

Going Beyond Eloquent Words to Grow the US STEMM Workforce

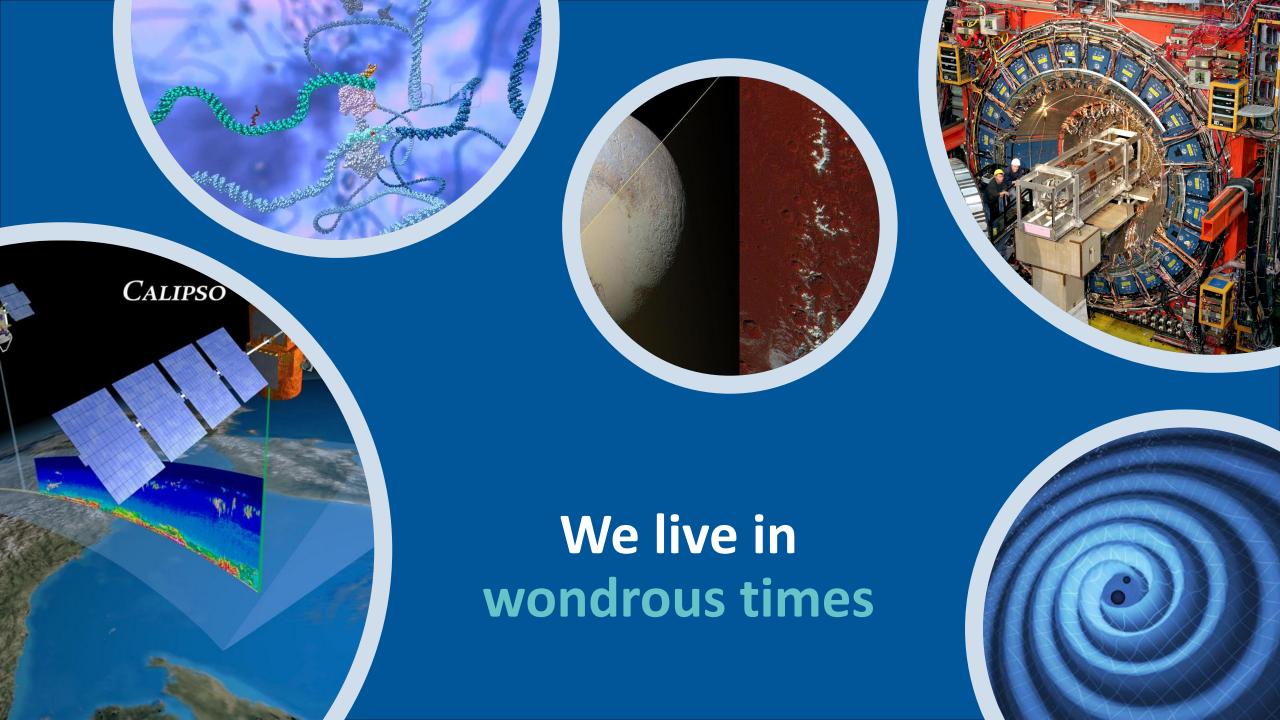
March 4, 2024

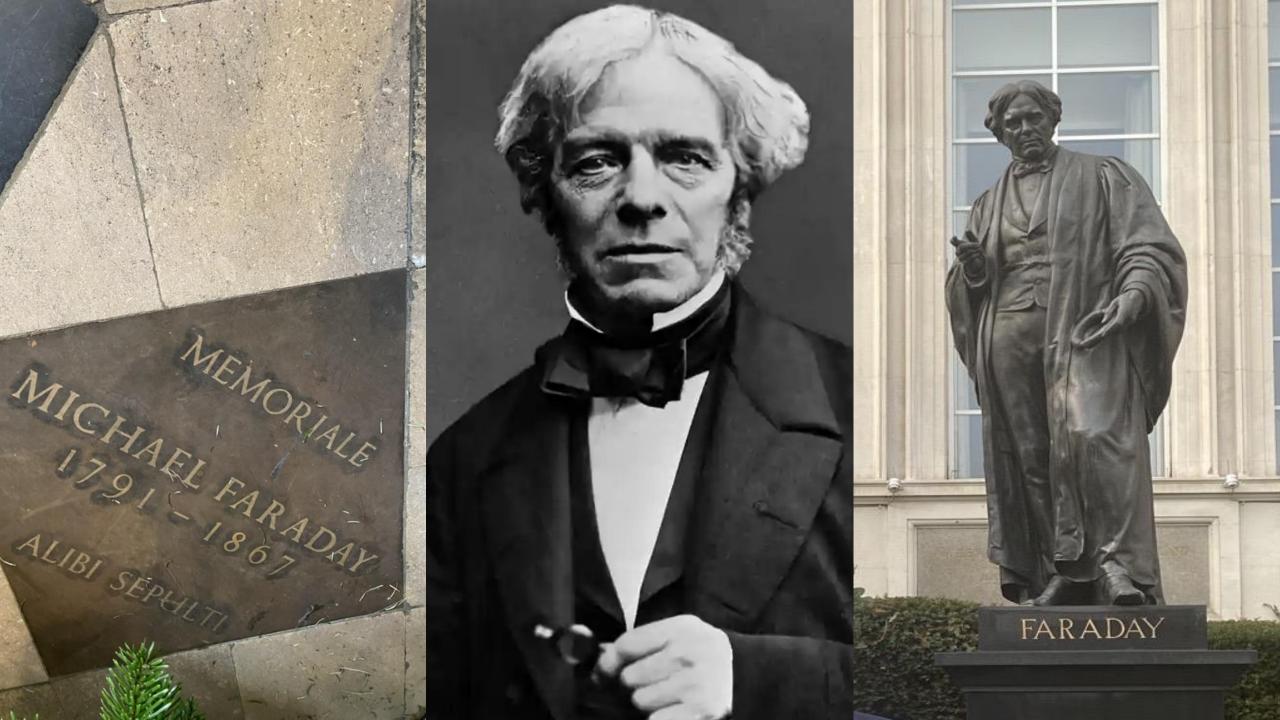














99

Why, sir, there is every probability that you will soon be able to tax it!

