



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ENTERPRISE FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION
AND KNOWLEDGE

Corporate and Foundation Engagement

***Schmidt Sciences & Coefficient Giving:
Opportunities for AI-Focused Faculty Research***

TDAI Speaker Series

March 24, 2026 · 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Foundation Engagement

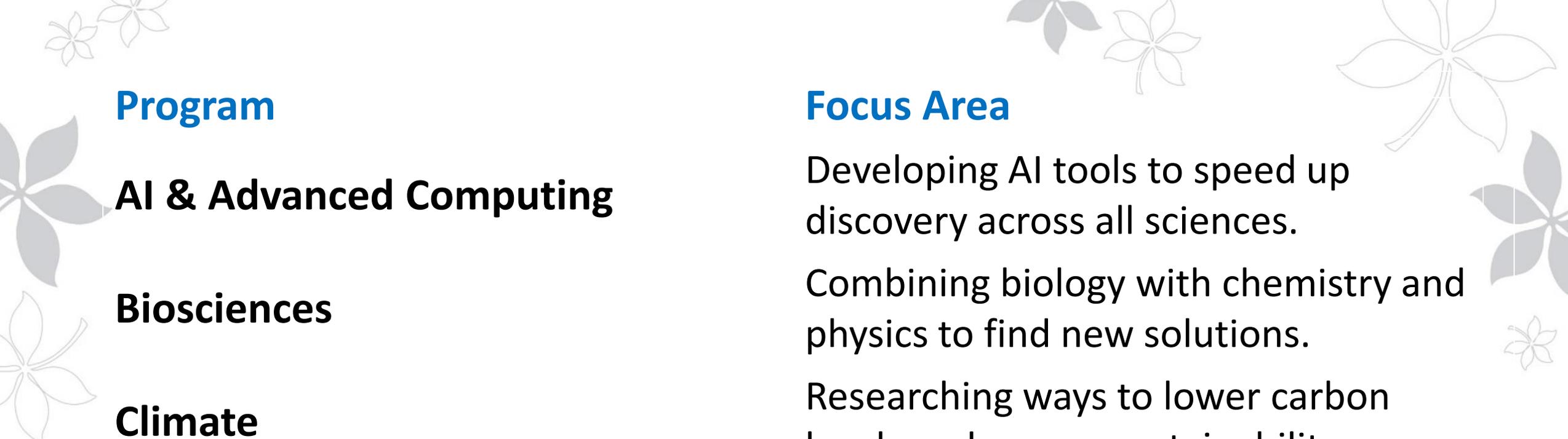
- Prospect identification: *What foundations should you be targeting for your research?*
- Strategic planning/engagement: *How can we ensure you are submitting the most competitive proposal possible?*
- Proposal development: *Does your project description align with the guidelines and priorities of the foundation?*
- Stewardship: *How can we best steward the grant awarded and who should be involved?*

Schmidt Sciences, founded in 2024, is part of the philanthropic organizations and initiatives created and funded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt, dedicated to advancing science and technology for positive global impact.

Aims:

- Accelerate ground-breaking research – prototyping, testing, and scaling of new technologies
- Elevate high-risk, under-funded work – hypotheses that wouldn't otherwise be funded
- Work across traditional academic boundaries – create networks to address specific challenges





Program

AI & Advanced Computing

Biosciences

Climate

Astrophysics & Space

Science Systems

Focus Area

Developing AI tools to speed up discovery across all sciences.

Combining biology with chemistry and physics to find new solutions.

Researching ways to lower carbon levels and ensure sustainability.

Using new technology to uncover the mysteries of the universe.

Improving the tools, people, and communities that power science.



AI & ADVANCED COMPUTING: GOALS

- To advance the science of AI to develop more robust, reliable, and safe AI-enabled systems
- To enable AI to make significant contributions to scientific challenges and opportunities
- To foster creation of research platforms – datasets, experiments, evaluations and models – that can both accelerate and measure the impacts of AI
- Contribute to the growth of a vibrant, diverse, and global scientific community





AI Agents



AI2050



Science of Trustworthy AI



AI for Actionable Matter Modeling



Humanities and AI Virtual Institute



AI at Work



Unconventional Compute



AI Interpretability



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



Schmidt Sciences

RFP: SCIENCE OF TRUSTWORTHY AI

Supports technical research that improves our ability to understand, predict, and control risks from frontier AI systems while enabling their trustworthy deployment.

