



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

October 13, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to welcome you to the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate Advisory Committee (MPSAC), scheduled for November 16 and 17, 2017. The draft agenda is posted on the [MPSAC website](#) and is attached to this letter.

I am pleased to recognize the contributions of five outgoing MPSAC members: Juan de Pablo (University of Chicago), Mark Cardillo (Dreyfus Foundation), Jennifer Chayes (Microsoft), Graham Cooks (Purdue), and George Crabtree (Argonne), and thank them for their service to NSF and MPS. I also welcome four new members of the Advisory Committee: David Awschalom (University of Chicago), Miguel Garcia-Garibay (UCLA), Catherine Hunt (University of Virginia), and Jennifer Lewis (Harvard). Also, Catherine Pilachowski (Indiana University) has agreed to chair the MPSAC in the coming year; we thank her for taking on this role, and thank Juan de Pablo for his several years as Chair.

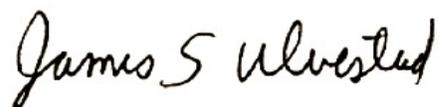
The agenda focuses on enabling the AC to provide the Directorate with advice from the community. I look forward to updating you on MPS and to hearing from you. Here are a few highlights of the upcoming meeting.

- We welcome Dr. Richard Green as the new Division Director for Astronomical Sciences. Many thanks to Ralph Gaume and Ed Ajhar, who served as Acting Division Director and Acting Deputy Division Director, respectively, during the search.
- We are in the midst of a search for a Division Director for the Division of Mathematical Sciences. We are grateful to Tie Luo and Nandini Kannan, who are serving as Acting Division Director and Acting Deputy Division Director, respectively.
- Discussion items for our meeting will include:
 - Update of MPS activities
 - Discussion on more effective external partnerships
 - A strategy discussion about Big Ideas
 - Forming a sub-committee to assess the Physics Frontiers program
 - A conversation with NSF's Director and Chief Operating Officer

Tamara Savage and John Gillaspay are the liaisons for the MPSAC. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact them by email at tasavage@nsf.gov or jgillasp@nsf.gov. Chris Coox will send you information concerning logistical arrangements for the meeting, including registration (which you must complete for each day in order to receive payment). Please also complete the attached Conflict-of-Interest form and send it to Chris. You may reach Chris at ccoox@nsf.gov or at 703-292-8800 for more information. Please note that we will be meeting at the new NSF headquarters: 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314.

I look forward to a productive meeting in November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James S. Ulvestad". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James S. Ulvestad
Acting Assistant Director, National Science Foundation
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences