

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

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SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE

AT A GLANCE

- The aim of the MacArthur Foundation's grantmaking in science is the creation of new knowledge or empirical evidence that can be used to inform public policy decisions.
- Over the past 30 years, the Foundation has awarded approximately \$400 million in grants in support of science—11 percent of the Foundation's total grantmaking.
- Since 1983, MacArthur has supported 24 research networks with grants totaling \$297 million. Research areas have ranged from the effects of aging to the impact of neuroscience on the law.
- MacArthur Fellowships have been awarded to 350 individuals in the physical, biological, computational, and medical sciences.
 Five of these Fellows have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has a long tradition of support for the sciences. Since its inception in 1978, the Foundation has awarded approximately \$400 million in grants for science—about 11 percent of MacArthur's total grantmaking of \$4 billion.

The aim of MacArthur's grantmaking in science is the creation of new knowledge or empirical evidence that can be used to inform public policy decisions. The Foundation's support for science is based on a framework that combines scientific work with the increasing importance of interdisciplinary research. Over the years, MacArthur has supported science through grants for research networks, individuals, and institutions through program areas including conservation and sustainable development, international peace and security, and special initiatives.

RESEARCH NETWORKS

MacArthur research networks are a mechanism for bringing diverse perspectives, knowledge, expertise, and strategies to bear on the research of complex problems. The network methodology typically combines knowledge from the life sciences with the social and behavioral sciences to address issues related to health, well-being, and behavior of individuals in society. The research frequently results in the creation of new knowledge that can be used to inform public policy or applied in clinical settings.

Since 1983, the Foundation has supported 24 networks with grants totaling about \$297 million. Two major organizing principles for research networks have been human development and mental

health and parasite biology. In supporting research in human development and mental health, the central goal is to promote intellectual collaboration, interdisciplinary approaches, and methods of investigation on significant research questions in the field of study. From 1983 to 2003, MacArthur supported two research networks focused on the biology of parasitic disease and the biology of parasitic vectors, respectively. The network on parasitic disease included support for establishing a field of academic research on the molecular biology of parasitism; the network on parasitic vectors was based on the conviction that intensive application of modern cellular and molecular biology, genetics, and immunology would accelerate progress in understanding and combating parasitic disease. The latter made major contributions to the field of research,

¹ For the purposes of this review, science grants are defined as those that support work utilizing the physical, biological, medical, and behavioral sciences as distinct from the social sciences.

such as developing genetic methods for interrupting the transmission of vector-borne disease.

In 2007, the Foundation launched the Law and Neuroscience Project, which will allow scientists, philosophers, judges, and others on the front lines of criminal justice to harness the positive potential of recent developments in neuroscience.

GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

The Foundation has awarded grants to individuals in support of science through the MacArthur Fellowship and various other programs and initiatives. Since the first class of MacArthur Fellows was awarded in 1981, the program has provided \$111 million to about 350 individuals involved in the physical, biological, computational, and medical sciences. Five MacArthur Fellows, Joseph Taylor (astronomy), Barbara McClintock (molecular biology and genetics), and physicists David Gross, Douglas Osheroff, and Frank Wilczek have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes. Two MacArthur Fellows in mathematics, Michael Freedman and Terrence Tao, received Fields Medals.

The Foundation supports scientific work through special initiatives as well. For example, coinciding with the collapse of the former Soviet Union, MacArthur developed grants to help support Russia's scientific intelligentsia working in the peace and security area and to retain the connections between scientists and researchers in the former Soviet Union and their counterparts abroad. From 1994 to 2004, MacArthur awarded a total of \$4.1 million, most of it in small amounts, to these scientists to research and publish the results of their work in arms control and environmental degradation, and to deliver scientific papers at international meetings.

PROGRAMMATIC GRANTS

MacArthur's support for science seeks to build and strengthen research and science institutions, enhance public policymaking, and assess the effectiveness of strategies in Foundation program areas, such as conservation and sustainable development and international peace and security.

