

DEFENDING SCIENCE

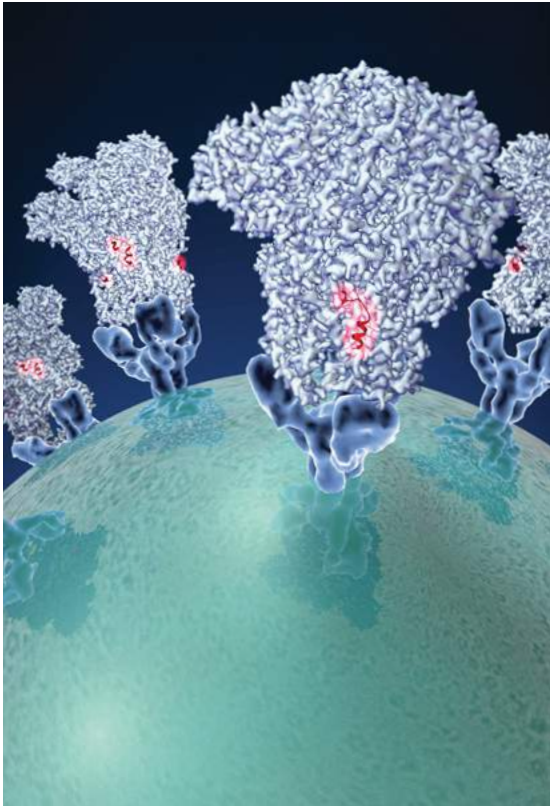


SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE

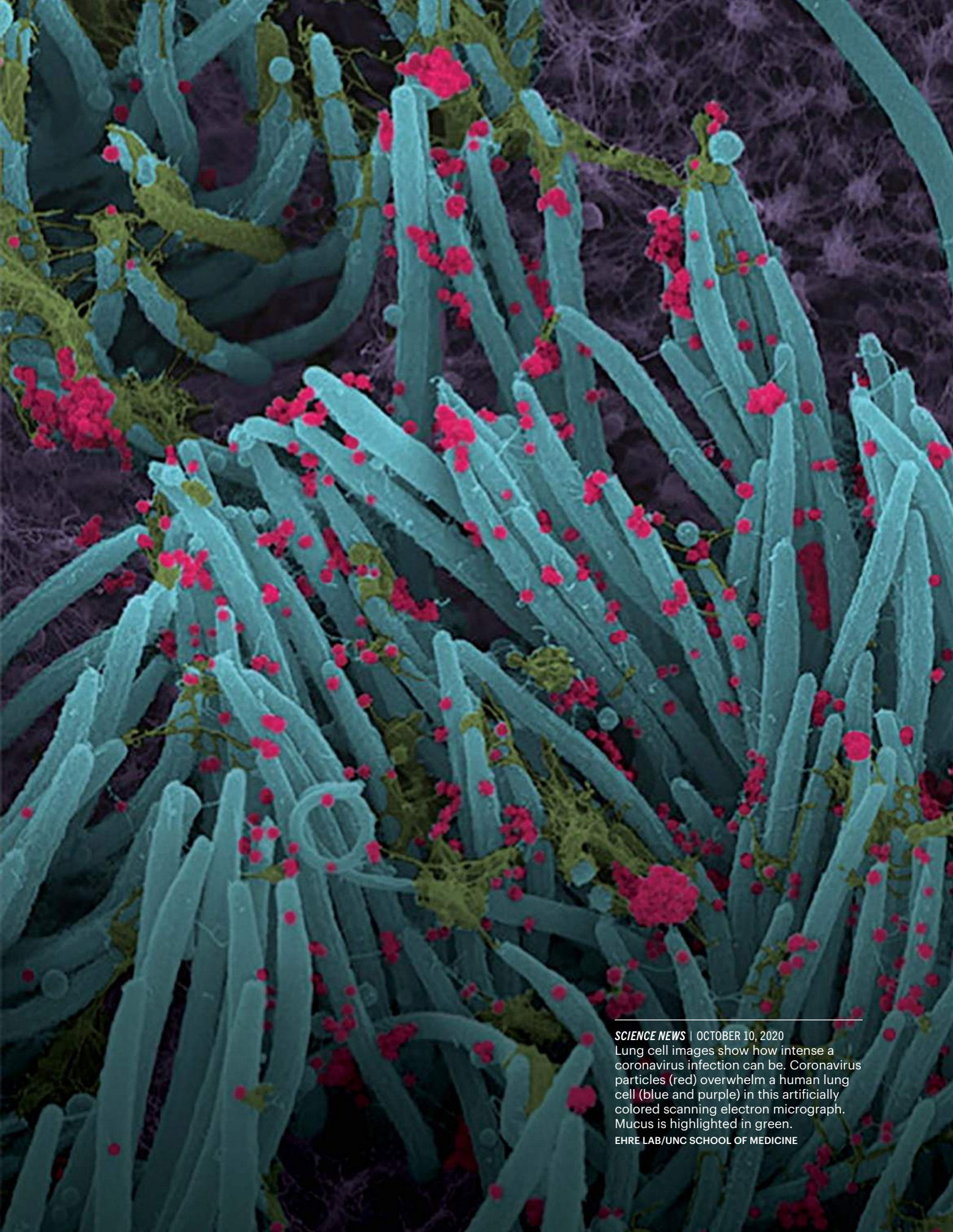
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE

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SCIENCE NEWS | AUGUST 8, 2020
Coronaviruses use their spike proteins (shown in this illustration) to gain entry into cells where the viruses can replicate. Vaccines based on the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein stimulate the immune system to produce neutralizing antibodies, which can latch onto certain spots on the protein (red) and prevent COVID-19 infection or illness.
DAVID VEESLER/UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



SCIENCE NEWS | OCTOBER 10, 2020
Lung cell images show how intense a coronavirus infection can be. Coronavirus particles (red) overwhelm a human lung cell (blue and purple) in this artificially colored scanning electron micrograph. Mucus is highlighted in green.
EHRE LAB/UNC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SCIENCE NEWS | JULY 4, 2020

Loss of smell and taste may be one of the clearest signs of COVID-19. Coronavirus (seen emerging from an infected cell in this colored electron micrograph) may interfere with some nerve cells' ability to detect odors. The loss of smell and taste stemming from that interference may be a telltale sign of infection.

