



# NSF Funding Opportunities at the intersection of Engineering, Computer Science and Social and Behavioral Sciences

Alexandra Medina-Borja, Ph.D.  
Office of the Assistant Director  
for Engineering &  
Industrial Innovation &  
Partnerships Division

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National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
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TEL: 703.292.5111 | FIRS: 800.877.8339 | TDD: 800.281.8749

**\$7.5** billion FY 2016 estimation

**95%** funds research, education and related activities

 **49,600** proposals

 **12,000** awards funded

 **1,859** NSF-funded Institutions

 **350,000** NSF-supported researchers

 All S&E disciplines funded

 Funds research into STEM education

 **217** Nobel Prize winners

# NSF by the numbers

*Other than the FY 2016 estimation, numbers shown are based on FY 2015 activities.*



## *NSF Engineering (ENG) Directorate MISSION*

Investing in engineering **research and education**  
and fostering **innovations** for benefit to society

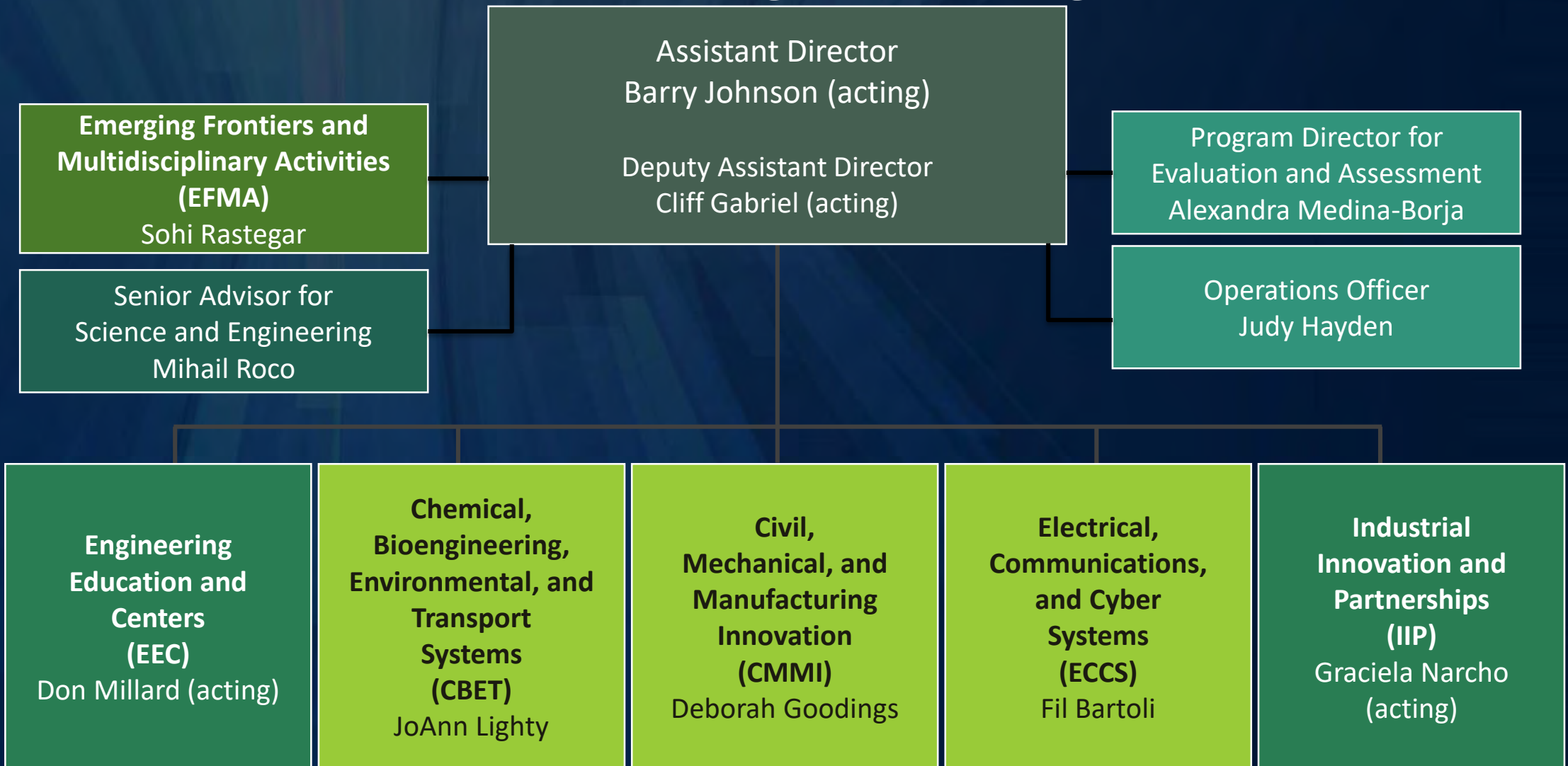


# ENG by the Numbers: FY 2016

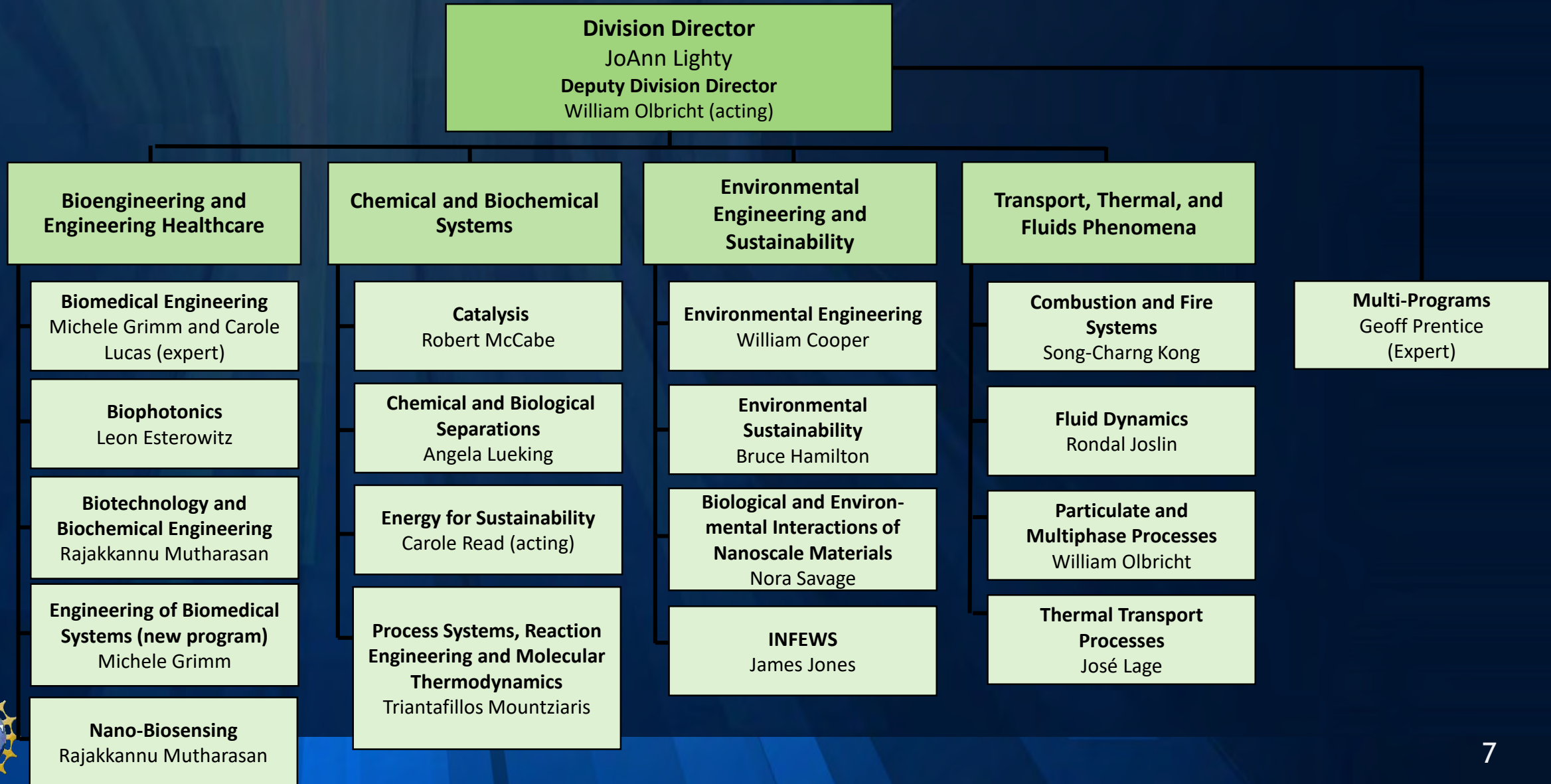
- FY2017 Budget Request: \$1.003 Billion
- Total number of proposals: **12,574**
- Total number of new awards: **2,502**
- Total number of research proposals (excludes SBIR/STTR and I-Corps Teams): **9,614**
- ENG average funding rate (excludes SBIR/STTR and I-Corps Teams): **16%**
- Estimated number of researchers and students supported: **23,350**
- Supported 19 ERCs, 3 STCs, 75 I/UCRCs, and 3 research facility networks



