

## LA-SiGMA Financial Policies

**Terminology/Organization:** There are seven LA-SiGMA teams - Complex Materials, Energy Materials, Biological Materials, CyberTool/CyberInfrastructure (CTCI), Monte Carlo, DFT/Force Fields, and MD. There will be a team leader for each of these teams. There are three Science Driver Teams (SD), one CTCI team and three Computational Teams. Some participants will be members of multiple teams. There are seven institutions - Grambling, LA Tech, LSU, Southern, Tulane, UNO, and Xavier. Each institution will have a local PI as listed on the submitted NSF budget pages (PI). The PIs are responsible for oversight of the budget at their institutions. Currently the PIs are

- Grambling: Pedro Derosa
- LA Tech: Ramu Ramachandran
- LSU: Mark Jarrell
- Southern: Diola Bagayoko
- Tulane: Lawrence Pratt
- UNO: Scott Whittenburg
- Xavier: Cheryl Stevens

**Postdoc hiring:** The teams will have funds for postdocs roughly in proportion to their membership. The teams and team leaders will be asked to review the proposal once again and then discuss hiring among the team members via email. The team leaders will then consult with the POCs to allocate their postdoc positions accordingly. As needed, the PET will be consulted to resolve conflicts. Since such hires are quantized, deals and understandings would have to be struck. In order to minimize the duplication of skill sets (or to duplicate only when it is well justified), good communication and coordination between the teams will be required. A common advertisement and a common collection point for postdoc applications are being considered to facilitate coordination between the different campuses. To ensure state-wide coordination of hires and consistency of the hires with the overall goals of the project, potential candidates need to be approved by the S&CI team of the PET. However, the actual hiring will have to be made by each campus in accordance with local policies.

**Funding:** LA-SiGMA intends to support teams rather than individual researchers. Each SD or CTCI investigator will bring a unit of funding with them to the team, plus a small supplement to those involved in the computational teams (MC, DFT/FF, MD) to encourage active participation in the computational science teams. The size of the unit of funding or supplement will be determined by the home university of the investigator. I.e. the unit will be roughly the total funding for students and postdocs at that university divided by the number of team members.

$$\text{unit} = (\text{total of postdoc + student salaries at university}) / ((\text{SD} + \text{CTCI}) + \text{supplement} * \text{number of participants on one or more computational teams})$$

supplement = 0.25\*unit or determined by the local university

This funding will be used to hire students and postdocs in the teams in which the investigator is

a member.

Subject to institutional requirements, a single account managed by the campus PI be maintained at each institution.

**Teaching Support:** People who are developing and teaching new LA-SiGMA courses will be compensated with 1/2 month of summer support. The repeat offering of a LA-SiGMA course, or the offer of an existing course, will result in 1/4 month of summer support. Funds to compensate teachers will come from re-budgeting salary lines and from funds freed up from delay in hiring postdocs. Compensation will be proportional to effort, and will be limited to LA-SiGMA members. Out of state participants can be paid via consulting services budget (very limited).

**Departing members:** Occasionally LA-SiGMA members will leave the project. At the discretion of the local PI, the salary savings associated with these departures may be banked and used for new hires, especially for URM and Woman. The funds associated with the departed project member should remain at the corresponding university if it can use new or existing hires to fill a role of equal or greater import to LA-SiGMA. These new LA-SiGMA members should, to the extent possible due to shifting research priorities of the team, fulfill rolls consistent with the original proposal or white paper process. These changes must be approved by the PET, which will consider the impact of such changes on the scientific research, education, and external engagement commitments of LA-SiGMA.