

## The NSF Statutory Mission

To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.



## The NSF Vision

*Enabling the Nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation.*

Realizing the promise of the 21<sup>st</sup> century depends in large measure on today's investments in science, engineering and mathematics research and education. NSF investment – in people, in their ideas, and in the tools they use – will catalyze the strong progress in science and engineering needed to secure the Nation's future.

*On the cover: Felice Frankel photographed colored drops of water in the laboratory of Harvard chemist and National Medal of Science winner Professor George Whitesides. The water drops are responding to a grid of hydrophobic and hydrophilic materials on a flat surface. The water drops take squarish shapes by spreading across the hydrophilic surface and stopping at hydrophobic gridlines etched at 3 mm intervals. The hydrophilic surface is a self-assembled monolayer.*

*Frankel is a research scientist in the School of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1997, she was awarded an NSF grant for "Envisioning Science," a project in which she works with students and researchers to raise the standards in scientific imaging and visual expression of data. In March 2002, The MIT Press published Frankel's book, Envisioning Science: The Design and Craft of the Science Image. Envisioning Science provides a guide to creating compelling photographs that illuminate science and make research more accessible.*

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