

New non-profit The Future of Research awarded \$300,000 grant to improve science policy and infrastructure

By The Future of Research
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Boston, MA – New Massachusetts non-profit The Future of Research (FoR) has been awarded a two-year \$300,000 grant by the Open Philanthropy Project. The grant will allow the Executive Director, Dr. Gary McDowell, to engage in a full-time role assisting junior scientists in grassroots efforts to change science policy.

FoR began as an informal group of junior scientists trying to advocate for improvements to scientific training, funding, evaluation, and communication. “Since the beginning we have been overwhelmed by the interest in our activities,” said Dr. McDowell. The FoR Board of Directors is made up of junior scientists in various roles across the U.S. “This generous grant will provide full-time support to help circumvent the time constraints that limit these scientists’ advocacy efforts,” McDowell said.

The grant will coincide with Dr. McDowell’s 6-month residency at the Manylabs Workspace in San Francisco, funded by the Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation. Information on Manylabs can be found at: <https://www.manylabs.org/docs/general/workspace/>

The Open Philanthropy Project identifies outstanding giving opportunities, makes grants, follows the results, and publishes its findings. Its mission is to give as effectively as it can and share the findings openly so that anyone can build on them. The Open Philanthropy Project has released its own announcement about the grant at: <http://www.openphilanthropy.org/focus/scientific-research/miscellaneous/future-research-general-support>.

About FoR

FoR’s goal is to represent the voices of junior scientists to advocate for critical systemic changes to the way we do science.

The newly incorporated non-profit has emerged following two years of volunteer effort by many passionate young scientists across the country. The group’s contributions, which included symposia held in 4 cities across the US in 2015, 7 workshops at conferences, and the publication of various articles and opinion pieces, led to them being named *Science Careers* “People of the Year” for 2015 (<http://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2015/12/people-year-future-research-postdoc-activists>).

More information can be found at the non-profit’s website (<http://futureofresearch.org/>) including a video about FoR made with the iBiology project (<http://www.ibiology.org/ibiomagazine/shaping-the-future-of-research.html>).

Contact

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