Founded in 1848, the American Association for the Advancement of Science is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science, engineering and innovation for the benefit of all people. With more than 120,000 individual members in more than 91 countries, AAAS is the world’s largest multidisciplinary scientific society and a leading publisher of cutting-edge research through the Science family of journals. As one of the top voices for science worldwide, we spearhead initiatives in policy, international cooperation and diplomacy, STEM education, public engagement, and more. We strive to promote and defend the integrity of science and its use, provide a voice for science on societal issues, and strengthen and diversify the science and technology workforce. More information is available at www.aaas.org.
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In times of uncertainty and concern about the future, AAAS and the Science family of journals communicate high-quality research and advocate for science with diverse scientific and public audiences.

The AAAS mission focuses our work on advancing science, engineering and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people. AAAS lives this mission by leading influential programs in science communication, education, policy, public engagement and international relations, and by partnering with our many affiliates, members and supporters.

In the past year, we shared information on breakthrough research advances with the scientific community, policymakers, reporters and the public; strongly advocated for the conditions that the research enterprise needs in order to thrive; provided valuable training and resources for students, scientists and engineers; and promoted research collaboration across disciplines and borders.

We are grateful to AAAS members and donors for their service and support on behalf of our organization.

“In times of uncertainty and concern about the future, AAAS and the Science family of journals communicate high-quality research and advocate for science with diverse scientific and public audiences.”
**Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.**  
Chair, Board of Directors,  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Foreign Secretary, National Academy of Medicine

**Sudip S. Parikh, Ph.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Executive Publisher, Science Family of Journals
AAAS provides training, tools and opportunities for scientists and engineers to advocate for science and to participate in policymaking; organizes policy briefings and meetings; communicates with members of Congress and their staff; and produces evidence-based science and technology updates, including analyses of federal investments in research and development.

Advocating for science in policymaking

AAAS and its members pursue many opportunities to advocate for science with members of Congress, federal agencies and other audiences. Throughout the year, the organization made 17 public statements on issues of concern to the scientific community, including diversity in science technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); the importance of scientific advisory committees for federal agencies; balancing national security concerns with impacts on the scientific enterprise; sustained investments in U.S. research and development; and more.

For example, during testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology in May, AAAS senior adviser Shirley Malcom said the growing need for a workforce capable of delivering future innovations and meeting the world’s challenges will require “expanding the pool of talent, tapping into the vast well of women, minorities, racial and ethnic, and people with disabilities currently underrepresented in STEM.”

Demonstrating the value of fundamental research with Golden Goose Awards

Five researchers — including scientists who worked to develop a lifesaving cholera treatment, discover autoimmunity and develop a detection tool for bacterial endotoxins — were honored with Golden Goose Awards at a Library of Congress ceremony in September. Founded by AAAS, the Association of
As part of the Local Science Engagement Network initiative launched by AAAS, Rachel Owen directs the Missouri Local Science Engagement Network. She is working to ensure that the network provides science communications, civic engagement and effective advocacy from AAAS and other partners and provides networking to facilitate conversations among scientists, policymakers and local leaders.

“We’re going to try to make it as easy as possible for them to bring science to the conversation,” Owen said.

The network also benefits from Owen’s ongoing work as executive director of the Missouri Science and Technology Policy Initiative, which she co-founded in 2016. Owen will continue this work to identify key decision points in the state legislative process and to provide timely and relevant scientific information to policymakers.

The network aims to engage local stakeholders to ensure that evidence-based perspectives woven into climate solutions apply to diverse communities. In Missouri, Owen and others are working to identify the diverse needs of different demographic, economic and cultural regions in a state that includes the sparsely populated Ozarks as well as more populated urban and suburban communities.
American Universities, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and other organizations, and with the bipartisan support of members of Congress, the awards recognize federally funded scientific research that has led to considerable benefits to society.

“Instead of focusing on global theoretical concepts of climate change or impacts that are happening in far-flung communities in this country or internationally, we want local scientists to talk about how they can inform local decisions that improve the lives of people sitting in the room,” said Dan Barry, director of the AAAS Local Science Engagement Network.

The program — which has been funded through philanthropic support led by the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and Benjamin and Ruth Hammett — aims to set up networks in additional states to assist communities and state policymakers in implementing effective solutions to challenges raised by climate change.

**Facilitating local science engagement opportunities**

Partnering with pilot initiatives in Missouri and Colorado, the AAAS Local Science Engagement Network worked to integrate scientists with local and state policymakers, community stakeholders, and the public to leverage scientific evidence and inform efforts to address varied local impacts of climate change.

