2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Make Science Better.

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2025 was a challenging year for research science & scientists.

Solving For Science met the moment in multiple ways on our mission to Make Science Better.

	What We Did	Where	Why
5	New $10k grants to establish **National PROPEL** sites	UW, Wisconsin-Madison, Iowa, OHSU, Louisville	PROPEL trainee model expands despite cuts to PREP programs nationwide
158	**CURATE** Community reviews for our experiment in improving peer review	Discovery Stack Pilot paper published in bioRxiv	Laying foundation for Discovery Curator to improve science knowledge sharing and evaluation
80	Faculty & PIs sign up for **ENGAGE** Workshops	Seattle (UW, Fred Hutch, Allen Institute), Penn, and Utah	Faculty and PIs trained to actively engage public and civil society in a tough year for science

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 was a year of transitions for Solving For Science, though the most impactful was outside our control: the transition to the new Administration in January 2025 that has changed the world of science as we know it. What *was* in our control was what to do next.

In many ways this is what Solving For Science was built for. We were able to respond quickly and effectively, thanks to our funders.

As a catalyst and connector for scientists to turn ideas into action, we deployed our resources across **four major programs to meet the moment, engaging and connecting scientists and allies in ENGAGE, PROPEL, CURATE, and CONNECT.** Supported by the Engage + Connect Initiative through UCSF and anonymous donors, we were able to connect members across many other institutions to address multiple challenges.

ENGAGE

Our **ENGAGE** partnership with Liminal brought workshops to UW, UPenn, and Utah, seeded new community projects, and delivered Meeting the Moment newsletters to scientists everywhere.

PROPEL

PROPEL's seed grants to share their post bacc trainee model nationally found eager partners in WA, IA, WI, OR and KY, which we helped distribute quickly.

CONNECT

A year of threats to federal science funding opened discussion around greater collaboration, so we developed a program for Parnassus Institutes directors at UCSF to **CONNECT**.

CURATE

The successful completion of our Discovery Stack Pilot set the stage for further development of the Discovery **CURATOR** for scientists/by scientists knowledge sharing platform.

ENGAGE: Meeting the Moment

We kicked off 2025 with the first in-person ENGAGE Workshop in Seattle in early January, as part of our partnership with SolvingFor co-founder Liz Neeley and Liminal. Twenty-four PIs and senior faculty from University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and the Allen Institute came together for two days to work on science communication, public engagement, and develop new ways to take action.

The ENGAGE Workshops were creative and collaborative and very productive. Each resulted in several new pilot initiatives created by the scientist-participants themselves to get their own communities more engaged in public and civic life. These projects are underway.

The ENGAGE Workshops

In 2025, SolvingFor sponsored Liminal in hosting three 2-day ENGAGE Workshops, in Seattle, at University of Pennsylvania, and at the University of Utah, serving xx PIs and faculty.

Workshopping New Ideas

Participants in the ENGAGE Workshops were encouraged to develop new projects to better engage their local communities and public more broadly. Several of these ideas are already rolling out in the world, such as...

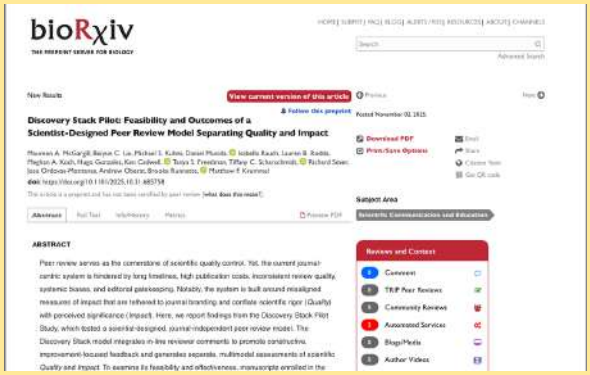
Meeting The Moment

Supported by SolvingFor, Liz Neeley and her team were able to create a weekly newsletter downloading the latest news on federal science funding and other actions relevant to our communities.

ENGAGE: Libraries and more

Founding Member Marion Pepper of UW started a program with the Seattle Public Library system, working closely with librarians to deploy scientist-volunteers to engage with audiences of all ages in the formats that will reach them best. Other ENGAGE spinoffs are developing..

CURATE: Pilot to Prototype



Our Discovery Stack Pilot ran through most of 2025, culminating in a paper sharing the results of our work published in bioRxiv in November.

