

Science Initiative Group  
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**\*\*Press Release \*\***

**Contacts:**

Arlen Hastings, Executive Director, SIG ([hastings@ias.edu](mailto:hastings@ias.edu); 609-951-4444)

Lori Mulcare, Program Associate, SIG ([lori@ias.edu](mailto:lori@ias.edu); 609-951-4450)

The Science Initiative Group (SIG) at the Institute for Advanced Study announces a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) to fund the Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE) in Africa for 2014-2016. The award of \$4,999,500 represents the third and final grant by CCNY in support of RISE, bringing the total CCNY funding for RISE to more than \$15 million since 2008.

The primary objective of RISE is to increase the population and skill levels of faculty members in science and engineering in universities in sub-Saharan Africa. RISE uses a network model of operation, with each network made up of universities and research institutions in three or more African countries. Through participation in RISE networks, students have access to resources and expertise available at all institutions in their network.

By the end of the grant period, RISE aims to have graduated more than 200 Ph.D. and masters students from more than a dozen African countries. A majority of RISE graduates will be employed by universities in their home countries or regions. Phillip A. Griffiths, chair of SIG and former Director of the Institute and Professor Emeritus in the School of Mathematics, said, "We have found that networks promote an essential sharing of resources and a culture of research excellence. Networks also create opportunities for long-term professional linkages."

SIG is based at the Institute and provides overall administration for RISE. Robbert Dijkgraaf, Director of the Institute and Leon Levy Professor, views SIG as an important means of extending the Institute's impact internationally and increasing understanding of emerging science in the developing world.

SIG has also been supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is overseen by a small board made up primarily of directors of research institutions worldwide.

The RISE networks and their constituent universities and research institutes are the following:

AMSEN: African Materials Science and Engineering Network (University of the Witwatersrand, University of Nairobi, University of Namibia, Federal University of Technology – Akure, University of Botswana)

RISE-AFNNET: African Natural Products Network (Makerere University, University of Nairobi, Sokoine University of Agriculture)

SABINA: Southern African Biochemistry and Informatics for Natural Products (University of Malawi, University of Namibia, University of Dar es Salaam, University of Pretoria, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa)

SSAWRN: Sub-Saharan Africa Water Resources Network (Rhodes University, Eduardo Mondlane University, University of Botswana, Makerere University)

WIO-RISE: Western Indian Ocean Regional Initiative in Marine Science and Education (University of Dar es Salaam, Eduardo Mondlane University, University of Cape Town)

Since its founding in 1930, the Institute for Advanced Study has welcomed scholars from around the globe. More than sixty percent of its Members and Visitors are non-U.S. citizens, and the large majority of the permanent Faculty, including the current and immediate past Director, are foreign-born. In 1999, the Institute began its formal involvement with some of these underrepresented countries through the establishment of SIG and its flagship project, the Millennium Science Initiative (MSI).

For additional information, please see the RISE website at <http://sig.ias.edu/rise>.