

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Title: Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) Program Director  
Opportunities--Dear Colleague Letter

Date: February 10, 2003

Dear Colleague:

The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announces a nationwide search for a number of Program Director positions at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in research and education that are fundamental to the nation's capacity to perform. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Qualification requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent professional experience in Biological Sciences plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or substantial managerial experience in academe, industry, or government. All appointees are expected to function both within specific program boundaries, as well as in a team mode, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations. Periodic assignments to leadership of interdivisional, inter-directorate and interagency programs may be made. We are particularly interested in attracting women and underrepresented minority candidates to these positions.

Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

- **Visiting Scientist Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. A Visiting Scientist is on non-paid leave status from their home institution and appointed to NSF's payroll as a Federal employee. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e. health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for up to one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.
- **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA Assignments are made for a one year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.
- **Temporary Excepted Service Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointment may not exceed three years.

- **Reimbursable Interagency Detail.** Federal employees may be detailed from one agency to another under an interagency agreement. Under such an agreement, the individual would retain current employment status at the home agency and NSF would provide funding toward the detailee's salary and benefits.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers and Educators" on the NSF website at <http://www.nsf.gov/jobs>.

In addition to addressing current openings, our intention is to develop a candidate pool for consideration as other Program Director positions become available in BIO. We are looking for individuals who have a compelling interest in the challenges and opportunities facing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Biology and interested in the stimulating challenges of an appointment with the Foundation. Please share this information with your colleagues. More detailed information on the divisions listed below may be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/bio/start.htm>.

Applications and questions concerning Program Director positions should be directed to the relevant Division Director(s) noted below:

Biological Infrastructure (DBI)  
Dr. Machi Dilworth  
Room 615  
(703) 292-8470  
[mdilworth@nsf.gov](mailto:mdilworth@nsf.gov)

Environmental Biology (DEB)  
Dr. Quentin Wheeler  
Room 635  
(703) 292-8480  
[qwheeler@nsf.gov](mailto:qwheeler@nsf.gov)

Integrative Biology and Neuroscience (IBN)  
Dr. Judith Verbeke  
Room 685  
(703) 292-8420  
[jverbeke@nsf.gov](mailto:jverbeke@nsf.gov)

Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)  
Dr. Maryanna Henkart  
Room 655  
(703) 292-8440  
[mhenkart@nsf.gov](mailto:mhenkart@nsf.gov)

Formal consideration of applications will commence immediately.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Clutter  
Assistant Director