The pilot recruited 118 reviewers to participate in an experiment to separate Quality and Impact reviews, one of the most problematic aspects of scientific publishing and peer review.

Insights from the Discovery Stack Pilot will help set the foundation for the Discovery Curator 2.0 prototype, already underway. Its purpose is to take the next step in reimagining scientific knowledge-sharing, evaluation, and collaboration to make science discovery better...and faster. In 2026 we'll be recruiting beta users to help build out this space made by scientists for scientists.

The Discovery Stack Pilot

A key element of the pilot was separating Quality and Impact Reviews of preprint articles and to follow those articles through publication to see how well the journals track with our results. This will be an ongoing part of the work.

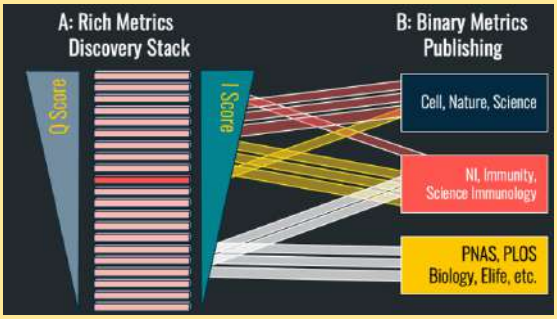


Figure 1. The Discovery Stack Model. The model includes three sequential phases: 1) Quality Review, 2) Author Response, and 3) Impact Review.

Discovery Curator Beta 2.0

Next up, recruiting for a full stack software engineer, a product manager, a set of beta testers to make this useful, sticky, and our goal, *indispensable*.

PROPEL: Making it National

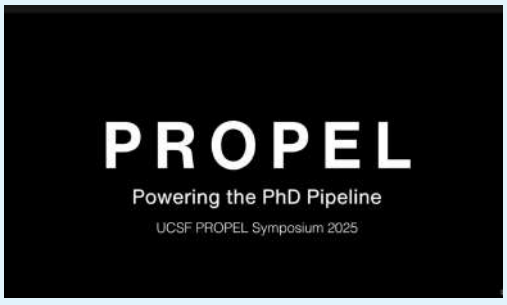
The USCF PROPEL program is a nimble and adaptive model for post- baccalaureate training that its founders thought might be useful elsewhere. In 2025, as funding for these training programs suddenly dried up all across the country, PROPEL and Solving For Science were able to move quickly to award seed money grants to ensure that the critical talent pipeline of research scientists keeps flowing.

The model is especially effective for universities looking for a way to leverage existing resources to meet the needs of trainees AND research labs, while providing training, mentorship, professional development and community to trainees.

Five New $10k Seed Grants

The Post Baccalaureate Education Fund established by UCSF PROPEL and disstributed by Solving For Science got funding out the door to the University of Washington, The State University of Iowa, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Oregon Health and Science University and the University of Louisville to seed new programs or scale existing ones. We'll be making more awards in 2026 and encouraging greater investment from other funders nationally as well.

We Made a Video!



Take a look

CONNECT: Bigger Collaborations, Bolder Science

We see CONNECT as a larger initiative to generate better outcomes for science by creating better opportunities for connection and community. In 2026 we plan a variety of CONNECT convenings in our ‘hubs’ across the country to achieve multiple objectives. We believe more socializing, collegiality and leadership at a personal level will unlock more trust, creativity, collaboration, and solidarity to make science better.

Collaborative leadership is an essential skill that’s often overlooked in academia. In partnership with the Engage & Connect Initiative at UCSF, Solving For Science developed a pilot program for workshops, case studies, and interdepartmental projects to deepen cross-disciplinary collaboration and collective ambition among the directors of the UCSF Parnassus Institutes.

CONNECT Workshop

The first workshop took place in December 2025 to imagine the future of UCSF research led by transformational colloaborations over the next 10 years. Our work will lead to at least one major new interdisciplinary proposal this spring

CONNECT Dinners

Sometimes it’s just dinner. But purposeful parties of scientists joined in single-topic conversations showed us just how powerful they can be for making sense of the disruptions in science in the civic sphere and our place in them – and how to respond.

More CONNECT Convenings

Looking ahead, we plan to seed more locally-generated convenings in our network of nationally connected, locally engaged senior research scientists. From Jeffersonian dinner parties to happy hours on how to build stronger public & civic support for science, we believe strengthening the leadership and organizing skills of a self-organizing group of scientist-leaders is a public benefit for all (and will make science better).

WE'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT

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