

Golden Goose Award Honors Foldscope Researchers for Unusual Discovery that Greatly Benefit Society

This scientific breakthroughs led to the development of a paper microscopes

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EINPresswire.com/ -- On September 14, 2022, the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#), the world's largest multidisciplinary scientific society, hosted the 11th annual [Golden Goose Award](#) ceremony, a celebration of federally funded research that unexpectedly benefits society. This year's awardees include Foldscope for: "A way to construct a low-cost, high-performing paper microscope that scientists can use to diagnose diseases and expand science education in remote areas, making science accessible worldwide."



Foldscope Microscope

The Golden Goose Award spotlights scientific research that may have appeared obscure, sounded funny, or for which the results were unforeseen at the outset but ultimately, and often serendipitously, led to breakthroughs. This year, the award comes on the heels of the U.S. Congress passing and President Biden signing, the bipartisan and historic CHIPS and Science Act. This new law reauthorizes key federal agencies whose projects will propel discovery, build on our strengths, and show what American investment, intellect, ingenuity and risk-taking can accomplish — precisely the type of innovation the Golden Goose Award honors.

U.S. Representative Jim Cooper (D-TN), often referred to as "Father Goose," will retire from Congress at the end of this term. He conceived of the award as a strong counterpoint to criticisms of basic research as wasteful federal spending, such as the late Sen. William Proxmire's (D-WI) Golden Fleece Award, leading to a coalition of business, university, and scientific organizations establishing the award in 2012. Thanks to his legacy, the award will continue to

elevate the importance of recognizing basic science that ultimately improves people's quality of life.

The complete citation for the Foldscope award:

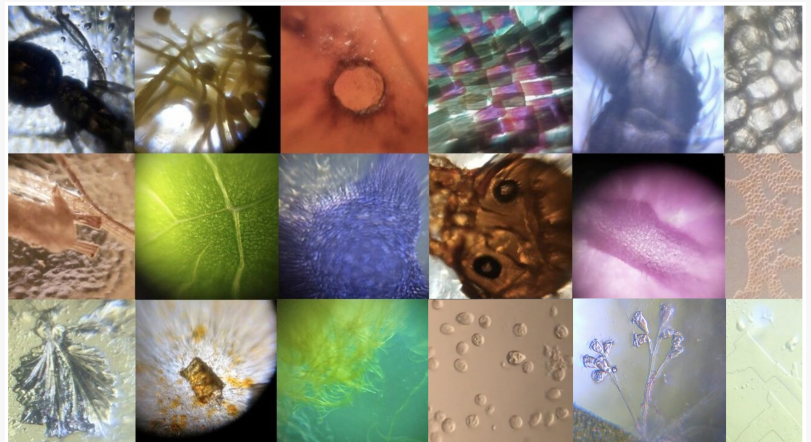
Manu Prakash (Stanford University) and Jim Cybulski ([Foldscope Instruments Inc.](#))

Foldsopes and Frugal Science: Paper Microscopes Make Science Accessible While researching in remote areas of India and Thailand, a technical challenge piqued Manu Prakash's curiosity. In certain areas of the world, transport, training, and maintenance barriers can make state-of-the-art microscopes inaccessible. Prakash found a potential solution in a decidedly un-technical material: paper. Using principles of origami applied to printer paper, matchboxes, and file folders, Prakash and graduate student Jim Cybulski designed a paper microscope known as the Foldscope that can achieve powerful magnification with materials that cost

less than \$1 to manufacture. Today, just over a decade later, nearly two million Foldscoopes have been distributed in over 160 countries and have been used to diagnose infectious diseases, discover new species, and identify fake drugs, among many other applications.



Foldscope Workshop in India



Samples taken with a Foldscope



We are thrilled to be recognized for the Golden Goose Award," said Jim Cybulski, CEO of Foldscope, "as further proof that our invention has the potential to have a large societal impact."

James Cybulski

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