

## **MPS DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (MPS-DRF)**

Dear Colleague:

The Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces a special opportunity for postdoctoral investigators to conduct research projects abroad as MPS Distinguished International Postdoctoral Research Fellows (MPS-DRF). The objective of this activity is to provide talented recent doctoral recipients in the mathematical and physical sciences an effective means of establishing international collaborations in the early stages of their careers, thereby facilitating and enhancing connections between the U.S. science and engineering community and its international counterparts. By providing the resources needed to establish collaborations with potential for long-term impact, this activity is aimed at recognizing and supporting future leaders. As the scientific enterprise becomes increasingly global, there is a growing need for scientists who will excel and provide leadership in such an environment. By this letter, we encourage qualified individuals to apply and to ask the help of the scientific community in identifying and encouraging potential candidates.

MPS encourages applicants whose research would especially benefit from international collaboration to apply for an MPS-DRF award. In addition to the standard National Science Board merit review criteria, proposals will also be evaluated on their potential for furthering international cooperation. The location of the research site should be chosen for its appropriateness to the project and its potential for establishing long-term productive high quality collaborations; however, the geographic location of the research site itself will not be a consideration in the review process. A unique feature of this program is that resources will be available during the fellowship period in order both to establish and further international contacts and collaborations and to maintain a viable presence in the Fellow's research community in the United States. Multidisciplinary projects are encouraged.

The FY 2001 deadline for submission of application materials is November 13, 2000. Successful applicants will be notified by March 1, 2001. Eligibility is limited to citizens and permanent residents of the United States who fulfill requirements for the doctoral degree in an MPS discipline (astronomy, chemistry, materials research, mathematical sciences, or physics) between June 1, 2000 and September 30, 2001.

It is anticipated that, subject to availability of funds, up to ten awards will be made in FY 2001, each for up to \$100,000 per year and for a duration of no more than 24 months. Awards are expected to include a liberal travel allowance for professional visits to other international sites or to the U.S.

Details of the opportunity and guidelines for proposal submission are available in the program announcement (NSF 00-142). We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and to share this information with others who may be interested.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Eisenstein  
Assistant Director, MPS

**NSF 00-143**