



**NSF Regional Grants Conference
Introduction & NSF Overview**

October 25-26, 2010

Hosted by: Utah State University and The University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Panelist

Martha Rubenstein

Director and Chief Financial Officer, Office of Budget, Finance & Award
Management

Ask Early, Ask Often!

Topics Covered

- **Origins of NSF**
- **NSF Organization**
- **NSF FY 2011 Budget Request**
- **NSF Proposals & Awards & Funding Rates**
- **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009**
- **Interdisciplinary Research**
- **Key Documents**
- **Conclusion**

Origins of NSF



- **The Government should accept new responsibilities for promoting the flow of scientific knowledge and the development of scientific talent in our youth.”**
 - Science - The Endless Frontier, 1945
- **1947: Congress Approves, Truman Vetoes**
- **1950: Compromise Bill Approved & Signed by Truman**

NSF Act of 1950

- **To promote the progress of science...”**
- **NSB (24) and 1 Director, appointed by the President**
- **Encourage & develop a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the math, physical, medical, biological, engineering and other sciences**
- **Initiate & support basic scientific research in the sciences**
- **Evaluate the science research programs undertaken by agencies of the Federal government**
- **Provide information for S&E policy formation**

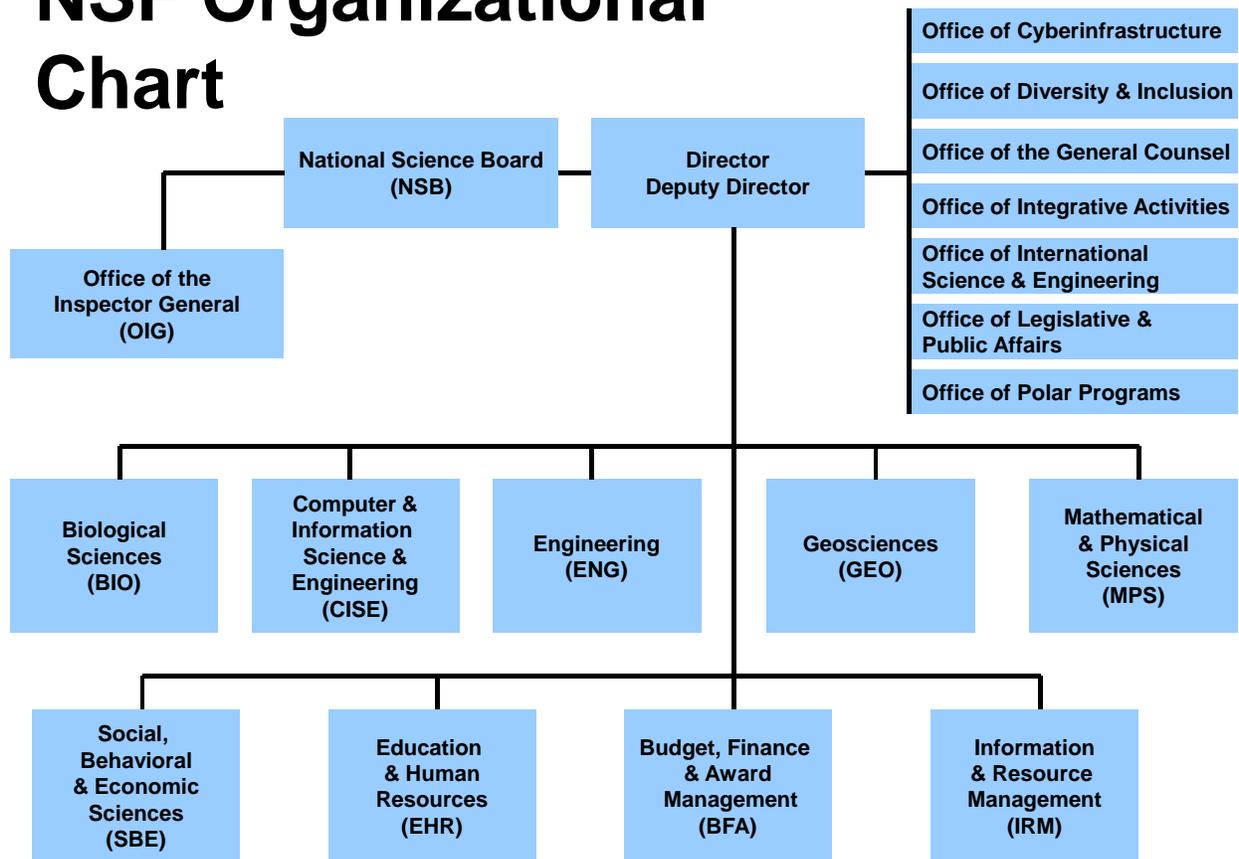
NSF Vision

Advancing discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge, and empowering future generations in science and engineering.

