



## A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

One of my greatest joys as Director is sharing the National Science Foundation's (NSF) important work with new audiences. Next month, I'll be attending the [South by Southwest Festival](#) in Austin, Texas and speaking on "[Navigating the New Arctic](#)." The festival, which attracts upwards of 400,000 people each year, will also feature National Science Board member Ellen Ochoa who will participate in the panel "[Experimenting in a Microgravity Lab](#)" about conducting experiments in the microgravity environment of space. A third NSF panel, "[Nature Inspired Innovation: From Lab to Market](#)," features NSF-funded entrepreneurs who used nature as a blueprint for inspiration. Additionally, the NSF-related panel "[EHT: A Planetary Effort to Photograph a Black Hole](#)" focuses on the global effort to photograph a black hole.



One of the online blurbs describes my topic as potential solutions to a complicated issue. It's quite apt. The agency's Navigating the New Arctic initiative, one of [NSF's 10 Big Ideas](#), is just beginning to revolutionize how we approach the region. The goal is to create entirely new fields of science that simultaneously investigate the interconnected natural, social, cultural and economic systems impacted by the rapid changes occurring in the Arctic. Much of this research will also require collaboration with a range of groups from local and indigenous communities to international partners.

NSF's ongoing support for Arctic exploration has created a dynamic set of research assets including premier scientific laboratories such as [Toolik Field Station](#) in Alaska and [Summit Station](#) near the center of the Greenland Ice Sheet. [NSF's Arctic Data Center](#) stores the critical data gathered from these and other NSF research assets, making it available to scientists and decision-makers around the globe.

As the nation's leader in polar policy, research and logistics, NSF is charting a new course in the once remote, yet still challenging, Arctic. Because the region impacts so many, both locally and globally, we must move forward undaunted by the unknown, like the explorers who came before us.

## Where Discoveries Begin...



### [Reducing falls in the elderly through balance research](#)

Unique biomedical engineering lab devises new approaches to mobility-related deficiencies.



### [America's smallest raptor packs big economic punch](#)

The American kestrel's presence in fruit-producing states can add jobs and increase revenue.



### [Spotting a bumper crop of supernovae, black holes and more](#)

The new Zwicky Transient Facility is primed to play a key role in multi-messenger astronomy.

## What's Next

**March 11** — During the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, NSF Director France Córdoba [will deliver a talk](#) on “Navigating the New Arctic” as part of the Future of the Oceans track.

**March 21** — NSF Director France Córdoba will participate in a keynote interview celebrating [World Water Day 2019 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) in Washington, D.C.

**March 22-23** — Visit NSF at the [USA Science and Engineering Festival](#) West in Los Angeles, California.

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