



# MPS-ASCEND POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM

## MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES ASCENDING POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS – MPS-ASCEND ([NSF 21-573](#))

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR, 12 APRIL 2021, 2 PM EDT

HARSHAL GUPTA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
DIVISION OF ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCES  
DIRECTORATE FOR MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### *PROGRAM CONTACTS:*

HARSHAL GUPTA, AST, (703) 292-5039, [HGUPTA@NSF.GOV](mailto:HGUPTA@NSF.GOV)

REBECCA PEEBLES, CHE, (703) 292-8809, [RPEEBLES@NSF.GOV](mailto:RPEEBLES@NSF.GOV)

GUEBRE X. TESSEMA, DMR, (703) 292-4935, [GTESSEMA@NSF.GOV](mailto:GTESSEMA@NSF.GOV)

VICTOR ROYTBURD, DMS, (703) 292-8584, [VROYTBUR@NSF.GOV](mailto:VROYTBUR@NSF.GOV)

EDMUNDO J. GARCIA-SOLIS, PHY, (703) 292-4493, [EJGARCIA@NSF.GOV](mailto:EJGARCIA@NSF.GOV)

**KATHLEEN V. McCloud**, OMA, (703) 292-8236, [KMCCLOUD@NSF.GOV](mailto:KMCCLOUD@NSF.GOV)



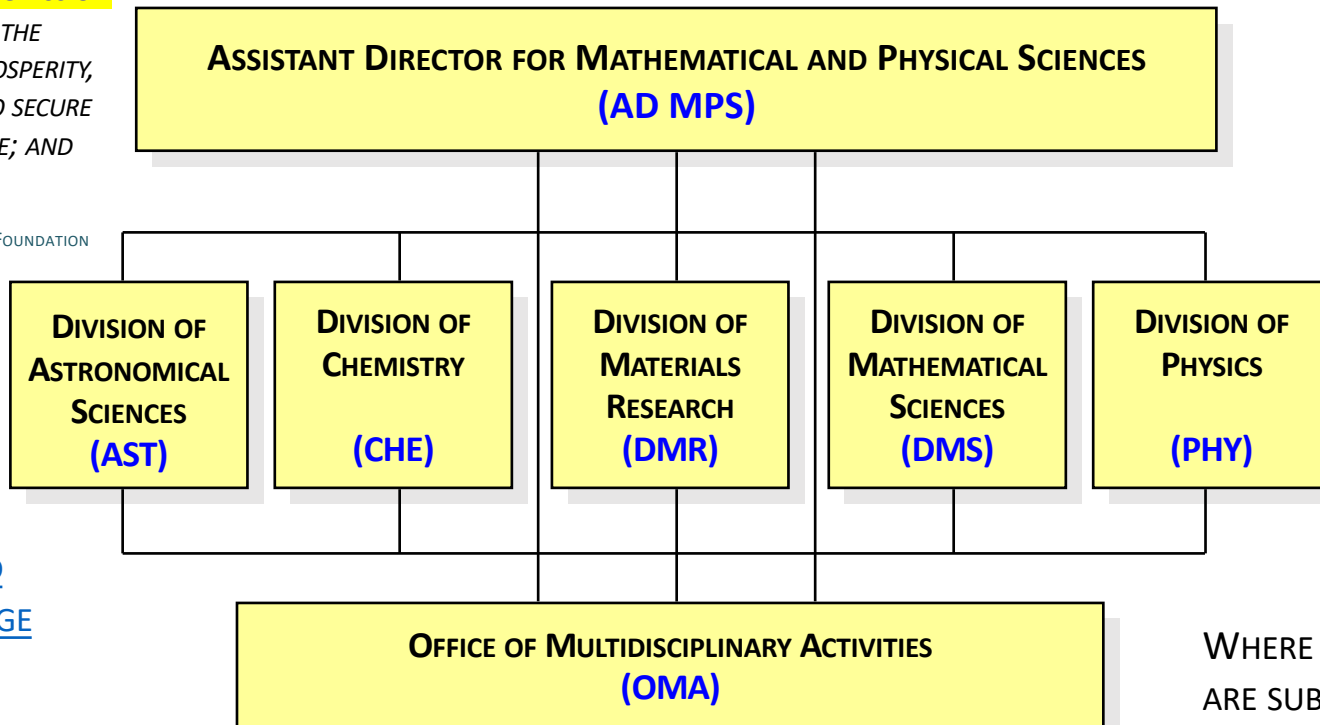
# MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

