

## PARTICIPANT SUPPORT

The GPOTS Steering Committee's rules have always stated that the NSF contribution (currently \$14,000) is to be used for participant support only. It is intended that these funds be used to provide partial support to about 60 of the participants at an average of about \$233 each. A request form for support can be filled out upon arrival at the conference site. We expect 100 or more participants, and we estimate that around 60 will request some support.

While the organizers cannot make specific commitments of support to individuals ahead of time, participants who have a need for some conference support will generally receive some support. The policy for awarding support is generally one of inverse-seniority, with graduate students and postdocs receiving a higher priority, although other participants are encouraged to apply. The maximum individual support is currently set at \$350.

GPOTS is a very popular annual conference, and participants do not expect to be fully funded. Because many participants have supplementary sources of travel support from their own institutions, this \$233 average figure makes it possible for many participants to attend who otherwise would find it very difficult. Participants who have their own individual NSF or other domestic and foreign government grants do not normally receive conference support, unless travel and other conference costs are unusually high. However, their graduate students and postdocs may receive conference support.

Local funds provided by the host institution, together with registration fees paid by the participants, are used to cover the costs of the main speakers and to provide the finances necessary for the actual running of the conference. The registration fee is currently set at \$80 for regular participants and \$30 for students.

We encourage participants to attend the traditional GPOTS banquet. The Banquet is partially subsidized by local funds, and so the additional cost to participants of \$25 is a bargain. This year the Banquet will be held Friday night at the Texas A&M faculty club starting at 7:00PM, with an informal reception and cash bar starting at 6:00PM. The food is great, the fellowship is terrific, and the nighttime view from the faculty club at the top of Rudder Tower is spectacular.