

## MIT Skoltech Program

MIT, the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech), and the Skolkovo Foundation have been collaborating since 2011 to develop Skoltech, a private graduate research university in Russia. In the first phase, the collaboration designed and developed Skoltech as a unique, world-class, research university on the outskirts of Moscow, embodying many of the principles and values of MIT. In the second phase, which began in March 2016, the MIT Skoltech Program worked collaboratively to continue to develop Skoltech and the Skolkovo ecosystem through a targeted set of joint activities between MIT and Skoltech. This phase of the collaboration ended this year, in February 2019.

### Research and Outreach Activities

Collaborative research has been a core element of the relationship between MIT and Skoltech. This year, several new research projects were launched or continued as part of the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund and the Next Generation Program. While all MIT Skoltech seed grants have completed by the program's end, some of the Next Generation Program projects will continue until the end of 2019.

This year, more than 50 MIT faculty together with researchers, students, and staff from across the Institute, participated in the collaboration to continue advancing the development of Skoltech as it grows deeper in its research activities and adds to its faculty.

The MIT Skoltech Seed Fund supported innovative research projects with the potential to benefit the development of Skoltech or the mission of the Skolkovo Foundation. This year, the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund supported eight new projects and five project renewals for one year to researchers from 10 MIT departments and programs representing three schools. The fund encouraged collaborative research with Skoltech or other Russian academic and research institutions, and focused on the five Skoltech thematic program areas—biomedicine; energy; data science and computational modeling; product design and manufacturing; and space—as well as other strategic areas. In the call for proposals this year, the fund especially encouraged applications that promote experimental or applied research at Skoltech or other Russian academic and research institutions. In addition, the call was open for renewal applications to allow for the completion of research projects that were funded in the first round of the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund Program.

The MIT Skoltech Next Generation Program (NGP) funded a range of academic and institution development activities, including research projects, each involving one MIT principal investigator and one Skoltech principal investigator working together. This year, two joint NGP projects received their second round of funding. The program seeks to establish and promote mutually beneficial long-term bilateral collaboration in research, education, and innovation between Skoltech faculty members and their MIT counterparts through the largely research-driven projects.

## Joint MIT-Skoltech Conferences

A core activity fundamental to the MIT-Skoltech relationship has been the co-sponsorship and co-organization of joint academic conferences. These are highly interactive and informative meetings in joint areas of interest and activity in science, technology, and innovation.

This year, MIT and Skoltech organized the third joint annual conference on October 15–16, 2018, at the new Skoltech campus in Skolkovo. The first day of the joint conference coincided with the Open Innovation Forum at the Technopark in Skolkovo, and was focused on education. Edward Crawley gave a presentation at the Open Innovation Forum, and Richard Lester and Bruce Tidor joined as panelists in a session on education. The first day also included a celebration of the new campus opening. The second day of the joint conference was titled, “Collaborative Solutions for Next Generation Education, Science and Technology,” and was centered around the joint Next Generation Projects between MIT and Skoltech. The conference was attended by a large MIT delegation of 21 people including faculty, researchers, students, and staff. In addition to an address by Richard Lester at the opening ceremony of the new campus, the joint MIT Skoltech conference included many speakers from MIT.

The conference included a poster session with posters from students and postdocs from Skoltech and MIT. Three MIT postdocs and students were selected to submit a poster to present their work on the Next Generation Program project.

## Program Governance

The MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee has overseen and facilitated MIT’s planning and execution of the cooperative activities. The MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee members are Richard Lester, Japan Steel Industry Professor, associate provost for international activities and chair; Bruce Tidor, professor of Biological Engineering and Computer Science and vice chair; Brian Anthony, director, Master of Engineering in Manufacturing Program; Munther Dahleh, William A. Coolidge Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and director, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society; Douglas Hart, professor of Mechanical Engineering; Phillip A. Sharp, Institute Professor, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research; and Carl V. Thompson, Stavros Salapatas Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and director, Materials Research Laboratory. Program staff consisted of Deliana Ernst, assistant director, and Natalia Billings, administrative assistant. The program has been headquartered in E19.

The program has been responsible for carrying out MIT’s core cooperative activities, which, in addition to the organization of the annual conference, included advising Skoltech on matters related to administration, research, and maintenance of its website.

**Bruce Tidor**  
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