**TO PROMOTE THE PROGRESS OF**

**SCIENCE;** TO ADVANCE THE NATIONAL HEALTH, PROSPERITY, AND WELFARE; AND TO SECURE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

— FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACT OF 1950 (P.L. 81-507)

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PROGRAM PAGE](#)



**DR. SEAN JONES**

SCIENCE AREAS  
WHERE  
PROPOSALS  
ARE REVIEWED

WHERE PROPOSALS  
ARE SUBMITTED



# THE MPS-ASCEND PROGRAM: EXCELLENCE THROUGH DIVERSITY

- PURPOSE. TO SUPPORT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS WHO WILL BROADEN THE PARTICIPATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES IN MPS FIELDS IN THE U.S., ENABLING FELLOWS TO DEVELOP AS FUTURE LEADERS IN SCIENCE. **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP WITH SIGNIFICANT BROADENING PARTICIPATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS**
- INTENT. TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT BEGINNING INVESTIGATORS OF SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL IN:
  - RESEARCH EXPERIENCES THAT WILL BROADEN PERSPECTIVES, FACILITATE INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERACTIONS, AND HELP BROADEN PARTICIPATION WITHIN MPS FIELDS.
  - PREPARE FELLOWS FOR THEIR NEXT CAREER STAGE (E.G., FACULTY POSITION).
- AWARDS WILL SUPPORT RESEARCH IN ANY SCIENTIFIC AREA WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE FIVE MPS DIVISIONS: ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCES (AST), CHEMISTRY (CHE), MATERIALS RESEARCH (DMR), MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES (DMS), AND PHYSICS (PHY).
  - FELLOWSHIPS ARE AWARDS TO INDIVIDUALS, NOT INSTITUTIONS, AND ARE ADMINISTERED BY THE FELLOWS.



# BROADENING PARTICIPATION OF URM<sub>s</sub>

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- UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES (URMs) – BLACKS OR AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS, LATINOS, AND NATIVE AMERICANS (INCL. ALASKA NATIVES, NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER NATIVE PACIFIC ISLANDERS) – ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.
- APPLICANTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE MEMBERS OF GROUPS INDICATED ABOVE.
- APPLICANTS MUST HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE PLAN TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION OF THESE URM<sub>s</sub> IN MPS FIELDS. EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES THAT BROADEN PARTICIPATION OF THESE GROUPS IS DESIRABLE.



# ELIGIBILITY

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- PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE POTENTIAL POSTDOC (NOT POSTDOC MENTOR).
- MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS (OR NATIONALS) OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS WHEN THE PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED.
- MUST HAVE A DOCTORAL DEGREE CONFERRED BEFORE STARTING POSTDOCTORAL TENURE.
- MUST NOT HAVE SUBMITTED A FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL CONCURRENTLY TO ANOTHER NSF PROGRAM OR TO A SIMILAR PROGRAM IN ANOTHER FEDERAL AGENCY (E.G., DOE, NASA).
- IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FELLOW WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH AT AN INSTITUTION DIFFERENT FROM THEIR PHD-GRANTING OR CURRENT POSTDOCTORAL INSTITUTION. IF FELLOW PROPOSES TO REMAIN AT CURRENT INSTITUTION, PROPOSAL SHOULD STRONGLY JUSTIFY HOW THIS CHOICE BENEFITS THEIR RESEARCH AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT.



# DURATION AND LEVEL OF SUPPORT

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UP TO 36 MONTHS (MINIMUM 12 MONTHS)

AWARD AMOUNT OF \$100,000 PER YEAR (PAID DIRECTLY TO FELLOW) INCLUDES:

- A MONTHLY STIPEND OF \$5,833 (UP TO \$70,000 ANNUALLY)
- AN ANNUAL ALLOWANCE OF \$30,000 FOR:
  - A) EXPENSES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF THE RESEARCH AND/OR
  - B) SUPPORT OF FRINGE BENEFITS, DEPENDENT CARE, AND MOVING EXPENSES.

UP TO 2 MONTHS OF PAID LEAVE OVER 36 MONTHS. CANNOT BE USED TO INCREASE DURATION OR LEVEL OF NSF SUPPORT.