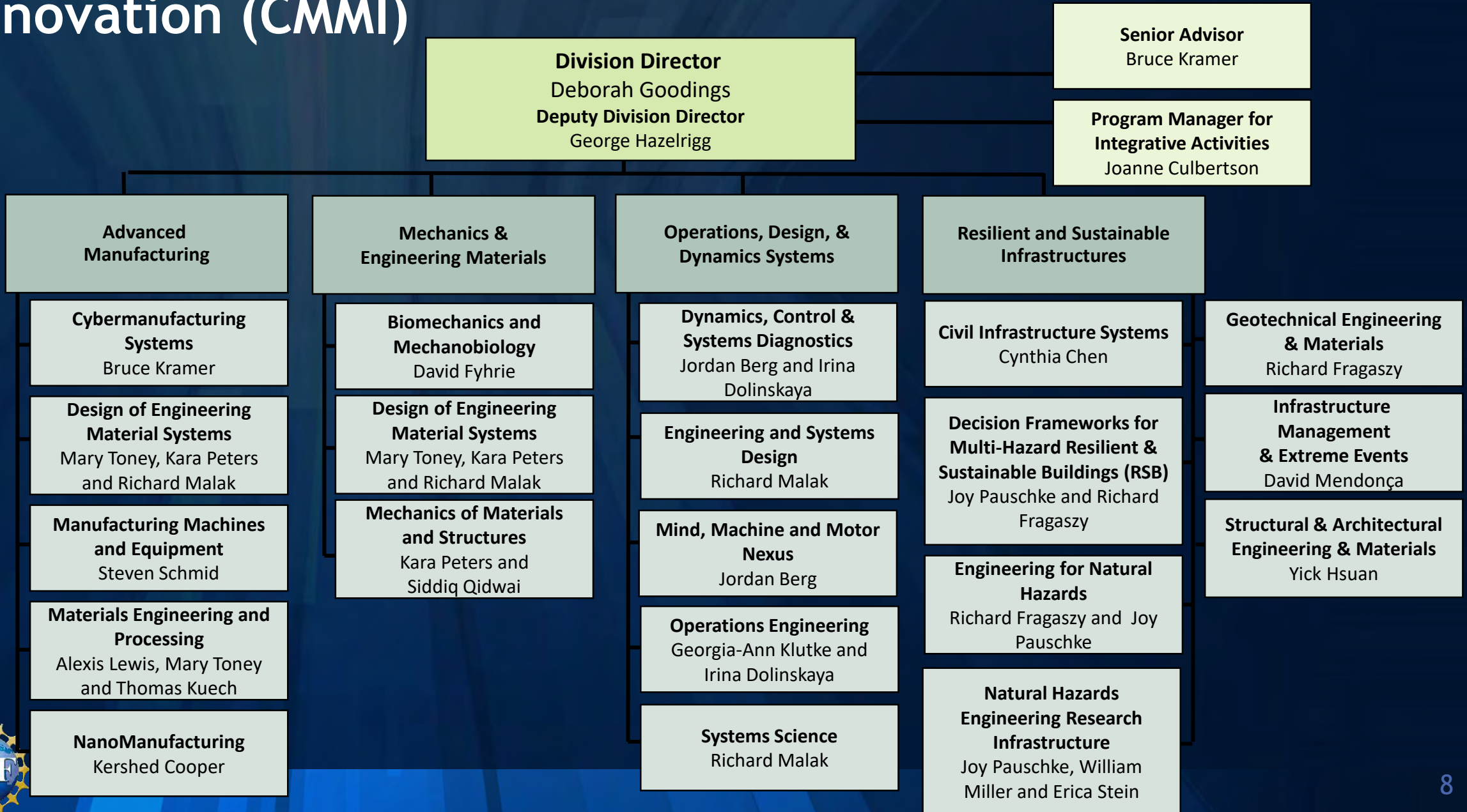
# NSF Directorate for Engineering



# Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET)

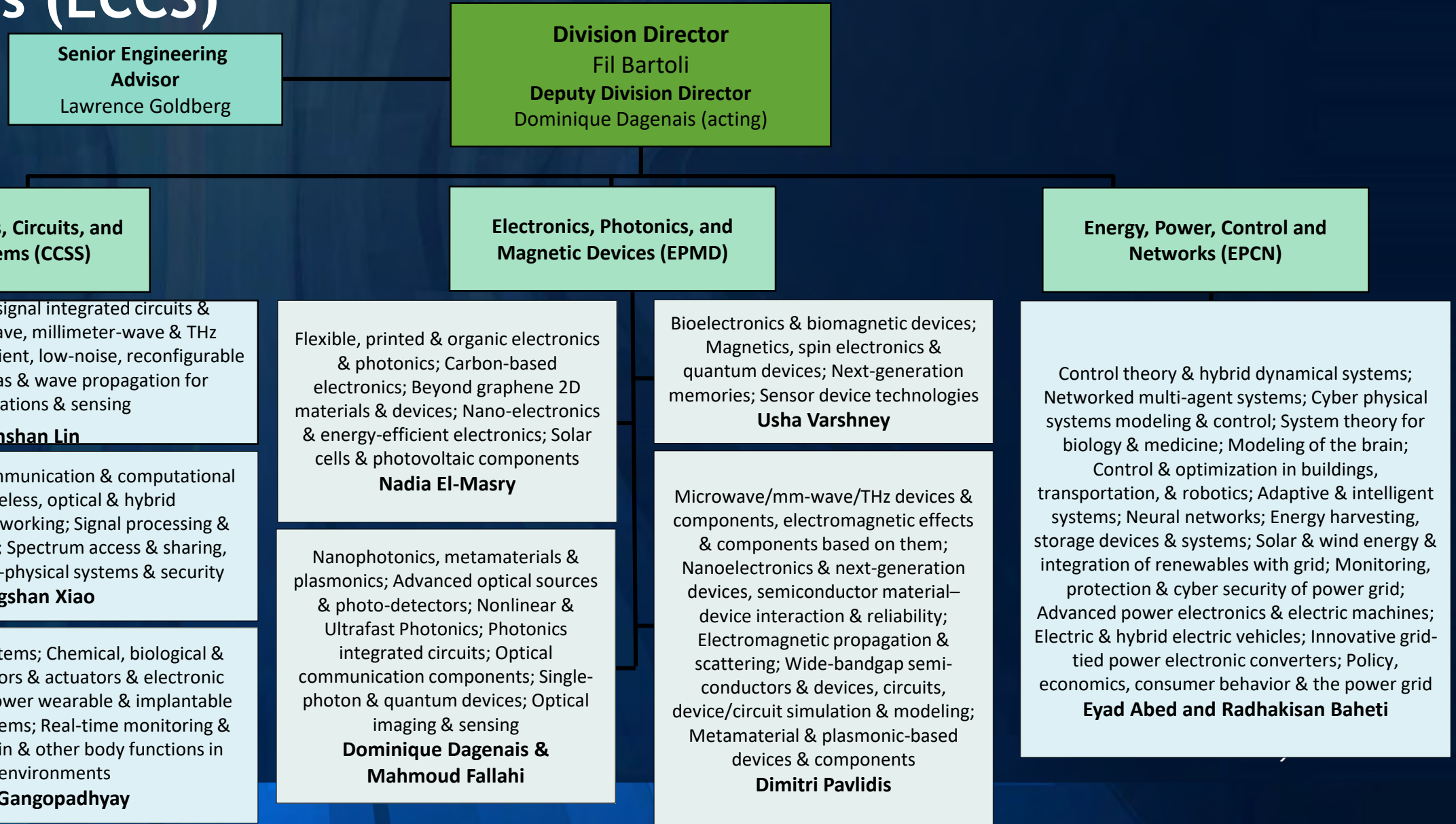


# Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI)

