

# AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting

**Agenda**  
July 27-28, 2017  
AAAS Headquarters  
Washington, D.C.

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## **The Right to Science**

Throughout the first day, participants will discuss the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Sessions will highlight briefings on research recently completed by AAAS and members of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, examples of ways in which scientists are using Article 15 to frame their research, and the "sticky questions" the right raises on its own and in relation to other, more fully articulated and widely codified human rights.

Coalition meetings convene scientists, engineers, and health professionals with human rights leaders and policy makers to discuss emerging issues at the nexus of science and human rights. The Coalition serves as a catalyst for the increased involvement of scientific, engineering, and health associations and their members in human rights-related activities.

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## Thursday, July 27

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8:30 a.m.      **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 a.m.      **Welcoming Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

Speaker:        Rush Holt, AAAS

9:15 a.m.      **The Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and Its Applications: Recent Advances** (*Auditorium*)

This session will include briefings on research recently completed by AAAS and members of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, which builds upon the Coalition's focus group study published in 2013. This new research includes an online questionnaire that sought the perspectives of scientists, engineers and health professionals around the world on the right to science, interviews with public health advocates, and an analysis of reports submitted by States Parties to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the international body that oversees the treaty that includes this right.

Speakers:        Jessica Wyndham, AAAS  
Margaret Weigers Vitullo, American Sociological Association

10:30 a.m.     **Break**

10:45 a.m.     **Challenging Conceptual Questions for Implementing the Right to Science** (*Auditorium*)

To more fully understand what the right to science will mean in practice, we must grapple with some of the "sticky questions" the right raises on its own and in relation to other, more fully articulated and widely codified human rights. Among them are: what are the tensions between conceptions of science as requiring technical, formal training and traditional knowledge? How can the right be used to assess and address potentially harmful impacts of scientific and technological developments? How can the role of the commercial sector in developing medicines and other products be reconciled with the expectations of government funding that underpins the research on which such products are based? How should the right inform articulation of legitimate limitations on scientific research and its applications?

Speakers:        Mikel Mancisidor, United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
Stephen P. Marks, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

12:15 p.m.     **Lunch**

1:00 p.m.      **Lunchtime Workshop: Introduction to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition** (*Haskins*)

This session is for new and potential members of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Participants will learn about the goals and activities of the Coalition and the international human rights framework that guides its work, giving special attention to the connections of human rights to science and technology. Bring your lunch and your questions!

Speaker:        Jessica Wyndham, AAAS

2:00 p.m. **Realizing the Right to Science in Policy and Practice** (*Auditorium*)

Panelists will share examples of ways in which scientists are using the right to science to frame their research, as well as their collaborative relationships with colleagues and research participants. The panel will also explore how increased awareness and application of the right to science can impact policies. Particular attention will be given to biomedical research and treatment.

Moderator: Patricia Carbajales-Dale, Clemson University

Speakers: Andrea Boggio, Bryant University  
Bartha Knoppers, McGill University  
Mike Frick, Treatment Action Group

3:30 p.m. **Break**

3:45 p.m. **Small Group Discussions: Challenging Questions and Next Steps**

Participants will delve further into one of the challenging conceptual questions raised during the day's discussions. Each small group will grapple with a different question. These questions have been identified by the United Nations as ones that need to be answered for developing guidance on full implementation of the right. Thus, the roundtable conversations are intended to inform the UN's efforts to better define the right to science.

- What are the tensions between conceptions of science as requiring technical, formal training and concepts such as traditional knowledge and citizen science? (*Auditorium*)  
*Facilitator: Margaret Weigers Vitullo*
- How can the right be used to assess and address potentially harmful impacts of scientific and technological developments? (*Revelle*)  
*Facilitator: Stephen Marks*
- How can the role of the commercial sector in developing medicines and other products be reconciled with the expectations of government funding that underpins the research on which such products are based? (*Abelson*)  
*Facilitators: Andrea Boggio and Mike Frick*
- How should the right inform articulation of legitimate limitations on scientific research and its applications? (*Haskins*)  
*Facilitator: Bartha Knoppers*

5:00 p.m. **Reports from Discussions** (*Auditorium*)

5:20 p.m. **Closing Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

5:30 p.m. **Reception**

7:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjourns for the Day**

## Friday, July 28

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In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates contribute to projects that connect networks, build capacity, engage individuals, and promote awareness. The working meetings provide an opportunity for members to define new projects and move forward with existing initiatives. Prospective members can explore ways they can get involved in the Coalition's activities.

*Unless otherwise noted, all are welcome to attend these working meetings, which will be conducted according to the Chatham House Rule regarding attribution.*

**If you are a member of the Executive Directors' Circle, please see the security desk upon your arrival to pick up a security badge. A badge is necessary to access the 12<sup>th</sup> floor.**

8:30 a.m.      **Breakfast** (*Second Floor*)

8:30 a.m.      **Executive Directors' Circle** (*invitation only*)

9:00 a.m.      **Student Meeting** (*Revelle*)

All students are invited to this informal discussion about the Coalition resources available to them, opportunities for students to get involved in current Coalition projects, and new initiatives for increasing student engagement.

Speaker:      Bill Lenart, Case Western Reserve University Science and Human Rights Coalition

10:00 a.m.      **Break**

10:15 a.m.      **Project Team Meetings**

Project teams will meet to advance their projects. Room assignments will be announced Thursday and posted in the second floor reception area during the break on Friday. Newcomers who are interested in joining a project team are welcome to drop in and learn more about how they can contribute. A list of current projects and descriptions of their activities are provided in the meeting folders. **If you would like to explore an idea for a new project with other Coalition members, Secretariat staff can arrange a meeting space for you.**

- Developing Indicators for Article 15 (*Revelle*)
- Rapid Response for Scientists at Risk (*Abelson-Haskins*)
- Annotated Bibliography on Science and Human Rights (*Room 207*)

11:45 a.m.      **Break**

12:00 p.m.      **Project Team Reports** (*Abelson-Haskins*)

12:30 p.m.      **Council Lunch** (*Council Members only*)

1:00 p.m.      **Council Meeting** (*Council Members only*) (*Revelle*)

5:00 p.m.      **Meeting Adjourns**