



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

September 22, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to welcome you to the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate Advisory Committee (MPSAC), scheduled for November 17 and 18, 2016. The draft agenda is posted on the [MPSAC website](#) and is attached to this letter.

I am pleased to recognize the contributions of two outgoing MPSAC members: Bruce Elmgreen and Emery Brown. Their long services as members of the advisory committee and their insightful participation have made an impact at NSF. We all appreciate their contributions. We also welcome two new members of the Advisory Committee: Susanne Brenner (Louisiana State University) and Lynne Hillenbrand (California Institute of Technology).

Once again, the agenda focuses on the materials made 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 upcoming meeting.

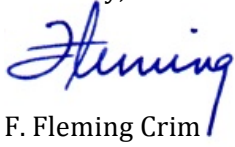
- We welcome Dr. Linda Sapochak as the new Division Director for Materials Research.
- We are in the midst of a search for a Deputy Division Directors for the Division of Astronomical Sciences and Division of Materials Research. We are grateful that a number of program directors stepped up to serve as acting deputy division directors: David Boboltz, Ralph Gaume, Charles Ying and Sean Jones.
- Discussion items for our meeting will include:
 - Update of MPS activities
 - Discussion on NSF Big Ideas. You received the background material previously and it is also available on the MPSAC website.
 - Discussion on Division of Mathematical Sciences' Committee of Visitors report
 - Updates on the NSB Merit Review Process and NSF Strategic Planning process
 - Updates on the discussion about Robust and reliable sciences
 - A conversation with NSF's Chief Operating Officers, Dr. Richard Buckius

Eduardo Misawa and John Gillaspay are the liaisons for the MPSAC. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact them by phone at 703-292-5353 (Eduardo) or 703-292-7173 (John); or by email at emisawa@nsf.gov or jgillasp@nsf.gov. Chris Coox will send you information after October 1 concerning logistical arrangements for the meeting, including registration (which you must complete for each day in order to receive payment). You may reach Chris at ccoox@nsf.gov or at 703-292-8800 for more information.

We will be in touch soon by email to provide more detailed instructions.

I look forward to a productive meeting in November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

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