NIAID

Defending Science

The year 2020 was like no other. We are honored to share with you Society for Science's 2020 Annual Report, *Defending Science*, which highlights the exceptional work that took place to meet the new and ever-changing demands brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to find new and creative ways to achieve our mission. We faced those challenges head-on, continuing to deliver our award-winning evidence-based journalism, our world-class science competitions, and our outreach and equity programming.

As you read through this annual report, we believe you will be humbled by the dedication of our team as we all worked to defend science. From equipping our readers with accurate information about the virus, to providing educators with resources to excite STEM students, to encouraging young people to conduct scientific research, our team engaged the wider public in STEM during a time when science could not have been more important.

The reporters at *Science News* and *Science News for Students* found themselves writing about the very virus that was changing all our lives. The entire newsroom turned on a dime, moving operations from our downtown office to individual homes without missing a beat—or a deadline. What's more, the team launched a coronavirus newsletter to

provide up-to-date information about COVID-19 without the hype.

The inability to bring people together in person brought with it exceptional challenges for an organization known for producing outstanding science competitions and events for educators and alumni. We pivoted and hosted seven successful virtual events, reaching hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

During the Society's first virtual event—the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair—we reached more than 20,000 people around the world. Later in the summer, we hosted our first virtual competition with the Regeneron Science Talent Search, followed by the Broadcom MASTERS competition in the fall, where we developed team-based challenges the finalists participated in over Zoom. During all these events, we enabled our competitors to share their research with the world via our virtual platform.

It was an exceptionally challenging and difficult year for teachers, and we worked to provide educators with the resources they needed to teach their students, whether in a socially distant classroom or online. The Society provided STEM kits to teachers across the country, offered programming through webinars and hosted two online conferences for teachers.

That programming came in addition to the online resources the Society offered through our *Science News* in High Schools program and *Science News for Students*.

We recognize that the Society's excellent journalism and STEM education programming could have taken place only thanks to our incredible team. We are grateful for the many hours they devoted to ensuring the success of our competitions and our journalism during this pandemic. During a year where diversity, equity and inclusion became a part of our national conversation, we were pleased to see our team come together to underscore our commitment to racial justice.

We thank the Board of Trustees, whose commitment and guidance ensure the continued success of the Society. We were pleased to welcome Adam Bly, Founder and CEO of System, who joined the Board in 2020. We also thank our sponsors, who supported us during this very challenging year. Most importantly, we could not do our work without the generous support of you, the Society's subscribing members, donors, alumni and readers.

Only the extraordinary advances in science will lead us out of this unprecedented time. We are pleased to be a part of this story as we help to defend science.



Maya Ajmera

Maya Ajmera

President & CEO
Society for Science
Publisher, *Science News*
STS 1985



Mary Sue Coleman

Mary Sue Coleman

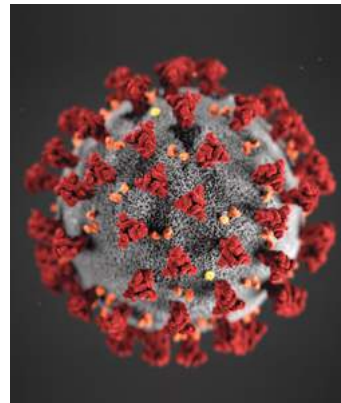
Chair, Society for Science Board of Trustees
President Emerita, University of Michigan
STS 1961
ISEF 1959–1960

SOCIETY TOP MOMENTS OF 2020

During a challenging year, Society for Science found ways to continue supporting STEM education. Here are some of the highlights.

EXPANDED ACCESS

In response to the learning disruptions caused by the pandemic, the *Science News* in High Schools Digital Library and *Science News for Students* made their award-winning content more widely available to students, teachers and parents.



SCIENCE NEWS COVERAGE

Science News journalists quickly transitioned to a virtual newsroom and launched their *Coronavirus Update* newsletter to make it easier for readers to stay up to date.



NEW LEADERSHIP

Adam Bly, Founder and CEO of System, was named to the Society's Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the Society's National Leadership Council and serves as a liaison between the two groups.



NEW SERIES

Science News for Students launched a new series, "Let's Learn About," that mixes learning with related fun activities.



NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

Postponed in March, the Regeneron Science Talent Search took place online in July, the first time in its 80-year history. To ensure equity in judging, all 40 of the finalists, including Anaiah Thomas (above), received tech kits with rented laptops, hot spots, iPads and professional lighting equipment.



HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS COME TOGETHER

Harvard University assistant professor Anthony A. Jack delivered 2020's keynote address to teachers at the Society's virtual High School Research Teachers Conference, sharing his insights and research on some factors that hold back lower-income students in college.



INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

In May, the Society was thrilled to bring the science fair community together for the virtual Regeneron ISEF, with more than 18,500 registrants from 131 countries, regions and territories joining us.



PROGRAM PIVOT

The Society distributed STEM kits to teachers across the country as a way to encourage scientific inquiry, regardless of whether they were teaching students virtually or in a classroom.

COMPETITION GOES VIRTUAL

Broadcom MASTERS finals week was held online, with finalists working together—virtually—during their team challenges.



DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

The National Science Board, the governing body of the National Science Foundation, honored Maya Ajmera with the 2020 Public Service Award for her contributions to increasing public understanding of science and engineering.



GOING BIG VIRTUALLY

In 2020, the Society was faced with a challenge: the organization has long been known for world-class science competitions, which provide finalists with extraordinary

experiences that include hearing from prestigious scientists and engineers, connecting with one another and being treated like the superstars that they are. During a

time when it was unsafe to gather in person because of the ongoing pandemic, how could we translate that experience into an online environment?



BROADCOM MASTERS
Team challenges are a cornerstone of the Broadcom MASTERS finalist experience. Using Zoom and working with our partners, the Society was able to set up challenges that enabled finalists to highlight their skills in critical thinking, communication and creativity. As with Regeneron STS, the Society provided an opportunity for the public to view the finalists' projects virtually, and thousands attended.

REGENERON STS
Ensuring a fair competition and a stellar experience was key to a successful virtual Science Talent Search. The Society sent tech and lighting kits to all the finalists in addition to setting up virtual field trips with top scientific institutions and companies. During an online Public Exhibition of Projects, thousands of people had an opportunity to learn about the finalists' research.



