Funding available for Pier2Peer members

The Ocean Foundation is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) Pier2Peer program members. This funding opportunity is made possible through The Ocean Foundation's International Ocean Acidification Initiative, which builds capacity to monitor, understand, and respond to ocean acidification. Each year, awards of up to USD $5000 will be available to help support international collaborations between mentors and mentees that results in tangible gains in capacity. The next application deadline is **September 30th 2021**.

Objectives

This funding opportunity will facilitate the collaboration among Pier2Peer program participants, thereby enhancing the quality and coverage of Ocean Acidification (OA) observations around the world as part of the ocean monitoring objectives of GOA-ON.

The primary purpose of this fund is to build the capacity of scientists who are relatively new to studying ocean acidification (the "peers") to enable them to design and implement high quality monitoring and research programs through collaboration with scientists with multiple years of experience working in this field (the "piers"). Proposed monitoring and research should align with the goals of the GOA-ON, which are:

- **Goal 1**: Improve our understanding of global OA conditions
    - Determine status and spatial / temporal patterns in carbon chemistry, assessing the generality of response to ocean acidification
    - Document and evaluate variation in carbon chemistry to infer mechanisms (including biological) driving ocean acidification
    - Quantify rates of change, trends, and identify areas of heightened vulnerability or resilience

- **Goal 2**: Improve our understanding of ecosystem response to OA
    - Track biological responses in concert with physical/chemical changes
    - Quantify rates of change and identify locations and species of heightened vulnerability or resilience

- **Goal 3**: Acquire and exchange data and knowledge necessary to optimize modeling for OA and its impact
    - Provide spatially and temporally resolved biogeochemical data for use in parameterizing and validating models, including societally-relevant forecasts and projections

Scope

Proposals will outline joint projects between mentor and mentee. The aim of the projects may include one or more activities, such as hands-on training with observing equipment, learning new sample analysis techniques, or conducting observations that fill a gap in OA monitoring with guidance of the mentor, e.g. via mentor/mentee visiting its counterpart, joint manuscript preparation, joint proposal writing, and initiation or consolidation of joint observing or modelling projects. The projects should expand the capabilities of the mentee, or both partners, to produce data and/or modelling products that meet criteria for sharing with the GOA-ON network, and improve capacity and understanding of the threat of OA to the marine systems in the mentees region. Proposals should clearly describe how the funded activities will enable the mentee to produce new OA data, either directly in the course of the project or indirectly through training. Projects that focus on learning techniques for conducting experiments to evaluate the biological impacts of OA on local marine species must include a description of the OA scenarios that will be used on the organisms and a justification for the selection of those scenarios (i.e., based in local field data or robust model).

The funding committee particularly encourages proposals that enable the mentee to submit new data to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.3.1 Indicator ("Average marine acidity (pH) measured at an agreed suite of representative sampling stations.") Under SDG14, "Life below water," the Target 3 on ocean acidification calls to "minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels," and the Indicator measures progress to achieve the Target. The current methodology for collecting data is available here.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The ability of the proposed activities to contribute data (chemical or biological) that fills a gap in current efforts to monitor ocean acidification within the GOA-ON community
- The suitability of the proposed activities to the expertise, skill levels, financial resources, and technical resources of the mentor and mentee
- The strength of the methods proposed, including scientific methodologies, research design, and data sharing intentions (e.g., integration into local/regional monitoring or adaptation programs)
- The suitability of the budget for the proposed activities and outcomes

The funding is not intended to support travel to attend conferences. Exceptions may be made if the travel to conferences is clearly connected to achieving the project goals. The funds granted

must be spent within twelve months of receipt, and can be partitioned between the mentor and mentee as desired.

Applications

Applications should be jointly submitted by the Pier2Peer mentor and mentee and should contain the following:

1. Project proposal (max 1500 words), including a description of the collaboration plan, brief background on the current capacity for ocean acidification monitoring in the relevant region, potential or actual sites for field monitoring and why these sites were selected, and an explanation of how the project fits within the scope of the GOA-ON requirements plan, discussion of how the data will be shared and used, and expected outcomes;
2. Proposed budget, noting the amounts requested by mentor and mentee;
3. Brief biographical sketch of applicants (one paragraph each).

Submission information

Please submit your applications to Alexis Valauri-Orton (avalauriorton@oceanfdn.org) and Dr. Kerri Dobson (kerri.dobson@noaa.gov). The next deadline will be **September 30th 2021**. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and pairs can continue to submit proposals which will be reviewed on a quarterly basis thereafter, pending the availability of funds. Grant recipients will commit to submitting a report within three months of the completion of their project that details the outcomes of their collaboration.

Pier2Peer is a scientific mentorship program supporting the expansion of ocean acidification observing capacity in direct contribution to the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) through two way sharing and capacity building activities. GOA-ON is a collaborative international approach to document the status and progress of ocean acidification in open-ocean, coastal, and estuarine environments, to understand the drivers and impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, and to provide spatially and temporally resolved biogeochemical data necessary to optimize modeling for ocean acidification.