

SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS

Sections

AAAS offers 24 sections, covering the spectrum of scientific disciplines, so members can promote issues in a particular field.

- Agriculture, Food, and Renewable Resources
- Anthropology
- Astronomy
- Atmospheric and Hydrospheric Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Dentistry and Oral Health Sciences
- Education
- Engineering
- General Interest in Science and Engineering
- Geology and Geography
- History and Philosophy of Science
- Industrial Science and Technology
- Information, Computing, and Communication
- Linguistics and Language Science
- Mathematics
- Medical Sciences
- Neuroscience
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Physics
- Psychology
- Social, Economic, and Political Sciences
- Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering
- Statistics

AAAS's four geographic divisions allow members to combine forces at a local level. Through annual meetings and other activities, members address science issues that are significant in their own region. Each division determines its own course, with all offering programs of support for young scientists.

Arctic Division

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, led to the cancellation of the 52nd Arctic Science Conference, which was to be held on 12-15 September in Anchorage, Alaska. While the decision to cancel was made with regret, it was clear that a viable conference would not have been possible given the cancellation of flights, and the loss of spirit following this national tragedy. The theme of the 53rd Arctic Science Conference in 2002 will focus on connections and relationships among northern ecosystems, and how they interact at their boundaries.

After almost 10 years as executive secretary of the AAAS Arctic Division, Patricia A. Anderson has stepped down. During Anderson's tenure the Arctic Science Conference expanded, becoming the major Arctic science meeting in the western hemisphere. Lawrence K. Duffy, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, took over as executive secretary at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston in February 2002. Duffy also serves as associate dean for graduate programs and outreach in the College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics.

Caribbean Division

The Caribbean Division sponsored three events in 2001. The 28th Science Congress of Puerto Rico Junior Science and Humanities Symposium was held at the University of Puerto Rico. AAAS presented three scholarships for the best student presentations. A second event, The Annual Symposium on Island Ecology, was held in October 2001 at the Interamerican Metro University. Co-hosted by the Association of Science Teachers, the symposium drew representatives from government, industry, and private organizations. A third meeting, of the First Chemistry Congress, was conducted in collaboration with the Teacher's Alliance for Excellence. The major topic was curriculum revision for courses in general and organic chemistry.

Current activities include planning for an annual meeting in collaboration with Puerto Rico EPSCoR (the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research); development of an 8-week summer science program to provide laboratory experience for high school science students; and efforts to increase communication and scientific interchange between Puerto Rico and Venezuela and between Puerto Rico and Cuba.



Pacific Division

The Pacific Division held its 82nd annual meeting in June 2001 on the campus of the University of California at Irvine. Among the notable events at the meetings were the day-long session on Science and Management of Coastal Water Quality, a particularly sensitive topic in Southern California, and half-day sessions on Informatics and the New Biology, Local Adaptation to Global Environmental Change, as well as several education programs designed for both college and high school level teachers. On Sunday, the division held a special poster session for high school students, for which both cash awards and certificates of excellence were given.

The year 2001 was a transition year for the AAAS Pacific Division. David E. Bilderback stepped down as the executive director of the division, and Alan E. Leviton was asked to take his place while the division's executive committee sought a new executive officer. In June, the Council of the Pacific Division elected Roger Christianson to the office of executive director of the division, effective January 2002. The division council also elected John Carroll president-elect for 2001–2002, and Garnis Curtis delivered his presidential address, after which he turned the gavel over to Nina G. Jablonski, incoming division president.

Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division

The Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division (SWARM) held its 77th Annual Meeting in Denton, Texas, 25–28 March 2001, in cooperation with the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University. There were 124 presentations, including poster displays, and 11 keynote addresses. Three special symposia covered the behavior and nutrition of animals, special relativity, and experiments in electrodynamics. Richard Machalek, of the University of Wyoming, gave The John Wesley Powell Memorial Lecture, entitled "Prospects for an Evolutionary Social Science."

For the third year in a row, SWARM organized a fall mid-western meeting, in Omaha, Nebraska, from 11–13 November, in cooperation with Creighton University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This meeting featured 74 presentations, including oral presentations and poster displays; two keynote addresses; and four special symposia.

Due to the untimely death of Donald J. Nash, the executive director of SWARM, the 2002 meeting had to be cancelled. David Nash was appointed as the interim executive director of SWARM. The 2003 Spring Meeting will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 8–11 April 2003.

