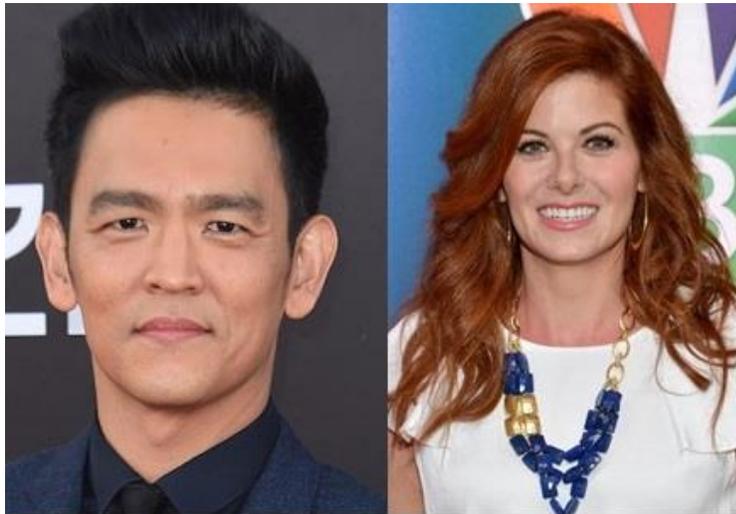




FILM

Search Wins 2018 Sundance Sloan Feature Film Prize



Search, directed by Aneesh Chaganty and starring John Cho and Debra Messing (pictured at left), was chosen as the 2018 Sundance Sloan Feature Film Prize winner. The film tells the story of a father whose 16-year-old daughter goes missing. The thriller unfolds entirely on computer screens and follows the protagonist as he hacks into his daughter’s laptop, cell phone, and social media accounts looking for clues to find her. The jury chose the film for “its gripping and original interrogation of our evolving relationship with technology and how it mediates

every other relationship in our lives, both positively and negatively, and for its rigorous formal experimentation with narrative.” This year’s jury included actress Kerry Bishé (*Halt and Catch Fire*), producer Nancy Buirski (*Loving*), cancer biologist Robert Benezra, and neuroscientist Heather Berlin. *Search* will premiere in Park City at the [2018 Sundance Film Festival](#) in January, where it will be recognized at a reception hosted by Sloan and at the Festival’s Closing Awards Ceremony.

Sloan-Developed Feature *The Catcher Was a Spy* to Premiere at Sundance Film Festival in January



[The Catcher Was a Spy](#), starring Paul Rudd, Jeff Daniels, Guy Pearce, Sienna Miller and Paul Giamatti will premiere at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Directed by Ben Lewin and produced by Jim Young (*The Man Who Knew Infinity*), the film tells the true story of Moe Berg—professional baseball player, Ivy League graduate, attorney who spoke nine languages—and a top-secret spy for the OSS who was sent to meet Werner Heisenberg during WWII and helped the U.S. win the race against Germany to build the atomic bomb. The film was the recipient of a TFI/Sloan Filmmaker Fund production award in 2015 and is the eighteenth completed feature film to come out of the Sloan development pipeline.



Sloan Hosts Successful Film Summit in Los Angeles Highlighting Women in Science



More than 125 Sloan film grantees and partners gathered in Los Angeles for the triennial [Sloan Film Summit](#), co-hosted by screenplay development partner Film Independent. The event featured three

days of panels, screenings, networking, and screenplay readings. The first day highlighted the role of women in science and film, with a screening of the Sloan-supported documentary *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, followed by a panel with actress/producer Diane Kruger and two female scientists. Forty-eight women scientists from around the world (pictured above with Sloan's Doron Weber) who participated in a State Department-sponsored leadership program called "[Hidden No More](#)," inspired by the Sloan-supported *Hidden Figures*, were special guests at the *Bombshell* screening and panel.