Aim 1: Characterize and forecast misalignment in frontier AI systems

Aim 2: Develop generalizable measurements and interventions

Aim 3: Oversee AI systems with superhuman capabilities and address multi-agent risks

- **Amount:** Track I: Up to \$1M (1-3 years)
Track II: \$1M-\$5M+ (1-3 years) – Ambitious, field-changing
- **Due:** 05/17/2026
- **Informational Webinars:** April 15, 2026, 2pm ET. Register [here](#)



RFP: SCIENCE OF TRUSTWORTHY AI

Non-Competitive

Proposals suggest tools/benchmarks/evaluations without a credible validity argument (e.g., construct validity, predictive validity, robustness under optimization pressure)

Proposals describe vague methods (“we will explore...”) instead of concrete activities, experiments, analyses, and baseline

Proposals do not state clearly what would happen if the project succeeds, and what we learn if it fails



RFP: UNCONVENTIONAL COMPUTE

Pilot program that could lead to a significantly larger investment if meaningful progress is made. Prioritizing applications from teams with existing hardware, preliminary data, or demonstrated capabilities where additional resources would help drive towards more ambitious work.

Core Question: Is there compute hardware that can outperform GPUs (latency, energy, throughput, etc.) in a technologically important niche?

- **Amount:** Track I: \$50k - \$150k (6 - 12 months) – Preliminary experiment
Track II: \$150k – \$750k (12–18 months) – Evidence production
- **Due:** 04/30/2026
- **Informational Webinars:** April 7, 2026, 3-4pm EST. Register [here](#)



RFP: UNCONVENTIONAL COMPUTE

In-Scope

Approaches:

- Optical/photonic processing
- RF/microwave photonics and native RF-domain processing
- Resistive and mixed-signal compute
- Neuromorphic, stochastic/approximate computing

Tasks:

- Real-time video/optical preprocessing and filtering at the sensor
- High-throughput microscopy classification/triage
- Always-on embedded sensing and event detection (industrial monitoring, wearables)



RFP: UNCONVENTIONAL COMPUTE

Out of Scope

- “Interesting hardware” without a compelling use case
- Toy use cases (e.g. MNIST digit recognition task)
- Variations on GPUs
- Proposals where the primary bottleneck is chemistry/unknown materials behavior
- Biology-based compute (e.g. DNA computing)



RFP: AI for ACTIONABLE MATTER MODELING

Pilot program that could lead to a significantly larger investment if meaningful progress is made.

Core Question: Can AI help us make predictions for matter in the regimes that actually determine technological function: defects, interfaces, disorder, and dynamics at multiple length and time scales?

- **Amount:** Track I: Up to \$100k (Up to 12 months) – Preliminary Evidence
Track II: \$100k – \$500k (12–18 months) – Development of AI-driven tools
- **Due:** 04/30/2026
- **Informational Webinars:** April 7, 2026, 4pm ET. Register [here](#)



RFP: AI for ACTIONABLE MATTER MODELING

In-Scope	Out of Scope
Development of AI methods to predict non-idealities and/or multi-scale phenomena in technologically relevant materials or molecules	Acceleration of existing simulation methods without improving accuracy
Specific materials or molecular system beyond conventional underperforming simulations	Creation of datasets without a prediction method
	Creation of AI models offering speed gains but not accuracy advantage



RFP: AI INTERPRETABILITY

Pilot program that could lead to a significantly larger investment if meaningful progress is made

Core Question: Can we develop interpretability methods that (1) detect deceptive behaviors exhibited by LLMs and (2) steer their reasoning to eliminate these behaviors?

- **Amount:** \$300,000 - \$1M
- **Due:** 05/26/2026
- **Informational Webinars:** April 2, 2026, 1pm ET. Register [here](#)
April 28, 2026, 1pm ET. Register [here](#)



RFP: AI INTERPRETABILITY

In-Scope	Out of Scope
Detecting deceptive behaviors from LLMs	General SAE objectives without clear application to studying deceptive behaviors in LLMs
Steering models to improve truthfulness	Broad societal impacts that do not analyze model reasoning
Application of detection/steering methods	Capability elicitation, knowledge distillation, AI for science, general auditing

RFP: AI at WORK

Supports early career economists and other quantitative social scientists, to conduct and analyze field experiments and quasi-experiments exploring the effects of AI tools on the workplace.

