

CIFellows 2021

Computing Innovation Fellows



CIFellows 2021 Webinar

Speakers: Liz Bradley, Randy Bryant, Ken Calvert, Ann Schwartz Drobnis and Margaret Martonosi

- 1. Background & setup*
 - 2. The program*
 - 3. Q&A: please use Q&A (not chat) to ask questions*
- Webinar, including Q&A, will be recorded and posted on CI Fellows 2021 website***

April 15th, 2021

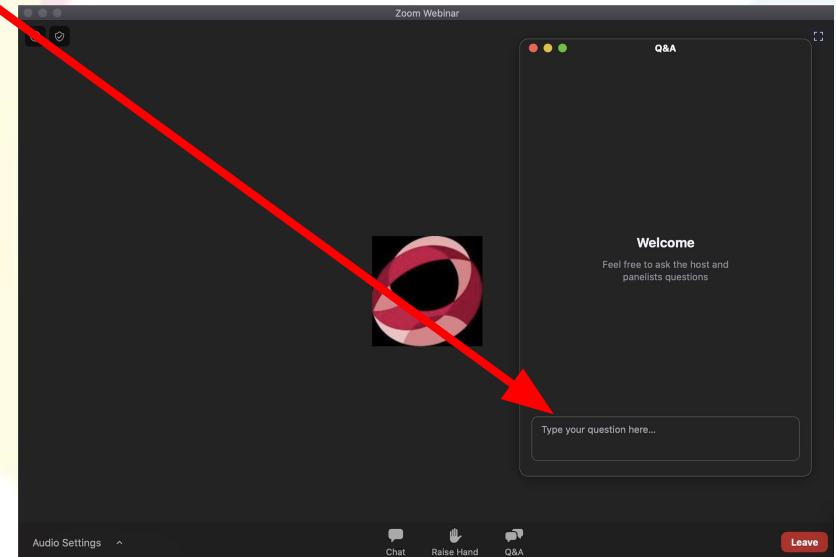
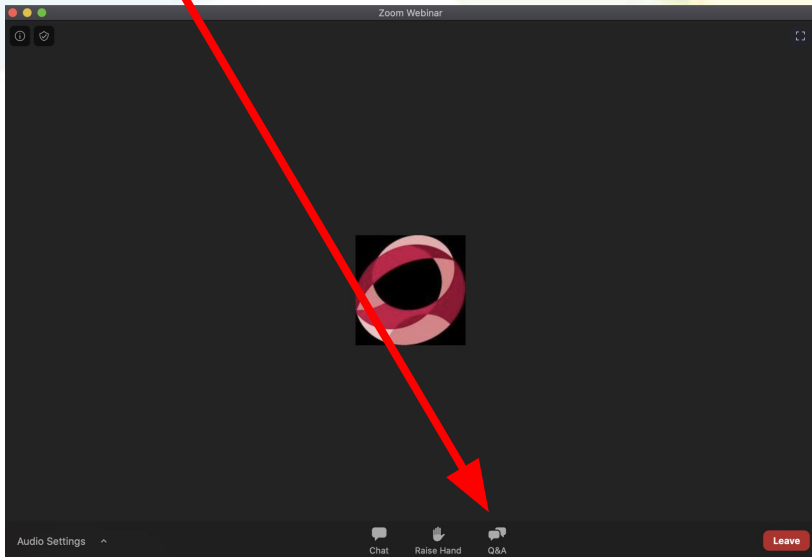


Q&A

Host will select questions to ask, or paraphrase, w/o giving questioner's name

Use Webinar Q&A (not chat) to send questions privately to host (see below)

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See website
for all definitive answers



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Motivation

COVID-19 has significantly disrupted computing's academic job market

- CRA's survey ending April 1st 2020 saw significant job loss in N. America
- Things have not gotten better since

Goal of the CIFellows program: to help ensure continuity of the academic research pipeline through disruptions related to COVID-19

Past success: CIFellows w/ cohorts in 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2020...

- Kept great people in research
- Facilitated career development with mentors & cohort-building activities
- Developed computing postdoc mentoring best practices
- Adapted to COVID-19 realities



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Key Organizations

Computing Research Association (CRA)

- Non-profit organization whose members are mostly N. American academic computing units, companies, government labs and the computing societies
- Mission: *Uniting industry, academia and government to advance computing research and change the world*

Computing Community Consortium (CCC)

- CRA standing committee, largely funded by NSF
- Mission: *Catalyzing the computing research community and enabling the pursuit of innovative, high-impact research*

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- US federal agency; CISE Directorate funds much of computing research
- 1950 Charter: *to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense...*