Other sessions included: updates from over 100 Sloan-supported filmmakers on their award-winning projects; a screening of *Marjorie Prime*, the 2017 Sloan/Sundance Feature Film Prize winner, followed by a panel on Artificial Intelligence; a keynote by acclaimed producer Lydia Pilcher, whose films include *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and the forthcoming Sloan-supported film *Radium Girls*; a discussion on Virtual Reality (VR) with VR visionary Chris Milk, whose company Within produced the Sloan-supported short VR documentary *Listening to the Universe*, about LIGO and the Nobel Prize-winning detection of gravitational waves; and a panel on STEM in TV with writers from *Halt and Catch Fire* and *Silicon Valley*.

The Academy, NASA, and Sloan Collaborate on Hidden Figures Screening and Panel



Sloan partnered with NASA and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Science and Technology Council to host a [clips screening](#) of *Hidden Figures* and [panel discussion](#) in Los Angeles last month. The conversation featured director Ted Melfi and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory engineers Tracy Drain, Powtawche Valerino, and Jennifer Trospen. Melfi offered insight into how he addressed the slights of everyday racism and bias in the film, and the engineers described how they drew inspiration from women



mathematicians in the movie. Sloan originally supported *Hidden Figures* with an early grant in 2014 to then unknown first-time author Shetterly. The book debuted at number seven on the *New York Times* bestseller list and went on to become an Oscar-nominated hit film, which won the 2016 Sloan Science in Cinema Prize presented by the San Francisco Film Society. Photo at left courtesy of A.M.P.A.S.

Sloan-Funded *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story* Opens in Theaters and Is *New York Times* Critic's Pick



The Sloan-funded documentary [*Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*](#), which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in April, opened theatrically in New York last month and was selected as a [critic's pick](#) by the *New York Times*. The film had its [theatrical premiere](#) at the Feminist Institute at Hunter College, with producer Susan Sarandon, director Alexander Dean, and Sloan's Doron Weber representing the Foundation. After debuting in New York, the film opened in Los Angeles and will qualify for 2018 Oscar consideration.

Following its theatrical run, the film will air on PBS's *American Masters* in May 2018. Sloan funded the film with a major production grant in 2015. Based on the Sloan-supported book *Hedy's Folly* by Richard Rhodes and produced by Susan

Sarandon and her company Reframed Pictures, *Bombshell* tells the little-known story of Lamarr, a major Hollywood star from the 1930s-1950s, who was also a pioneering inventor. Together with composer George Antheil, she developed a key "frequency-hopping" innovation that led to future advances like Wi-Fi and cell phones. The film features original material, including a newly discovered audio interview with Lamarr that serves as a voiceover.

Sloan-Supported *The House of Tomorrow* to Open Theatrically in April



The Sloan-developed film [*The House of Tomorrow*](#), based on the award-winning novel by Peter Bognanni, will [open theatrically](#) on April 20. The film, directed by Peter Livolsi and starring Ellen Burstyn, Maude Apatow, Nick Offerman, Asa Butterfield, and Alex Wolff, is a coming of age story about a young protagonist living in a geodesic dome with his grandmother, a passionate advocate of the architect, inventor, and futurist Buckminster Fuller, whose ideas pervade the narrative. *The House of Tomorrow* received a 2015 Tribeca Film Institute/Sloan Filmmaker Fund



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Screenplay Development Award and a 2017 Film Independent/Sloan Distribution Grant. It premiered at the San Francisco International Film Festival with a Sloan-sponsored screening and was also shown at the Museum of the Moving Image as part of a Sloan-hosted event during the World Science Festival this summer.

Review of Sloan School Film Program Shows Impact of Early-Career Awards



Sloan recently conducted an external review of its two-decades-long film school program, with an impressive 263 award winners and finalists responding to the review survey. The results reflected very favorably on the program, finding that 78% of responding graduates currently work in the entertainment media industry and 82% of the graduates report that scientific themes or elements have been featured in their work since creating their Sloan-supported projects. The final report includes positive assessments from past Sloan grantees such as Tony-nominated playwright Lucas Hnath and acclaimed

screenwriter Nicole Perlman, the first woman to write a Marvel movie, on the importance of the Sloan prizes for their future careers (both pictured above).

