Who We Are

Schmidt Futures bets early on exceptional people making the world better.

All around the world there are brilliant, visionary people who could do so much more to help others if they had opportunity. To solve the world’s biggest challenges, we need everyone at the table—including extraordinary people with highly experimental ideas, people without a long track record, and people who have been previously overlooked or excluded.

Co-founded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt in 2017, Schmidt Futures is a philanthropic initiative that creates public value from private philanthropy through risk transfer—making bets on talent that others, such as government or business, can follow to scale up efforts that make the world better.

While government and business hold most of the resources to help people, philanthropy can typically bet earlier on risky ideas than either can. Without the short-term earning pressures that keep businesses from investing in promising ideas to help others, philanthropy can invest in ideas where the returns may take a long time to develop. Without the political pressures and short-term budgeting cycles that keep governments from betting on unproven ideas, philanthropy can test ideas that may fail. Government or commercial capital can then follow ours, scaling up ideas with more proven return.

Applying modern tools from science and technology thoughtfully, we aim to:

- Create the best, largest, and most persistent pipeline of exceptional talent globally and match it to opportunity to serve others for life
- Take on important public problems where systemic solutions may be available now, by creating and deploying interdisciplinary teams and institutions of exceptional people
- Advance the data, systems, equipment, and other structures needed to scale the highest-risk, highest-return ideas and R&D efforts significantly, for public benefit

To realize this vision as a “venture facility for public benefit,” Schmidt Futures uses a broad set of tools—including gifts, grants, investments, and startup activity—for charitable, educational, and commercial efforts with a public purpose. We seek to be a funder of first opportunity rather than a lender of last resort.

This working document is intended to help partners and other members of our community understand who we are, how we work, and what we do. It is a current snapshot and will be updated periodically to reflect our ongoing work.
How We Work

Through the Schmidts’ philanthropic work over the past 13 years, across several different and important efforts, we know that investing in people and giving them the tools and support they need to develop and implement their ideas can lead to exceptional solutions to global problems.

Three principles have guided how we work at Schmidt Futures since the beginning and continue to do so today: people, focus, and scale.

Whether we lead programs ourselves or support others in doing so, we ask how well those programs advance these principles.

Jyotirmoy Mandal, 2019 Schmidt Science Fellow, at the Broad Institute laboratories
People

1. **We bet on human ingenuity, taking risk.**
   When faced with a choice between making a sure bet or taking a chance on brilliant people, we take the risk and take it early.

2. **We put others’ interests ahead of our own.**
   Service is not just a way to be polite. Public benefit is our north star.

3. **We can and must support both equity and exceptionality at the same time.**
   We favor supporting people who have experimental ideas, who have been overlooked or excluded, or who do not have a track record—from any background, anywhere in the world.

4. **Everything we do outside, we also do inside.**
   All our principles also apply to ourselves; people are ends, not means.

Focus

5. **We must always balance between helping people more and helping people now.**
   Every bet must be clear on the goal. As we grow, we will work on a smaller number of larger initiatives to achieve those goals.

6. **We drive excellence by challenging everything.**
   We compete everything, often in multiple rounds—programs to launch, investments to fund, people to hire, partners to engage.

7. **We celebrate learning no matter what the lesson.**
   We reward information and insight—whether from success or failure—to improve our work and others’.

Scale

8. **We design for substantial growth from the outset and reinvest in what works.**
   Scale is a plan, not only a result.

9. **We favor working together with others and building partnerships even at the “cost” of credit.**
   Credit is free, infinite, and less important than significant impact.

10. **We use all our tools to help solve a problem.**
    Speed and flexibility matter—so we prize agility and make diverse types of capital available to the efforts we support in order to maximize the potential for bigger and faster results.
Instead of governing by a conventional “5-year strategic plan,” at Schmidt Futures, we often like to say that we work on 100-year efforts, 1-year efforts, and platforms to scale what’s next. These aren’t technical terms, just shorthand for the work we do as a talent initiative.

