



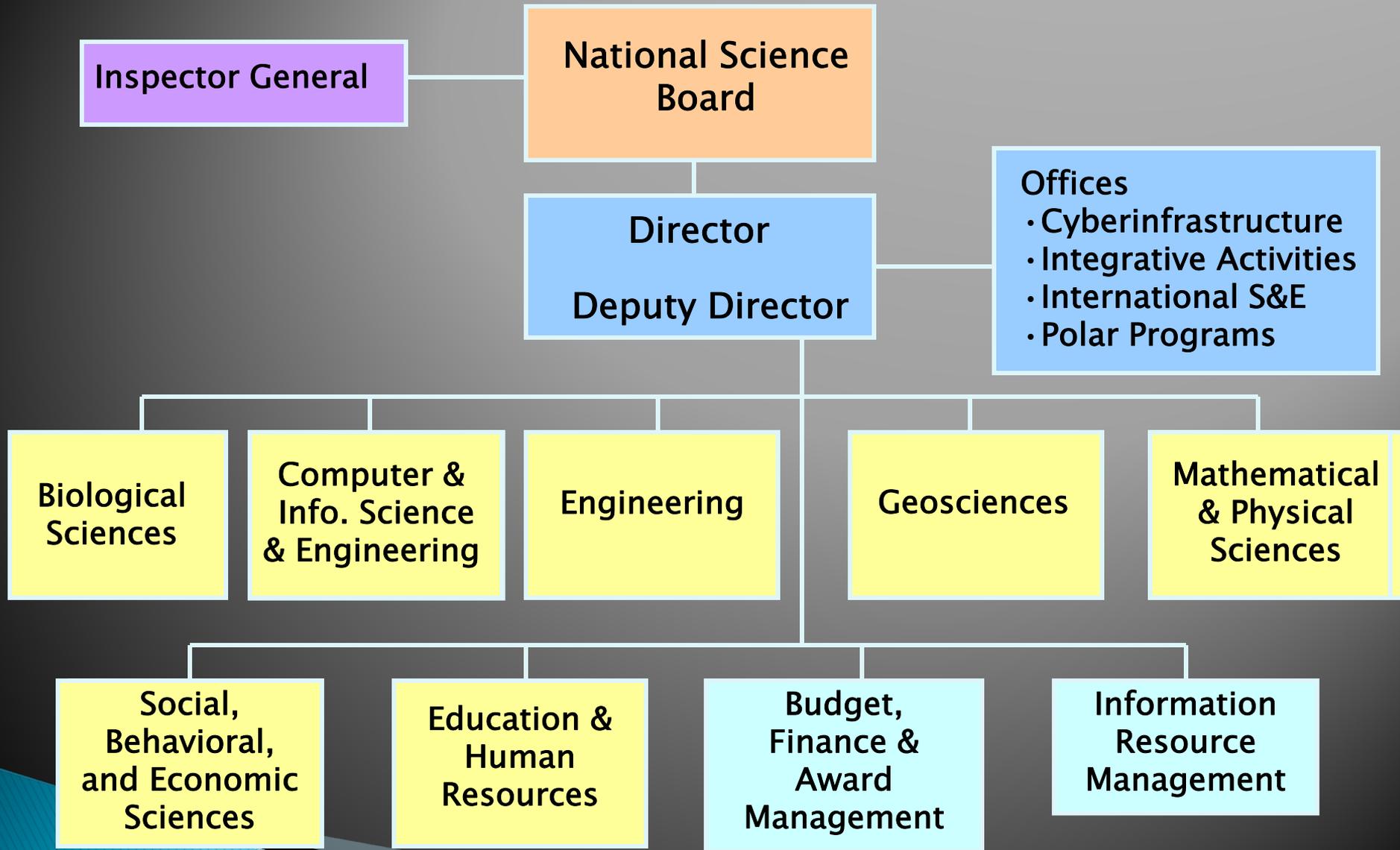
NSF EPSCoR
Project Directors and
Project Administrators Meeting
May 17, 2010

“NSF: The Innovation Agency”

