Navigating the NSF: Funding opportunities, proposal preparation, and the NSF review process

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Abstract
This presentation will focus on research funding opportunities offered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the Division of Civil, Mechanical & Manufacturing Innovation, as well as through crosscutting initiatives across the NSF. 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 Foundational Research in Robotics (FRR) programs. These programs seek to advance fundamental understanding of the science and engineering of robotics, dynamics and controls, and human-machine interaction, across a broad range of 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. There will be opportunity for Q&A and free discussion.

Bio Sketch
Dr. Robert Scheidt is a Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin, with a joint appointment at Northwestern University. He is the founder and co-Director of the NeuroMotor Control Laboratory at Marquette University, which uses engineering principles to develop and understand of how the human nervous system uses information from its senses to optimize movements and interactions with the physical environment. Dr. Scheidt is also currently the program director of the Mind, Machine, and Motor Nexus (M3X), the Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (FW-HTF) and the Foundational Research in Robotics (FRR) programs within the Division of Civil, Mechanical & Manufacturing Innovation at the National Science Foundation. His own research program has been funded numerous federal agencies, and he has a longstanding commitment to mentoring and training junior investigators.