The Simons Foundation invites nominations for the Simons Investigators in Mathematics, Physics, and Theoretical Computer Science program. Simons Investigators are outstanding theoretical scientists who receive long-term research support from the Simons Foundation.

Rationale: The Simons Investigators program aims to provide a stable base of support for outstanding scientists, enabling them to undertake long-term investigations of the fundamental questions in their fields. The intent of the program is to support these scientists in their most productive years, when they are establishing creative new research directions, providing leadership to the field and effectively mentoring junior scientists.

Level and Duration of Funding: A Simons Investigator is appointed for an initial period of five years. Renewal for an additional five years is contingent upon the evaluation of scientific impact of the Investigator. Renewal beyond the ten-year period will not be considered. Appointments will begin August 1, 2015.

An Investigator position may be interrupted and resumed for reasons that would normally justify a leave from a university, such as illness, the need to care for family members or time off for national service. Periods of sabbatical or research leave do not count as interrupting the Investigator position. Support may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the foundation, but it is expected that termination of the grant at times other than five or ten years would occur only in very rare cases.

An Investigator will receive research support in an amount initially set at $100,000
per year. An additional $10,000 per year will be provided to the Investigator’s department. The award is administered through the institution at which the Investigator is appointed, and this institution will receive an additional 20 percent per year in indirect costs on the Investigator and departmental funds.

**Appropriate Expenses:** The funding provided to the Investigator may be used at the Investigator’s discretion to support research expenses in the following categories:

- Up to one month of summer salary and related benefits.
- Salary support and related benefits, including tuition support, for postdoctoral, graduate or undergraduate research assistants.
- Domestic or international travel for the Investigator.
- Short- or long-term visitors, including travel, meals and lodging expenses.
- Research equipment, supplies and other expenses directly benefiting the research.

Expenditures in other expense categories may be possible but must be approved in advance by the foundation. Investigator funds may not be used for sabbatical salary support or teaching relief of any kind.

Funding provided for the Investigator’s department should be used at the discretion of the department chair to provide support for seminars, visitors, refreshments and related expenditures that benefit the research activities of the department. The department is expected to provide appropriate administrative support to the Investigator.

**Unspent Funds:** The foundation’s intent is that the award be administered to allow the maximum flexibility in pursuit of scientific goals. To this end, unspent funds are automatically carried over from year to year during the period of appointment, allowing for a particularly large expenditure in one year; for example, it might be appropriate to create a “special year” at an expense of several hundred thousand
dollars. In exceptional circumstances, it may be appropriate to pre-spend a portion of the award.

Tentative spending plans will be due by **December 1, 2015**. Requests for accelerated disbursal will be considered by the foundation, subject to approval by the director of the Mathematics and Physical Sciences Division and to budget availability. Investigators may apply for a no-cost extension for funds unexpended at the conclusion of the appointment.

**Reporting:** A financial report and a brief activity report, summarizing research results achieved, people supported, talks given and papers published, will be required from the Investigator annually, due by October 31 of each year.

There will be a comprehensive review in the fourth year, at which a detailed progress report and statement of research plans is to be presented by the Investigator. This review will determine the reappointment of the Investigator for an additional five years.

At the conclusion of the appointment, at either year five or ten, a final report is required, due within 60 days of the appointment end date. This report should detail the research achieved, people supported and publications produced, as well as provide a detailed itemization of how the funds were expended. It may reference the annual reports already submitted.

**Eligibility:** To be an Investigator, a scientist must be engaged in theoretical research in mathematics, physics or computer science and must have a primary appointment as a faculty member at a United States, Canadian, or United Kingdom institution with a Ph.D. program and not have previously been a Simons Investigator. At the time of the appointment start date, an Investigator should be tenured.

The foundation reserves the right to determine eligibility, but, generally, a ‘primary appointment’ is defined as one where an Investigator is a full-time employee of an
academic institution and with a teaching load that is comparable to that of other faculty members in the same department. Investigators may transfer their award to a new educational institution within the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom, subject to approval from the foundation and the old and new institutions. The award will be interrupted or terminated, at the foundation’s discretion, if an Investigator takes up a primary long-term position at a research institute, national laboratory, non U.S., Canadian, U.K. or for-profit organization or accepts a major administrative responsibility that significantly reduces the time available for research.

Investigators are expected to attend annual meetings at the Simons Foundation (at the foundation’s expense) to discuss their activities.

Number of Awards: In 2015, the foundation anticipates appointing up to three Investigators in Mathematics, up to seven in Physics, and up to three in Theoretical Computer Science.

Nomination Procedure: The foundation asks each university to submit nominations, up to two for each of the three fields. The nomination materials outlined below should be sent via email to Elizabeth Roy (eroy@simonsfoundation.org) by October 28, 2014. The foundation expects to notify nominees of the decision by May 15, 2015.

For each nominee, we ask the nominators to provide the following documents in a single PDF file in the order indicated below. All documents should be typewritten, single-spaced and in typeface no smaller than 10-point font. Margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch. Nominations that do not adhere to these requirements may not be considered.

- Nomination letter written by someone other than the nominee, up to two pages in length, explaining the distinctive scientific contributions of the nominee, focusing on scientific accomplishments of the past five years and
including discussion of a few important papers; the letter should be signed by the nominator.

- The nominee’s curriculum vitae, including Ph.D. year, institution, advisor, postdoctoral institutions and advisors, and positions held subsequent to award of doctorate.
- The nominee’s up-to-date publication list.

Important Dates:

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<th>Nomination Deadline</th>
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