



Investigating Public/Private Partnerships

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Purpose

To understand how MPS partners with the private sector, focusing on interactions with foundations and non-profits.

Plan

To sponsor a workshop in the spring that would bring together NSF staff, staff from relevant foundations, and members of the research community to: discuss models for engagement; develop guidelines for best practices or lessons learned; and brainstorm opportunities going forward.

Thus Far

Conversations inside and outside the building to develop "Lay of the land."

Some Examples

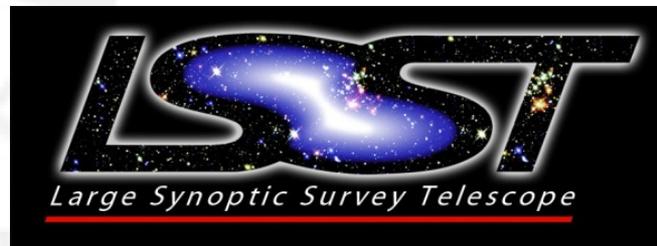
Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)

New multi-party collaboration to support biophysics that will impact cancer research

Common activity around many of the MPS centers / institutes: independent contributions from private organizations

LSST

The design and development of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope was supported by a public/private partnership that involved NSF and DOE on the Federal side, and a number of individuals, foundations, and other organizations on the private side. At a critical juncture in 2008, the Gates and Simonyi Foundations agreed to contribute \$30 million to the project, principally for development of the innovative mirrors. This support was critical for decreasing the level of risk inherent in LSST, and was essential to obtaining the 2014 MREFC investment in LSST which supports NSF's leading role in the project.



Joint funding opportunity to support biophysics research for cancer

Several years of discussions between NSF and NCI regarding physics research for cancer have resulted in a new funding opportunity totaling over \$11 million between NSF, National Cancer Institute, Stand Up To Cancer, and the V Foundation for Cancer Research. It will involve an ideas lab and support theoretical biophysics that will impact cancer research and treatment.



Independent Contributions to Centers / Institutes

The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute was created in 1981 via an NSF/DMS award. It has subsequently received funding from several organizations, including a \$10 million grant from Simons Foundation in 2007.



This type of independent contribution is also seen in centers funded by CHE, DMR, and PHY.

What is the “give and take?”

- ▶ Hope to develop understanding around complementarity and scientific motivation.
- ▶ Suggestions for individuals to involve from the academic or private sectors are welcome.
- ▶ Email jslimowi@nsf.gov