Our approach is to apply leverage—de-risking investment for government or business—to overcome market failures for talent and their ideas to help others.

### Key Market Failure

**People.** The most brilliant people or promising ideas are never found, not given a chance, not matched to new opportunity, or not resourced to persist

**Focus.** Public problems that exceptional people can solve even right now don’t get the investment or have the tools or teams necessary to do so

**Scale.** With basic R&D spending at historic lows, there are few effective scaling platforms to help the best ideas and research efforts to grow and replicate

### Our Vision

**Talent Engine.** Create the best, largest, and most persistent pipeline of exceptional talent globally and match it to opportunity to serve others for life

**Talent Ventures.** Take on important public problems where systemic solutions may be available now, by creating and deploying interdisciplinary teams and institutions of exceptional people

**Platforms for Scale.** Advance the data, systems, equipment, and other structures needed to scale the highest-risk, highest-return ideas and R&D efforts significantly, for public benefit

The following examples are intended to illustrate for potential partners some of the work we’re doing or supporting in our three areas of focus.
Creating the best, largest, and most persistent pipeline of exceptional talent globally and matching it to opportunity to serve others for life
The world’s most important problems will be solved by tomorrow’s leaders. Yet too often, the most talented people never realize their full potential for global impact—they go undiscovered, become isolated at a young age, or lack access to resources.

Launched in November 2020, Rise is a global talent program that finds extraordinary young people, ages 15-17, who need opportunity and supports them for life as they use their talents to serve others. Winners of the global competition could receive more than $500,000 in benefits, depending on need, over the course of their lives, making this one of the largest scholarship programs—if not the largest—in the world. Benefits include scholarships for university, mentorship and career services, and access to funding to scale up their social impact or start a social enterprise. Everyone who applies to Rise joins a global community of future leaders and gains access to free online instruction. A flagship program of Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust, Rise is the anchor of Eric and Wendy Schmidt’s $1 billion philanthropic commitment to global talent.

Rise team members meet with partner organization Latin American Leadership Academy in São Paulo, Brazil.
Some of the work we have done with Rise since launch:

- Built a network that reaches **10 million young people**, ages 15-17, through partnerships with nearly 30 organizations and collaborations with another 300 organizations across 150 countries.

- Developed a globally-accessible mobile app with Hello World, a nonprofit chaired by Sal Khan, that identifies talent based on potential, looking for qualities like brilliance, empathy, and perseverance.

- Conducted three trial applications with over **500 young people** from 20 countries, gathering various insights, including that peer review is just as capable of identifying undiscovered, brilliant young people as structured interviews.

- Received nearly **10,000 registrations** from about 150 countries in the first six weeks of the launch of the program.
Associate Product Managers

Many organizations working for public benefit have difficulty finding, vetting, or deploying technical talent.

Launched in 2018, our Associate Product Manager (APM) program is a first-of-its-kind pathway for cohorts of university graduates to use their technical degrees for public benefit. The program recruits graduates with training in computer science and machine learning and deploys them on 3-9 month rotations—a human rather than financial capital investment in important organizations and projects—in order to tackle important technical problems.

Schmidt Futures team members Raya Kuo (APM) and Ryan Burke (director) work with partners at PlantVillage in Kenya.
Some of the work the APM program did or supported:

- Improved efficiency of CareMessage, a patient engagement platform that helped facilitate 24 million COVID-19-related messages in 38 states.

- Created a framework to measure and increase the efficiency of Nuru, an AI assistant for farmers developed by PlantVillage, and advanced projects supporting 850 farmers in Kenya using insights from user research.

- Made it possible for thousands of young people in areas of low internet connectivity to apply for Rise by developing a WhatsApp chatbot.

- Recruited 50% of computer science graduates from Stanford University to apply to be part of the first APM cohort and 570 students across 180 universities to apply to be part of the most recent cohort.

