

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Science and Technology Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**President Donald J. Trump Announces
President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology**

Today, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) launching the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and announced the first wave of seven members. Dr. Kelvin K. Droegemeier, Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, will Chair the Council, with Edward McGinnis serving as the PCAST Executive Director. PCAST will include 16 total members in addition to the Chair of the Council.

PCAST is a presidential-level advisory council of the Nation's science and technology leaders from the private sector and academic communities who will provide advice about science, technology, and innovation on topics critical to the Nation's security and economy, and the health and welfare of the American people. Among other areas, the Council will provide policy recommendations on strengthening American leadership in science and technology, building the Workforce of the Future, and supporting foundational research and development across the country.

"Under this Administration, science and technology in America continues to advance by leaps and bounds. PCAST will be critical to our continued efforts, with each member bringing a unique expert perspective to the table. By convening a diverse group of our Nation's foremost leaders across a broad range of fields, we can leverage the full innovation ecosystem, solve some of the Nation's greatest challenges, and ensure America's science and technology leadership for generations to come," **said Dr. Droegemeier.**

Members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

Catherine Bessant, Chief Technology Officer, Bank of America

"Since its inception in 2001, the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology has been instrumental in the advancement of issues critical to our way of life. I look forward to being a part of the interdisciplinary discussions that will drive our Nation's policy forward."

Dr. H. Fisk, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

"Serving on this advisory council is an honor. Science, technology, education and innovation are critical areas for our economy and the American people."

Dr. Dario Gil, Director of Research, IBM Research

"Science is a [national treasure](#) and advocating for its advancement is essential for our future. The emergence of next generation technologies, such as AI and quantum computing, require creative new models of cooperation between government, academia and the private sector. These models need to be designed to capture the tremendous talent and ingenuity found in every corner of this country."

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs, [Cyclo Therapeutics](#)

"Advances in science and technology are major drivers of US economic growth and they contribute to our nation's security. I am delighted to serve on PCAST to work with colleagues across many disciplines to find solutions to critical S&T challenges facing our nation."

Dr. A.N. Sreeram, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Dow Chemical

"Science and technology are critical to future American prosperity and national security and also enable Americans to live healthier, safer and more prosperous lives. Future prosperity and wellbeing relies on unleashing innovation, and training an agile, STEM-competent workforce. Serving on PCAST is a great honor and I look forward to the important work ahead."

Shane Wall, Chief Technology Officer and Global Head of HP Labs, HP Inc.

"We appreciate the opportunity to contribute our perspectives on important topics related to the future of science and technology."

Dr. K. Birgitta Whaley, Director of Quantum Information and Computation Center, University of California, Berkley

"I am honored to serve on the PCAST advisory council."

Bios of the Seven Respective PCAST Members

Catherine Bessant is the chief operations and technology officer at Bank of America. In this role, Ms. Bessant is at the leading edge of the integration of emerging technologies with the banking and financial services sector. She was named the Most Powerful Woman in Banking by *American Banker*, the top Financial Technology Leader by *Institutional Investor* magazine, and one of the Most Powerful Working Moms by *Working Mother* magazine. She led the formation of the Council on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence and serves on the advisory board for the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Bessant graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Dr. H. Fisk Johnson is the chairman and chief executive officer of S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Dr. Johnson joined S.C. Johnson in 1987 and became chairman in 2000, where he is the fifth generation Johnson family leader of the 133 year old company. Dr. Johnson has decades of experience at the intersection of research, manufacturing, technology commercialization, and workforce development. He holds a B.A. in chemistry and physics, master's degrees in engineering and physics, an MBA, and a PhD in physics, all from Cornell University.

Dr. Dario Gil is the director of IBM Research, one of the world's largest and most influential corporate research labs, leading over 3,000 researchers across 12 laboratories, focused on advancing the frontiers of information technology ranging from artificial intelligence to quantum computing. A passionate supporter of scientific discovery and education, he co-chairs the MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab, a pioneering industrial-academic laboratory focused on advancing fundamental AI research for the benefit of society. Dr. Gil is a Trustee of the [New York Hall of Science](#), which provides schools, families, and underserved communities in the New York City area with exposure to science, technology, engineering and math. Dr. Gil received his PhD in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT.

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow is chief scientific officer and senior vice president for medical affairs at [Cyclo](#) Therapeutics, Inc., where she leads the company's clinical and scientific programs. Dr. Hrynkow previously served as the President of the Global Virus Network and in executive leadership roles within the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations Foundation. She has spent her career advancing science for the benefit of society and brings critical global health leadership and perspective. She holds a B.A. in biology from Rhode Island College, a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Connecticut, and she conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Oslo, Norway.

Dr. A.N. Sreeram is the senior vice president and chief technology officer for Dow. His expertise is in the field of advanced materials and their applications to make lives better by enabling products that are simultaneously better performing and more sustainable in infrastructure, industrial, consumer, packaging, automotive, electronics and other global markets. Dr. Sreeram holds two dozen U.S. patents, has authored several peer reviewed scientific articles, earned his doctorate degree from the Department of Materials Science & Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Master's degree from Alfred University, New York, and Bachelor's degree from IIT-Varanasi, India.

Shane Wall is HP Inc.'s chief technology officer and global head of HP Labs. He has spent decades driving technology and innovation in engineering and leadership roles across computing, telecommunications, and venture capital industries. Among his areas of expertise, Wall is focused on Industry 4.0, the future of manufacturing and the ways in which technology can unlock new sources of economic growth, empowerment, and environmental sustainability. Wall is a graduate of the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and has a B.S. in computer engineering from Oregon State University.

Dr. K. Birgitta Whaley is a professor of chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley, a faculty scientist of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and co-Director of the Berkeley Quantum Information and Computation Center. She is a foremost expert in the fields of quantum information, quantum physics, and molecular quantum mechanics. Dr. Whaley has authored over 230 scientific publications, is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a recipient of awards from the Bergmann, Sloan, and Alexander von Humboldt foundations. She earned a B.A. in Chemistry from Oxford University, and a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from the University of Chicago.

The next wave of nominees, which includes several additional scholars from academia, is proceeding through the clearance process. Information regarding additional members and upcoming meetings to be announced in the near future.

PCAST Overview

PCAST was launched by Executive Order in 2001, formalizing a process that had been in place through many previous Administrations to advise the President on matters involving science, technology, education, and innovation policy. The Council provides the President with scientific and technical information that is needed to inform public policy relating to the American economy, the American worker, national and homeland security, and other topics. The Council includes distinguished individuals from sectors outside of the Federal Government and represents diverse perspectives and expertise in science, technology, education, and innovation.