

# Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)

*Proposal Review:* MPS maximizes the quality of the proposals it supports through the use of a competitive, merit-based review process. In FY 2009, 88% of research funds were allocated to externally reviewed projects.

*Committee of Visitors (COV):* MPS convenes Committees of Visitors, composed of qualified external evaluators, to review each program every three years. These experts assess the integrity and efficiency of the processes for proposal review and provide a retrospective assessment of the quality of results of NSF's investments. COV reports and Directorate responses are at <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/activities/cov/covs.jsp>.

*MPS Advisory Committee (MPSAC):* MPS also receives advice from the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee on such issues as: the mission, programs, and goals that can best serve the scientific community; promoting quality graduate and undergraduate education in the mathematical and physical sciences; and priority investment areas in MPS-supported research. Minutes are at <http://www.nsf.gov/mps/advisory.jsp>.

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## International Opportunities

Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)

Research Experiences for Undergraduates – Sites (REU Sites)

International Collaboration in Chemistry between US Investigators and their  
Counterparts Abroad (ICC)

Materials World Network: Cooperative Activity in Materials Research between US  
Investigators and their Counterparts Abroad (MWN)

International Materials Institutes (IMI)

Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation  
and Discovery (BIRS)

Atacama Large Millimeter Array

Gemini Observatory

Southern Astrophysical Research Telescope

Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory

International Research Fellowship Program (IRFP)

Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes Program (PASI)

**Directorate for Mathematical  
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<http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=MPS>

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