



Director's Notes

December 2019



Global Leadership



Economy



Security

A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

This November, celebrations took place across the country honoring our [veterans and their families](#). The foremost remembrance was November 11th. It was on this day in 1918 that an armistice between the U.S.-led Allied nations and Germany went into effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, ending the hostilities of World War I.

At the National Science Foundation, we especially remember the sacrifices of the men and women who, during the war, developed and tested new technologies such as tanks, the zeppelin, the submarine and the airplane -- who put themselves in harm's way to secure our nation. However, it was following World War II that the scientists who led wartime research advocated for peacetime investments in new science and technologies. Under President Harry S. Truman and spearheaded by Vannevar Bush, who coordinated scientific research during World War II and was a key proponent of federally supported research, the National Science Foundation Act was created in 1950.



Nearly 70 years later, NSF-funded researchers continue to [support the U.S. military](#) and address many of today's biggest security challenges, such as online threats to the internet and critical infrastructure, emergency preparedness, environmental security, the safety of electric vehicles, and medical technology. This month, we've been sharing with you many of NSF's contributions to the nation's security in our [#BroughtToYouByNSF](#) campaign. We're also honoring veterans and their service and affirming the foundation's mission: to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity and welfare; and to secure the national defense.



Dr. France A. Córdova
Director, National Science Foundation
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Where discoveries begin...



[Browser tool aims to help researchers ID malicious websites, code](#)

New, open-source tool allows users to track, record JavaScript programs.



[Reframing the dangers Antarctica's meltwater ponds pose to ice shelves and sea level](#)

There's a speed limit on the damage surface ponds can do to ice shelves.



[Malaria researchers' findings may have implications for preventing spread of deadly disease](#)

Parasite's genes prepare it for the unexpected, but could be exploited to fight the disease.



New way to ‘see’ objects accelerates the future of self-driving cars

The laser sensors currently used to detect 3D objects in the paths of autonomous cars are bulky, ugly, expensive, energy-inefficient -- and highly accurate. Cornell researchers have discovered a relatively simple, low-cost method that allows autonomous cars to detect 3D objects with high accuracy.

What’s Next

Dec. 10 – Dr. France Córdova inducted into the [California Hall of Fame](#).

Dec. 11 – Dr. France Córdova will participate in a Facebook Live event at 2:30pm EST, from McMurdo Station in Antarctica: facebook.com/US.NSF.

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