



FLOYD E. BLOOM, CHAIR



ALAN I. LESHNER, CEO

Welcome

From the Chair, Floyd E. Bloom, and the CEO, Alan I. Leshner

We were reminded almost daily in 2003 that science and technology are inseparable from the most urgent challenges facing humanity. At AAAS, some 350 staff – backed by more than 120,000 members and 10 million affiliated scientists worldwide – worked with dedication to create understanding of these challenges and, wherever possible, to find solutions.

With evidence mounting that the Earth is getting warmer, we joined in the United Nations-backed Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, one of the most ambitious international ecosystem-change studies ever undertaken. With the AIDS epidemic threatening crisis in Asia, award-winning *Science* correspondent Jon Cohen teamed with photographer Malcolm Linton to report from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. As armed conflicts and the spread of lethal weapons sent ripples into the remotest villages, we received a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation that would lead to the creation of the AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy.

By engaging with scientists, the public and public officials worldwide to address these and other issues, we sought to accomplish the mission that is at the heart of every AAAS initiative: “To advance science and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people.”

Reform of the U.S. health care system dominated our agenda in 2003. We first raised the issue in the Presidential Address at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Four months later in the journal *Science*, we described a system driven to the brink of collapse by soaring costs, staff shortages and a tangle of paperwork. The article proposed creation of a National Commission to Restore the American Health System; without reform, we warned, our era’s most promising medical advances may never be widely available to the American public. [F. Bloom, “Science as a Way of Life: Perplexities of a Physician-Scientist.” *Science* 300, 1680-1685 (2003)]

A look back at the work and accomplishments of 2003 suggests that health and medical research are more than ever a priority for AAAS. In March, we wrote to U.S. policymakers, expressing support for strong protections to ensure that an individual's personal genetic information could not be misused. In June, some of the world's foremost authorities on HIV/AIDS used a Policy Forum in *Science* to call for creation of a global, public-private HIV vaccine enterprise. In November, AAAS urged the United Nations to support therapeutic cloning for research purposes and to ban the use of cloning for human reproduction.

Our work in 2003 attracted international media attention. *The New York Times* covered our prescription for health care reform. The *Financial Times* published our call to break the visa blockade for foreign students and scientists. Hundreds of publications, broadcast stations and Internet sites around the world carried news of our Annual Meeting or the latest revelations in *Science*. And the EurekAlert! news service managed by AAAS continued to grow, logging registration by 4,800 reporters – 52 percent of them outside the United States – and 540,000 public visitors per month. (See <http://www.eurekalert.org>)

But if AAAS is to give a voice to the scientific enterprise, it is imperative that we continue to seek a higher profile and that we expand our efforts to reach a diverse, contemporary audience. As part of that effort, we undertook the first phases of a new campaign to sharpen the Association's identity. The most obvious change is in the AAAS logo – it's brighter, fresher, more modern. The logo links AAAS and *Science*, conveying that they are partners working toward the same goals. In time, the change will be evident everywhere – from *Science* Careers and the Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment to our website, www.AAAS.org.

At year's end, we owe special thanks to William T. Golden, a longtime adviser to U.S. presidents on science policy matters. His donation of \$5.25 million is the largest gift AAAS has ever received in its 155-year history. In years ahead, the William T. Golden Endowment Fund for Program Innovation will be applied to the sort of creative, path-breaking projects that have distinguished our best efforts in 2003.



FLOYD E. BLOOM, CHAIR



ALAN I. LESHNER, CEO