



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DIRECTORATE FOR MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

**Date:** October 25, 2005  
**From:** Assistant Director, MPS  
**Subject:** **MPS Advisory Committee Meeting November 2-4, 2005**  
**To:** MPSAC Members

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the upcoming meeting of the MPS Advisory Committee, (MPSAC) to be held November 2-4 at the offices of the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia.

The meeting will begin with a special orientation session of the MPSAC the afternoon of Wednesday, November 2, where new members will be briefed on activities of NSF, MPS, and Divisions within MPS. Continuing members are also welcome to attend these briefings.

I want to welcome new members to the MPSAC: Douglas Arnold (University of Minnesota), Cynthia Burrows (University of Utah), Claude Canizares (MIT), Larry Dalton (University of Washington), Rhonda Hughes (Bryn Mawr College), Jose Onuchic (University of California, San Diego), Monica Olvera de la Cruz (Northwestern University), and Michael Witherell (University of California, Santa Barbara).

I also want to thank the members of the MPSAC who have just rotated off for all of their efforts on behalf of MPS over the last three years: Shenda Baker (Harvey Mudd College), Peter Green (University of Texas, Austin), Jean Futrell (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), David Morrison (Duke University), Claudia Neuhauser (University of Minnesota), and Gary Sanders (California Institute of Technology).

Science education in schools is receiving increasing public attention. Over the past several years the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate has been working with the Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR) in finding areas where the two directorates can cooperate and carry out joint activities. Last June three working groups were set up with membership from both EHR and MPS to further explore and cement this relationship. We will have a joint session of the two advisory committees Thursday morning and the two advisory committees will be briefed on the activities of the three working groups.

At the Spring 2005 meeting we had a very successful discussion concerning women in the mathematical and physical sciences and their career paths within the academic community, and we will be discussing the followup to this meeting. Also, we will begin a discussion of another aspect of broadening participation, that of underrepresented minorities in our disciplines. I am

delighted that the co-chair of the CEOSE committee, Dr. Sam Myers, will be present to brief us on CEOSE activities and their recently released report.

Within the past few months an Office of Cyberinfrastructure, reporting to the NSF Director, has been created. We will be updating you on recent cyberinfrastructure activities, both within NSF and MPS.

NSF is currently operating under a continuing resolution. The NSF FY 2006 budget is still before Congress, and an appropriations bill for NSF has yet to be passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. The NSF FY 2007 budget request will become public in February 2006 when the President presents his budget request for FY 2007 to Congress.

Planning for the FY 2008 budget request will begin on Friday afternoon when we will discuss with you several activities presently taking place within NSF and MPS. With respect to support for MPS facilities, we will bring you up to date on the status of facility planning within MPS and the Senior Review that is taking place within the Division of Astronomical Sciences. Bob Richardson and Jean Futrell will have presented the report of the High Magnetic Field subcommittee to you Thursday morning (Bob was unable to be present Friday). NSF has begun the revision of its strategic plan, and we will provide you with an update. We will also update you on the division director searches in chemistry and mathematics.

Briefing materials are posted on the MPSAC web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/mps/advisory.jsp> under "Past Meeting Documentation." Materials for both our present and past meetings are posted there.

Dr. Morris Aizenman, the Senior Science Associate in MPS, serves as a liaison between the Advisory Committee and the MPS Directorate. Should you have questions or suggestions concerning activities of the Committee, please contact him at 703-292-8807 or by email at [maizenma@nsf.gov](mailto:maizenma@nsf.gov). Ms. Margaret-Anne Wampamba, has already sent you information concerning travel and hotel arrangements. Should you have any questions concerning your travel, you may reach her at 703-292-8800 or by email at [mwampamb@nsf.gov](mailto:mwampamb@nsf.gov).

I look forward to seeing you in November.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MST", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael S. Turner  
Assistant Director