

Leverage Board Update (Q2 2026)

Information for the Q2 2026 board meeting



☰ Summary

This update reports on the most important developments at Leverage during Q2 2026, covering the period from Monday, March 30, 2026 through Monday, June 22, 2026. It is intended for the board to review before the Q2 2026 board meeting on Monday, June 22, 2026, which has been scheduled just before the Leverage's Q3, 2026 retreat in New York City.

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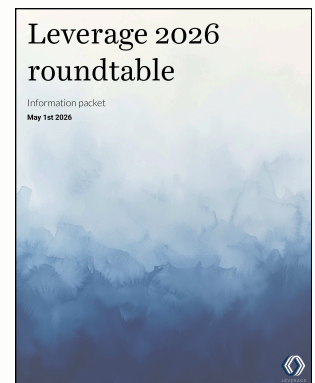
The previous board update is available here: [Q1 2026 Board Update](#).

🏛️ Institute

Leverage participated in a variety of engagement and organization-related research activities during Q2 2026. It has a defined financial strategy consisting of three parts, one of which is contingent on possible upcoming media coverage.

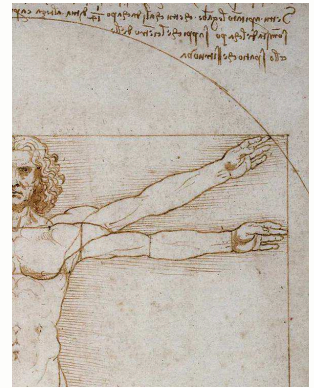
1. Funder roundtable

On May 1, Leverage hosted a funder roundtable, which was attended by funders and leaders from a variety of sectors, including government, academia, non-profit, biotech, blockchain, and venture capital. Jim O'Neill, NSF director nominee, was unable to attend and sent his condolences. The discussion was lively and confirmed the institute's suspicions that conversations about funding between funders, including former funders and small funders, is highly valuable.



2. Media coverage

An article on Leverage, written by Lydia Laurenson, is expected to be published on her Substack, [Solar Light](#), in the coming weeks. The article was originally developed in a multi-year collaboration with New York Magazine. She has recently published an introductory piece, "[The Story Behind 'The Inside Story of Leverage Research 1.0'](#)," which covers her choice to pull the article and publish independently, as well as context surrounding the story. Some members of Leverage staff were sources for the story. This piece has been a long time in the making and may do the institute some justice.



3. Financial strategy

Leverage has secured donations from long-time supporters to cover its operations for the next six months. During that time, the team will explore two strategies for raising further money: (1) grants and (2) the launch of wholly-owned for-profit subsidiaries. With respect to grants, the John Templeton Foundation has been identified as an especially promising option, where Leverage will pursue multiple grants with selected university partners. With respect to for-profit subsidiaries, the relevant entity or entities are expected to focus on AI or psychology. If Leverage receives attention from media coverage, it will (3) raise money from newly interested donors, as it has done previously.

4. Grant research

The Leverage team's research on the fundraising landscape now centers on grants. Two opportunities for advancing revolutionary science have stood out, namely, NSF X Labs and the John Templeton Foundation. The X Labs initiative is attractive in many ways, especially as a result of its focus on instrumentation, though faces political headwinds. The John Templeton Foundation, on the other hand, seems to be warming up to funding independent scientific research; last year, they awarded a \$635,567 grant to the Wolfram Foundation for research on Wolfram-style physics. In the next quarter, Leverage will focus primarily on NSF X Labs and Templeton grants.

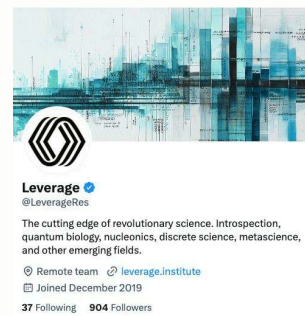


5. Legal research

In preparation for the launch of a wholly-owned for-profit subsidiary, Leverage has taken steps to familiarize itself with the relevant portions of non-profit law. The key challenge appears to be creating an arrangement that harnesses the financial incentives of individuals while not having non-profits take actions that yield private benefit. There are several mechanisms that help achieve this goal, including competitive sourcing, arm's-length pricing, documented rationales for decisions made, and avoiding shared non-profit and for-profit governance of a for-profit entity.

