

# Science

**Publisher:** Richard S. Nicholson  
**Editor-in-Chief:** Daniel E. Koshland Jr.  
**Editor:** Ellis Rubinstein  
**Managing Editor:** Monica M. Bradford  
**Deputy Editors:** Philip H. Abelson (*Engineering and Applied Sciences*); John I. Brauman (*Physical Sciences*); Thomas R. Cech (*Biological Sciences*)

## Editorial Staff

**Assistant Managing Editor:** Dawn Bennett  
**Senior Editors:** Eleanor Butz, R. Brooks Hanson, Pamela J. Hines, Barbara Jasny, Katrina L. Kelner, Paula A. Kiberstis, David Lindley, Linda J. Miller, L. Bryan Ray, Phillip D. Szuroni, David F. Voss  
**Associate Editors:** Gilbert J. Chin, Suki Parks  
**Letters:** Christine Gilbert, *Editor*; Steven S. Lapham  
**Book Reviews:** Katherine Livingston, *Editor*  
**Contributing Editor:** Lawrence I. Grossman  
**Editing:** Valerie Jablow, *Supervisor*; Cara Tate, *Senior Copy Editor*; Jeffrey E. Cook, Harry Jach, Erik G. Morris, Christine M. Pearce  
**Copy Desk:** Ellen E. Murphy, *Supervisor*; Joi S. Granger, Daniel T. Helgerman, Melissa Q. Rosen, Beverly Shields, Kameaka Williams, *Assistant*  
**Editorial Support:** Sherry Farmer, *Supervisor*; Brent Gendelman, Carolyn Kyle, Michele Listisard, Diane Long, Patricia M. Moore, Ted Smith  
**Administrative Support:** Sylvia Kihara, Charlene King, Jeanette Prastein  
**Telephone:** 202-326-6501; **FAX:** 202-289-7562; **TDD:** 202-408-7770

## News Staff

**News Editor:** Colin Norman  
**Features Editor:** John M. Benditt  
**Deputy News Editors:** Tim Appenzeller, Joshua Fischman, Jean Marx, Jeffrey Mervis  
**News & Comment/Research News Writers:** Linda B. Felaco (copy), Constance Holden, Antonio Regalado (intern), Richard A. Kerr, Andrew Lawler, Eliot Marshall, Rachel Nowak, Robert F. Service, Richard Stone, John Travis  
**U.S. Bureaus:** Marcia Barinaga (Berkeley), Jon Cohen (San Diego), Anne Simon Moffat (Chicago), Wade Roush (Boston)  
**Contributing Correspondents:** Joseph Alper, Barry A. Cipra, Robert Crease, Elizabeth Culotta, Ann Gibbons, Virginia Morell, Dennis Normile (Tokyo), Robert Pool, Gary Taubes  
**Administrative Support:** Fannie Groom, Jennifer Hodgkin  
**Telephone:** 202-326-6500; **FAX:** 202-371-9227; **Internet Address:** science\_news@aaas.org

## Art & Production Staff

**Production:** James Landry, *Director*; Wendy K. Shank, *Manager*; Lizabeth A. Harman, *Assistant Manager*; Laura A. Creveling, Scherraine B. Mack, Stephen E. Taylor, *Associates*; Leslie Blizard, *Assistant*  
**Art:** Amy Decker Henry, *Director*; C. Faber Smith, *Associate Director*; Katharine Sutliff, *Scientific Illustrator*; Holly Bishop, *Graphics Associate*; Elizabeth Carroll, *Graphics Assistant*

## Europe Office

**Editorial:** Richard B. Gallagher, *Office Head and Senior Editor*; Stella M. Hurlley, *Associate Editor*; Belinda Holden, *Editorial Associate*  
**News:** Daniel Clery, *Editor*; Michael Balter (*Paris*), Patricia Kahn (*Heidelberg*), *Contributing Correspondents*  
**Administrative Support:** Janet Mumford; Anna Riches  
**Address:** 14 George IV Street, Cambridge, UK CB2 1HH  
**Telephone:** (44) 0223 302067; **FAX:** (44) 0223 302068