The Foundation's grantmaking in the field of conservation totals about \$350 million; about 10 percent of those funds support science to help determine the effectiveness of initiatives to counter threats to biodiversity and other conservation work. Similarly, grantmaking in arms control and disarmament has focused on developing the capacity to advise policy makers with independent and rigorous scientific and technical analysis on nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

The \$50 million initiative on Science, Technology, and Security, under the Foundation's international peace and security program, brings scientific expertise to public policy discussions about arms control through helping increase the pool of scholars in this field. And the Jefferson Science Fellows Program, which allows scientists to work with senior U.S. diplomats, is a key element of MacArthur's investment in strengthening the links between scientists and policy makers.

The Foundation's commitment to science also includes support for infrastructure and the development of new science institutions, including universities, policy institutes, science museums, zoological parks, and botanical gardens. For example, MacArthur has contributed \$30 million to the Basic Research and Higher Education Program, which seeks to transform and reinvigorate the training of young Russian scientists by strengthening the basic research capabilities of Russian universities. And in 2000, the Foundation embarked on a program to support leading Nigerian universities guided by

the belief that democracies in general, and development in particular, cannot flourish without strong intellectual and scientific communities. Since then, grants totaling \$41 million have been awarded to improve infrastructure at universities throughout Africa for scientific research and training universities. This includes a grant to the African Virtual University in Nairobi, Kenya to provide Sub-Saharan countries with sufficient bandwidth to transmit university education in topics such as science and engineering.

MacArthur's work also includes helping establish and support several science-based institutions to strengthen the infrastructure for policymaking nationally and internationally. Since 1982, the Foundation has contributed \$38 million to World Resources Institute to establish an independent policy research center to bridge the gap between the scientific world and policymakers on complex environmental issues.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES IN SCIENCE

From time-to-time, a convergence among science, technology, and opportunity allows the Foundation to play a role in helping bring about a positive change to a particular issue. The MacArthur Foundation looks for these opportunities where relatively modest amounts of funding can be leveraged to create a large benefit. Following are recent examples:

Digital Media and Learning \$50 million, 2005-ongoing

The five-year, \$50 million digital media and learning initiative seeks to help determine how digital technologies are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life. Answers to these and other questions are critical to developing educational and other social institutions that can meet the needs of this and future generations. The initiative is both marshaling what is

already known about the field and seeding innovation for continued growth. More information is available at www.digitallearning.macfound.org or at spotlight.macfound.org.

Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative \$13 million, 2003-ongoing

MacArthur is investing \$11 million to reduce significantly maternal deaths due to postpartum hemorrhage in India and Nigeria. The centerpiece of this new effort is distribution of the anti-shock garment, a low-cost neoprene suit that helps stabilize women who are bleeding during childbirth until they can be transported to a health facility. Pathfinder International, the lead grantee, is introducing a package of low-tech interventions to several hundred health facilities in seven states in India and eight states in Nigeria—two countries that comprise one-third of all maternal deaths globally and are the focus of MacArthur's international grantmaking.

Encyclopedia of Life \$10 million, 2007-ongoing

The Foundation provided a \$10 million grant toward the \$50 million startup cost for the Encyclopedia of Life, an ambitious effort to describe and catalog all known life on earth in one database accessible on the Web. This international project brings together leading scientific institutions, including the Smithsonian, Harvard, the Field Museum, the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The Encyclopedia can help track biodiversity as climate change and human activity put species under pressure. In addition, it can add great value to the work of the scientist, the student, the conservationist, the policy maker, and the passionate amateur. More information is available at www.eol.org.

Science Chicago \$2 million, 2007-2009

Chicago's Science Chicago is showcasing the City's scientific community, highlighting the quality of the science work in Chicago and its importance to the local economy. The initiative, led by the Museum of Science and Industry, seeks to raise awareness of the role of science in everyday life, and of the challenges facing the nation as it strives to remain competitive in scientific and technological fields. The Science Chicago is also designed to help promote understanding of and appreciation for the evidence-based scientific process, and help young people see the fun and excitement in science. MacArthur spurred the idea of the Science Chicago and provided planning and operational support. More information is available at chicagoscienceinthecity.org.

