

A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

Happy New Year! As 2018 begins, it offers a chance to reflect on the many achievements the National Science Foundation (NSF) has been part of during the last year. It truly was a banner year, both literally and figuratively. A [beautiful mural](#) now covers an entire lobby wall at NSF's new headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, and depicts the many ways NSF contributes to the nation's health, security, economy and competitiveness. Moving the entire agency from Arlington was challenging, but our dedicated and talented staff completed the task, getting us all in the new building by October of 2017.



Two of the most exquisite occurrences of the year -- the Great Solar Eclipse and the detection of gravitational waves resulting from a collision of two neutron stars -- demonstrated the critical role NSF plays in expanding the understanding of the natural world. During the eclipse, one NSF-funded experiment, [Citizen CATE](#), united scientists and citizens as they captured images of the inner solar corona using 60 telescopes across 2500 miles. The [LIGO-VIRGO discovery](#) is a wonderful example of collaborative, convergent research, bringing together more than 1200 scientists from across the globe and some 70 research facilities. NSF's LIGO and astronomy infrastructure will continue to widen the window on the universe.

Discoveries like these are possible because of men and women who choose to wonder, to delve deeper searching for answers to perplexing problems. This year, [eight of the Nobel Prize winners](#) received NSF support during their careers. I was fortunate to attend the Nobel ceremony in Stockholm, where physicists Rainier Weiss, Kip Thorne and Barry Barish were recognized for their contributions to gravitational wave research. Their perseverance, vision and dedication to the LIGO-VIRGO project have forever altered how we view the universe.

Broadening the pool of individuals pursuing STEM careers is critical to continued scientific and engineering advances. In September, NSF issued a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) requesting proposals to study the factors that hinder and enhance the ability to broaden participation. I'm confident that with continued efforts such as this and the [NSF INCLUDES program](#), the foundation can attract more diversity among people who want to pursue STEM careers.

In the coming year, NSF will continue to promote its [10 Big Ideas](#), bold, innovative research and process ideas that identify key areas of investment at the frontiers of science and engineering. Efforts such as this

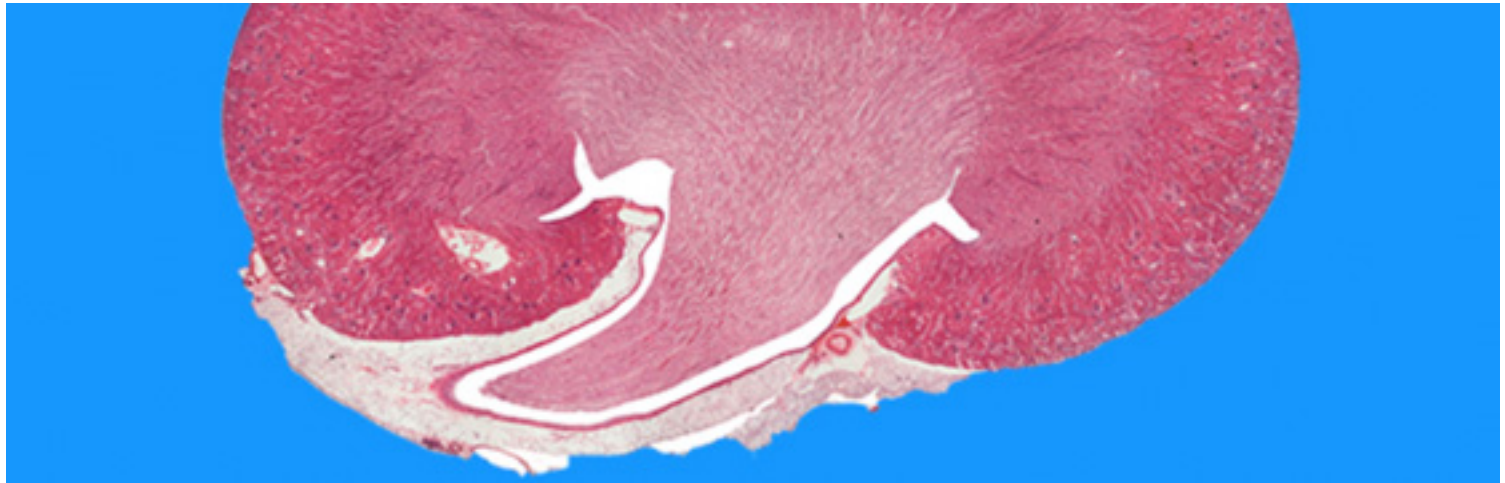
ensure the nation remains a global leader in basic research and discovery.

