

AAAS Awards

The AAAS Awards celebrate the achievements of extraordinary scientists, engineers, and journalists. We congratulate each of our distinguished Award winners.

AAAS Awards Highlights



Philip Hauge Abelson Prize

The coveted Abelson Prize honors a public servant for exceptional contributions to advancing science, or a scientist or engineer for a distinguished career of scientific achievement and service to the community.

Dr. Maxine Frank Singer, president emeritus, Carnegie Institution, and scientist emeritus, National Cancer Institute, was honored for her scientific accomplishments, leadership in the establishment of scientific policy, substantial contributions to the improvement of math and science education, efforts to raise awareness and understanding in matters of science globally and to increase the presence of women and minorities in the scientific community.



Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology

The award recognizes working scientists and engineers who make outstanding contributions to the popularization of science.

Dr. Eric S. Lander, founding director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; professor of biology at MIT; professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School; and Whitehead Institute member, “has helped to tell the stories of genomics research to a broad cross-section of the general public in a consistently compelling and meaningful way,” AAAS reported.



Award for International Scientific Cooperation

The award recognizes extraordinary contributions to furthering international cooperation in science and engineering.

Dr. Michael Jeffrey Balick, philecology curator and director of the New York Botanical Garden’s Institute of Economic Botany and vice president for research and training, was honored for his tireless efforts to promote scientific collaboration within the field of ethnobotany — the study of the relationship between plants and people across cultures.



Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award

The award honors scientists and engineers whose exemplary actions, often taken at significant personal cost, have served to foster scientific freedom and responsibility.

The Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) of the U.S. National Institutes of Health was honored “for 30 years of providing leadership that has allowed society to proceed responsibly with recombinant DNA research” and gene therapy.



Mentor Award

The award honors early or mid-career members who have mentored and guided significant numbers of underrepresented students toward a Ph.D. degree in the sciences, as well as scholarship, activism, and community-building for underrepresented groups.

Dr. Jagannathan Sankar, professor of mechanical and chemical engineering and director of the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures and the Center for Nanoscience and Nanomaterials at North Carolina A&T State University, was recognized for facilitating or mentoring 46 Ph.D. students, including 22 underrepresented minorities.



Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement

The award honors members who, for more than 25 years, have mentored and guided significant numbers of underrepresented students toward a Ph.D. degree in the sciences, as well as scholarship, activism, and community-building for underrepresented groups.

Dr. Rhonda J. Hughes, the Helen Herrmann Professor of Mathematics at Bryn Mawr College, has helped 57 women and minority students earn graduate degrees in mathematics, including 17 at the doctoral level.

Science Journalism Awards

The awards recognize outstanding reporting for a general audience and honor individual reporters for their coverage of the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. The independently judged competition is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, L.L.C.

- ▶ Large Newspaper — Amy Ellis Nutt of *The Star-Ledger*
- ▶ Small Newspaper — Melinda Burns of *Santa Barbara News-Press*
- ▶ Magazine — W. Wayt Gibbs of *Scientific American*
- ▶ Television — Mark Davis of WGBH-NOVA
- ▶ Radio — Cynthia Graber, with Christopher Ballman, National Public Radio's "Living on Earth"
- ▶ Online — Carl Zimmer of *Corante.com*

Co-Sponsored AAAS Prizes



The Young Scientists Award *Supported by GE Healthcare*

The prize recognizes outstanding Ph.D. thesis work in molecular biology worldwide.

Grand prize winner: Saba Valadkhan was honored for correctly identifying "a relic from the RNA world" (spliceosome) and proving its catalytic potential.

- Regional winners:
- North America — Benjamin P. Tu
 - Europe — Christian Haering
 - Japan — Kunihiko Nishino
 - All Other Countries — Suvendra Bhattacharyya

Newcomb Cleveland Prize *Supported by Affymetrix*

The prize acknowledges an outstanding paper published in the Research Articles or Reports sections of *Science*.

Brian Kuhlman, Gautman Dantas, Gregory C. Ireton, Gabrielle Varani, Barry L. Stoddard, and David Baker were acknowledged for their article, "Design of a Novel Globular Protein Fold with Atomic-Level Accuracy," published in *Science*, 21 November 2003.

DR. PHILIP HAUGE ABELSON LEGACY

Philip Hauge Abelson, Ph.D., accomplished scientist and former *Science* editor, died on 1 August 2004 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland.



He was 91. His work and contributions spanned more than 40 years with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His positions of leadership and his service on many national advisory committees enabled him to shape national science and technology policy.

"Dr. Abelson, a true icon in the scientific community, took the journal *Science* to a new level of quality and prominence during his 22-year tenure," AAAS said in a statement. "After he stepped down as editor in 1984, he remained an active contributor to the journal and adviser to AAAS, pursuing his passion for science and research, often at the forefront of scientific discovery. A mentor and friend to many of us, Dr. Abelson sought creative ways to overcome any barrier in the path to progress. One of his favorite sayings was, 'Tough times don't last, but tough people do'."

Dr. Abelson's legacy will live on through the work of AAAS. View a short video celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Abelson: www.aaas.org/makeagift.shtml