

WORKING TO
ADVANCE SCIENCE,
ENGINEERING AND
INNOVATION
THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD FOR THE
BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE

AAAS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE





Get to Know AAAS

“THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
SHOULD BE THE CHIEF CONCERN OF A
NATION THAT WOULD CONSERVE AND
INCREASE THE WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE.”

JAMES MCKEEN CATTELL, 1925

“NOW AND IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WE
NEED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
THE HONEST AND UNCOMPROMISING
COMMON-SENSE OF SCIENCE.
SCIENCE MEANS A METHOD OF
THOUGHT... CHARACTERIZED BY
OPEN-MINDEDNESS, HONESTY,
PERSEVERANCE, AND, ABOVE ALL,
BY AN UNFLINCHING PASSION FOR
KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH...”

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN AT THE
AAAS ANNUAL MEETING IN 1948

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is an

international nonprofit organization
dedicated to advancing science,
engineering and innovation for the
benefit of all people. With more than
120,000 individual members in over
91 countries, we are the world's
largest multidisciplinary scientific
society and a leading publisher of
cutting-edge research through our
Science family of journals.

As one of the leading voices for
science worldwide, we spearhead
initiatives in science policy,
international cooperation and
diplomacy, STEM education, public
engagement and more. We strive to
promote and defend the integrity of
science and its use, provide a voice
for science on societal issues and
strengthen and diversify the science
and technology workforce. Most of
all, we support science, technology,
engineering and mathematics as
solutions to many of the challenges
the world faces today.

The History of AAAS

Founded in 1848, AAAS was the first permanent organization formed to promote the development of science and engineering at the national level, and to represent the interests of all disciplines. In 1900, Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell brought *Science* magazine, a private venture, to AAAS, and AAAS and *Science* have thrived together.

AAAS grew and changed in the first four decades of the 20th century as the American scientific enterprise began to take its modern shape. Between 1900 and 1940, leading scientists of the era including Albert Einstein, Barbara McClintock and Edwin Hubble published in *Science* or presented their work at annual meetings.

The Second World War brought vast changes in American science. AAAS responded, evolving to become an organization with a strong professional staff committed to the advancement of science and to strengthening the place of science in society.

AAAS is a trusted leader in amplifying a broad spectrum of voices and cultivating diverse top talent in science. We led the way by ceasing all annual meetings in the “Jim Crow” South in the 1950s and holding the first fully physically accessible professional meeting in 1976—long before passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act—and helping other science societies to do the same. Our research was influential in establishing the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunity Act, signed into law by President Carter in 1980 to ensure that men and women of all backgrounds have equal opportunity in scientific and technical fields.

More recently, AAAS has redoubled its efforts to be the leading force for science. We are dedicated to advocating for science and scientific evidence to be fully and positively integrated into public policy, and for the community to speak with one voice to advance science and engineering in the United States and around the world.

> [aaas.org](https://www.aaas.org)

AAAS and Policy

For scientific findings to improve the world around us, they must be integrated into public decision-making. AAAS strives to bridge the worlds of science and public policy by furthering the work of scientists, improving the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare and fostering scientific freedom and responsibility.

For over 40 years, our Science & Technology Policy Fellows have contributed their technical expertise in all branches of the federal government to develop and execute solutions to address societal challenges.

We produce evidence-based science and technology updates, including analyses of federal investments in science and engineering research and development.



“ONLY GOVERNMENTS CAN PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF FUNDING NECESSARY TO MAKE THE MAJOR DISCOVERIES IN BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCE THAT WILL SUPPORT OUR FUTURE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF POLICYMAKERS TO OPTIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF THE SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOR.”

KENWYN C.
[FORCEFORSCIENCE.ORG/SHAREYOURSTORY](https://forceforscience.org/shareyourstory)

AAAS and Advocacy

We are leading the charge

to ensure the proper use of scientific evidence in all aspects of decision-making and policymaking, including in local, state, federal and international policies.

