The Northwestern University-Art Institute of Chicago Center for Scientific Studies in the Arts (NU-ACCESS) is seeking a Senior Scientist to provide intellectual and operational leadership to an innovative collaborative program of joint research, expanded access and training. The goals of the collaborative program are to enrich conservation science not only at the Art Institute, but also in the wider field of conservation in the U.S. and abroad, by strengthening the emerging ties between science at the Art Institute and the materials-related departments at Northwestern University. The Center is the first of its kind to make its resources open to both internal and external users via merit-review proposals, within the framework of a double-pronged approach pursuing both objects-based and objects-inspired scientific research in the arts.

Reporting to the Center’s co-Directors Katherine Faber (Walter P. Murphy Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Northwestern University) and Dr. Francesca Casadio (Andrew W. Mellon Senior Conservation Scientist at the Art Institute of Chicago), the Senior Scientist will work with two dedicated postdoctoral fellows to manage the research agenda of the center, provide mentorship to the postdoctoral fellows and conduct his/her own research projects. The position is funded for six years with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Primary duties:

1. Develop, prioritize and implement the research activities of the Center, including selection of the internal and external projects upon recommendation of the Peer Review Panel, developing an analytical strategy for the selected projects, and allocating staff and instrumental resources to carry the research projects to completion.

2. Build working relationships with curators and conservators at the Art Institute of Chicago, with other participating institutions, and with Northwestern faculty and technical staff to foster collaborative research projects and publications centered on cultural heritage science.

3. Perform scientific research a) to characterize materials, structures and components of artworks either in their original state or after aging or deterioration; b) to improve and develop new treatment and preservation strategies; and c) to broaden ways of studying works of art. Conduct both applied research and analytical work to support broader areas of inquiries, as delineated in the successfully funded internal and external project proposals.

4. Establish communication with colleagues at other museums and academic institutions to promote the sharing of information and collaborative research projects. Develop relations
with other institutions, including universities, national laboratories and industrial partners, to promote collaborative research projects, increase access to analytical instruments, and provide training opportunities for graduate students in scientific fields or conservation programs with an interest in conservation science.

5. Work with the Center’s Directors to foster understanding and assimilation of results and approaches of scientific research in the arts among curators, conservators, university professors and their students, administrators, other staff, the general public and other AIC and NU support groups.

6. Manage all laboratory functions and operate analytical instruments within the scope of own expertise after required training, or work with NU technical support staff to conduct required types of instrumental analysis.

7. Manage and oversee the work of the Center’s research staff, including selection, training and personnel administration.

8. Oversee and facilitate the research work of visiting scholars.

9. Maintain records of research and analysis and sample archives.

10. Compile final reports for all completed projects.

11. Work with the Center’s Directors to manage the research budget.

12. Participate in raising funds for the purchase of analytical instruments and for support of outreach and educational activities.

13. Contribute to the preparation of reports to funding agencies

14. Travel to attend conferences, present papers and confer with colleagues in the US and internationally.

15. Contribute to the production of high-level scientific research publications in the field of cultural heritage science and technical art history.

16. Work with the Center’s Directors to organize meetings, symposia and summer schools.

Minimum qualifications:
Doctoral degree in Chemistry, Materials Science and Engineering, Physics, or related disciplines required; minimum eight years of experience in the scientific study of cultural heritage objects.

Application materials consisting of a cover letter, a CV, sample publications, and the names and contact information of three references should be uploaded to http://www.nuaccess.northwestern.edu/ by March 15, 2013 for full consideration.

Northwestern University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Qualified women and minorities are encouraged to apply. It is the policy of Northwestern University not to discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status or other protected group status. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.