



Become an

MRS Congressional Science
and Engineering Fellow

It's a transformative experience!



MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY®
Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

Greetings from the Chair

“When I applied for the MRS Congressional Fellowship, I was looking for a way to elevate my scientific impact. I was aware of the role of policy in science – how funding for science was debated and decided on the Hill and in the Executive Agencies. I applied for the Fellowship to understand the opportunity for science to inform policy, but I came away understanding national priorities, and how strategic investment in science drives our ability to compete on a global scale. I learned how policy informed by science can have significant economic, social, and environmental impacts. I gained a network of colleagues – scientists that span the public and private sectors and have worked at the forefront of many of the most important issues facing our country. And I discovered my own path – my ability to translate my love for science into stories that captured the magic of modern science and allowed people to see how science can be harnessed to tackle the challenges of today and find the solutions for tomorrow.

The MRS Congressional Fellowship is a unique experience that will be different for every scientist who embarks on it – I encourage you to apply and see where it will take you!”

Intimately
experience the
inner working of
federal government



Jen Nekuda Malik

Associate Director of
Research Communication
Colorado School of Mines

2011-2012 MRS Congressional Fellow
**Senate Energy and Natural
Resources Committee**



Marie Fiori

Energy and Environmental Policy Advisor
Office of Congressman Derek Kilmer

2023-2024 MRS Congressional Fellow
Office of Congressman Derek Kilmer

“Serving as a Legislative Fellow gave me access to a wealth of information and, more importantly, experts. I had the opportunity to work with brilliant researchers, community leaders, and other congressional staff to understand issues through a broad range of lenses more quickly than I thought possible. I loved being able to collaborate with stakeholders and craft place-based policy solutions that could help the communities that my boss represented. The MRS/Optica Congressional Fellowship opened the door for me to translate my research and communication skills into a career on the Hill.”



Learn More About the Program from These Past Congressional Fellows



Ashley White

Director of Communications
Advanced Light Source
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

2010-2011 MRS Congressional Fellow
Office of Senator Al Franken

“When I applied for the Fellowship, I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I didn’t realize it would change the course of my career. Spending a year on Capitol Hill gives you the opportunity to step outside the research lab and apply your scientific expertise in a new context to make immediate and broad-reaching impact. At the same time, you’ll develop your communications skills, knowledge of policy making, and understanding of the federal government. The Fellowship helped me find my passion in combining policy and communications in the service of science, and opened doors to career paths I previously hadn’t known existed.”

Become a conduit between policy and science



Eric Werwa

Deputy Assistant Secretary -
Policy and Environmental
Management
U.S. Department of the Interior

2001-2002 MRS
Congressional Fellow
Office of Congressman Mike Honda

“Many Americans probably regard the post-September 11th period that I spent as a Fellow as one of the most amazing in recent history. I feel incredibly privileged to have been able to spend that time as a Fellow in Washington D.C., at the center of all the activity. While there were some days when I wondered whether it wouldn’t be smarter to live somewhere else, I wouldn’t trade the experience for anything. It was especially heartening for a scientist to see that, even in a time of national crisis, the contributions that science and technology can make to meeting the challenges faced by our nation are recognized by our leaders.”



Amit Mistry

Senior Scientist
Fogarty International Center
National Institutes of Health

2008-2009 MRS
Congressional Fellow
**Office of Congressman
Edward J. Markey**

“The MRS/OSA Congressional Fellowship is a one-of-a-kind learning experience on how the U.S. Government works, how policies are negotiated, and how we, as scientists, can contribute. The Fellowship provides a unique opportunity to play an active role at the nexus of science and policy—a role that most scientists don’t experience and many don’t fully appreciate.”

Apply Today and Make a Difference!

The United States Congress is one of the primary policy drivers affecting the progress of science, technology and society. MRS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows leverage their scientific and technical experience to shape and inform policy made in the Legislative Branch. Now's your chance to make a difference!

The Materials Research Society sponsors one materials scientist to engage in the federal policy making process, while learning firsthand about the intersection of science and policy.

During your one year as a Fellow you will:

- be fully immersed in congressional policy making through placement in a specific congressional office
- contribute widely to the effective use of materials science knowledge in government
- broaden awareness about the value of scientist- and engineer-government interaction among society members and within government
- network with more than 300 other participants of science and technology fellowship programs

Application Criteria

A prospective Fellow must demonstrate:

- a record of success in research or scholarship in a field relevant to materials science and technology and/or optical science and technology
- passion for applying scientific and technical knowledge to United States public policy issues
- the ability to work quickly and communicate effectively with both scientific and non-scientific audiences on a wide variety of topics
- a cooperative spirit necessary to work with individuals having diverse backgrounds and viewpoints.

Applicants must be members of MRS or partner sponsor organization and must have a PhD by September 1 of the fellowship year. U.S. citizenship is not required, however, applicants must be authorized to work in the United States.

Drive policy at the federal level



To learn more about the MRS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program and how you can apply, visit mrs.org/congressional-fellows.