

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1880

The Cornell Daily Sun



HOME **NEWS** OPINION SPORTS ARTS SCIENCE DINING MULTIMEDIA

BLOGS

Editor's Note: The Sun will periodically publish stories over the summer recess. The Sun will resume its regular publication schedule in August.

You are here: [Home](#) » [News](#) » [Cornell Receives \\$100 Million Grant for Synchrotron](#)

Cornell Receives \$100 Million Grant for Synchrotron

APRIL 22, 2014 1:06 AM

1 COMMENT

By **HELEN DONNELLY**

U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) announced Monday that the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source will receive \$100 million in funding from the National Science Foundation over the next five years.



Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) announced Monday that the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron received \$100 million in funding from the National Science Foundation. Pictured, Schumer speaks at Cornell in September. Michelle Feldman / Sun Senior Editor

The funds will allow CHESS to continue the development of experimental techniques using high-energy X-ray beams, which have applications in fields such as medicine and aerospace engineering, according to a University press release.

Currently, CHESS receives 20 percent of its funding from the NSF, according to Schumer.

President David Skorton, who introduced the senator, emphasized Schumer's efforts to maintain and increase funding for several agencies — including the Department of Energy and the NSF.

TWITTER FEED

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

READ TODAY'S ISSUE IN PDF FORM

"I want to stress that Cornell and universities like Cornell have no better friend than Senator Charles Schumer," Skorton said.

Schumer said the United States' dominance in the tech and pharmaceutical industries are due to government investments in agencies such as the NSF and the National Institute for Health.

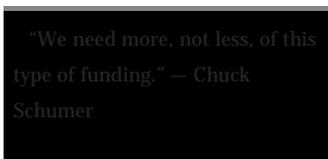
"If you care about middle-class incomes declining — which I do and most other politicians talk about — then to cut investments in NSF and NIH didn't make any sense," Schumer said. "We need more, not less, of this type of funding."

Schumer said the accomplishments that CHESS has made — and will continue to make — are of national importance.

"CHESS has played a pivotal role in medical discoveries that are keeping people alive," he said. "It has also has had scientific breakthroughs that have been responsible for two Nobel prizes."

According to Schumer, investment in CHESS is vital because it means that researchers can make long-term plans for the future and not fear that their budgets will suddenly be cut.

"This investment means that CHESS is on firm financial ground," he said. "The people that work here can plan their research for the next five to 10 years. It means that the federal government believes that Cornell and the CHESS lab are a worthy and substantial investment, and that the work done here is a national priority."



Schumer said that research done at the facility could even work to solve issues such as global warming.

"Research done here could also solve our global warming problem because if we can develop a hydrogen fuel cell, then we won't need gasoline," he said. "The by-product of a hydrogen fuel cell is not [carbon dioxide], but [water]."

According to Schumer, CHESS also has the technology and resources to create medicines that battle a wide range of diseases.

"It is one of the few X-ray stations in the U.S. equipped to study toxic viruses. Drugs that fight both AIDS and the common cold are here in the pipeline," he said. "How could anyone want to stop this?"

One hundred million is a large sum of money, but a relatively small amount in federal budget terms, according to Schumer. He added that this investment in the synchrotron could help boost the economy.

"Science does not exist in a vacuum," he said. "Research performed at CHESS has led to the development of commercial products, new businesses, and new jobs."

Director of CHESS Prof. Joel Brock, applied and engineering physics, took the podium to explain more about the facility's mission and thank Schumer for his support.

"CHESS' mission is to provide unique X-ray facilities to researchers, from all over the U.S. and around the world, to enable their research in important areas," he said. "[These areas] include next-generation batteries, novel catalytic, electronic and magnetic materials, low-weight composites for fuel efficient aircraft, environmental science and the discovery of new pharmaceuticals."

CHESS also is an international leader in training scientists and in the development of x-ray technology, according to Brock.

He ended his speech by thanking the senator for his commitment to CHESS.

"Senator Schumer has been a consistent supporter of CHESS, and most importantly, a good friend of science and basic research," Brock said.

RECENT POSTS

10 hours ago

[CAMUTI | Never Good at Headlines](#)

10 hours ago

[OTANI | Hanging On for the Ride](#)

10 hours ago

[HARRIS | Fake It 'Til You Make It](#)



6 days ago

[Cornell Police Searching for Bathroom Camera](#)



7 days ago

[Cornell Student Campaigns for Accessible Water in Cameroon](#)

CONNECT WITH US



WHAT LATE NIGHT CORNELL EATERY ARE YOU?



LET'S PLAY!



Powered by **Play Buzz**

Share this: Email

Like 1

Tweet 3

Comments



Comment using...

Facebook social plugin

Tags: [CHESS](#) [national science foundation](#) [schumer](#) [senator](#) [synchrotron](#) [x-ray](#)

Tweet 3

Like 1

0

Author: [Helen Donnelly](#)

ALSO ON THE CORNELL DAILY SUN WHAT'S THIS?

Rutzen '87 Discusses Restrictions of Peaceful Civilian Assemblies 2 comments	BAKING WITH BRITTANY SEA SALT CARMELS 1 comment
Affirmative Action 'Necessary' for Colleges, Student Leaders Say 6 comments	Cornell University Assembly Votes Against Fossil Fuel Divestment 8 comments

1 Comment The Cornell Daily Sun d Login ▾

Sort by Best ▾ Share Favorite

 Join the discussion...

 [YetAnotherCornellian](#) · a month ago
HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS RESEARCH LIVES <http://i.imgur.com/1gzNdBY.gif>



| · Reply · Share ▸

THE SUN

[Faces](#)[Dialogues](#)[Runway](#)[About](#)
[Masthead](#)[Contact](#) [Us](#)[Advertise](#)

SEARCH:

© Copyright 2014 — [The Sun](#). All Rights Reserved