6. Social media

Leverage has been silent on social media during the past three quarters. Starting in Q3, the institute will resume broadcasting. The new strategy will mesh updates about the institute’s ongoing work with relevant news and current events, rather than presenting the institute’s perspective in light of current and previous work. Preferred channels will continue to be Twitter / X, Substack, LinkedIn, and Facebook. The quality of Twitter / X has declined recently, but there is currently no better alternative. YouTube is deprioritized for now. Whether to reboot the Leverage Discord remains up in the air.

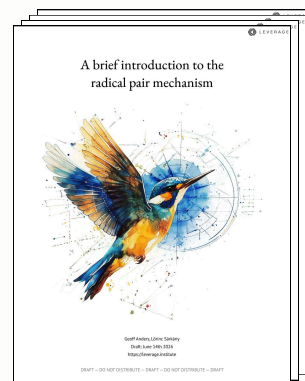


Research

Leverage made substantial progress on research in Q2. The primary focus was quantum biology, where previous work categorized as “magnetobiology” clearly emerged as quantum biological. Effort also went into disseminating the institute’s past introspection research and crystallizing results from its work in the sociology of science.

7. Quantum biology

Leverage’s “physics first” approach to magnetobiology, starting with the radical pair mechanism (RPM), appears to have paid off. Lórinč Sárkány covered the quantitative side; Geoff Anders tackled the qualitative side. The result is several upcoming papers, four of which will be published on Leverage’s website and arXiv, and at least one of which will be published in a traditional physics journal, such as Physical Review E. The first is currently being circulated for review by external parties. The fourth contains what the team currently believes is a legitimate breakthrough in quantum biology, at least comparable to the RPM itself.



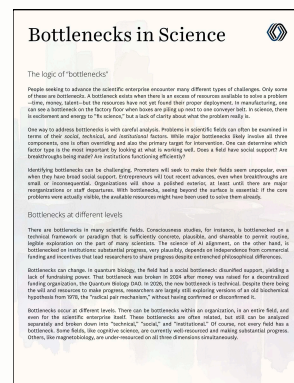
8. Introspection

In preparation for a grant application pertaining to Leverage’s introspection research, the institute has prepared a touched up version of Summary of Leverage Introspection Research, which should be released shortly. Geoff Anders has also resumed work on a further document, entitled “Groundwork for a Science of the Mind.” This document (i.e., “Groundwork”) will go into greater depth than the earlier one (i.e., “Summary”) on both the methodological level and substantive level. The greater depth and detail will make Leverage’s research on the mind more accessible and much easier for others to replicate.



9. Sociology of science

The scientific enterprise has begun to stagnate. Leverage wrote a brief piece summarizing its perspective on the cause and possible solution. After covering the concept of a “bottleneck” and types of bottlenecks, the essay classifies the bottleneck in science as institutional, rather than social or technical. Specifically, the bottleneck is identified as being the lack of communication between science funders. Decentralized science funding is proposed as a possible remedy. The piece was prompted by Astera’s 2026 Essay Competition on “Identifying Systemic Bottlenecks to Science.”



Services

Part of the Leverage’s revenue model since Q2 2024 has included support services for revolutionary scientific teams. Providing such services advances Leverage’s mission of supporting the scientific enterprise while also providing financial support to cover Leverage’s costs.

10. Woodward Lab (University of Tokyo)

At the Bottlenecks 2023 conference in Tokyo and Fukushima, Japan, Leverage became acquainted with professor Jonathan Woodward, who runs the Woodward Lab at the University of Tokyo. Professor Woodward has studied the radical pair mechanism for many years, recently expanding into the study of magnetic effects in biology, which are presumably based on the radical pair mechanism. In Q1, professor Woodward submitted a proposal to Leverage for assistance raising funds for his lab. Leverage first suggested that he present to the Quantum Biology DAO, which has an interest in funding new projects in quantum biology. Next, the institute will explore the possibility of a partnership as part of a Templeton grant application.

