

## Report on February 1992 AAAS Council Meeting

### Executive Officer's Report

In his "State of the Association" report, Executive Officer Richard Nicholson reported that AAAS had completed 1991 with revenue exceeding operating expenses. He noted, however, that a Board-approved termination of a long-standing contract for the sale of advertisements in *Science* and the bringing of advertising sales in-house had resulted in termination costs. While it is expected that these costs will be recouped from reduced commission costs and increased sales revenue, the action obliged AAAS to record an overall deficit for 1991.

Several new projects were announced. The Council was told of plans for a new AAAS electronic journal, the *Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials*. They were also informed of plans for more topical meetings and a new "Science Innovation" meeting on frontiers in biomedical techniques and instruments which is scheduled for July 1992.

### Elections and Appointments

Chairman Leon Lederman recognized Eloise Clark, the newly elected President-Elect, as well as Alan Schriesheim and Chang-Lin Tien, the newly elected Board members. He also acknowledged the following recently elected members of the Committee on Council Affairs: Daniel Berg, David Featherman, Jane Maienschein, and Nina Mathey Roscher.

The following members were either appointed or re-appointed as secretaries for their sections:

Rolf M. Sinclair (physics); Robert W. Parry (chemistry); E.C.A. Runge (agriculture); Robert L. Stern (industrial science); and Henry W. Heikkinen (education).

### Report on Activities in Directorate on International Programs

Richard Getzinger, head of the Directorate for International Programs, gave the Council an over-

view of the programs under his direction. He stressed the broad diversity of the programs within the directorate and highlighted activities such as the journals distribution project within the Sub-Saharan Africa Program; the Interciencia Association and the U.S.-Chile Scientific Coopera-

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tion under the Western Hemisphere Cooperation Program; the Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs and cooperative activities in East Central Europe and with the former Soviet Union under the International Scientific Cooperation Program; and workshops and colloquia under the Program on Science and International Security. Several Council members expressed their desire for even more cooperative efforts between the Western Hemisphere and Eastern Europe.

### Report on Science Magazine

Daniel Koshland, Jr., editor of *Science*, briefed the Council on the changes to the magazine during 1991. He then introduced Monica Bradford, managing editor, and Ellis Rubinstein, deputy editor. Bradford reviewed the peer-review process used by the journal and the role of both the Board of Reviewing Editors (those listed on the table of contents page of *Science* and whose assistance is used on a regular basis) and the *Science* Editorial Board (which meets once a year to set strategy).

She indicated that, in spite of recent page allocation increases, the high quality of the papers

being received by *Science* means an acceptance rate of only about 13% of submissions. Rubinstein discussed recent changes in the news section of the magazine and efforts to make the journal more international in scope. He explained that the News and Comment section attempts to give readers an inside look at what is going on in science policy while the Research News section reports on the new and exciting research currently under way. There has also been an increase in the number of special topic issues and new efforts to coordinate the content of both the news and the editorial sections in order to create a more cohesive whole.

### Resolution on Revocation of Fellowship Status

Mark Frankel, AAAS staff officer to the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, gave the Council a report on the previously tabled proposal for a resolution on revocation of fellowship status as a result of acts of fraud or misconduct. He indicated that legal counsel recommended a change to both the bylaws and constitution and he will be prepared to bring recommendations forward to the Committee on Council Affairs in the fall of 1992.

### Report on Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials

Patricia Morgan, head of Publications, gave a progress report on the planned launch of AAAS's first peer-reviewed electronic journal, which is a joint project of AAAS and the OCLC Online Computer Library Center. The journal is called the *Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials*. She explained that the journal's subject lends itself to the need for quick dissemination of results, as well as the statistical methodology of the subject and use of meta-analysis. Edward Huth, former editor of the *Annals of Internal*

*Medicine*, has agreed to serve as editor of the new journal.

### Report on Health and Welfare of Science Activities

Leon Lederman, Chairman of the AAAS Board, described his efforts on behalf of the health and welfare of science. He described a 1-day meeting held with other society representatives and a planned June retreat to discuss a strategy for increasing coordination of efforts aimed at public understanding and commitment to science and technology.

### Discussion of New Annual Meeting Program Committee

F. Sherwood Rowland, AAAS President, discussed the Board deliberations on the annual meeting that led to the creation of a Board-appointed Annual Meeting Program Committee. He indicated that the Board rationale was not to inhibit section participation but rather, to devise a procedure which would bring more control to the process and strengthen the "peer-review" process used to select sessions.

### Items Forwarded by Committee on Council Affairs

The request for affiliation by the Association for Integrative Studies was approved with only one nay vote.

