

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

College Students Invited to Apply for Summer Research Program at Janelia Farm

The Janelia Farm Research Campus announced today that it is seeking applications for its undergraduate research scholars program. Up to eight college students will be selected to participate in the program and will pursue research projects with Janelia Farm scientists during Summer 2008.

“We want to identify some of the very best future scientists, engineers, and mathematicians interested in our areas of research,” said Gerald M. Rubin, HHMI vice president and director of the Janelia Farm Research Campus. “We expect this program will enrich the students' intellectual development and benefit research at Janelia.”

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At Janelia Farm, each undergraduate research scholar will spend his or her summer conducting research under the guidance and direction of a Janelia Farm lab head. The undergraduate research scholars program will run from June 9-August 15, 2008. On-campus housing will be provided to undergraduate research scholars. Each scholar will also receive a \$4,500 allowance and reimbursement for travel to and from Janelia Farm.

Interested students must complete an online application at www.hhmi.org/janelia and submit all related materials, including reference letters, by February 1, 2008. As part of the application process, students are required to propose a research project and identify which lab head they would like to work with at Janelia Farm. Janelia Farm staff and scientists will

review applications and select the students to be admitted to the program. Students will be notified if they have been accepted on or soon after March 1, 2008.

In Summer 2007, Janelia Farm hosted four undergraduate students who spent their summer participating in a pilot program for undergraduate research. The students, who were from the University of Arizona, the University of Colorado, Boulder, the University of Toronto, the University of Virginia, pursued independent research projects and were mentored by Janelia Farm scientists.

As the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's first freestanding campus, Janelia Farm, located in Ashburn, Virginia, is a setting in which small research groups are exploring fundamental biomedical questions in a highly collaborative, interdisciplinary culture. The \$500 million campus opened in October 2006.

All the researchers at Janelia Farm engage in active bench science and work in small teams that cross disciplinary boundaries to bring chemists, physicists, computational scientists, and engineers into close collaboration with biologists. Janelia Farm scientists are working together on some ambitious projects: building new types of microscopes that will permit scientists to observe living cells in unprecedented detail; learning how the brain adapts and rewires in response to new experiences; deciphering which neurons control specific behaviors in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*; using protein design and computation techniques to create novel nanosensors that can be used in living organisms and cells; and understanding the physical mechanisms that neurons use to process and store information.