THEATER

Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan First Light Festival to Showcase New Science-Themed Plays



Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST) and Sloan will host [First Light Festival](#), an annual, month-long showcase of new science plays beginning February through March 2018. The Festival includes readings, workshops, and other performances, many of which are free and open to the public. This year's festival highlights include: *Nobel: A New Musical*, about inventor Alfred Nobel and Bertha von Suttner, his secretary and the first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize; *The Man In The Moon*, about the ethical quandary of rocket scientist Wernher von Braun, the only person to receive honors from both the USA and Nazi Germany; and

Citizen Scientist, about the citizen scientists who discovered the planet Kepler-64b. The EST/Sloan Mainstage



production, *Bump*, which tells the serendipitous story of the car mechanic who invented a new birthing device, will open on May 9. For two decades, the innovative EST/Sloan partnership has commissioned, developed, and produced hundreds of new plays that explore science and technology and challenge existing stereotypes of scientists and engineers.

Manhattan Theatre Club Holds Readings of Sloan-Commissioned Plays

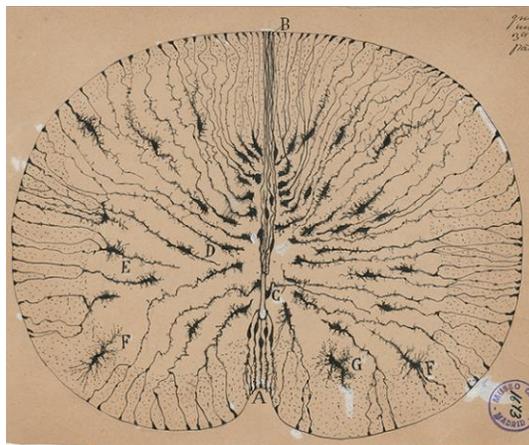


In November, Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC), Sloan's other long-time theater partner, held two readings of Sloan-commissioned plays being developed for possible New York productions in the 2018-19 season. *Mosquitoes*, by acclaimed playwright Lucy Kirkwood commissioned in 2008, had a sold-out run at the National Theatre this summer. The plot follows two sisters: Alice, a scientist living and working in Geneva, consumed by her work as a particle physicist on the Large Hadron Collider, and Jenny, in mourning from the loss of her daughter. Award-winning actresses

Laura Linney and Mary-Louise Parker (pictured above) played the lead roles at an MTC reading of the play last month. MTC also held a reading of *Continuity*, a comedy by Bess Wohl about climate change revolving around a film crew shooting in the New Mexico desert, featuring actors Megan Ketch (*American Gothic*, *The Incredible Jessica James*), Mirirai Sithole (*Master of None*), and Max Baker (*Hail, Caesar!*, *Constantine*).

NEW MEDIA

Cajal *Beautiful Brain* Exhibit at Grey Art Gallery in New York January through March



The Sloan-supported exhibition [The Beautiful Brain: The Drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal](#), will open at NYU's [Grey Art Gallery](#) on January 9. The show includes the stunning drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal, the father of modern neuroscience, and is accompanied by a catalog with 90 color illustrations and essays from scientists. The image at left is an 1899 Cajal drawing of a glial cell from the spinal cord of a mouse. The traveling exhibition was previously on view at the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota and the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery in British Columbia, and it will travel to the MIT Museum and the Ackland Art Museum at UNC Chapel Hill. Sloan

supported the exhibition and catalog with an officer grant to the University of Minnesota Foundation in 2016.