Launched in December, the nascent network will forge alliances among diverse and multidisciplinary groups of scientists, civic leaders, academic institutions, decision-makers and representatives of scientific societies to advance regional responses to the flooding of agricultural lands, impacts of urban heat islands and droughts in Missouri, and premature snow melts, droughts and wildfires encroaching on suburbs in Colorado.

**Sharing scientific evidence on election security**

In 2018, AAAS launched the Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues — also known as the EPI Center — which has been working to deliver scientific evidence on voting integrity to policymakers and election officials across the United States as they prepare for the 2020 elections.

For its initial effort, the EPI Center concentrated its work on the state and local levels where changes are enacted, with a particular focus on states that use computerized voting systems that lack paper trails. The center has taken a targeted approach, engaging in one-on-one conversations with local voting authorities whenever possible.
The center also will bring evidence to emerging voting technology issues, such as online voting. Although public interest in voting by computer or mobile phone is rising, the expert consensus states that online voting is unable to preserve voter privacy or protect the integrity of the system from breaches.

“Voting technology will continue to evolve, creating new risks and new opportunities,” said Michael D. Fernandez, director of the EPI Center. “Supporting decision-makers with the best available evidence as they make choices on how to administer elections and how to ensure the integrity of the results will be more important than ever.”

Funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore, Rockefeller, Alfred P. Sloan, David and Lucile Packard, and Rita Allen Foundations, the Hellman family, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the center will expand its focus to inform public conversations on other pressing issues with scientific evidence.

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**Serving the public good discussed at AAAS Science and Technology Policy Forum**

To increase public support for science, scientists must ensure that the public enjoys an ownership stake in the scientific enterprise and is well informed about the benefits it delivers, said Michael McQuade, research vice president at Carnegie Mellon University, at the 44th AAAS Forum on Science & Technology Policy.

McQuade addressed the challenges of bolstering support for science at a time when trust in institutions is at an all-time low and facts are debatable, mutable and easily dismissed.

“Our training, our research and our expertise are less important to the public as scientists and technologists than is the public’s willingness and desire to belong to a group,” he said. “Our messaging and the way we portray the role of science and technology as practitioners has to be modified.”

While scientists have historically been skilled at sharing facts, that is no longer enough, McQuade said. Scientists must create “a new American affinity for science” by focusing on what science can do for all Americans and engaging the public in these conversations, he said.

Other keynote speakers at the annual event in Washington, D.C., included ecologist Jane Lubchenco, economist Kaye Husbands Fealing, and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Kelvin Droegemeier. Panelists discussed opportunities to accelerate scientific innovation to benefit society and to improve the research culture to strengthen science.
Improving education and opportunities for students and professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is a primary goal of AAAS that benefits individuals and society, which needs science-literate citizens and a well-trained STEM workforce. AAAS facilitates policies, programs, conferences and awards that ensure society can access the full spectrum of STEM talent.

Societies take a stand against sexual harassment in STEMM

In February, a group of academic and professional societies formed a consortium to address sexual harassment in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM), with more than 100 societies joining by the end of the year. The Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM acknowledges the unique role that professional societies have in setting standards and taking action on sexual and gender harassment in the sciences, its leaders said at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

“We need to put our positions on the record,” said AAAS senior adviser Shirley Malcom during a panel session that announced the consortium. “Harassment of any kind is death to our enterprise. We are trying to attract and encourage talent, but when we don’t provide a climate that is safe, we either push them out or we don’t get them in to begin with.”

The consortium will provide research, resources and guidance to address sexual harassment in the member societies as well as more broadly in the fields they represent. As a start, the group will focus on model policies and procedures for society honors and awards.

“We must recognize that in our own community, certain groups are, and have always been, disenfranchised in ways that harm well-being and prevent people from fulfilling their potential,” said Margaret Hamburg in her presidential address, which opened the AAAS Annual Meeting. “It is no longer enough to be concerned, even outraged, by this problem. It’s time to fix it.”

SEA Change honors diversity efforts by colleges and universities

The AAAS SEA Change program recognized effective institutional efforts to attract, retain and advance underrepresented students and faculty engaged in STEMM fields.

Boston University; the University of California, Davis; and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell were selected by AAAS as the first
institutional awardees in the SEA Change program, an ambitious effort to solve a longstanding problem in the United States. The awards require institutions to conduct a data-based self-assessment to appraise their institutional makeup, policies and culture, and to identify knowledge gaps and barriers. Each institution then develops detailed action plans.

SEA Change aims to expand the talent pool for the STEMM workforce by calling on colleges and universities to take steps to identify and remove barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion. The voluntary SEA Change program supports and recognizes institutions as they transform their policies and practices to ensure that all can thrive. “It is a transformative national vision,” said Paula Rayman, chair of the SEA Change advisory council.

AAAS will work next with additional cohorts of program applicants and develop two other facets of the SEA Change program: the SEA Change Community, a group of stakeholders committed to diversity in STEMM, and the SEA Change Institute, a repository of research and training materials.

SEA Change is supported by the National Science Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Kavli Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Lyda Hill Philanthropies, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

**AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors highlighted as diverse role models for girls**

Women working in STEM in varied career fields — including research and development, sports and recreation, music, fashion, gaming, engineering, and manufacturing — were selected as AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors in September. Selected from hundreds of applicants, 125 women will share their stories and serve as high-profile role models for middle-school girls, demonstrating different career pathways and how STEM affects their everyday lives.

In October, AAAS staff and others provided training and networking opportunities for the ambassadors at an IF/THEN summit held in Dallas, Texas. The ambassadors learned more about the fundamentals of science communication, developed electronic press kits, worked on strategies to engage with girls on social media and in person, and developed new collaborations with their fellow ambassadors.

The group of 125 ambassadors serves as part of Lyda Hill Philanthropies’ IF/THEN initiative, a $25 million collaborative initiative to fund and elevate women in STEM as role models. For 18 months, the ambassadors will participate in a variety of programs, from meeting with
local Girl Scout troops to starring in network television series such as CBS’ Mission Unstoppable, a weekly program about women working on cutting-edge STEM projects.

Raychelle Burks, an assistant professor of analytical chemistry at St. Edward’s University, hopes the program will support girls from historically marginalized communities without telling them they need to “assimilate or conform” in order to work in the sciences.

“What I want to put out is that we can support girls and women in STEM, that there is a place for them here, and that we will make a place for them, not that they have to conform to preconceived notions and stereotypes,” said Burks.

Summer science program for kids teaches about the human body

Since its inception in 1986, Science in the Summer has brought free, hands-on science education activities to more than a quarter-million children around the country. In 2019, that number grew as thousands of children took part in the latest Science in the Summer program featuring the science of the human body: The Science of Me.

Science in the Summer, an enrichment program targeted to second- through sixth-graders, aims to get elementary school students excited about science and avoid the well-documented “summer slide” phenomenon that can drain skills and knowledge over lengthy summer breaks. To ensure children are not falling behind, pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline launched Science in the Summer in the Philadelphia area more than 30 years ago.

The program now reaches elementary- and middle-school students around the country, an expansion overseen in 2015 by AAAS, which administers the program in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. With the help of 26 partner organizations, Science in the Summer is held in 18 additional states.

Celebrating excellence in children’s science books

Winners of the 2019 AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books exemplify outstanding science writing and illustration for children and young adults. The award program, now in its 14th year, aims to spur the creation of new, high-quality books about science for children of all ages.

“We are proud to work with AAAS to provide the younger generations the tools they need to be inspired to explore and prepare for the many opportunities a passion for science can lead to,” said Thomas J. Doll, president and CEO at Subaru of America, Inc., which sponsors the prizes.
A postdoctoral research associate in particle physics at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Jessica Esquivel was one of 125 women selected as AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors in September. Jessica is an Afro-Latinx woman who was raised in a Mexican household and has said she often felt ostracized while pursuing a graduate degree in physics.

During a July panel at Wakandacon in Chicago, Esquivel discussed the welcoming environment at Fermilab: “It was a weight lifted off my shoulders. There was diversity. And Fermilab as an institution really cares about equity, diversity and inclusion. And it wasn’t lip service. They value my input and value my work when it comes to helping increase diversity in STEM.”

“They value my input and value my work when it comes to helping increase diversity in STEM.”
Judged by panels of librarians, scientists and educators, the winning works feature accurate science and cannot perpetuate misconceptions or stereotypes. The criteria also require that each book be age-appropriate. For the youngest readers, a winning picture book should pique their curiosity about the natural world around them; for older readers, books should encourage the discussion and understanding of scientific ideas.

**Emerging researchers fostered at national conference**

AAAS long has facilitated conferences aimed at encouraging emerging researchers from diverse backgrounds to pursue STEM careers.

The Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM, hosted by AAAS and the National Science Foundation’s Division of Human Resource Development, provides underrepresented students — such as African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, American Indians, Alaska Natives and those with disabilities — with opportunities to hone critical skills necessary to advance their scientific careers. More than 1,300 participants — primarily students from more than 250 colleges and universities, including 51 historically Black colleges and universities — attended the conference.

In its ninth year, the annual conference held in February in Washington, D.C., underscored “the breadth and depth of areas that your STEM background can be applied to, to solve some very complex and challenging real-world problems,” Iris R. Wagstaff, AAAS STEM program director and program lead for the ERN Conference, said to participants.