Through op-ed articles, letters to policymakers, digital and social media and policy statements, AAAS leaders and members strive to expand the public dialogue about the science-based challenges shaping our world today.

We provide training and tools, mobilizing the science and engineering communities to communicate clearly and effectively with key audiences about the science relevant to public issues.

“SCIENCE IS WHAT MAKES US MODERN HUMANS AND GIVES US THE QUALITY OF LIFE WE HAVE TODAY. AS A PARENT, I CANNOT BE MORE THANKFUL AND RELIEVED WHEN I THINK OF ALL WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO MAKE SURE OUR CHILDREN GROW UP WITH ACCESS TO PROPER MEDICINE, NUTRITION AND EDUCATION.”

DANIEL C.

[FORCEFORSCIENCE.ORG/SHAREYOURSTORY](https://www.forceforscience.org/shareyourstory)



PHOTO BY CARLA SCHAFFER/AAAS

AAAS and Education

From kindergarten to graduate school and beyond, we advocate for the best possible science education for all students. From academia to corporate laboratories, we promote diversity and inclusion in the scientific and engineering workforce.

Our work is changing the way that the public thinks about the priorities and purposes of science and science education. Through our fellowship programs and volunteer opportunities, we are raising the profile of science in and beyond the classroom.



"CURIOSITY TAUGHT ME TO ASK QUESTIONS, BUT SCIENCE TAUGHT ME HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND SOLVE PROBLEMS. SCIENCE TAUGHT ME THAT THERE CAN BE A LOT OF OPINIONS AND EXPLANATIONS, BUT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE UNDISPUTABLE FACTS THAT ARE BASED ON EVIDENCE. WITHOUT SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE, OUR NATION WON'T HAVE THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO MAKE DISCOVERIES, SOLVE PROBLEMS OR ANSWER QUESTIONS."

CHRISTINA F.
[FORCEFORSCIENCE.ORG/SHAREYOURSTORY](https://forceforscience.org/shareyourstory)



AAAS is providing a venue for multidirectional dialogue on topics that capture national and international attention. We are building scientists' capacity to engage the public on issues such as stem cell research, gene editing, evolution, sustainable development, climate change, and infectious diseases.

"CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL, AND IT ISN'T GOING TO CORRECT ITSELF. THE WISE THING TO DO IS TO PREPARE FOR THOSE CHANGES AND TRY TO MINIMIZE THEM. COMMUNICATING CLIMATE SCIENCE IS ABOUT ENGAGING YOUR AUDIENCE, SPEAKING TO THEIR VALUES AND CONCERNS, AND NOT SIMPLY TELLING THEM WHAT YOU THINK THEY SHOULD HEAR."

JEFFREY DUKES
PROFESSOR AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY AND
AAAS LESHNER LEADERSHIP FELLOW

AAAS and Public Engagement



AAAS promotes the various ways that science and engineering can build bridges and address global challenges across scientific disciplines, sectors, and regions.

Through initiatives in science policy, diplomacy, communication and education, we provide a conduit for science and engineering to bring together societies, even when governments have disagreements.

“SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS DEPENDS ON OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND THE FREE FLOW OF IDEAS, AND THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE HELPED THE UNITED STATES ATTRACT AND RICHLY BENEFIT FROM INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC TALENT.”

**A 2017 AAAS LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP
SIGNED BY 180 DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS**

AAAS and International Science and Diplomacy

Science Family of Journals

AAAS publishes six respected

peer-reviewed journals: *Science*, the premier global science weekly; *Science Signaling*, the leading journal of cell signaling and regulatory biology; *Science Translational Medicine*, integrating medicine, engineering and science to promote human health; *Science Advances*, an innovative and high-quality open access journal for all the sciences; *Science Immunology*, research articles that report critical advances in all areas of immunological research, including important new tools and techniques; and *Science Robotics*, science and engineering-based research articles that advance the field of robotics.

> sciencemag.org



TOGETHER ...
we are stronger.

TOGETHER ...
we are the force for science.



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Advancement of Science
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Washington, DC 20005 USA

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