Staff Contribution

Under Siege: The Critical Role of Media and Funding in Protecting Scientific Advancement

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This article explores the critical connection between media, funding, and scientific progress. The authors emphasizes how various forms of media contribute to public awareness and encourage innovation within the scientific community. We also highlight the importance of diverse funding sources, which are necessary for scientific advancement. It discusses how reductions in funding and support threaten the sustainability and future growth of science. The authors advocate for continued media engagement and stable funding to ensure the ongoing success and development of scientific research.

Throughout history, the use of media with scientific research has been key to spreading information about a researcher's discovery. The usage of media including newspapers, journals, word-to-mouth, publications, social media, etc. has allowed the public to stay informed on scientific matters and foster innovation among fellow and future researchers. While this phenomenon with media is not unique to the field of science, its impact is what has allowed the scientific community to grow to what it is today. Despite the influence of the scientific community, this community is under threat. No matter what is being studied, in order to have research that can be gathered, analyzed, and published it is imperative to have the proper funding. Just like media, funding comes in different forms such as government grants, crowdfunding, philanthropic donations, and private sector funding. In 2022, it was estimated that around 40% of basic research and 18% of all research and development in the United States was funded through the Federal Government. The US Government contributed the most to basic research which allows for the expansion of fundamental understandings about current phenomena and observable facts. Research that the public considers "more impactful" (cancer research, ALS research, etc.), received around 25.1% of the Federal R&D funding during 2022 and almost all of the National Institutes of Health's 48 million budget. These percentages and numbers are what help scientific research to be progressed past the points that we know them as. As stated earlier, all of this community is under threat. One by one, all of these donations and grants are being taken away from scientists and impeding upon the progression of science due to the budget cuts from the Trump administration. His plan is to cut nearly 50% of the

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Nation Science Foundation's funding and 37% of the National Institutes of Health's funding as well. So far, this administration has affected the science community with some college researchers being deported over protesting the state of the Middle East. This along with the newly enacted budget cuts are threatening the science community's success and growth. With the current events at hand, it is more important now than ever to promote the development of science because without pushing through this community will only suffer more. In conjunction with pushing through this hurdle, it is imperative that the media comes to aid the scientific community by advocating for their rights, and assisting in helping their research become widespread. That is why the work that GESRI and other research initiatives do is impactful in this current climate because it is imperative to the scientific community that the media helps to promote the process and findings of research. So do not be wavered by the difficulty and hurdles being faced towards the scientific community during this time, but rely on the people who can support you and allow you to flourish despite the hardships at hand.

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