



# AAAS NEWS AND NOTES

edited by TIFFANY AYERS

## EDUCATION

### AAAS to Educate Teachers About Scientific Research

Young students are a key target for animal rights advocates, who may recruit rock musicians and movie stars to plead their cause. Animal rights literature is disseminated in schools, in an attempt to appeal to teenagers' growing social awareness. To temper that concern with knowledge about the role that animal research plays in improving human health, AAAS is conducting a 5-year project to help middle- and high-school science teachers better understand the role of basic research in medical progress. The project, called Science for Life, will focus on how scientists conduct their research in the life sciences, including the use of animals and other methods such as computer models.

"Students should understand how basic research using animals can lead to applied findings, such as treatment for spinal cord injuries," said Deborah Runkle, senior program associate at AAAS. She said many animal rights movements call for the total abolition of animal use by medical scientists, although many scientific societies, including AAAS, have passed resolutions strongly supporting responsible use of animals by scientists and science educators. Science for Life will seek to educate teachers about the challenges posed by the animal rights movement, as well as the principles that constitute responsible conduct among scientists conducting research.

A smaller project by the same name was conducted by Florida State University. Follow-up studies demonstrated a significant and positive shift in attitudes toward use of animals in research among students. The AAAS project will seek to duplicate those results in other states, with the hope of increasing science literacy and positive images of science and basic research.

Science for Life, which was launched by AAAS in 1998, has received funding from the 3M Foundation. The project will be conducted in two stages over a 5-year period. In



the first phase, the project will develop educational resources; and in the second phase, teacher training workshops will be conducted in three to five states. The project will solicit applications to identify the states best able to carry out dissemination activities in cooperation with AAAS. Ultimately, the project hopes to encourage students to pursue scientific careers or develop a lifelong interest in science.

## AWARDS

### Scientists Honored for Achievements

AAAS named its 1998–1999 awards to honor achievements in science, engineering, and journalism. The awards were presented at a ceremony at the 1999 AAAS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California.

**AAAS Philip Hauge Abelson Prize:** Mary Lowe Good, Principal Member, Venture Capital Investors.

**AAAS Award for International Scientific**

**Cooperation:** Julia Marton-LéFevre, Executive Director, Leadership for Environment and Development Program.

**AAAS Mentor Award:** Su-Seng Peng, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Louisiana State University, and Karan L. Watson, Associate Dean of Graduate & Undergraduate Studies, Texas A&M University.

**AAAS Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement:** Helen Davies, Department of Microbiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

**AAAS Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology:** Christopher Wills, Professor of Biology, University of California, San Diego.

**AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award:** Joel Lebowitz, Professor of Mathematics and Physics and Director of the Center for Mathematical Sciences Research, Rutgers University.

**AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize:** Declan A. Doyle, João Morais Cabral, Richard A. Pfuetzner, Anling Kuo, Jacquelin M. Gubis, Steven L. Cohen, Brian T. Chait, and Roderick MacKinnon; and Roderick MacKinnon, Steven L. Cohen, Anling Kuo, Alice Lee, and Brian T. Chait.

**AAAS Science Journalism Awards:** John McQuaid, Mark Schleifstein, Lynne Jensen, Andrew Boyd, and Scott Threlkeld, *The Times-Picayune*; Robyn Suriano and Todd Halvorson, *Florida Today*; Mark Schoofs, *Village Voice*; Julia Cort, WBGH-TV, and Robert Gardner, Gardner Films; and David Baron, National Public Radio.

## MEETINGS

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**4–5 March** AAAS Black Church/Faith Communities Initiative Hands-On Workshops. Sponsored by the AAAS Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Washington, D.C. Contact Gaynelle Bowden at 202-326-6674 or gbowden@aaas.org.

**29 March** *Secrecy in Science: Exploring University, Industry, and Government Relationships*. Sponsored by AAAS Scientific Freedom, Responsibility & Law Program and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Kresge Auditorium, MIT Campus, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Contact Amy Crumpton, AAAS, at 202-326-6791 or acrumpton@aaas.org.

**14–16 April** 24th Annual AAAS Colloquium on Science and Technology Policy. Sponsored by the AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Project, Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact Stephen Nelson (snelson@aaas.org) or Shirley Young (syong@aaas.org) at 202-326-6600.

**14–16 April** *Cosmic Questions: What came before the Big Bang? Is the universe designed? Are we alone in the cosmos?* Sponsored by the AAAS Program of Dialogue Between Science and Religion, Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Contact Matt Zimmerman at 202-326-6789 or visit <http://www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/dbsr/events/cosmo/>.