REGENERON ISEF
When planning the Regeneron ISEF, the Society determined that it would not be fair to host a competition—too many fairs that send finalists to ISEF had been canceled. Instead, the Society brought together top scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs, including the Excellence in Science and Technology Panel (above), for a series of discussions and fireside chats. Open to the full scientific community, thousands of people around the world attended.

Teen Scientists Win \$1.8M at Virtual Regeneron Science Talent Search



For the first time in its history, the Science Talent Search took place virtually, in order to keep finalists and their families safe during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The Regeneron Science Talent Search provides a national stage for the best and brightest young minds to present their original research ideas to leading scientists. Finalists participated in online judging, socialized with each other in virtual settings and went on virtual field trips.



IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY
Lillian Kay Petersen, 17, of Los Alamos, N.M., won the \$250,000 top award. She invented a simple tool for predicting harvests early in the growing season, which could help to improve food distribution planning to address global food insecurity.



FASTER MACHINE LEARNING
Second place and \$175,000 went to Jagdeep Bhatia, 18, of Green Brook, N.J., for developing two fast and simple machine learning algorithms for computer programs that are attempting to learn new concepts under the tutelage of an instructor.



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF MANUFACTURING
Third place and \$150,000 went to Brendan Crotty, 18, of Muskogee, Okla. He designed and built an efficient hybrid gas burner that could help reduce the ecological impact of industries like power generation and materials manufacturing.



Fourth Place:
Rupert Li of Portland, Ore., received a \$100,000 award.



Fifth Place:
Anaiah Thomas of Teaneck, N.J., received a \$90,000 award.



Sixth Place:
Katherine St. George of Merrick, N.Y., received an \$80,000 award.



Seventh Place:
Alek Westover of Belmont, Mass., received a \$70,000 award.



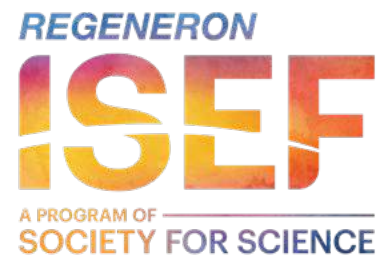
Eighth Place:
Adriane Thompson of Westerville, Ohio, received a \$60,000 award.



Ninth Place:
Rohan Wagh of Portland, Ore., received a \$50,000 award.



Tenth Place:
Arjun Neervannan of Irvine, Calif., received a \$40,000 award.

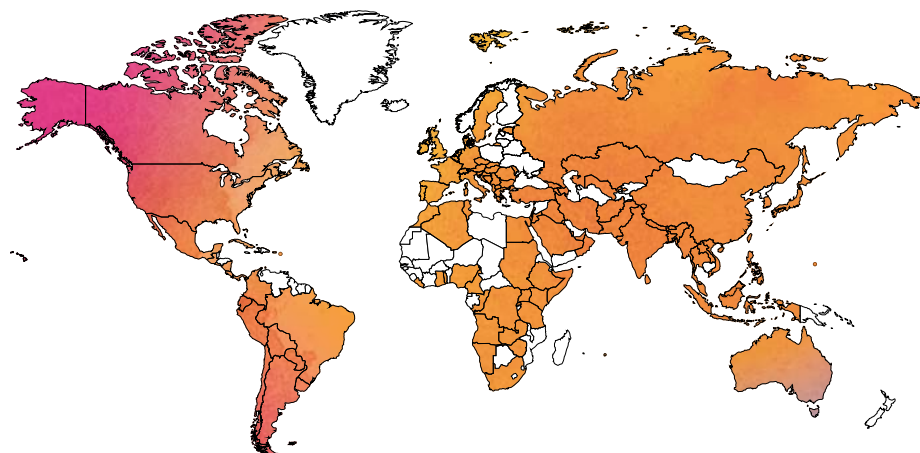


REGENERON ISEF GOES VIRTUAL IN 2020

Society for Science hosted the virtual Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May, inviting the scientific community to come together in a celebration of science and engineering.



VIRTUAL REGENERON ISEF ATTENDANCE



18,523
registrants

131
countries, regions
and territories

VIRTUAL REGENERON ISEF WEEK INCLUDED

88 distinguished
speakers

70 colleges, universities,
educational institutions
and scientific organizations

4 Nobel
laureates

REGENERON ISEF FINALISTS

1,369
finalists

1,064
projects

51%
male finalists

49%
female finalists

317 affiliated
fairs

56 countries,
regions and
territories

136 danced in
the opening
ceremony
video

Preparing Our Fair Network for 2021 Emergency Need and COVID-19 Transition Fund

Society for Science established the Affiliated Fair Emergency Need and COVID-19 Transition Fund in 2020 to help ensure that science fairs around the world would be able to host competitions in 2021, while keeping students, judges and their families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fairs in the Society's affiliated fair network had the opportunity to apply for a one-time grant of up to \$10,000.

In 2020, the Society gave \$236,000 to 40 science fairs to be used toward things such as setting up virtual platforms, tech equipment, IT support, student outreach and mailing expenses.

The Affiliated Fair Emergency Need and COVID-19 Transition Fund is sponsored by Broadcom Foundation, Regeneron and Siegel Family Endowment.



REGENERON ISEF'S VIRTUAL LOBBY

The virtual lobby served as the gateway to every element of Regeneron ISEF, from the finalist exhibit hall to the panel discussions.



// I was stunned by how impressive virtual Regeneron ISEF was. It is almost impossible to believe that it was created on a short timeline. My favorite part is that it was designed to have the look and feel of an in-person conference."

GABI FARNHAM

Bartlesville District Science Fair Director, Oklahoma

Middle School Innovators Compete Virtually at Broadcom MASTERS



This year's Broadcom MASTERS participants were selected from the largest pool of applicants the competition has seen, with 3,476 students from 42 states and Puerto Rico. Because science fairs across the country were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society and Broadcom Foundation opened up the Broadcom MASTERS competition to any student who had registered to compete in a Society-affiliated science fair. Each of the MASTERS Top 300 also received a new \$125 award from DoD STEM.

The Society pivoted the annual in-person finals week to a virtual format, with students, judges and staff rising to the occasion, pulling off team challenges with finalists working together across the country. To ensure judging equity, all 30 finalists were provided with rented laptops, high-definition webcams, professional lighting kits and other technology. Team challenges included programming with Raspberry Pi computers, exploring health science and ethics, and analyzing leaf data for insights into climate change.

