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## James S. McDonnell Foundation Announces 2021 Grants for The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Initiative Awards

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### **\$4 Million in New Funding Advancing Knowledge**

(St. Louis, MO) The Officers and Directors of the James S. McDonnell Foundation today announced more than \$4 million in grants in the long running program, the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Initiative**.

In 2021, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Initiative funded new research in two program areas. Opportunity Awards in the program area *Understanding Human Cognition* provides funding for new research studying human behavior across the lifespan using more naturalistic designs and dynamic measures better to reflect our day-to-day behavior. The JSMF Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards in *Understanding Dynamic & Multi-scale Systems* provides students completing doctoral training an opportunity to broaden their research experience and acquire additional skills in this multi-disciplinary field by crafting their own postdoctoral experiences. “Private philanthropy can and should play a central role in supporting knowledge generation and use”, said McDonnell Foundation President, Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick. “Our founder believed in giving smart people the freedom to pursue important problems and JSMF is continuing with that vision.”

The McDonnell Foundation’s 2021 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Initiative Awards are:

### **Opportunity Awards: Understanding Human Cognition**

#### **INSERM, Paris, France**

*New Horizons and a Time-Scale for Learning Transfer: Identifying the Dynamic of Brain Plasticity During Tool Use to Boost Language Learning*

Project Lead: Claudio Brozzoli, \$250,000 over four years

#### **Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York**

*Do Tactile Exploratory Behaviors Predict Language Development in Deaf Signing Children?*

Project Lead: Rain Bosworth, \$250,000 over four years

#### **University of California-Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California**

*A Methodology for Studying the Dynamics of Resilience of College Students*

Project Lead: Magy Seif El-Nasr, \$250,000 over four years

**University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware**

*A Naturalistic Examination of the Listening Environment and its Role on Development,*  
Project Lead: Giovanna Morini, \$250,000 over four years

**University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon**

*Context-specific Speech Perception and Barriers to Successful Communication Between Healthcare Providers and Aging Patients*  
Project Lead: Melissa Baese-Berk, \$250,000 over four years

**University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina**

*The Embodied Emergence of Social Communication: Implications for Autism in Infancy*  
Project Lead: Jessica Bradshaw, \$250,000 over four years

**University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas**

*Effects of Financial Concerns on Low-Income Parents' Speech to Children*  
Project Lead: Christine Potter, \$250,000 over four years

**University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin**

*Faces in the Wild: Understanding Real-World Communication of Emotions*  
Project Lead: Paula Niedenthal, \$250,000 over four years

Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards: Understanding Dynamic and Multi-scale Systems

R. María del Río-Chanona, *Complexity Science Hub Vienna*

Iacopo Iacopini, *Central European University*

Adela-Maria Isvoranu, *University of Amsterdam*

Omer Karin, *University of Cambridge*

Asher Leeks, *Yale University*

Stefany Moreno-Gámez, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Alan Pacheco, *ETH Zürich*

Anton Pichler, *Complexity Science Hub Vienna*

Miles Wetherington, *Cornell University*

Lucas Vargas Zeppetello, *Harvard University*

Founded in 1950 by the late aerospace pioneer and founder of McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, James S. McDonnell believed that science and technology gives mankind the power to shape knowledge for the future while improving our lives. "Mr. Mac's" vision continues to be realized through the research these grants are supporting. Since the inception of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Initiative in 2000, more than \$354 million in funding has been awarded.