biology of Aging Initiative announces the availability of funds for BoA (and affiliated) labs to facilitate attendance of practical courses. A few links to such courses are provided below as examples.

These funds are not meant to replace other funds that may be available from the BioMed Division, graduate programs, training grants, or fellowships from the venues themselves, but to relieve the financial burden on P.I. of having their trainees attend these courses. We hope that by lowering these financial barriers more students and postdocs at Brown will take advantage of these wonderful and potentially transformative opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about this program please contact John Sedivy.

<http://www.mbl.edu/education/courses/optical-microscopy-imaging/>  
<https://meetings.cshl.edu/courses.aspx?course=C-GNX&year=17>  
<http://smb.slac.stanford.edu/news/rapidata/rapidata-2017/schedule.html>  
<https://www.jax.org/education-and-learning/education-calendar/2017/october/>