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

在与中国的科技竞赛中，美国大学或失去关键优势

edge/edʒ/: n. 优势，优越之处

英文释义：an advantage over other people

搭配短语：gain a competitive edge 获得竞争优势

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**.
论技术创新，美国仍然在全球遥遥领先。然而，美国的大学院校，作为传播创新思想的重要媒介，如今却有必要感到警惕。

out in front: 遥遥领先

搭配短语：be out in front of sb.

例句: He is out in front in the **opinion polls**. 他在民意调查中名列前茅。

percolate/'pɜːrkəleɪt/: v. 扩散，流传；渗透

英文释义：to spread slowly

例句: Sea water percolates down through the rocks. 海水通过岩石渗透下来。

例句: The story has begun to percolate through the crowd. 这个故事已经开始在人群中渗透。

look over one's shoulder(s): 焦虑不安

例句：He may have escaped the police for now, but he'll spend every waking hour looking over his shoulder. 他现在可能已经逃过了警察，但只要他醒着就会不安。

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**.

尤其在 5G 电话网络和人工智能等科技领域，压力更是不小。美国总统特朗普近来强调，在这两个领域，美国必须始终保持领先姿态。然而，也正是在这两个领域，亚洲各国，尤其是中国，已经迎头赶上。

catch up: 赶上，达到同样质量（或水平）

英文释义：to reach the same quality or standard as someone or something else

例句：He was off work for a while and is trying to catch up. 他离开了一段时间并正在试图赶上。

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**. 科研服务公司 GreyB Services 的数据显示，在无线通讯领域，中国大学院校获得的专利数量已超过了美国大学。同时，总部位于日内瓦的世界知识产权组织表示，在 AI 领域，申请专利最多的 20 所大学院校和公共研究机构中，有 17 所设在中国，其中，中国科学院位居榜首。

patent/'pætnɪ/: n. 专利

英文释义：a licence covering an invention

peer: n. 同等地位的人，相匹敌的人

top/tɒp/: v. 为...之首；超过，胜过

搭配短语：top the list 排在首位

例句：Tourists from Northern Europe topped the list of visitors. 来自北欧的游客在访客名单

中名列前茅。

World Intellectual Property Organization: 世界知识产权组织

Geneva /dʒɪ'ni:və/: 日内瓦, 瑞士联邦第二大城市

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**.

大学在科研生态系统占据了特殊地位。大学培养未来的科学家，也是很多“异想天开”想法的孵化器——其中一些想法最终改变了行业的格局，包括谷歌的搜索引擎和 DNA 技术，后者促成了基因编辑治疗这一整个行业的诞生。

ecosystem: n. 生态系统

groom/gru:m/: v. 使（某人）做好准备，训练

英文释义：to prepare someone for a special job or activity

搭配短语：groom sb. to do sth.

搭配短语：groom sb. for doing sth.

例句：He was groomed to run the family companies. = He was groomed for running the family companies. 他被培养成经营家族企业。

incubator/'ɪŋkjubeɪtər/: n. 孵化器；鼓励或培养新的想法产生的地方

相关词汇：incubate (v. 孵蛋)

搭配短语：business incubators 企业孵化器

pie-in-the-sky/paɪ ɪn ðə skaɪ/: adj. 希望渺茫的；难以实现的

例句：It's just pie-in-the-sky if you ask me.

turn out：结果是

game-changer/geɪm 'tʃeɪndʒər/: n. 游戏规则改变者；打破格局者

例句：Huawei's new product might be a game-changer.

gene-manipulating treatment: 基因编辑治疗

manipulate /mə'nɪpjʊleɪt/: 操作；操纵

搭配短语：to manipulate the control levers: 操纵控制杆

搭配短语：to manipulate public opinion: 左右公众舆论

例句：She manipulated him into accepting the offer. 她巧妙地促使他接受了那项提议

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.

然而，政府给大学的拨款金额已经十多年不见增加，这就意味着，在通货膨胀下，实际拨款在

减少，在经济中的占比也有所下降。

grant/grænt/: n. 政府拨款，补助金

词性拓展：grant (v.)

搭配短语：student grants (n.)

搭配短语：a research grant (n.)

stagnant/'stægnənt/: adj. 停滞不前的，无变化的

英文释义：not growing or developing

搭配短语：a stagnant pond 一个死水塘

搭配短语：a stagnant economy 经济停滞不前

in real terms: 按实质计算，考虑通货膨胀影响计算

"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**."

美国大学技术经理人协会（AUTM）是一家负责技术转移的组织，其成员包括 800 所大学。协会负责人斯蒂芬·苏萨尔卡表示，“看看联邦政府的拨款，你会发现基本上没有太大变化。其他国家正在迎头赶上，我们不能安于现状。”

federal: adj. 联邦制的；联邦政府的

搭配短语：federal court: 联邦法院

搭配短语：to make a federal case out of sth: US 过分夸大某事

substantially /səb'stʌnʃ(ə)li/: adv. 可观地；相当

相关词汇：**substance**: n. 东西；事实基础；实质；重要性

搭配短语：in substance: 本质上

搭配短语：a chemical substance: 化学物质

搭配短语：to have/lack substance: 具有/缺乏事实根据

例句：The meeting yielded little of substance: 会议几乎没有产生实质性成果。（yield: v. 产生）

例句：Proteins compose much of the actual substance of the body. 蛋白质构成了人体物质的大部分。

sit on one's laurels: 满足于既得成就，不思进取

相关词汇：laurel (/ˈlɒr(ə)l/ n. 月桂树)

搭配短语：win/gain laurels 赢得/获得桂冠

同义短语：rest on one's laurels 吃老本

例句：He retired at the peak of his career and is sitting on his laurels. 他在职业生涯的巅峰时期退休，并满足于既得成就。（peak: n. 山顶）

原文：

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