Aim 1: The Impact of AI on Worker Displacement & Adjustment

Aim 2: The Impact of AI on Scientific Productivity

- **Amount:** \$200k
- **Due:** 04/10/2026 (Expression of Interest)
- **Eligibility:** Graduate students, postdocs and pre-tenure faculty
- **Office Hours:** Early April. Sign up [here](#)



RFP: AI at WORK

Program partner

Erik Brynjolfsson, Stanford Digital Economy Lab

Danielle Li, MIT

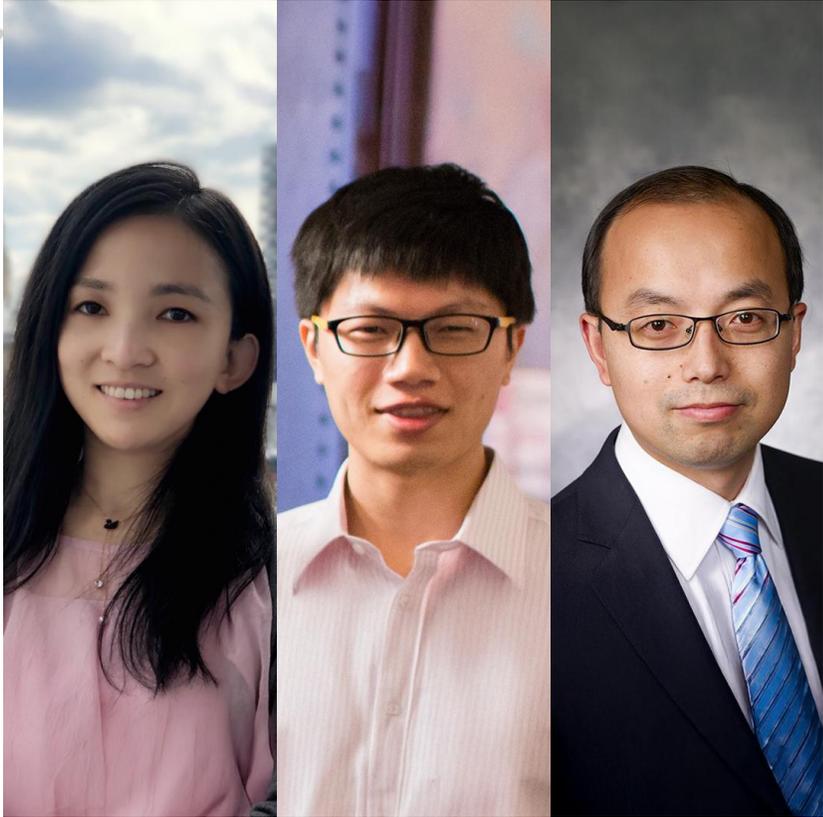
Ioana Marinescu, University of Pennsylvania

Heidi Williams, Dartmouth College

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)



OHIO STATE and AI & ADVANCED COMPUTING



Huan Sun, Yu Su, and Zhiqiang Lin received Ohio State's first research award in 2025

- RFP: SAFE-AI: Safety Assurance through Fundamental Science in Emerging AI (Science of Trustworthy AI)
- \$500,000 to develop a virtual environment for testing and defending computer-use AI agents in adversarial settings resembling the Internet and web applications



OHIO STATE and AI & ADVANCED COMPUTING

Sachin Kumar follows suit with colleague at University of Texas, Austin

- RFP: Computing's Safety in the Inference-Time Compute Paradigm
- \$92,364 to advance the safety and adaptability of large language models by enabling them to explicitly reason at inference time about instruction priorities, ensuring that system-level safety directives consistently override conflicting user requests



Coefficient Giving is a philanthropic funder and advisor, directing
over \$4 billion in grants since 2014.



