



Schmidt Science Fellows 2019

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/ 2018-08-08

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/overview/

Overview

The Schmidt Science Fellows program aims to expand the horizons of the next generation of leaders and innovators in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, and computing. We enhance the ability of the world's most promising new scientists to develop cutting-edge research, and equip them with the skills to serve as leaders in their fields and in society.

We Strive to:

- Expand the horizons of aspiring scientists by introducing them to new fields, research cultures, technologies, and cutting-edge advances
- Develop the skills and qualities Fellows will need to pursue innovative discoveries and serve as future leaders in their fields and in society
- o Build a collaborative spirit of fellowship that will guide the Fellows throughout their careers

Why Now

We have entered a fundamentally new era of science and technology, one where a new generation of scientific leaders have the potential to change the world for the better. Scientific progress and cuttingedge technologies are rapidly accelerating our understanding of the natural and built worlds. Research is increasingly global and can affect a wide range of pressing societal challenges. In this new era, the best scientists should draw insights from across numerous different disciplines, be able to apply new techniques, and possess a broad world-view informed by the intersections between science and the rest of society.

Purpose

The Schmidt Science Fellows program aims to create a new generation of scientific leaders. Our goal is to give the world's best aspiring scientific minds a broader perspective, the ability to engage in an interdisciplinary way, and the opportunity to make a lasting impact in society. Through a combination of group sessions at some of the world's leading universities and a special postdoctoral study in a field different from their existing expertise, Fellows are exposed to new topics, new ways of thinking, and new people that will help guide their future paths to success. With an initial commitment of at least \$25 million for the first three years, this innovative fellowship represents the beginning of a broader \$100 million effort to drive scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research across society over the next decade and beyond.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/program-structure/

Program Structure

The Schmidt Science Fellows program features a series of immersive academic sessions at leading universities in the United States and the United Kingdom, augmenting an 11-month or longer postdoctoral research study.

Postdoctoral Research

The Fellows receive a stipend of \$100,000 as part of the Program. This includes conducting a full-time, 11-month or longer postdoctoral research study in a field-leading laboratory, focusing on a discipline in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics or computing that is different from their existing area of expertise and planned future focus. Our goal is to introduce the Fellows to the ideas, practices, methods, and cultures of other scientific disciplines, broadening their scope of experience. In addition to pursuing the traditional career arc that has aspiring scientists delve deeper and deeper into their field of expertise immediately following their PhD, these individuals can benefit from first obtaining a broader view of the

world. Schmidt Science Fellows have that opportunity, working in a new lab and a new field that will help them form a diverse perspective on the questions and techniques that will position them to make breakthrough discoveries and drive societal change.

The Fellows select their postdoctoral research laboratory, with assistance from the Schmidt Science Fellows program, the Rhodes Trust, respected researchers, and a number of leading universities. We help Fellows identify leading laboratories at elite institutions that conduct exciting new research and provide the opportunity to "pivot" from their current area of expertise during the fellowship year. In all cases, Fellows are expected to have a substantial impact on their labs and participate in publishable research during the postdoctoral year.

The Program also assists Fellows that want to continue work in their postdoctoral area of study following the completion of the fellowship, or in instances where the initial postdoctoral period should extend for longer than the initial 11-month period of time.

Global Meeting Series

The first year of the Schmidt Science Fellows program features four global meetings at the world's leading academic institutions, interspersed across the duration of the fellowship. Each meeting has a specific theme and focus, designed to expand the scope of experience and skill sets of the Fellows, and augment their postdoctoral research work.

Program Timeline

July 2018: Schmidt Science Fellows program begins July 22 – August 4, 2018: United Kingdom All-Cohort Group Sessions August / September 2018: Fellows join their Postdoctoral Research Labs November 4 – 10, 2018: Massachusetts All-Cohort Group Sessions March / April 2019: Northern California All-Cohort Group Sessions July 2019: Concluding Week at University of Oxford

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/program-structure/global-meeting-series/

Global Meeting Series

The first year of the Schmidt Science Fellows program features four global meetings at the world's leading academic institutions, interspersed across the duration of the fellowship. Each meeting has a specific theme and focus, designed to expand the scope of experience and skill sets of the Fellows, and augment their postdoctoral research work.

