PLANT CELL WALL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Lignocellulose Structure and Formation (CLSF), a DOE Energy Frontiers Research Center, announces several competitive awards (stipend and project costs) to support innovative, interdisciplinary **postdoctoral research** on plant cell walls. Candidates are invited to develop a collaborative research project in conjunction with the CLSF research team which includes plant and microbial molecular biologists, biochemists, biological and materials scientists, biological and nanoengineers, microscopists, and computational modelers at The **Pennsylvania State University, North Carolina State University, and Virginia Tech**.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. in life or physical sciences or related engineering discipline and provide a compelling research idea advancing CLSF research that they would be able to explore as a CLSF postdoctoral fellow. Our research areas include (a) how the cellulose synthase complex produces the cellulose microfibril, (b) how cellulose interacts with other cell wall matrix polymers to make a strong network, and (c) how macro-scale properties of the cell wall emerge from its nano-scale structure.

These exciting awards call upon the creativity of the postdoctoral applicant to design their own research question in the field of lignocellulose research, and allow them the flexibility of aligning their interests with the CLSF faculty of their choice. Final awards will be for up to three years (renewable each year contingent upon performance) and have allowances for project costs and travel in addition to salary and benefits.

To apply:

The application is a two–step process. Review will be continuous until positions are filled with appropriate candidates, so for best consideration please send your initial application in early.

Please begin by familiarizing yourself with the Center's research goals and its faculty members at the website **http://www.lignocellulose.org/**. Please feel free to contact one or more faculty for email discussion to develop ideas.

Step 1 : For consideration, please send the following in a single PDF file by October 15 to clsf.manager@gmail.com : (1) A letter of interest describing your relevant background and *a brief compelling research idea focused on lignocellulose structure or formation related to the Center's research interests that you would be able to explore as a CLSF postdoctoral fellow*, (2) Your detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) including a list of publications, (3) Names, physical addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of three references that the CLSF Director or

Manager have permission to contact and (4) Any CLSF faculty that you have contacted regarding your interest in this research opportunity.

Letters of interest are due October 15, but review will be continuous and earlier applicants will have more time to prepare a formal proposal (step 2, see below) by November 1.

Step 2: Based on information in the application package (Step 1), opportunities will be made for selected candidates to visit one or more sites, if appropriate, in order to give a seminar on their current research and have the opportunity to interact with the members of the CLSF.

Following this interaction, candidates may be invited to submit a formal proposal detailing a collaborative research project requiring established communications and sponsorship with any two or more of the Center's senior investigators.

Project proposals (Step 2) should be submitted by **November 15** for full consideration. While this deadline to develop your proposal is flexible, review will be continuous and these positions will be filled by first desirable candidates.