NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

February 18, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for the National Science Foundation's Assistant Director for Biological Sciences (BIO) and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. James Collins has served in this position with great distinction since October 2005.

The Assistant Director, BIO, leads a Directorate comprised of five divisions: Biological Infrastructure; Environmental Biology; Emerging Frontiers; Integrative Organismal Systems; and Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Barbara Schaal of Washington University in St. Louis has agreed to head the Search Committee. We seek your help in identifying candidates with the following qualifications: outstanding leadership; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the biological science community in the areas of education and research; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from any sector - academic, industry, or government - are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information that you can provide, to the AD/BIO Search Committee via e-mail (biosrch@lists.nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving your recommendations by March 31, 2009.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director

Cora B. Marrett
Acting Deputy Director

Enclosures

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Search Committee Review Criteria for Assistant Director for Biological Sciences (AD/BIO), NSF

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the biological sciences.
- Ability to think strategically and formulate integrated plans for education and research activities in the biological science disciplines, at their interfaces, and across the boundaries with other disciplines.

Leadership, Direction, and Representation

- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the BIO directorate and across the agency on agency policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research and education programs and to forge government-industry-university partnerships.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 131 scientific and support staff personnel.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, the Congress, industry, and colleagues in other disciplines.

Credibility within Research and Education Community

- Deep sense of scholarship, significant contributions to the biological sciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the biological sciences is conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education in the biological sciences.
- High level of professional recognition in the biological sciences community as evidenced by positions held, publications, inventions, and/or professional awards.

Commitment

- Commitment to the people, ideas and tools goals of the NSF Strategic Plan and to the strategies for achieving these goals through developing intellectual capital, integrating research and education, and promoting partnerships, and an ability to conceptualize the role of the biological sciences in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the appointment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.
- Commitment to equitable representation of underrepresented groups in the national biological sciences enterprise.

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The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. Its vision is to enable the nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation. In pursuit of this vision, NSF invests in (1) DISCOVERY by supporting research that will advance the frontiers of knowledge and establish the nation as a leader in transformational science; (2) LEARNING to cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce and scientifically literate citizenry; (3) RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE by building the nation's research capacity with critical investments in advanced instruments, tools and facilities; and (4) STEWARDSHIP by cultivating a capable and responsive organization that promotes excellence in science and engineering research and education. All of these goals work together in concert. The Foundation seeks to realize these goals using four core values: vision, dedication to excellence, broad inclusiveness, and accountability to the research community and the taxpayer.

The **Directorate for Biological Sciences** (BIO) is one of seven NSF directorates. BIO employs approximately 131 staff and administers a budget of approximately $613 million. The directorate is organized into five divisions: Biological Infrastructure; Environmental Biology; Emerging Frontiers; Integrative Organismal Systems; and Molecular and Cellular Bioscience.

The Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI) supports varied activities that provide the research and human resources infrastructure for contemporary research in biology. Support for research resources includes informatics, databases and the development of new instrumentation. Support for human resources includes research experiences for undergraduate sites and research initiation grants to broaden participation. DBI also manages the BIO directorate's cross-cutting activities, such as the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT) and the Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12).

The Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) supports fundamental research on populations, species, communities and ecosystems. Research areas include biodiversity, phylogenetic systematics, molecular evolution, natural selection, biogeography, and global change.

The Division of Emerging Frontiers (EF) is an incubator for 21st Century Biology. The division promotes multidisciplinary research and networking activities that arise from advances in disciplinary research.

The Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) supports research aimed at understanding the living organism -- plant, animal, and microbe -- as a unit of biological organization. Researchers try to predict why organisms are structured the way they are and function as they do.

The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB) supports fundamental research and related activities that address the dynamic underpinnings of complex living systems at the molecular, sub-cellular and cellular levels. Research priorities include the origin, organization and properties of macromolecular structures, their sub-cellular or cellular components, and the nature of basic life processes.

The **Assistant Director for Biological Sciences** (AD/BIO) serves as a key member of NSF's senior management and policy team and provides leadership and direction to the BIO directorate's programs and initiatives. The incumbent is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities, and policy within the framework of statutory and National Science Board authority. NSF seeks a candidate with outstanding leadership abilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the issues facing the biological sciences community in the areas of education and research; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.