NSF in a Nutshell

- **Independent Agency**
- **Supports basic research & education**
- **Uses grant mechanism**
- **Low overhead; highly automated**
- **Discipline-based structure**
- **Cross-disciplinary mechanisms**
- **Use of Rotators/IPAs**
- **National Science Board**

NSF Organizational Chart



Personnel Changes

- Dr. Subra Suresh confirmed as NSF Director
- Dr. Cora Marrett nominated as Deputy Director
- Dr. Farnam Jahanian named Assistant Director for Computer & Information Science & Engineering
- Ms. Amy Northcutt named Acting Director of the Office of Information & Resource Management (OIRM)
- Dr. Edward Seidel named as Acting Assistant Director for Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)
- Dr. Jose Munoz named Chief Technology Officer
- Dr. Alan Blatecky named Acting Director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure (OCI)

FY 2011 Budget Request

(dollars in millions)

Account	FY 2011 Request	FY 2011 House Mark	FY 2011 Senate Mark
R&RA	\$6,019	\$5,961	\$5,967
EHR	\$892	\$958	\$892
MREFC	\$165	\$165	\$155
AOAM	\$329	\$321	\$319
NSB	\$5	\$5	\$5
OIG	\$14	\$14	\$15
Total	\$7,424	\$7,424	\$7,353

Totals may not add due to rounding.

FY 2011 Budget Request: Administration Priority Programs

Administration Priority Programs:

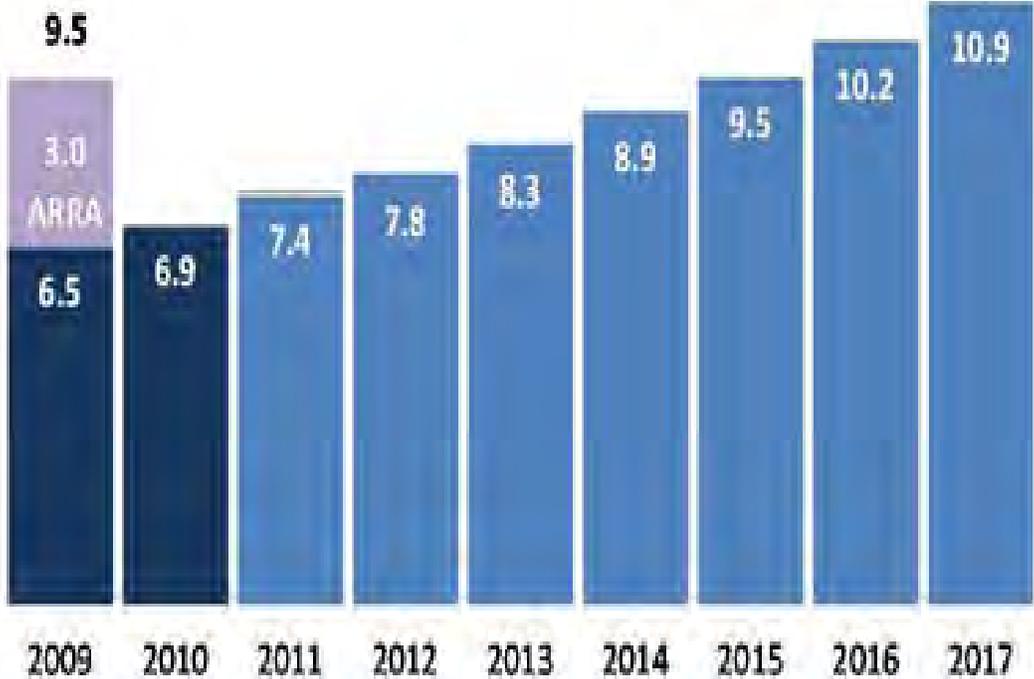
	FY 2011 Total	Increase over FY 2010
Graduate Research Fellowship Program	\$158 M	\$22.3 M
Faculty Early Career Development	\$209 M	\$12.8 M
Climate Change Education Program	\$10 M	-
Advanced Technological Education	\$64 M	-

