Dear <<First Name>>,

Please join us in celebrating the award of the 2017 $500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize to Feng Zhang for his numerous scientific discoveries. You have probably read about Zhang and his method of using gene editing technology (CRISPR) that will allow researchers to make significant advances in improving the lives of others. We will be honoring Zhang at an award celebration during the annual EmTech event in Cambridge, Mass. on November 7th. We encourage you to read more about Zhang in an editorial he wrote for MIT Technology Review in this issue.

The prize is intended to celebrate mid-career inventors and to support a culture of creativity and inventiveness in the United States. We welcome your nomination of individuals for the 2018 prize. Nominations are being accepted through November 30th on our website.

This month we also announced the 15 high school student teams from across the country that received InvenTeam grants to create technological solutions to real-world problems. We know you will be as impressed as we are by the creative ideas students have put forward for making the world a better place.

We thank you for your continued interest in our program and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program
CRISPR, THE FUTURE OF LIFE SCIENCE RESEARCH BUT STILL MUCH TO LEARN
The technology used in life science and biology research can now be applied much more widely, opening access to myriad new species, from salamanders with unique regenerative capabilities to natural strains of crops that are resistant to drought. Given all the exciting developments in life science research and biotechnology, it is more important than ever to provide training and mentoring opportunities for students interested in science and engineering. The next generation of scientists could create new transformative technology that will solve the world’s most important challenges.

SUONO BIO RECEIVES EARLY START UP INVESTMENT FROM THE ENGINE
Congratulations to biotech startup Suono Bio and its co-founder Carl Schoellhammer for receiving the first round of startup investment from MIT's The Engine. Schoellhammer was the 2015

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 $500K LEMELSON-MIT PRIZE WINNER
The 2017 $500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize winner was revealed on Tuesday, September 19. The largest cash prize for invention was awarded to gene editing pioneer, Feng Zhang. If you know a mid-career inventor who is eligible to win next year's prize, please nominate them! Nominations are being accepted until November 30.

MIT RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY GENES THAT PROTECT AGAINST PROTEIN LINKED TO PARKINSON’S DISEASE
Timothy Lu, who won the 2008 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize and now an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science and of biological engineering at MIT is the senior author on new research that adapted CRISPR-Cas9 to randomly turn on or off distinct gene sets across large populations of cells. This new technique allows researchers to identify genes that protect cells from a protein associated with
Lemelson-MIT Student Prize graduate winner in the “Cure it!” category. Support from The Engine will allow Suono Bio to perform additional development that will enable them to file their technology with the FDA for clinical testing. Learn more about their drug delivery platform that has the potential to change the lives for many with inflammatory bowel disease and other disorders that are difficult to treat.

2017 LEMELSON-MIT STUDENT PRIZE WINNER CONTINUES AWARDS STREAK
Undergraduate students at the University of Iowa, who formed the startup SwineTech to bring their invention to market for the agriculture industry, continue to win awards for their innovative SmartGuard device. SmartGuard reduces the incidence of piglet mortality due to accidental crushing by the mother pig.

A LOOK BACK AT HOW BIOORTHONGONAL CHEMISTRY UNLOCKED A NEW FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
Bioorthogonal chemistry was pioneered by 2010 Lemelson-MIT Prize winner, Carolyn Bertozzi. October marks the seventh anniversary of the date of issue for her patent related to this work, which also got her inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame earlier this year.