The Importance of Science to Leadership, and Leadership to Science

United Kingdom July 22 – August 4, 2018

The initial visit will introduce the Schmidt Science Fellows program and provide a foundation for the year ahead. The Fellows will participate in a series of courses and exercises focused on:

- Cutting-edge scientific advances
- Societal and scientific leadership
- o Socioeconomic and political literacy for scientists and engineers
- Team management and collaboration
- Personal network development

These courses and exercises will be led by world-renowned experts, faculty and facilitators at some of the United Kingdom's top universities. The Fellows will also tour exciting and innovative laboratories in the UK.

Traditional Partners – The Interface Between Science and the Public Sector Massachusetts November 4-10, 2018

This visit will build on the ideas and skills learned during the sessions in the UK, delving into more cutting-edge scientific advances and understanding the public sector funding environment. Fellows will be exposed to issues such as:

- Interacting with and navigating the realities and constraints of scientific research in the public sector
- o Intersections between the sciences and government

- o Collaborating and communicating with policymakers
- Navigating government funding sources
- Understanding bureaucratic structures

Fellows will spend extensive time meeting with and learning from scientific and governmental leaders who have successfully navigated these challenges before.

Expanding Horizons – The Interface Between Science and the Private Sector

Northern California March / April 2019

During this visit, Fellows will continue their exploration of new scientific discoveries, scientific and societal leadership, and team management, while adding new insights about collaboration between the sciences and private sector. Fellows will:

- o Get exposure to the entrepreneurial culture of Silicon Valley
- Discuss with scientific and private sector leaders what it takes to attract venture interest from the private sector
- o Learn about new models of funding and commercialization
- See the research taking place at corporations and other laboratories in the area

These experiences will arm Fellows with the tools and understanding needed to engage with the private sector in their future endeavours, and also help them make connections to the Silicon Valley community that will stay with them long after the conclusion of the Program.

Where Do We Go From Here

United Kingdom July 2019

The final visit will serve as the conclusion of the Schmidt Science Fellows program, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust. The Fellows will synthesize and present what they have learned from their year of study and work to their peers. They will also have the opportunity to meet the next year's class of Schmidt Science Fellows and teach some of the initial courses that will start that new class on their year-long journey. The final week will also help to cement bonds that have formed among the Fellows through social and group activities, providing a foundation for lifelong fellowship and collaboration.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/fellows/

Fellows

We are looking for the brightest minds in the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering and computing who are interested in broadening their horizons and pursuing a challenging and rewarding period of study with the world's leading academics and institutions

Candidates should demonstrate:

- Scientific Curiosity: Desire to achieve a broad level of exposure to and knowledge in cutting-edge innovations and research across the sciences
- Extraordinary Achievement: Clear record of academic achievement in the sciences at leading institutions of higher learning
- Intellectual Spark: High degree of intelligence, energy, and intellectual curiosity that will drive future scientific discoveries
- Global Ambitions: The will to make a lasting impact in the sciences and society, pursuing knowledge that will benefit the world by engaging in ambitious research and displaying great perseverance throughout the scientific process
- Character: A genuine and demonstrable interest in society and global challenges combined with a desire to use personal talents and expertise to make a positive difference in the world
- Collaborative Spirit: Demonstrated history of effective collaboration with diverse team members
- Use of Innovative Tools: General interest and comfort in using innovative technological tools, such as modern computing and data science techniques
- Alignment with the Program: Interest in pursuing a year or more of postdoctoral study in a field different from the topic of study for which the applicant received their doctorate

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/fellows/meet-the-fellows/

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/selection-process/

Selection Process

For our second year, the Schmidt Science Fellows program is inviting nominations and applications from a select set of the leading science and engineering universities around the world. The process is as follows:

1) Each of the selected institutions is invited to nominate a small number of students who are expected to receive relevant PhDs by July 2019. Institutions will use their own internal processes to choose nominees. Nominations must be submitted by August 31 2018.

