



“IF I WRITE A SCIENCE STORY, I  
HAVE TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT  
TAKES INTO ACCOUNT INDIGENOUS  
KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS.”

-Madumane Matloa  
*South African Broadcasting Company*

## OUR GOALS

### ***Strengthen Support for the Science and Technology Enterprise***

**F**or society to reap the full benefits of the promise of research, the scientific enterprise must flourish. That requires financial support, a healthy infrastructure, a public that values the ideals of science, and national leaders who understand the role of science in moving society forward. In addition, scientists and engineers should understand the process for making decisions about science policy and research funding, and be given opportunities to take part in the process.

TO SUPPORT THIS GOAL, AAAS IMPLEMENTS THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES:

#### ***Promote Recognition of the Benefits of Science and Technology***

AAAS disseminates knowledge about the products of science and technology, the interrelationships among disciplines, and the role basic science plays in producing the technological advances that are integral to improved health care, quality of life and economic prosperity.

## **Inform National Leaders about Scientific Research, Innovation and Related Policies**

AAAS provides national leaders with thoughtful analyses and perspectives on new discoveries and emerging trends. It has become, for example, the nationally recognized and trusted resource for up-to-date, objective analyses of federal funding for scientific research.

## **Collaborate with Diverse Sectors of Society**

AAAS collaborates and works in alliance with organizations that represent other major sectors of society. These are critical not only for what they do to support the scientific enterprise in general, but in setting research priorities.

## **Strengthen Scientists' Voice in the Policy Process and in the Media**

AAAS helps researchers become effectively involved in the policy process, providing opportunities for them to gain an understanding of policy and of the funding mechanisms that make possible the work of scientists.

# STRATEGIES IN ACTION

The activities described below are among the AAAS initiatives that demonstrate the Association's commitment to strengthening support for science and technology and its applications for the benefit of society:

### **Analysis of Federal Budget for Science and Technology**

As AAAS staff completed their annual task of analyzing the FY 2002 federal budget for science and technology funding last year, they noted that the budget, finalized in December, had not been affected by the nation's economic downturn.

Instead, the federal budget for science, like many other areas of government spending, reflected the impact of the events that followed the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The big winners were the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health, but most federal agencies received increases in their final R&D budgets, in contrast to proposals for steep cuts earlier in the year.

Since 1976, when AAAS began publishing federal budget numbers for R&D, scientists, engineers and policymakers with an interest in science have turned to AAAS for the latest information on federal funding of the nation's S&T enterprise. The Association also hosts an Annual Colloquium on Science and Technology Policy to provide a forum to discuss and debate the federal budget and other matters relating to science and technology policy.

### **Exposing Policymakers to Science; Scientists to Policy**

AAAS established the Center for Science, Technology, and Congress in July 1994. Founded with assistance from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and currently funded by a grant from the Burroughs-Wellcome Fund, this AAAS program provides timely, objective information to Congress on current science and technology issues and assists the science and engineering community in understanding and working with Congress.

The following are thumbnail sketches of two of the briefings that the AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Congress organized in 2001 on Capital Hill:

- The formal announcement in 2001 about the near-completion of the human genome sequence has raised hopes of a medical revolution, as well as fears that the genetic information might be used to discriminate unfairly against people. AAAS set up a series of seminars to examine the nature of concerns about genetic discrimination in different settings and to promote the sharing of information and public dialogue.

- The 2000 presidential election, particularly as it played out in Florida, awakened a national interest in the technologies with which we cast our votes. To help policymakers as they considered ways to improve the nation's voting systems, AAAS organized a briefing in July 2001 at which a group of faculty from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) presented the results of an important study of voting technology that revealed major flaws in the system.

AAAS publishes the monthly newsletter, *Science and Technology in Congress*, when Congress is in session. Information about these and other AAAS congressional activities is available at [www.aaas.org/spp/cstcl](http://www.aaas.org/spp/cstcl).

### **New World of Science Policy for Scientists, Engineers**

In 1973, the AAAS Congressional Fellowship Program started with seven Fellows sponsored by AAAS and three other national scientific and engineering societies. Currently there are about 30 participating societies, with AAAS sponsoring two Fellows and 30 other societies, each sponsoring one or more Congressional Fellows. In addition, AAAS has established eight other programs in federal agencies, which provide science policy learning experiences for another 50-plus scientists and engineers. The AAAS programs place Fellows in a dozen executive branch agencies, including the departments of state, justice, defense, and agriculture.

There are now about 1,300 former fellows, many of whom have gone on to make important contributions in science and science policy. Kerri-Ann Jones, who has her doctorate in molecular biophysics and biochemistry, was a fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development 17 years ago, and eventually served in the White House's Office of Science and Technology.

"The fellowship was a platform for everything I've gone on to do," says Jones, who now directs a program to improve Maine's research infrastructure under the University of Maine System and the Maine Science and Technology Foundation.