



# Nina V. Federoff

GRFP Recipient: 1966

*Undergraduate Institution:*  
Syracuse University  
B.S. 1966, summa cum laude

*Graduate Institution:*  
Ph.D. 1972, The Rockefeller  
University

*Graduate Field of Study:*  
Molecular Biology

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*Current Position:*  
Distinguished Professor of  
Biosciences, King Abdullah  
University of Science and  
Technology, Saudi Arabia and  
Evan Pugh Professor, Penn  
State University, University  
Park, PA

## RESEARCH INTERESTS //

Nina V. Federoff is known for her research on maize transposable elements, mechanisms plants use to adapt to stressful environments, and the small RNA regulatory molecules called microRNA. Federoff's book "Mendel in the Kitchen: A Scientist's View of Genetically Modified Foods," published in 2004, examines the scientific and societal issues surrounding the introduction of genetically modified crops. She has published more than 150 scientific articles, edited two books, "The Dynamic Genome: Barbara McClintock's Ideas in the Century of Genetics (1992)" and "Plant Transposons and Genome Dynamics in Evolution (2013)," and written many editorials on science diplomacy, genetic modification, and other subjects.

## AWARDS/ HONORS //

- Howard Taylor Ricketts Award, University of Chicago (1990)
- Outstanding Contemporary Women Scientist, New York Academy of Sciences (1992)
- John P. McGovern Science and Society Medal from Sigma Xi (1997)
- Evan Pugh Professor, Pennsylvania State University (2002)
- Arents Pioneer Medal, Syracuse University (2003)
- National Medal of Science, Biological Sciences (2007)

## POSITION PROFILE //

Fedoroff served as a post-doctoral fellow, then a staff member of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (now the Carnegie Institution for Science), Department of Embryology and a faculty member in the Biology Department at Johns Hopkins University from 1975 to 1995. Fedoroff joined the faculty at Pennsylvania State University in 1995 as Willaman Professor of the Life Sciences and served as Director of the Biotechnology Institute and founding Director of The Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences. She is a member of the External Faculty of the Santa Fe Institute. Fedoroff is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the European Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Microbiology, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. She was a member of the National Science Board of the NSF from 2000-06 and the Board of Directors of Sigma-Aldrich Corp (1996-2007). She was elected President of AAAS (2012). Fedoroff served as the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State and to the Administrator of USAID from 2007 to 2010.