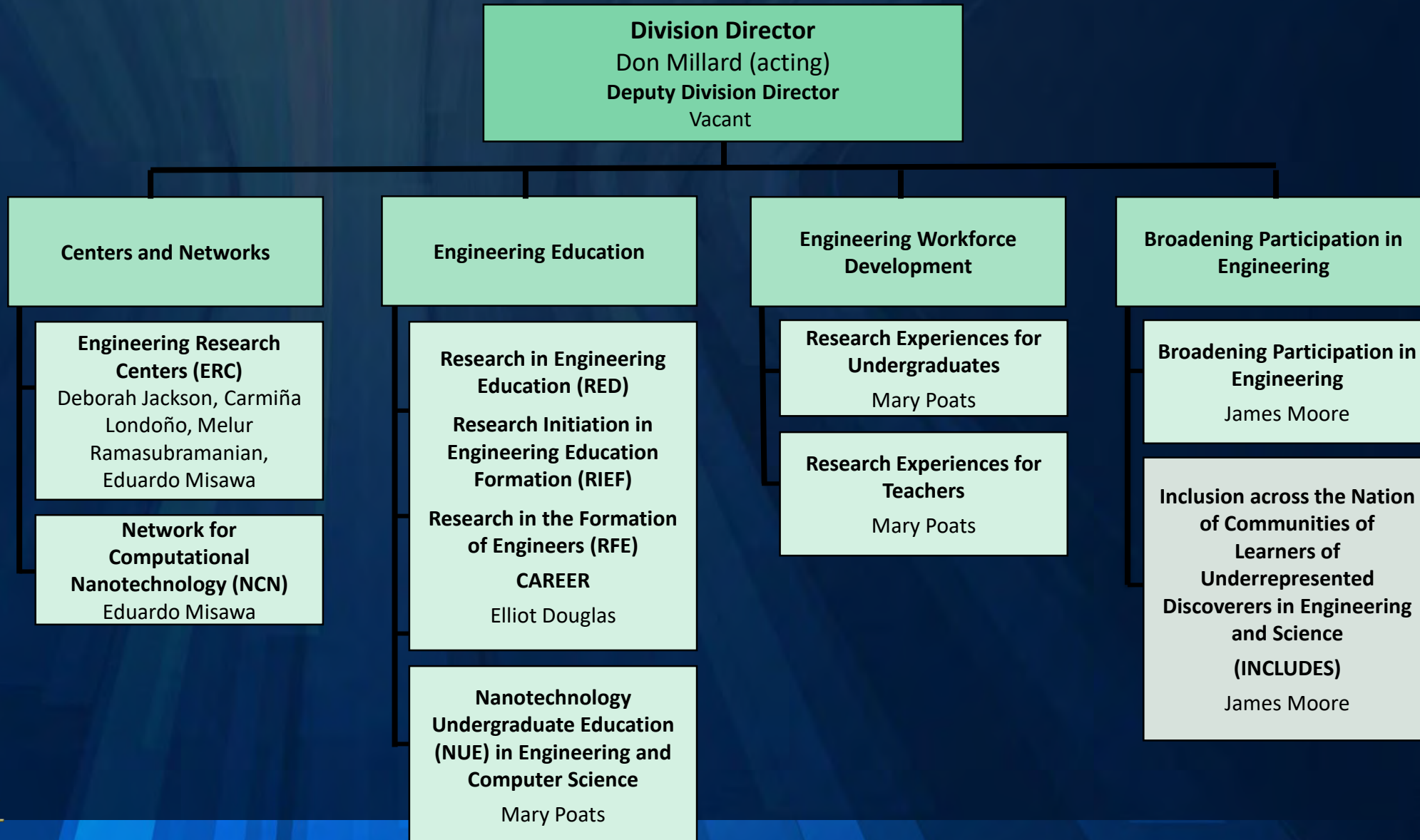




# Electrical, Communications, and Cyber Systems (ECCS)

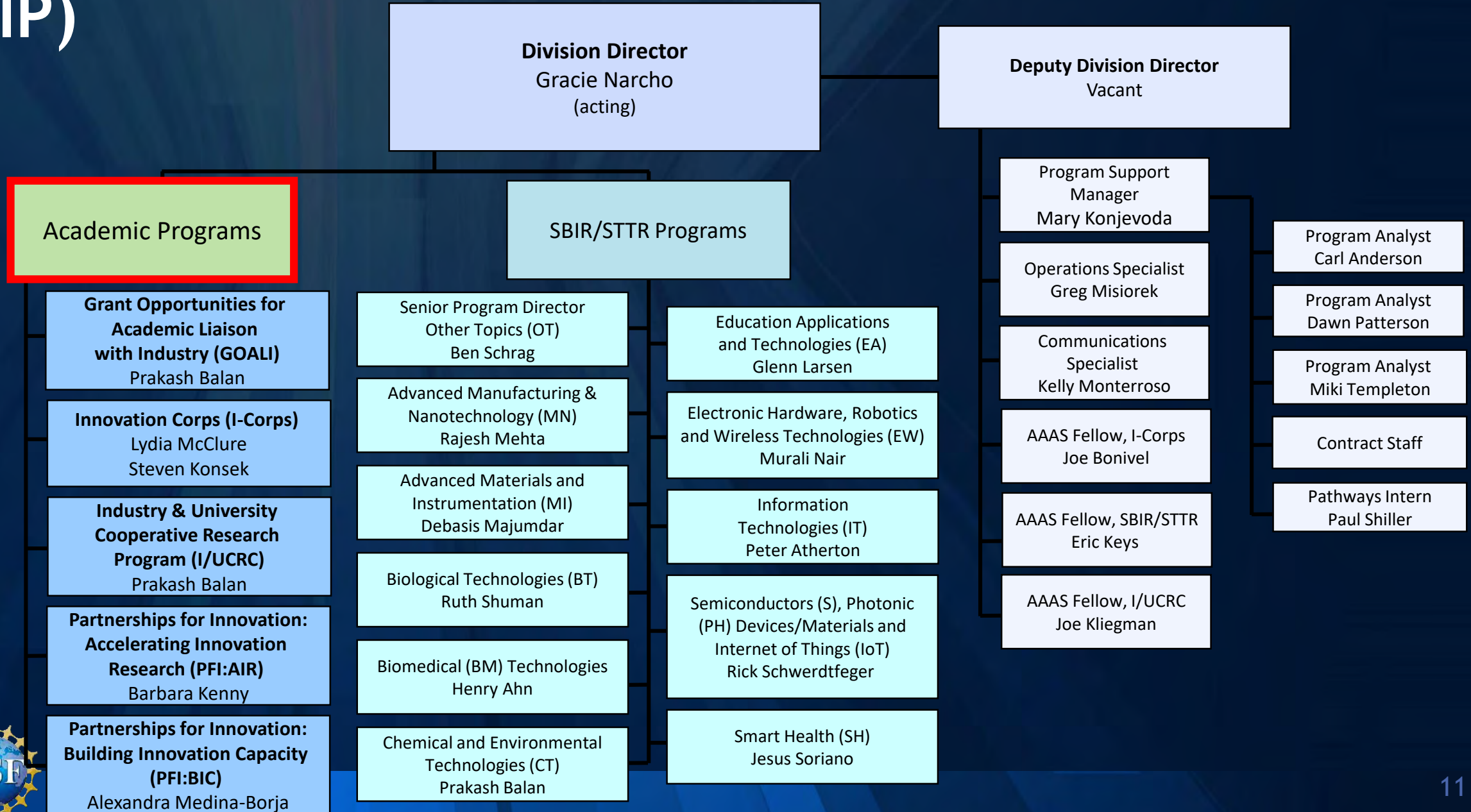


# Engineering Education and Centers (EEC)



# Industrial Innovation and Partnerships

(IIP)



# ENG Investments

A brief overview of some new and exciting themes...



*RESEARCH THEME*

**Advanced Manufacturing**



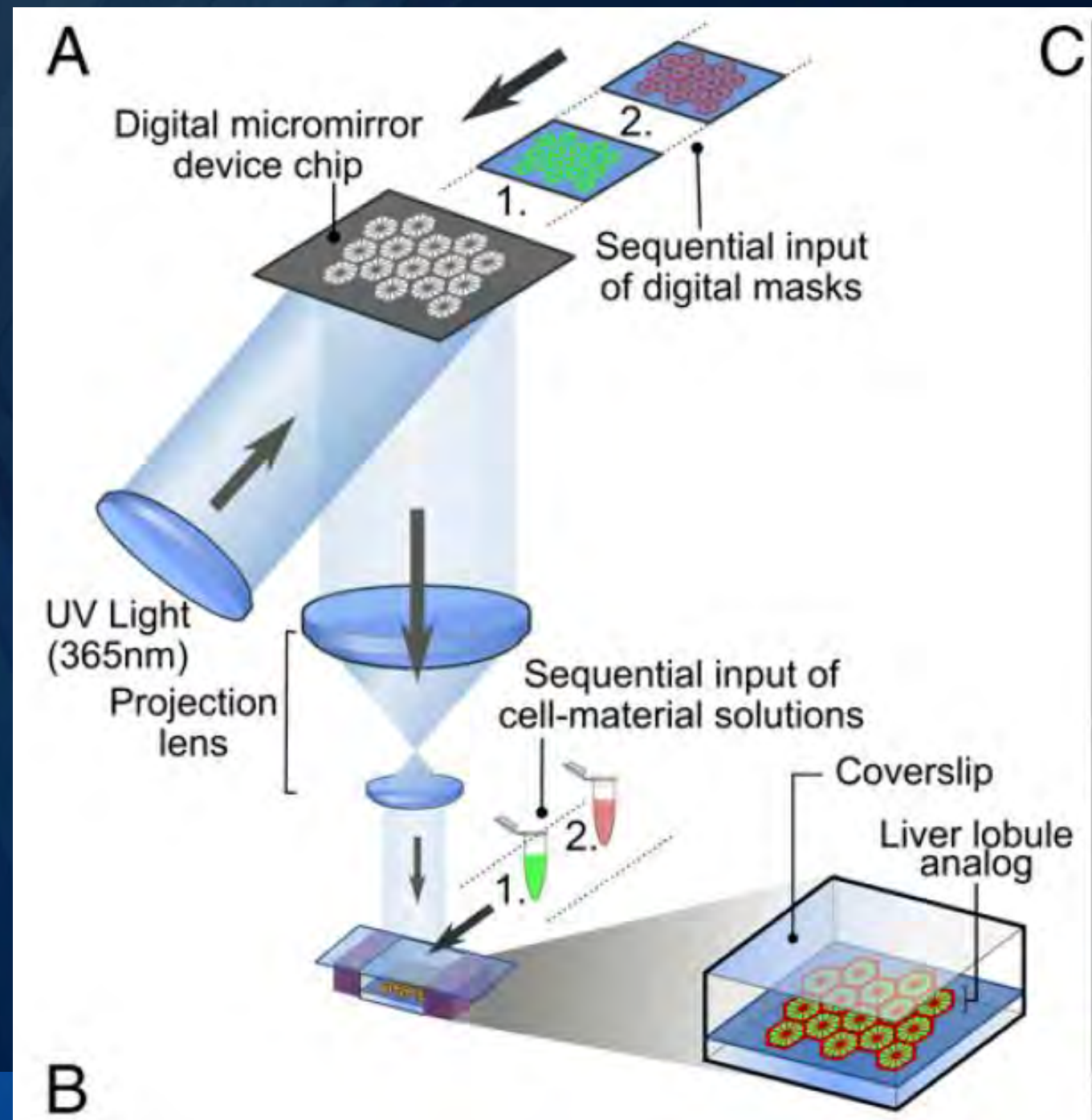
# Enabling More Capable, Accessible, and Distributed Manufacturing