**Maintaining competitiveness by supporting low-income STEM students**

The first Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Symposium, co-hosted by NSF and AAAS in September, brought more than 600 members of the higher education community — including faculty leading projects supported by the NSF’s S-STEM program and 50 of the program’s current and former students, known as S-STEM Scholars — to Washington, D.C.

NSF’s S-STEM program aims to maintain the United States’ competitiveness in the global economy by supporting talented low-income students in their quest to contribute to the STEM workforce of the future. S-STEM provides grants to higher education institutions to fund scholarships and advance the study and implementation of evidence-based strategies for student retention, graduation and post-graduation success in STEM fields.

During the three-day conference, attendees shared and learned about effective STEM education and workforce preparation strategies at plenary sessions, workshops, and informal
roundtable and networking events that addressed the meeting’s theme of creating pathways to an inclusive STEM workforce.

In opening remarks, NSF director and former NASA chief scientist France Córdova highlighted some of the most important scientific advances of recent years. Focusing on her field of astrophysics, Córdova noted NSF’s announcement in 2019 that the Event Horizon Telescope had captured an image of a black hole and its shadow for the first time. Less than two years prior, astrophysicists found proof that high-energy cosmic rays originate outside our Milky Way galaxy, solving a 106-year-old mystery.

“It’s really an exciting time to be a scientist, and it gives us even more motivation to bring more young people into science and engineering, because they too can make profound discoveries,” Córdova said. “People are the cornerstone of the science enterprise, and greater diversity leads to greater success for that enterprise.”

**Scientific seminars equip judges to counter opioid epidemic**

Since 2006, the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, in partnership with the Dana Foundation, has convened seminars that give federal, state and administrative law court judges an opportunity to learn from researchers about how advances in neuroscience can inform courtroom decision-making.

In May, AAAS held a judicial seminar on the opioid crisis for Montana’s judicial community, attended by 42 of the state’s district and supreme court judges who learned from presentations on the causes, neurological effects and treatments of opioid addiction. AAAS plans to transform the pilot effort into three more opioid-focused seminars over the next year.

“There are certainly some judges out there who believe you can incarcerate addiction out of people,” said Ingrid Gustafson, an associate justice of the Montana Supreme Court. “The more you educate folks on the science behind why just sitting in a jail cell doesn’t work so well, and what kind of incentives you need to build into your system, and what we can reasonably expect people with brain damage to do within six months to a year to two years — it’s bound to help.”
AAAS shares information about scientific advances and promotes science communication and public engagement among diverse audiences and stakeholders. Each year, AAAS hosts the world’s largest general science meeting, attracting researchers, policymakers, journalists and families. Throughout the year, AAAS discusses the latest science news with reporters and other public audiences, provides communication training and resources to scientists and engineers, and facilitates research-practice collaboration in science communication and public engagement.

Supporting journalists covering science with services, resources and recognition

AAAS provides a plethora of services to journalists in support of their efforts to cover science.

SciLine, a free service that connects journalists with scientific experts, launched a series of intensive “boot camp” courses in April, providing reporters an opportunity to explore newsworthy science issues. The first boot camp examined the rapidly expanding field of genomics — and attracted print, radio and television journalists from across the United States. The boot camp initiative is the latest addition to SciLine’s expanding lineup of services and resources designed to enhance communication between journalists and scientists and ultimately impact public awareness and understanding.

EurekAlert! is a nonprofit news-release distribution platform operated by AAAS for more than 20 years as a resource for journalists. EurekAlert! hosts news releases produced by universities, journal publishers, medical centers, government agencies, corporations and other organizations engaged in all disciplines of scientific research.

The Science Press Package team supports broad communication of research and commentary from the Science family of journals by sharing information about publications with reporters, corresponding with authors and public information officers, and responding to media queries.
The AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Awards have honored professional journalists for distinguished reporting on the sciences, engineering and mathematics since 1945. Thousands of entries were submitted for the 2019 competition from 47 countries around the world. The awards are endowed by the Kavli Foundation. Independent judging committees select the winning entries based on scientific accuracy, initiative, originality, clarity of interpretation and value in fostering a better public understanding of science and its impact.

Other topics at the meeting blurred boundaries between scientific disciplines and suggested new ways for researchers to work across their fields. In several symposia and lectures, speakers noted the importance of collaboration with social science researchers in order to meet the challenges posed by robotics and artificial intelligence, respond to natural disasters, and prepare for the local economic impacts of climate change.

Family Science Days, a free event held by AAAS in conjunction with its annual meeting, featured more than 30 science activities — including extracting strawberry DNA and experimenting with superconductors — in partnership with universities, museums, laboratories, government agencies and nonprofits. AAAS has held the weekend-long Family Science Days each year since 2004 to provide scientists with an opportunity to engage the public during the AAAS Annual Meeting. The event gives attendees the chance to have conversations with researchers, learn about diverse fields of science and participate in science activities.

