The Simons Foundation invites nominations for Simons Investigators in the Mathematical Modeling of Living Systems (MMLS). These Investigators are outstanding scientists, often with mathematics or theoretical physics backgrounds, now engaged in research based on mathematical modeling in the life sciences. For information on the typical profile of successful applicants, visit: www.simonsfoundation.org/mathematics-and-physical-science/simons-investigators/simons-investigators-awardees/.

**Rationale and scope:** New approaches in mathematically based modeling are making increasingly important contributions to the life sciences. The MMLS program aims to support such approaches and foster a scientific culture of theory-experiment collaboration similar to that prevailing in the physical sciences. To encourage young researchers to pursue this endeavor, the MMLS program will provide a long-term, stable base of support, enabling a focus on model-based approaches to important issues in the life sciences.

A broad spectrum of research areas within the life sciences will be considered, ranging from cellular-level issues of organization, regulation, signaling, and morphogenic dynamics to the properties of organisms and ecology, as well as neuroscience and evolution; however, preference will be given to areas in which modeling approaches are less established and, for this reason, bioinformatics- and genomics-related proposals fall outside the scope of the program. In all cases, preference will be given to work that relates closely to experiment, developing mathematical models that can explain data, suggest new classes of experiments, and introduce important new concepts.

**Basis for Awards:** The intent of the program is to help launch the research careers of outstanding junior scientists. Nominees to the program will normally be in the first few years of their first faculty appointment. Nominations will be evaluated on the basis of nominees’ potential for scientific accomplishment.

**Level and Duration of Funding:** A Simons Investigator in MMLS is appointed for a period of five years. Appointments will begin August 1, 2016.

An Investigator will receive research support in an amount initially set at $100,000 per year. An additional $10,000 per year will be provided to the Investigator’s department. The award is administered through the institution at which the Investigator is appointed, and this institution will receive 20 percent in indirect costs.
The foundation expects to appoint four Simons Investigators in MMLS.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- To be a Simons Investigator in MMLS, a scientist must be engaged in research related to the program, must not previously have been a Simons Investigator, and must have a primary appointment as a faculty member. The foundation reserves the right to determine eligibility, but, generally, a 'primary appointment' is defined as one where the Investigator is a full-time employee of an academic institution with a teaching load that is comparable to that of other faculty members in the same department.
- At the time of appointment, an Investigator should be in the early stages of an academic career (within five years of the start of his/her first faculty position) and, typically, be holding an assistant professorship or equivalent position.

**LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION**
The foundation asks each university to submit a maximum of two nominations to the MMLS Investigator program.

**KEY DATES**
Internal Letter of Intent due: August 14, 2015 (by midnight)
Internal Notification: September 18, 2015
Sponsor Proposal due: October 28, 2015

**SUBMITTING AN INTERNAL PROPOSAL**
Proposals should be single-spaced and in typeface no smaller than 10-point font. Margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch and are required to contain the following components:

1. Cover page with your name, position/title, and departmental affiliation.
2. A summary of your distinctive scientific contributions, focusing on scientific accomplishments of the past five years, including discussion of a few important papers (one page max).
3. Curriculum vitae, including Ph.D. year, institution, advisor, postdoctoral institutions and advisors, positions held subsequent to award of doctorate, and up-to-date publication list.
4. A list of postdoctoral fellows and Ph.D. students supervised by you or currently under your supervision.
5. A research statement outlining your research vision and plans (one page max, references do not need to be included in the page limit but should not exceed an additional page.)

Prepare your proposal as a SINGLE PDF FILE. It should be named, “LastName-FirstInitial-Simons-MMLS-2016,” replacing "LastName" with your last name and "FirstInitial" with your first initial.

**UPLOADING THE INTERNAL PROPOSAL**

1. Click on the Vault ticket: [https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6649079_1-t_oPgKdASE](https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6649079_1-t_oPgKdASE)
2. Click the Upload button.
3. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
4. Click the OK button. You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

Note: Vault access will expire after the deadline, as such late submission is not possible. Also, the Vault system does not allow you to overwrite an upload. If you need to upload a revised proposal BEFORE the deadline, contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/