Navigating the NSF for faculty and graduate students: funding opportunities, proposal preparation and the NSF review process

Robert Scheidt, PhD
Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Marquette University, Medical College of Wisconsin
Program Director in the Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation Division of the Engineering Directorate; NSF

This presentation will focus on research funding opportunities offered by the Division of Civil, Mechanical & Manufacturing Innovation within the disciplinary programs, as well as through crosscutting initiatives across the National Science Foundation. The talk will describe opportunities that are relevant to established investigators, as well as programs targeted toward graduate students (GRFP) and junior faculty investigators (CAREER). The presentation will describe specific funding opportunities for which I serve as program director, including the Mind, Machine, and Motor Nexus (M3X), the Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (FW-HTF) and the National Robotics Initiative (NRI 2.0) programs. These programs seek to advance fundamental understanding of the science and engineering of robotics, dynamics and controls, and human-machine interaction, as well as their multiple application domains, which include neurorehabilitation, autonomous vehicles, built environments, workplace safety and productivity, and their impact on the national well-being. I will also give personal insights into proposal preparation and the NSF’s Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts criteria.

Dr. Robert Scheidt, PhD is Program Director in the Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation Division of the Engineering Directorate. He directs the Mind, Machine, and Motor Nexus (M3X) program, is co-director for the Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (FW-HTF) program; and services the National Robotics Initiative (NRI 2.0). Robert is on detail to NSF from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin (Milwaukee, WI), where he has been a Professor of Biomedical Engineering since 2013. He has served the department as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Masters of Engineering Program. He also holds an adjunct research faculty position within the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

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