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## PART 4

Rethinking the U.S.  
S&T Policy System:  
Greater Responsiveness,  
Continuing Excellence?

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Part 4 offers alternative perspectives on the U.S. science and technology system, two from disciplinary areas with great policy significance, and two from types of voices rarely heard in science and technology (S&T) policy circles.

Daniel Sarewitz of Columbia University examines in Chapter 12 the current U.S. policies towards environmental research and development, and suggests a different way of thinking about the connection between the environment and science. He observes that our current science agenda focuses on understanding the basic processes of our planet, and not on the six billion human inhabitants and their decisions that will affect our planet's environment. Sarewitz offers guidelines to redirect our current environmental policies towards enhancing decision-making rather than reducing uncertainty.

In Chapter 13 Gilbert Omenn of the University of Michigan discusses the recent accomplishments and huge public interest in life sciences research. With the rapid developments came a commitment to double the National Institutes of Health's budget, and more recent enhancements in the National Science Foundation and Centers for Disease Control's budgets as well. Omenn poses five questions pertinent to U.S. life sciences policy and offers solutions to the challenges presented therein.

In Chapter 14 Judi Wangala Wakhungu, from the African Centre for Technology Studies in Kenya, presents a view of U.S. S&T policies from the vantage point of the developing world. She critically examines the United States' policies towards three critical sectors: health, agriculture, and energy. Wakhungu urges the United States to take a leadership role in mobilizing science and technology to address the problems of the developing world and all of the world's citizens.

Wakhungu's theme of addressing the health problems of the developing world is continued in Chapter 15. There, Eva Harris, of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, describes her research on infectious disease such as dengue fever, as well as her involvement with the Sustainable Sciences Institute. She states, "A long-range approach to research will ensure that scientific research addresses global humanitarian problems in addition to problems specific to the U.S." Harris stresses that it is critical that we

establish a new social contract for science, and that researchers examine the bioethical aspects and social relevance of their research.