

Welcome

From the Chair, Mary Ellen Avery, and the CEO, Alan I. Leshner



MARY ELLEN AVERY, CHAIR

In the early years of the 21st century, science and technology are confronted by a set of global challenges: Solving the riddles of disease, checking the proliferation of weapons, and addressing the threat of global warming. Even while engaged in these historic pursuits, we are called to assure that our schools and universities prepare young people for careers of innovation and leadership in science and engineering.

These are critical demands, but at AAAS, we see this as a time of remarkable possibility. Throughout 2004, our staff and members rose to the challenges with energy and commitment, making a daily impact in the cause of advancing science and serving society.

Our Annual Meeting in Seattle set the tone for the year. We saw the debut of a new format, adding the popular Family Science Days and a town hall meeting on ocean and marine issues. And we used the Presidential Address to call for better access to health care and a sustainable environment, urging the audience to imagine — and build — the kind of world that we want our children to inherit.

We returned to such themes continually in 2004. *Science* published the world's first papers detailing the discovery of evidence that water was long ago plentiful on Mars. Deputy News Editor Leslie Roberts produced a compelling feature on the effort to eradicate polio. After a rare visit to North Korea, European News Editor Richard Stone detailed how a country at the center of diplomatic conflict is reaching out to the world's S&T community.

Stone's work characterized AAAS's engagement of national security issues. The Center for Science, Technology, and Security Policy opened its doors under the direction of Norman Neureiter, an accomplished scientist, businessman, and diplomat. Kei Koizumi continued to document how defense and security concerns are shaping the federal budget for research and development. And as the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships program began its fourth decade, fellows Alex Dehgan and Krista Donaldson, along with recent fellow Peter Smallwood, were dispatched by the U.S. State Department to work with Iraqi scientists and engineers.

Indeed, our international profile continues to grow. We had a strong presence at the first-ever EuroScience Open Forum in Stockholm and at the Science and Technology in Society World Forum in Kyoto. In November, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell named AAAS to help represent S&T interests on the new U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.



ALAN I. LESHNER, CEO

Throughout the year, *Science* and AAAS continued to provide a stage for some of the nation's leading scientists and policy experts. Our forum on climate change generated extensive news coverage. A forum on voting technology produced a framework for future research and reform. And people are still talking about our spirited 2004 election debate between proxies for President George W. Bush and U.S. Sen. John Kerry.

Education, of course, remains one of our chief concerns, and the year was marked by important progress. We opened the Center for Advancing Science and Engineering Capacity and, under the direction of Project 2061, the Center for Curriculum Materials in Science. We assumed management of the Graduate Scholars Program, a vital effort to identify and support the brightest young scientists and engineers to emerge from historically black colleges and universities.

We were profoundly saddened in 2004 by the passing of Philip Hauge Abelson, the iconic scientist and former editor of *Science*. Phil was a friend and mentor to many of us. In his life and work, he embodied the AAAS ideal of advancing science and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people. We will miss him, and as we confront challenges and pursue progress in the years ahead, we will be inspired by his legacy.



Mary Ellen Avery



Alan I. Leshner