

Dr. Nina V. Fedoroff

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Dr. Nina Fedoroff serves as Senior Science Advisor on science and policy issues associated with the use of modern molecular methods, including recombinant DNA (rDNA) techniques, for the improvement of agricultural plants, animals and microorganisms.

Nina's primary scientific expertise is in plant genetics and molecular biology. She has served as a Staff Scientist of the Carnegie Institution for Science and in academic posts at the Johns Hopkins University, Penn State University and the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). She has published more than 150 papers in scientific journals on the molecular analysis of plant transposable elements, stress responses and microRNA processing.

As one of the first plant molecular biologists, Nina has long been involved in regulatory issues surrounding genetic modification of organisms, aka GMOs, by modern molecular techniques, serving on the NIH Recombinant DNA Committee and various scientific advisory bodies to the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the USDA, the National Science Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Dr. Fedoroff was an author of the 1987 NAS Council White Paper titled "Introduction of Recombinant DNA-Engineered Organisms into the Environment: Key Issues" which first articulated the principle that GMOs should be regulated based on their properties, not on the method by which they were derived.

Nina has lectured all over the world on plant science, science diplomacy and the future of food production. She served as the Science and Technology Adviser to Secretaries of State Condoleeza Rice and Hillary Clinton, as well as to USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore. Nina established and serves as science adviser to the Global Knowledge Initiative, an organization devoted to promoting collaborative problem solving between scientists of developed and developing nations. Most recently, she served as the founding Director of the Center for Desert Agriculture at KAUST.

Nina has served on the National Science Board, the Council of the National Academy of Sciences, the Board of Directors of the AAAS, BIOSIS, and the Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company; she served as President of AAAS in 2012. She is currently a member of the Science Advisory Board of the Santa Fe Institute and of the Board of Trustees of the Library of Alexandria (Egypt). She has received a number of honors and awards, including the Howard Taylor Ricketts Award, the Sigma Xi John P. McGovern Science and Society Medal, the Arents Pioneer Medal, the Nevada Medal and a National Medal of Science.