## Science Editorial Board

Charles J. Arntzen	F. Clark Howell
David Baltimore	Paul A. Marks
J. Michael Bishop	Yasutomi Nishizuka
William F. Brinkman	Helen M. Ranney
E. Margaret Burbidge	Bengt Samuelsson
Pierre-Gilles de Gennes	Robert M. Solow
Joseph L. Goldstein	Edward C. Stone
Mary L. Good	James D. Watson
Harry B. Gray	Richard N. Zare
John J. Hopfield	

# EDITORIAL

## Chairman of the House Science Committee

The 1990s have been times of uncertainty and thwarted hopes for many scientists. The 1994 election piled on a further layer of uncertainties. Will budgets affecting science be formulated with more zeal than wisdom? Will there be paralyzing dichotomies between Republicans in the House and Senate? Will the House Science Committee chaired by Robert S. Walker (R-PA) have a beneficial role in fostering science?

The committee has legislative jurisdiction and oversight authority on many matters pertaining to science and technology. Its membership totals about 50 and includes 27 Republicans. Much of the work of the committee will be conducted by subcommittees on Space and Aeronautics, Basic Research, Energy and Environment, and Technology. A press release stated, "The Subcommittee on Basic Research (SBR) has legislative jurisdiction and general and special oversight authority on all matters related to science policy." Twelve areas were listed under the SBR as examples of its domain. Three of these were: the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and University Research Policy, including overhead. The Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment has a similar relation to many facets of research in the Department of Energy as well as the science and risk assessment activities of the federal government.

Much of what will happen affecting science will be determined by the character and instincts of key politicians involved. Recent statements by Walker indicate some of his judgments and priorities.

In comments since 8 November 1994, Walker has displayed a mixture of politician and evangelist. The politician appeared on 14 December, at a press conference in which Walker mentioned some of his legislative agenda. Included were a hydrogen research bill, space commercialization, and risk assessment legislation. He also pledged support for a manned space station. During a press conference he was asked about a staff memorandum from a Republican budget committee suggesting that a number of agencies—including the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines, and the Office of Technology Assessment—be eliminated. He was noncommittal. His response to an inquiry about the NSF was explicit. The NSF should be essentially a basic science agency.

A different side of Walker was evident in an essay titled, "The Four Revolutions," issued a week after the November elections. He reflected on the momentous political, economic, cultural, and technological revolutions now affecting the world. Selected quotations from Walker's essay follow:

The challenge we face is to understand the nature of the four revolutions so that we can establish a framework for addressing the future, tailor a message that presents an optimistic analysis of the future, build a consensus around policies that make sense in the midst of revolution, and begin the process of rejecting policies that tie us to the status quo.

We are moving from a collection of national economies to a global economy. . . . [I]t is clear intellectual acumen and information will play a heavy role in its development. . . . Technological innovation must be actively encouraged, not discouraged by government regulation or cultural fear of the unknown. Strong ethical and moral foundations must be laid and maintained, so that people have strong values on which to rely as change envelops their lives. . . .

Economic change can open vast new horizons of growth and employment. Political change can open the doors for more hope and opportunity. Cultural change can create a foundation of values on which to build a future. Technological change can provide the means to pursue our dreams.

The challenge we face is to mold those changes in ways that lead to hope rather than hate; foresight rather than fear; virtue rather than victimization; vision rather than vitriol. That challenge is not just for politicians and policy-makers. It is a challenge for all Americans in an era of revolution.

In the past, hearings conducted by the predecessor of the Science Committee have often been pro forma affairs usually not receiving media attention. Walker will probably change that. Among other events will be sessions in which cabinet and agency heads will be expected to provide their views of ways in which their organizations will prepare for the future. If the questions asked are sufficiently well-chosen and penetrating, stimulating discourse will follow. Public policy will be influenced in needed, future-oriented directions.

Philip H. Abelson