11. ICQE Conference / MIT LENR

Leverage has been working with the MIT LENR team in a limited capacity since Q2 2025. This has included fundraising advice, assistance with an RFI to NSF Tech Labs (now NSF X-Labs) and a DARPA grant application. More recently, the MIT LENR team requested help running the International Conference on Quantum Energy 2027 (ICQE 2027). Preparation for the conference has already begun; Leverage anticipates being able to be paid out of funds raised for the event. As part of help with ICQE 2027, Leverage designed the event website, which the MIT LENR team gave input on and implemented. Next steps will include assisting the team securing speakers and sponsorships.



12. Future clients

Leverage is seeking future clients and has a variety of leads, including the Woodward Lab at the University of Tokyo, the Primals Project at the University of Pennsylvania, and has considered making a proposal to the Quantum Biology DAO. Anyone interested in working with Leverage should inquire via contact@leverage.institute or Twitter / X DM.

Initiatives

Since Q4 2025, Leverage has had one initiative, which is focused on artificial intelligence. Previously, the organization also had a further initiative based around providing fiscal sponsorship to new organizations seeking to advance the scientific enterprise. In Q4 2025, that initiative was folded into Leverage's services.

13. Artificial intelligence

During Q2, Leverage returned to tracking the development of AI technologies. In Q1, the team had identified the peak of the AI bubble as being in late October 2025. However, further air was blown into the bubble through an alliance with quantum computing, another historically inflated industry which is now learning to speak the language of doom. Subsequently, the three major private AI companies, SpaceX, OpenAI, and Anthropic, scheduled their IPOs, which has kept the bubble inflated for longer while increasing the likelihood of a pop. Leverage's analysis of the situation is based on its assessment of the technology and the companies developing it, which are the subject of a future report.

Resources

During the second quarter of 2026, the team was highly productive. Our top focus was fundraising, since we are between Ops+ clients and are building our capacity to raise via grants. Geoff Anders split his time between overseeing fundraising operations and conducting research with our research contractor, Lőrinc Sárkány. Melinda split her time between studying the granting landscape and performing legal research on for-profit subsidiaries, DAOs, and non-profit commercialization options. Oliver has been cold-calling academic teams as part of market research for our Ops+ services and also designed a website for the MIT LENR team.

This quarter, Leverage received \$20,522.83 in donations and a pledge for a funding to cover the next six months, while we patiently wait for our next set of partnerships to commence.

For Q2, the numbers are:

- Account balance on April 1: \$5,376.52
- Funds received from April through June 22: \$23,749.56
- Amount spent April through June 22: \$21,164.16
- Account balance on June 22, 2026: \$7,961.92

The Leverage team has been running a tight ship, as far as expenditures. We have cut all non-necessary expenses and at this time, both Geoff and Oliver are deferring pay until the institute is more financially secure. Oliver has fully embraced his role of co-founder, and upon doing so, has been the sole funder of the institute this year, besides the final partnership payment from QBI received in Q1. Geoff plans to contribute to the funding once we have depleted Oliver's donations.

We had canceled our previously planned Q2 retreat to conserve funds, but after noticing a drop in morale throughout the quarter, the team has decided these are worthwhile and necessary investments that keep the team motivated and focused. Though we did hold a very short 1-day "lightning-retreat" at the beginning of the quarter, we did not find it nearly as valuable ("...almost forgettable") as our in-person time together, so we are resuming team retreats beginning in Q3, and meeting in New York, our headquarters, where we will brainstorm, recharge and solidify plans for the upcoming quarter. We find the retreats worth every penny, and this time, the team will visit New York City, which will reduce the total overall cost of the retreat.



Compliance

As always, Leverage strives to stay updated on regulations, identify areas of risk, and conduct internal and external audits to validate ongoing compliance and identify areas for improvement.

This quarter, we focused on mandatory compliance updates, such as Leverage re-registering its UIA account with the state of Michigan, which has a new platform and experience, and updating and finalizing both our Director's and Officer's insurance policy and required state insurance policies. We also completed all mandatory sexual harassment trainings as required by each state.

Internally, after noticing our Conflict of Interest policy was not as robust as it could be, Melinda wrote a new, fortified policy and acknowledgement that now complies with all of the states' requirements that we do business in. Additionally, progress has been made completing the 2024 and 2025 Leverage Annual Reports, the former of which should be published soon.