



A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

July is an exciting time for astronomy, with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, and this month, NSF has been celebrating our investments in astronomy and astrophysical research.

For almost 70 years, NSF has served as the federal steward for ground-based astronomy, and our support has significantly advanced the understanding of the universe. We provide funding for a variety of instruments across the country and around the world, including optical, infrared and radio telescopes, solar telescopes and detectors for gravitational waves and neutrinos.

Some of the most exciting, transformational results we experienced recently include LIGO, NSF's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, which researchers used to detect gravitational waves for the first time in 2015, and the NSF-supported Event Horizon Telescope, which captured the first-ever image of a black hole, unveiled this April.

When asked by the Boston Globe [what our country's next moonshot should be](#), I shared my belief that the further exploration of black holes by LIGO, EHT [the Event Horizon Telescope Project] and tools yet to be invented may answer outstanding questions about the origin, structure, and evolution of the universe — even unlocking the enigma of dark matter.

Earlier this month, I attended the premiere of a new IMAX film [Secrets of the Universe](#), which was partly funded by NSF's Advancing Informal STEM Learning program. The film shows the progress of science since Galileo, helping audiences visualize some of the most complex science research currently underway, including an up-close, full-scale look at the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider. It was with the collider that NSF-funded physicists and their international collaborators found the mysterious Higgs boson particle, responsible for all giving mass to the universe.

We hope that by sharing our [#BroughtToYouByNSF campaign](#), we will help inspire you and the next generation of young scientists and astronomers. After all, for many of us the stars first sparked our curiosity.



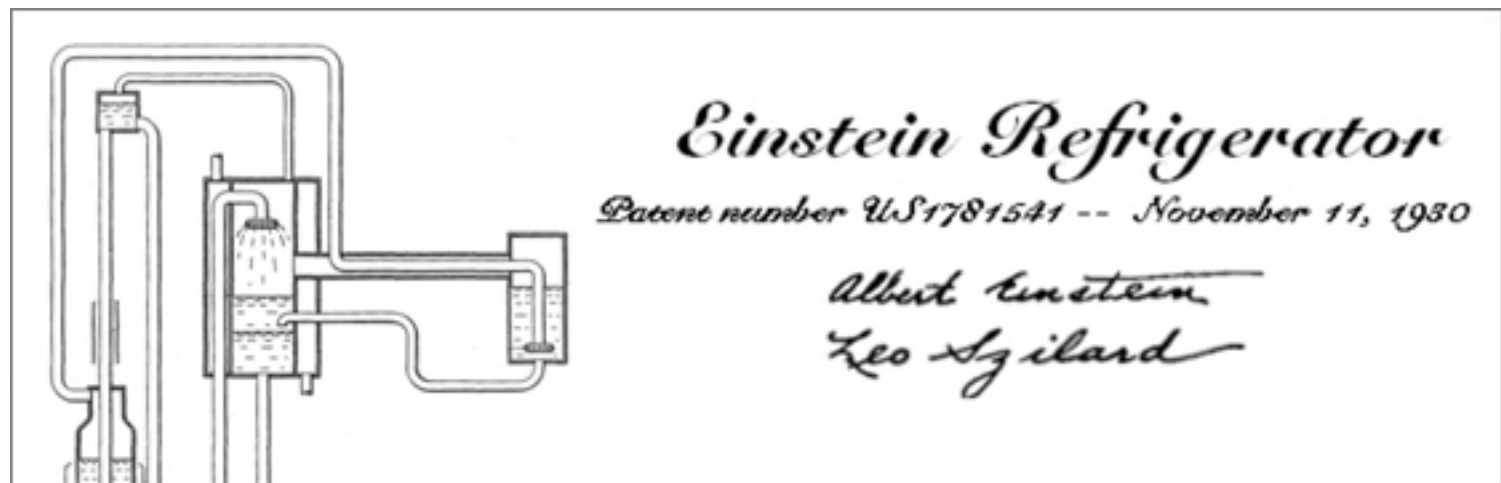
Francis A. Cordova

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

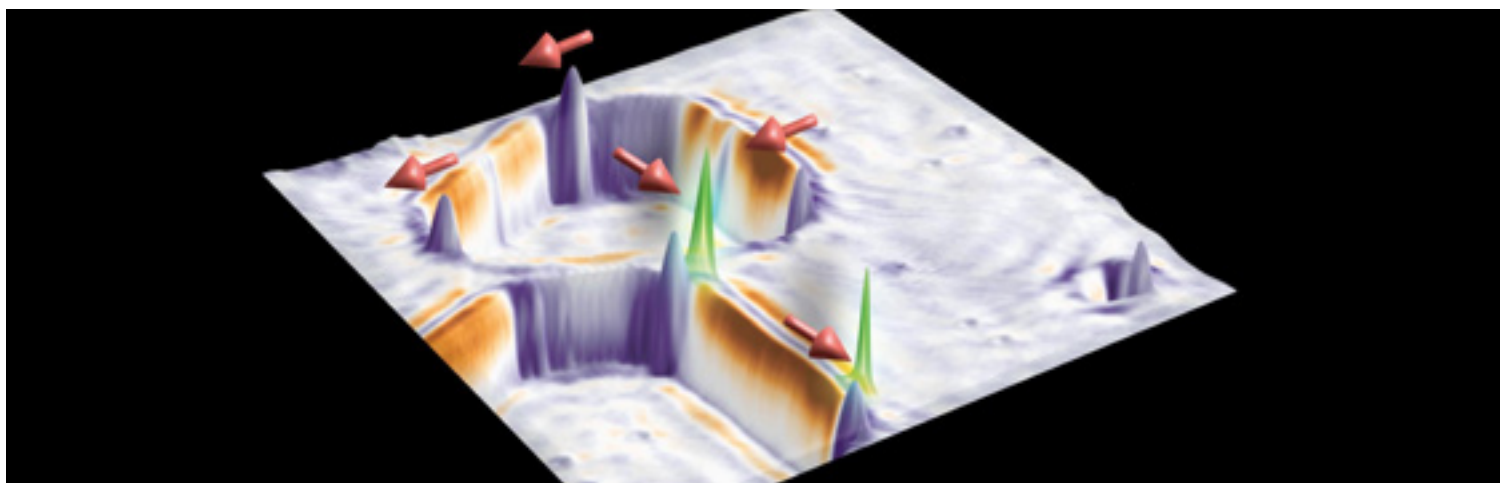
Where Discoveries Begin...



[White House honors 80 NSF-supported early-career researchers](#)
NSF-nominated recipients among 314 receiving top federal award



[Government-funded research increasingly fuels innovation](#)
Almost one-third of U.S. patents rely on federal research.



[Mysterious Majorana quasiparticle is now closer to being controlled for quantum computing](#)
Researchers show how a robust Majorana quasiparticle can be turned on and off.

What's Next

Aug 1 -- Dr. France Córdova gives brief remarks at the [NYC: Constellation Forum](#) where an elite group of executives, investors, philanthropists and entrepreneurs convene to form strategic partnerships and elevate the field of health innovation.

[Subscribe](#)

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

Top left photo credit: CERN



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](#)