Katherine Binney completed a rotational placement through the APM program at Recidiviz, a Schmidt Futures grantee led by Clementine Jacoby. As the first team member focused on product design, she created a new product suite to drive parole and probation officers toward human-centered supervision, a promising approach to reduce the revolving door of arrests of previously incarcerated people. She created metrics for health of prison and supervision systems, enabling Recidiviz to target and benchmark new state partners. When COVID-19 hit, the network she had developed proved critical for Recidiviz in sustaining relationships with state officials. She also developed release management reports, providing strategic guidance to North Dakota to quickly decrease its prison population by 25% amidst the pandemic. Finally, Katherine supported the development of grant applications that resulted in $2 million in federal funding for Recidiviz.
Early investment capital primarily focuses on for-profit ventures—less than 4% of startup studios around the world focus on social impact. We envision a new model for entrepreneurship that develops talent and generates ventures positioned for impact at scale.

Launched in 2020, our Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) program bets early on this new kind of entrepreneur by providing some of the world’s most talented people with the opportunity to incubate and accelerate nonprofit and for-profit ideas for public good. EIRs participate in a residency of up to two years, actively shaping Schmidt Futures’ portfolio of philanthropic investments while developing essential skills to launch their own ventures.

$27 million
in government benefits unlocked in India

4.5 hours
of cold-chain refrigeration created through Cloudline

Entrepreneur-in-Residence Spencer Horne’s startup Cloudline
Some of the work the Entrepreneurs-in-Residence program did or supported:

• Helped launch three companies for public benefit and one nonprofit, including EIR Jason Wang’s FreeWorld, a nonprofit to help citizens returning from prison rapidly re-skill for trade jobs using income share agreements and wrap-around services, and EIR Spencer Horne’s Cloudline, a startup that has developed technology to refrigerate cold chain vaccines, such as the vaccine for COVID-19, for up to 4.5 hours in order to reach rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa using airships.

• Invested in an EIR applicant’s effort to expand an online platform in India that helped an additional 125,000 people by unlocking $27 million in government benefits across 19 states in India.

• Received 179 nominations from 25 countries across five continents for the inaugural cohort and built a network of 70 mentors and 60 vendors to support the development and scale of the EIRs’ ventures.

Matt Pierri is the CEO and founder of Sociability, a mobile platform that empowers disabled people to find detailed, reliable, and accurate accessibility information—personalized to them—for local venues. His venture closes the information gap that prevents disabled people from engaging in their communities, pursuing personal and professional opportunities, and travelling with confidence. Launched in late 2020, Sociability has already onboarded more than 500 registered users, conducted more than 12,000 venue searches, and attracted support from Sir Philip Craven (former President of the International Paralympic Committee), Biz Stone (co-founder, Twitter and Medium), Toyota Motor Corporation, Innovate UK, and the University of Oxford. Matt was recognized as a nominee for the 2020 Young Australian of the Year awards.
The crises that face our planet and society are broad, deep, and multi-faceted—they do not recognize the neat boundaries that are often and traditionally applied to science. The best scientists will need to draw insights from numerous disciplines and possess a broad worldview informed by the intersection of science and society.

Launched in 2017 by Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust, the Schmidt Science Fellows program brings together the brightest minds who have completed a PhD in the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, or computing, and places them in a postdoctoral fellowship in a field different from their existing expertise.

The program funds both training for the scientists and the research they undertake, and creates a community of interdisciplinary leaders who can affect real and innovative change in the world.

Some of the work the Schmidt Science Fellows program did or supported:

- Catalyzed 94% of fellows across cohorts to continue work in their new discipline or at the intersection of disciplines and supported 8 fellows in securing faculty positions.

94% fellows work in new or interdisciplinary fields

138 papers published from the first two cohorts

$8.3 million startup seed funding secured by two fellows

Schmidt Science Fellows in discussion with Manu Prakesh, Innovation Fellow and Professor at Stanford University
Schmidt Science Fellows (cont.)