- Cybermanufacturing Systems program
  - Accessible, cost-effective and distributed manufacturing for the “Factory of the Future”
- Nanosystems design and scalable nanomanufacturing
- Advanced biomanufacturing



- 3D Printing of liver tissue
- For early drug screening and disease modeling

Shaochen Chen et al., UCSD



*RESEARCH THEME*

**Energy, Water, Food, and  
Critical Infrastructure**





# Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS)

NSF-wide initiative  
and collaboration  
with NIFA



# Risk and Resilience Critical Resilient Interdependent Infrastructure Systems and Processes (CRISP)

- Understanding, design, and innovation of Interdependent Critical Infrastructure (ICI) systems and processes to deliver essential goods and services despite disruptions, whether human-induced or natural



*Credit: ©Fotolia/ collage N. Hanacek*



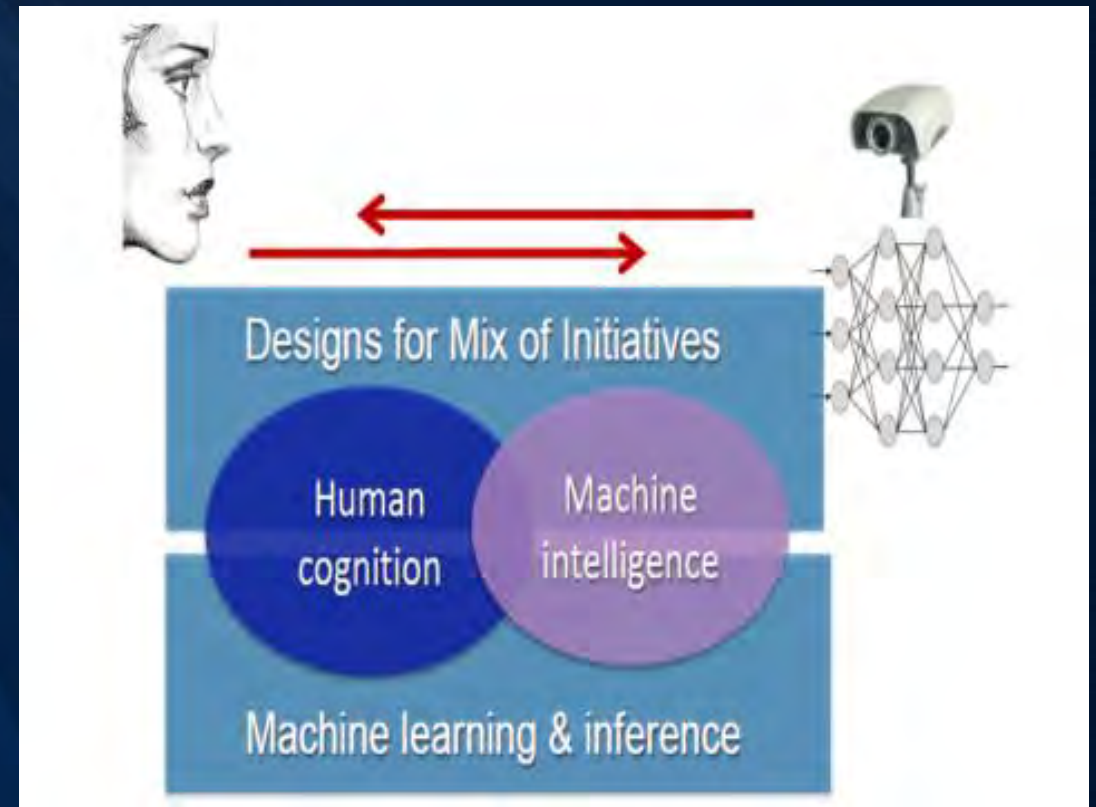
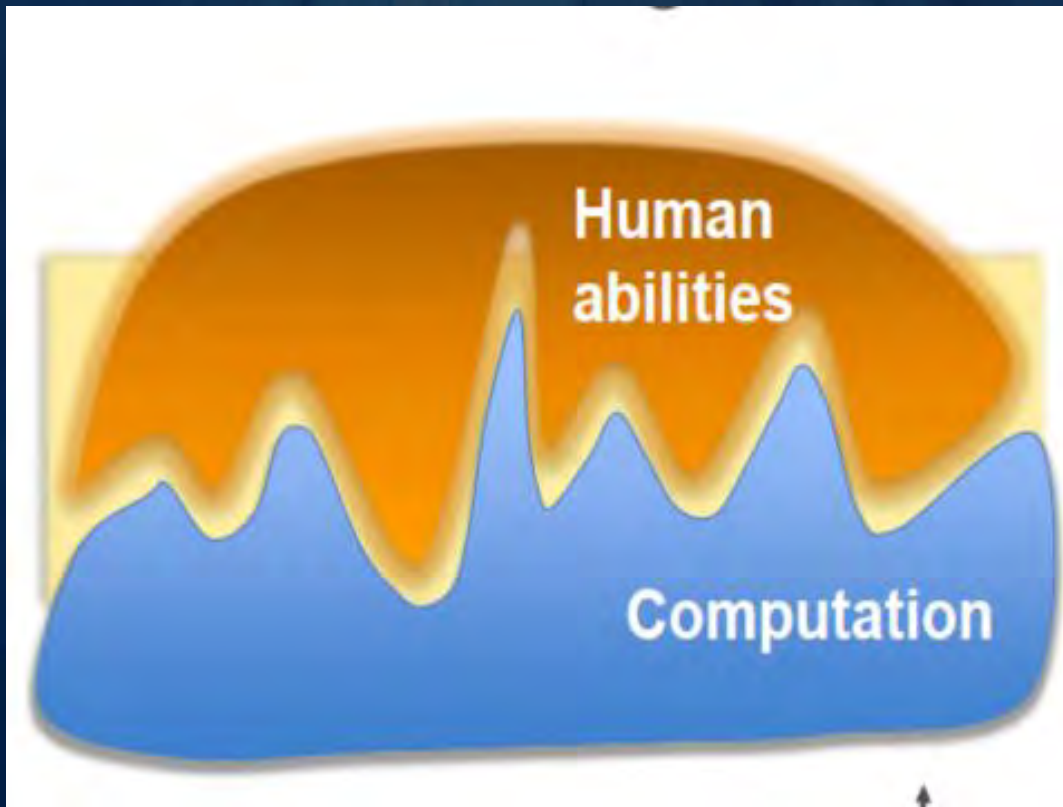
*RESEARCH THEME*

**Smart Systems**



# Human Cognition and Behavior and Engineered Systems

How to harness machine intelligence to **augment human cognition and human decision-making capabilities**



Source: Intelligent Cognitive Assistants (ICA) report, 2016.



# Smart Systems

- National Robotics Initiative (NRI)
- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)
  - Integration of computational algorithms and physical components
- Human-Centered smart service systems (translational)
- Smart and Connected Communities
- Smart & Connected Health
- **Mind, Machine and Motor Nexus (M3X)**



