

The research program must obviously be clear and of a type to attract attention. There is no necessity for a very specific project, nor for a bright single idea. What is needed, and must appear from the presentation, is some originality of the project and novelty of the results to be pursued. Connection with earlier applicant work is not strictly required, but appropriate reference to relevant literature on the subject will show that the project is not without a sound basis.

The budget should also be carefully considered. It is highly probable that the request will be cut, because this is one of the ways used to match requests with funds. Inflating the budget in view of that prospect is common; but if this is done beyond some reasonable

limits, it will be detected with high probability and bring discredit to the project.

Discussion with people who will examine projects is of course very useful, and is also easy in the Facoltà. For CNR it is not as easy; there is no specific service for that and contacts are better taken by personal acquaintance; but this is not very difficult through some professors.

As a conclusion for young Italian researchers: If you feel that your attitude to research deserves it, try and apply. If you do not succeed . . . well, there are several CNR postgraduate fellowships for universities in the United States. Go there and apply to NSF.

## Comment

José M. Bernardo

I have found Dr. Trumbo's article to be very informative, and I am sure that it will be very helpful to those submitting their first research grant application. Although most of Trumbo's comments are pretty universal, specific details are bound to differ within countries; at the suggestion of the Editor, I will give some details on the situation in Spain. Due to the present drive of the European community toward common scientific policies, I would expect Spanish policies to be fairly similar to those in other European countries.

### 1. POSTGRADUATE GRANT SYSTEM

The Comisión Interministerial de Ciencia y Tecnología (CICYT) publishes research grants every year that allow young graduates to work toward a Ph.D., and young doctorates to pursue their line of research, in the country of their choice. Spanish nationality is required; applications are typically submitted by fall to Servicio de Formación de Personal Investigador, Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, Serrano 150, 28006 Madrid, from where application forms may be obtained.

Those grants cover return flight, tuition when appropriate, health insurance and about US\$1300 monthly, depending on the destination country. The

---

*José M. Bernardo is personal adviser to the President of the State of Valencia and is on leave of absence from his position as Professor at the University of Valencia. His mailing address is: Presidencia de la Generalitat, Departamento de Estadística, Caballeros 2, E-46001, Valencia, Spain.*

basic paperwork requires a short 2-page vita, a 1000-word summary of the research project, a description of the reasons why the candidate has chosen a particular research center, proof of command of the relevant language and three reference letters to be directly sent by the referees chosen by the candidate to the grants office.

Several state governments (Andalucía, Catalunya, Euskadi, Valencia) offer similar, alternative programs for those working within their territory.

### 2. RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia also provides funding for research projects very much along the lines of the NSF grants discussed in the paper. They are designed to promote quality research in any field, although specific topics designated in the National Research Plan get extra funding.

Research projects often span 3 years, and must be submitted by someone working in a nonprofit research center (typically universities and administration), but do not require Spanish nationality.

Applications are submitted by fall to the Dirección General de Política Científica, Serrano 150, 28006 Madrid, from where the appropriate forms may be obtained. As with NSF, projects may be personal or involve a group; the discussion in the paper on the relative merits of both alternatives is fully relevant.

The basic paperwork consists of a summary of the research project, which should be prepared along the lines discussed in the paper, and a detailed vita in a rather specific normalized format. As with NSF, the