**Coral Bleaching RCN: call for Early Career Training Program applicants**

Temperature stress is the single largest threat to coral reefs globally and is the focal topic of the ongoing Coral Bleaching Research Coordination Network (CBRCN). The CBRCN Early Career Training Program is designed to give early career researchers (i.e., post-candidacy PhD students and post-docs) an opportunity to learn a new skill (i.e., laboratory or field method, data analysis tool, or other skill relevant to the study of coral bleaching) within the 2022 calendar year from a PI in a department or at an institution other than their own for a period of at least 28 consecutive days. By learning a new skill, it is expected that individuals selected to participate in this program will be better able to incorporate inter-disciplinary approaches into their research. We seek input and participation from researchers across a broad range of disciplines (i.e., biology, physiology, geology, ecology, biogeochemistry, physical oceanography, etc.) who are interested in learning new approaches to apply to coral bleaching studies. Applicants must be post-candidacy PhD students or postdocs at a US institution and the proposed work/training must take place at a US institution or facility. Applicants need not be US citizens / permanent residents but must travel and train within the US for this exchange.

We invite interested individuals to submit an application (using the required Early Career Training Program application form) by **20 December, 2021** from which 3 awards are expected to be offered to the top ranked applicants. Each award will be a flat amount of $2,500 USD toward travel, materials or supplies to support their proposed learning experience. All participants of the three Coral Bleaching RCN workshops (listed at <https://u.osu.edu/grottoli.1/coral-bleaching-rcn/> ) have agreed to be potential mentors, although applicants are not limited to this group. The application form is included with this notice, and is also available for download from the Coral Bleaching RCN website (<http://u.osu.edu/grottoli.1/coral-bleaching-rcn/early-career-training-program/> ). Completed forms must be accompanied by the additional required documents including two letters of support: one from the host outlining their commitment to the applicant and a second from the current supervisor giving permission for successful applicants to participate. Late or incomplete applications, and those without the required letters of support at the time of submission will be ineligible. Award recipients must also participate in an online information session and agree to submit a 2-page post-award report within 30 days after completing the training that outlines the experience and value of the learning experience to the applicant. Any publications or presentations resulting from the Early Career Training Program are asked to acknowledge the NSF Coral Bleaching RCN and inform the Coral Bleaching RCN Director of the publication.

Completed applications following the attached application checklist should be sent via email to Dr. Rob Toonen at [rjtoonen@gmail.com](mailto:rjtoonen@gmail.com) no later than midnight HST on 20 December, 2021 for consideration. Successful award recipients will be notified as soon as possible, but no later than the end of March. Additional information about the RCN, workshops and Early Career Training Program can be found at <http://u.osu.edu/grottoli.1/coral-bleaching-rcn/> or by contacting Dr. Toonen directly.

**Coral Bleaching Research Coordination Network (CBRCN)**

**EARLY CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM**

This program is designed to give early career (post-candidacy PhD students and post-doctoral) researchers an opportunity to learn a new skill such as a laboratory or field method, data analysis tool, or other skill relevant to any aspect of the study of coral bleaching. This program seeks to foster inter-disciplinary approaches in coral bleaching research. Three individuals per year will be selected on a competitive basis to work with PIs in a department or at an institution other than their own for at least 28 consecutive days and provided a flat amount of $2,500 per awardee. Applicants must submit complete packages as outlined on the checklist provided below **prior to midnight HST on 20 December 2021** to be considered – late or incomplete applications will be disqualified. Awards will be announced by the end of March.

Submit this completed application form along with the five (5) additional required documents exactly as outlined on the following checklist as a single .pdf to Dr. Rob Toonen ([rjtoonen@gmail.com](mailto:rjtoonen@gmail.com)). Successful applicants will have one year to complete the proposed activity. All awardees will be required to participate in an online information session and submit a 2-page final report within 30 days after completing the learning experience or repay the award.

Applicant Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Highest Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year (MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Current Position (select one):

□ Post-candidacy PhD student □ Postdoc

Current Institution of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Supervisor/Advisor/Chair: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (+country code):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Host: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Host Institution: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Institution Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number (+country code):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Early Career Training Program Application Checklist

Checklist of the five (5) required documents to provide with the completed Early Career Training Program Application Form. Combine all of these documents (including this application form & checklist) into a single .pdf file (YOURNAME\_CBRCN\_EarlyCareer) and email your submission with the subject “CBRCN Early Career Application” to [rjtoonen@gmail.com](mailto:rjtoonen@gmail.com) prior to midnight HST 20 December, 2021. Late and incomplete applications (including those that fail to follow guidelines) will not be considered.

□ Proposal of activities that will be undertaken while at the host’s laboratory (maximum 2 pages or 1,200 words, whichever is shorter). The proposal should include the following clearly labeled sections: 1) rationale for the proposed work, 2) a description of the new skill that will be learned and how it will help advance the career of the trainee, and 3) a description of expected outcomes.

□ 2-page NSF-style Biosketch / curriculum vita (text-only CV, no photographs or graphics)

□ Budget and budget justification (maximum 1 page or 500 words). Provide a budget table, budget justification narrative to indicate how the $2,500 award will be spent, and a timeline for the proposed activities within the 2022 calendar year. Funds are expected to support primarily the applicant’s housing and travel costs during the training. Any remaining funds can be applied towards the applicant’s research expenses.

□ Letter of support from the host (maximum 2 pages or 1,200 words). In addition to confirming that they will host the applicant, the following NSF required statement **must** be included verbatim at the end of the letter:

“I [host name] agree to undertake the tasks assigned to me and my organization, as described in the proposal of activities by [applicant name], and I commit to provide and make available the resources specified therein.”

Any letter lacking this statement will not be acceptable and will disqualify the applicant.

□ One additional letter of recommendation from the applicant’s advisor/supervisor/chair (maximum 2 pages or 1,200 words) certifying that they are aware the applicant is applying to spend about a month in another lab or at another institution and have the permission of their home institution and advisor to do so. Strong letters will also explain why the applicant is particularly well suited to this opportunity and how learning the proposed skill will benefit the career of the applicant.

The application form and additional information about the RCN, and Early Career Training Program are available for download from the Coral Bleaching RCN website (<http://u.osu.edu/grottoli.1/coral-bleaching-rcn/early-career-training-program/> ).