



Director's Notes

NSF invests in basic research and people to create knowledge that transforms our future

April 2018



Global Leadership



Economy



Security

A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

On March 23, the president signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, which provides funding for the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2018, which ends on September 30. The law provides \$1.3 trillion, including \$7.8 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), an increase of \$300 million.

NSF is very fortunate to have strong support from science champions like Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) in the Senate and Chairman John Culberson (TX-07) and Ranking Member José Serrano (NY-15) in the House of Representatives. This increased funding will allow NSF to invest in key areas of groundbreaking research, world-class facilities, and educating and training a skilled and innovative workforce across all fields of science and engineering (S&E). The strong support that Congress continues to show for NSF's mission is vital to the agency's ongoing success.



In addition, the president's FY 2019 budget request for NSF was released on February 12. A key component of the 2019 request is the inclusion of new and innovative ways of doing business that will position NSF at the leading edge of discovery. First, NSF proposes to invest in its [10 Big Ideas](#). The Big Ideas represent unique opportunities to position the nation at the frontiers -- indeed, to define the frontiers -- of global S&E leadership. An investment of \$30 million is requested for each of the six research-focused "10 Big Ideas for Future NSF Investments." Four other Big Ideas, such as mid-scale facilities and the NSF INCLUDES initiative, focus on new approaches to increase opportunities for discovery and expand the science, technology, engineering and mathematics community.

NSF's success also requires innovative approaches to leveraging resources across all fields of science. In FY 2019, NSF proposes to initiate two Convergence Accelerators -- new centers that will converge around important national challenges requiring interdisciplinary expertise. The accelerators will streamline operations and collaborations, focusing on results and outcomes that can be achieved quickly. An investment of \$60 million will support Convergence Accelerators for Harnessing the Data Revolution for 21st-Century Science and Engineering and the Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier. These Big Ideas were chosen because of their readiness for convergent and translational research. We expect to catalyze an additional \$40 million in investment by external partners, including the private sector, other federal agencies and international funders.

These and similar initiatives will enable NSF to continue to shape the future of S&E and, in turn, the world.



Dr. France A. Córdoba
Director, National Science Foundation
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Where Discoveries Begin...



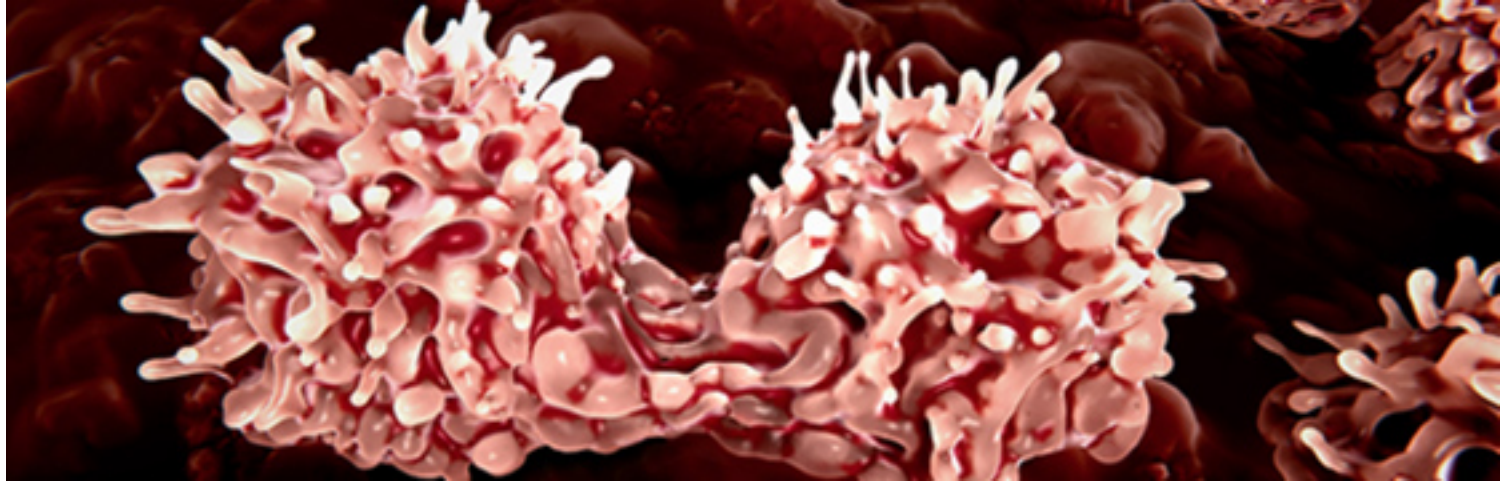
[A \\$10 billion company built on NSF-funded algorithms](#)

MIT researchers created a content delivery system that routes 15-30 percent of internet traffic.



[Helping mobile health clinics reach those most in need](#)

By mining public domain data in new ways, researchers are helping direct resources to high-risk areas.



[New algorithm integrates data at single-cell resolution](#)

Advance could track cells as they change during disease progression, drug therapy and across evolution.

What's Next?

May 2-3, 2018: The National Science Board will meet at NSF, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. Public visitors must arrange for a visitor's badge 24 hours in advance, www.nsf.gov/nsb/.

May 9, 2018: At 1:30 p.m. U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and NSF Director France Córdova will sign a Letter of Intent, creating a new partnership for collaboration on scientific research to bolster national security. We welcome your participation via [webcast here](#).

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