The Science Commons and the Public Library of Science \$1 Million, 2007-ongoing

In 2007, the Foundation's General Program recommended two grants to advance science by addressing some of the legal, technical, and financial barriers to scientific collaboration and innovation through the creation and implementation of easy-to-use tools. Developed by the Creative Commons, the Science Commons tool focuses on licensing policies for sharing biological materials, scholarly publishing, and improving the accessibility of scientific data. The other initiative, developed by the Public Library of Science will attempt to provide the public and experts with prompt, accurate, and thorough scientific scholarship in an open access environment.

SELECTED GRANTS IN SUPPORT OF SCIENCE

Research Networks

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA
Santa Barbara, CA
\$10,000,000 in support of an Initiative on Neuroscience and the Law (over three years).

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, PA
\$5,200,000 in support of the Research
Network on Transitions to Adulthood
and Public Policy (over four years).

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA Charlottesville, VA \$4,550,000 in support of the Research Network on Mandated Community Treatment (over four years).

JUDGE BAKER CHILDREN'S CENTER Boston, MA \$3,900,000 in support of the Research Network on Youth Mental Health Care (over three years).

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BOSTON Boston, MA \$900,000 to establish the Institute of Child Development in Romania (over three years).

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW Charlottesville, VA \$750,000 in supplemental support of the Research Network on Mandated Community Treatment benefit-cost projects (over two years).

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY Waltham, MA \$616,262 in support of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (over three years). COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
New York, NY
\$250,000 in support of planning a
Research Network on an Aging Society.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH Boston, MA \$133,738 in support of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (over three years).

Conservation and Sustainable Development

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABILITY Tempe, AZ \$4,172,147 in support of an interdisciplinary research initiative on advancing conservation in a social context (over three years).

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Thimphu, Bhutan
\$1,500,000 to establish the Ugyen
Wangchuck School of Forestry and
Environmental Studies (over three years).

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL ECOLOGY Stanford, CA

\$2,250,000 in support of the Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy, which functions as a clearinghouse for information between policymakers and scientific experts (over three years).

\$160,000 in support of expanding local capability to map by satellite forest disturbances in the Peruvian rainforest.

\$1,770,000 in support of the development and testing of new technology that will allow forest canopy species composition to be sensed remotely (over two years).

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH
Sao Paulo, Brazil
\$450,000 in support of assessing
climate change impacts on biodiversity
in the Andes.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES Gland, Switzerland \$200,000 to assess the conservation status of freshwater fishes and mollusks, and ecologically important aquatic insects in the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY Butare, Rwanda \$420,000 to strengthen capacity to offer graduate education in conservation science to students from Rwanda and neighboring countries in the Albertine Rift (over three years).

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL
Cambridge, United Kingdom
\$350,000 to assess climate change impacts on the conservation of birds in Asia (over two years).

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND
Washington, DC
\$700,000 to assist the Royal Government
of Bhutan in strengthening the corridor
system that connects the protected
areas of Bhutan into a single continuous
landscape (over three years).

\$575,000 to improve the forest allocation and management process in southern Lao PDR and to build long-term capacity in forest management and planning in the Lower Mekong focal area (over three years).

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Bronx, NY
\$650,000 in support of an integrated
strategy for conservation and sustainable
natural resource use in Antongil Bay,
Madagascar (over three years).

\$600,000 to support biodiversity conservation in the Annamite Mountains in Lao PDR and Cambodia through management planning, biodiversity surveys and monitoring (over three years).

\$500,000 in support of the consolidation of an integrated strategy for conservation and sustainable natural resource use in Madagascar's Antongil Bay Landscape (over three years).

OFFICE RWANDAIS DU TOURISME ET DES PARCS NATIONAUX Kigali, Rwanda \$500,000 in support of the establishment of a conservation training center (over three years).