MICHAEL FARADAY







We live in uncertain times











Figure 12: Number of researchers in China relative to the number in the United States⁵⁴

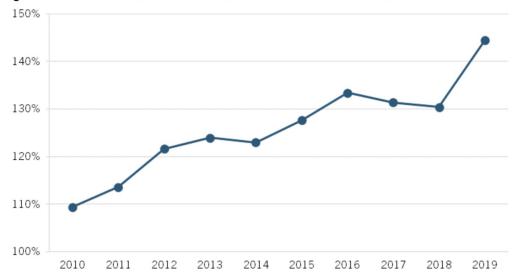
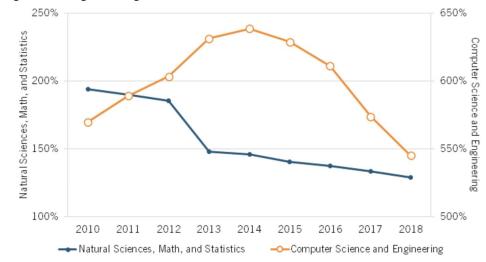
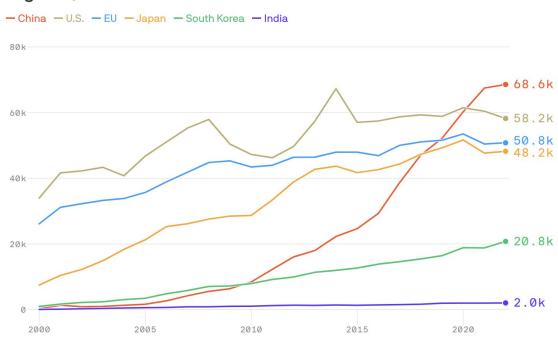


Figure 15: Undergraduate degrees awarded in China relative to the United States⁵⁹



Annual Patent Cooperation Treaty applications for selected regions, 2000–2022



Data: Invention, Knowledge Transfer, and Innovation report from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics; Chart: Axios Visuals

"

Diversity of thought derived from diversity of experience gives America a critical advantage in the global competitive landscape...Without the innovative boost from a diverse population, the United States will be hard-pressed to compete on sheer numbers of scientists and engineers.

We are in two existential races

A race to solve the challenges facing society before they pull us apart

A race for global competitiveness with nations that are friendly and not

We are at an *Critical juncture* in...

HISTORY U.S. SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP TRUST IN SCIENCE

Our collective challenge

What will it take to build the STEMM workforce of the future to meet demand and address complex societal challenges?

"

To develop treatments and vaccines for COVID-19, cure cancers, go to Mars, understand the fundamental laws of the universe and human behavior, develop artificial intelligence, and build a better future, we need the brain power of the descendants of Native Americans, Pilgrims, Founding Mothers and Fathers, Enslaved People, Ellis Island arrivals, and immigrants from everywhere.

I'm an optimist born of evidence

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965



Lyndon Johnson signing the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. Corbis, via Getty Images