Meeting sponsors included 3M; Analog Devices, Inc.; Bristol Myers Squibb; European Commission; Johnson & Johnson Innovation; Research in Germany; Smithsonian; Subaru of America, Inc.; United Kingdom Research and Innovation; University of California, Riverside; University of Wisconsin, Madison; and Wiley.

AAAS Annual Meeting: Science Transcending Boundaries

At the 185th AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and in keeping with the theme “Science Transcending Boundaries,” participants discussed ways to enhance and protect science’s international collaborations from trends such as the rise in nationalism in the United States and other countries.

“We want to continue to support and emphasize that kind of science which has proven so productive rather than retreat into an approach that is really focused on what we are doing domestically,” said AAAS President Margaret Hamburg during her opening address.

Membership initiatives connect with science advocates

As part of its broad goal of fostering education and science for all, AAAS launched Science on Tap, a new weekly newsletter, in November. Membership staff curate and summarize interesting scientific research, discoveries and
news happening each week. The newsletter is targeted for AAAS advocate members, but anyone can sign up for free and share the newsletter with family, friends and colleagues.

“Most of us care about and are interested in science and scientific discovery but don’t have the time to devote to understanding the vast amounts of it that are published each day,” said Michael Savelli, chief operating officer at AAAS. “We conceived Science on Tap to help make sense of all of this information but in a manner that is approachable and enjoyable.”

Another growing initiative open to all AAAS members is Member Community, an opportunity for scientists and STEM supporters to participate in online discussions and share resources with other members. The AAAS Member Community has an open forum, a community for each of the 24 AAAS disciplinary sections, and a Women in STEM community, among others.

Multimedia highlights how communities are responding to climate change

Communities across the United States are recognizing the urgency of taking steps to limit the impact of climate change, according to a AAAS initiative that provided examples of 18 innovative solutions communities are putting in place to blunt shifts in Earth’s natural systems.

The How We Respond initiative explores why communities need to act, use science-informed planning and decision-making, and draw from the value of collaboration. The project includes a report and multimedia, and makes available a host of resources on its website.

Released in September, the initiative follows on the 2014 What We Know report by AAAS that presented well-established evidence to demonstrate human-caused climate change is happening, sending sea levels rising, and setting off more frequent and intense weather events, such as heat waves, excessive rainfall and wildfires.

“We specifically wanted to show how communities across the United States are experiencing different impacts of climate change and are responding in different ways,” said Emily Therese Cloyd, director of the AAAS Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology. “There are different ways communities might choose to respond, and all those responses are useful and help us make progress.”

The How We Respond initiative was supported by the Linden Trust for Conservation, Bob and Mary Litterman, James J. McCarthy, Jerry Pausch, the estate of Joseph Kist, Jean Taylor, and other individual donors.
James J. McCarthy

James McCarthy, biological oceanographer, past president of AAAS and a leader in the scientific community’s efforts to communicate the urgency of climate change, died in December after a years-long battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

In a research career spanning five decades, including 45 years at Harvard University, McCarthy scoured the world’s oceans for insights regarding their biological and physical processes. He studied plankton’s role in providing ecosystems with nitrogen, monsoons in the Arabian Sea and El Niño events in the equatorial Pacific.

His research showed that global flows of chemicals — biogeochemical cycles — are being disrupted by human activities.

McCarthy’s contributions to science policy and public understanding of humanity’s impact on Earth’s natural systems extended far beyond his own research. He co-chaired the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from 1997 to 2001, served as lead author of the 2005 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, and was a scientific adviser in the production of Al Gore’s 2006 documentary “An Inconvenient Truth.” When the IPCC and Gore received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2007, McCarthy was part of the delegation that traveled to Oslo to accept the award.

After his term as AAAS president in 2008, McCarthy remained active in the organization’s communication and policy work. He co-chaired the advisory committee of What We Know, a 2014 initiative dedicated to ensuring that climate change messages were clearly presented to the public. He then funded and helped secure support for the How We Respond initiative, which launched in 2019.

Photo Credit: THE TYLER PRIZE
Fellowships and Career Pathways

AAAS provides multiple opportunities for fellowships and career development, helping scientists and others diversify their skills and explore career pathways in policy, public engagement, journalism and more.

Science & Technology Policy Fellows share expertise with U.S. government

For the 47th year, scientists and engineers participating in AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships came to Washington, D.C., in September to immerse themselves in science policy and to apply their scientific expertise throughout the federal government. The program was conceived as and continues to be a strong partnership between AAAS and other scientific societies.