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Sloan Supports New Media Showcase at 25th Annual World Congress of Science and Factual Producers



Sloan supported the 25th annual [World Congress of Science and Factual Producers](#), an international industry event dedicated to celebrating and advancing science programming through film, television and digital media platforms. The event is the only one of its kind and brings together over 700 creators, producers, broadcasters, and platforms dedicated to science programming, including new formats and technologies such as virtual reality, 360 and online channels. This year's event took place from November 29 through December 1 in San Francisco. Sloan supported a

showcase of 10 science-themed new media works produced in the U.S., including the Sloan-supported Within VR piece "Listening to the Universe" about LIGO. Sloan's Doron Weber participated on a panel discussion in science media funding and showed clips from Sloan-supported projects *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, *Silicon Valley: The Untold Story*, and *NOVA's "Black Hole Apocalypse."*

Sloan-Funded NAS Colloquium Examines the Science of Science Communication



Sloan co-funded a [national conference](#) on science communication convened by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington, D.C. The program included sessions on Artificial Intelligence and driverless cars, media coverage of gene drive technology, and public trust in scientists (with NAS President Marcia McNutt, pictured at left). Sloan Vice President, Programs and Program Director Doron Weber participated in a panel that examined public campaigns to promote vaccination as a case study for how to improve science communication practices. The event,

one in a series of NAS colloquia, featured 56 speakers, drew 500 attendees, and was webcast live. Several other foundations supported the colloquium, including the Simons Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the Moore Foundation, the Kavli Foundation, and Burroughs Wellcome Fund.



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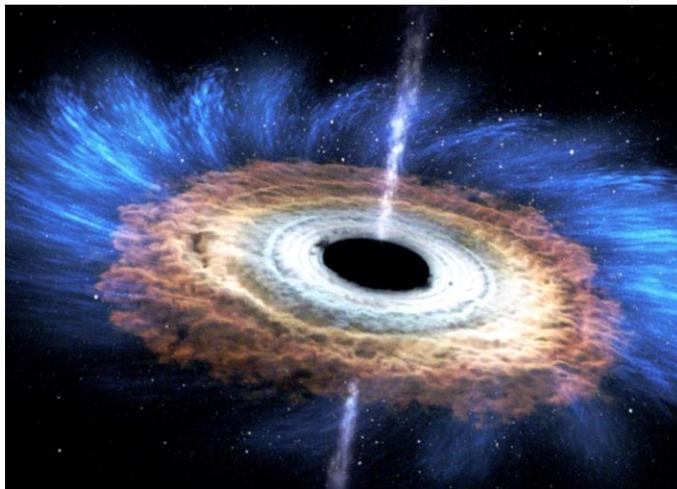
TELEVISION

Sloan-Funded *American Experience* Film “The Secret of Tuxedo Park” to Premiere on PBS January 16



The latest Sloan-funded *American Experience* film, [“The Secret of Tuxedo Park”](#) will air on PBS January 16, 2018. The film follows Wall Street tycoon and physicist Alfred Lee Loomis (1887-1975, pictured at left). During World War II, he funded and contributed to the development of radar technology that would arguably play a more decisive role than any other weapon in the war. Loomis’s story has been long overlooked, despite the fact his technologies altered the course of history. WGBH, which produces *American Experience*, is the recipient of a current grant to produce and broadcast new documentaries on the role of science and technology in history.

Sloan-Funded “Black Hole Apocalypse,” First *NOVA* Special with Female Host, to Air on January 10



“[Black Hole Apocalypse](#),” the first *NOVA* special to be hosted by a woman scientist, will air on PBS January 10, 2018. Astrophysicist and author Janna Levin, professor of physics and astronomy at Barnard College of Columbia University, will host the two-hour special, exploring the frontiers of black-hole science. The documentary includes interviews with leading researchers in the field, including many female scientists such as Andrea Ghez, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at UCLA; Priyamvada Natarajan, Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Yale University; Julia

Scharwaechter, Researcher at Paris Observatory; and Joy Nichols, Astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Sloan supported the documentary and the [accompanying app](#) with a major production grant in 2014.



