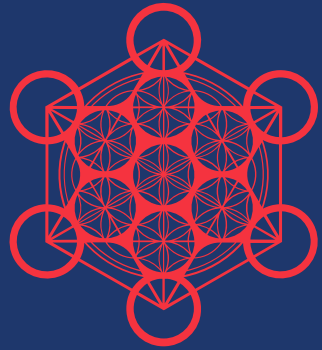




THE
KAVLI
FOUNDATION

Accelerating Discovery through Philanthropic Partnerships

Amy Bernard
Vice President, Science

JOINT SPACE STUDIES BOARD (SSB) AND BOARD ON
PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY (BPA) FALL MEETING

PANEL ON PHILANTHROPY IN SCIENCE & TECH

November 19, 2025



Science for the Benefit of Humanity

Established 2000, based in LA

Mission:

Stimulate basic research in astrophysics, nanoscience, neuroscience and theoretical physics

Strengthen the relationship between science and society

Honor scientific discoveries with The Kavli Prize





The Kavli Foundation views science in the long-term

Impact and durability

20 Kavli Institutes: 13 in US, 7 international

The Kavli Prize: awarded in even years to recognize major achievements astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience—June 10, 2026 announcement

Reach

- 8 endowed Kavli Professors at 6 universities
- Kavli Auditorium at National Academies of Science
- AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Awards

Flexibility

Multi-scale, flexible current-use grant program



Approach to philanthropy



Identify scientific gaps through focused convenings, collaborative listening



Rapidly respond to new ideas by funding early-stage, high-risk/ high reward research



Leverage existing research & data; seek efficiency, empower thought leaders



Partner with others to exchange knowledge and amplify impact



Consortia partnership

Kavli identified emerging area in quantum materials

Meaningful progress will require international collaboration, AI expertise, synthesis

Partnership of funders enables assembly of optimal research team, shared effort, shared risks

<https://www.kavlifoundation.org/news/next-generation-superconductors>

Klaus Tschira
Stiftung



Kevin Wells

KEELE FOUNDATION



Magnus Ehrnrooth Foundation



**New Instruments
for Innovative Science**
at Existing Telescopes

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2025

Kavli Conference Center
Los Angeles, CA

Convene, partner, fund

Explore an opportunity for Impact:
New instruments with new capabilities
at existing “mid-size” telescopes (2-5m
aperture) for optical and near-infrared
investigations

Possibility of transformative
discoveries and instrument
innovations with potential wider use

Critical role of philanthropy
in supporting early-stage exploration



Kavli Scholars program

Supporting Kavli-affiliated scientists experiencing disruptive events



Jennifer Merritt, Ph.D.

Host: Prof. Andrés Bendesky, Kavli Institute for Brain Science, Columbia University
Research area: Molecular evolution of steroid hormone signaling and its impact on behavior



Javier Rodriguez-Casariego, Ph.D.

Host: Prof. Eve Marder, Kavli Prize Laureate; Florida International University.
Research area: Epigenetic mechanisms underlying environmentally acquired hypoxia resistance



Courtney McDermott, Ph.D.

Host: Prof. Bianca Jones Marlin, Kavli Institute for Brain Science, Columbia University
Research area: Early life stress and its effect on neural circuit formation



Vladyslav Kim

Host: Prof. Vladyslav Vyazovskiy, Kavli Institute for Nanoscience Discovery, Oxford University
Research area: Time perception and sleep homeostasis



Monitoring motivators of change

- **Federal funding impacting specific sectors in our fields**
 - We seek to prioritize 'the right fit' for our research funding, to bolster the scientific enterprise
- **Disruptions to funding or society: insecurity of scientific community**
 - Prioritize funding to assist impacted scientists; focus on early career
- **Listening to leaders: Scientists at all levels, Kavli Institutes**
 - Instability or disruptions: flex our support to ensure their stability
 - Adapt program opportunities in response to their input



Insights



Synergistic collaboration: pooling of resources, expertise, and perspectives catalyzes innovation - working with funders, and funder coalitions



Flexibility and agility: swift response to emerging opportunities and challenges is essential



Long-term commitment: foster enduring relationships and maintain dedication to mission to ensure lasting impact



Amplifying impact through strategic focus: prioritize key areas of research where support can make the greatest difference



The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE



“Life as we know it today would
not be possible without science.”

FRED KAVLI

INTERESTED IN PARTNERING?

Reach us at science@kavlifoundation.org