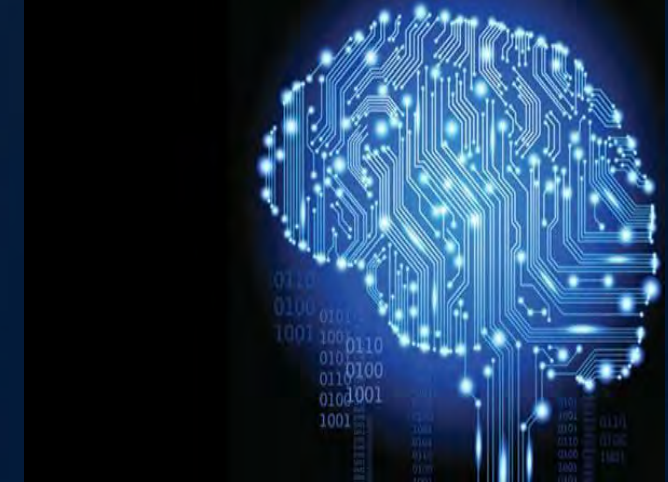
## Machines



## Smart Machines



## Human Centered Cognitive Engineered Systems



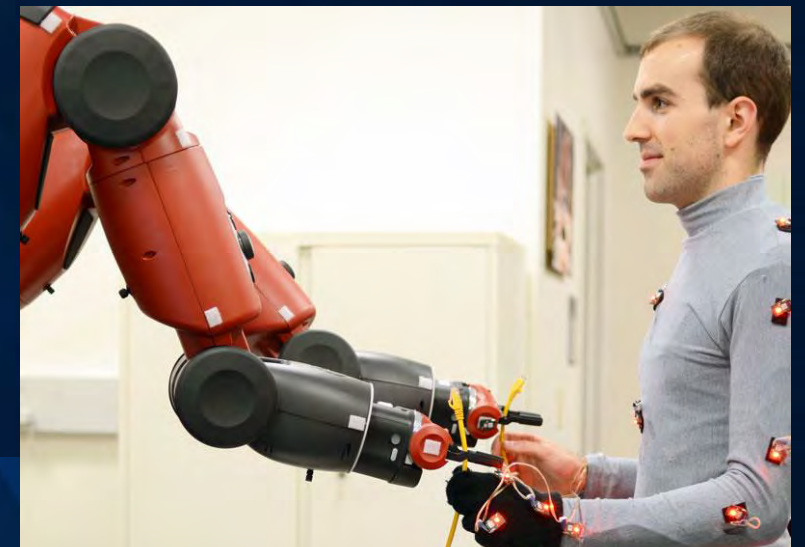
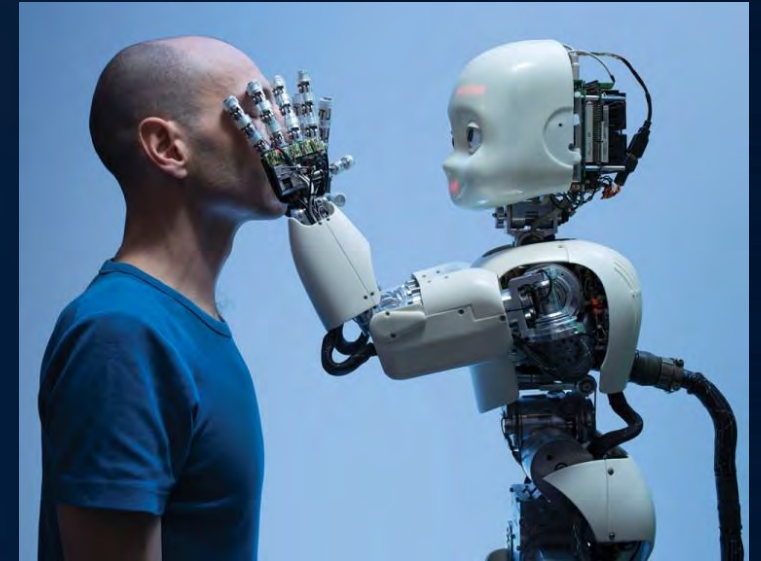
- Achieve functionality
- Improve productivity/consistency/quality

- Achieve functionality
- Improve productivity/consistency/quality
- Has some learning/decision making capacity

- Achieve functionality
- Improve productivity/consistency/quality
- Has greater learning/decision making capacity
- Collaborate with humans
- Evolve in time as they learn

# M3X: Mind, Machine and Motor Nexus

- Integrated treatment of human intent, perception, and behavior in interaction with embodied and intelligent engineered systems and as mediated by motor manipulation.
- Advance the holistic analysis of cognition and of embodiment as present in both human and machine elements.
- Encompass not only how mind interacts with motor function in the manipulation of machines, but also how, in turn, machine response and function may shape and influence both mind and motor function.
- Systems science and engineering; mechatronics; cognitive, behavioral and perceptual sciences; and applied computing..



Looking to the Future...







# Looking Ahead: Ten Big Ideas



**Navigating the New Arctic**




**Harnessing Data for 21st Century Science and Engineering**



**Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Shaping the Future**

## RESEARCH IDEAS



**Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype**



**The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution**



**Windows on the Universe: The Era of Multi-messenger Astrophysics**

## PROCESS IDEAS



**Growing Convergent Research at NSF**



**NSF-Includes: Enhancing Science and Engineering through Diversity**



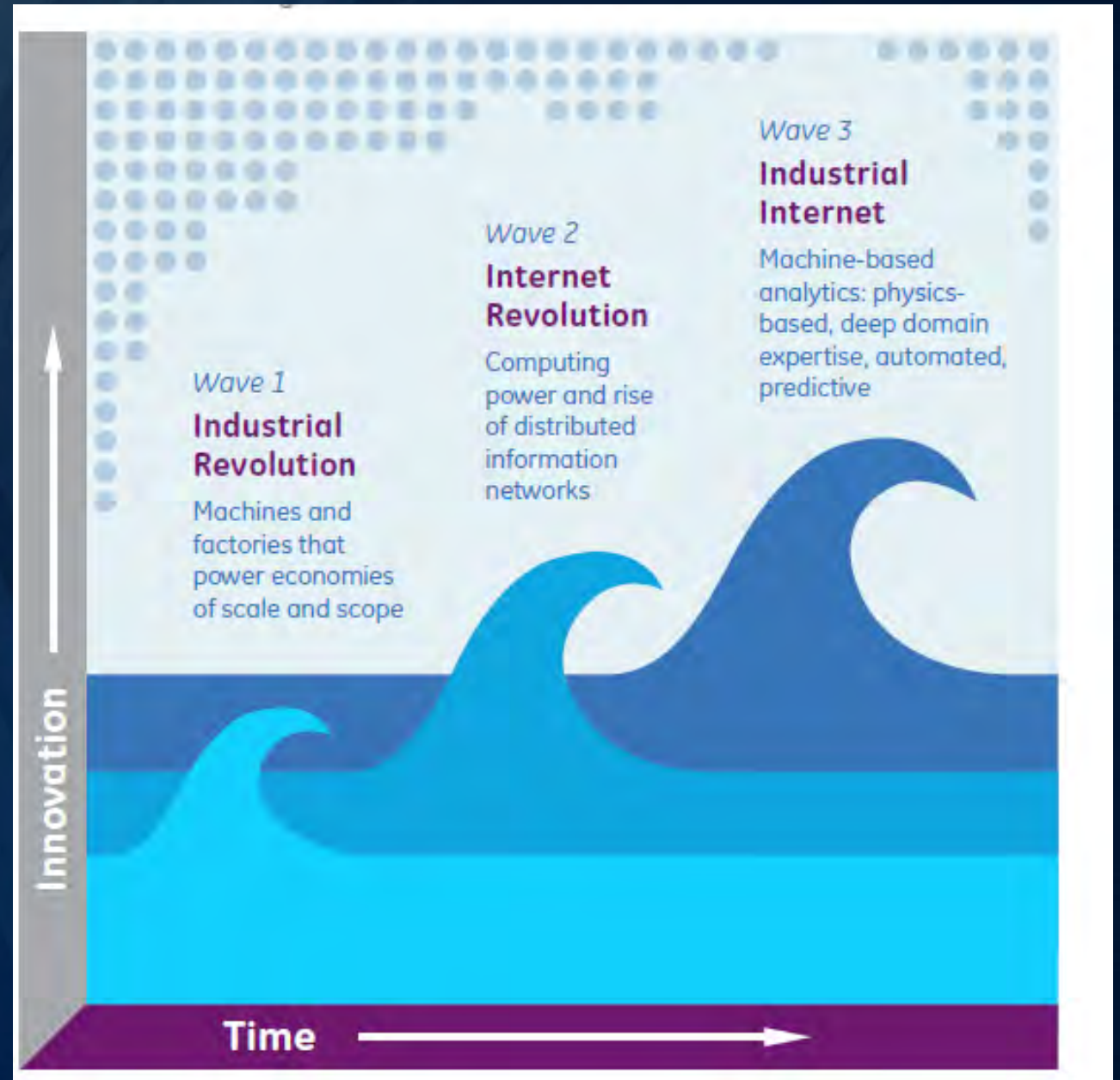
**Mid-scale Research Infrastructure**



**NSF 2050: Seeding Innovation**



“The **deeper meshing** of the digital world with the world of machines holds the potential to bring about profound transformation to global industry, and in turn to many aspects of daily life, including the way many of us do our jobs.”



Source: Industrial Internet: Pushing Boundaries of Minds and Machines, GE.



# WORK AT THE HUMAN-TECHNOLOGY FRONTIER: SHAPING THE FUTURE



# Past research investments are bearing fruit today

*NSF projects foster human-technology partnership*



Wearable robotic glove restores independence for stroke victims



Transformative advances in manufacturing enable a new model for small business

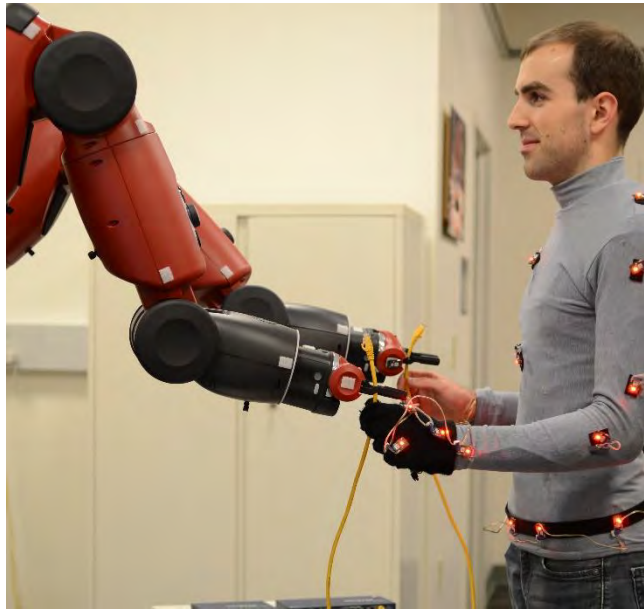


Smart prosthetic arm and hand with sense of touch



# Today's investments will shape the future workplace

*NSF recognizes the importance of meaningful work to the national quality of life*



Cooperative robot learns to work with human partner



Intelligent meeting room increases productivity



3D printing of complex, soft, and living materials

# Four themes to mobilize NSF's multidisciplinary communities:

- Human-Technology Symbiosis
- Augmenting the Individual
- Illuminating the Emerging Socio-Technological Landscape
- Fostering Lifelong and Pervasive Learning



# A Trend of Convergence

*Deep integration of knowledge, tools, techniques, and modes of thinking to address pressing societal problems and profound research questions*

Convergence of engineering, physical science, computer science, life science, and social and behavioral science



# Dear Colleague Letter: Growing Convergence Research at NSF <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17065/nsf17065.pdf>

- Convergence as a process for catalyzing new research directions:
  - Deep integration across disciplines.
  - Research driven by a specific and compelling problem.
- Big Ideas:
  - Harnessing the Data Revolution for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science and Engineering
  - Navigating the New Arctic
  - The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution
  - **Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Shaping the Future**





# Convergence DCL

- HTF Workshop awards: up to one year of support for projects that do not exceed \$100,000 in total. HTF Workshop proposals: **May 15, 2017.**
- HTF RCN awards: four to five years of support for projects with total budgets that do not exceed \$500,000. HTF RCN proposals: **June 1, 2017.**



# Some unsolved questions

- How can engineered systems respond and adapt appropriately to sensed human signals (cognitive, physical, and emotional)?
- What are computable theories of cognition and embodiment for human-machine systems?
- How can mathematical optimization best integrate human variability [and the dynamic effects of human interaction with the engineered system] in their formulations?
- How can we develop models of control and actuation that allow for co-adaptation of engineered systems and humans, that is, that can react to humans adapting to the system while the system adapts to the human.