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Key Committees

Co-Principal Investigators

- Liz Bradley
CCC Chair & U. Colorado
- Randy Bryant
Carnegie Mellon
- Ken Calvert
University of Kentucky
- Ann Schwartz Drobniś
CCC Director
- Ellen Zegura
CRA Board Chair & Georgia Tech

Steering Committee

- Co-PIs+
- Andrew Bernat, CRA
- Cindy Bethel, Miss. State U
- Anita Jones, U. Virginia
- Stefan Savage, UCSD

Selection Committee

- Co-PIs +
- Emery Berger, UMass
- Azer Bestavros, BU
- Marie DesJardins, Simmons
- Jessica Hodgins, CMU
- Ben Kuipers, U. Michigan
- Dan Lopresti, Lehigh
- Ray Mooney, UT Austin
- Sean Munson, UW
- Jelani Nelson, Berkeley
- Katie Siek, U. Indiana



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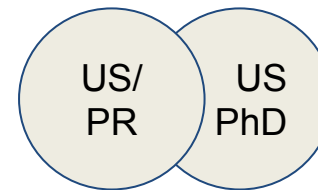


Key Eligibility Requirements

Applicant's research area falls under the umbrella of the NSF Computing and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate

Applicant's PhD completion date falls between 1/1/2020-12/31/2021

Applicant is a US Citizen/Permanent Resident
OR PhD at US institution



Mentor is employed at a US academic institution and may not be applicant's PhD advisor or current postdoc advisor

CIFellowship must take place "at" a US institution

Applicants must coordinate with mentor to apply as a pair



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Finding a Mentor/CI Fellow

We encourage community members to use their networks to find potential matches. To help with this process we have created an opportunity board:

<https://board.cifellows2021.org/>

- This board will be monitored by CRA and CCC, but we will not be endorsing any posts or making any recommendations.
- Posts on the opportunity board will not be considered during the evaluation of applications.
- **We ask that you remove your post once you have found a partner for your application.**



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Key Application Components (near final)

Applications will be completed in HotCRP. Applicants may apply twice with two different mentors. Each application should be separate. A limit of one award per applicant and one award per mentor will apply.

1. Research Proposal – A one-page statement of research objectives/goals for the duration of the two-year CIFellowship, including **Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts** as defined in the NSF PAPPG. Broader Impacts might include addressing the changing world due to COVID-19, broadening participation, and/or pedagogical considerations. Bibliography for this proposal may be included on a second page.
2. CIFellowship Plan – A one-page statement that describes the research skills and experiences the candidate plans to gain during the CIFellowship and how these will advance their career objectives. This plan should be written in collaboration with the proposed mentor. It should explain how the CIFellow and mentor will work together to achieve what is planned, particularly if they are not physically co-located.
3. Mentoring Plan – A one-page document, written in conjunction with the CIFellow, that outlines how the mentor will work with the CIFellow to achieve their goals. We encourage the CIFellow and the mentor to consider the strategies and best practices listed on the website when developing the Mentoring Plan.
4. Academic CV - two pages maximum



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Key Application Components (near final)

5. Letter of recommendation from current research supervisor.
6. Additional letter of recommendation
7. Letter of support from proposed Mentor – this letter must indicate a lack of funding for support of the applicant and complement the CIFellowship Plan
8. Registration (Must be entered in HotCRP **by May 10th**)
 - a. Title - title of proposed research project. If you are applying twice with the same project, please use the same title but follow it with A on the first application and B on the second)
 - b. Application information - diversity information; PhD (university, advisor, date of defense); current professional information (university, current position, advisor); and CIFellowship information (mentor name and email address, host institution, location where CIFellow will live and work during the fellowship, preferred start date).
 - c. Author information for letters of recommendation - name and email address of current research supervisor; name and email address of the writer for the additional letter of recommendation
 - d. Topics - Select up to two research areas that relate to your proposal. If your research area is not listed as an option, select 'other' and specify the research area in the 'optional additional information' section on your application.



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Evaluation Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated on their track record of research accomplishment, and on the merits of their research proposal.

Applicants will be evaluated on the merits of their CIFellowship Plan, amplified by the mentor's letter and the mentoring plan.

Attention will be paid to diversity. CIFellowships will be awarded to span the research areas of CISE. Preference will be given to US citizens and permanent residents.

No more than two CIFellowships will be awarded to candidates whose PhDs were/will be awarded from a single university.

No more than two CIFellowships will be awarded to candidates whose mentors are at a specific university.



