

Dr. Machi F. Dilworth

**Director of Division of Biological Infrastructure
National Science Foundation**



Director of the Division of Biological Infrastructure at the National Science Foundation (NSF), has had a long history as a science-grants administrator, primarily at the NSF, but also the USDA. Dr. Dilworth, originally from Japan where she received her B.A. in Biology from the International Christian University in Tokyo, came to the USA in 1967 with a Fulbright Fellowship for graduate work. She earned her Ph.D in Plant Biochemistry and Physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Following at first a research path, she was a post-doctoral fellow at Michigan State Plant Research Laboratory, and subsequently a Research Associate at the University of Georgia and then at the Smithsonian Radiation Biology Laboratory. In 1979 she began her career as a science-grants administrator, working as an Assistant Program Director in Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences at the NSF. From 1981 to 1990 she was employed by the USDA Competitive Research Grants Program as an Associate Program Manager and later as Associate Chief Scientist. In 1990 she moved back to the NSF, serving as a Program Director, and since 1997 as Division Director of Biological Infrastructure. For a nine month sabbatical in 1996-97 she received a Science and Technology Agency (STA) Fellowship that permitted her to study the status of biotechnology research in Japan and to explore opportunities for US-Japan research collaborations in biology, as a guest scientist at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN) in Wako. Dr. Dilworth has received a number of awards in her career. Most recently in 2002, she was honored with the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, which states as follows: "Dr. Dilworth is recognized for her sustained and outstanding leadership in the development and management of a series of major research programs at the National Science Foundation. Particularly impressive have been her efforts in leading interagency and international plant biology collaborations in these programs. Given the importance of plant production to the U.S. economy, her vision for plant biology research and her accomplishments in realizing that vision will have impacts far beyond the research enterprise." Dr. Dilworth resides in Bethesda, Maryland with her husband of 33 years. They have two children and a grandson.