Smallpox Vaccine



AAAS 2023-2024 Board Officers









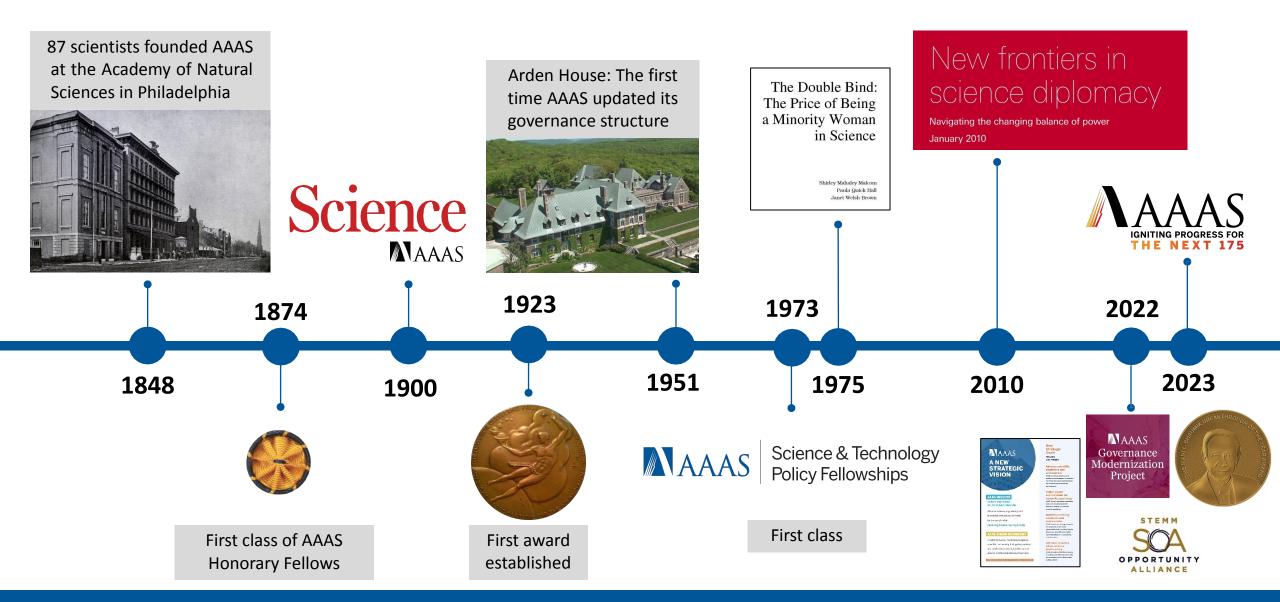


SESAME Research Center

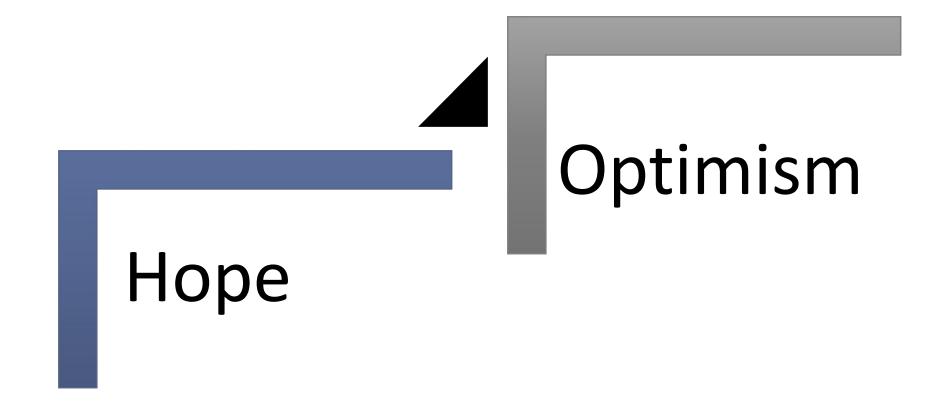


Synchrotron-Light Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), a tangible output of science diplomacy

Evolution and revolution are required for relevance and leadership



But hope and optimism are not enough. We need a plan.



Our Plan: AAAS Strategic Vision and Goals

A boldly inclusive, mobilized, and global scientific community that ignites, enables, and celebrates scientific excellence and science-informed decisions and actions.

ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

AAAS recognizes, inspires, and enables a robust research ecosystem that drives discovery and innovation and prepares future scientists and engineers

FOSTER EQUITY AND INCLUSION FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

AAAS fosters the diverse, equitable, open, and inclusive scientific enterprise that is essential for scientific excellence

SCIENTISTS AND COMMUNITIES

AAAS builds trust among scientists and engineers and broader communities and is a valued source of accurate scientific information that is foundational to countering misinformation

WHERE SCIENCE MEETS POLICY

AAAS provides actionable evidence for public policy that serves society and promotes policies that enable quality science

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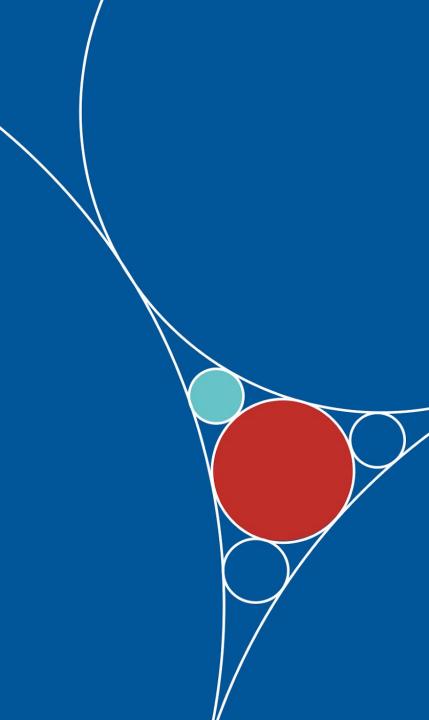
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CATALYZE PROGRESS WHERE SCIENCE MEETS POLICY

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for public policy that
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science

What is AAAS doing?



Going beyond eloquent words – We must not be performative

EDITORIAL

Going beyond eloquent words

"Diversitv

gives America

and Technology Policy (OSTP), called "Ameriachieve this goal, OSTP must have the resources and authority to go beyond eloquent words and deliver solid accomplishments for the nation and world.

Diversity is a double-edged sword. When complementary talents and perspectives come together, leaps in understanding are more likely and disruptive technologies are born. But there is also a vulnerability. When seized upon to divide (with talk of quotas in a zero-sum game), diversity can be used to generate fear and stoke division in ways that increase inequities and stifle substantive debate. In the scientific enterprise, explicit acts

of racism and sexism still exist and cause harm. However, it is often the less obvious factors-divisive rhetoric. obsolete policies (such as overreliance on standardized tests), and willful blindness to inequitable treatment (such as smaller startup budgets for female academics)-that cement many of the injustices that have sprung from the nation's segregated history. These opaque forces are so ingrained that we scarcely realize their implications for minorities and women in science.

Over the past year, the American Association for the Advancement

of Science (of which I am the chief evecutive officer: AAAS is the publisher of Science) has held a mirror up transcend the obvious moral imperative. Diversity of to its own functions. We have listened carefully to scientists, consulted with experts, and analyzed existing data. Chief among what we have discovered are stark demographic contrasts between programs and awards that are applicant-based and those that are nomination-based. We fall short when it comes to recognizing the contributions of underrepresented members of the scientific community. Transparently sharing these data enables accountability. AAAS and other institutions must be held responsible by the community for meaningful change.

