

Judy Franz Testimony on Long-term Support for Research

While stimulus funding for High Energy Physics is very much appreciated, effective planning of scientific research requires steady, long-term support. Judy Franz, the Executive Officer of the American Physics Society, recently (April 2) made this case in testimony to the House Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations subcommittee.

Franz recommended "that the Committee consider appropriating an aggregate of \$150 to \$200 million in FY 2010 and FY 2011 for 'one-shots' in the form of one-year start-up funds for new, young, non-tenured science faculty members." After outlining other concerns, Franz told the subcommittee: "many worthy young investigators coming through the academic pipeline may be unable to gain employment in their fields. If this is the case, they will either leave science entirely or look for employment in other countries. Five years from now the academic science pipeline could be remarkably damaged. Providing universities with start-up funding for young researchers could help alleviate this, while also helping decrease the FY2012 shortfall. Without sustained funding for NSF to support researchers at universities across the nation, the academic pipeline of young investigators and the future of the scientific enterprise will suffer."