For a more detailed review of 2017, visit my blog [Notes from the Field](#).



Dr. France A. Córdova
Director, National Science Foundation
[Visit my blog!](#)

Where Discoveries Begin...



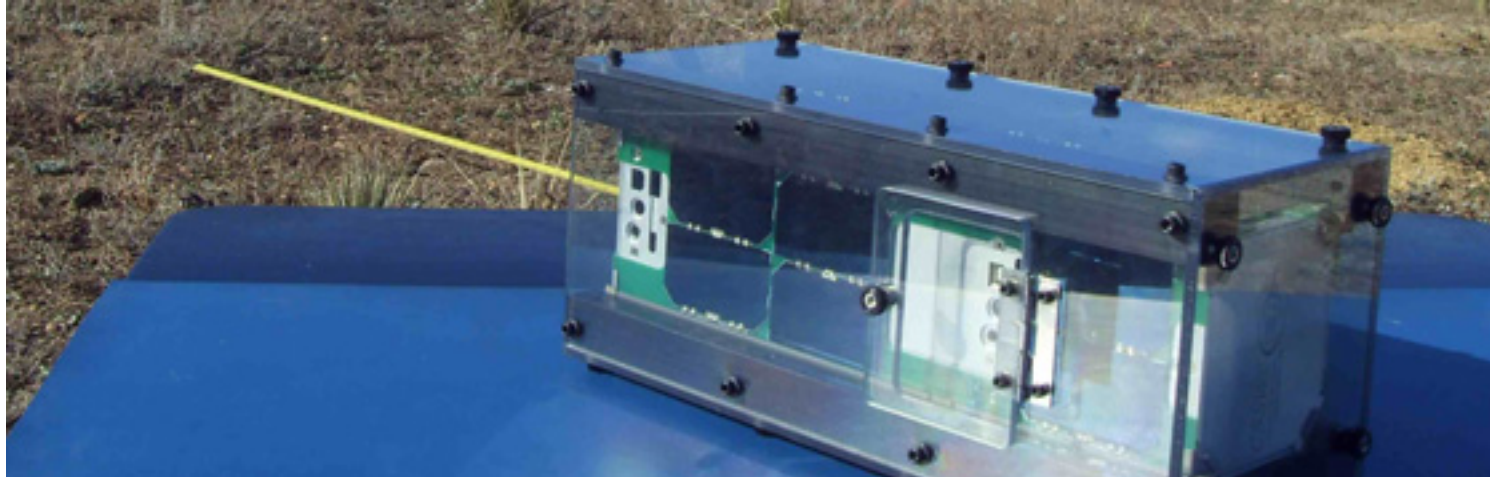
[Preventing kidney stones with precision microscopy](#)

Molecular details show how calcium gets stranded in urine where it can form kidney stones.



[Artificial intelligence meets Big Data](#)

Data analysis software identifies risk in financial services and improves health care delivery.



[CubeSat solves 60-year-old space mystery](#)

Shoe-box sized satellite detects source of energetic electrons in Earth's inner radiation belt.

What's Next?

Jan. 16, 2018: Vizzies is back for its 16th year! Registration opens on Tuesday, so get your best science or engineering visualization ready to submit! Learn more at [nsf.gov/Vizzies](https://www.nsf.gov/Vizzies).

Feb. 22, 2018: NSF Day at Tennessee State University. [Learn more](#) about the NSF Day program, or [register for this event](#).

[Subscribe](#)

[Tell us how NSF is making a difference in your community](#)



Our mailing address is:
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)