



FDP from a Program Officer's Perspective

Dr. Machi Dilworth
Director, NSF Tokyo Office



Role of Program Officers at US Science Agencies

- **Design programs, make funding decisions**
- **Varies somewhat by agency, different structures (e.g., NSF vs. NIH)**
- **Usually Ph.D. scientists**
- **Function as scientist-administrators**
- **Well respected**
- **Heavy workload**



Role of Program Officers at NSF

- **Most are former researchers—many still do research**
- **May be a university rotator or permanent staff**
- **Identify new opportunities: design programs & help plan budgets**
- **Manage merit review process-make funding decisions**
- **Oversee current awards**
- **Suspend or terminate award for non-performance (rarely)**
- **Sounding board and resource to proposers (pre-award)**
- **Sounding board and resource to PIs (during award)**



Role of Program officers in FDP

- **FDP Faculty Member “counterparts”**
- **See things from Federal AND scientist perspective**
- **Voice for “science first”**
- **Voice *within* agencies for new ideas—
(example, new budget experiment being discussed at NSF)**
- **Welcome demonstrations that support better program management**