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Bio: Charles Ying has been a Program Director in the Division of Materials Research since 2006. He currently manages Materials Innovation Platforms ([MIP](#)), a mid-scale infrastructure program designed to accelerate advances in materials research. MIPs embrace the paradigm set forth by the Materials Genome Initiative (MGI) and build scientific ecosystems, each including in-house research scientists, external users and other scientists who, collectively, form a community of practitioners and share tools, codes, samples, data and know-how. The competitions in 2015 and 2019 led to funding of two MIPs in each competition, focusing respectively on developing new bulk and thin film crystalline hard materials and the convergence of materials research with biological sciences for developing new materials. All four MIPs support external users, as well as conducting in-house research, on topics of nanoscience and nanotechnologies.