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On March 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a congressional charter creating the National Academy of Sciences to advise the federal government on matters of science and technology. Today, the Academy and its sister organizations, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine prepare and publish more than 300 studies each year. More than 7,000 scientists, engineers, physicians, and other professionals volunteer their expertise so that the National Academies can provide authoritative, independent advice to the nation's leaders on education, energy, national security, economic competitiveness, health care, the environment, agriculture, space exploration, and a host of other topics.

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The University of Texas at Dallas is located at the convergence of Richardson, Plano, and Dallas in the heart of the complex of major multinational technology corporations known as the Telecom Corridor. UTD faculty members have an established tradition of scholarly achievement and extramural research. Its freshman class annually stands at the forefront of Texas state universities in terms of average SAT scores. The university offers strong bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees through each of its six large schools, Arts and Humanities, The Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Naveen Jindal School of Management, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. This comprehensive breadth is complemented by an historical focus on engineering, management, and science.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU's a public flagship metropolitan research university located on five campuses across the Phoenix, Arizona, Metropolitan Area, is the largest public university by enrollment in the United States and is in the top tier of U.S. research institutions. The university has developed a new model for the American Research University, creating an institution that is committed to excellence, access and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it.

ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, published by the University of Texas at Dallas in collaboration with the National Academies and ASU, is designed to inform public opinion and to raise the quality of private and public decision-making by providing a forum for discussion and debate. Accordingly, the pages of **ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** are open to all responsible points of view, and the material published reflects only the views of the authors, not a consensus of opinion or the policies of any institution. Authors have included Nobel laureates, heads of state, cabinet secretaries, corporate CEOs, members of Congress, and independent experts from a vast array of disciplines.

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

ISSUES is a forum for discussion of public policy related to science, engineering, and medicine. This includes policy for science (how we nurture the health of the research enterprise) and science for policy (how we use knowledge more effectively to achieve social goals), with emphasis on the latter.

Unlike a popular magazine, in which journalists report on the work of experts, or a professional journal, in which experts communicate with colleagues, ISSUES offers experts an opportunity to share their insights directly with a broad audience. And the expertise of the boardroom, the statehouse, and the federal agency is as important as that of the laboratory and the university.

The ultimate purpose of ISSUES is admittedly idealistic but vital: to improve the effectiveness of public and private policy in making a better world and to raise the level of debate and mutual respect among all those who appreciate the critical contributions of science and technology.



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