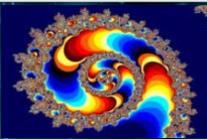
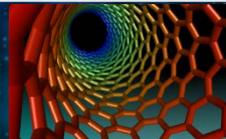


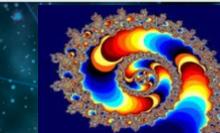
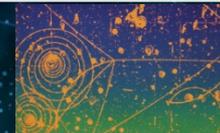
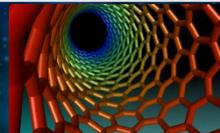
# CHE Use of Virtual Panels in FY13

T. Pietraß, NSF/CHE  
MPSAC Jan. 2014



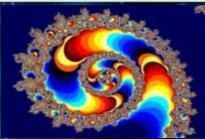
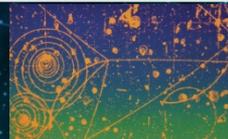
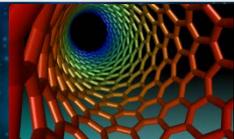
# Virtual Panels in Numbers

	FY12	FY13
Number of panels	63	95
Number of virtual panels	15	87
Percentage virtual	24%	92%
Cost face-to-face	\$1,167,155	\$152,721
Cost virtual	\$30,678	\$243,046
<b>Cost savings</b>	\$139,362	<b>\$777,854</b>



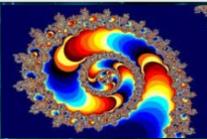
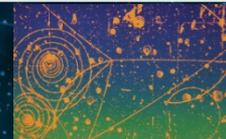
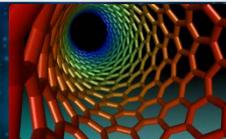
# Bottom Line

- **Driver:** Budgetary constraints (AOAM, OMB)
- **Biggest Plus:** Virtual panels are more focused, cost-effective, and make it easier for panelists to participate
- **Biggest Minus:** Lack of face-to-face interaction and networking opportunities, especially for early career faculty
- **Greatest Challenge:** Technical limitations



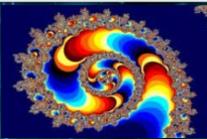
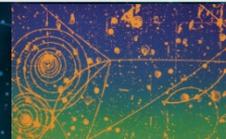
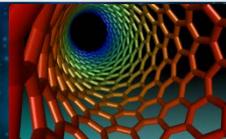
# Lessons Learned

- Optimal panel size: 8 panelists
- Good panelist preparation through advance testing
- Audio via landlines
- Salient benefits of panel review (vs. ad hoc) apply: better review return rate; certainty of panel closure
- Weaknesses of face-to-face panels apply: last minute “thin” reviews and COIs



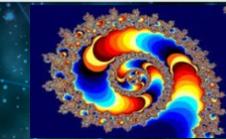
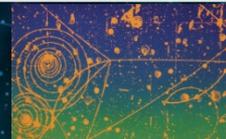
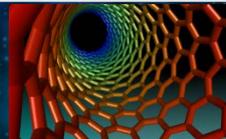
# Challenges

- Greater temptation for panelists to go AWOL
- Technical constraints on panel size
- Delays caused by technical problems
- Calibration of proposals from multiple panels
- COIs
- **Lack of networking opportunities; esp. for junior faculty.**



# Benefits

- **Greater participation of panelists with time constraints**
- Honorarium serves as an incentive
- Tighter disciplinary focus
- Stronger, more focused engagement of panelists
- Shorter panel duration allows for follow-up during the panel (e.g., revisit a specific proposal)
- No need to secure meeting and hotel rooms



# Bottom Line

- **Driver:** Budgetary constraints (AOAM, OMB)
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