# RCNs designed to

- promote **new collaboration** among scientists with diverse expertise who share a common interest in a new or developing area
- new groups and networks advance fields and create novel directions and opportunities for research
- strengthen interdisciplinary research and international partnerships.
- will not directly support costs related to primary research.
- RCNs can be used for synthesis activities where existing data and collaboration are utilized to advance knowledge in disciplinary and cross-disciplinary areas.



## *RESEARCH THEME*

# High-Performance Computing and Wireless Communication



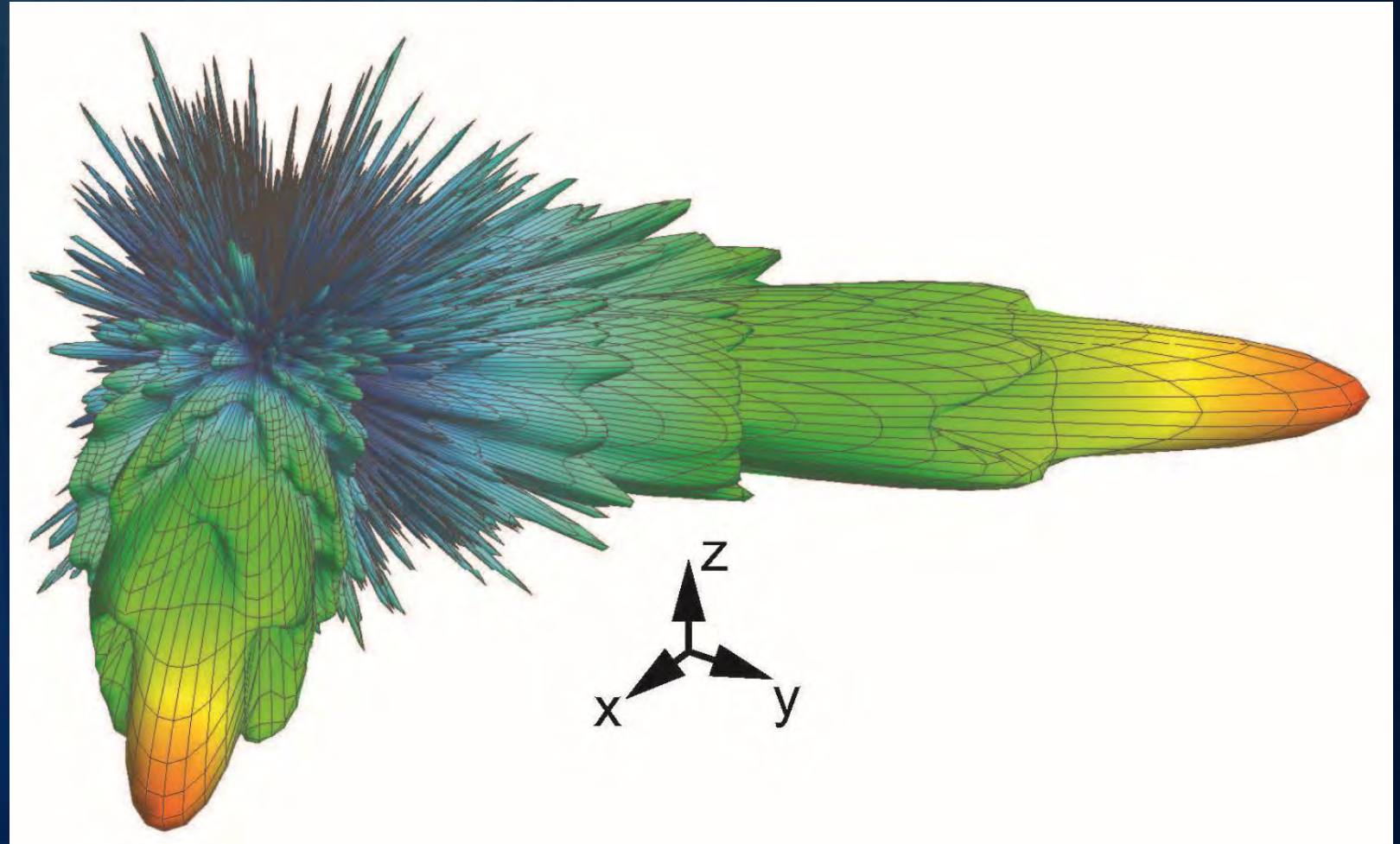
# Energy-Efficient Computing: from Devices to Architectures (E2CDA)

- Improvements in computing performance are severely limited by the amount of energy needed to manipulate, store and transport data
- E2CDA invests in radical new approaches - from brain-inspired architectures to hybrid digital-analog designs
- Partnership between NSF (ENG and CISE) and SRC



# Spectrum-efficient, Energy-efficient and Secure Wireless Communication (SpecEES)

Jointly supported  
by ENG and CISE



*Credit: Hani Mehrpouyan, Boise State University*



## *RESEARCH THEME*

**Engineering Education, Broadening  
Participation and Innovation**



# Changing the culture of engineering education

- REvolutionizing engineering and computer science Departments (RED) (afternoon talk will focus on this)
- NSF INCLUDES: Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science
  - Aims to achieve scale for inclusion in STEM
  - Involves collective impact-type approaches and collaborative networks
    - Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s) (*required*): February 14, 2017
    - Full Proposal Deadline(s): May 16, 2017





# NSF INCLUDES is a multi-year program with three essential components currently under development:

- **INCLUDES Design and Development Launch Pilots:**  
**\$300K**
  - Two-year pilot projects that explore the feasibility of bold, innovative ways for solving a broadening participation challenge in STEM.
  - Deliver models or prototypes, which incorporate data and measurement infrastructures, supporting collective efforts aimed at increasing the active participation of those who have been traditionally underserved and underrepresented in all STEM fields.
- **NSF INCLUDES Alliances: leverage existing Design and Development Launch Pilots (not yet developed)**
  - catalyze NSF's broadening participation investments, with each Alliance committed to collectively solving a specific set of objectives.
- **NSF INCLUDES Backbone Organization: will drive activities for all NSF INCLUDES Alliances over the lifecycle of the initiative**



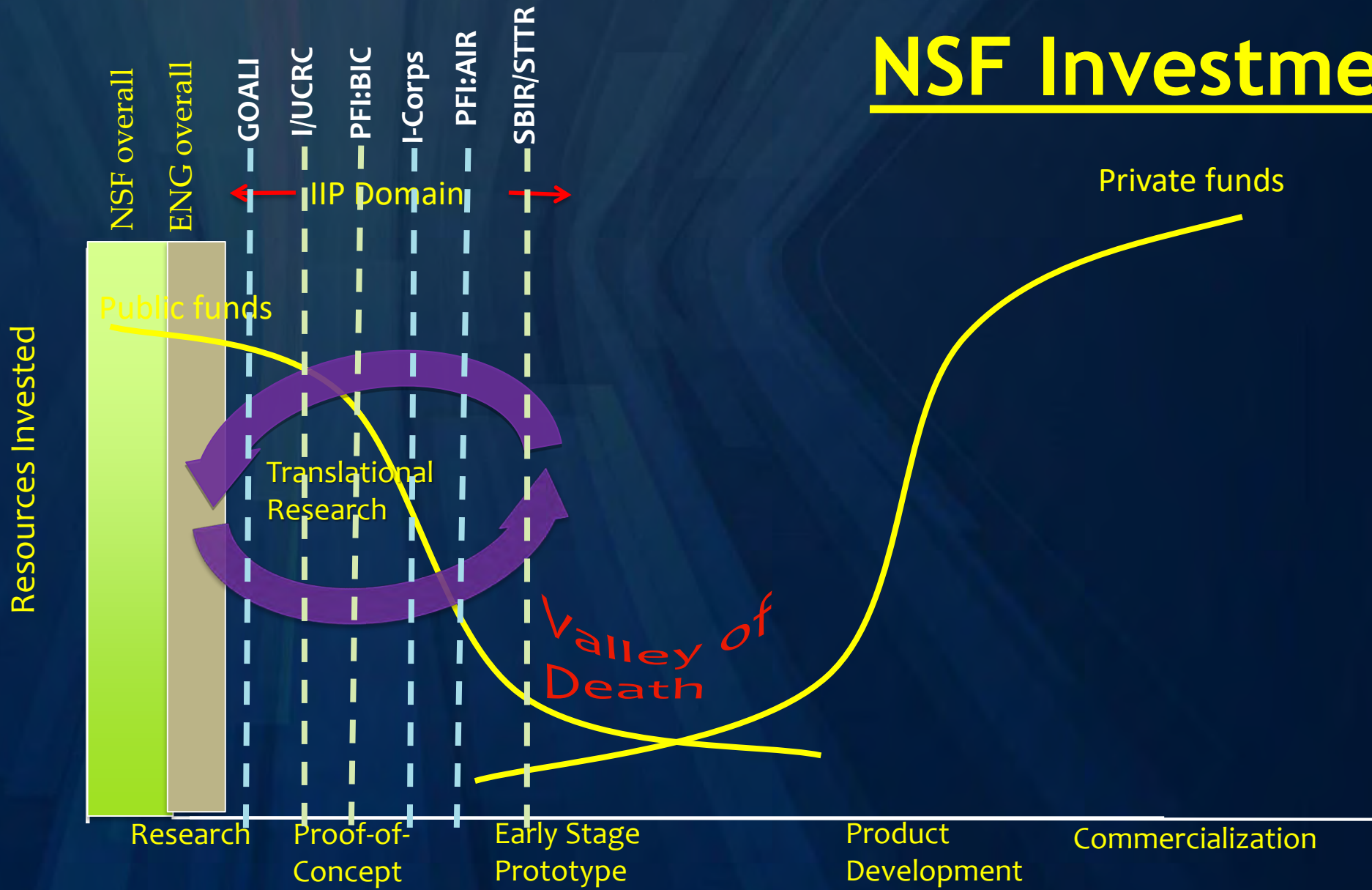
*Credit: Marco Hatch, Western Washington University*



