



OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR MATHEMATICAL AND
PHYSICAL SCIENCES

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230**

November 26, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to welcome you to the virtual meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate Advisory Committee (MPSAC) scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday, January 14. The agenda is on the MPSAC website, and a copy is attached. As you can see, the agenda focuses on discussion, reinforcing our plans for the AC to provide the Directorate with advice from the community. I look forward to our discussions, some of which I preview here.

MPSAC Membership We welcome new members Phil Bucksbaum and Catherine Pilachowski.

NSF/MPS Budget The President's FY 2014 Budget Request went to Congress on April 10, 2013, and we discussed it at our last meeting. I will describe the current status if there is any new information.

Staffing We thank Renee Wilkerson Greaves (MPS/CHE), Liz Pentecost (MPS/AST), and Tom Russell (MPS/DMS) for their recently completed service on detail in OAD. Carol Bessel joined OAD in December on detail from CHE. It is also a pleasure to welcome Michael Vogelius as the Division Director for the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS). We thank Hank Warchall for serving as the Acting Division Director and Tom Russell for serving as the Acting Deputy Division Director during the past four months.

Briefings We plan briefings on a draft report from the Stats NSF subcommittee, which is available now on the AC Members Only website. Please read it before the meeting and come ready to discuss it critically.

Updates (1) We will hear an update from the Optics and Photonics subcommittee and from Emery Brown and NSF staff working on the Presidential BRAIN initiative. They will tell us about plans and progress and will solicit your comments. (2) A presentation describing the Chemistry Division's experience with virtual panels will help inform more detailed discussions of merit review and portfolio analysis planned for the April 3-4 face-to-face meeting. (3) The final portion of the meeting is for planning a half-day joint session with the Advisory Committee for Cyberinfrastructure to be held during the April meeting. Potential discussion points for the joint session are on the Members Only site. We will discuss and revise these to identify key issues.

Kelsey Cook is the liaison between the MPSAC and the MPS Directorate. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact him at 703-292-7490 or at kcook@nsf.gov. Caleb Autrey, Science Assistant, has sent you information concerning the logistics of participating in the meeting, including registration (which you must complete for each day in order to receive payment). You may reach Caleb at 703-292-5137 or at cautrey@nsf.gov. Please see Caleb's logistics message for more detailed instructions, including those for remote participation. You may contact Keith Bennett (kebennett@nsf.gov; 703-292-8802) if you need technical assistance. I look forward to a productive meeting in January.

Best Regards,

F. Fleming Crim
Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences