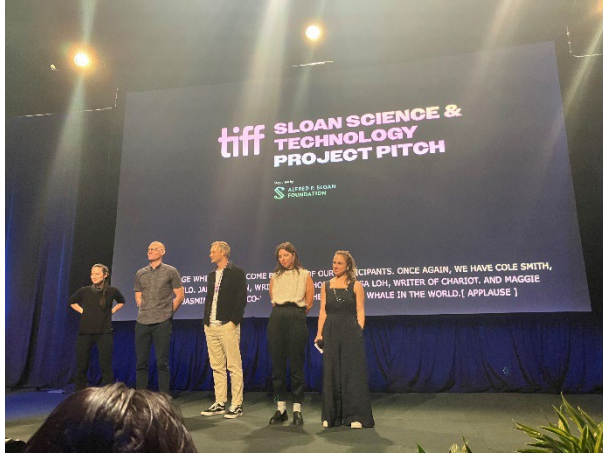




Quarterly Highlights

FILM

Sloan Inaugurates New Partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)



Pitch Forum: Sloan kicked off the first year of its new partnership with TIFF, the largest public international film festival in the world, on September 10 with the [Sloan Science and Technology Pitch Forum](#). Four screenwriters with draft screenplays pitched their film project at a special Industry Conference in front of a panel of leading producers and film executives who provided feedback. [This year's selected participants](#) included Cole Smith for his project "Silo" about a young Air Force airman at a nuclear missile site; Alyssa Loh for "Chariot" about a scientist's and Native

American village's partnership to prevent government plans to use nuclear weapons on the Alaskan coastline; James Brown for "Author A" about an author who uses an AI algorithm to complete her novel; and Jasmin Tenucci and Maggie Briggs for "The Smallest Whale in the World," an off-beat comedy that follows a marine biologist seeking an elusive whale in an obscure town. The Pitch Forum was hosted by comedian Carolyn Taylor with panelists Zahra Phillips of Searchlight Pictures; Dylan Leiner of Sony Pictures Classics; Laurel Charnetsky of NEON; Matt Code of Wildling Pictures; and Dan Berger of Oscilloscope Laboratories.

Sloan Showcase Screening: On September 12, TIFF hosted a Sloan Showcase that featured a Festival screening of [Fitting In](#) by [Molly McGlynn](#), a coming-of-age comedy drama about a teenage girl diagnosed with the rare reproductive condition Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome. The screening was followed by a Q&A with the writer/director and [Dr. Greta Bauer](#), Professor and Director of the Eli Coleman Institute for Sexual and Gender Health at University of Minnesota Medical School. *Fitting In* is scheduled to be released in limited cinemas on November 10. The Sloan/TIFF partnership also awards a \$35,000 Writers Fellowship that includes year-round creative support, to be awarded in early 2024. Sloan programming at TIFF is supported by a 2023 grant.





David France's COVID-19 Vaccine Film *How to Survive a Pandemic* Wins Emmy Award

[How to Survive a Pandemic](#) by Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker David France (*How to Survive a Plague*, *Welcome to Chechnya*) [won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Science and Technology Documentary in October](#). Shot across five continents, the film chronicles the development and rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and features leading figures in the global science community, such as director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci, co-developer of the Moderna vaccine Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, and director-general of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The documentary, which premiered in March 2022, received positive reviews in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [The Hollywood Reporter](#) and [Variety](#), among others. The film received a Sloan grant in 2021 and is [available to stream on HBOMax](#).



Christopher Nolan's Film Based on Pulitzer Prize-winning Sloan Book is a Hit



[Oppenheimer](#), a film by Academy Award-winning director Christopher Nolan (*Interstellar*, *Inception*, *The Dark Knight*), was released on July 21. The film is based on the Sloan-supported, Pulitzer Prize-winning book [American Prometheus](#) by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, which tells the life story of American theoretical physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, known as “the father of the atomic bomb” for his role in the Manhattan Project. Award-winning Irish actor Cillian Murphy stars in the title role and a long list of distinguished actors also appear, including Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, and many others. The film has become the highest-grossing biopic of all time and has received rave reviews in [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [The New Yorker](#), with a 93% rating on [Rotten Tomatoes](#). Experts have also praised the film for its historical and scientific accuracy, with positive reviews in Scientific American's podcast [“Science, Quickly”](#) and [Physics World](#).



Academy Museum to Host Science Series: “Beware the Elements! Natural Disasters on Film”



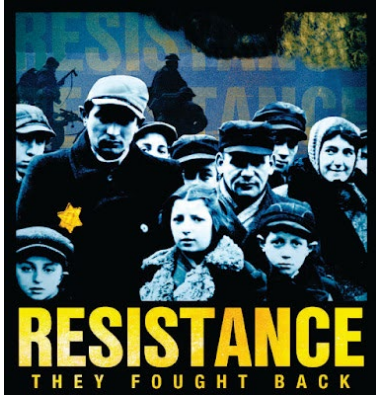
[The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures](#), the largest institution in the United States devoted to the art, science, and artists of moviemaking, is set to host a special Sloan-supported series of screenings that will highlight the disaster film genre as a source of entertainment and an example of the popular portrayal of science. Titled “Beware the Elements! Natural Disasters on Film,” the series will unfold in January, kicking off on January 4, 2024 with *Twister*, about a retired storm chaser with a device to analyze tornadoes during a destructive season in Oklahoma. Other featured films include *Volcano*, about a geologist who tries to convince Los Angeles officials of an impending volcanic eruption; *Avalanche*, about a ski resort on the side of a

mountain; *Earthquake*, about a seismologist who develops a method for predicting earthquakes; *The Wave*, a Norwegian film about a geologist who correctly predicts a catastrophic tsunami; *Deluge*, about a man tasked with repairing civilization after a series of earthquakes; *The Day After Tomorrow*, about a paleoclimatologist’s quest to convince UN leaders that global warming will lead to another ice age; *Deep Impact*, about a seven-mile-wide comet hurtling toward Earth; *When Time Ran Out*, about the survivors of a volcanic eruption; *San Andreas*, about a seismologist’s prediction of a massive earthquake in Los Angeles; *Ashfall*, a Korean film about a professor who teams up with a spy to prevent a volcanic eruption; and *The Swarm*, about an invasion of killer bees. Programming at the Academy Museum is supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.





Sloan Documentary about Jewish Resistance During Holocaust to Premiere

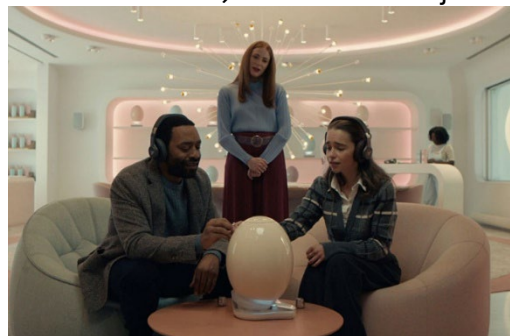


[Resistance: They Fought Back](#) by award-winning former executive producer of NOVA Paula Apsell and director Kirk Wolfinger will premiere worldwide at the Boston Jewish Film Festival on November 2. The premiere will be followed by a conversation with the directors and Holocaust scholar, Professor Michael Berenbaum of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles. The feature-length documentary tells the largely unknown stories of the 60 armed rebellions by Jews confined in ghettos, concentration camps and slave labor camps as well as the campaigns of non-violent resistance against the Nazis during World War II in Poland, Lithuania,

Latvia, Israel, and the US. Using geoscience, a rigorous and noninvasive (non-digging) field of archaeology informed by geology, geography, physics, soil science, and statistics, and deploying techniques such as LIDAR, Ground Penetrating Radar and Electrical Resistivity Tomography, the film reveals that science is a crucial tool in contributing new information to the limited knowledge of armed and unarmed resistance during the Holocaust. *Resistance* was featured in an article in [The Boston Globe](#). After screenings at the Miami and Boca Raton Jewish Film Festivals, the film is expected to be released in theaters across 25 cities. The film was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

The Pod Generation Released in Theaters

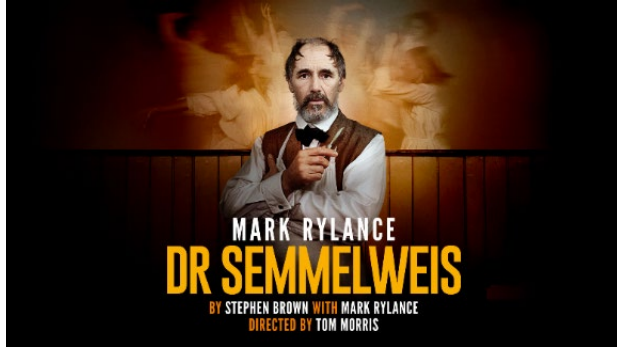
[The Pod Generation](#), recipient of the Sloan Feature Film Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, was released in limited cinemas on August 11. The narrative feature film, directed and written by Sophie Barthes and starring Emilia Clarke (*Game of Thrones*) and Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a Slave*), is about a couple that uses an artificial womb to conceive their first child. In anticipation of the release, the Sundance Institute hosted a free special screening of the film in Park City, Utah on July 27. *The Pod Generation* has received positive press in [The New York Times](#), [Variety](#) and [The Hollywood Reporter](#), among others. The Sloan Feature Film Prize is supported by a 2021 grant to the Sundance Institute.





THEATER

Oscar Winner Mark Rylance Play on Handwashing Pioneer Has Successful Run in the U.K.



[Dr. Semmelweis](#), a Sloan-commissioned play about Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, opened at The Harold Pinter Theatre in the West End in the United Kingdom on June 29. The play, starring Academy Award winning actor Mark Rylance (*Bridge of Spies*, *Don't Look Up*) and co-written by Rylance and Stephen Brown, follows Semmelweis as he discovers, while working in a maternity ward in Vienna, that handwashing by physicians can save lives,

but encounters fierce opposition from the medical community. The theatre also hosted a special performance on September 29 exclusively for schools, which included a post-show talk with members of the cast. The play received outstanding reviews in [The Guardian](#), [Variety](#), and [London Theatre](#) among others. The play originally opened in 2022 at the Bristol Old Vic Theater. The writing of *Dr. Semmelweis* was supported by a 2017 Sloan grant and the production was supported by a 2022 Sloan grant to the National Theatre in London.

Live Readings for 3 New Sloan Plays Featured at the American Museum of Natural History

[Excerpts from three new science plays](#) commissioned through [Sloan's partnership with the Manhattan Theatre Club \(MTC\)](#) were featured at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) on October 16. The selected plays were *The Astronomers* by Dylan Guerra about astrophysicist Frank Drake at the Arecibo Observatory, *Mass Extinction!* by Jessica Huang about a retired geological engineer's obsession with Georges Cuvier's work proving the theory of extinction, and *Counterclockwise* by Caroline V. McGraw, about a nurse who seeks prosthetic

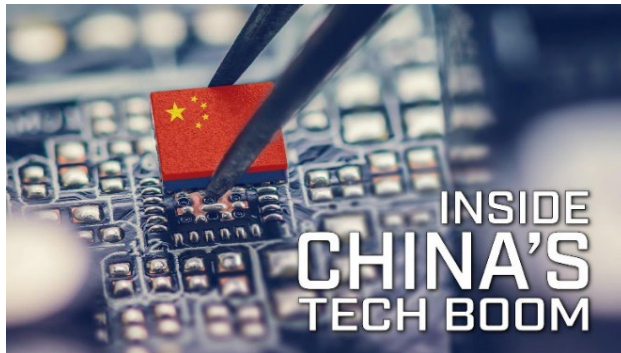


technology after losing her arm. After the plays' reading, the playwrights were joined for a discussion moderated by Museum Curator and MTC/Sloan Committee member Dr. Ruth Angus of the Department of Astrophysics with Dr. Jackie Faherty, Senior Scientist in the Department of Astrophysics at AMNH; Dr. Ross MacPhee, Curator Emeritus at the Museum's Department of Mammalogy; and Rohit Bose, a graduate student at the University of Pittsburg's Rehab Neural Engineering Lab. The event was supported by a 2021 grant to MTC to commission, develop, and produce new plays with science and technology themes.



TELEVISION

Inside China's Tech Boom to Premiere on NOVA



[*Inside China's Tech Boom*](#), a one-hour NOVA documentary about China's meteoric rise to the forefront of global innovation, will premiere on PBS on November 8. The key story in the film will focus on Huawei, one of the largest corporate investors in research and development, and its quest to lead the development of a new global internet based on 5G technology. Featuring both Chinese and Western experts, the film will explore

China's manufacturing infrastructure, the country's top-down approach, the factors that drive their bid for technological supremacy, and the implications for the world. In partnership with the Asia Society, NOVA will host a special screening on November 14 followed by a panel discussion moderated by NOVA producer Chris Schmidt with filmmaker David Borenstein, tech reporter Kaiser Kuo, and Consulting Editor of Tech Buzz China Rui Ma. The documentary will be accompanied by several educational resources distributed on PBS LearningMedia. The film will also be available for streaming on the PBS website and [NOVA's YouTube Channel](#). *Inside China's Tech Boom* was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.

RADIO

Sloan Podcast *Dances with Robots* Premieres

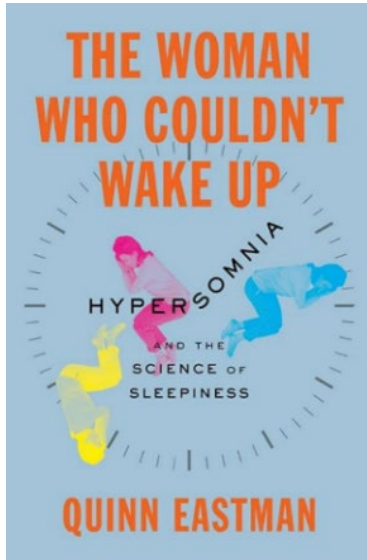
The first episode of *Dances with Robots*, a Sloan supported podcast that investigates robotics technology through the lens of choreography, was released on November 14. Presented by the Conference for Research on Choreographic Interfaces (CRCI) at Brown University and hosted by CRCI Founding Producer and Deputy Dean at Brown Sydney Skybetter, the podcast aims to arm the public with the language to discuss emerging surveillance technology and provide an interdisciplinary lens to redirect attention to the scientists, artists, and community organizers who advocate for privacy and data protections. In each of the thirteen hour-long episodes, Skybetter will engage with experts from different fields to discuss the processes behind the creation of complex human/robot interfaces, the ethical concerns that stem from them, and the creative and destructive potential of these technologies. *Dances with Robots* was supported by a 2022 Sloan grant.





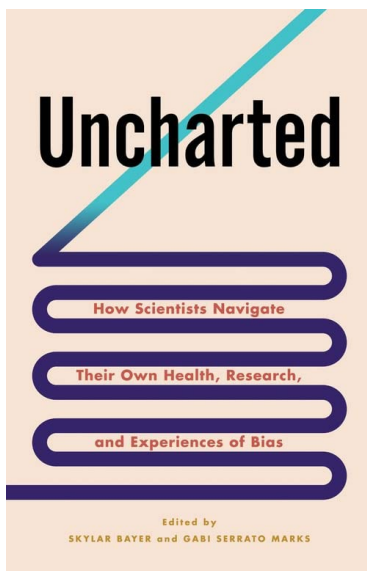
BOOKS

The Woman Who Couldn't Wake Up: Hypersomnia and the Science of Sleepiness by Quinn Eastman Published August 1



[*The Woman Who Couldn't Wake Up: Hypersomnia and the Science of Sleepiness*](#) by biochemist and journalist Quinn Eastman was published on August 1. The book follows Anna, a young lawyer who could sleep for thirty to fifty hours at a stretch due to her idiopathic hypersomnia and whose condition perplexed doctors for years. Eastman explores the science of sleepiness, including the latest research searching for the causes and neurochemicals involved in sleep. He foregrounds the experiences of people with conditions similar to Anna's and suggests that an investigation of idiopathic hypersomnia may unlock new understandings of how sleep is regulated and controlled. The book was listed on Columbia University Press Blog's ["Ten Must-Read Science Books for Summer 2023"](#) and Eastman was [featured on Lit Hub's YouTube channel "Keen On."](#) The *Woman Who Couldn't Wake Up* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

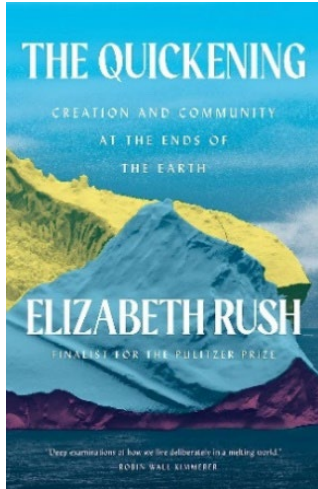
Uncharted: How Scientists Navigate Their Own Health, Research, and Experiences of Bias by Skylar Bayer Published August 8



[*Uncharted: How Scientists Navigate Their Own Health, Research, and Experiences of Bias*](#) by marine ecologist and science communicator Skylar Bayer was published on August 8. *Uncharted* is a collection of essays by current and former scientists who are blind, d/Deaf, neurodivergent, wheelchair users, have experienced traumatic brain injuries, have blood sugar disorders, have rare medical diagnoses, or have received psychiatric diagnoses, among many others. These first-person accounts describe the isolation and ableism experienced by people with disabilities in academia, as well as the joys, sorrows, humor, and wonder of science and scientists. The book received a positive review in [Inside Higher Ed](#). *Uncharted* was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.

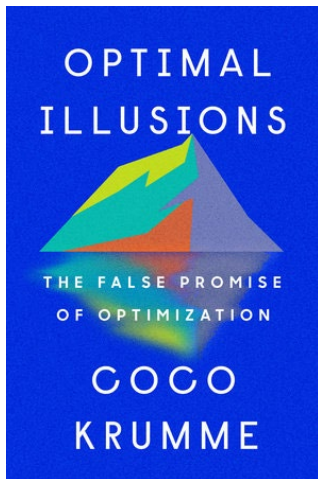


***The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth* by Elizabeth Rush
Published August 15**



[*The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth*](#) by science writer and Brown University Professor Elizabeth Rush was published on August 15. The book tells the story of 57 scientists and crew who set out to visit and learn about Thwaites Glacier, an Antarctic glacier believed to be rapidly deteriorating with the potential of a catastrophic impact on sea levels. Rush documents the group's voyage, including their long hours in the lab, the unbearable conditions of Antarctica, and the challenging work of imagining a better future as climate change alters our daily lives. The book received positive reviews on [NPR](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), and [Scientific American](#), among others. *The Quickening* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

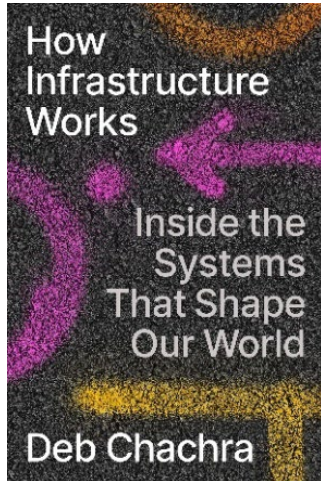
***Optimal Illusions: The False Promise of Optimization* by Coco Krumme
Published September 12**



[*Optimal Illusions: The False Promise of Optimization*](#) by mathematician Coco Krumme was published on September 12. The book explores the overemphasis on efficiency in the modern world, from manufacturing and airline schedules to dating site matches and transportation. Beginning with the fascinating history of optimization from its roots in America's founding principles, Krumme argues that streamlined systems are not only less resilient and more at risk of failure, but they also narrow our perspectives and have resulted in a society that can feel profoundly inhumane. The book received positive reviews in [Science](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#), among others, and was featured in ["The Next Big Idea Club's September 2023 Must-Read Books."](#) *Optimal Illusions* was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.

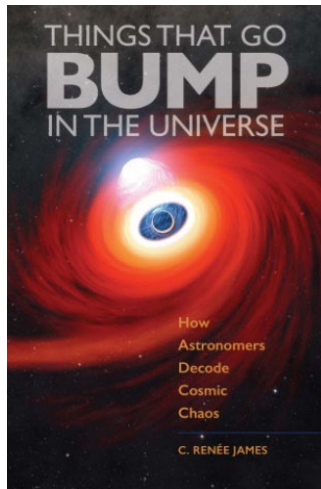


***How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World* by Deb Chachra**
Published October 17



[How Infrastructure Works: Inside the Systems That Shape Our World](#) by engineer and materials scientist Deb Chachra was published on October 17. The book provides a fascinating tour of essential facilities such as reservoirs, sewers, cables and pipes to reveal how they work and how essential they are to day-to-day life. Chachra also maps out a path for rebuilding infrastructure to be functional, equitable, and sustainable as these systems suffer from systemic neglect and the effects of climate change. The book received a positive review from [The Washington Post](#) and [Next Big Idea Club](#), among others, and was featured in Publishers Weekly "[10 Noteworthy Nonfiction Debuts, Fall 2023.](#)" *How Infrastructure Works* was supported by a 2020 Sloan grant.