2) Individuals nominated by these institutions will be sent an invitation to apply to become Schmidt Science Fellows. Applications will be due by November 30 2018. The application requirements will include a curriculum vitae (CV) with relevant publications or research, reference letters attesting to the student's accomplishments and capabilities, and personal statements on why the applicant is interested in the Program and what they hope to achieve during and after it.

3) Application packages wil be first reviewed by a board of senior researchers who have knowledge of a wide variety of disciplines. The best applications will then be examined by a second board and evaluated on a mixture of criteria that align with the Program's goals.

4) Short-listed applicants will be invited to face-to-face interviews. Final selections for the 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows will be made in spring 2019 following these interviews.

Timeline

August 31 2018 Candidate nominations by selected institutions due to Schmidt Science Fellows program team.

November 30 2018 Applications by nominated individuals wishing to apply for the 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows due.

January - March 2019 Applications reviewed by the selection boards described above. Finalists conduct in-person interviews

April 2019 Final selections for the 2019-2020 class of Schmidt Science Fellows made and Fellows informed of their selection

Following selection, Fellows work with the Program team to identify, consider, and finalize postdoctoral placement opportunities, in advance of the program beginning in the United Kingdom in July 2019.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/contact/

For further details about the Schmidt Science Fellows program, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust, please email us or complete the below form. All queries will be responded to within 2-3 business days. For media inquiries, please contact Matt Goode, Director of External Affairs & Fellowship Support.

Inquiries can also be sent to : Schmidt Science Fellows, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust Rhodes House South Parks Road Oxford OX1 3RG United Kingdom General inquiries: +44 1865 280256 Reception: +44 1865 270901 info@schmidtsciencefellows.org

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/faq/

FAQ

How large is the Schmidt Science Fellows program?

Through an initial commitment of at least \$25 million for the first three years, this innovative fellowship represents the beginning of a broader \$100 million effort to drive scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research across society over the next decade and beyond. In addition to a stipend of \$100,000 for each Fellow, the Program includes courses and experiences at some of the world's leading academic institutions, and hands on work in field-leading research laboratories.

How are Schmidt Science Fellows selected?

The Schmidt Science Fellows are chosen from a pool of nominations provided by many of the world's leading research universities, followed by a rigorous screening and interview process. For more information, see Selection Process.

Which universities are participating in the Schmidt Science Fellows program?

The Schmidt Science Fellows program leverages the expertise and input from elite academic institutions from across the globe, as well as the experience of the Rhodes Trust, to attract future leaders that have recently completed PhDs in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics or computing, and provide them with experiences, tools, and opportunities to position them to thrive in their future careers. Leading universities in both the United Kingdom and United States are core partners in this effort, and provide input and host immersive sessions at their campuses as part of the global meeting series. In addition, the leading research universities across all regions of the globe participate in the Program by identifying elite PhD candidates at their institutions to nominate as Schmidt Science Fellows. For the first year of the program, we identified a broad range of select universities that were eligible to nominate potential Fellows, based on those that have a strong track record of producing field-leading PhD candidates and objective third-party rankings of the leading scientific research universities worldwide. We will continually assess this list of participating universities and plan to expand the Program in subsequent years to ensure that the world's leading young scientists have the opportunity to become Schmidt Science Fellows.

These and other universities also participate in the Program by serving as potential locations for Schmidt Science Fellows to conduct their postdoctoral research studies.

What scientific areas should candidates be completing their PhDs in?

We are looking for the brightest minds in the Natural Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics and Computing. Natural Sciences includes Chemistry, Biology (including Neurobiology), Physics, Astronomy, and Earth Sciences.

How many individuals are selected as Schmidt Science Fellows?

For the first year of the Program, we have selected 14 individuals to comprise the inaugural class of Schmidt Science Fellows. We anticipate the Program will roughly double in size in both the second and third years, and continue in perpetuity beyond that point.

What types of postdoctoral research can Schmidt Science Fellows pursue?

The Schmidt Science Fellows may pursue postdoctoral research in any laboratory that is substantially different from their existing field of expertise. The degree of difference is subject to a case-by-case evaluation. It may be that a Fellow pursues a completely new line of inquiry within the same discipline, or it might be a related line of inquiry in an entirely new discipline. For instance, a biochemist focused on immunology might pursue research in a laboratory focused on molecular biology. Alternatively, a Fellow with a PhD in oceanography might join a computer science laboratory focused on modeling wave behavior using algorithms.

