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NISS Affiliates NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates Proposal Development Fund

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NISS is pleased to announce the third year of the Affiliates Proposal Development Fund (APDF).

Summary. In pursuit of its mission “to catalyze . . . high-impact, cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences,” NISS has set aside a pool of \$25,000, from which as many awards will be made as are merited and possible. APDF awards to be used to meet expenses associated with preparation of cross-disciplinary, preferably multi-institution proposals by researchers from NISS Affiliates or NISS/SAMSI University Affiliates.

The APDF seeks to support development of projects that are cross-disciplinary, bold and of sufficient scale to achieve significant impact. The resulting proposals will be submitted, in general by affiliates, to federal agencies such as the NSF, NIH or DARPA, to private foundations, or to corporations.

APDF awards may be used to support documented expenses, *other than PI and co-PI time and indirect costs*, that further proposal development. Examples of allowable costs include workshops, travel, acquisition of testbed data and graduate student or postdoctoral time for pilot investigations.

Eligibility. The PI on the proposal to the APDF must be a statistical scientist associated with a NISS Affiliate or NISS/SAMSI University Affiliate, and must intend to be PI on the resulting proposal. Co-PIs need not be statistical scientists, nor need they be associated with affiliates.

Proposal Details. Proposals to the APDF consist of:

- A five-page description of the proposal whose preparation the APDF will support, including its scientific goals, personnel, and the nature and extent of cross-disciplinary collaboration. If already identified, the organization to which the proposal is planned to be submitted should be noted.
- Two-page, NSF-style biographical sketches of the PI and co-PIs;
- Budget.

Proposal Submission. Proposals should be submitted electronically (PDF is the preferred format, but Microsoft Word and PostScript are acceptable) to apdf@niss.org.

Proposals for awards effective during the academic year 2006–07 or sooner are due on *Friday, June 24, 2005*. Awards will be announced at the NISS/SAMSI JSM Reception in August, 2005.

Evaluation Criteria. Proposals will be evaluated by the Awards Committee of the Board of Trustees of NISS, on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific strength, including the importance of the problems addressed and the potential impact of the research;
- Genuine cross-disciplinarity, including active participation of co-PIs from the applied mathematical sciences, in the spirit of SAMSI, as well as other scientific disciplines;
- Time commitment of the PI and co-PIs;
- The extent to which APDF support would make something happen that might not happen otherwise.

Preference will be given to proposals that involve new researchers, particularly postdoctorals, and multiple institutions, especially affiliates, as well as to proposals that intersect ongoing research programs at NISS.

Meritorious proposals will be ranked by the Awards Committee and awards made until either the set of meritorious proposals or the pool of \$25,000 is exhausted. *There will be no budget negotiations.*

In order to maximize flexibility, awards may either be paid by NISS to the PI's home institution or maintained in a fund at NISS.