// Broadcom MASTERS has been a wonderful experience to learn, grow and change. The challenges were amazing."

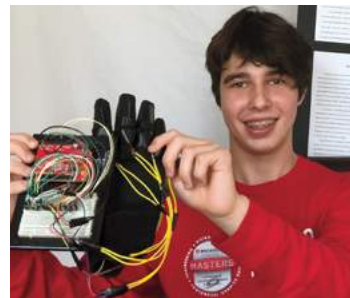
MADILYNE BEAUDRY
Broadcom MASTERS 2020 finalist



◀ **EXPLORING OPTICAL ILLUSIONS**
Ishana Kumar, 12, from Chappaqua, N.Y., won the \$25,000 Samueli Foundation Prize for her project investigating optical illusion, as well as her leadership, collaboration and critical thinking skills.



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Charlotte Lenore Simon Michaluk, of Pennington, N.J., won the \$10,000 DoD STEM Talent Award.



△
Julian Olschwang, of Los Angeles, Calif., won the \$10,000 Lemelson Award for Invention.



△
Kai Vernooy, of Niskayuna, N.Y., won the \$10,000 Marconi/Samueli Award for Innovation.



△
Zoe Weissman, of Plantation, Fla., won the \$10,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award for Health Advancement.

ALUMNI

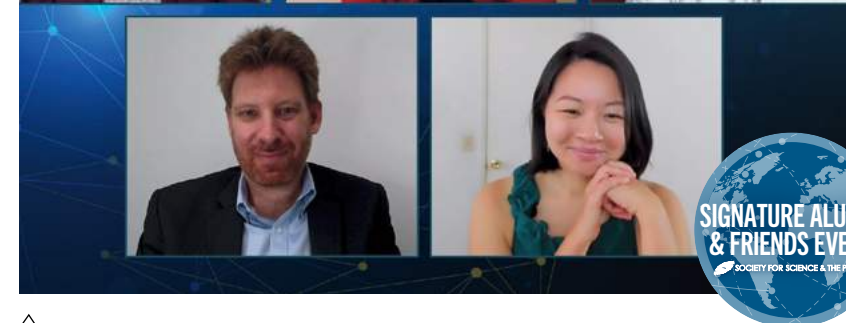
In a challenging year, the Society especially appreciated the support of alumni. We are proud of our thriving community.

Beyond Borders

For the first time, the Alumni Program lifted the limits of geography by going virtual. We were thrilled to observe record attendance at our annual Signature Alumni & Friends Event—titled “Around the World, Changing the World”—which reached the community in new ways.

AN UNPARALLELED FIRESIDE CHAT

Society President and CEO Maya Ajmera (STS 1985) hosted an enlightening conversation with Nobel laureate and 1955 Science Talent Search alumnus Roald Hoffmann.



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CONNECTING ACROSS THE GLOBE

ISEF alumni hailing from across the US and world came together for an exceptional panel led by National Leadership Council member Willie T. Reeves Jr. (ISEF 2007–2008) from Oklahoma. Panelists: Madhurima Benekareddy (ISEF 1999) from India, Ved Chirayath (STS 2005; ISEF 2003–2004) and Bonnie Lei (STS 2011; ISEF 2011) from California, and David Schlesinger (ISEF 1997) from Brazil.

Leading by Example

In 2020, the Society welcomed five new members to the National Leadership Council who are reimagining the relationship between science and the public.



SHANTANU GAUR
ISEF 2003–2004
Co-Founder and CEO, Allurion Technologies



DAVID HOLZ
ISEF 2006;
DCYSC 2001
Co-Founder and CTO, Leap Motion, now Ultraleap



WILLIE T. REEVES JR.
ISEF 2007–2008
Chief Business Strategy Innovation Officer, Biotechnology Innovation Organization



RAMJI SRINIVASAN
ISEF 1999
Founder and CEO, Teiko.bio



AFTON VECHERY
STS 2007; ISEF 2005
Co-Founder and CEO, Modern Fertility

Celebrating Excellence

In 2020, alumna Monika Schleier-Smith (STS 2001) was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for her contributions to advancing our understanding of many-particle quantum systems. The Society was thrilled to welcome Monika to the 2020 virtual Regeneron ISEF, where she spoke on the Women in STEM Panel.

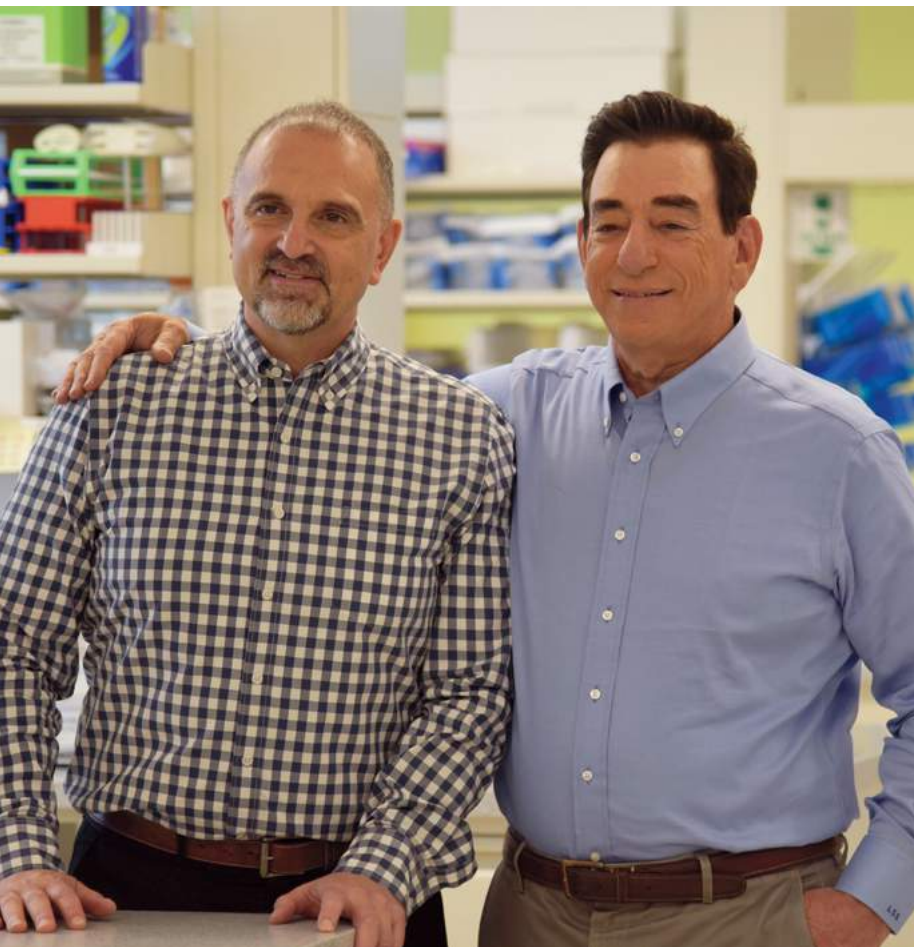


COMBATING COVID-19

This year's unique challenges revealed the alumni community's commitment to science and the power of the human spirit. We are grateful to all our alumni who dropped everything to combat COVID-19 and help those impacted by it.