• Published **138 papers** from the first two cohorts, including 10 papers in the Nature family of journals, six in Science, and four in PNAS.

• Supported fellows who have co-founded two start-ups—BigHat Biosciences and MitoLab—with seed-round funding totaling **$8.3 million**.

• Supported Mattia Serra, who has developed mathematical models for understanding complex biological and physical systems; his work has been used by the U.S. Coast Guard to uncover coherent attractors in the ocean and help direct search and rescue missions.

• Supported Hal Holmes, who discovered the utility of ultra-sound based technology during his fellowship to improve the handheld DNA screening tool he invented to help enforcement agencies ensure products are what they claim to be.

**Peyton Greenside**, a 2018 Schmidt Science Fellow, pursued a placement at Stanford University, where she applied machine learning to biological experimental design. Following her fellowship, Peyton co-founded the start up BigHat Biosciences, where she is now the Chief Scientific Officer. BigHat Biosciences, which raised **$5.3 million in seed round funding** in October 2019, aims to radically reduce the difficulty of designing antibodies and other therapeutic proteins. Its AI-first experimental platform, which integrates a high-speed wet lab with AI and Machine Learning techniques, enables drug developers to create better antibodies faster and undertake novel biotherapeutic designs far beyond what’s possible today.

**Mercy Nyamewaa Asiedu**, a 2019 Schmidt Science Fellow from Ghana, is using her expertise in biomedical engineering to improve global health outcomes. As part of her PhD, she developed the Callascope, an imaging device and mobile application that allows for accessible, self-cervical cancer screening. She tested this device at Duke Medical Center and in hospitals in Ghana, receiving positive results from the majority of women who used it. She completed her fellowship at MIT, where she worked to better understand novel machine learning techniques, specifically those in deep learning applications to computer vision, for breast cancer prediction from mammograms. She is continuing her research of low-cost, ultrasound imaging to improve diagnosis and outcome predictions, in collaboration with MIT’s J-Clinic and the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Ultrasound Research and Translation (CURT).
Launched in 2019, the Innovation Fellows program supports extraordinary mid-career individuals and teams with highly experimental ideas to leverage technology to solve important societal challenges. The program provides financial support to fellows and serves as a force-multiplier for their ideas by connecting fellows with one another, as well as with funders, allies, and potential users or customers.

Some of the work the Innovation Fellows program did or supported:

- Funded **20 individuals and teams** working on a range of issues, from reducing the word gap between children from rich and poor households to transforming tools to improve U.S. cybersecurity to developing low-cost, open-source hearing aids.

- Supported Fellow Ilan Gur, the CEO of Activate, in developing a nonprofit model that helps scientists and engineers transform their discoveries into world-changing technologies, such as sensors for detecting dangerous radioactive materials and protecting critical infrastructure from earthquakes; this model has already served as a catalyst for an additional **$70 million in federal investment** to commercialize technologies that are critical to national security.

- Supported Fellow Manu Prakash in developing low-cost innovations to help in the fight against COVID-19, including reusable masks, a **30-minute $5 saliva test**, and an open source ICU ventilator.

**Jennifer Erickson** focuses on applying innovation and data-driven solutions to the organ donation shortage. Her work led to groundbreaking, comprehensive reform of the organ transplant system, including new accountability standards for the U.S. Organ Procurement Organizations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services projects the reform will lead to **7,300 more life-saving transplants** every year. Experts estimate that the rule changes will **save Medicare more than $1 billion** annually through avoided dialysis. Research shows that the rule changes will also improve healthcare equity, since the system disadvantages patients of color at every stage of the process.
Taking on important public problems where systemic solutions may be available now, by creating and deploying interdisciplinary teams and institutions of exceptional people.
Responding to COVID-19

As the coronavirus pandemic spread across the globe, forcing people to shelter in place, businesses and schools to close, and millions of workers to lose their incomes and access to social services, the urgent need to deploy both talent and capital was clear.