# MPS-ASCEND PROGRAM: HOW TO APPLY

1. READ THE SOLICITATION ([NSF 21-573](#)) IN FULL, ESPECIALLY THE PARTS THAT DESCRIBE WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE PROPOSAL. FOLLOW GUIDELINES IN THE NSF PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICIES & PROCEDURES GUIDE (PAPPG; [NSF 20-1](#)); WHERE REQUIREMENTS IN SOLICITATION DIFFER FROM ONES IN PAPPG, THE SOLICITATION TAKES PRECEDENCE.
2. REACH OUT TO POTENTIAL POSTDOC MENTORS. TO APPLY, YOU AND A MENTOR WILL NEED TO HAVE A WELL-DEVELOPED PROJECT AND MENTORING PLAN IN HAND.
3. ASK QUESTIONS (AFTER READING THE SOLICITATION)! THERE ARE CONTACTS WITHIN EACH MPS DIVISION AND AT OMA WHO ARE HAPPY TO HELP (SEE FIRST AND LAST SLIDES).

SUBMIT VIA NSF FASTLANE OR GRANTS.GOV. FASTLANE SUBMISSION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BECAUSE THESE ARE FELLOWSHIPS WITH UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS. IF SUBMITTING THROUGH GRANTS.GOV, AFFIRM THAT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY UPLOADED INTO FASTLANE BY THE DEADLINE DATE. OTHERWISE, PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE OR LATE AND WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT REVIEW.



# MPS-ASCEND PROPOSAL: KEY COMPONENTS

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION (10 PAGES), WHICH ADDRESSES:

- WHAT THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW PROPOSES TO ACCOMPLISH DURING THE FELLOWSHIP PERIOD AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE FELLOW'S CAREER GOALS.
- A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE APPLICANT AND PROJECT WILL SERVE TO BROADEN THE PARTICIPATION OF URM'S IN MPS FIELDS.
- ❖ HOW THE PROPOSED RESEARCH IS IMPORTANT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MPS FIELD(S)
  - PROPOSAL SHOULD TARGET SPECIALISTS AND NON-SPECIALISTS





# MPS-ASCEND PROPOSAL: KEY COMPONENTS

SPONSORING SCIENTIST STATEMENT (3 PAGES), WHICH DESCRIBES:

- HOW THE SPONSOR AND HOST INSTITUTION WILL PROVIDE A VIBRANT AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FELLOW'S PROPOSED RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE A BASIS FOR THE FELLOW'S FUTURE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH CAREER.
- A SUBSTANTIVE MENTORING PLAN, INCLUDING EXPERIENCE AND TRACK RECORD OF MENTORING POSTDOCS AND/OR MENTORING URMs, AS WELL AS BROADENING PARTICIPATION.
- AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT APPLICANT IN COHORT BUILDING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MAY BE EXTERNAL TO HOST INSTITUTION).
- APPLICANT'S RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND GOALS AND HOW THEY ALIGN WITH THOSE OF THE SPONSOR.
- SUITABILITY OF THE MATCH BETWEEN FELLOW AND SPONSOR.

*THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE CO-SIGNED BY THE SPONSORING SCIENTIST AND THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR (OR EQUIVALENT) AT THE HOST INSTITUTION.*



# MPS-ASCEND PROPOSAL: KEY COMPONENTS

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## TWO OR THREE LETTERS OF REFERENCE:

- ONE REFERENCE LETTER FROM THE DOCTORAL ADVISER
- OTHER LETTER(S) FROM SCIENTIST(S) WHO KNOW(S) THE APPLICANT AND/OR THE APPLICANT'S RESEARCH WELL.

*THE SPONSORING SCIENTIST MAY NOT PROVIDE A REFERENCE LETTER, UNLESS THEY ARE ALSO THE APPLICANT'S DOCTORAL ADVISER. (UPLOADED BY THE CANDIDATE, SO NOT CONFIDENTIAL)*

IF APPLICABLE, LETTERS OF COLLABORATION (E.G., THOSE REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT AT NATIONAL LABS OR FACILITIES, OR ACCESS TO A COLLABORATOR, ETC.)



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

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FIRST YEAR OF MPS-ASCEND; THE PROGRAM MAY EVOLVE IN FUTURE CYCLES BASED ON:

- COMMUNITY NEED AND INPUT
- INTERNAL NSF EVALUATION

POTENTIAL RELATED PROGRAMS ARE ANTICIPATED:

- SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT FOR MPS-ASCEND FELLOWS ACCEPTING TENURE-TRACK OR TENURED POSITIONS IN ACADEMIA
- SUPPORT FOR COHORT BUILDING AND EXTERNAL MENTORING (AWARDED TO INSTITUTIONS)

PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER EXISTING FUNDING PROGRAMS WITHIN MPS DIVISIONS. WE CAN HELP YOU FIND SUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES.



# THANKS! QUESTIONS?

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