The full class of 273 fellows represented a wide range of scientific disciplines and included 178 first-year fellows and 95 fellows serving a second year. Over the course of their 2019-20 year of service, 240 fellows will serve in executive branch agencies and 33 will serve in the offices of members of Congress or on congressional committees.

Science undergrad and graduate students receive public policy training

“Scientists in this generation want to increase our advocacy beyond the bench, and the best start is to get involved in policy,” said Chris Bolden, one of 173 upper-class undergraduate and graduate science students who participated in intensive activities over three days in March as part of the AAAS Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) workshop, a crash course for science and public policymaking in the federal arena.

In recent years, the CASE workshop has seen steady growth that aligns with increased interest and engagement in policymaking and its impacts on the scientific enterprise among STEM students. The number of scientific societies and universities that support student participation in the workshop also has climbed; 64 institutions and organizations supported student attendance this year, up from 33 sponsors in 2014, when the workshop started.

Workshop speakers addressed forces that transform legislation into laws, complex pressures on annual federal budget proposals, and spending decisions and the operations of federal agencies.

The workshop’s Capitol Hill visits generated extensive enthusiasm among CASE attendees, reactions reflected in their Twitter posts with expressions of gratitude for being given platforms to advocate for science, engage in science policy matters, share stories about their research and make cases for federal scientific support.

Mass Media Fellows and Diverse Voices Interns train as journalists in newsrooms

Each summer, AAAS places advanced undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate scientists as Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellows at news organizations across the
Sebastian Echeverri

In the animal kingdom, spiders are a lot like Rodney Dangerfield — they get no respect, says Sebastian Echeverri, a 2019 AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellow.

A Ph.D. student at the University of Pittsburgh, Echeverri spent the summer writing in the newsroom at Philadelphia Inquirer as part of his fellowship. He wrote stories close to his research interest in spiders during his fellowship, but he also covered video games and their effect on creativity, conservation of local bird species, and human efforts and technology that would allow people to live on Mars.

His favorite story of the internship was an article he pitched centered on Spider-Man. The 1,200-word piece answered whether the superhero can do the same things a spider can, and revealed that there is just one spider that uses webs the same way Spider-Man does — spitting spiders, also known as Scytodidae. And he noted the other spiders the superhero borrows his fighting techniques from.

Echeverri said he feels a connection with the character Peter Parker, especially after watching “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.” In the film, Spider-Man is portrayed by New Yorker Miles Morales, an Afro-Latino comic book character — another connection for Echeverri as a former New Yorker and brown-skinned Latino.

Spider-Man is not only a hometown hero for Echeverri, but the superhero also offers an entry point for him to share with people, especially children, why spiders matter.

“In the animal kingdom, spiders are a lot like Rodney Dangerfield — they get no respect.”

Photo Credit: YUSAN YANG
United States for a 10-week program. Following the fellowship, some participants return to academia, while others go on to successful careers in science communication as journalists or public information officers.

With 26 fellows working at a diverse array of print, online-only and broadcast outlets, the 2019 group was the program’s largest, with support from Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Heising-Simons Foundation, Burroughs Wellcome Fund and other partners.

AAAS also hosts the Diverse Voices in Science Journalism Internship program, placing undergraduate journalism students on the news team at *Science* magazine for the summer. The 2019 program was supported by Sara L. Schupf.

These programs work to train the next generation of science writers and strengthen connections between scientists and journalists, sharpening researchers’ ability to communicate complex science while enhancing the breadth and depth of science-related coverage in mainstream media.

**Leshner Fellows increase public engagement skills for their work in human augmentation**

Ten scientists working in the multidisciplinary area of human augmentation and interfacing with public audiences were selected as AAAS Alan I. Leshner Leadership Fellows in Public Engagement and attended a weeklong orientation in June.

Since its establishment in 2015, the program has trained 45 additional mid-career scientists working across areas of climate change, infectious diseases and water security to address the increasing need for effective engagement between scientists and the public.

The AAAS Leshner Fellows in human augmentation research a variety of questions, including quantifying how machines improve human performance; supporting physiotherapists and enhancing the daily lives of disabled patients through technological advances in rehabilitative robots and assistive devices; and engineering gene-editing tools with safety and control features.

“To share scientific advances in human augmentation and receive feedback from public audiences, Leshner Fellows participate in public engagement activities that include movies, videos, podcasts, public presentations, social media, workshops and programs with schools and museums.

