



**REQUEST FOR USE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND:
B. ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SENIOR SCIENTIST AWARDS**

1. Within the framework of the Education and Training Programme, IARC offers a Senior Visiting Scientist Award every year to a qualified and experienced senior investigator who wishes to spend a sabbatical of six to twelve months at the IARC working on a collaborative project in a research area related to the Agency's programmes. Candidates are requested to contact the relevant Scientific Groups in order to set up a collaborative project. The Senior Visiting Scientist brings innovative research to IARC, ideally of benefit to several Groups. To cite recent examples, Professor Julian Peto (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK) and Professor David Richardson (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA) jointly held this Award in 2009 and Dr Jia Chen (Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA) is the current recipient.
2. Although in certain years more than one senior scientist was able to share the Award, the demand for Senior Visiting Scientist Awards tends to greatly exceed the offer. This is *per se* an excellent sign that reveals the high attractiveness of a stay at IARC. It is also the consequence of the very broad range of opportunities of fruitful collaboration offered by the different Sections and Groups at IARC. There would clearly be room and opportunities to host a larger number of Senior Visiting Scientists and for the concurrent appointment of scientists from different backgrounds every year.
3. The current proposal has been prompted by the exceptionally large number of excellent applications received for the IARC Senior Visiting Scientist Award in 2011. Compared to four eligible applicants in 2009 and three in 2010, there are eight high-quality applicants in 2011.
4. Additional funds for Senior Visiting Scientist Awards should not subtract resources from other important components of the Education and Training Programme (e.g. Post-Doctoral Fellowships). Allocation of a larger proportion of the IARC regular budget to the Education and Training Programme would also be difficult in the current biennium. Other ways must therefore be sought to host a larger number of senior scientists willing to spend several months in different Groups and able to conduct high-quality collaborative projects.

5. This issue was discussed at the Scientific Council in 2011 and support was received to prepare a request for additional funds to the Governing Council in 2011 for its consideration as a one-off recognition of the quality of candidates this year. Although this support was expressed in relation to biostatistics (see document GC/53/4), the Scientific Council supported the initiative in general across disciplines.
6. A model to increase support for Senior Visiting Scientists each year may be the one generously put in place by the Cancer Council Australia for the joint IARC-Australia post-doctoral fellowship, i.e. the creation of Senior Visiting Scientist Awards intended for nationals of Participating States interested in promoting these types of exchanges. Discussions have been initiated with a number of national institutions in this regard. Senior candidates should be asked to pursue collaborative projects on aspects of cancer research that are related to the Agency's mission and considered priorities by the sponsoring Participating State.
7. Participating States may also decide to support additional Senior Visiting Scientist Awards not restricted to scientists of a certain nationality but open to candidates who are recognized experts in certain priority topics or who are proposing outstanding, innovative projects of relevance to IARC's mission.
8. A Senior Visiting Scientist Award at IARC is highly cost effective. The annual remuneration currently offered is up to US\$ 80 000. This amount, however, takes into account the on-going salary of the visiting scientist (net of tax), which is then topped-up¹. As many Senior Visiting Scientists can keep their salary or at least part of it during their sabbatical period, the real cost of the Award is often substantially less than US\$ 80 000.
9. The benefits of strengthening the presence at IARC of Senior Visiting Scientists of different nationalities and disciplines are evident. They include not only benefits to the host Groups and Sections but also a boost to the scientific interaction between the Agency and its Participating States as well as substantial enhancement of the Agency's capacity to conduct high quality training and teaching.
10. Request is made to the Governing Council to fund up to two additional Senior Visiting Scientist Awards in 2011–2012 from the Governing Council Special Fund to a maximum value of US\$ 160 000 and to consider the best approach for the development of further Senior Visiting Scientist opportunities at IARC.

¹ In cases where salary after tax exceeds the amount of the Award, a stipend equivalent to half the value of the Award is granted (pro-rata).