Schmidt Futures quickly surged tens of millions of dollars into the COVID-19 response. Our work focused on building better tools and therapeutic candidates, faster; scaling more and better information to drive smarter behavior; helping both families and institutions to recover; and reimagining how society could build back better and more equitably.

Some of the work we did or supported:

- Created promising therapeutic candidates for COVID-19 at the Mayo Clinic, Oxford, and the University of Washington, and treated **85,000 patients** with convalescent plasma therapy at the Mayo Clinic.

- Helped more than **300,000 healthcare workers**, **850,000 patients**, and **3 million families** in the first few months of the COVID-19 response alone—for example, through open-source medical supplies, acquisition and distribution of more than 40 million units of personal protective equipment, EdX’s online ventilator training by doctors for doctors and other medical professionals, and a Families and Workers Fund that unlocked more than **$100 million in direct relief** to people excluded from the social safety net and facilitated zero-interest bridge loans to small businesses through the Mission Asset Fund.

- Built COVID-19 data dashboards and customizable decision simulators that more than **20 states** and many counties actively use in their work, a website that more than **1 million people** are accessing directly, and an active API via COVID Act Now.

- Supported a working group with the World Health Organization and pharmaceutical manufacturers on accelerating vaccine delivery, as well as an ad hoc philanthropic coordinating group with more than 30 participants.
Responding to COVID-19 (cont.)

• Funded research undertaken by 78 researchers from 47 institutions around the world that examines how trust, leadership, and political culture have impacted the COVID-19 response in **23 nations on six continents**.

• Created Health Security Net, a searchable database that includes more than **1,200 expert reports** and testimonies on pandemic preparedness issued globally over the past 25 years, developed by Georgetown University’s Center for Global Health Science and Security.

• Hosted a Futures Forum on Preparedness with nearly **3,000 participants** from 99 countries across all seven continents, which convened global health, science, and policy leaders to better prepare for future pandemics and announce the launch of working groups and a challenge opportunity to turn the insights from the forum into action.

• Advanced **20+ recommendations** through the Reimagine New York Commission, chaired by Eric Schmidt, which resulted in Governor Andrew Cuomo establishing a first-in-the-nation mandate for internet providers to offer affordable services to low-income households, the most comprehensive telehealth reforms in the nation to expand access to physical and mental care, and a Pathways Pledge signed at launch by 16 New York employers to build more inclusive workforces, through training and other support.

• Launched a worldwide Reimagine Challenge, backed by scholarship prizes, for post-secondary students to share their own ideas for how to help society respond and recover, along with a podcast, “Reimagine with Eric Schmidt,” whose first season featured global leaders exploring how we build back better after COVID-19.

**David Baker** is the director of the Institute for Protein Design at the University of Washington. He was awarded the 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. As recently previewed in *The New York Times*, the Baker Lab uses computational tools and deep-learning algorithms to design miniprotein binders, demonstrating significant progress in creating a self-administered antiviral nasal spray or therapeutic injection to protect people from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Schmidt Futures has given four grants to the Baker Lab—one for research on designing catalysts and 3D structures, one for improving the Rosetta Software, and two for designing, improving, and testing of novel antiviral minibinders for COVID-19.
Creating Economic Opportunity and Shared Prosperity

The American Dream is built on lifting people out of poverty toward a better future, yet middle-income jobs have disappeared and real wages have been declining for decades. While talent is equally distributed throughout the United States, opportunity is not.

We support efforts both nationally and regionally. Only a small share of philanthropic and investment capital flows off the coasts and into the American heartland. State universities in four states—Arizona, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin—won a competition to join and develop the Alliance for the American Dream, which challenges teams to propose the most innovative ways to increase the net income of 10,000 local families by 10% in only a few years.

