



**National Science Foundation**

4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Colleagues,

You will find useful background material for discussions at our meeting on November 15-16, 2004, on the web at [http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/opp\\_advisory/briefing1104.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/opp_advisory/briefing1104.htm). Hard copy will be available at the meeting. I apologize for sending this out so late. The meeting will begin at 8:15 a.m. Monday and end mid-afternoon on Tuesday, so that you will be able to get to area airports by 5:00pm.

The attached draft agenda identifies the OPP or NSF staff member designated to serve as the OPP resource person for each topic. To the extent that you and Josh wish, you can consult with him or her as you organize your thinking prior to the meeting. A list of telephone numbers for OPP staff is also attached.

There are a number of new subjects of considerable importance on which we need your guidance and advice. One subject, which we began discussing in May, concerns preparations for International Polar Year research activities in 2007 and 2008. In May we discussed the approximately level of effort OPP might devote to IPY; at this meeting we will focus on specific research areas as possible IPY Flagship activities. Other subjects include the status of McMurdo station resupply given the condition of the Coast Guard polar icebreakers and the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and NSF's role in responding to the ACIA recommendations. An important action for the Committee at this meeting is review and approval of the PRSS Committee of Visitors' recommendations and a discussion of the OPP draft responses.

We will also have the opportunity on Monday during lunch to meet and discuss some of these issues with Arden Bement, NSF's acting director. Dr. Bement's appointment as NSF's director is currently awaiting Congressional approval.

I always find our meetings stimulating and I look forward to our meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Karl A. Erb

*NOTE: Enclosures to include --  
Notebook w/agenda and other information  
List of OPP staff*