

U N I T E D S T A T E S

# National Science Foundation

## FY 2008 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



Advancing Discovery, Innovation, & Education

Pursuant to OMB Circular A-136, the National Science Foundation is following the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Pilot Program for Alternative Approaches to Performance and Accountability Reporting. This pilot, which was initiated in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, is an alternative to the consolidated Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) published in previous years. The National Science Foundation (NSF) anticipates that this approach will improve its performance reporting by presenting performance information in a more accessible and informative format, and that performance information will be more complete given additional time to collect actual year-end performance data. As part of this project, NSF is producing the following annual reports for FY 2008, available on NSF's website at <http://www.nsf.gov/about/performance/>.

- **FY 2008 Annual Financial Report (AFR).** The **AFR** focuses on NSF's financial management, the results of the agency's annual financial audit, and its compliance with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) and the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA). The AFR was published on November 17, 2008, and is available on the NSF website.
- **FY 2008 Citizens' Report,** previously known as NSF's Performance Highlights report, summarizes key performance and financial information.
- **FY 2008 Annual Performance Report (APR).** The **APR** presents the results of NSF's FY 2008 Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) strategic outcome goals and a comprehensive discussion of NSF's performance assessment process. It also contains the results for the agency's annual goals. NSF's budget and performance website includes additional, more detailed performance information.

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We welcome suggestions on how to make this report more informative. Please provide your comments to Patricia Tsuchitani, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. ([ptsuchit@nsf.gov](mailto:ptsuchit@nsf.gov))

**About the cover:** An NSF-supported University of Washington-led team has taken a sample of mud collected at Lake Washington and successfully sequenced a complete genome for an unknown microorganism. Their method provides a way to discover new microscopic life in complex communities. Using the genetic technique of metagenomics, University of Washington researchers have revealed the possibility to uncover the genomes of unknown species with this approach. This is a particularly important finding for microbial research since few microbes survive in the lab and have therefore gone largely unidentified. Such techniques could allow scientists and engineers to identify microbial species based on particular, desired functions and to develop such microbes for practical applications.

Shown on the cover are microorganisms from a mud sample collected in Lake Washington. For more information see [www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=112138&org=NSF&from=news](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=112138&org=NSF&from=news).

*Credit: Photo by Dennis Kunkel (Dennis Kunkel Microscopy, Inc.); color by E. Letypova (University of Washington)*