

2006 Public Statements

AAAS letters to policy-makers, opinion essays in local newspapers, and major public-engagement events in 2006 helped to raise awareness of key issues, while stimulating dialogue regarding science and technology.

Global Climate Change

- ▶ **30 JULY** “Time to get serious about climate change,” op-ed, *San Francisco Chronicle*, by AAAS President-Elect John P. Holdren (2006–2007), director of the Woods Hole Research Center and Teresa and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy at Harvard University, with AAAS CEO Alan I. Leshner, executive publisher of *Science*.

Teaching Evolution

- ▶ **28 JANUARY** “Let’s teach science in the science classroom,” op-ed, *Salt Lake Tribune*, by the AAAS CEO.
- ▶ **19 FEBRUARY** Noting that “evolution is one of the most robust and widely accepted principles of modern science,” the AAAS Board of Directors strongly opposed efforts to undermine the teaching of evolution. The Board statement was released during “Evolution on the Front Line,” a town hall-style event for 500 participants.
- ▶ **FEBRUARY 2006** “Should U.S. schools teach ‘intelligent design?’ No — Intelligent design: A dangerous distraction,” op-ed, *Nevada Business Journal*, by the AAAS CEO.

- ▶ **7 MARCH** “Threats to science education hurt religion, too,” op-ed, *Greenville News*, by Baxter M. Wynn, D. Min., First Baptist Church, Greenville, with the AAAS CEO.
- ▶ **8 MARCH** “Intelligent standards or religious design? Keep religion out of science classrooms,” op-ed, *Detroit Free Press*, by AAAS President Gilbert S. Omenn (2006–2007), professor of medicine, genetics, and public health at the University of Michigan, with the AAAS CEO.
- ▶ **19 MARCH** “Science education: Protecting science, religion,” op-ed, *The Oklahoman*, by the AAAS CEO. AAAS also wrote to Oklahoma legislators, urging them to reject an “academic freedom” measure undermining evolution.
- ▶ **31 JULY** “No Conflict Between Science and Religion,” op-ed, *Wichita Eagle*, by the AAAS President, with the CEO.
- ▶ **11 SEPTEMBER** “Intelligent Design: Critical Deception?” op-ed, *Akron Beacon Journal*, by the AAAS CEO.

Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

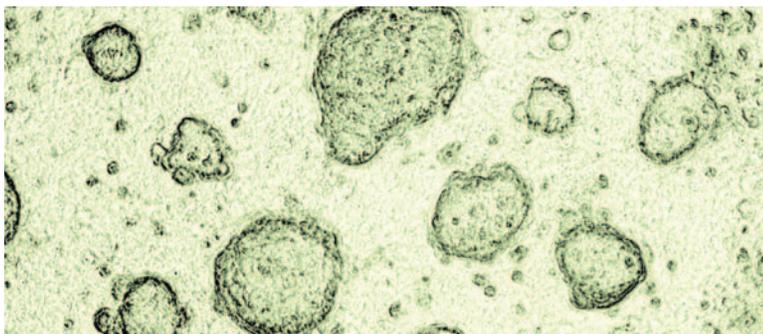
- ▶ **27 JUNE** AAAS testimony before a U.S. Senate subcommittee urged support for “research on a wide range of approaches toward deriving cells that have the potential for replacing damaged or deteriorating parts of the body.”

“The government is spending a smaller and smaller amount of our economy on R&D, and that comes at a time when other countries are dramatically increasing their investments. It raises big concerns for the future of U.S. innovation.”

Kei Koizumi, director, AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program, quoted in the New York Times, 3 September 2006.



- ▶ **18 JULY** “Balancing values in the stem cell debate,” letter to the editors, *Washington Post*, by the AAAS CEO. AAAS officials also wrote to U.S. policy-makers to support the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.



Support for the Scientific Enterprise

- ▶ **21 APRIL** The Association released its analysis of the U.S. Administration’s 2007 federal-research budget proposal: While the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) stood to gain from the White House Competitiveness Initiative, AAAS reported, spending at most other R&D agencies would fall.
- ▶ **2 MAY** “A great amount of very important work will go unfunded,” the AAAS CEO testified during a U.S. policy hearing. The 2007 Presidential budget proposal would require NSF to turn down almost \$2 billion in highly rated research proposals, he said.
- ▶ **18 MAY** AAAS advised against reducing NSF research funding, and voiced concern about a pending law funding some awards outside the usual peer-review process. Directing resources solely to the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics, while ignoring social and natural sciences would threaten progress, AAAS said.
- ▶ **11 JULY** AAAS called for a broad, balanced portfolio of R&D investments as part of the American Competitiveness Initiative.
- ▶ **25 JULY** Albert Teich, director of Science and Policy at AAAS, testified on the urgent need for more timely scientific and technical advice to guide policies on stem cell research, climate change, fuel cells, energy policy, and agricultural policy.
- ▶ **7 SEPTEMBER** The AAAS Board President wrote to policy-makers, expressing support for a bill to strengthen laws against harassment, threats, or intimidation of researchers whose work involves laboratory animals.



IMAGE COURTESY OF USDA

Free and Open Exchange

- ▶ **27 FEBRUARY** Censorship, intimidation, or other restrictions on the freedom of scientists employed or funded by government agencies hinders advancement, the AAAS Council resolved. The Council also applauded a NASA administrator’s pledge to ensure “open scientific and technical inquiry and dialogue with the public.”
- ▶ **26 MAY** The AAAS Board declared its opposition to a resolution by some educators to “refrain from participation in any form of academic and cultural cooperation, or joint projects” with two universities in Israel.

Science and Public Engagement

- ▶ **12 OCTOBER** “Science and Public Engagement,” op-ed, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, by the AAAS CEO.