

pro·mise

The noun form of the word “promise” carries two distinct connotations, both of which are important in the Donaghue Foundation’s work with researchers. “Promise” can be either simply a reason for having expectations or a binding commitment in exchange for something of value. The first meaning suggests merely a state of affairs arising from a set of existing facts, as in “An area of scientific inquiry shows promise.” Of course the Foundation always searches out promising projects. The second meaning involves conscious commitment on the part of both the Foundation and the scientists whose work we support, as in “We promise to transfer X dollars to you in exchange for your promise to apply the money in accordance with a specific funding agreement.” Our funding agreements reflect not only financial accountability but also programmatic purpose. They embody the mission and values of the Foundation, as well as specific goals we pursue in each project we fund. Thus, in working with the Donaghue Foundation, a promising scientist is two things at once, a person whose talent and record give us reason to expect success and a person who has made a deliberate commitment to justify our trust. 

