



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

October 26, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to welcome you to the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate Advisory Committee (MPSAC), scheduled for November 5th and 6th. The agenda is posted on the [MPSAC website](#), and a copy accompanies this letter.

Once again, the agenda focuses on materials available for your pre-meeting review, reinforcing our plans for the AC to provide the Directorate with advice from the community. I look forward to updating you on MPS and to hearing from you. Here are a few highlights of the meeting.

- We are beginning a search for a Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) for MPS. Celeste Rohlfing has moved to the AAAS as the Chief Operating Officer. We welcome Cliff Gabriel as the Acting DAD.
- We are also in the midst of a search for a Division Director of the Division of Materials Research (DMR) following the departure of Mary Galvin to Notre Dame to serve as the Dean of Science. Linda Sapochak, the Deputy Division Director in DMR is the Acting Division Director.
- I am pleased to announce that Angela Wilson from Michigan State University will begin as the Division Director of the Chemistry Division in March.
- Discussion items for our meeting will include
  - The report from the Committee of Visitors for the Division of Materials Research
  - Robust and Reliable Science (issues related to discussions of “reproducibility”)
  - Broader Impacts (its implementation as a review criterion in MPS and NSF)
  - Graduate Student Training (community discussions and our responses)

Please take look at the (brief) posted materials and questions in the attached list.

Eduardo Misawa is the liaison for the MPSAC. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact him at 703-292-5353 or at [emisawa@nsf.gov](mailto:emisawa@nsf.gov). Eda Gimenez and Nathan McClain have sent you information concerning logistical arrangements for the meeting, including registration (which you must complete for each day in order to receive payment). You may reach Eda at [egimenez@nsf.gov](mailto:egimenez@nsf.gov) or Nathan at [nmclain@nsf.gov](mailto:nmclain@nsf.gov) or at 703-292-8800 for more information.

I look forward to a productive meeting next month.

Sincerely,

F. Fleming Crim  
Assistant Director, National Science Foundation  
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Enclosure

## List of suggested readings and questions in preparation for the November 5-6, 2015 MPSAC Meeting

### (1) Graduate Student Training

Questions:

- 1 What is the problem we are trying to fix as we talk about graduate student training as a scientific community, as NSF, and as MPS. Can we express the problem as a succinct, actionable statement?
- 2 How do we define success in graduate student preparation? How do we measure it?

### (2) Robust and Reliable Science

Please

see: [http://www.nsf.gov/mps/perspectives/reliable\\_science\\_sep2015.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/mps/perspectives/reliable_science_sep2015.jsp)

### (3) Broader Impacts

Questions:

- 1 Is it consistently applied in the proposal review?
- 2 Is it useful?

### (4) NSCI

Please see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/29/executive-order-creating-national-strategic-computing-initiative>