The proposal for formal election of fellows by the Council (via mail vote) in advance of the annual meeting was unanimously approved.

The requested change in the Pacific Division bylaws to allow them to expand the territorial definition so as to include AAAS members living in countries and territories within and bordering the Pacific Basin (excluding all those now included in other divisions, and with regard to Canada including only provinces of British Columbia and Alberta) received the unanimous approval of the Council.

The Council passed unanimously the bylaw amendment formally changing the day of the

Committee on Council Affairs meeting at the Annual Meeting to the day before the Council meeting.

The request for establishment of a section on linguistics and language science was approved with one nay vote but with the following conditions: The section's status will be provisional but with full benefits of a section and its status will be reviewed at the end of 3 years to determine its viability as a section.

The 271 AAAS members nominated for fellowship status this year were unanimously elected by the Council. (For a complete list, see *Science*, 27 March 1992.)

—Gretchen Seiler  
AAAS Executive Office

### New Series of Arms Workshops

Debate over international security has shifted from the superpowers to include the developing world. The spread of nuclear and chemical weapons, long-range missiles, and less sophisticated weaponry into the Third World is of major concern to those wishing to establish balanced global security.

To address these and other issues, the AAAS Program on Science and International Security (PSIS) is launching a new series of three workshops on advanced weaponry in the developing world. The first workshop is scheduled for 11 to 14 June, in Washington, D.C.

All three sessions will be attended by a specially selected group of about 30 experts from a variety of regions and fields, including physical and social scientists, engineers, policy analysts, and military, intelligence, and diplomatic professionals.

One of the most important goals of the series will be to "create networks among people who otherwise might not be talking to each other," says senior program associate Eric Arnett.

"Countries in conflict, developing countries and the United States, technical and non-technical experts—this kind of networking is vital."

Technical experts in the first workshop will estimate which military technologies will be more widely available in the near future, and discuss the military implications. In the second workshop, group members representing regional interests will discuss how certain perceived threats make some technologies more relevant

to their countries than others. The final workshop will strive to synthesize the first two in a description of the state of advanced weaponry in the developing world, and to offer suggestions for national and global policies that could help reduce the dangers that such developments pose.

Among the countries expected to be represented are Israel, Egypt, Iran, China, India, Pakistan, North and South Korea, and Taiwan. The face-to-face exposure will be invaluable, says Arnett.

"There's an unfortunate tendency [in the West] to view people from these regions as caricatures rather than with any subtlety," he says. "These workshops should help change that."

In addition, essays from the sessions will be published, as will a monograph of the group's analyses and recommendations.

For more information, contact Eric Arnett, AAAS Program on Science and International Security, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. ■

### In Brief

**The AAAS Pacific Division's annual meeting** will take place this year at the University of California in Santa Barbara on 21 to 25 June. For more information, write to Pacific Division AAAS Meetings, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

and creative efforts" in the area of human rights.

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**AAAS is compiling a database of persons working in science, technology, and public policy in the U.S.** The aim of the project, which is supported by the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government, is to enable AAAS, Carnegie, and other organizations to publicize and distribute reports and publications, develop invitation lists for conferences and workshops, and circulate information on other professional matters. The database will include individuals in government, universities, the private sector, media, nonprofits, and other organizations interested in general science and technology policy issues.

Those wishing to be considered for inclusion in the database should contact Elizabeth Broughman at AAAS, Directorate for Science and Technology Policy Programs, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. (Telephone: 202-326-6600; fax: 202-289-4950.) You will receive a brief (one-page) questionnaire to fill out.

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**The 1992 AAAS Forum for School Science** will take place in Arlington, Virginia, on 30 to 31 October. The theme of this eighth annual meeting is "In Pursuit of Excellence: National Curriculum Standards for Science Education." For registration information, contact Betty Calinger, AAAS, Box SEN, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; or call 202-326-6629.

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**The AAAS Black Church Health Connection Project** is a new 3-year effort to develop a set of participatory biology activities and an accompanying training program. Scientists and health professionals have been invited to develop and submit activities that emphasize basic concepts of biology with regard to the bodily effects of addictive drugs and stress. The materials will be used by volunteer health professionals trained to work with students in church and community settings. The new project is funded by the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration of the National Institutes of Health.

For more information call project leader Audrey Daniel at 202-326-6670.

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**The American Psychiatric Association (APA)** presented its first Human Rights Award to AAAS on 4 May. The APA recognized the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility and the Association's Science and Human Rights Program for their "path-breaking

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**Project 2061, the Association's long-term effort to reform U.S. science education,** has released *Update*, an interim briefing on work in progress. For a free copy of *Update*, write to Project 2061, AAAS, Box SEN, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; or call 202-326-6666.