



*University of California Intercampus Research Program on*  
**Experimental Evolution**

Irvine  Riverside  Santa Barbara



January 30, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to you now because the UC Office of the President has approved an Intercampus Research Program in the area of experimental evolution (or "IRPEE"). The letter of approval is included in this packet. I am particularly grateful to David Reznick and William Rice for their assistance with the preparation of the long series of documents that it took to get IRPEE approved. Albert Bennett, Chair of UCI's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Dean Sue Bryant of UCI's School of Biological Sciences, and Cathie Magowan of UCOP also helped. When we started, there were no IRP's at the University of California. Our case and that of a group in the humanities led to the development of the IRP program over the last few years.

Most of you were included in the list of participating faculty in the proposal submitted to UCOP. [A short version of this proposal is included.] Others should have been, but time ran out during the application process. I encourage those of you who have not yet joined to do so. All that's required is a 2-3 page CV and a letter indicating your interest.

IRPEE has received a small amount of support from within UC Irvine, enough to take care of postage and refreshments for meetings. For now, Riverside and Santa Barbara will need to supply funds for their operations within IRPEE. David Reznick and William Rice are in charge of our branch operations at Riverside and Santa Barbara, respectively, and I am optimistically assuming that they will continue to be so. I will refer to them as Associate Directors of IRPEE until somebody from UCOP tells me I can't do that. Those of you in Riverside or Santa Barbara might help them obtain some initial funding from your department Chairs or Deans.

My ambition is to hold a one-day weekend meeting at Irvine before the quarter is over. The focus of this meeting would be on planning our activities in the following areas:

- (1) fostering UC publications on EE,
- (2) assisting with regular UC grant applications involving EE,
- (3) organizing a UC mini-conference and other meetings on EE,
- (4) organizing joint course offerings among the three branch campuses,
- (5) planning applications for multi-campus training grants,
- (6) planning applications for multi-campus research grants,
- (7) raising funds from the private sector to support IRPEE,
- (8) persuading faculty from other UC campuses to organize their own branch of IRPEE,
- (9) internal organization of IRPEE.

I will be contacting some of you individually to determine when a good time to meet would be. I am thinking in terms of a weekend meeting because it should greatly lessen the commute times from Santa Barbara and Riverside. For example, we might collect at Irvine between 11 AM and 12 PM on a Saturday, have a casual lunch supplied by IRPEE, and then start a meeting around noon. We could knock off around 4 PM so that the Santa Barbara participants could get back to their families by 7 PM or so. However, I am open to suggestions.

Indeed, I encourage you to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions concerning any means by which IRPEE might make a constructive contribution. My contact information is below.

I think that IRPEE constitutes a substantial opportunity to increase the impact of experimental evolution, broadly construed, particularly because the University of California is notably strong in this area. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Rose,  
IRPEE Director,  
UC Irvine

[Mrose@uci.edu](mailto:Mrose@uci.edu)

Telephone: 949-824-8121

FAX: 949-824-2181 (cover page required)