Applicants are asked to identify potential areas of postdoctoral study as part of the application process, though not required to settle on a single proposal when applying. After being chosen for the Program, Fellows make final decisions about their postdoctoral research laboratory with the approval of the Schmidt Science Fellows program team, in order to ensure a good fit at a high-quality institution, valuable fellowship experience, and consistency with the overall goals of the Program. The preference is that Fellows select a postdoctoral laboratory located at an institution different from where they have received their PhD or where they have already planned future research activities, in order to promote a diversity of experience.

The Schmidt Science Fellows program works with Fellows to ensure they have an opportunity to work in an exciting and innovative research lab that meets these goals. The Program also assists Fellows that want to continue work in their postdoctoral area of study following the completion of the fellowship, or in instances where the initial postdoctoral period should extend for longer than the initial 11-month period of time.

How can someone be nominated to become a Schmidt Science Fellow?

Applicants must be nominated by a designated senior executive at a leading academic institution where the individual has pursued a PhD in an applicable field of the Natural Sciences (including Chemistry, Biology and Neurobiology, Physics, Astronomy, and Earth Sciences), Engineering, Mathematics and Computing. For the Program's first year, nominations were accepted from a select group of leading academic institutions that are partnering with the Schmidt Science Fellows program. We will continually assess this list and plan to expand the Program to more universities in subsequent years, ensuring that the world's leading young scientists have the opportunity to become Schmidt Science Fellows. Individuals nominated by these institutions are then sent an invitation with the necessary log-in credentials to apply for the Program.

Where does the global meeting series part of the program occur?

For the first year of the program, the five weeks of all-cohort meetings will take place across the United Kingdom, Massachusetts, and Northern California, hosted at the leading universities in these areas. See Global Meeting Series for further details.

What role does Alphabet, Inc. or Google have in the Schmidt Science Fellows program?

Neither Alphabet, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries, including Google, have any role in supporting, developing or administering the Schmidt Science Fellows program. While Fellows may interact with individuals or entities that are part of these companies, particularly through the Global Meeting Series, there is no direct or indirect support for the Program provided by Alphabet, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries.

What is the role of the Rhodes Trust? Are alumni Rhodes Scholars eligible to apply to be Schmidt Science Fellows?

The Rhodes Trust is a central partner in the Schmidt Science Fellows program, serving as administrator for the Program, and is responsible for the execution of the fellowship. Rhodes coordinates the selection process, liaises with partner universities, assists in the postdoctoral placements of the Fellows, and facilitates the global meeting series.

Alumni Rhodes Scholars are eligible for nomination to be Schmidt Science Fellows, but they are not given preference in the selection process.

Are Schmidt Science Fellows paid?

The Fellows receive a stipend of \$100,000 for their living expenses, as well as an allowance for personal travel. All costs associated with the global meeting series – including travel, temporary lodging, and meals – are fully reimbursed.

What certification or attestation do Fellows receive upon completion of the Program?

Individuals that complete the Program are certified as Schmidt Science Fellows, providing them association with one of the world's leading brands in science and technology. This includes a certificate of completion signed by the Program's sponsors. In addition, Fellows receive on-the-ground experiences at a number of the world's leading academic institutions, and valuable connections with the faculty, administrators and other leaders in key scientific fields. Finally, Fellows will have a place in a lifelong community of leading scientists that will collectively drive research, investment and policy in the sciences for years to come.

In addition, all individuals that reach the finalist stage for selection as a Schmidt Science Fellow receive a certification to recognize this achievement.

Can Fellows' families join the global meeting sessions?

