

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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,

Handwritten signature of Norka Ruiz Bravo in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Kathie L. Olsen in black ink.

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