The Division of Biological Infrastructure in the BIO Directorate at NSF funds innovative research and provisioning of infrastructure for the biological sciences. This includes the acquisition and development of new sensors and instrumentation, creation and digitization of collections, human infrastructure development in the form of training fellowships for undergraduates, graduates, post-docs and early career scientists, and computational infrastructure development and deployment to effectively serve a research community. The Advances in Biological Informatics program has 3 tracks, that focus on: 1) the creation of innovative computational biology tools and methods 2) the provisioning of a research community with successful informatics resources and 3) sustaining essential computational resources for research communities. In this seminar I will explain how the ABI tracks are distinct and what a successful application should include for each track. I will also discuss how the Broader Impacts requirement came about, what a proposal should include and some ideas for how to be as creative with these activities as those in the Intellectual Merits section.

Dr. Weller will be available to meet with student groups, post-doctoral fellows, junior faculty to discuss programs that direct funding towards their groups, as well as for one-on-one conversations with individuals interested in other DBI or BIO Directorate programs.

Jennifer Weller is a program officer in the Advances in Biological Informatics program of the Division of Biological Infrastructure at the NSF. Her PhD is in Biochemistry from the University of Montana, where she did biophysical studies of ribosome structure-function relationships. Her subsequent research has mostly been in the area of high-throughput molecular markers and genomic sequencing, and the supporting sequencing and bioinformatics technologies for processing, management, integration and analysis of the data. Her current position, from which she is on leave while serving at NSF, is in the department of Bioinformatics and Genomics at UNC Charlotte.