Important

How many individuals are affected and how deeply



Neglected

Already receiving attention and resources



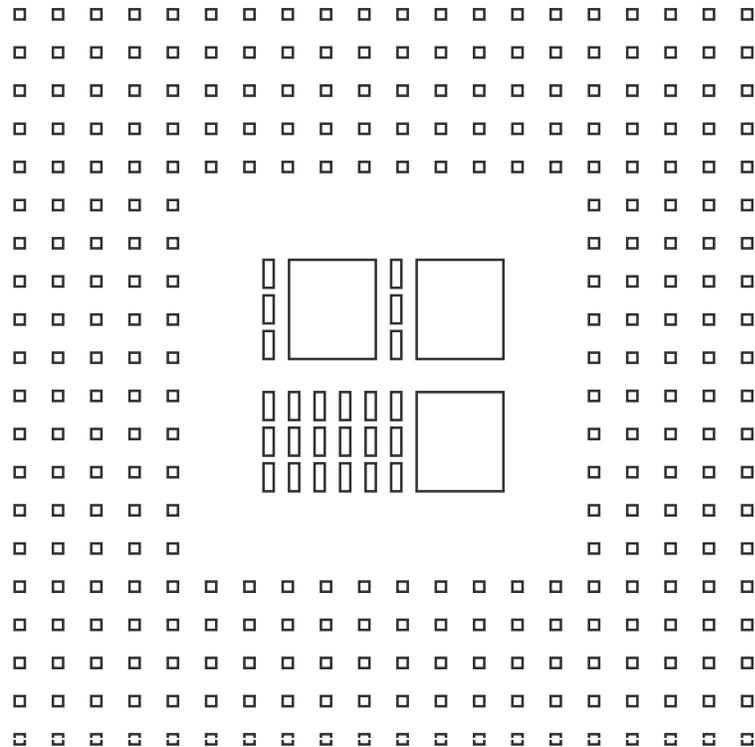
Tractable

Additional resources can drive significant progress

Launch funds using this criteria



NAVIGATING TRANSFORMATIVE AI



To reduce the risk of global catastrophe and help society prepare for major advances in AI, Coefficient Giving supports:

- ✓ **Technical AI safety** research aimed at making advanced AI systems more trustworthy, robust, controllable, and aligned
- ✓ **AI governance and policy** work to develop frameworks for safe, secure, and responsibly managed AI development
- ✓ **Capacity building** to grow and strengthen the field of researchers and practitioners working on these challenges
- ✓ **New projects**



RFP: CAPACITY BUILDING TO ADDRESS RISKS FROM TRANSFORMATIVE AI

This program is focused on capacity-building - building society's capacity to navigate these risks - work rather than "object-level" work, e.g., technical research.

Categories:

- Training & mentorship (fellowships, internships, courses, bootcamps)
- Events (conferences, seminars, hackathons, online events)
- Groups (shared location, profession, or another affinity)
- Resources, media, & communications (publications, video, podcasts)

- **Amount:** Commensurate with scope of work
- **Due:** Applications accepted on a rolling basis
- **Contact:** cb-funding@coefficientgiving.org



RFP: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSITION

Supports individuals at any career stage who want to pursue careers that could help to reduce global catastrophic risks or otherwise improve the long-term future.

Eligibility:

- Pursuing a career that is related to mitigating protentional risks posed by future advances in AI
 - Established in field, transitioning from other lines of work, or early career
 - Lack of equivalent support from other sources
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- **Amount:** Commensurate with scope of work
 - **Due:** Applications accepted on a rolling basis
 - **Contact:** careerdevelopmentfunding@coefficientgiving.org
 - [Past recipients](#)



OHIO STATE and NAVIGATING TRANSFORMATIVE AI

RFP: Technical AI Safety Research (2025)

Huan Sun and Yu Su

- \$345,223 for “Eliciting unintended behaviors in computer-use agents”
- \$295,770 for “Understanding generalization failures of transformers”



Andrew Perrault

- \$187,520 for “Measuring pro- and anti-social collusion in large language models” to study whether an LLM can collude with the model assigned to monitor it, effectively bypassing safeguards designed to keep them honest



SCARLET & GRANTS

Scarlet and Grants is an internal database that includes 800+ private funding opportunities, curated and managed by Corporate and Foundation Engagement

- Our objective is to keep this database as up-to-date as possible, focusing on opportunities with funder deadlines in the upcoming **three months**.
- Half of the opportunities represent awards of at least \$200,000.
- Using this [LINK](#) you can use your name.# to login to Scarlet and Grants



Questions

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The Ohio State University

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<https://foundationengagement.osu.edu/>