



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

## AAAS and Professional Integrity

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest multi-disciplinary membership society in the world, is committed to protecting the integrity of science through its programs and activities that address scientific freedom, professional ethics, and the use of science in policymaking. It is commitment that aligns us with the new Professionals for the Public Interest Coalition.

Scientific advancement depends not only on the open exchange of data and findings among scientists. It also requires an environment in which trust and accountability are essential for ensuring the integrity of the process as well as the profession.

Such an environment also enables members of the public and their representatives in government to better understand science, thereby improving their ability to address important policy issues that depend on access to scientific knowledge.

Over the past years a number of incidents have not only raised questions regarding the professional integrity of scientists, but have also highlighted the misuse of scientific research and evidence in policymaking. Even when scientists act responsibly, studies that have undergone rigorous peer review can still be subject to politicization and violations of scientific integrity. Examples of this interference include nonscientists changing scientific findings, the suppression of scientific findings by public affairs agencies, and undue restrictions on scientists' ability to speak about their research and its social significance.

The Professionals for the Public Interest Coalition will provide a platform for professional communities to share information and best practices for strengthening and promoting professional integrity. Additionally, it will provide a voice for professionals in many fields of study that address critical societal issues. AAAS looks forward to working with the coalition.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of *Science* ([www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)). AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of one million. The non-profit AAAS ([www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)) is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science education, science policy, international programs, and an array of activities designed both to increase public understanding and engage the public with science.

Directorate for Science and Policy Programs

American Association for the Advancement of Science  
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA  
Tel: 202 326 6600 Fax: 202 289 4950  
[www.aaas.org/spp](http://www.aaas.org/spp)