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## **Additional background to the Assured Science effort**

Today's traditional scientific research system is performing far below its capacity for delivering benefits to society. The primary reasons are the extremely limited funds available for scientific research and the mechanisms for allocating it. Imagine that out of the 60-70% scientifically sound grant applications that funding agencies receive there is enough money to fund only 10-15% of them. Funding agencies do the best they can under the circumstances but are too often forced to choose based on extraneous criteria since the competing data are all equally good. Furthermore, the sheer volume of grants received, the complexity of today's research enterprise, and well-intentioned safeguards against conflict of interest have resulted in the most harmful unintended consequence – making fierce competitors out of peers who are in the best position to make data stronger through collaboration.

Those funding and mechanism problems are undermining the scientific research enterprise in five critical ways:

- huge amounts of scientific capabilities, resources, and opportunities are being wasted instead of supporting or nurturing them to deliver significantly more scientific breakthroughs and benefits to society;
- basic science research and small laboratories are essentially going out of business despite compelling lessons from history that they provide the seeds for most of the groundbreaking discoveries and innovations;
- mundane, painstaking, or difficult projects that strengthen and expand research fields are neglected while a large number of projects thought to be exceptional fail to live up to their promise (because it is very difficult to predict which data set turns out to be significant in the long run);
- unexpected or unexplainable data and adventurous projects are poorly supported while data or projects that conform to trends and accepted models are too easily supported (due to the risk-averse mindset); and
- the majority of data in all fields – that which determines the overall rate of scientific progress and is most impacted by funding agencies – have become too idiosyncratic and therefore weaker as a consequence of researchers becoming too possessive of their data (naturally because jobs, salary, promotion, recognition, etc. are all too closely tied to them).

It is no wonder then that today the majority of patents do not earn money, most clinical trials fail, and worse - the public is easing on its commitment to science. *We find this situation unacceptable because it is entirely unwarranted.*



We have developed a data- and peer-driven funding mechanism for scientific research that not only solves the many problems undermining scientific research today but also yields a limitless, free-ranging and self-sustaining research system that produces the best data imaginable – every data set in every field automatically validated by peers, integrated with related data, and archived in a manner that most efficiently facilitates independent analyses and vibrant purposing, even beyond the original intent of the experiments. *All with the money and resources already available to scientific research.*

At the center of the new system is an electronic infrastructure (ePlatform) to be built using the most fundamental scientific relationship (cause and effect) among existing data that all entities involved in research would use to make their respective contributions to science. In addition, this ePlatform would provide the means for monetizing every aspect of the research enterprise so that the revenue earned can be used to enable an unlimited number of researchers self-sustain their projects on their own terms - *essentially creating a limitless and better research system out of the current limited resources.*

Assured Science is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization designed to function in-between the researchers and the funding agencies in a manner that provides a 3-5 fold increase in the performance of all research entities – funding agencies, researchers, research institutions, commercial companies (research, supply, and services), non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and the public.

Our team is growing with experts drawn from the different fields necessary for building the new research system. More details of Assured Science is available at our [website](#), including detailed [rationale](#) for developing the new system, [benefits](#) of the new system, the [biographies](#) of the experts involved so far, and [why they joined](#) even though there is no personal benefit at this juncture.

We are now contacting funding agencies to raise funds required for generating the ePlatform. We are also contacting technical agencies so that the ePlatform can be produced in a manner that also helps generate a portion of the funds required for building the new system. Our approach is to form partnerships with private foundations and organizations that also bring credibility and credentials essential down the road for recruiting clients to the new and advanced research system (governmental funding and other agencies, scientists and research institutions, commercial companies, non-profits, etc.).

Thanks.

*Assured Science Founding Team*