$250 million
relieved in debt through Upsolve

$11 million
in wage gains through Merit America

Alliance for the American Dream finalists from Arizona State University
Creating Economic Opportunity and Shared Prosperity (cont.)

Our work with the Alliance—and to create economic opportunity more broadly—is interdisciplinary, grounded in data, and supportive of diverse talent.

Some of the work we did or supported:

- Catalyzed more than 300 ideas to elevate the middle class through the Alliance for the American Dream, investing $10 million across five winners in Arizona, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin, and opening the door to an additional $20-25 million in funding.

- Helped 82,000 high school students in Arizona gain access to the college financial aid process through Alliance winner Project Benjamin, an AI-powered FAFSA completion chatbot, maintaining the state’s FAFSA completion rate during the pandemic, while other states saw a 6% drop.

- Expunged 144,000 criminal records from marijuana convictions in California through Clear My Record, an organization that we were first to support.

- Drove over $11 million in wage gains for American workers in 2020, with the potential to scale tenfold in the next two years, through Merit America.

- Connected more than 20,000 families and 23,000 incarcerated people through Ameelio, a nonprofit disrupting a billion dollar industry by enabling free communication for incarcerated individuals and their loved ones.

- Helped 1 million low-income defendants stay out of jail across 27 states in 2020 through Uptrust.

Rohan Pavuluri is the co-founder of Upsolve, a nonprofit that helps Americans file bankruptcy for free. The online tool generates Chapter 7 bankruptcy forms, relieves debt, and provides education and community. Since Schmidt Futures provided Upsolve’s first check, the tool has relieved more than $250 million of debt for low-income Americans. Upsolve was named one of TIME’s Best Inventions of 2020.
Improving Education Access and Quality

While educating the next generation is the biggest lever we have to make an impact on the world, we’ve made little progress over the last 50 years in our understanding of how people learn. Learning science research is too slow, small scale, and data-poor compared to other fields.

The Learning Engineering program aims to improve our fundamental understanding of how people learn and how we can customize teaching to increase student outcomes globally. The program recruits top computer science talent, creates partnerships between university researchers and owners of digital platforms, and scales the lessons from those partnerships to reach a growing number of students.

Some of the work we did or supported:

- Developed partnerships with six major education technology platforms—serving more than 10 million students—that have found key insights into how students learn; for example, Neil Heffernan and ASSISTments have shown that crowdsourcing hints from teachers has a statistically significant positive effect on student outcomes.

- Surged new talent into the learning engineering space with an active community of more than 1,000 teachers, researchers, large-scale platform executives, and students.
Improving Education Access and Quality (cont.)

- Hosted a Futures Forum on Learning with more than 1,000 participants globally and organized a Tools Competition that resulted in nearly 900 submissions from 30 countries to accelerate recovery from COVID-19 learning losses.

- Launched an undergraduate fellowship at UC-Berkeley to target top technical talent and a postdoctoral program at Carnegie Mellon University to place researchers in university-industry collaborations.

- Trained 300 new teachers in 2020 in six states through Reach University, using a hybrid online and in-person learning model, which plans to scale to 6,000 new teachers in 2021.

Heejae Lim is the founder of TalkingPoints, a nonprofit using technology to engage and communicate with the families of multilingual students. Schmidt Futures made an early investment to help TalkingPoints scale as more students moved to online learning amidst the pandemic. Since March 2020, Heejae has expanded TalkingPoints’ reach from 500,000 to over 3 million users. In that same time, the platform served more than 100 million conversations, half of which were in a language other than English. 96% of teachers on the platform say that TalkingPoints has been helpful in improving student behaviors, engagement, homework, and attendance, and more than 85% of participating parents say they are now talking more with their children about school, which research shows can drive improved student outcomes.
Creating Virtual Institutes of Science

Schmidt Futures supports a number of “virtual institutes” of science that bring investigators from different institutions together virtually to solve important problems. Our first virtual institute is in earth science.