“We have the capacity to change any part of our DNA code. This means we will have the potential to have new traits of new genetic capacities,” said Samira Kiani, AAAS Leshner Fellow and an associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh. “We collectively as human beings need to decide whether we want that world or not, and that’s why I believe that public engagement in this process is absolutely critical.”
AAAS facilitates scientific exchange and relationships across borders. The Center for Science Diplomacy fosters closer interactions between science and diplomacy and elevates the role of science in foreign policy to address national and global challenges.

**AAAS delegation visits Chinese science officials**

A delegation of AAAS staff visited Beijing in June to meet with Chinese science officials — including the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the China Association for Science and Technology, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China — amid rising political tensions between the governments of China and the United States. AAAS CEO Rush Holt reiterated the value of scientific collaboration and opportunities for science to build bridges between nations, including through the direct engagement of scientists across borders. The visit was in keeping with science diplomacy relationships that AAAS has built with Chinese science organizations over the past several decades.

**Global collaboration, ethical norms discussed at World Science Forum**

Margaret Hamburg stressed the need for the scientific community to continue “to advance science, ethically, responsibly and in constant dialogue with our communities” during a keynote address at the World Science Forum in Budapest, Hungary, in November.

“We find ourselves in a world of growing nationalism, at a time when so many of the problems before us demand global solutions,” said Hamburg during a plenary address, speaking in her role as chair of the AAAS Board of Directors. “As a pursuit, science is a global enterprise. Science has never limited itself to national borders... and today, the need for international collaboration is more pronounced than ever.”

Also at this meeting of global leaders in the scientific community, Julia MacKenzie, senior director of international affairs and director of the Center for Science Diplomacy at AAAS, held a topical session examining the human right to science and a training exercise for scientists engaged in science diplomacy. Senior scholar William Colglazier held a parliamentary session examining two decades of science diplomacy.
**Science diplomacy course trains future practitioners**

In August, AAAS and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) held a “train the trainer” course in Trieste, Italy, providing hands-on activities for future science diplomacy ambassadors. The goal was to offer the participants — from 22 countries in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa — strategies and tools so that they could return home and, through courses and activities tailored for their home institutions and countries, forge a future class of science diplomats. The AAAS-TWAS program has received financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Golden Family Foundation.

**Photo Credit:** PAULA DI BELLA/TWAS

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**Science and Human Rights Coalition celebrates 10 years**

An October conference marked the 10th anniversary of the founding of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, which now includes 24 scientific membership organizations and two affiliated organizations. Jessica Wyndham, director of the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program and coordinator of the Science and Human Rights Coalition, said collaborations between human rights representatives and scientific communities have demonstrated the “multiple ways in which science and human rights intersect.”

**Photo Credit:** GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE
As a skeletal biologist and director of the Forensic Anthropology Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Dawnie Steadman wears many hats. She helps educate the public and volunteers about body donation programs, including why these programs matter and how they work. She also assists forensics teams in solving crimes and investigating human rights violations around the globe. Her research straddles the intersection of crime, justice, culture and history.

One of the first experiences that led her down this path came in the 1990s. “When I was in graduate school, I had an opportunity to work with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, which was actually helped formed by AAAS,” Steadman explained. “They excavate graves — now around the world, but at that time in Argentina — looking for the disappeared. So that really got me hooked on the justice aspect, especially [in terms of] what biological anthropology can do.”

From there, her work has taken her to Spain, Cyprus and numerous other places in the hopes of uncovering the histories of people who suffered various atrocities. At the heart of this work is understanding people’s stories, Steadman emphasized.

“We do research and training for the purposes of improving forensic science by making sure that the science is testable, reliable and replicable,” she said. “Understanding the limits of the technology will help ensure that the best possible information is presented to judges and juries presiding over court cases. And as the technology itself improves, so too will the ability of crime scene investigators to close a case.”

Photo Credit: KELLIE CRYE WARD
Science research publications encompass advances across the biological, physical and social sciences. Original news reporting and research commentary provide context and perspective on science issues.

**Breakthrough of the Year**
Honoring a feat once considered impossible, *Science* named the Event Horizon Telescope team’s image of a supermassive black hole as its 2019 Breakthrough of the Year. The image revealed one of the most elusive phenomena in the known universe.

