Disability Rights and Accessing the Benefits of Scientific Progress and Its Applications

Throughout the first day of this meeting, participants will deepen their knowledge about the ways in which the human rights of persons with disabilities intersect with science and engineering. Sessions will explore how access to science and technology can affect the rights of people with disabilities, both positively and negatively, and will explore challenges to fulfilling the right to participate in science and engineering as students, practitioners and as the subjects of research.

Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guarantees everyone the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Since the launch of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition in January 2009, its core activities have focused on engaging scientists and engineers in an international process to define this right and create opportunities to integrate the right into the activities of scientists, engineers and their professional organizations.
Monday, January 27

8:30 a.m.  
Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m.  
Welcoming Remarks *(Auditorium)*

Speaker:  
Jessica Wyndham, Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, AAAS

9:15 a.m.  
Opening Plenary: The Disability Rights Framework and Implications for Science and Technology *(Auditorium)*

What are disability rights? How are these rights articulated and promoted by international human rights bodies? What are the important connections between disability rights and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications?

Speakers:  
Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, Coordinator for the Office for Disability and Inclusive Development, USAID  
David Morrissey, Executive Director, United States International Council on Disabilities

Moderator:  
Maya Sabatello, Disability Rights in Society Program, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University

10:30 a.m.  
Break

11:00 a.m.  
Plenary: Accessing the Benefits of Science and Technology *(Auditorium)*

How are scientific breakthroughs and new technologies redefining perceptions of disability? In what ways can access to online communications, m-health, neurological enhancements and other advances support the rights of persons with disabilities? What challenges need to be overcome to ensure equitable access? Are these universal challenges or are they specific to certain contexts? What can governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals do to remove these barriers?

Introduction:  
Alan I. Leshner, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Keynote:  
Vinton Cerf, Google

Speakers:  
James Thurston, Microsoft  
Eric Mathews, Disability Rights International

Moderator:  
Edward J. Walsh, Acoustical Society of America

12:30 p.m.  
Lunch

*Student Poster Competition Presentations and Judging (12:30 – 1:45pm on the 2nd Floor)*

1:15 p.m.  
(concurrent with last forty-five minutes of lunch)

**Information Session: Introduction to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition** *(Haskins)*

This session will provide an introduction to the goals and activities of the Science and Human Rights Coalition and the international human rights framework that guides its work, giving special attention to the connections of human rights to science and technology.
2:00 p.m.  **Plenary: International Human Rights Treaties in the Senate (Auditorium)**

“Why hasn’t the United States ratified that treaty?” This question often arises during Coalition meetings. During this session, Michael Gamel-McCormick, Disability Policy Director with the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions under the chairmanship of Senator Tom Harkin, will discuss the process for ratifying treaties, as well as the political issues that have made human rights treaties hot topics in the news. Dr. Gamel-McCormick will also discuss the ways in which science and engineering societies can engage in the ratification process.

Speaker:  **Michael Gamel-McCormick**, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)

Moderator:  **Paula Skedsvold**, Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

3:15 p.m.  **Break**

3:45 p.m.  **Plenary: Participating in Science and Technology (Auditorium)**

The National Science Foundation reports that people with disabilities continue to be underrepresented in science and engineering careers, but also that since 2008, students with disabilities in the US have earned more doctorates in science and engineering than in non-S&E fields. Broadening participation in science and engineering requires improving accessibility of classrooms and other learning resources, as well as better access to labs, meetings, and information technology. Full participation in science and technology also has implications for researchers who study disabilities. What are the challenges for people with disabilities to full participation in science and engineering, as students, as members of the science and technology community, and as the subjects of research? Does the human rights framework provide guidance for addressing these challenges? What are the responsibilities of governments, public institutions, the private sector and individual researchers for expanding participation in science and engineering?

Introduction:  **Laureen Summers**, American Association for the Advancement of Science

“Science Needs All Kinds of Minds” Remarks by **Temple Grandin**, College of Agricultural Sciences, Colorado State University *(recorded)*

Speakers:  **Robert Dinerstein**, American University Washington College of Law  
**Celia B. Fisher**, Center for Ethics Education, Fordham University  
**Marco M. Midon**, Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA

Moderator:  **Anju Khubchandani**, Office on Disability Issues, American Psychological Association

5:15 p.m.  **Closing Remarks (Auditorium)**


5:30 p.m.  **Reception and Student Poster Competition Awards (2nd Floor)**

6:30 p.m.  **Meeting Adjourns for the Day**
In keeping with the Coalition’s commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates contribute to one of five working groups and a committee. Through these meetings, the committee and working groups will take stock of progress made and, together with new and potential members, will continue work toward their objectives for 2014.

8:30 a.m.  **Outreach and Communication (Room 207)**

Want to see a greater diversity of associations represented in the Coalition? Have innovative ideas for how to communicate with members about our on-going activities and achievements? Share your ideas for expanding Coalition membership and building a strong relationship with our existing members.

Co-Chairs:  
**Ali Arab**, Affiliated Individual  
**Jeffrey H. Toney**, Sigma Xi

9:00 a.m.  **Executive Directors’ Circle (invitation only)**

10:00 a.m.  **Coffee and Tea**

10:30 a.m.  **Working Group Meetings (concurrent)**

- **Welfare of Scientists (Room 600 - 6th floor)**
  This working group is devoted to the protection and defense of scientists and engineers under threat and will work to increase the effectiveness of professional societies in defending the human rights of our colleagues.

  Co-Chairs:  
  **Juan Gallardo**, American Physical Society  
  **Alec Greer**, Committee of Concerned Scientists

- **Ethics and Human Rights (Revelle)**
  This working group is devoted to fostering appreciation among scientists, engineers and professional associations for the relevance of human rights to ethical standards, the conduct of science, the applications of science and technology, and human research protections.

  Co-chairs:  
  **Robert Albro**, American Anthropological Association  
  **Douglas Richardson**, Association of American Geographers

- **Service to the STEM Community (Abelson)**
  This working group is devoted to building the commitment and capacity of professional associations to contribute meaningfully to human rights issues and activities, including through the application of their discipline’s tools and techniques.

  Co-chairs:  
  **Clinton Anderson**, American Psychological Association  
  **Margaret Vitullo**, American Sociological Association
Service to the Human Rights Community *(Room 207)*

This working group is devoted to bridging the scientific, engineering and human rights communities with the aim of encouraging and facilitating the greater engagement of scientists and engineers in efforts to advance human rights.

Co-chairs:  
Brian Gran, American Sociological Association  
Susan Hinkins, American Statistical Association

Education and Information Resources *(Haskins)*

This working group is devoted to producing a variety of accessible information materials for the promotion and support of collaboration between scientists, engineers and human rights practitioners.

Co-chairs:  
Sheryl Luzzader-Beach, Association of American Geographers  
Sam McFarland, Affiliated Individual

1:00 p.m.  
**Council Lunch** *(Council Members and Student Delegates only)*

1:30 p.m.  
**Council Meeting** *(Council Members only - Revelle)*

**Student Delegate Meeting** *(concurrent with Council Meeting until 3:00 p.m. - Haskins)*

5:00 p.m.  
Meeting Adjourns

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition thanks the

American Chemical Society  
American Educational Research Association  
American Physical Society  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Geographers  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Kean University  
National Center for Science and Civic Engagement

for their support of this meeting