FY 2011 Budget Request: NSF-wide Priorities

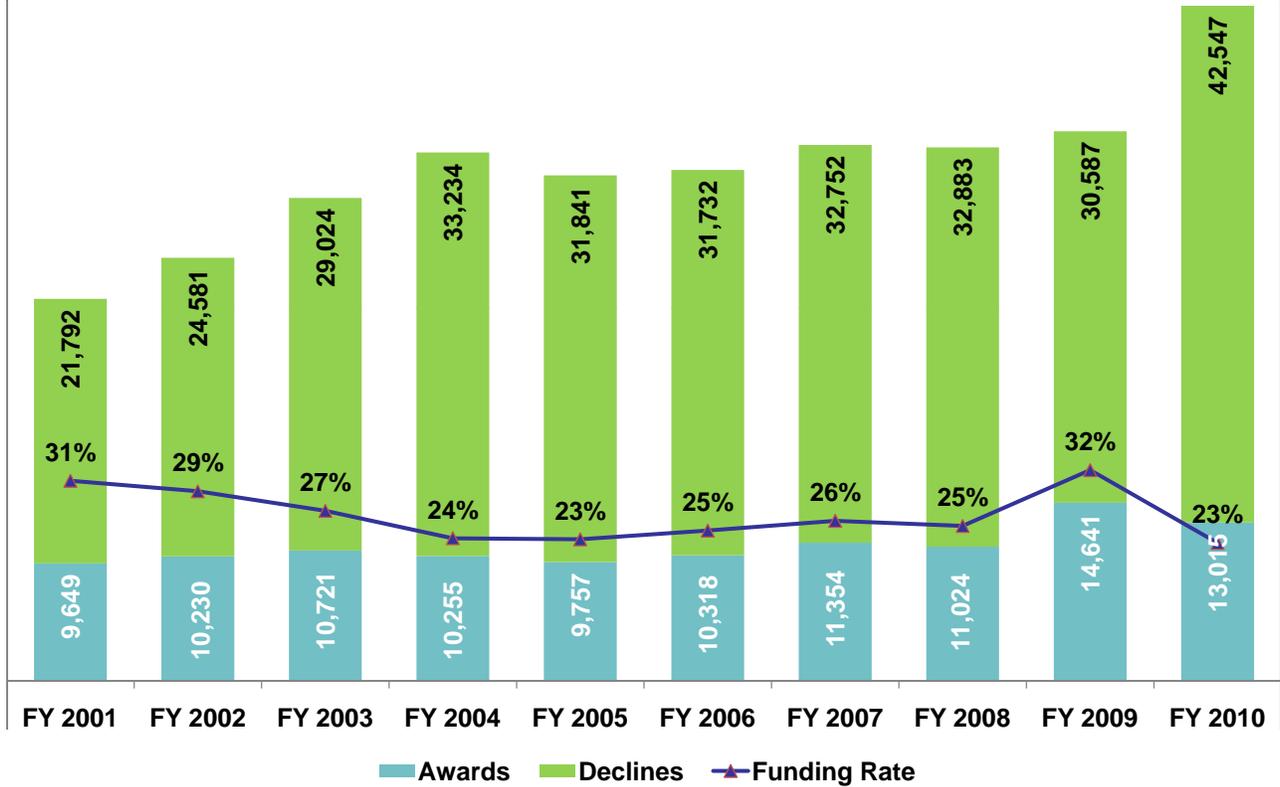
- USGCRP: NSF contributions increase by 16 percent, to \$370 million
- NSF portfolios:
 - Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES): \$766 million
 - Cyberlearning Transforming Education (CTE): \$41 million

