

OUR GOALS

FOSTER COMMUNICATION AMONG SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND THE PUBLIC

AAAS is recognized throughout the world for its publication of the renowned journal *Science*, and as a source of timely, accurate, reliable and unbiased scientific information. In *Science*, AAAS presents cutting-edge research that has been peer-reviewed, and, just as science knows no borders, the journal's articles are written and reviewed by scientists from many nations. Reports on their work are published and broadcast worldwide. In its news pages and its columns, *Science's* news staff investigates and reports research news, so that research findings spread far beyond the confines of individual disciplines.

The AAAS Annual Meeting serves as another forum for scientists who want their work to have impact across the disciplines of science and among interested lay citizens, sparking collaborations and new avenues for research.

TO APPROACH THIS GOAL, AAAS PROVIDES:

Rapid Access to the Latest Research Results

AAAS continually seeks to ensure that scientific information is available when the user needs it. Research papers in *Science* are often subjected to rapid review and publication, and breaking science news appears in the journal, as well as on the *Science* Online website, and *ScienceNOW*. The journal's electronic publishing option, *Science Express*, now makes selected peer-reviewed articles available to the scientific community within days of acceptance.

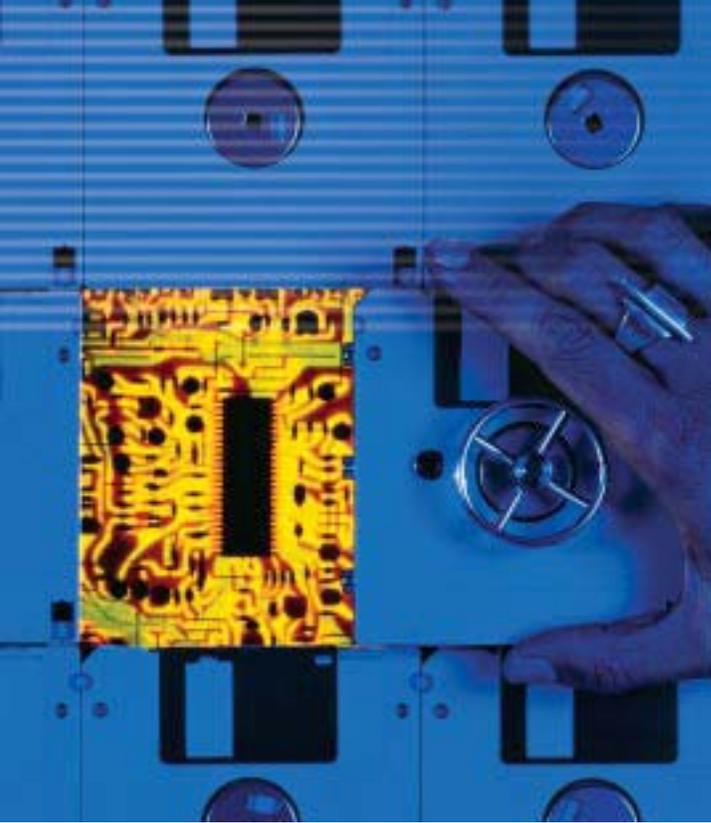
Web-Based Tools for Journalists

The media is given access to advance information on an embargoed basis both on AAAS's EurekAlert!, and through the "scipak," the packages of *Science* articles that are sent one week in advance of publication to journalists around the world, with the understanding that the writers will respect the embargo.

Support for Communities of Interest

Web-based "knowledge environments" provide the latest news, as well as all the resources necessary to scientists with a common research interest. *Science's* Next Wave is a website that provides information on careers and research funding to young scientists.





Innovative Mechanisms for Scientific Discourse

AAAS and *Science* are experimenting with the use of databases and computer technology that have been used to create phenomena such as in-depth reports on human rights abuses, and a connections map on the website of *Science*'s Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment (STKE).

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**-Rob Stein
*Washington Post***

STRATEGIES IN ACTION

The following are among the recent and ongoing activities of AAAS in 2001 that demonstrate its commitment to fostering communication among scientists, engineers and the public:

AAAS and Science: On the Cutting Edge

The new millennium opened with publication of dramatic scientific findings that have the potential to transform human life. On 16 February 2001, *Science* magazine published one of two sets of findings that presented the results of the near-final sequencing of the human genome, suggesting that the human genome sequence might someday result in medical advances such as diagnostic tests, pharmaceuticals that reflect individual genetic variations, and perhaps gene therapies targeting segments of code responsible for disease.

In the future, wrote the authors of the *Science* article, “The real challenge of human biology, beyond the task of finding out how genes orchestrate the construction and maintenance of the miraculous mechanism of our bodies, will lie ahead as we seek to explain how our minds have come to organize thoughts sufficiently well to investigate our own existence.”

The two research teams discussed their findings at the 2001 AAAS Meeting in San Francisco on 12 February, where 5,600 participants, including about 1,100 press registrants, had come to take part in the multidisciplinary gathering of scientists from all over the world.

Science's Knowledge Environment Builds Connections

Until a couple of years ago, researchers interested in signal transduction had to scramble if they missed key meetings or overlooked an important journal article.

Now they can turn to one of the three web-based knowledge environments AAAS and *Science* have created to meet the growing needs of interdisciplinary research. *Science*'s Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment (STKE) offers a connections map that allows scientists to follow the latest developments in several signaling pathways, and provides immediate access to the scientific literature that supports the findings that the map illustrates.

Every few weeks, for example, in his laboratory at the University of Washington, Randall Moon, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, adds newly published information to the connections map regarding *Wnt* genes and their proteins, which have been found to play a role in cancer and in the development of the embryo.

“My hopes and expectations are that by developing these tools and approaches, we will give researchers a greater ability to synthesize information from different fields and different laboratories, while revealing unexpected synergy between different pathways and interaction between proteins that might not have been obvious at first glance,” says Moon, professor of pharmacology at the University of Washington.

Website Opens World of Science to All Writers

Until seven years ago, when AAAS first launched its EurekAlert! website, Jean-Michel Bader, science writer for *Le Figaro* in Paris, says that he, like most science writers, “chased after journals and scientists” to stay on top of the latest research news, always concerned that a colleague at another paper would get the story first.

No more. Since 1996, Bader and his colleagues have become regular users of EurekAlert! (www.eurekalert.org), which posts breaking news from journals and from universities, laboratories, and other research institutions. Reporters may use an “embargoed news” section of the website to obtain information in advance, as long as they promise to respect the publication date imposed by the relevant institutions. More than 4,300 science writers have signed up to use the site, and their response, when asked, is resoundingly positive.

“EurekAlert! has become a staple of my daily routine,” says *Washington Post* reporter, Rob Stein. “I log onto it first thing in the morning and check it regularly throughout the day.”