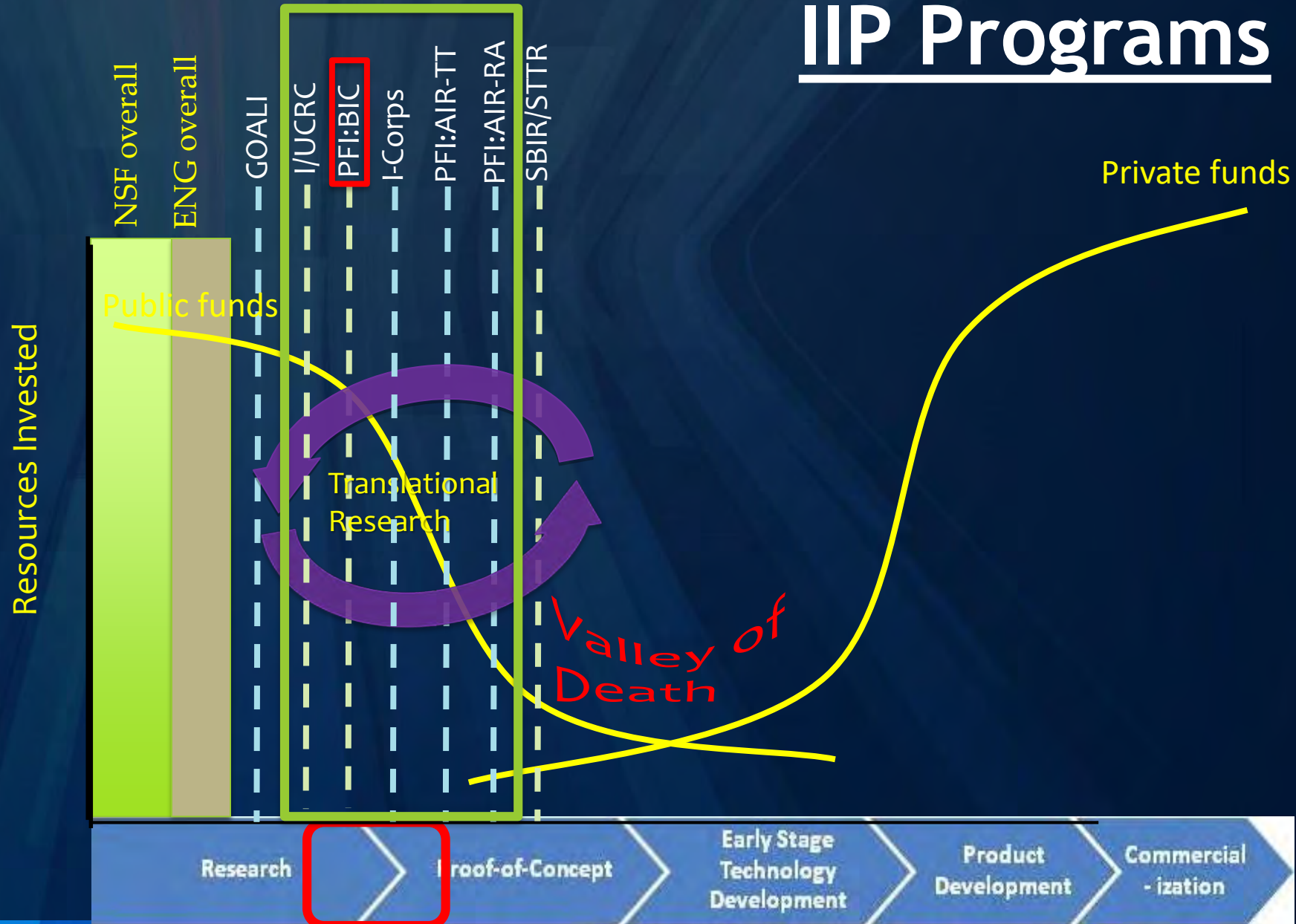
**A trend towards translation and innovation...**



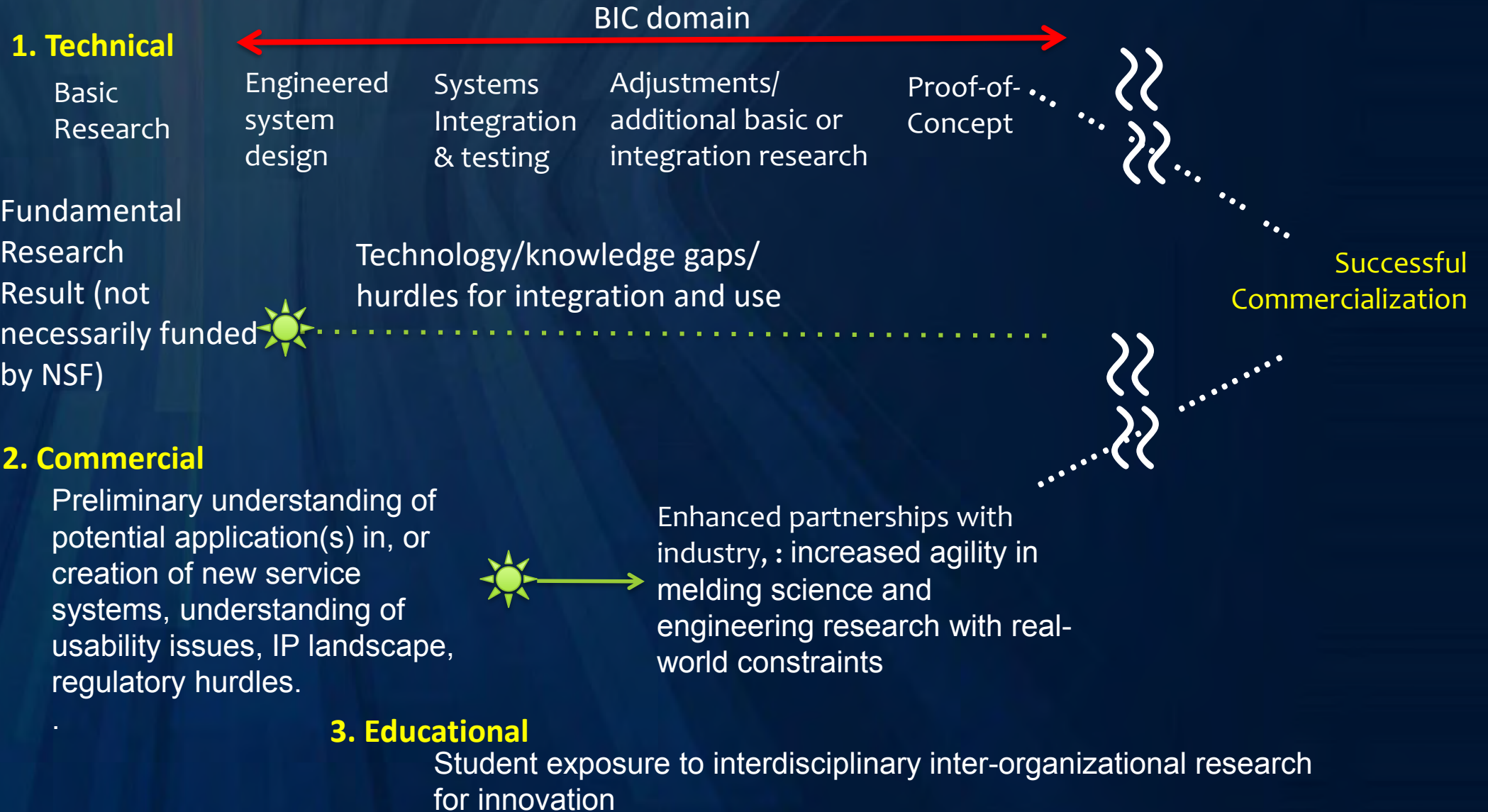
# NSF Investments



# IIP Programs



# Partnerships for Innovation: Building Innovation Capacity in - Smart Service Systems



# Innovation Corps

## Providing Experiential Entrepreneurial Education

- National Innovation Network with 8 Nodes and 51 Sites
- 192 universities in 44 states
- Over 800 teams have completed the NSF curriculum to date
- Over 320 companies created, 3 acquisitions
- Raised more than \$83 million in follow-on funding
- Partnerships with 11 other Federal agencies