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Computer History Museum to Host Launch for *Silicon Valley: The Untold Story*, Airing in January

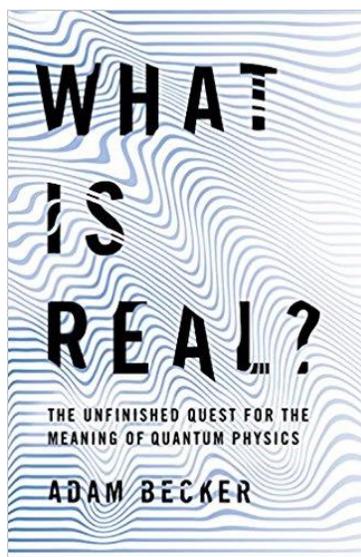


The Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California will host a launch event for [*Silicon Valley: The Untold Story*](#), a three-part Sloan-supported documentary series from the award-winning team at Kikim Media that will air in January 2018 on the [Science Channel](#). Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum, and entrepreneur Kim Polese will speak at the high-profile launch event on January 17. The three-hour film provides television's first comprehensive look at the century-and-a-half history of this unique region and its

unending stream of innovation. It includes interviews with key Valley figures such as Wozniak, Koum, and Alphabet chairman Eric Schmidt, as well as with leading scholars and historians.

BOOKS

What is Real? The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics to be Published in Early 2018



[*What is Real? The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics*](#), by science writer and physics-trained [Adam Becker](#), will be published on March 20, 2018 by Basic Books. The book focuses on the dominance of Niels Bohr's Copenhagen interpretation and how physicists historically dismissed questions about the reality underlying quantum physics. Becker argues that Bohr's students vigorously protected his legacy and that questioning the status quo in the physics community long meant professional ruin. However, from the 1920s to today, physicists such as John Bell, David Bohm, and Hugh Everett persisted in seeking the true meaning of quantum mechanics. *What Is Real?* tells the story of this battle of ideas and the scientists who stood up for truth. Becker received a Sloan grant in 2016 to support the research and writing of this book.



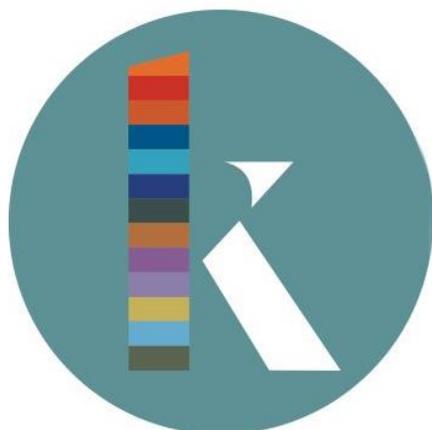
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UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Annual Reviews Launches Sloan-Supported Online Magazine *Knowable*



In October, Annual Reviews, a non-profit publisher of a respected series of multi-author reviews in 50 discipline-specific fields in science and social science, launched [Knowable](#), a new digital magazine with major support from Sloan and the Moore Foundation. *Knowable* engages a non-expert audience on topics such as technology, health, the natural world, and economics, and demonstrates the real-world significance of the research covered in Annual Reviews journals. The magazine launched with text articles, but it will soon also include video and audio features. All content is published under a CC BY-ND copyright license, and select Annual Reviews journal articles

will be free to read online via the magazine for a limited period. Annual Reviews is the recipient of a 2016 grant to publish a digital magazine that unlocks scientific research to inform the public discourse in multiple subjects with compelling, timely, and impartial knowledge.

SLOAN IN THE NEWS

Diversity in Action Magazine Highlights Sloan Support for Stories of Women and Minorities in STEM



[Diversity in Action](#), a magazine for STEM professionals and students, published a [feature](#) in the November/December issue on Sloan's efforts to promote the stories of women and under-represented minorities in STEM through the Public Understanding program. The article highlights Sloan support of projects about Hedy Lamarr, Rosalind Franklin, Marie Curie, Jane Goodall, the mathematicians of *Hidden Figures*, and many others.

Program Team: Doron Weber, *Vice President, Programs and Program Director* | Eliza French, *Program Associate* | Delia DiBiasi, *Senior Program and Investments Assistant*