

Schmidt Futures

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BRDI, 15 January 2020

Main Themes

- “Driving investment in exceptional people to help others – a risk transfer strategy to create public value from private philanthropy”
 - A mandate to take risks on people and their ideas
- We focus on exceptional talent with limited track records
- We provide opportunities for them to excel and to participate in an exciting network of other great people.
- Most of our programs are international; a few areas focus on the US.
- We support openness, mentoring, and carefully managed risky investments
- We seek partners (financial, execution, intellectual)
- We are still young. We are prepared to launch programs, iterate based on learning about process and output.

Schmidt Futures Areas

- Scientific Knowledge
 - Supporting BRDI core activities
 - Supporting BRDI Study on Realizing Opportunities for Advanced and Automated Workflows in Scientific Research
 - (other NASEM projects under discussion)
- Technology & Society
 - Supporting BRDI – Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Access
- Shared Prosperity
- Cross-cutting Talent
 - RISE (identifying 15-17 year olds around the world, assisting them over their lives)
 - APMs (fresh computer science grads who want to apply their skills to socially valuable causes)
- Other (future)

Scientific Knowledge Programs - 1

- Each program is driven by a thesis
- Talent-oriented programs – overcome roadblocks to innovation
 - 3 postdoc programs (Schmidt Science Fellows, Israeli Women's Postdocs, Schmidt-Broad Institute Fellows)
 - 1 mid-career program
- Institutional Transformation programs: universities need to change to maximize opportunities for modern software- and AI-driven research
 - 5 universities with different approaches
- Seed programs: There is untapped creativity because of difficulty of doing something really new and therefore risky
 - 20+ Nascent Innovative Research projects

Scientific Knowledge Programs - 2

- Each program is driven by a thesis
- Platform-based programs: shared resources can have huge impact
 - Petascale storage
 - Cell Annotation Platform (Human Cell Atlas)
- Scientific programs
 - AI-Accelerated Science: using AI techniques to drive outer loop of research
 - 6 projects underway
 - Astronomy: Spectrographic Observations
 - Biology: New Antibiotic Discovery
 - Chemistry: New Catalysts and Nanostructures
 - Earth Science: Earth Systems Climate Model
 - Neuroscience: Development of Neural System
 - Social Science: Liberating Government Data
 - Virtual Earth System Modeling Institute: Credibility of climate forecasts can be improved by focusing on hard scientific problems
 - 19 proposals under review
 - (future topics)
- Other programs being considered