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Timeline

April 5: Announcement to community

April 15: Community webinar

Week of April 19: Application system goes live

May 10: Application registration (title, application information and letter writer information submitted) by potential CIFellows

May 17: Applications DONE (including letters)

July 1: Notify awardees



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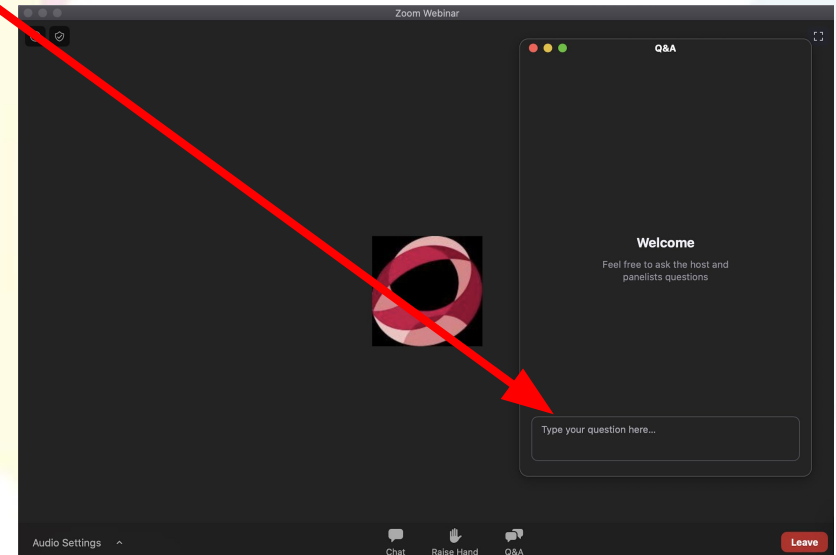
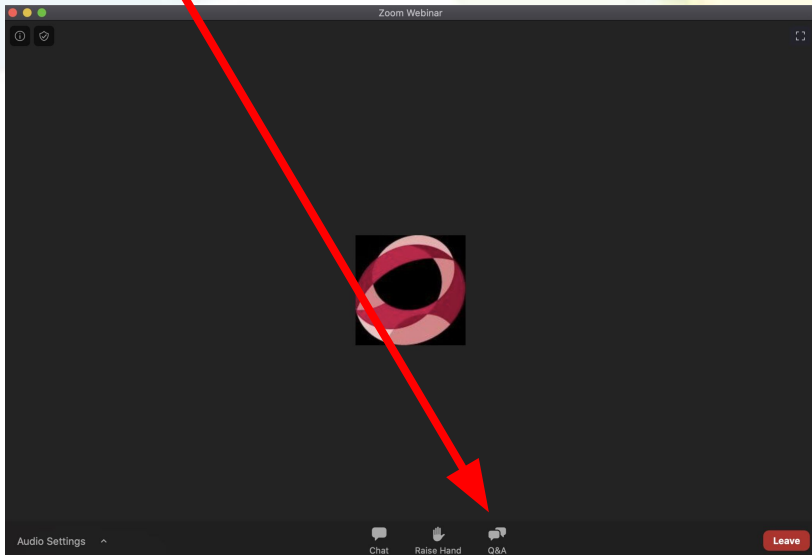


Q&A (Recorded for website)

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Website FAQs will be updated regularly

FAQs

For Applicants

For Mentors

For Host Institution

What does it mean to “complete” the PhD degree?

“Complete” for these purposes means when the applicant has met all of the PhD degree requirements, including submission of the final thesis. It is not necessary to have the diploma in hand.

May non-US citizens apply?

Yes. Preference will be given in the selection process to US citizens and permanent residents, but applicants must complete (or anticipate completing) the PhD degree or first postdoctoral fellowship during the window of July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020.

I don’t see my Research Area listed; can I still apply?

If you do not see your Research Area listed, but contend that your research falls under the CISE umbrella, please select Other and indicate how your research falls under CISE in the Optional Additional Information Section of the Application.

What guidance shall I give my letter writers?

Once you begin your application, you will input the contact information for your letter writers (3 Letters: 1 from your current Research Supervisor, 1 from an additional supporter, and 1 from your proposed mentor). The application system will then send your letter writers a link where they can login and submit their letter. Please advise them to look for an email from support@conferenceabstracts.com. If you’re applying twice with two separate mentors, please make other letter writers aware they will be receiving two separate email requests to complete.



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Common Questions

- 1) May non-US citizen apply?** Yes. Preference will be given in the selection process to US citizens and permanent residents, but applicants must complete (or anticipate completing) the PhD degree during the window of 1/1/20 - 12/31/21 at a US institution. We will not be helping with visas.
- 2) What does it mean to “complete” the PhD degree?** “Complete,” for these purposes, means that the applicant has met all of the PhD degree requirements, including submission of the final thesis. It is not necessary to have the diploma in hand.
- 3) I don’t see my research area listed; can I still apply?** If you do not see your research area listed, but feel that your research falls under the CISE umbrella, please select “Other” and indicate how your research falls under CISE in the optional additional information section of the application.



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