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The Best and Brightest 2007

This year's batch of honorees aren't merely curing cancer, saving schools, remaking music, and creating synthetic life -- they give us reasons for hope, too.



In this archive, you will find thirty-six revolutionaries. They are curing cancer with math and curing our schools with advertising. Creating synthetic life from our DNA and remaking music one color at a time. They probe the depths of our cities and the workings of our democracy. They believe in

extending our youth and eradicating our worst plagues. Their ideas will not only remake the world, but will make your life better. Consider this a preview of what's to come: **Thirty-six reasons for hope.**

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[Chris Adrian, 37, novelist](#), pediatrician, divinity student

[Martin Blaser, 58, microbe-hunter](#), chairman, Department of Medicine, NYU Medical School

[George Church, 53, artificial life engineer](#), professor of genetics, Harvard Medical School

[Geoffrey Coates, green-plastic pioneer](#)

[Vicki Colvin, inventor of the pollution magnet](#)

[Ron Deibert, anti-Internet-censorship crusader](#)

[Nikhil Dhurandhar, 47, microbe-hunter](#), associate professor of biochemistry, LSU

[Andy Dillin, 36, pursuer of youth-extending drugs](#)

[Drew Endy, 37, artificial life engineer](#), assistant professor, department of biological engineering, MIT

[Fahrenheit 212, revolutionary new consulting and advertising firm](#)

[Jacques Grosset, tuberculosis fighter](#), professor of bacteriology, Johns Hopkins Center for TB Research

[Bill Jacobs, 52, tuberculosis fighter](#), professor of microbiology and immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

[Sanjay Jain, tuberculosis fighter](#), assistant professor of pediatrics, Johns Hopkins Center for TB Research

Jing X. Kang, heart-healthy bacon designer

Jay Keasling, 43, artificial life engineer, director of the physical-biosciences division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Deborah Kenny, 44, education reformer, Village Academies founder

Miru Kim, 26, underground urban explorer and photographer

Tom Knight, 59, artificial life engineer, senior researcher, computer-science and artificial-intelligence laboratory, MIT

Stephanie Lacour, stretchable-circuit builder

Gyanu Lamichhane, tuberculosis fighter, assistant professor of infectious diseases, John Hopkins Center for TB Research

Hod Lipson, smart-robot engineer

Gal Luft, energy independence advocate

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Maxwell, 42, founder of the U.S. Marines Corps' first Wounded Warriors barracks, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Franziska Michor, 25, developer of math tools for fighting cancer

Eric Nuermberger, tuberculosis fighter, assistant professor of infectious diseases, John Hopkins Center for TB Research

James Powderly, 31, and Evan Roth, 29, vandals of the year

John Robb, global war strategist, author of *Brave New War*

Shauna Robertson, 32, producer of *Knocked Up*, *Superbad*, and *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*

Ricardo Romaneiro, 28, genre-breaking composer

Eric Rubin, 49, tuberculosis fighter, associate professor of immunology and infectious diseases, Harvard School of Public Health

Ben Silverman, 37, cochair of NBC Entertainment

Heather Smith, 31, electoral activist, executive director, Rock the Vote

Christina Smolke, 32, artificial life engineer, assistant professor, chemical-engineering department, Caltech

Joel Weinstock, 55, microbe-hunter, chief of gastro-enterology/hepatology, Tufts-New England Medical Center

Kurt Zenz House, carbon sequesterer

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