Insisting on inclusion of underrepresented groups neither sacrifices scientific excellence nor diminishes the accomplishments of those who have historically technology strategy that ensures a scientific workforce dominated the sciences. Highlighting the previously ignored does not invalidate the already admired. But this change requires that the scientific community in

s the United States steadies itself, recovering | crease attention and support for those who have been from COVID-19 and preparing for future cri- disadvantaged. I have received letters from scientists ses, it must draw upon what Eric Lander, the attacking AAAS's focus on diversity, stating that race nominee for director of the Office of Science has no scientific basis and scientists should ignore it. But race and patriarchy are powerful social constructs ca's greatest asset...our unrivaled diversity." To with societal consequences that cannot be overlooked. Alondra Nelson, OSTP deputy director for science and society and former AAAS Board member, stated that "science at its core is a social phenomenon. When we provide inputs to the algorithm; when we program the device; when we design, test and research; we are making human choices...It matters who makes those choices, it matters who they're thinking about when they do," Avoiding these conversations amounts to advocating the status quo-and the United States would

Institutions also must push for policies that enable diversity across the enterprise. Often, these policies do not seem directly related to diversity, equity, or inclusion. But increasing pay for graduate students and postdocs and providing hem with employee-like benefits and protections; achieving open access publishing policies that do not place the financial burden of publishing on authors; improving training and standards for mentorship, and providing safe and supportive workplace cultures-these policies do affect the retention of diverse scientists without sacrificing scientific excellence

The reasons for ensuring the diversity of science thought derived from diversity of experience gives America a critical advantage in the global competitive landscape. This is key to making the discoveries that will improve everyone's health, inventing the technolomidable challenges of this era. Without the innovative boost from a diverse population, the United States will be hard-pressed to compete on sheer numbers of scientists and engineers

The new OSTP leadership will need the resources and clout to go beyond symbolic gestures. Dr. Lander and Dr. Nelson must receive bipartisan support, funding, and authority to create a national science and capable of building on the exceptional diversity that is the country's greatest asset.

-Sudio Parikh

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SCIENCE sciencemag.org

29 JANUARY 2021 • VOL 371 ISSUE 6528 443

Sudip Parikh

executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and executive publisher of the Science journals sparikh@aaas.org Hold institutions accountable for making meaningful change

Push for policies that enable diversity across the scientific enterprise

Increase attention and support for those who have been disadvantaged and have tough conversations about the status quo

Set a national strategy to build a more diverse STEMM workforce

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

STEMM Opportunity Alliance driving equity and excellence by 2050



STEMM Opportunity Alliance Moving to Implementation Phase

Where We Are Now...





Where We Are Headed...



Garner

New and Updated Commitments from SOA Partners to Implement National Strategy



Announce

National Strategy and Highlight New Commitments at 2024 White House Summit



Convene

Nation-wide Pillar-focused Summits in 2024/25



PROGRESS TO-DATE

Garnering Partner Commitments

- Brought in 176+ partners representing civil society, private sector, and more.
- Garnered over \$1.8 billion committed towards STEMM equity goals.
- Grew the SOA listserv to **4,000 contacts**, up from 400 in 2022

Developing a National Strategy

- Engaged more than 1,500 leaders to inform strategy development.
- Held 12 events across the country in partnership with local leaders, 5 town halls for virtual engagement, and a public comment period on an interim draft.

Building Alignment with Gov't

- Deepened engagement and coordination with OSTP through 2023, including to advise on the development of government's 5 year STEMM strategic plan.
- Second WH summit in spring 2024, with public-private implementation planning.

Further details can be found in the 2023 SOA Annual Report.



EQUITY UNDER FIRE: THE CASE FOR SOA

Need for a better coordinated movement is only stronger as landscape becomes more uncertain.

2023 Supreme Court Decision

- The 2023 Supreme Court decision to narrow the consideration of race/ethnicity in admissions has forced educational institutions to rethink how they ensure equitable access. Even new approaches are facing litigation.
- Ripple effects in other sectors, such as changes in hiring practices that are not governed by the decision.

Anti-DEI Movement

- Anti-'woke' movement has put DEI efforts in the political and cultural cross-hairs, acting as a chilling effect for leaders across sectors who are increasingly concerned about risk, and ultimately more conservative in approach.
- Anti-DEI legislation passed in 12 states, creating legal questions and uncertainty, while also restricting funding.

Election Year Uncertainties

- New congress/administration may be more hostile to STEMM equity work. **Policy environment could shift** as result.
- While SOA is designed to withstand the test of time across administrations, the uniqueness of the current political climate will put this to the test in 2024. **Strategic questions about how to remain bold, while striking balance.**



THE ROAD AHEAD



In 2024, SOA will release the National Strategy and launch implementation, including by:



Launching anchor partners and working groups to drive coordination and action against key goals and foster cross-sector partnerships.



Mapping activities aligned to the National Strategy and highlighting key initiatives and partnerships.



Expanding and deepening the movement by bringing more partners and commitments to the table.



Developing and tracking progress metrics to create systems for accountability and transparency against goals laid out in the National Strategy.