# Engineering and Biology

## Science's Top 10 Breakthroughs of 2013



1. **Cancer Immunotherapy**
2. **CRISPR:** Site-specific Gene-editing
3. Perovskite Solar Cells
4. **Vaccine Design**
5. **CLARITY:** The imaging technique, which renders brain tissue
6. **Mini-Organs:** Researchers growing mini, human-like "organoids" for liver buds, mini-kidneys and tiny brains
7. Cosmic Rays Traced to Supernova Remnants
8. **Human Cloned Embryos:** Derive stem cells from cloned human embryos
9. **Why We Sleep:** Brain Mapping & Imaging
10. **Our Microbes, Our Health**



# Themes, Issues and Questions for the Future

- Multidisciplinary, center-scale engineering research
- Advanced manufacturing
- Smart systems: modeling and embodiment of human-technology collaborative systems
- High-performance computing and secure, energy-efficient communication research
- Water, food, energy and critical infrastructure
  
- How to prepare future engineers
- How to move the needle in diversity and inclusion
- How to stimulate a dynamic innovation ecosystem





# FEW TIPS FOR JUNIOR FACULTY



# Support for New Investigators

- The Faculty Early-Career Development (CAREER) program is one of many NSF funding opportunities for new investigators
- All NSF programs support new investigators as part of regular (“core”) research competitions
- More than 33% of research proposals submitted to NSF are from new (not previously NSF-funded) investigators
- Approximately 20% of the research proposals from new investigators are submitted to the CAREER Program
  - a Foundation-wide activity that offers NSF's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the missions of their organizations



# Why you need to talk to the PD before submitting....

## Program Director's Recommendations

Consider Panel Advice

Program  
Research Agenda

Portfolio Balance  
(topics, geographic,  
type of institution,  
type of PI, etc.)

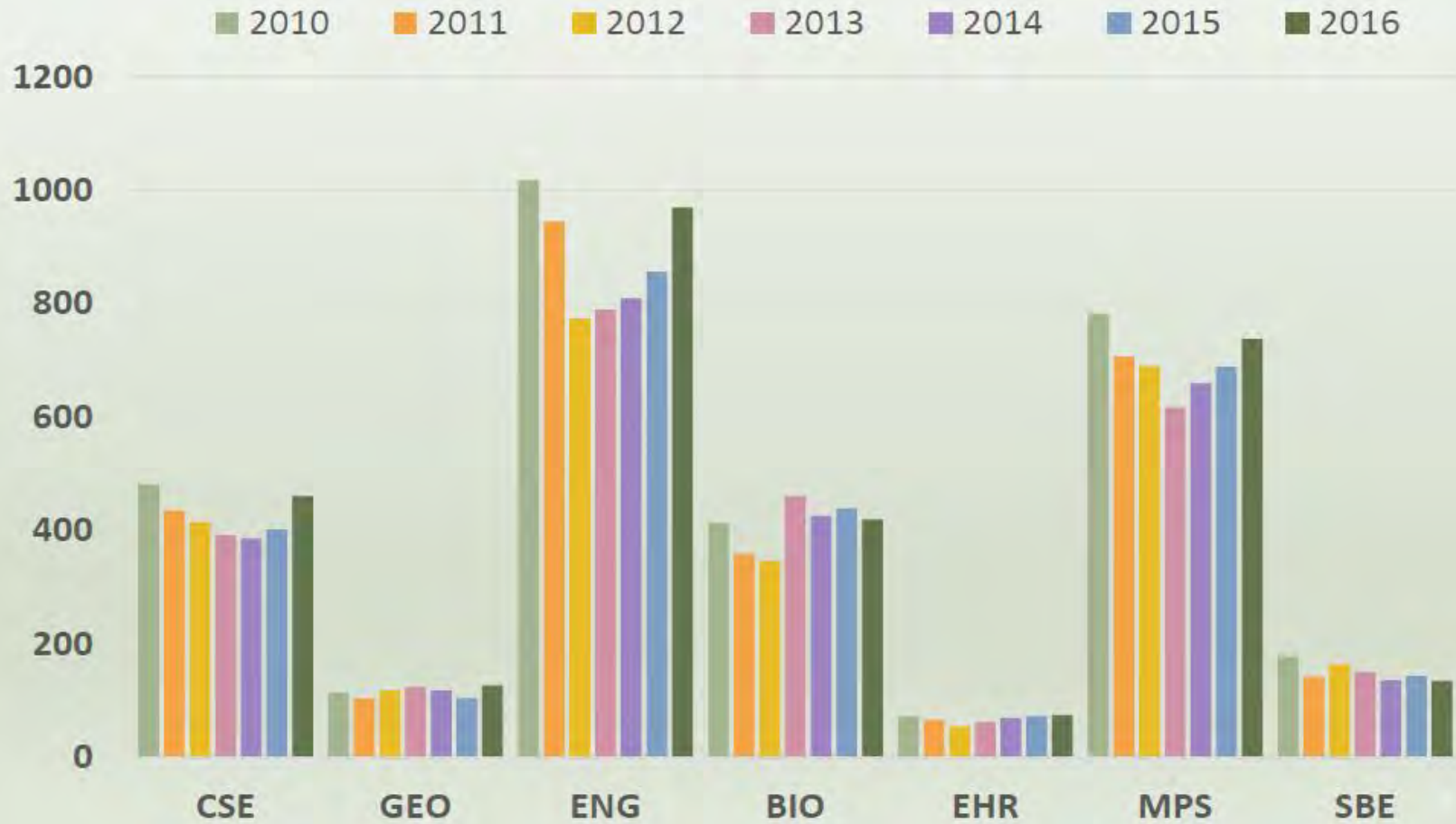
Limited Budgets

Many Panels (calibrate  
across panels)

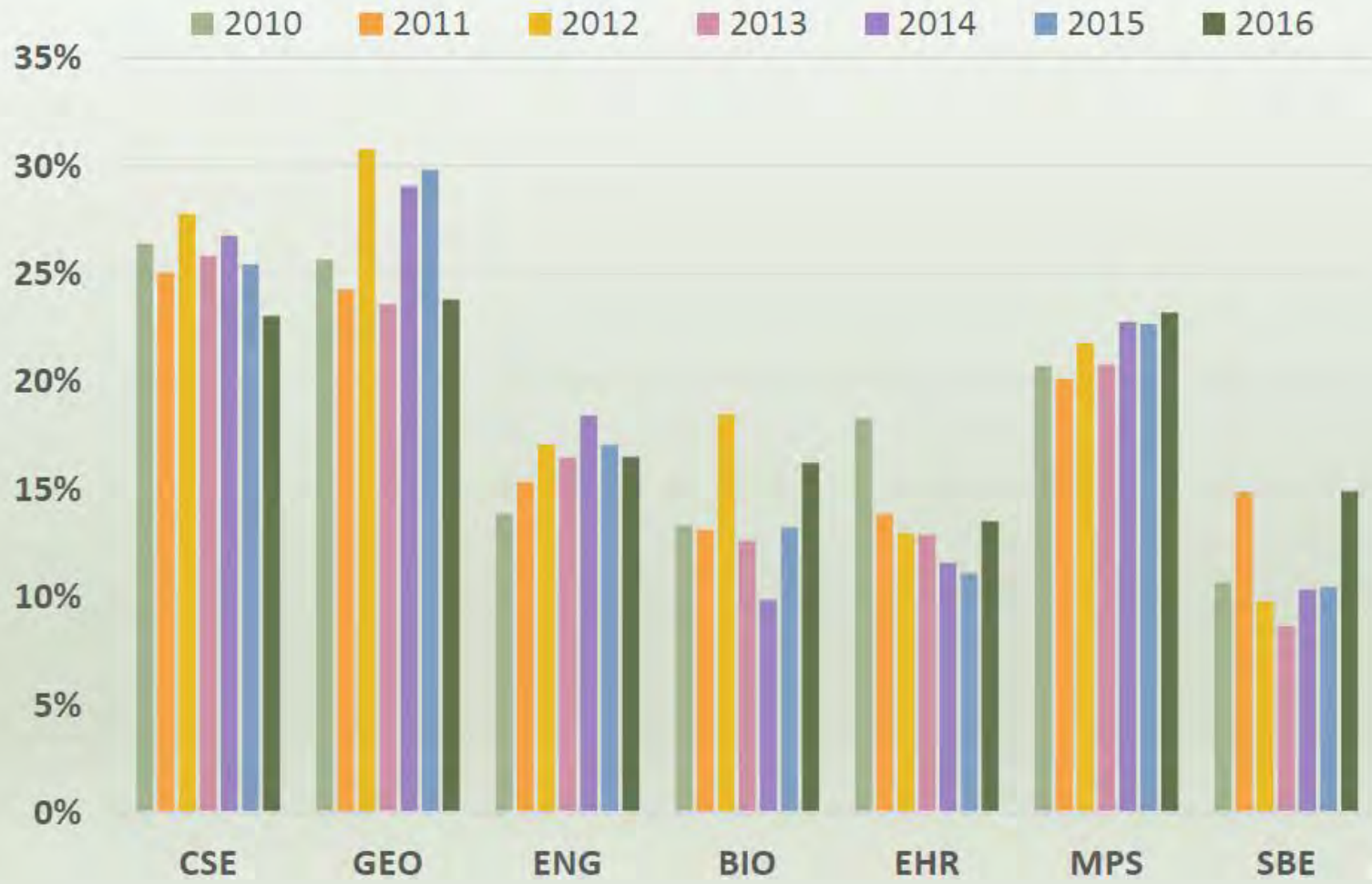
Personal Background



# Number of CAREER Proposals



# CAREER Funding Rate





Questions or Comments?

