



FeldSciNet Project Fact Sheet

Revised December 15, 2009

Date of this document: December 15, 2009

Project title:

Feldenkrais® Science Network (aka FeldSciNet) Phase One.
The website address: feldscinet.org

Key dates:

May 5, 2009: Official project launch date

August 3, 2009: Sneak preview at 2009 *Feldenkrais Method*® Annual Conference

December 4, 2009: Debut with initial functioning of the core, articles and links modules

Purpose of the project:

The purpose of the *Feldenkrais* Science Network (FeldSciNet) is to provide an internet-based vehicle to promote networking and collaboration worldwide among members of the *Feldenkrais Method* community and interested scientists, scholars and researchers. The goal is to foster the specific communication and coordination needed for collaborators to generate new research projects.

What are we building? When it's done what will we have?

We are building a website. This phase-one project develops a starter set of features in a relatively short time to spur interest in the FeldSciNet vision and gather support toward phase two development.

- 1) Core module: home page, about us page, sponsors page, directory of member profiles.
- 2) Article Submission module
- 3) Links Manager module
- 4) Call for Project Participants module

As funding support grew, we secured approval to begin development of the Book Review Submission module as part of the phase-one features.

Why is this project needed?

Currently there is a dearth of scientific research demonstrating the effectiveness, safety and underlying processes of the *Feldenkrais Method*. Public perception of the *Feldenkrais Method* hinges on the existence and accessibility of published scientific research. The FeldSciNet project will enable scientists and *Feldenkrais* teachers around the world to contact each other, share ideas and coordinate new research projects.

Benefits to the broader community:

FeldSciNet is international in nature, will foster fruitful dialogue with scientific and academic communities, support the credibility of the *Feldenkrais Method* among other professional communities. In time, as the availability of published research grows, public awareness of the *Feldenkrais Method* will expand. The public will benefit from the work and the *Feldenkrais* community will grow and thrive.

How does the project relate to the Research Symposium?

FeldSciNet was originally envisioned as part of the Symposium Project. At this time it is launched as a stand-alone project but it will dovetail with Symposium as that project reemerges.

How does the project fit with the organization's mission?

The FeldSciNet project activates the Thelen Fund's stated objective #3: "To provide grants for events or actions that bring together scientists and scholars, *Feldenkrais* practitioners, other professionals, policy makers, and the public for dialogue that facilitates improvement in the function and quality of individual lives and society."

How is the project funded and who is overseeing the project?

Funding comes from individuals who make donations to the Esther Thelen Research and Education Fund. Donors stipulate that their donation be used specifically for the FeldSciNet project. The project is spearheaded by the Esther Thelen Research and Education Fund Subcommittee under the auspices of the *Feldenkrais*® Educational Foundation of North America (FEFNA). The Executive Director of the *Feldenkrais Guild*® of North America (FGNA) collaborates with the Subcommittee on matters necessary for operations. The Subcommittee Chair, Pat Buchanan, works closely with the Project Manager to oversee website development and approve site content.

What's the budget for this project?

Launching Phase One of FeldSciNet and supporting it for three years is expected to cost \$31,000. This figure includes website development, hosting and support, project management and administrative costs.

Who are the key people involved?

Organizational oversight: FEFNA Board of Directors; Dwight Pargee, President

Project Sponsor: Esther Thelen Research and Education Fund Subcommittee: Pat Buchanan, Chair; Roger Russell and Jim Stephens, Members.

Guild contact/operations: FGNA Executive Director; Jan LaRue.

Project management: Space To Move, Suzane Van Amburgh.

Web development: Lake Oswego Media, Mikal Anderson.

How can I support the project?

As of November 2009, over \$25,000 has been raised so far, but we need your help to meet our goal for phase one and to prepare us for phase two! Talk up the project with your colleagues and potential supporters. Make a contribution of any amount. For more information:

- Visit the sponsors page at <http://feldscinet.org/>
- Contact Pat Buchanan at info@feldscinet.org
- Call FEFNA at 800-775-2118.