SOA National Strategy Snapshot and Anchor Partners















Focal Area:

Foundation Accountability and Partnership: Groundwork for Collaborative Action



Engagement: Nurturing Curiosity in Every Child

Pillar 2:

Inspiration: Developing Skilled and Diverse Educators

Pillar 3:

Discovery: Creating Opportunity for All in **Higher Education**

Pillar 4:

Innovation: Leveraging Diverse Minds in R&D





Pillar 5:

Opportunity: Ensuring All **Workers Thrive**



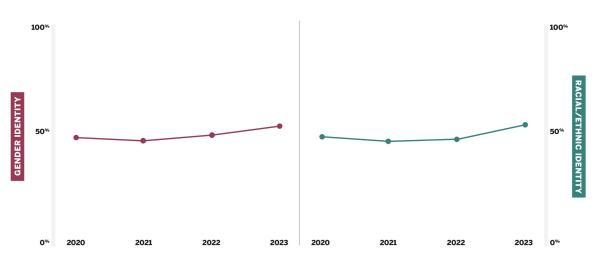
Capstone:

Strategic Communications: Narrative Change



We are looking in the mirror

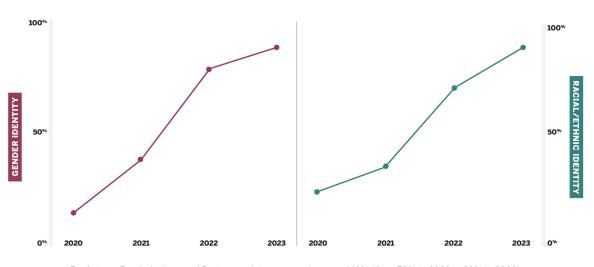




Across all AAAS/Science Functions, data coverage increased 14% (from 49% in 2022 to 56% in 2023) for gender identity and 27% (from 45% in 2022 to 57% in 2023) for racial/ethnic identity.

Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

TRENDS IN DATA COVERAGE ACROSS ALL SCIENCE FAMILY OF JOURNALS AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS



For Science Family Authors and Reviewers, data coverage increased 13% (from 79% in 2022 to 89% in 2023) for gender identity and increased 27% (from 70% in 2022 to 89% in 2023) for racial/ethnic identity.

Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Data Coverage Grows When It's a Priority

DATA COVERAGE
REACHED OR EXCEEDED

80%

for several AAAS/Science functions and Science Family Authors and Reviewers **AAAS/SCIENCE FUNCTIONS**

GENDER IDENTITY
COVERAGE INCREASED

14%

RACIAL/ETHNIC IDENTITY
COVERAGE INCREASED

27%

SCIENCE FAMILY OF JOURNALS
AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS

GENDER IDENTITY
COVERAGE INCREASED

13%

RACIAL/ETHNIC IDENTITY
COVERAGE INCREASED

27%

We must move beyond interventions to systemic challenges

A few examples from AAAS

- Publishing
- Career Ladders and Salaries
- Governance

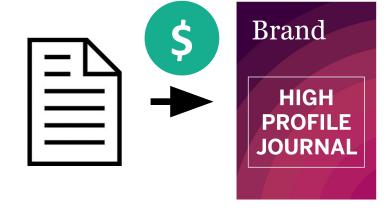
We look at open access through the lens of our 120,000 scientist and engineer members – the scientific enterprise

- Open and accessible data are essential
- Preprints are good for the scientific enterprise (caveats on science communication)
- Open access to scientific information is important
- Open access to useful information is critically important
- Communication of accurate understandable science with every audience is paramount
- Some current models of open access are fatally flawed

APC model of open access freezes inequities into place

Senior Scientists

- Already Well-funded
- Tenured
- Overwhelmingly Male and White



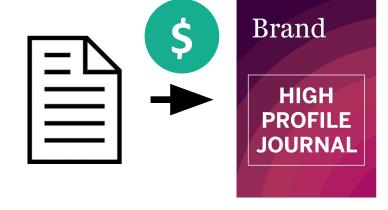
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APC model of open access freezes inequities into place

Historically Marginalized Communities



Early-Career Scientists

- Poorly Funded
- Not Tenured
- Much More Diverse

Race Gender Geography

MODEL DOES NOT WORK

APC model of open access freezes inequities into place

Historically Marginalized Communities



Early-Career Scientists

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Race Gender Geography

DOES

APC model of open access freezes inequities into place

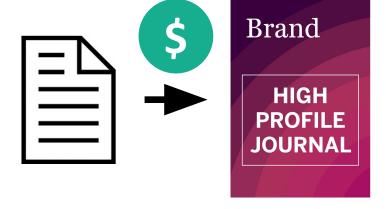


MODEL WORKS

Historically Marginalized **Communities**

Senior Scientists

- Already Well-funded
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- Overwhelmingly Male and White



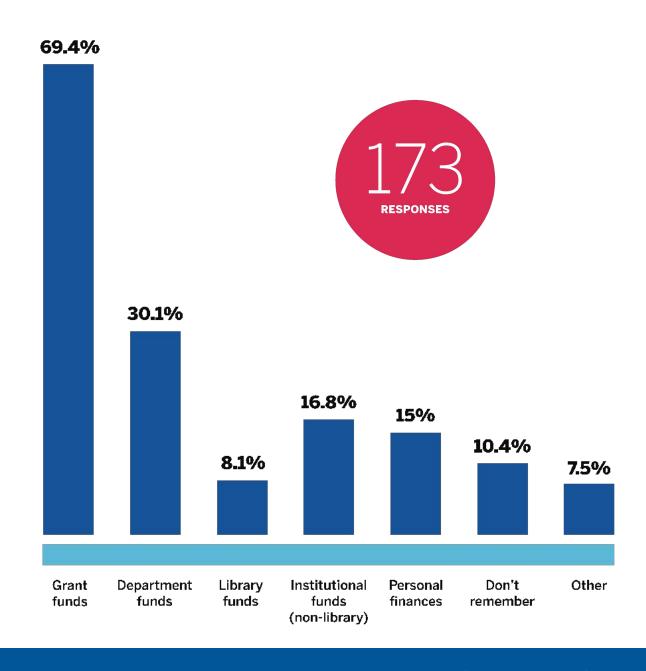
Early-Career Scientists

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- Much More Diverse

Race Gender Geography

Most researchers are using grant funds to pay APCs and women are more likely to use grant funds than men