Joanne Tornow
Directorate for Biological Sciences



National Science Foundation





Disciplinary structure

Cross-Directorate Activities

Interdisciplinary Activities

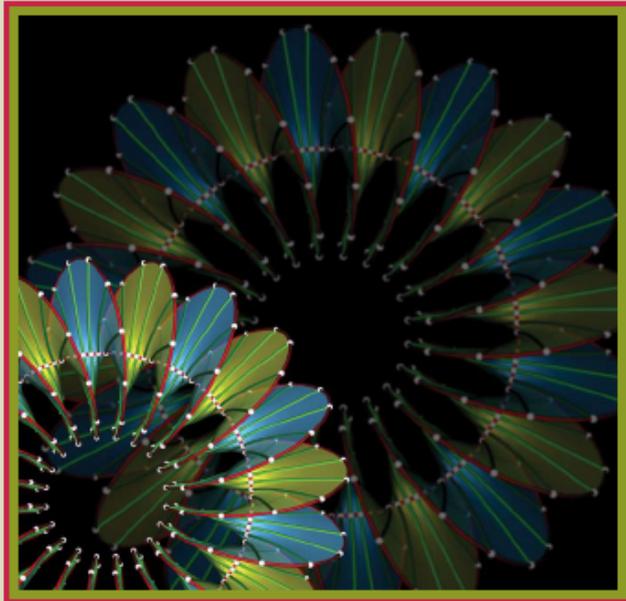
Interagency Activities



NSF's Vision

 National Science Foundation

**INVESTING IN
AMERICA'S FUTURE**



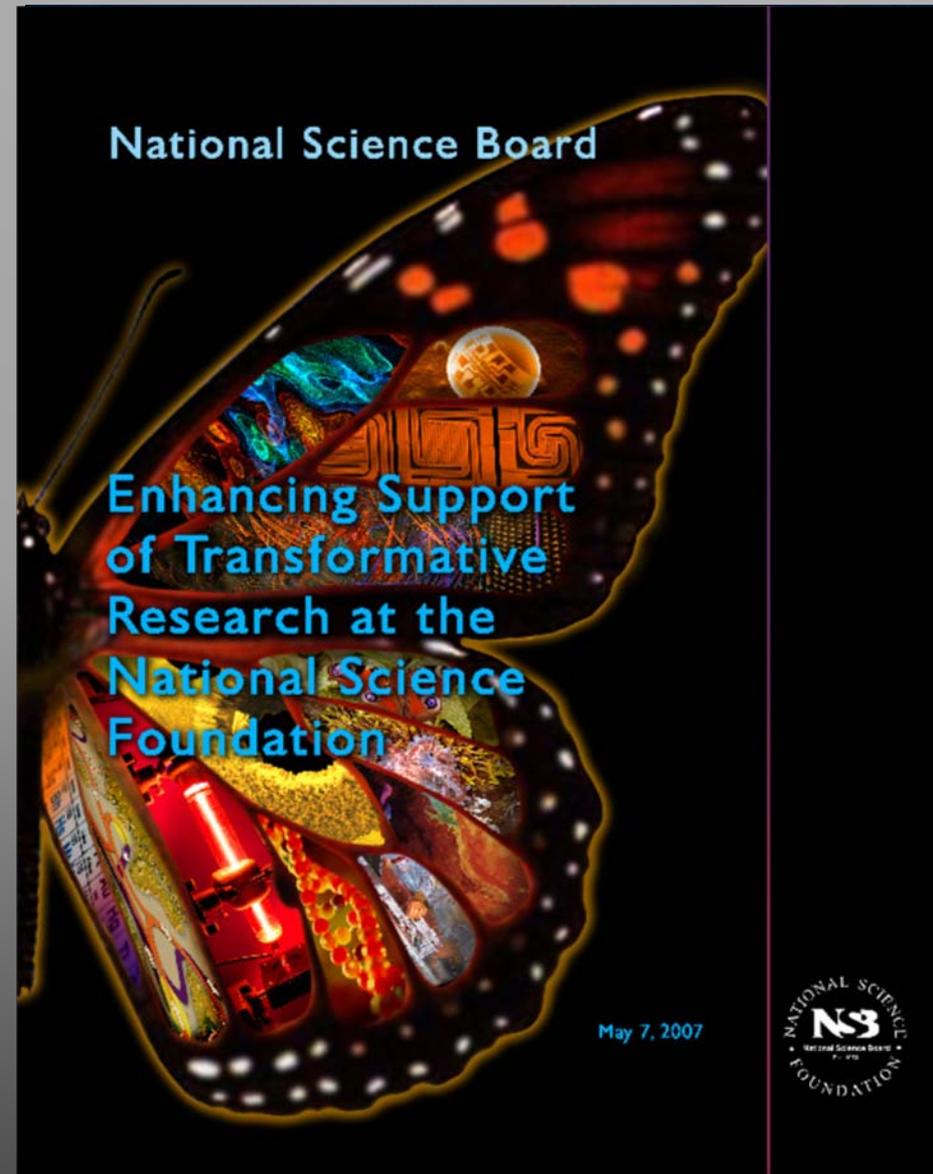
STRATEGIC PLAN

FY 2006-2011

“Advancing discovery, innovation and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge, and empowering future generations in science and engineering.”

