

Dear colleagues,

Many of you have had questions about the fee structure for the OCB OA PI meeting this March. Here, we address the most frequently asked questions and clarify some of the details. If you have questions that aren't addressed here, please let Sarah (scooley@whoi.edu) or Mary (mzawoysky@whoi.edu) know.

Q. Why is this meeting different from other OCB meetings?

A. OCB was asked by numerous federal agencies to organize and host a meeting to bring together all OA scientists in the nation, regardless of agency affiliation. Our intention was to bring everyone together in a way that would not require anyone to dip into his or her own research funds to attend. However, this particular meeting was initiated after the most recent renewal of OCB Project Office grants (from NSF, NASA, NOAA), so OCB did not have specific funds allocated in the project office budget for this activity. During meeting planning, OCB received some funds from NSF to help defray the participation of academic attendees.

Q. Why do federal agency representatives have to pay a registration fee?

Conflict of interest rules prevent OCB from using NSF funds we received for this meeting (mentioned above) to underwrite the participation of people affiliated with other agencies. OCB has requested additional funds from other federal agencies whose scientists have been invited to the meeting so we could pay those attendees' costs as well, but agencies other than NSF elected not to provide lump sums to OCB. Instead, these agencies wished to have their scientists and program managers pay a meeting registration fee and their own travel and lodging costs to attend.

Q. What does the registration fee cover?

The registration fee covers the costs of all meals and refreshments from the start of the meeting on Tuesday morning to the end of the meeting on Thursday afternoon, a local shuttle between the hotels and the WHOI campus, and meeting materials. The registration fee does NOT cover the costs of local hotels (\$71.31/night or \$86.66/night, 3 nights) and it does NOT cover any of your travel costs to get to Woods Hole.

Q. Am I considered an academic or a federal scientist?

Researchers working at academic, nonprofit, and/or research institutions are considered academic scientists. If you were invited to this meeting to represent an NSF-funded project, you are considered an academic scientist. Those working at federally funded labs, agencies, or educational institutions are considered federal scientists. (As a rule of thumb, academic email addresses end in .edu or .org, while federal addresses end in .gov or .mil. One exception: researchers from the Naval Postgraduate School -- @nps.edu -- are considered federal.)

We look forward to seeing you in March!

Best wishes,

The OCB Project Office

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