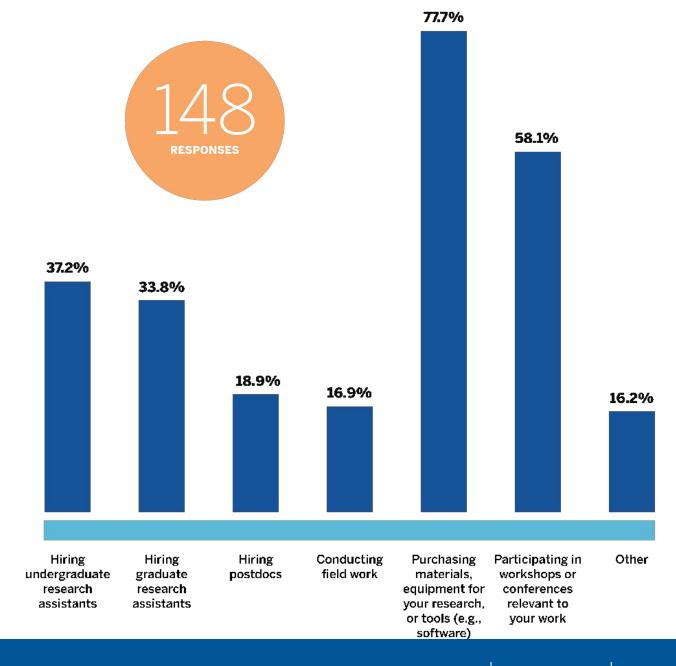
Women were nearly three times as likely as men to have paid APCs using grant funds (p<0.05).*



^{*}Adjusting for race, length of time conducting research, and institution size

APCs create significant
tradeoffs – and women
appear to make tradeoffs
more frequently than men

Compared with men, women were more than **2.5 times** as likely not to attend workshops and conferences so that they could pay APCs (p<0.05).*



^{*}Adjusting for race, length of time conducting research, and institution size

AAAS became a fully open access publisher in 2023

of the American

Association for the

Science (AAAS) and

executive publisher

journals.sparikh@

Shirley M. Malcom

and director of SFA

smalcom@aaas org

is senior advisor

Change at AAAS.

is the publisher of

the Science journals

Bill Moran

of the Science

aaas.org

Advancement of

EDITORIAL

Public access is not equal access

"Public access

diverse universe

of authors

and readers...

n 25 August, the White House Office of Science | funded, not yet tenured, and much more diverse. Also the publisher of Science and the Science family of journals) to public access remain possible. It will matter greatly to where in a publisher's ecosystem. The perverse incentive the scientific enterprise which become predominant.

at public access through the lens of scientists and engineers. We have experimented with various public access | ture. As a publisher of a gold OA journal, we've made the

models over the past decade. The Science family has five subscription journals that libraries pay for access to content, and one journal for which authors pay an "article processing charge" to make the version of record of their paper freely available ["gold open access (OA)"]. All six journals publish excellent science and influential analyses, but their sustainability models differ. Each model supports the high quality that authors, readers, librarians, and funders expect us to provide through rigorous peer review shepherded by professional editors,

of research through mainstream and social media.

portant, and situationally appropriate communication of ling the impact of research on society, accurate and understandable science with every audience sift well-done from poorly done science.

ing. Some models for public access are bad for inclusivcharges, work for senior scientists who are well-funded. tenured, and overwhelmingly male and white, but not so much for early-career scientists who may be poorly

and Technology Policy provided guidance for scientific publishing aimed at making publications | historically Black colleges and universities, and in underand their supporting data—the products of federally funded research-publicly available without though it enables "open access" to readers, this model can an embargo by the end of 2025. The American As-

sociation for the Advancement of Science (AAAS. Gold OA damages the scientific enterprise when it incentivizes a volume business model in which every paper strongly supports this guidance. As written, several paths is a quantum of revenue that must be published somefor publishers is to accept more papers, which furthers As a scientific membership organization, AAAS looks | academia's publish-or-perish mindset, makes predatory

> costly decision to maintain editorial quality and not accept papers just to meet financial targets-but we understand the temptation.

As a scientific membership society, AAAS seeks the best path forward for the enterprise it serves. We are actively seeking to balance the tensions between equitable access for readers at AAAS, bmoran@ and equitable access to publishing. As such, Science is made available through progressively priced licenses whereby larger, more research-intensive institutions pay more. We will soon provide immediate public access

careful editing, access to all relevant data, striking and in- | to all taxpayer-funded research through a policy called formative visuals, and an engaging website. Importantly, "green OA-zero day," which allows Science authors to post we put substantial post-publication resources into pre- their "author accepted manuscript" (a fully peer-reviewed venting misinformation by informing accurate coverage and revised version), without delay or incurring additional fees, in a public repository of their choice. This ap-From our experience, open and accessible data are essential to scientific integrity and reproducibility, and we authors to pay a publication charge, while maintaining require this accessibility immediately upon publication. the ability of Science to fulfill its mission of communication Public access to trusted scientific information is also im-