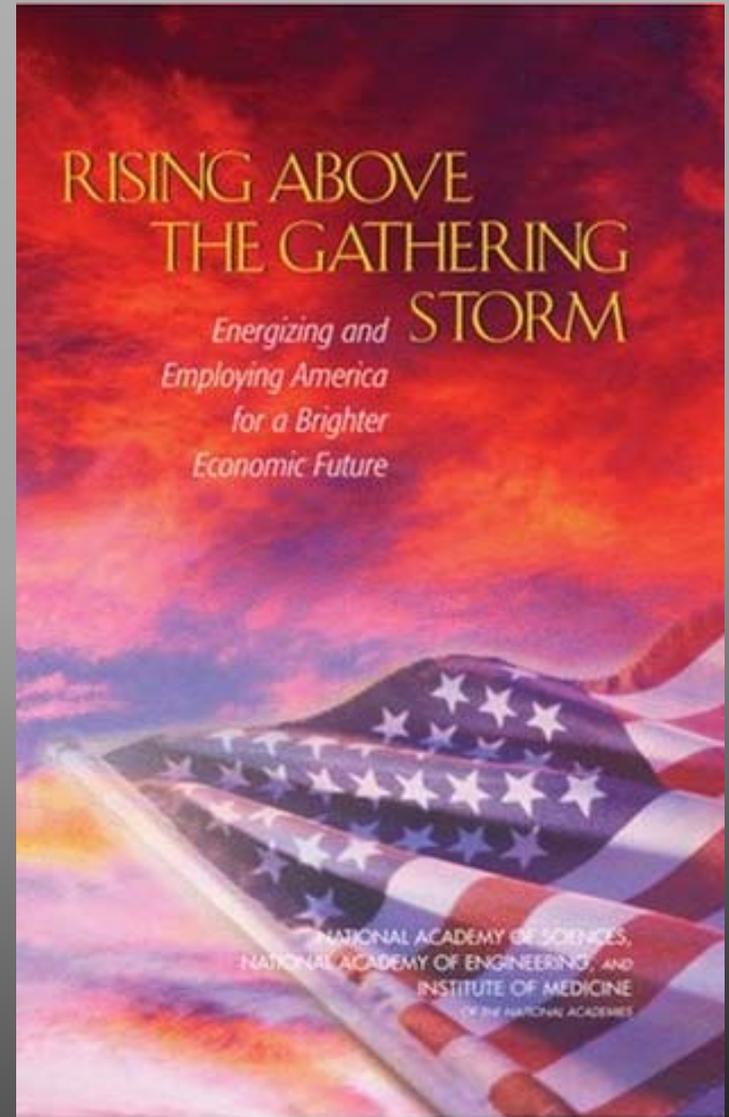


“The Foundation must support the most innovative and potentially transformative research – research that has the capacity to revolutionize existing fields, create new subfields, cause paradigm shifts, support discovery, and lead to radically new technologies...[NSF must] create an environment that is more open to and encouraging of such proposals from the research community.”