DANIEL SKOVRONSKY
STS 1991; ISEF 1990
Daniel is Chief Scientific and Medical Officer at Eli Lilly and Company, where he serves as Senior Vice President of Science and Technology and President of Lilly Research Laboratories. To combat COVID-19, Lilly produced bamlanivimab, the first neutralizing antibody to receive emergency use authorization from the FDA. The company also produced etesevimab for administration with bamlanivimab; together, these antibodies reduced the risk of hospitalization and death.



GEORGE YANCOPOULOS, STS 1976
LEN SCHLEIFER, STS 1970
Using the powerful VelociSuite® technologies, the Regeneron team invented a brand-new investigational antibody cocktail for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 that is now authorized for emergency use in over 20 countries. Led by CEO Len and Chief Scientific Officer George, this program moved at record speed and built on the company's prior success developing the first FDA-approved medicine for Ebola. Regeneron also supported communities and workers on the front lines in New York state with testing kit supplies and charitable contributions.



YOUYANG GU
STS 2011
When the pandemic hit, Youyang began modeling data to see if machine learning could help predict trajectories in COVID-19 deaths. His model became a top resource for journalists, academics and medical professionals. Youyang now serves on the World Health Organization's COVID-19 tech advisory board.



DANIEL DURAND
STS 1997
Daniel is Chief Innovation Officer, Chairman of Radiology and Vice President of Research for LifeBridge Health, a five-hospital health system in Maryland. Dan and his team assisted in creating and implementing an app that helped thousands of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to self-isolate and quarantine while remaining in contact with the health system. They also teamed up with Under Armour to make protective gear.



BEN ABELLA
STS 1988
Ben, Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, is deeply engrossed in both treating people suffering from COVID-19 and in conducting clinical trials to validate or rule out potential treatments.



JAN AGOSTI
STS 1972
Jan is Chief Medical Officer at Implicit Bioscience, a biotech company researching immunomodulatory drugs. The company's IC14 drug is being evaluated for patients with COVID-19 facing life-threatening immune system reactions to the virus.



AAKSHI AGARWAL
STS 2017; ISEF 2016; BCM 2013
Aakshi cofounded TeleHealth Access for Seniors, a nonprofit that connects seniors with their health care providers via telehealth appointments and apps. The organization also collects and sanitizes donated electronic devices to give to older adults.



ELYSE HOPE
STS 2006; ISEF 2004–2006; DCYSC 2002
Elyse is managing new projects related to COVID-19 at the nonprofit research institution Genome British Columbia, ranging from drug evaluation to statistical modeling to protective gear sterilization.



SHIV GAGLANI, ISEF 2004–2006
RYAN HAYNES, ISEF 2002; DCYSC 1999
Shiv and Ryan are cofounders of Osmosis.org, a health education platform that reaches millions of health care workers, patients and their family members. During the pandemic, Osmosis kicked into high gear and released frequent updates on COVID-19, including educational videos and a brand-new podcast.

COVID-19 COVERAGE

Science News Media Group

The year started with the news that a novel coronavirus was making people sick in China. As science journalists with extensive experience covering pandemics, we knew we had to get ready for the worst. We quickly mobilized a team dedicated to covering the enigmatic virus, and connected with researchers who were racing to learn its secrets.

On March 11, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. Two days later, we abruptly vacated our office in Washington, D.C., shoving computer monitors into cars. We raced to set up a new system to produce the magazine remotely, while reporters worked 14-hour days digging through an avalanche of new COVID-19 research.

People were desperate for reliable, evidence-based information, and

they came to *Science News* and *Science News for Students*. More than 4 million people visited the *Science News* website in March 2020, a historic high. *Science News for Students* also saw a traffic surge as students, educators and parents tried to figure out remote learning.

That month, we also launched our *Coronavirus Update* newsletter, created to make it easier for people to stay up to date.

In addition to reporting on COVID-19, we continued with our core mission, covering the latest advances across all fields of science, including the Arecibo radio telescope and the first room-temperature superconductor. We also examined the underrepresentation of Black scientists in STEM and reported on efforts by Black researchers to work together for change.