Climate models are difficult to build and run, often resulting in predictions with degrees of misalignment. At the same time, cutting edge research is siloed in different institutions, slowing exchanges that can revolutionize advancements in climate modeling. This has ultimately led to a recurring lack of credible guidance on a range of critical issues, such as our gas emission habits.

Our virtual institute in earth science is a distributed research center seeking to radically improve the credibility of climate predictions. The institute provides sustained funding and embedded technical expertise to transformational research pertaining to climate change, focusing on areas of climate research primed to take advantage of the current, rapid evolution of computational technology and observing platforms.

Some of the work we did or supported:

• Stood up the Scale-Aware Sea Ice Project (SASIP), which aims to develop a truly innovative, scale-aware continuum sea ice model for climate research, which will give a better understanding of the impact of amplified warming in polar regions.

• Jump-started the Multiscale Machine Learning In Coupled Earth System Modeling project, which will use scientific machine learning to improve climate projections and reduce climate model errors, especially at the air-sea interface.

• Supported LEMONTREE, an effort that will develop a next-generation model of the terrestrial biosphere and its interactions with the carbon cycle, water cycle, and climate.

• Created DataWave, which will open up access to a potentially transformational novel dataset to better understand gravitational waves in the atmosphere and use machine learning to develop accurate and useful representations of gravitational wave momentum.

• Ensured the uninterrupted Keeling Curve measurements of global atmospheric carbon dioxide, which have been recorded daily at Hawaii’s Mauna Loa Observatory since 1958.
Advancing the data, systems, equipment, and other structures needed to scale the highest-risk, highest-return ideas and R&D efforts significantly, for public benefit
A new era of scientific research is underway, where the powers of machine learning, robotics, artificial intelligence, and other key computing techniques permit more ambitious studies and better results. We can now collapse the classic, serial process of the scientific method into a fundamentally parallel process with experimentation occurring in continuous loops—and, in so doing, take on $100 million of scientific risk with $10 million of investment.

Launched in 2018, the AI Accelerator has the potential to transform the way science is done, kickstart funding markets in government and business, and improve lives at scale for much less money than has ever been possible before. We support projects that use AI to advance research in topics ranging from the architecture of the human brain to climate science to chemical discovery.

Some of the work we did or supported:

- Built an Earth system model, through Climate Modeling Alliance (CliMA), that harnesses more data than ever before to provide a new level of accuracy to predictions of droughts, heat waves, and rainfall extremes.

- Helped CliMA grow its team to over 70 scientists and engineers and leverage additional funding from sources such as the National Science Foundation, NASA, and MIT.

- Developed an open-source platform, through Entos Envision, that advances chemical research and education, lowering the barrier to entry for research in industries ranging from medicine and pharmaceuticals to the manufacturing of plastics, polymers, and chemicals.
This report shares only a few examples of our current work. For instance, we’ve also launched programs that support rising leaders in global affairs, through our International Strategy Forum, and technologists seeking to serve the U.S. Department of Defense and armed services on a rotational or permanent basis through our Center for Digital Talent.

Throughout the year, we will launch various “Calls for Ideas” and will host competitions to find and support exceptional talent making the world better in one of our three types of efforts—creating the best, largest, and most persistent pipeline of exceptional talent globally and matching it to opportunity to serve others for life; taking on important public problems where systemic solutions may be available now, by creating and deploying interdisciplinary teams and institutions of exceptional people; and advancing the data, systems, equipment, and other structures needed to scale the highest-risk, highest-return ideas and R&D efforts significantly, for public benefit. We accept proposals through these competitive mechanisms and otherwise by invitation.

To read more about our work to date and our plans for 2021, please read our 2020 year-end annual letter.

For the most up to date information about Schmidt Futures, including general policies and practices for working with partners, please visit our website or contact us.