Fellows are provided with a stipend of \$100,000 to cover the duration of the Program, which is intended to cover relevant living expenses while the Fellow is pursuing his or her postdoctoral research. Fellows are asked to ensure that, while at the Global Meeting Series, their attention is fully focused on the sessions at-hand and engagement with their colleagues.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/updates/

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/eric-and-wendy-schmidt-launch-the-schmidt-science-fellows-programin-partnership-with-the-rhodes-trust/

Eric and Wendy Schmidt launch the Schmidt Science Fellows program, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust

Press ReleaseOctober 12, 2017

\$25 Million Program Marks the Beginning of Broader Effort to Drive Scientific Leadership and Interdisciplinary Research

Eric and Wendy Schmidt today announced the launch of the Schmidt Science Fellows program, a postdoctoral fellowship aimed at providing the next generation of leaders and innovators with the tools and opportunities to drive world-changing advances across the sciences and society. Through an initial commitment of at least \$25 million for the first three years, this innovative postdoctoral fellowship is the beginning of a broader \$100 million effort to promote scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research over the next decade and beyond.

In partnership with the Rhodes Trust, home of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships, the program will welcome its first class of 10 to 15 Fellows in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, and computer science in 2018. The selected scholars will receive a stipend of \$100,000 for the program, which will include advanced-level research at a leading laboratory in a scientific discipline different from their core area of study in order to spur interdisciplinary thinking. Through this experience in a new environment immediately following the completion of their PhD studies, Fellows will be exposed to new science and technology, novel ways of thinking, and a broader network of colleagues who can help guide their success as leaders.

The program will also feature five weeks of high-level courses and group programs that will explore a diverse range of scientific advances, conversations with some of the world's preeminent scientific and societal leaders, and immersive leadership experiences that will help Fellows build support for their future work. During these five weeks, Fellows will be hosted by a number of the world's leading universities which are partnering with the Schmidt Science Fellows program.

"This is an unprecedented era of scientific progress, when artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology and other breakthroughs can dramatically advance fields as disparate as civil engineering, biochemistry and computer science," said Eric Schmidt. "To address society's most pressing issues, our best scientists and technologists in all disciplines will need to work effectively with non-profits, government, and business. This program will help our Fellows develop skills that accelerate the pace of research and discovery in their future work, and will encourage them to serve as the next generation of scientific leaders."

"At a time when government budgets for vital scientific research continue to be cut, philanthropy plays a critical role," said Wendy Schmidt, President of The Schmidt Family Foundation and Co-founder of the Schmidt Ocean Institute. "At SOI, we have seen how scientists openly sharing cross disciplinary research can advance our understanding of ocean systems. Now, we see the potential for the Schmidt Science Fellows to develop a similarly robust community, developing their work in a broader context of investigation that will enable them to tackle some of our world's most challenging problems in new ways."

"The Rhodes Trust works to develop leaders who can collaborate across academic disciplines and national boundaries. The Schmidt Science Fellows will accelerate this important task," said Charles Conn, CEO of the Rhodes Trust and Warden of Rhodes House. "For the past year we have been working together to develop the Fellows program, which will further our aspiration to identify and support innovative, energetic and ethical leaders."

"Leadership for the next era of breakthroughs in research will require a new generation of scientist able to understand the culture, language, problems, and approaches of more than just one narrow discipline," observed Marsha McNutt, President of the National Academy of Sciences. "For that reason, I will be very excited to watch the careers of the Schmidt Science Fellows, who are afforded the opportunity early on to assimilate an unusual depth in understanding in a second field."

In addition to the universities that will host Fellows over the course of the program, numerous other leading research universities around the world will also participate by nominating candidates for the fellowship and helping to place Fellows in cutting-edge research laboratories.

Applications for the program are due by December 31, 2017. The first class of Fellows will be announced in the spring of 2018, and will begin the program in the summer. The program will grow in successive years, ultimately admitting 35 to 50 Fellows annually.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/eric-and-wendy-schmidt-announce-first-class-of-schmidt-science-fellows/

Eric and Wendy Schmidt announce first class of Schmidt Science Fellows Press ReleaseApril 23, 2018

Introduction of Fellows initiates \$25 Million program in partnership with the Rhodes Trust, as part of \$100 Million commitment to drive scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research.

Eric and Wendy Schmidt, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust, today announced the 14 members of the inaugural 2018-2019 class of Schmidt Science Fellows at an event at the Apella Alexandria Center for Life Science in New York City. This unique post-doctoral program focused on scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research is aimed at providing the next generation of leaders and innovators with the tools and opportunities to drive world-changing advances across the sciences and society.