40,209,043

total *Science News* page views in 2020

21,247

Coronavirus Update newsletter subscribers in 2020

14,700,000

Science News coronavirus coverage page views in 2020

COVID-19 REPORTING

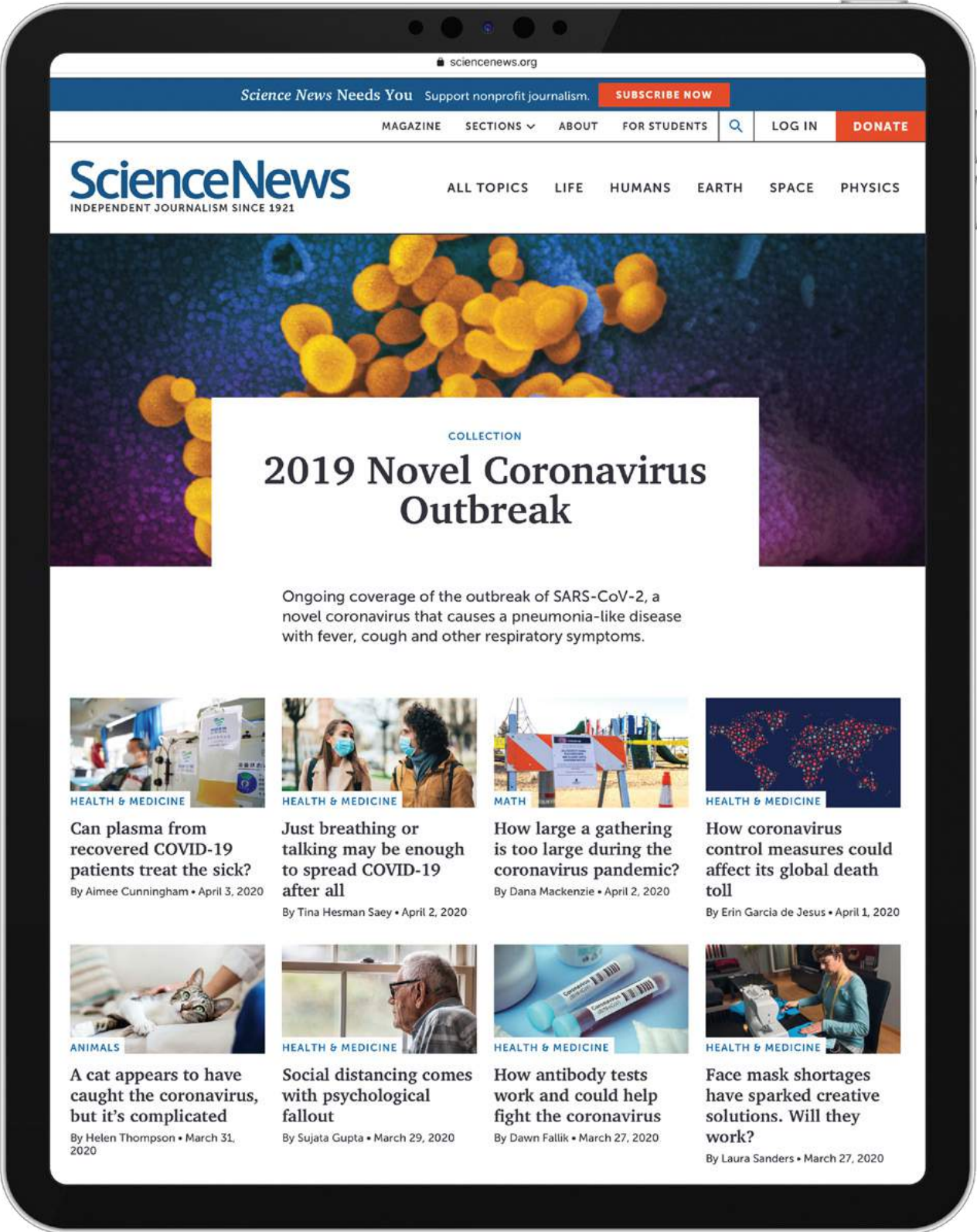
Science News and *Science News for Students* readers looked to our reporting for fact-based stories without hype.

SCIENCE NEWS TOP STORIES (PAGE VIEWS)

- 1 Coronavirus is most contagious before and during the first week of symptoms
- 2 No, the coronavirus wasn't made in a lab. A genetic analysis shows it's from nature
- 3 When will the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing end?
- 4 4 reasons you shouldn't trash your neck gaiter based on the new mask study
- 5 Just breathing or talking may be enough to spread COVID-19 after all

SCIENCE NEWS FOR STUDENTS TOP STORIES (PAGE VIEWS)

- 1 How much do masks help against COVID-19?
- 2 Explainer: What is a coronavirus?
- 3 Coronavirus is most contagious before and right after symptoms emerge
- 4 Answers to your questions on the new coronavirus
- 5 Six foot social-distancing will not always be enough for COVID-19



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COVERING THE CRISIS
Our breaking news and in-depth coverage of the pandemic drove historic highs in online traffic.

MEET THE SN 10



For the sixth consecutive year, *Science News* spotlighted 10 early- and mid-career scientists on their way to greater widespread acclaim. Some of this year’s honorees are focusing on questions with huge societal importance, including how we can prevent teen suicide, what are the ingredients in wildfire smoke that are damaging to health and whether there is a better way to monitor earthquakes. Others are trying to understand how weird and wonderful the universe is—from exploring how many black holes are out there to uncovering the drama that unfolds when life divvies up its genetic material.

Each scientist included in the SN 10 was nominated by a Nobel laureate, recently elected member of the National Academies of Sciences or a scientist previously named to our SN 10 list. All are age 40 or under, and were selected by *Science News* staff for their potential to shape the science of the future.

“If there’s something I don’t understand, I’m extremely stubborn when it comes to figuring out the answer.”

PHIALA SHANAHAN
Theoretical Physicist
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



△
TONIMA TASNIM ANANNA
Astrophysicist
Dartmouth College



△
ALESSANDRA CORSI
Astrophysicist
Texas Tech University

FROM LEFT: ELI BURAKIAN/DARTMOUTH COLLEGE; TEXAS TECH UNIV.



△
ANNA MUELLER
Sociologist
Indiana University



△
BO WANG
Bioengineer
Stanford University



△
PHIALA SHANAHAN
Theoretical Physicist
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



△
ZHONGWEN ZHAN
Seismologist
California Institute of Technology



△
EMILY FISCHER
Atmospheric Chemist
Colorado State University



△
SARAH ZANDERS
Geneticist
Stowers Institute for Medical Research



△
MIKHAIL SHAPIRO
Biochemical Engineer
California Institute of Technology



△
PRASHANT JAIN
Physical Chemist
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

EACH ROW FROM TOP LEFT: SARAH DIEFFENDORF; STANFORD MEDICINE; P. SHANAHAN; CALTECH; BILL COTTON/COLORADO STATE UNIV.; STOWERS INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH; CALTECH; L. BRIAN STAUFFER/UI NEWS BUREAU

Sustaining Research Outside Classrooms

During the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, Society for Science found ways to continue supporting STEM education.