AAAS recognizes that its approach is not perfect and is paramount. When any reader is unable to separate may not work for all journals, so we continue to explore wheat from chaff, we must help by providing expertise to other ideas. We are eager to work with the White House. funding agencies, and anyone else to implement policies Public access should foster a diverse universe of authors that optimize equity for authors and readers. In the meanand readers regardless of their economic circumstances. time, our approach ensures that world-changing science This drives scientific excellence and public understand- is published and placed into the public realm regardless of a scientist's geographic location, institutional affiliaity. Gold OA journals, for which authors pay publication | tion, academic rank, or identity. We must not sew more structural inequity into the very fabric of the enterprise we seek to improv

-Sudip Parikh, Shirley M. Malcom, Bill Moran

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SCIENCE science.org 23 SEPTEMBER 2022 • VOL 377 ISSUE 6613 1361





EurekAlert! has a Role to Play in Fostering Inclusiveness

An NSF-funded study by researchers at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley has some important preliminary findings related to EurekAlert! From their summary:



- EurekAlert! plays a democratizing role in the world of science
- While the platform benefits all scientific endeavors, the impact is more pronounced for early career researchers and outputs from mid-ranked universities and mid-ranked journals
- Essentially, EurekAlert! is proficient at spotlighting high-quality science that might otherwise remain under the radar because it's not associated with top-scientist/top-university
- We think this has important implication for the inequalities in rewards and recognition in science





Multidisciplinary Working Groups Purpose

Leverage the <u>multidisciplinary strength</u>, advisory perspective, and knowledge of AAAS to address a <u>timely and</u> <u>high-impact issue</u>, with the goal of developing actionable steps to <u>enact</u> real and perceived <u>change</u> in the STEMM enterprise



Empowering Career Pathways in STEMM *Overarching Themes*

Encourage data-based approaches

Broadly disseminate information on career best practices

Invest in those who teach, guide, inspire, empower, and support

End exclusionary practices



There are no alternative careers!

- Basic research
- Applied research
- Clinical research
- Policy
- Industry
- Philanthropy
- Finance
- Academia
- Politics
- Diplomacy
- Teaching
- Manufacturing

We need them all.

AAAS is helping the STEMM community get there.

Students and postdocs deserve more

EDITORIAL

Students and postdocs deserve more

"...many must

leave academia

support their

and teaching workforce and tomorrow's scidents, postdocs, and nontenured faculty are protesting and pursuing unionization to address worsening conditions. A few senior leaders are starting to recognize that | dents and postdoes need more skills and knowledge today's research environment is much more challenging than ever, often leading to longer preparation times than that of their sepia-tinted memories. In response, some universities have offered salary and benefits relief. of striking out on their own. Their earcers are in the Unionization and overdue adjustments are incomplete hands of one or two senior scientists whose incentives and temporary responses to deeply

embedded problems-with long-term implications that everyone may regret. So where do solutions lie?

For the past 70 years, universities in the United States have supported fundamental research, operating under the promise that research and education should be integrated. How that integration is carried out must be reformed because over the course of seven de cades, the research ecosystem has been optimized to flawed incentives.

In the current system, a student or scholar will "apprentice" to a more senior scientist, with training exchanged for low wages. But how low

opportunities that lead to rewarding, independent careers. Unfortunately, each provision of this contract is strained. Training times are longer than necessary. Mentoring is not rewarded. Tenure track positions are limited, and other career options are not spotlighted. Senior scientists and administrators who want to do scientists and institutions that optimize these metrics. the right thing are constrained by the incentives of the system itself. Sadly, when some senior scientists take advantage of the huge differences in power, there may be exploitation, harassment, or worse. Not enough safe guards are in place to prevent these abuses of power that are built into the system itself.

It is understandable that every actor in this training system seeks to advance their own position. Unfortunately, the disadvantages inevitably flow to the graduate students and postdoes, Getting the maximum research postdocs receiving less than they need and less than

ate students and postdocs in the United States | eral government does not pay the full cost of research who comprise today's indispensable research University presidents and provosts are rewarded for securing shiny new buildings and research centers while entific leaders. Low pay, lack of benefits, and squeezing the most work possible out of trainees and ometimes toxic research environments have contingent faculty. It is hard to expect money to come persisted for years. Frustrated graduate stu-from inside this broken system to supplement low salaries and stipends.

Compounding the financial obstacles, graduate stubefore they are viewed as "independent" and capable

generally are to produce the most possible research rather than the best experience and prospects for their students

To survive this prolonged apprenticeship, many students must take out loans for living expenses, dispro portionately discouraging students of color and those from low-income households. Without a safety net, many must leave academia for a salary suf ficient to support their own families. Careers outside academia are valuable and rewarding, but society also needs a diverse and talented academy.

Solutions will not come without changing the incentives that led to is too low? The model works when there are mentur- | such deeply engrained problems. Only federal funding National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy, have the influence to align incentives for administrators, researchers, and others toward a healthier environment. Determining the metrics of a healthy research environment, and supporting and rewarding would be a start. Many may not like the consequences such as fewer but bigger grants or smaller labs, but doing nothing is unsustainable. American writer James Baldwin famously said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." It is past time for those who lead the scientific enterprise to face up to the fact that the student and postdoctoral experience is not how it might be remembered. Otherwise, everyone will bear witness to a system that is crumbling under its own weight

-Shirley M. Malcom and Sudip Parikh

the STEM Equity Achievement (SEA) Change program at the American the Advancement of Science (AAAS) the publisher of Science). Wash noton, DC. ...SA smalcom@ aaas.org

s a senior advisor

and director of

Sudip Parikh s the chief executive officer of AAAS and avan the publisher of the Science ournals, sparikh@

aaas.org

Change incentives that have led to such deeply engrained problems (e.g., low pay, lack of benefits, and sometimes toxic research environments)