*Recommendation B:
“Sustain and strengthen the nation’s traditional commitment to long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life.”*





H. R. 2272

One Hundred Tenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Thursday,
the fourth day of January, two thousand and seven*

An Act

To invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the
competitiveness of the United States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “America COMPETES Act” or
the “America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote
Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act”.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

A STRATEGY FOR AMERICAN INNOVATION:
DRIVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND QUALITY JOBS

1. INVEST IN THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AMERICAN INNOVATION

A. Restore American Leadership in Fundamental Research

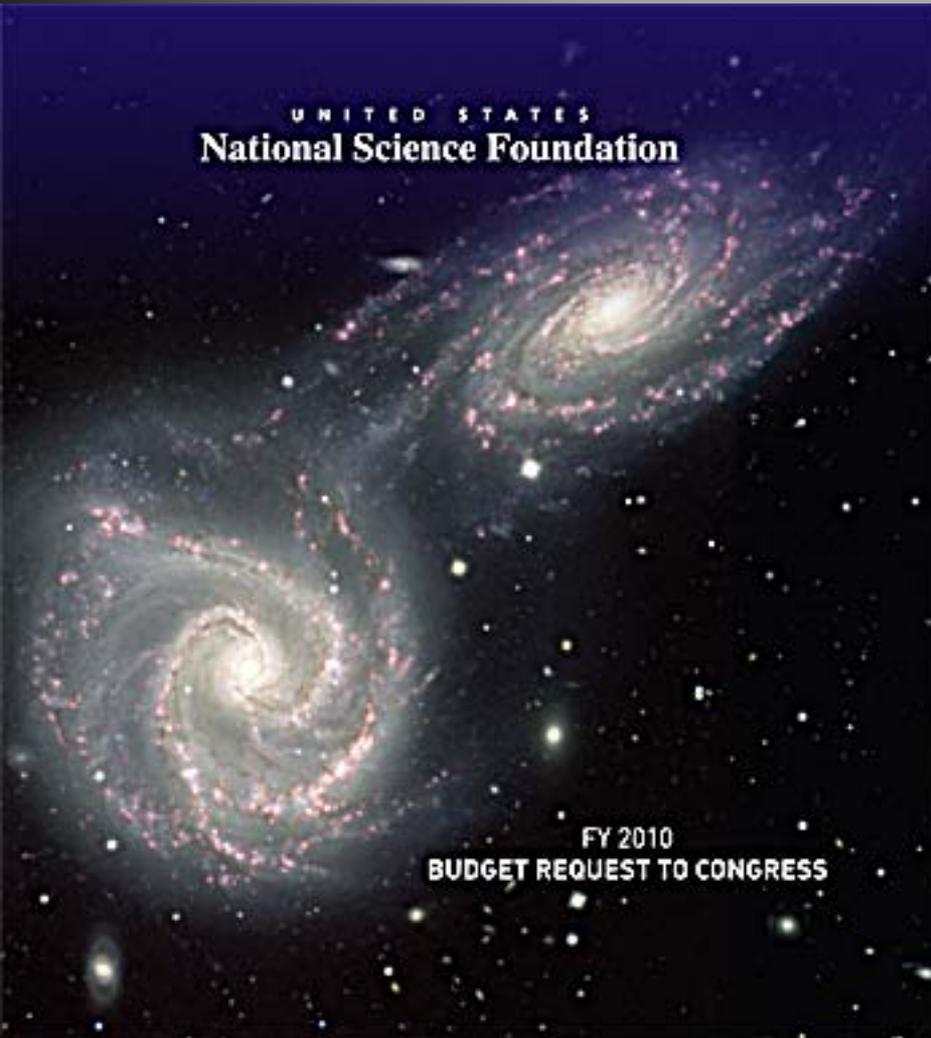
- **Double the R&D budget of key science agencies.** The President's Budget proposed to double the research budgets of three key science agencies: the **National Science Foundation**, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology. ... The Obama Administration will increase the impact of this investment by providing more support for high-risk, high-return research, for multidisciplinary research, and for scientists and engineers at the beginning of their careers.



SEPTEMBER 2009



NSF FY 2010 Budget



Potentially Transformative Research. Transformative research involves ideas, discoveries, or tools that radically change our understanding of existing scientific or engineering concepts or educational practices. Such research is risky but can be high-reward if it leads to breakthroughs or creates new paradigms or fields. NSF explicitly recognizes the critical importance of transformative research in its merit review process. *In FY 2010, each research division will set aside a minimum of \$2 million (\$92 million Foundation-wide) to explore methodologies that help support transformative research.*



NSF/BIO

Experiments in Innovation

- ▶ Proposal Development
- ▶ Merit Review
- ▶ Community Input



*“If you always do
what you always did,
you’ll always get
what you always got.”*

Unknown author



Where discoveries begin