

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



January 29, 2007

Ms. Alyson Reed
Executive Director
National Postdoctoral Association
1200 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 635
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Alyson:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have agreed upon the following definition of a postdoctoral scholar:

An individual who has received a doctoral degree (or equivalent) and is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training to enhance the professional skills and research independence needed to pursue his or her chosen career path.

The definition, which emphasizes the importance of mentored training during the postdoctoral period, will be used for all postdoctoral scholars supported by funding from NIH or NSF.

Thank you for the leadership that you and the National Postdoctoral Association provide as we work together to address issues critical for an effective postdoctoral appointment.

Sincerely,



Norka Ruiz Bravo, Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Extramural Research
National Institutes of Health



Kathie L. Olsen, Ph.D.
Deputy Director
National Science Foundation