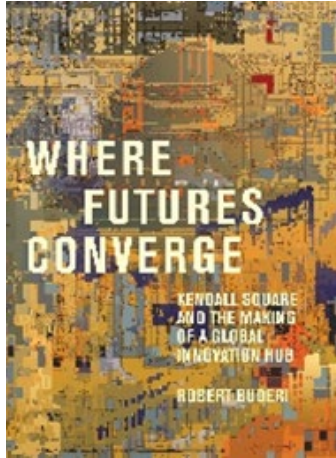
***Things That Go Bump in the Universe: How Astronomers Decode Cosmic Chaos* by C. Renee James**
to be Published November 14



[Things That Go Bump in the Universe: How Astronomers Decode Cosmic Chaos](#) by astronomer and science writer C. Renee James will be published on November 14. James introduces readers to her colleagues around the world who are using revolutionary techniques to examine everything from the Big Bang to dark energy. The book captures the drama of a wild, violent cosmos by exploring the incredible discoveries being made in the field, the tools used to detect cosmic events, and the astronomical mysteries that have yet to be solved. *Things That Go Bump in the Universe* was supported by a 2021 Sloan grant.



***Where Futures Converge: Kendall Square and the Making of a Global Innovation Hub* by Robert Buderer Wins 2023 New England Society Book Award**



Where Futures Converge: Kendall Square and the Making of a Global Innovation Hub by author and journalist Robert Buderer was [selected as the 2023 New England Society Book Award winner in the Contemporary Nonfiction category](#). An award ceremony was held on September 14 at the National Arts Club in Gramercy. Published in May 2022, the book tells the history of Kendall Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which hosts life science hubs such as Biogen, Moderna, and Pfizer. Buderer uses his own experience working in Kendall Square to tell fascinating stories of great innovation stretching back two centuries and speculates about the next big pioneering enterprise. Excerpts and supplemental pieces by Buderer have been published in [Salon](#) and [The Boston Globe](#). *Where Futures Converge* received a 2020 Sloan grant to support the research and writing of this book.

NEW MEDIA

New York Academy of Medicine Hosts Opera about Ignaz Semmelweis



[Semmelweis](#), an opera inspired by the tragic story of pioneer obstetrician Ignaz Semmelweis, will premiere in the US on December 5 in New York City. Composed by the Brooklyn-based American Opera Project, the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) will host a special performance that explores the story of Dr. Semmelweis and how it is related to public health today. The 45-minute opera will be followed by a discussion with the composer Ray Lustig and NYAM Senior Scholar-in-Residence Dr.

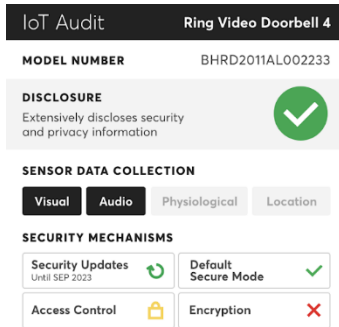
Elaine Larson about the development of the opera and the impact of Semmelweis' work. The performance was supported by a 2023 Sloan grant.



SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Consumer Reports and White House Announce National Labeling System for Connected Products

On July 18 the White House hosted an event for [the official launch of a national labeling system for consumer connected devices](#), with Consumer Reports



among the organizations on hand for the announcement. The labelling system, developed by Consumer Reports with Sloan support, will create a framework for mandatory and standard disclosures including how a device collects data, how that data can be used and by whom, and how the product compares to other options. This launch is part of Consumer Reports’ cybersecurity initiative to improve the security and privacy of home devices and promote transparency and accountability from companies. The initiative is supported by a 2022 Sloan grant.

Program Team: Doron Weber, *Vice President and Program Director* | Shriya Bhindwale, *Program Associate* | Delia DiBiasi, *Senior Program and Investments Assistant*