

Welcome

From the Chair, Peter H. Raven, and the CEO, Alan I. Leshner

In February 2002, at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, Ismail Serageldin, Director of Egypt's Bibliotheca Alexandrina, brought an enthusiastic audience to its feet with a challenge: "Scientists of the North cannot bypass the needs of many, and cannot allow that 80 percent of the world would remain consumers rather than creators of knowledge ... We should dare to dream and do our bit to make this a better world."

Dr. Serageldin's address envisioned a new global context for science and technology in the 21st century, a perspective that also had inspired the AAAS Board of Directors in its decision to reframe the Association's mission and goals in 2002. The refined definition of the core mission of AAAS, "to advance science and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people," has shaped our activities this year, as we continue to work toward increasing the effectiveness and impact of the world's largest general science organization.

In 2002, scientists depended on AAAS to help create a climate that would make it possible for them to continue doing their work. Society again turned to AAAS for tools to engage the public in the world of science; for guidance in training the scientists of the future; and for help in bringing scientific expertise to bear on problems and issues of preeminent importance in the modern age. AAAS, as can be seen in its activities over the last year, is living up to the trust placed in it by its members, by policymakers, by educators, and by the public.

For instance, as the nation grappled with fears of terrorism in the wake of September 11, 2001, AAAS cooperated with other scientific societies to fashion a role for science in addressing the concerns of the scientific community, as well as those of policymakers and the public.

In another area of crucial importance to the nation's future, the Association was recognized for its role in transforming the way science and mathematics are taught in the United States. The National Science Foundation called on AAAS to lead a science education initiative to develop new curriculum materials based on solid research into what really works.





The AAAS Annual Meeting that gave Dr. Serageldin an international forum for his message also drew hundreds of researchers to speak about their latest findings at the event that regularly attracts more than 5,000 people, among them almost 1,000 journalists, whose articles on the scientists and their work appear in newspapers around the world.

The international theme of our activities continued with AAAS's participation in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. We contributed to a major report on capacity-building; reported on our efforts to aid in the repair of damaged watershed regions in South America, Southeast Asia and Russia's Kola Peninsula, and took a leadership role in a workshop that linked human rights to the need for food, healthcare, and adequate shelter.

Two major research projects—published in 2002 in AAAS's flagship journal, *Science*—dramatically illustrated how science can serve society, in particular the nations of Asia and Africa. One was the publication in April of the sequencing of two strains of rice, which suggested that genetic improvements could someday raise the yield of this primary food source for hundreds of millions of people. The second was the publication in October of the genome sequence of *Anopheles gambiae*, the mosquito primarily responsible for the spread of malaria in Africa. Its appearance in *Science* was planned to coincide with the publication in another journal of the genome of the most deadly malaria parasite.

As you will see in this annual report, the newly restated goals and mission of AAAS have given us a framework that better reflects the global context of science and society in the 21st century. This framework will guide AAAS activities well into the future. We invite you to read on to learn more about our efforts to bring the power of science to bear on the pressing issues of our times.

Sincerely,

Peter H. Raven
Chair, AAAS Board

Alan I. Leshner
CEO, AAAS, Executive Publisher, *Science*