**2019 Research Highlights**

**An AI that outperforms humans in six-player poker**
Achieving a milestone in artificial intelligence, researchers presented an AI that could outperform top human professionals in six-player no-limit Texas hold ‘em poker. (*Science*, 12 July)

**Nearly 3 billion fewer birds in North America**
North America has lost nearly 3 billion birds since 1970, according to a report that detailed widespread population declines among hundreds of North American bird species. (*Science*, 20 September)

**Slow-wave sleep critical to brain’s automatic “self-rinse”**
Slow oscillating neural activity during non-rapid eye movement sleep triggers waves of cerebrospinal fluid that flow in and out of the sleeping brain, washing it of harmful metabolic waste products. (*Science*, 1 November)

**Prevalence and predictors of fake news dissemination on Facebook**
Although most Facebook users did not share any fake news articles during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, a study found that the small number who did were mostly Americans over age 65. (*Science Advances*, 9 January)

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*Special Issue and News Highlights*

*Science* published several special issues in 2019, including “Periodic Table Turns 150,” “Language and the Brain” and “Quality Control in the Cell.” Also in 2019, the magazine won awards for design, photography and graphics, including an Association of Media and Publishing EXCEL gold award for cover design. News articles also received recognition, including from the National Institute for Health Care Management for a feature on HIV in Florida.
Himalayan ice loss doubled in recent years
A report based on declassified Cold War-era spy satellite film revealed that Himalayan glaciers are receding twice as fast now as they were at the end of last century. (Science Advances, 19 June)

Smartphone platform sounds out possible ear infection in children
Scientists created a smartphone-based platform that could quickly detect the presence of fluid in the middle ear — a likely indicator of ear infections — in children. (Science Translational Medicine, 15 May)

Some cancer drugs in clinical trials don’t work by hitting their targets
Multiple cancer drug candidates in clinical trials kill tumor cells through off-target effects instead of by interacting with their intended molecular targets, possibly explaining why seemingly effective cancer drugs often fail to be translated to the clinic. (Science Translational Medicine, 11 September)

Manganese exposure exacerbates inflammation in brain cells
The metal manganese promotes inflammatory activity in specialized immune cells in the brain, research found. The results suggest that the metal acts as an amplifier of chronic inflammation associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s. (Science Signaling, 8 January)

In unvaccinated children, “immune amnesia” occurs after measles infection
A study of 77 unvaccinated children before and after measles infection revealed the infection can cripple immunity against viruses and bacteria for the long term, creating a kind of “immune amnesia.” (Science Immunology, 1 November)

Machine learning teaches a dog-like robot more agile movements
Using a computer system wired similarly to animal brains, a four-legged, dog-like robot successfully “learned” to run faster and recover from falls in various positions, a skill not previously observed in other robots of its kind. (Science Robotics, 16 January)
Thank You to Our 2019 Donors

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The Lifetime Giving Society recognizes individuals who have contributed a total of $100,000 or more during the course of their involvement with AAAS.
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Helena Li Chum
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Charles R. Craig
Claire M. Fraser
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The Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Endowment
The Early-Career Award for Public Engagement Fund
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The Marion Milligan Mason Fund
The Martin L. and Rose Wachtel Memorial Fund
The Ralph W. Hardy Endowed Fellowship
The Revelle Fund
The William T. Golden Endowment Fund for Program Innovation

For a more complete list, please visit annualreport.aaas.org.
## Consolidated Statements of Financial Position for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 ($ in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>9,691</td>
<td>7,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>5,281</td>
<td>3,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions receivable, net</td>
<td>16,027</td>
<td>18,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other</td>
<td>2,786</td>
<td>2,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>67,118</td>
<td>57,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>51,931</td>
<td>53,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>152,834</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,732</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |        |        |
| Liabilities:                  |        |        |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 10,322 | 10,614 |
| Deferred dues, subscriptions revenue and other | 23,048 | 23,392 |
| **Total liabilities**         | **33,370** | **34,006** |

Net assets:

| Net assets without donor restrictions | 68,864 | 61,555 |
| Net assets with donor restrictions   | 50,600 | 48,171 |
| **Total net assets**                | **119,464** | **109,726** |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | **152,834** | **143,732** |

## Consolidated Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 ($ in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing</td>
<td>62,301</td>
<td>57,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member dues</td>
<td>9,301</td>
<td>9,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and other program support</td>
<td>35,004</td>
<td>28,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasing, investments and other</td>
<td>10,626</td>
<td>11,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>117,232</strong></td>
<td><strong>107,126</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenses**  |        |        |
| Journals      | 27,350 | 29,556 |
| Policy, education and other programs | 41,519 | 38,505 |
| Publishing    | 17,326 | 15,985 |
| Membership services | 8,016  | 7,917  |
| Supporting services | 19,658 | 18,922 |
| **Total**     | **113,869** | **110,885** |

| Operating income, before tax | 3,363 | (3,759) |
| Provision for income tax     | 120   | 55     |
| Nonoperating revenue and expense | 4,065 | (4,742) |
| Change in net assets without donor restrictions | 7,308  | (8,556) |
| Change in net assets with donor restrictions | 2,430  | (1,204) |
| Change in net assets         | 9,738  | (9,760) |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 109,726 | 119,486 |
| **Net assets, end of year**  | **119,464** | **109,726** |
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