Advocate for higher salaries to equate to living wages, employee-like benefits, good mentorship, and transparent career paths

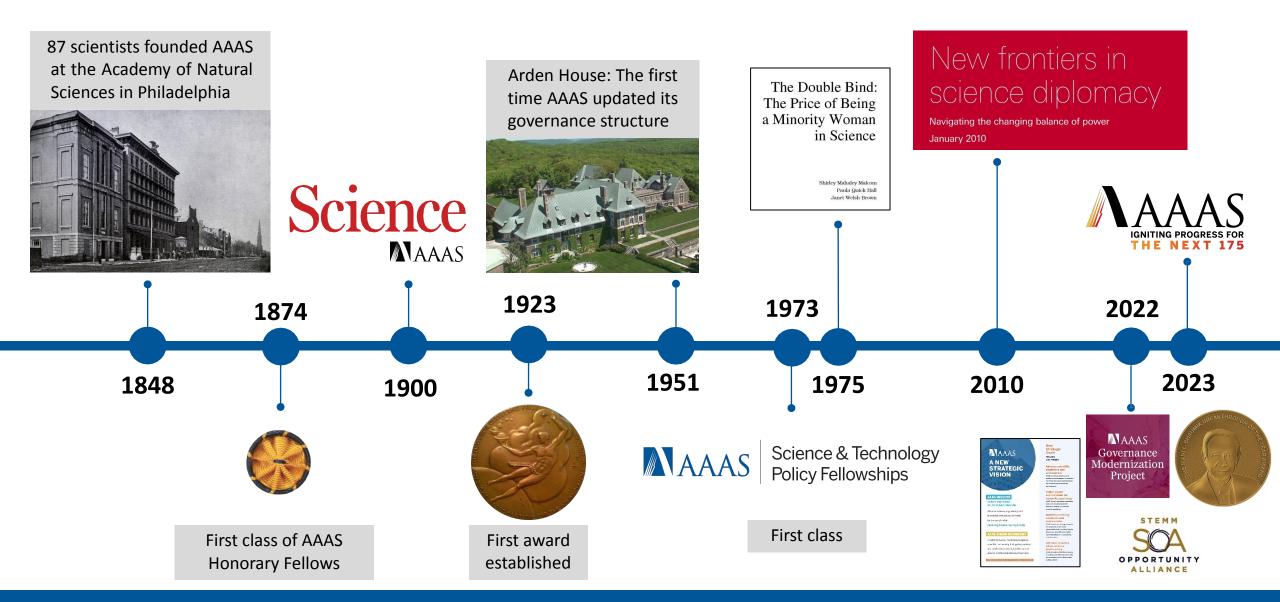
Only federal funding agencies have the influence to align incentives for administrators, researchers, and others toward a healthier environment

Determine the metrics of a healthy research environment, and support and reward scientists and institutions that optimize these metrics

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Evolution and revolution are required for relevance and leadership



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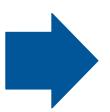
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Imagine a world where...

Advancing scientific excellence and achievement



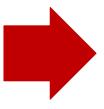
Ethical and transparent scientific collaboration help to heal the sick, feed the hungry, and protect the planet

Fostering equity and inclusion for scientific excellence



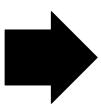
One day, any child anywhere will consider it their birthright, have the support structures, and feel the sense of belonging needed to pursue opportunities in STEMM

Building trust among scientists and communities



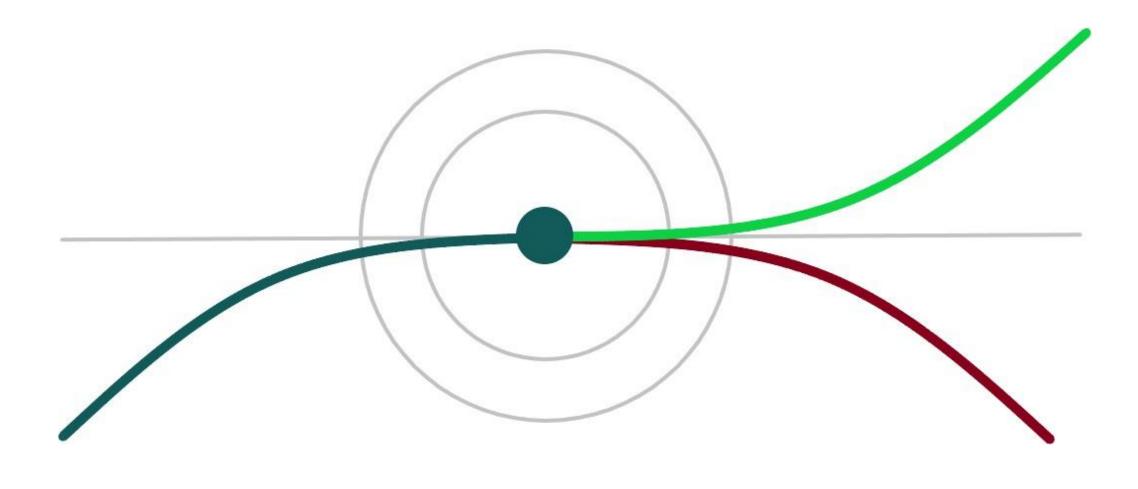
Scientists and engineers will have strong trusted relationships in their communities before the next crisis arises

Catalyzing progress where science meets policy



Policy decisions are made with guidance and input from trusted scientists and engineers

Two paths for our future are possible, but neither is inevitable







Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

MARGARET MEAD
AAAS PRESIDENT, 1975

Conversation?