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The role of government is changing

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Christopher Coons wrote the editorial article entitled "Scientists can't be silent" (1). The role of government is changing. A variety of research funds are available in our society. One of promising research funds is called, alternative finance funding. According to Wikipedia, alternative finance refers to financial channels and instruments that have emerged outside of the traditional finance system such as regulated banks and capital markets (2). Examples of alternative financing activities through 'online marketplaces' are reward-based crowdfunding, equity crowdfunding, peer-to-peer consumer and business lending, invoice trading third party payment platforms (3). For the United Kingdom, according to the University of Cambridge and Nesta, the UK online alternative finance market reached £1.74bn in 2014 (4). In comparison, the alternative finance markets in France and Germany reached €154m (5) and €140m (6) respectively in 2014. Credit Saison, private credit card company in Japan, has had a unique permanent point program for corporate social responsibility/social contribution activities with US\$0.9b where credit card customers are allowed to exchange permanent points for research donation (7). Researchers should seek not only government funding for research, but also a wide variety of funds including alternative finance funding.

References:

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