The 2018 class of Fellows is:

Karl Barber (Yale University) Fahim Farzadfard (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Wesley Fuhrman (Johns Hopkins University) Xiwen Gong (University of Toronto) Yogesh Goyal (Princeton University) Peyton Greenside (Stanford University) Abigail Groff (Harvard University) Hallie Holmes (University of Washington) Jina Ko (University of Pennsylvania) Frederick Richards (Cambridge University) Mattia Serra (ETH Zurich) Adi Steif (University of British Columbia) Ryan Truby (Harvard University) Jielai Zhang (University of Toronto)

Additional information about the exciting research each of the recipients are conducting can be found below.

"Eric and I have long wanted to find a powerful way to enhance the development of some of our world's most promising scientists and technologists, to help them become our next generation of leaders," said Wendy Schmidt, President of The Schmidt Family Foundation and Co-founder of the Schmidt Ocean Institute. "Following their Fellowship year, this cohort will be equipped to drive new discoveries and to pioneer strategic approaches to the challenges we face for human and planetary health. We know they will move forward faster and in a more collaborative fashion than possible in previous generations. Congratulations to the first class of the Schmidt Science Fellows."

"The next frontiers of scientific discovery will be pioneered by those who can transcend the traditional boundaries of science, using techniques from multiple scientific fields to tackle society's longstanding challenges," said Eric Schmidt, technical advisor to Alphabet, Inc. and former Executive Chairman. "The first class of Schmidt Science Fellows have the intelligence, inspiration, and ambition to be leaders in science and society. We at Schmidt Futures look forward to helping them realize that potential."

Through an initial commitment of at least \$25 million for the first three years, this innovative fellowship is the beginning of a broader \$100 million effort by Eric and Wendy Schmidt to promote scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research over the next decade and beyond.

The experience, conducted in partnership with the Rhodes Trust, home of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarships, will place Fellows in a new research environment immediately following the completion of their PhD studies, in order to encourage an interdisciplinary scientific mindset. By working in a prestigious research lab outside of their existing area of expertise, each Fellow will be exposed to new science and technology, novel ways of thinking, and a broader network of colleagues who can help guide their success as leaders. The selected Fellows, whose areas of study span the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, and computer sciences, will also each receive a stipend of \$100,000 as part of the program.

"The Rhodes Trust is delighted to be a partner in enabling the Schmidt Science Fellows to have been transformed from a terrific idea into a vibrant community," said Sir John Hood, Chairman of the Rhodes Trustees. "The first cohort of Fellows will be true pioneers and we eagerly look forward to seeing what they will accomplish – both individually and collectively."

In addition to the post-doctoral placement, the program will also feature five weeks of high-level courses and experiential workshops that will explore a diverse range of scientific advances, conversations with some of the world's preeminent scientific and societal leaders, and immersive leadership experiences that will help Fellows build support for their future work. These weeks will be hosted by several of the world's leading universities who have partnered with the Schmidt Science Fellows program, beginning at the University of Oxford in July 2018.

In addition to the universities that will host Fellows over the course of the program, numerous other leading research universities around the world are also participating by identifying the exceptional candidates that have received the fellowship and hosting the Fellows in a variety of cutting-edge research laboratories for their post-doctoral year.

https://schmidtsciencefellows.org/schmidt-science-fellows-program-appoints-two-new-members-to-leadership-team/

Schmidt Science Fellows program appoints two new members to leadership team Press ReleaseMay 10, 2018

The Schmidt Science Fellows program, in partnership with the Rhodes Trust, has announced the appointment of two key members to its leadership team. Dr. Megan Wheeler has been appointed Executive Director, and Matt Goode has been appointed Director of External Affairs & Fellowship Support.

The mission of the Schmidt Science Fellows program is to advance the next generation of leaders in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, and computing to tackle the world's most challenging problems. In their new posts, Dr. Megan Wheeler and Matt Goode will work towards the achievement of this mission, helping the Fellows expand their scientific horizons, grow the skills necessary to become future leaders in science and society, and create a lifelong community of fellowship.