President's Plan for Science and Innovation

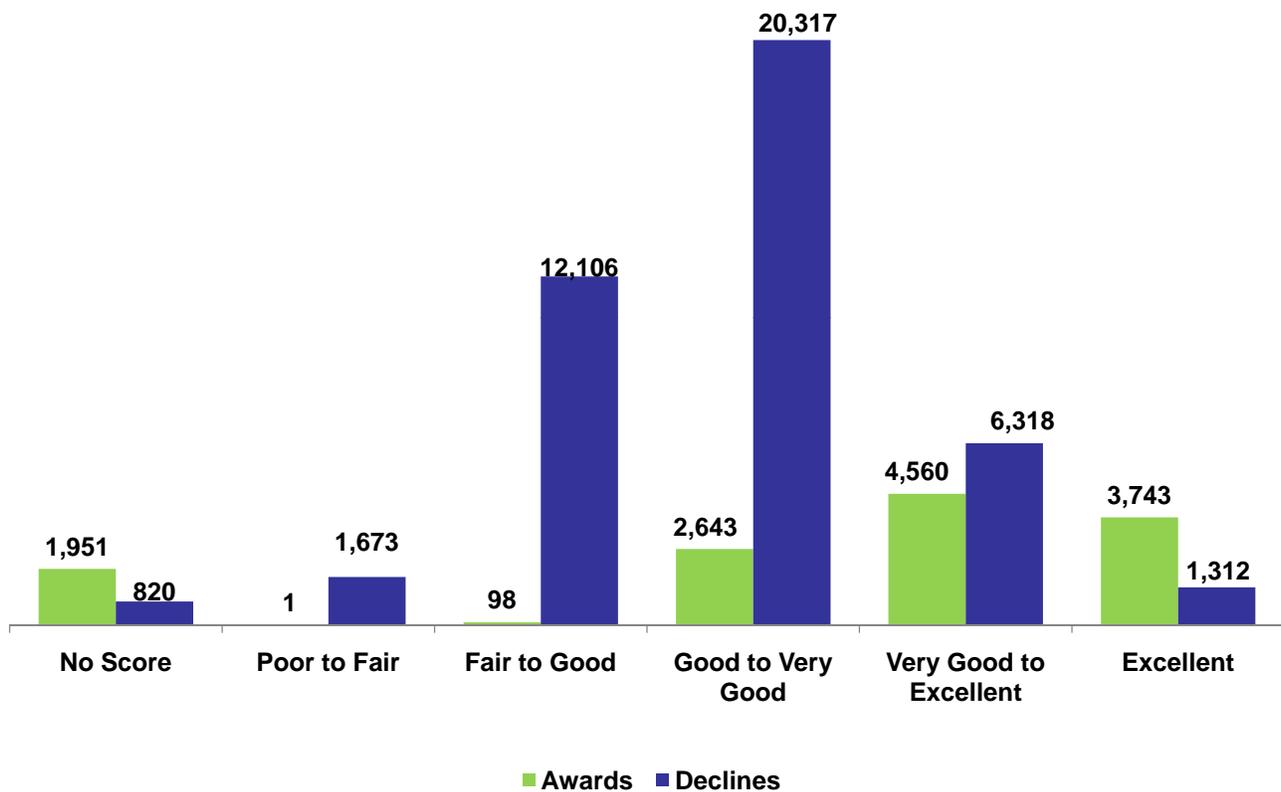
Total NSF Funding
Dollars in billions



NSF Competitive Awards, Declines, and Funding Rates



Distribution by Average Reviewer Ratings for Awards and Declines, FY 2010



ARRA: NSF Implementation

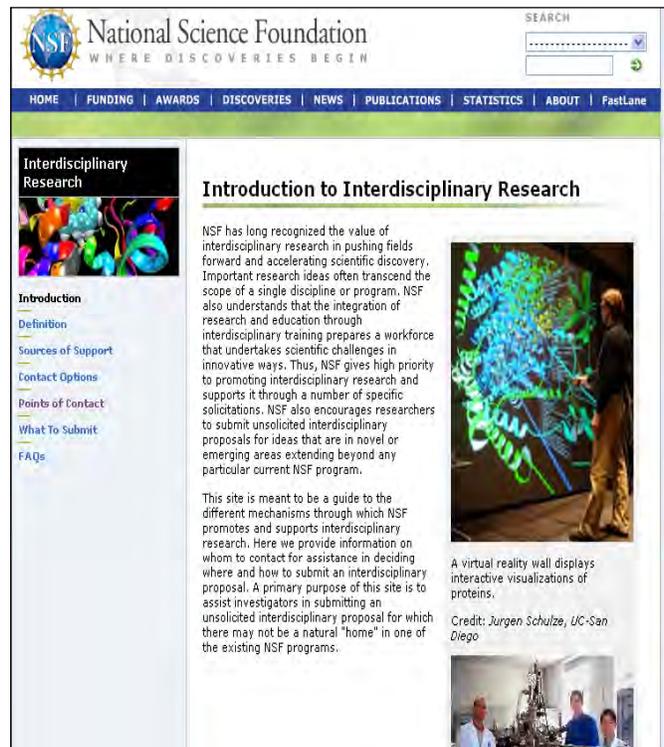
- Recovery Act funds were to be awarded in a timely manner. NSF made 5,023 awards totaling \$3.0B to more than 900 institutions by September 30, 2010.
- All grants were issued as standard grants with durations of up to five years.
- Funding of new PIs and high-risk, high-return research were top priorities.
- Only four ARRA-specific solicitations were released.
- NSF considered proposals declined on or after October 1, 2008, and made 318 awards from this pool.

