Rotating Program Director Opportunities
Division of Chemistry
George Richter-Addo
Chris Elles
Tingyu Li
Overview of the Rotator Program

Panel Introduction
- George Richter-Addo (U. Oklahoma)
- Chris Elles (U. Kansas)
- Rebecca Peebles (Eastern Illinois U.)
- Cathy Walker (on detail from ENG/CBET)
- Tingyu Li (Moderator)

Q&A Session
Rotators contribute to the NSF Mission

**NSF Mission:** To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes.

*Three strategic goals that help NSF fulfill its mission:*

- Expand knowledge in science, engineering, and learning
- Advance the capability of the Nation to meet current and future challenges
- Attract, retain, and empower a talented and diverse workforce

https://www.nsf.gov/about/performance/strategic_plan.jsp
Overview of the NSF & CHE Programs

**Directorates**
- Biological Sciences (BIO)
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
- Education and Human Resources (EHR)
- Engineering (ENG)
- Geosciences (GEO)
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
- Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

**Divisions of MPS**
- Astronomy (AST)
- Chemistry (CHE)
- Material Research (DMR)
- Mathematical Sciences (DMS)
- Physics (PHY)

**Programs in CHE**
- Chemical Catalysis (CAT)
- Chemistry of Life Processes (CLP)
- Chemical Measurement and Imaging (CMI)
- Chemical Structure, Dynamics, and Mechanisms A (CSDM-A)
- Chemical Structure, Dynamics, and Mechanisms B (CSDM-B)
- Chemical Theory, Models, and Computational Methods (CTMC)
- Environmental Chemical Sciences (ECS)
- Macromolecular, Supramolecular, and Nanochemistry (MSN)
- Chemical Synthesis (SYN)
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)
- Centers for Chemical Innovation (CCI)
- Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
- Broadening Participation (BP)
Overview of the CHE Staff Structure

Technical Staff

Program Directors (Officers)

Permanent PDs

Temporary PDs

(Rotators & Part-time Experts)

Administrative Staff

• Program Support Manager
• Operations Specialist
• Program Analyst
• Program Specialists

https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/rotator-programs
Overview of the CHE Staff Structure

Program Directors (aka, Program Officers):

- Manage the Merit Review of proposals and, in consultation with other PDs/Programs, make recommendations for funding
- Participate in strategic planning of future investment
- Influence new research directions
- Promote and support cutting-edge research
- Participate in one or more Programs; based on expertise and CHE needs
- Engage in new Initiatives and Working Groups within CHE and with other units and other agencies

https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/rotator-programs
Home Institutions of Current Rotators & Part-Time Experts

Rotators with Numbers

Number of Rotators

Part-time Experts in CHE

Number of Experts

CHE Rotators and Part-time Experts

Rotators and Experts

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Mutual Benefits of the Rotator Program

- Manage the Merit Review of proposals and make recommendations for funding
- Participate in strategic planning of future investment
- Influence new research directions
- Promote and support cutting-edge research
- Engage in new Initiatives and Working Groups within CHE and with other units and other agencies

✓ An opportunity for Rotators to have an impact on research and funding at the national level, survey the breadth of US and international research in real time, and gain new insights and experience.

✓ A method for NSF to continue to have a strong connection to the needs and interests of the scientific community and identify important new directions.

https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/rotator-programs
Rotations involve a Three-Way Agreement

(\textit{NSF + Program Director + Home Organization})

During the period of Rotator assignment:

- No formal teaching duties (home institution)
- No university or department committee/service duties (except as major advisor of PD's graduate students)
- \textbf{Continue your academic research} through the IR/D program (next slide)

Also:

- Funds provided for relocation or accommodation in Alexandria, VA
- NSF/federal conflict of interest rules apply to Rotators (e.g., institutional COI)

https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/rotator-programs
Independent Research and Development (IR/D) Program

Provides the opportunity to maintain involvement with, and advance, your professional research and research-related activities:

• Essential component of being a Rotator (i.e., to keep your research going)
• 20% of time commitment (0.2 FTE); up to 50 workdays per year
• NSF pays for your IR/D time
• Maintain current research grants (with substitute PI)
• NSF provides funding for travel to and from your home institution (up to 12 home trips/year for IR/D)
• NSF provides travel support for your participation in conferences
A Common Misconception about Being a Rotator

**Misconception: It is an “administration”-type job**

- Program/proposal administration is a part of the job; however, a lot of administrative assistance is provided
- Seeing new, not-yet-published science up close is exciting
- Mentoring PIs (faculty) at all career stages can be a treasured experience
- Opportunities to participate in, or even initiate new Working Groups to influence priorities for future research funding
CHE Rotator Recruitment Information

Eligibility: US Citizen, US Permanent Resident, or certain Non-US Citizens who meet specific criteria (see links below for details)

Qualifications:
- Ph.D. in the chemical sciences or closely-related field
- ≥6 years of successful research (post-Ph.D.)
- Research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position
- Familiarity with a broad spectrum of the chemistry community and NSF programs are highly desirable

che-recruit@nsf.gov

https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/rotator-programs

https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/openings/mps/che/che-2021-8581
# Some Past Rotators in CHE

## Program Directors

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<th>Michelle Bushey</th>
<th>Ronald Christensen</th>
<th>Michael Clarke</th>
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<td>Wilfredo Colon</td>
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<td>Laren Tolbert</td>
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<td>Sarah Stoll</td>
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## Division Directors

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