NATURE CONSERVANCY,
ASIA/PACIFIC REGION
Honolulu, HI
\$500,000 to develop practical methods
for applying resilience principles to coral
reef conservation and sharing the science
and methodology of coral resilience
through training programs in areas of
high coral reef importance around the
world (over three years).

Russia Initiative

IRINA KONSTANTINOVNA KRAVCHENKO \$15,500 to deliver the paper "Oxidation of Atmospheric Methane in Grey Earth Forest Soils of Russia and Its Regulation through the Composition of Microbial Communities" (over 18 months).

BORIS ALEKSANDROVICH REVICH \$16,600 to deliver the paper "Dioxin Pollution as a Risk Factor for Breast Cancer."

LEV ALEKSANDROVICH FEDOROV \$11,200 to deliver the paper "The Consequences of Chemical Weapons Production for the Environment in Russia."

Arms Control and Disarmament

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Princeton, NJ
\$2,176,390 in support of research,
training and collaboration with independent
analysts worldwide on issues at the
intersection of science, technology and
security (over five years).

\$2,120,604 in support of an independent International Panel on Fissile Materials (over five years).

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
BELFER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Cambridge, MA
\$2,145,000 in support of the Managing
the Atom Project (over five years).

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
DEPARTMENT OF WAR STUDIES
London, United Kingdom
\$1,000,000 to support an interdisciplinary
program of research and training to
strengthen scientific advice on international
security policy (over two years).

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FOUNDATION Adelphi, MD \$2,100,000 in support of the Advanced Methods of Cooperative Security Project (over five years).

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AND COOPERATION
Stanford, CA
\$2,034,231 in support of research,
training and collaboration with
independent analysts worldwide on
issues at the intersection of science,
technology and security (over five years).

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS
New York, NY
\$2,000,000 to provide bridge funding to retain expertise and institutional memory from the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (over 18 months).

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND
PUBLIC POLICY
Pittsburgh, PA
\$1,939,223 in support of research and
analysis on homeland and international
security problems of a scientific and
technical nature (over five years).

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
PEACE STUDIES PROGRAM
Ithaca, NY
\$1,860,000 in support of training and research on security issues with a scientific and technical dimension (over five years).

GEORGIA TECH RESEARCH
CORPORATION
Atlanta, GA
\$1,840,000 in support of a program to
train a new generation of scientists and
engineers in technical research and
policy analysis of security issues (over
five years).

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM IN SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY
Cambridge, MA
\$1,200,000 in support of technical
research and track two dialogues by the
Science, Technology, and Global Security
Working Group (over three years).

NAUTILUS INSTITUTE
San Francisco, CA
\$1,050,000 in support of an East Asian
network of scientists undertaking
collaborative research on international
security issues (over three years).

Infrastructure

U.S. CIVILIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION Arlington, VA \$9,841,078 in support of the Program on Basic Research and Higher Education in Russia (over five years).

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN Ibadan, Nigeria \$4,000,000 in support of strengthening the human capital, institutional facilities, and governance system of the University (over three years).

BAYERO UNIVERSITY
Kano, Nigeria
\$3,100,000 in support of staff
development and the refurbishing
and upgrading of University facilities
(over three years).

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT Port Harcourt, Nigeria \$2,500,000 in support of institutional strengthening (over three years).

AFRICAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY
Nairobi, Kenya
\$900,000 in support of supplying
discounted bandwidth to a consortium of
universities in Africa (over three years).

UNIVERSITY OF ANTANANARIVO FACULTY OF SCIENCES
Antananarivo, Madagascar
\$820,000 in support of the advancement of conservation biology within the Faculty of Science (over three years).

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
Moscow, Russia
\$450,000 in support of new mechanisms
for developing and implementing Russia's
environmental policy (over three years).

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Atlanta, GA

\$1,840,000 to train a new generation of scientists and engineers in technical analysis and of security issues (over five years.)

NAUTILUS INSTITUTE San Francisco. CA

\$1,050,000 to continue the development of a network of scientific and technical experts on nuclear weapons and nuclear energy challenges in Asia.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY Pittsburgh, PA

\$1,939,000 in support of research and analysis on homeland and international security problems of a scientific and technical nature (over five years.)

