

2011 NSF CAREER Workshop

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Bioengineering

About me

- BS 1994-1998 Nankai University Chem, China
- Ph.D. 1999-2004 Indiana University Chem, Bloomington
- Ph.D. 2002-2004 Emory WCI and Georgia Tech BME, Atlanta
- Postdoc 2004-2005 Stayed with Ph.D. advisor

- BioE Assistant Professor starting 2005 fall
- CAREER proposal submitted 2006 July
- Recommendation received 2006 Dec.
- Official notification arrived 2007 Feb.
- Served on CAREER panels twice

Regular NSF proposal review

- **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**
- **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

Details on definition and expectations at

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/nsf04_23/3.jsp

Additional common features shared with regular NSF proposal review panel

- NSF proposals are VERY diverse → reviewers are not necessarily experts in your field (often not).
 - Effective communication is the key
 - Project significance must be easily understood by general public
- Transformative bonus points
- After looking over 10 proposals and listening to another 30, panel members are desperate to see new stuff
 - SURPRISE THEM!
 - Innovative yet doable

Key differences b/t CAREER panels and regular

- CAREER is to identify a star not a project
- Research, mentoring, teaching, outreach, vision, and long-term career goal need to be integrated
- Show evidence on why you are the one to carry out the high-impact proposal,
 - Evidence can be from PhD/postdoc stage
- OK to have high-risk high-impact proposal
- If effort/time & \$ cannot be perfect balanced, overly ambitious is generally better than too conservative
- Make sure PO will take your proposal, email ahead of time