

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?par>



November 15, 2004

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 21st 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:** This image depicts the self-assembly of gold-polymer nanorods into a curved structure. NSF-supported research by Chad Mirkin at Northwestern University has generated nanostructures with the ability to curve. These are the first nanostructures to exhibit this ability – a critical requirement for the utility of nanomaterials in further applications including drug-delivery systems, nanoscale electronics, catalysts and light-harvesting materials. NSF is the lead agency for the National Nanotechnology Initiative, a multi-agency network working to bolster nanotechnology and ensure U.S. dominance in this emerging field. Strong research efforts in nanotechnology are critical in order to capitalize on nanotechnology's potential to revolutionize science and engineering and to harness all that it offers.*