



OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
FOR MATHEMATICAL AND  
PHYSICAL SCIENCES

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

March 28, 2008

Dear Members of the MPS Advisory Committee:

I am writing to you concerning the meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate Advisory Committee (MPSAC) that will take place Thursday and Friday, April 3-4, 2008.

I am very pleased to inform you that Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Center for Neutron Research (NCNR) has accepted my invitation to become a member of the Advisory Committee and will be joining us at our meeting.

I am attaching an agenda for this meeting that has been developed in consultation with the MPSAC Chair, Dr. Michael Witherell. I will be reporting to you on the impact of the FY 2008 budget and the MPS budget request for FY 2009. We will also have reports by the Chairs of the Committee of Visitors for the Division of Astronomical Sciences and the Division of Materials Research; the reports cover meetings that took place in February. The two COV reports/discussions are allocated an hour of our time because they represent a major formal responsibility of the MPSAC. They will also provide input relevant to our later discussions on planning.

We will also be hearing from two other subcommittees of the MPSAC:

- The MPSAC Subcommittee on Major Facilities has been meeting since our November meeting, and Dr. Michael Witherell, Chair of the MPSAC and Chair of this Subcommittee will be reporting; on the work of that subcommittee;
- An Advisory Panel on Light Source Facilities, a subcommittee of the MPSAC, is chaired by Dr. Venkatesh Narayanamurti of Harvard University. This panel was formed to provide guidance to the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences regarding future NSF stewardship and/or partnership in support of coherent light source facilities and instrumentation.

Much of the remainder of our meeting will be concerned with the Directorate's long-range planning activities, as we are beginning preparations for the NSF budget request to the Office of Management and Budget. It is here that we are explicitly seeking your advice and input. In preparation for these discussions, we are asking that a significant fraction of the Divisional breakout sessions being held Thursday afternoon, April 3 be devoted to a discussion of the Division's long-range plans, with emphasis on implications for our FY 2010 budget preparation. On Friday morning we will spend a significant

amount of time discussing possible areas of emphasis for FY 2010 and your input will be extremely planning for our budget requests.

Following our discussion of FY 2010 budget concepts, I'm pleased to inform you that Dr. Jim Collins, the Assistant Director of the Directorate for Biological Sciences will be joining us for a discussion of possible future areas of collaboration between our two Directorates. Also, I'm very pleased that the Director of NSF, Dr. Arden Bement, Jr., and the Deputy Director of NSF, Dr. Kathie Olsen, will joining us at noon on Friday, April 4.

We have implemented a section of the MPSAC web site where documents such as the COV reports, the MPS responses to these reports, and the report of the Facilities Subcommittee are placed.

The MPSAC web site is located at

[http://www.nsf.gov/events/event\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=111340&org=MPS](http://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=111340&org=MPS)

I have included, as attachments to this letter, the agenda for the meeting, the Divisional breakout assignments and a conflict-of-interest form. If you did not attend the November meeting, it is essential that you fill in the form and either fax (703-292-9151) or email the completed form to Ms. Kamaria Salau ([ksalau@nsf.gov](mailto:ksalau@nsf.gov)) prior to the meeting. If you attended the November 2007 meeting it is not necessary to fill in the form. We must provide the completed forms to our General Counsel's office.

Should you have any questions concerning the meeting or its arrangements, please feel free to contact Dr. Morris Aizenman ([maizenman@nsf.gov](mailto:maizenman@nsf.gov), 703-292-8807).

I am looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

With best wishes,

Tony F. Chan  
Assistant Director