As part of the program, the Schmidt Science Fellows will be placed in novel research environments following the completion of their PhDs and introduced to new fields, technologies, and cutting-edge advances. The Fellows will also participate in a series of global convenings that will focus on developing the relationships and skills needed to position them for success in their careers. Through an initial commitment of at least \$25 million for the first three years, this innovative postdoctoral fellowship is the beginning of a broader \$100 million effort to promote scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research over the next decade and beyond. The end of April saw the selection of the first class of Schmidt Science Fellows.

Charles Conn, CEO of the Rhodes Trust, remarked: "This is a terrific new program which will drive scientific innovation through having a crucial interdisciplinary focus. The inaugural Fellows who were recently selected are superb and I know they will be well supported by the new leadership team during their Fellowship year. It marks the start of a new lifelong scientific community of change makers, one which will demonstrate significant impact across the globe."

"The Schmidt Science Fellows program is all about supporting the next generation of scientific leaders and exposing them to an interdisciplinary approach to research that will position them to confront society's greatest challenges," said Eric Schmidt, technical advisor to Alphabet Inc. and former Executive Chairman. "This new leadership team embodies that commitment to interdisciplinary thinking and the next frontiers of scientific research, and I am confident that they will guide the program and the Fellows to future success."

"The first class of Schmidt Science Fellows are a remarkable group of young people, and it is our job to enhance their development and help them realize their tremendous potential," commented Wendy Schmidt, President of The Schmidt Family Foundation and Co-founder of the Schmidt Ocean Institute. "Megan and Matt strongly believe in this vision, and we look forward to working with them."

Dr Megan Wheeler

Dr. Megan Wheeler has been appointed Executive Director after most recently being CEO of MindMap PLLC and Associate Professor at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. With dual doctoral degrees in Physiology (Cognitive Neuroscience) and Clinical Psychology, Dr. Wheeler's career has been defined by a commitment to working on problems that know no disciplinary bounds and to directly impacting the lives of others. She received her DPhil in Physiology from Magdalen College at the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Catholic University of America. She has held faculty positions at Dartmouth College, University of Oxford (St. Hilda's College), and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, where she is the recipient of the university's 2018 national Distinguished Teaching Award for excellence in graduate instruction. She has published interdisciplinary research on topics ranging from the neuroscience of mindfulness to neuroscience and the law in top journals including Nature Reviews Neuroscience, Mindfulness (where she is an associate editor), and Scientific American Mind. Her work has also been featured on The Science Channel, the BBC, and in Newsweek. As a clinician, she founded an interdisciplinary clinic at the Washington, DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center that reduced wait-times from referral to diagnosis for Veterans with Alzheimer's Disease by 85%. She was recently named one of the Washington, DC area's "40 under 40 emerging leaders" by Leadership Arlington.

Dr. Wheeler said: "I strongly believe that the world's most pressing challenges respond best to an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving. The Schmidt Science Fellows program will identify, support, and sustain the very best emerging scientists from around the globe and provide them with new lenses through which they can view novel solutions to the most complex scientific and technologic challenges we face. I look forward to leading this effort and helping these remarkable early career scientists make a lasting impact on science and society."

Matt Goode

Matt Goode has been appointed as Director of External Affairs & Fellowship Support. His career has focused on research and innovation communications and engagement. He will join the team after having led communications for the launch of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the UK's new £6bn a year funding body. A key part of his role has been to develop strategies to strengthen interdisciplinary and challenge-led communications and engagement. Alongside his work on UKRI, Matt has been Director of Communications and Public Engagement at Research Councils UK. In this role, he has been responsible for leading the development and implementation of a collective communications and engagement strategy across the UK's seven Research Councils, for developing and leading a collective communications and public engagement function for the Research Councils, and for providing professional leadership to dispersed communications and engagement teams. Matt has over 14 years' experience in the research and innovation sector and has held a number of roles in communications, public engagement affairs. He has experience in managing high profile international media stories and has led the communications handling of multiple crisis incidents. Matt is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and holds an MBA from Warwick Business School.