ARRA: Reporting and Accountability Requirements

- **The OMB expectation is for a high level of accountability and transparency from both agencies and recipients.**
 - **Higher scrutiny from:**
 - Administration
 - Congress
 - Public
 - Recovery Act Accountability & Transparency Board
 - NSF Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

Interdisciplinary Research (IDR)

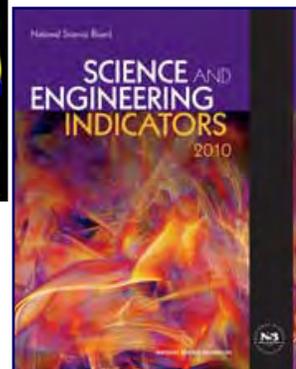
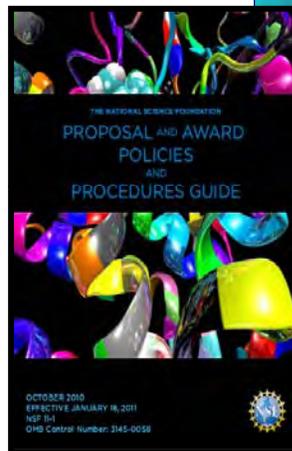
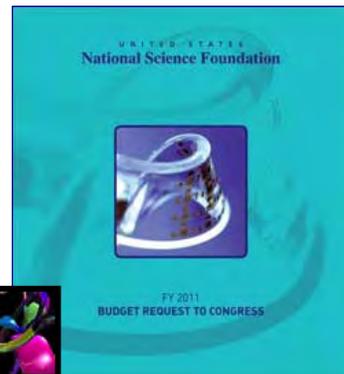
- Important research ideas often transcend the scope of a single discipline or program.
- NSF gives high priority to promoting interdisciplinary research and supports it through a number of specific solicitations.
- NSF encourages submission of unsolicited interdisciplinary proposals for ideas that are in novel or emerging areas extending beyond any particular current NSF program.



The screenshot shows the NSF website page for Interdisciplinary Research. At the top, the NSF logo and tagline "WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN" are visible. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, FUNDING, AWARDS, DISCOVERIES, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, STATISTICS, ABOUT, and FastLane. The main content area is titled "Interdisciplinary Research" and includes a sub-header "Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research". The text explains that NSF recognizes the value of interdisciplinary research in pushing fields forward and accelerating scientific discovery. It notes that important research ideas often transcend the scope of a single discipline or program. NSF also understands that the integration of research and education through interdisciplinary training prepares a workforce that undertakes scientific challenges in innovative ways. Thus, NSF gives high priority to promoting interdisciplinary research and supports it through a number of specific solicitations. NSF also encourages researchers to submit unsolicited interdisciplinary proposals for ideas that are in novel or emerging areas extending beyond any particular current NSF program. A virtual reality wall displays interactive visualizations of proteins. Credit: Jurgen Schulze, UC-San Diego. Below the text is a photograph of a person interacting with a large, colorful, 3D molecular model of a protein structure. At the bottom of the page, there is a small photograph of three people in a laboratory setting.

Key Documents

- **FY 2011 NSF Budget Request to Congress**
- **Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide**
- **Science & Engineering Indicators**



For More Information

Ask Early, Ask Often!

<http://www.nsf.gov/staff>

<http://www.nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp>