

**Biography**: Uma Venkateswaran is currently a Program Officer in the Office of the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). She has been with the NSF for over seven years. Prior to joining the EPSCoR Office in 2009, she was a Program Director in the Condensed Matter Physics Program and the Office of Special Programs in the Division of Materials Research (DMR), Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate. IN this capacity, she has coordinated and managed a disciplinary research program and cross-cutting activities within DMR and has engaged in a number of Foundation-wide programs and working groups. Currently her program responsibilities in the EPSCoR Office include all aspects of the Research Infrastructure Improvement programs and interfacing with the rest of the Foundation through EPSCoR Cofunding activities and participation in working groups.

Uma is an Experimental Condensed Matter Physicist by training. Her research expertise is in the area of optical properties of materials using spectroscopic and high pressure techniques. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She was a Guest Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics, Stuttgart, Germany, and a Research Associate at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Before joining the NSF, she was a Professor of Physics at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan for over fifteen years.