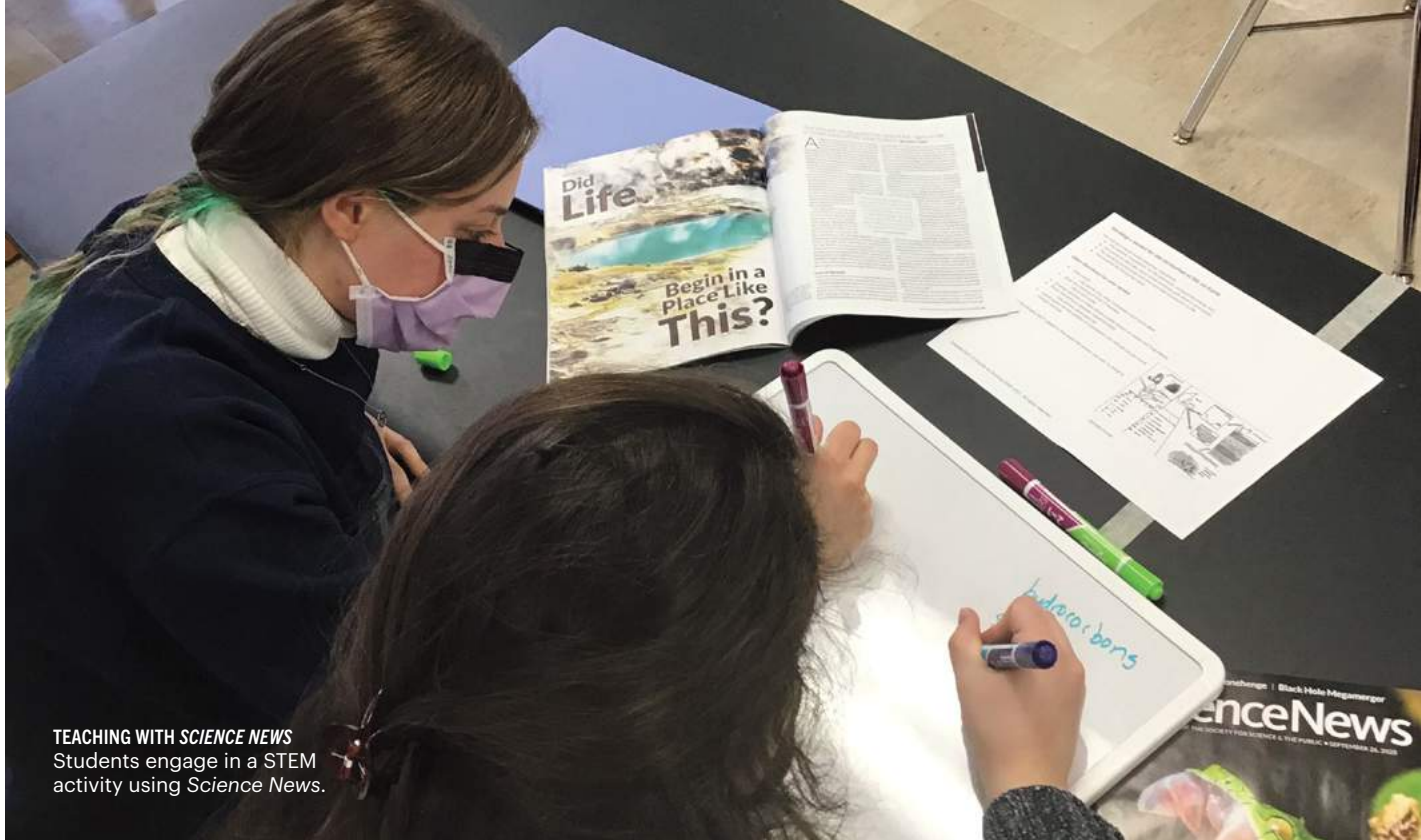
In a year of educational disruption, Society for Science pivoted its programming in 2020 to provide educators with STEM research kits that would encourage scientific inquiry in all settings, regardless of whether the teachers were guiding their students remotely, in person or through a hybrid model. Participants in the Society’s Advocate Program, STEM Research Grant program and Research Teachers Conferences chose from a selection of 13 high-quality kits, which included Foldscope paper microscopes, PocketLab weather sensors and Neuron SpikerBox bundles. By providing this equipment, the Society sought to ensure that hands-on research and project-based learning could carry on, despite the circumstances.

In 2020, the Society gave 7,844 kits valued at more than \$415,000 to 373 teachers from more than 270 schools in every state, Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C. and American Samoa. The kits impacted more than 15,500 students.

The kits were funded by



△
SPREADING STEM CHEER
Educator Sharon Taylor displays some of the equipment she received from the Society for her classes.



TEACHING WITH SCIENCE NEWS
Students engage in a STEM activity using Science News.

Expanding Access to STEM Resources

Science News for Students and Science News in High Schools Digital Library

With schools closed worldwide and learning disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, *Science News* made its award-winning content more widely available to ensure that students, parents and educators had what they needed for continued learning outside the classroom. *Science News for Students*, the sister publication of *Science News*, and the *Science News* in High Schools Digital Library offered a variety of free, age-appropriate STEM resources for students from fifth through 12th grade.

