

## **John Bruer**

President Emeritus  
James S. McDonnell Foundation



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Dr. Bruer has served as the President of the McDonnell Foundation from 1986 through 2014. He initiated several major new programs, including the McDonnell-Pew Program in Cognitive Neuroscience, the Cognitive Studies for Educational Practice Program, and the McDonnell Fellowships in Molecular Medicine. He is the author of *Schools for Thought: A Science of Learning in the Classroom* (MIT Press, 1993) and *The Myth of the First Three Years: A New Understanding of Early Brain Development and Lifelong Learning* (Free Press, 1999). Dr. Bruer also serves as Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis.

John Bruer holds degrees in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin (B.A., 1971), University of Oxford (B. Phil., 1974), and the Rockefeller University (Ph. D., 1978, Thesis: Classical Mechanics as a Limiting Case of Quantum Theory). From 1978 through 1981, he was a visiting research fellow and associate director in the Health Science Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. In 1981, Dr. Bruer joined the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation and administered programs in the public understanding of science and medical education. While there, he initiated the first private Foundation program to support applications of cognitive science to the reform of medical education.

Nationally, Dr. Bruer serves on advisory boards at Carnegie-Mellon University (Philosophy Department), Stanford University (Center for the Study of Language and Information), and Washington University (Program in Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Psychology). He is a director of the St. Louis University Club Fund for Education and works actively to facilitate collaboration between the national educational research community and local educators who desire to apply cognitive research in their classrooms. Dr. Bruer is an adjunct professor of philosophy at Washington University, teaching occasional courses in philosophy of science. In 1995 Dr. Bruer was appointed to the newly formed National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board established by Congress.