



For Immediate Release

WCSFP and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Launch \$10,000 Award Honouring Excellence in Digital Science Storytelling

[July 31, 2025] World Congress of Science and Factual Producers (WCSFP), in collaboration with Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is proud to unveil a bold new initiative that reflects the evolving landscape of science storytelling across multiple platforms.

A key part of the initiative is the inaugural **Sloan Buzzies Award**, a brand-new category in WCSFP's prestigious Buzzies Awards, created to spotlight exceptional digital-first science storytelling. Underwritten by the Sloan Foundation, the award includes a **\$10,000 USD prize** for an outstanding digital-first creator or team whose work brings clarity, creativity, and rigor to complex scientific topics through innovative use of online platforms. Open to creators worldwide, the award invites submissions from those with a proven track record of impactful science storytelling. Full eligibility and submission details are available at <https://filmfreeway.com/WCSFP2025>

"This new award reflects our belief that great science storytelling can thrive across platforms, and that digital creators are playing an increasingly vital role in how global audiences engage with complex ideas," said Adam Kirkham, Director of Partnerships for WCSFP. "We're grateful to the Sloan Foundation for supporting the Congress commitment to amplifying these voices."

In addition to the award, Sloan's support will enable **three digital creators** to join WCSFP's highly competitive **Global Career Accelerator** at Congress '25, a highly-acclaimed program designed to spotlight the next wave of standout factual storytellers. Each selected participant will receive full accreditation, a travel bursary, personalised mentorship, and curated networking to help fast-track their careers in the global science and factual content industry.

"We are excited to launch the inaugural Sloan Buzzies Award in partnership with World Congress of Science and Factual Producers and to recognize YouTube and TikTok as creative powerhouses in the media space," said Doron Weber, Vice President and Program Director at the Sloan Foundation. "These awards are part of Sloan's new program to support and honor talented creators on YouTube, TikTok, and other non-traditional digital platforms who engage with science and technology and reach expanded audiences of all ages."

"With Sloan's support, we're recognising the vital role digital creators play in today's media landscape," said Paul Lewis, Conference Director for WCSFP. "Congress affirms that creators on YouTube, TikTok and other digital platforms are as vital to the future of factual storytelling as their linear counterparts. Powerful science stories can thrive just as well on a smartphone screen as on a television screen."

World Congress of Science & Factual Producers 2025 will take place December 8-11 in Rio de Janeiro, bringing together the global community of science and factual storytellers across all

platforms. This year in Rio, producers and creators will have the chance to tap into one of the fastest-growing digital markets in the world. Latin America's booming online audiences and vibrant factual ecosystems make it an ideal setting for cross-platform exchange and international collaboration. Whether working in linear or digital formats, participants will find opportunities to pitch, partner, and engage with leading producers, commissioners, and innovators from around the globe.

For media inquiries or partnership opportunities, please contact:

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World Congress of Science and Factual Producers is a not-for-profit, member-driven organization dedicated to celebrating the best in factual filmmaking, digital production and the wider industry. WCSFP is the place where science, history and natural history content creators and executives gather to share, explore and reveal how advancements within these industries are communicated to the world. Past Congresses have been held in such cities as Marrakesh, Morocco (2024), Seattle, USA (2023), Glasgow, UK (2022); Tokyo, Japan (2019); Brisbane, Australia (2018); San Francisco, USA (2017); Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Vienna, Austria (2015); Hong Kong (2014); Montreal, Canada (2013); Washington, D.C., USA (2012); Paris, France (2011); Dresden, Germany (2010); Melbourne, Australia (2009); Florence, Italy (2008); New York, USA (2007); and others. It is administered by a board of directors and an elected editorial committee that deals primarily with editorial matters. WCSFP is managed by Documentary Campus. For more information, visit <http://www.wcsfp.com>.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a New York-based, philanthropic, not-for-profit institution that makes grants for research in science, technology, and economics; quality and diversity of scientific institutions; and public engagement with science. Sloan's program in Public Understanding of Science and Technology, directed by Doron Weber, supports Books, Radio & Podcasts, Film, Television, Theater, YouTube & TikTok and New Media to reach a wide, non-specialized audience and to bridge the two cultures of science and the humanities. The Sloan Foundation's new YouTube & TikTok program has supported the hit science channel *SciShow* and launched the Sloan Science Prizes for YouTube & TikTok in partnership with the Independent Media Initiative. To learn more, please visit <https://sloan.org/programs/public-understanding> or follow us at @SloanPublic on Instagram, X, and Facebook.