



A Message from the Director of the National Science Foundation

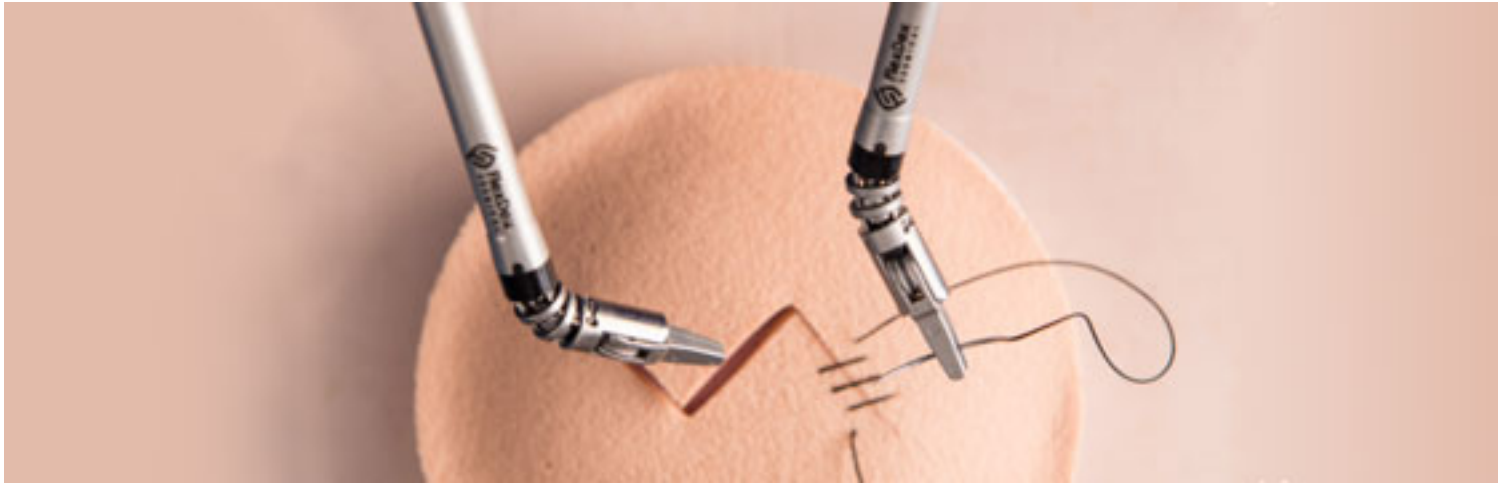
For a moment, travel back in time to 1950. Life was indeed slower and quieter. Consumer electronics technology ranged from film cameras and transistor radios to fuzzy black and white televisions. At hospitals, X-rays were the only option besides surgery for assessing problems inside the body. With the launch of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in May 1950, however, the nation would reap the benefits created by an unparalleled, world-class research enterprise. Today, the world is safer, the economy stronger and our knowledge wider and deeper because of NSF-funded basic research. From enhancing wireless communications to weather forecasting, accelerating the internet to developing MRI technology, NSF has changed the landscape for doing business, enhancing health outcomes, protecting the nation, and deepening awareness of new and critical scientific frontiers.



This month as we celebrate NSF's 67th anniversary, it is humbling to recognize the great foresight of Vannevar Bush, President Franklin Roosevelt's science advisor during World War II and the man behind the creation of NSF. With his science and technology leadership experience during the war, Bush knew U.S. scientists and engineers were among the country's extraordinary assets. Although much has changed since that time, one thing has not: U.S. research institutions and the people involved in them remain one of the nation's best resources. As a champion of U.S. basic research, NSF is the only federal agency with a mandate to support all non-medical research fields. NSF will continue to support the creativity of the men and women performing research, and their efforts to train the next generation of scientists and engineers. Their curiosity, inventiveness and bold ideas will shape the future.

Dr. France A. Córdoba
Director, National Science Foundation
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What's Next?

NSF Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Overview by Dr. France Córdoba, Tuesday, May 23, 2017 3:00 p.m. at NSF headquarters, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22030

The [Exploring Innovation Frontiers Initiative](#) is a national, public-private effort to accelerate the over-the-horizon, transformative innovation models that will drive U.S. competitiveness in the coming decades. June 6, 2017, St. Louis, Mo.

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