WORLD CONGRESS OF SCIENCE & FACTUAL PRODUCERS

For Immediate Release

WCSFP and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Deepen Support for Digital-First Science Storytelling Through 2028

Three-year renewal supports the $10,000 Sloan Buzzies Award for established digital-first science creators, alongside separate Global Career Accelerator opportunities for emerging talent

[Tuesday 14, July 2026] The World Congress of Science and Factual Producers (WCSFP), in partnership with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, today announced a new three-year commitment to supporting digital-first science storytelling across career stages, extending the Sloan Buzzies Award and separate Sloan-supported Global Career Accelerator opportunities through Congress editions in 2026, 2027, and 2028.

The renewal confirms the $10,000 USD Sloan Buzzies Award as a recurring part of WCSFP's global program. Designed for independent digital-first creators or small teams, the award recognizes work that brings clarity, creativity, and rigor to complex scientific and technological topics through platforms such as YouTube and other online channels.

The 2026 Sloan Buzzies Award winner will receive the $10,000 USD prize, a physical Buzzies trophy, complimentary full Congress registration, travel and accommodation support, promotion across WCSFP platforms, and presentation during the Buzzies Ceremony at Congress '26.

The 2026 award will be reviewed by a jury bringing together perspectives from the digital-first creator ecosystem, the international factual media industry, and the scientific community.

“We're thrilled to extend our support of WCSFP and to continue recognizing the most talented creators on YouTube, TikTok, and other digital-first platforms who are reaching significant audiences with rigorous, engaging science content,” said Doron Weber, Vice President and Program Director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. “We’re also pleased to support a new generation of up-and-coming content creators with 2–3 annual Global Career Accelerator opportunities. This award will continue to generate real momentum and engagement within the creator community it is designed to serve.”

Launched in 2025, the inaugural Sloan Buzzies Award received 23 submissions from creators across more than a dozen countries. The award was presented at the Buzzies Ceremony during Congress '25 in Rio de Janeiro, where Sloan's support also enabled a YouTube science mainstage session, "Insider's Guide to Digital Success," moderated by Derek Muller of Veritasium.

The inaugural Sloan Buzzies Award recipient was Kevan MacKay, the science YouTuber known as BobbyBroccoli, whose long-form, deeply researched videos explore scientific controversy, research integrity, and the history of science.

"Winning definitely felt good, but honestly, one of the most valuable things was just attending the conference and making connections with people in the traditional film industry," said MacKay. "I wouldn't have applied if a friend hadn't told me to — I just assumed my videos weren't what the Congress was looking for."

For WCSFP, the initiative reflects a broader editorial commitment to connecting traditional factual media with new models of science storytelling, audience trust, and creator-led production.

"It's been great to see the editorial rigor coming out of the digital-first space — these creators are doing the same depth of research and fact-checking we expect from any broadcast commission, often with far fewer resources," said Sara Ramsden, Editorial Director for WCSFP. "Bringing that work into the Congress program, and onto the jury itself, is how we make sure our editorial standards keep pace with where science storytelling is actually happening."

Call for Submissions

Submissions for the 2026 Sloan Buzzies Award are open until August 14, 2026. The award is open to independent digital-first creators or small teams worldwide with an established digital audience, a demonstrated body of recent science and/or technology content, and primary publication on platforms such as YouTube or other digital-first channels.

Full eligibility criteria and submission details are available at: https://filmfreeway.com/WCSFP2026

World Congress of Science & Factual Producers 2026 will take place November 9–12 in Tallinn, Estonia, bringing together the global community of science and factual storytellers across broadcast, streaming, and digital-first platforms.

In addition to the Sloan Buzzies Award, Congress '26 will feature a professionally produced YouTube/science mainstage session exploring digital-first storytelling, audience trust, and creator-led approaches to public science communication.

Separately, Sloan's support will continue to fund 2–3 places in WCSFP's Global Career Accelerator for emerging digital-first science creators, offering full accreditation, travel support, mentorship, and curated networking with the international factual media community.

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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.