

## In tech race with China, U.S. universities may lose a vital **edge**

The U.S. is still **out in front** of global rivals when it comes to innovation, but American universities—where new ideas often **percolate**—have reason to **look over their shoulder**.

edge 优势; 锋利

out in front 遥遥领先

percolate 渗透; 过滤

look over one's shoulder 警惕

That's especially true for technologies like 5G phone networks and artificial intelligence. They're exactly the fields where President Donald Trump recently insisted the U.S. has to lead—and also the ones where Asia, especially China, has caught up.

Universities from China get more patents than their U.S. peers in wireless communications, according to research firm GreyB Services. In AI, 17 of the top 20 universities and public research organizations are in China, with the Chinese Academy of Sciences topping the list, says the World **Intellectual Property** Organization in **Geneva**.

intellectual property 知识产权

Geneva 日内瓦

There's a special place for universities in the ecosystem of research. Universities **groom** future scientists and can be incubators for **pie-in-the-sky** ideas—some of which turn out to be **game-changers**. The list ranges from Google's search engine to DNA technology that's behind a whole industry of gene-manipulating treatments.

groom 打扮; 新郎; 男仆

pie-in-the-sky 天马行空的; 不切实际的

game-changers 规则改变者

in real terms 扣除物价因素; 实值计算

However, government grants to universities have been stagnant for more than a decade, meaning they've declined **in real terms** and as a share of the economy.

"If you look at the federal dollars, they've not really changed substantially," says Stephen Susalka, head of AUTM, a technology transfer association whose members include 800 universities. "Other countries are catching up. We can't sit on our **laurels**."

laurel 桂冠; 殊荣

sit on one's laurels 固步自封; 安于现状