

## MIT Skoltech Program

MIT, the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, and the Skolkovo Foundation are jointly engaged in [Skoltech](#), a private graduate research university in Russia. The first phase of this combined effort comprised a wide range of activities intended to launch and establish Skoltech as a unique, world-class, research university in Russia, embodying many of the principles and values of MIT. Having entered its second phase in March 2016, the MIT Skoltech Program continues to collaboratively develop its ecosystem through a more targeted set of activities.

### Joint MIT–Skoltech Conferences

A core activity, central to our goal of increasing interaction among faculty at Skoltech and MIT, is the joint sponsorship and organization of academic conferences. These are highly interactive and informative meetings in areas of science, technology, and innovation. This year, MIT and Skoltech jointly organized two conferences—one a smaller meeting that brought together 15 teams of MIT and Skoltech faculty at the beginning of collaborative research projects as part of the Next Generation Program, and the second a large, high-profile, public symposium highlighting research achievements internationally.

*First Annual Joint MIT–Skoltech Conference, October 25–26, 2016.* The first annual conference was organized around the collaborative research projects of the new Next Generation Program (NGP), and was held at the interim Skoltech campus in Skolkovo. This workshop kicked off the 15 new NGP collaborations between MIT and Skoltech faculty, and was designed to foster cooperation between the teams, as well as to introduce the teams and their work to the greater Skoltech community. Twelve MIT faculty, researchers, and students travelled to Skoltech to present their research and shared valuable insights with their Skoltech counterparts on the joint NGP projects.

During the course of this conference, MIT visitors attended the Open Innovation Forum at the Skolkovo Technopark, joined by Prime Minister Medvedev, where MIT professor Yet-Ming Chiang gave a presentation and served as a panelist in a scientific session.

*Second Annual Joint MIT–Skoltech Conference, April 25–26, 2017.* The second annual conference, entitled *Shaping the Future: Big Data, Biomedicine, and Frontier Technologies*, took place at Skolkovo. The two-day conference featured a packed program of presentations by representatives from MIT, Skoltech, and other leading universities worldwide. The conference was attended by a large MIT delegation of 23 people, including faculty, researchers, students, and staff, and featured an opening ceremony with addresses by President Rafael Reif, Russian Federation Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, Skolkovo Foundation President Viktor Vekselberg, and Skoltech President Alexander Kuleshov. The conference was the biggest joint event hosted by Skoltech thus far.

### Research and Outreach Activities

Collaborative research remains one of the core elements in the collaboration between MIT and Skoltech.

The MIT Skoltech Seed Fund supports innovative research projects that have the potential to benefit the development of Skoltech or support the mission of the Skolkovo Foundation. This year, the MIT Skoltech Seed Fund supported 15 projects of researchers from 10 MIT departments, representing three schools and one program. The fund strongly encourages collaborative research with Skoltech or other Russian academic and research institutions, and has 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 that may benefit Skoltech or the Skolkovo Foundation.

The MIT Skoltech Next Generation Program (NGP) covers a range of academic and institution development activities. NGP seeks to establish and promote a mutually beneficial long-term bilateral collaboration in research, education and innovation between Skoltech faculty members and their MIT counterparts through the research-driven projects. This year, 15 joint projects, each involving one principal investigator from each institution, were awarded for a three-year period.

During this year, more than 40 MIT faculty, together with researchers, students, and staff from across the institute, participated in the collaboration to continue to promote and develop Skoltech as a unique, world-class research university in Russia. As part of MIT's commitment to develop student and postdoctoral exchange and internship programs at and for Skoltech, the MIT Skoltech Program continued to support the MISTI MIT-Russia Program. This year, the program sent nine students for internships to Russia at nine host companies, including private- and public-sector entities in both industry and academia.

### **Program Governance**

The MIT Faculty Coordinating Committee oversees and facilitates MIT's planning and execution of the cooperative. Committee members are Richard Lester (chair), Bruce Tidor (vice chair), Brian Anthony (director, Master of Engineering in Manufacturing Program), Munther Dahleh (director, Institute for Data, Systems, and Society), Douglas Hart (professor of mechanical engineering), Phillip A. Sharp (Institute Professor, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research), Carl V. Thompson (Stavros Salapatas Professor of Materials Science and Engineering). Deliana Ernst is the Program's assistant director, and Natalia Billings is the program's administrative assistant. The program is headquartered in E90.

The program is responsible for carrying out MIT's core cooperative activities, which, in addition to the organization of the annual conference, includes, upon request, advising Skoltech on matters related to administration and research, and maintenance of the website.

**Bruce Tidor**  
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