Building Science Institutions

ENERGY FOUNDATION
San Francisco, CA
\$11,941,748 in support of general operations (over three years).

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE Washington, DC \$1,500,000 to support expanded communications technology capacity (over three years).

Special Initiatives in Science

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL Watertown, MA \$10,700,000 to implement a package of interventions for reducing maternal mortality and morbidity due to postpartum hemorrhage in India and Nigeria (over four years).

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY
Washington, DC
\$10,000,000 in support of coordination of
the Encyclopedia of Life (over two years).

FRONTLINE

Boston, MA

\$4,578,612 in support of the FRONTLINE and the FRONTLINE/World series, and the expansion of the series' digital and online capabilities (over five years).

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL BERKMAN CENTER FOR INTERNET AND SOCIETY Cambridge, MA \$3,000,000 in support of the Open Net Initiative (over four years).

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS FUND Washington, DC \$2,500,000 in support of general operations.

BENETECH
Palo Alto, CA
\$800,000 in support of using science
and technology to promote human rights
(over three years).

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE Washington, DC \$760,000 in support of the application of geospatial technologies to human rights (over three years).

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SCIENCE San Francisco, CA \$500,000 in support of the open access publishing initiatives (over two years).

CREATIVE COMMONS
San Francisco, CA
\$500,000 in support of Science Commons
(over two years).

GYNUITY HEALTH PROJECTS
New York, NY
\$400,000 in support of a pilot test
of the SpringFusor pump for providing
magnesium sulfate to treat pregnant
women with pre-eclampsia and
eclampsia (over two years).

KIKIM MEDIA
Menlo Park, CA
\$250,000 in support of a documentary
film "Still Life: The Pursuit of Parkinson's."

\$200,000 in support of a documentary film, "Ending AIDS: The Search for a Vaccine."

JHPIEGO

Baltimore, MD

\$185,000 in support of a project to develop the training capacity of Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecological Societies of India to prepare general practitioners to provide quality emergency obstetric care in rural areas of India (over two years).

ONE WORLD INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION London, United Kingdom \$70,000 in support of a planning process to determine the most appropriate approach to implementing the Mobile4Good project in Nigeria, which uses mobile phone technology to promote healthy outcomes.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY Chicago, IL \$2,000,000 in support of Science Chicago.

Digital Media, Learning and Education

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE Irvine, CA \$2,350,000 to operate, publicize, and support the winners of an open-call competition at HASTAC to build the field of Digital Media and Learning (over 18 months).

MONTEREY INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION
Monterey, CA
\$2,140,000 in support of building the emerging field of Digital Media and Learning through a new journal, conferences, and gatherings (over five years).

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEMS
Berkeley, CA
\$1,954,000 in support of a multi-site ethnographic study of how young people use digital media, and to what effect (over three years).

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Bloomington, IN
\$1,839,000 to analyze and support efforts
to expand the immersive learning
environment for Quest Atlantis (over
three years).

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
COMPARATIVE MEDIA STUDIES
Cambridge, MA
\$1,800,000 in support of the
development and testing of a
comprehensive media literacy curriculum
and a national communications strategy
to ensure widespread distribution (over
three years).

ACADEMIC ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING CO-LAB Madison, WI \$1,800,000 in support of the development and testing of a comprehensive media literacy curriculum, research on the new curricula, the development of new approaches to assessment, and a national communications strategy to ensure widespread distribution of the product.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Tempe, AZ
\$1,782,000 to develop approaches to
educational assessment that acknowledge
learning in a digital media context (over
three years).

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CENTER FOR URBAN SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
Chicago, IL
\$1,600,000 in support and expansion of
after school digital media programs (over
three years).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANNENBERG CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION Los Angeles, CA \$1,346,000 in support of a multi-site ethnographic study of how young people use digital media, and to what effect (over three years).

About the MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, we work to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. More information is available at www.macfound.org.

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