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**Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee
and UCSF Vice Chancellor for Research Keith Yamamoto Unveil Details of
First Annual Bay Area Science Festival
October 29-November 6, 2011**

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Over 100 Free Events Bring Together Region's Science & Educational Leaders

16 August 2011 -- SAN FRANCISCO: Leaders from the worlds of politics and science came together today to announce the first ever **Bay Area Science Festival** (www.bayareascience.org) which takes place October 29 to November 6, 2011

The weeklong series of events is designed to showcase the region's catalytic role in scientific progress and provide innovative opportunities to build community around science, technology and engineering.

“The way to a stronger economy and a better nation is this: we need science, science, science, science, science,” said **Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, who was** surrounded by an enthusiastic audience of scientists, students and Bay Area Science Festival organizational partners inside Genenetch Hall at UCSF’s Mission Bay campus. “We need the science, technology and engineering highlighted in this first Bay Area Science Festival to build the infrastructure for the future. The National Science Foundation’s investment in the Bay Area Science Festival underscores the important role of scientists, innovators and institutions of higher learning, like UCSF, to help this country maintain its competitive edge in a global economy.”

Led by UCSF and **the National Science Foundation**, the Bay Area Science Festival will bring together an unprecedented brain trust of the region's scientific and educational partners to produce one of the largest science-based events ever held in the United States. Most of the activities will be free.

“San Francisco is known as a place for big ideas, where entrepreneurs and innovators, scientists and scholars contribute to the City's intellectual and economic vitality,” said **San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee**. “Today we celebrate science and innovation – keys to our employment and economic growth – with the launch of the Bay Area Science Festival. Through this great event organized by the City with the University of California, San Francisco, all members of our community can become inspired, get informed and experience first hand why science holds the key to our nation's strength and success.”

In addition to UCSF and the National Science Foundation, partners for the Bay Area Science Festival include **Astronomical Society of the Pacific, BayBio, the Buck Institute for Age Research, the California Academy of Sciences, California State University East Bay, Chabot Space & Science Center, KQED, the Lawrence Hall of Science, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, Stanford University, San Francisco State University, the San Jose Children's Discovery Museum, SETI Institute, the Tech Museum, the University of California, Berkeley, and the United States Geological Survey.**

“We are in an incredibly exciting time in science,” said Keith Yamamoto, vice chancellor for research at UCSF. “Some people are calling this the equivalent of the Industrial Revolution of biology; others compare it to the Renaissance. With the huge advances coming out of the Human Genome Project and discoveries in stem cell research, immunology and biological systems, we are truly on the cusp of a monumental change in how we understand and solve complex issues in health, energy and the environment. UCSF became a sponsor of the science festival because we want to share that excitement with the people of the Bay Area, to give

them an insight into the huge advances that are occurring in their backyard. This festival will bring that science to our community in schools, libraries, local cafés, parks and here at UCSF.”

Featuring more than 100 fun, interactive science and technology events at local venues from Santa Rosa to San Jose, the Bay Area Science Festival will include provocative lectures, hands-on activities, exhibitions, tours of cutting-edge facilities, guided hikes and neighborhood stargazing. Activities will include:

- **Discovery Days:** Three large-scale free events – One each at Cal State East Bay in Hayward (Saturday, October 29), Infineon Raceway in Sonoma (Saturday, November, 5) and at AT&T Park in San Francisco (Sunday, November 6),– will be scientific happenings akin to education-based rock concerts, with hands-on experiments, demonstrations, exhibits and family-oriented musical and theatrical performances.
- **Bay Area Star Party:** On the evening of Saturday, November 5, a number of local observatories will be open, and both professional and amateur astronomers will be on hand at public sites to offer telescope viewing and observing tips to participants.
- **Wonder Dialogues:** A series of provocative conversations featuring accomplished scientific researchers, the Wonder Dialogues will take participants to the edge of scientific understanding with compelling discussions - ranging from the limits of the human brain to the origins of the universe.

The Bay Area Science Festival is partnering with the **San Francisco Public Library** and **Peninsula Library System** to encourage the community to read “**Packing for Mars**,” in which Bay Area author **Mary Roach** tackles the strange science of space travel. A series of book clubs, author discussions and evening events inspired by the best selling nonfiction work will be held at public library branches throughout the Bay Area.

UCSF is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. For ongoing information about the events, visit the Bay Area Science Festival website www.bayareascience.org / [twitter@bayareascience](https://twitter.com/bayareascience) / #basf11
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