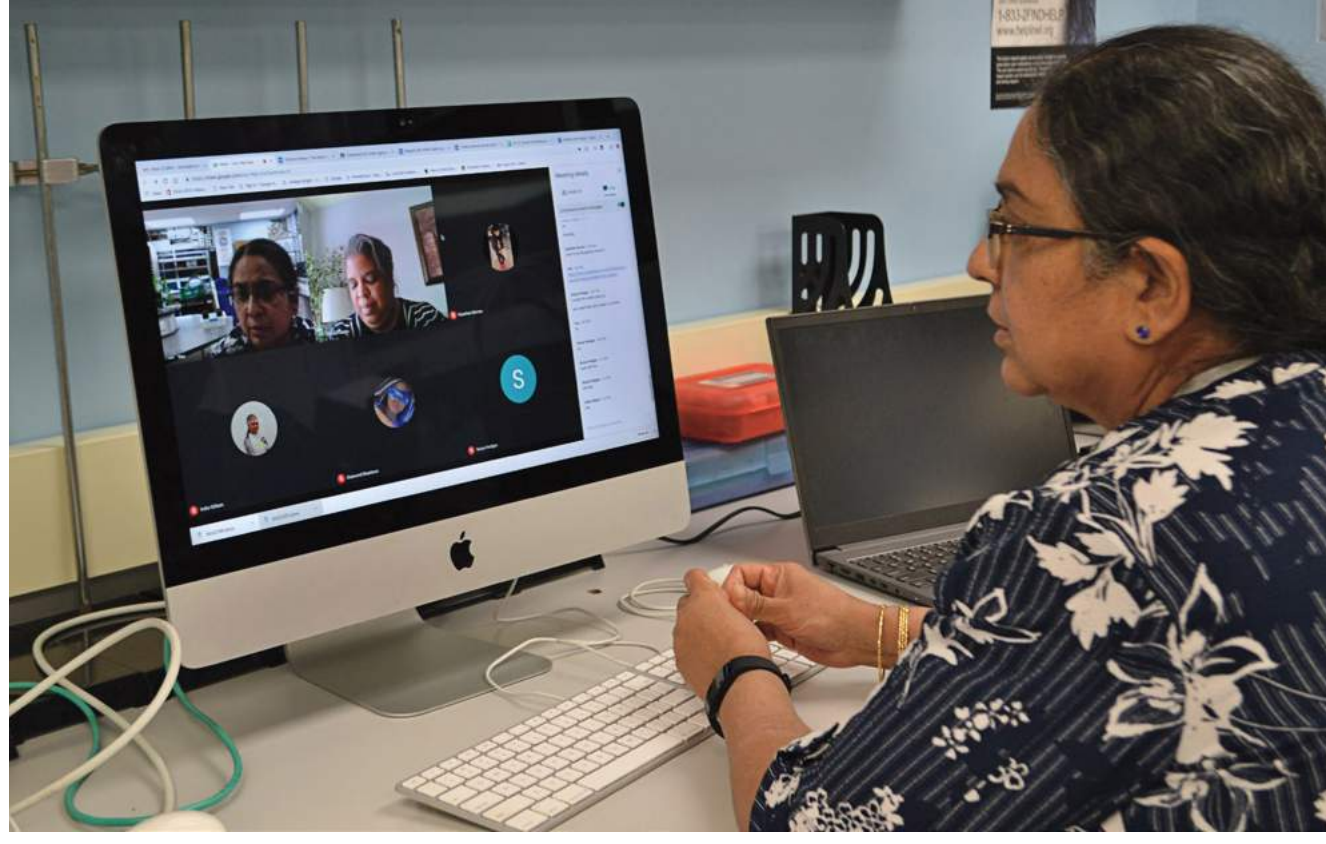
Science News for Students’ free resources included coverage of

science topics written for younger readers, experiments to do at home and a brand-new series that mixed STEM learning and fun called “Let’s Learn About.”

The *Science News* in High Schools Digital Library has more than 200 original STEM-related exercises connected to *Science News* articles covering STEM subjects from public health and climate change to astronomy and neuroscience. Teachers used these resources to engage students around core high school concepts and to build virtual lessons.

“ These lessons are engaging, challenging and on track with our curriculum.”

JILL LEVASSEUR
Bacon Academy
Colchester, Connecticut



Helping Teachers Navigate Virtual Classrooms

Science News in High Schools

Keeping students engaged while they cannot be in physical classrooms is no easy task, but teachers like Kehkashan Khan have found *Science News* in High Schools (SNHS) resources to be particularly helpful and have even shared them with colleagues. Kehkashan has taught in Chicago for 12 years, and prior to moving to Chicago, she taught internationally for over a decade. During the public health crisis, she adapted her in-class lessons for the virtual classroom by posting *Science News* articles and corresponding Educator Guide lesson plans online.

“The pandemic made me a more efficient remote teacher, as I have had the opportunity to find innovative ways to engage my students. One of the resources I find extremely engaging and informative is *Science News*; the articles are not just well written but also student and teacher friendly. I pride myself on being a teacher who is always on the lookout for material that supplements my learning objectives. *Science News* print as well as digital versions have been a great teaching and assessing tool.

“Students are confused and wary of the future. In such times it is very

TEACHING VIRTUALLY
Educator Kehkashan Khan teaches a virtual lesson using *Science News* in High Schools resources.

important for schools and educators to provide them sustenance in the form of stimulating and engaging learning situations.”

The SNHS program brings *Science News* journalism and Educator Guides—paired lesson plans aligned with Next Generation Science Standards—to high schools across the United States. With an online library of over 200 lesson plans, SNHS provides educators with access to a plethora of STEM reading, writing and at-home activities that apply core curricular high school standards by highlighting current news in science.

2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR
**SCIENCE NEWS
IN HIGH SCHOOLS**

5,068
domestic schools enrolled

~17,000
teachers enrolled digitally

~5,400,000
domestic students
with access to SNHS resources

56
districts or other
geographic cohorts

62%
eligible Title I schools enrolled

“ The access to these magazines is essential to keeping my biology classroom updated with timely and relevant research and news stories.”

LINDA ALBRIGHT
Newmarket High School
Newmarket, New Hampshire



GROWING AND LEARNING
Kehkashan Khan’s student Dantre Walton works on her research project.



Committed to STEM Education Despite the Odds

Advocate Program

As an educator in Puerto Rico, Yajaira Torres-De Jesus is no stranger to challenges. In the 15 years she’s spent teaching at Colegio Rosa-Bell in Guaynabo, the island has endured devastating natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. The COVID-19 pandemic posed new difficulties for Yajaira and her students, but as a 2020 Society for Science Advocate, she found ways to keep them engaged in science research. The Advocate Program provides training, stipends, equipment (pictured above) and year-round support to mentors working with underrepresented and low-income students interested in entering science research competitions.

Drawing on resources available within the school community is one of the hallmarks of Yajaira’s role as an Advocate. As part of her efforts to transform her school into a bustling STEM-focused center, she mentors a cohort of more than 60 students from grades seven to 12. With the new challenges brought on by the public health crisis, Yajaira worked closely with school faculty to develop lab access guidelines that would enable students to complete their scientific research safely. Additionally, she redesigned her lesson plans so that students could use materials readily available in their homes.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS
Yajaira Torres-De Jesus (upper right) and her students thank the Society for supporting their science program.

Supporting Hands-On Learning

STEM Research Grants

Before James Less, a science teacher at Saint Andrew Catholic School in Cape Coral, Florida, received a STEM Research Grant from the Society, he only had one Vernier LabQuest data logger at his disposal. The battery for it no longer held a charge, since James had obtained it nearly a decade earlier. It was not functional for remote field investigations.

With the STEM Research Grant, James purchased a set of eight LabQuest Stream devices, each with two sets of probes—pH and temperature. “There is great statewide interest in water quality issues in southwest Florida,”

he explained. “The equipment put our students on the forefront of several local initiatives to undertake field studies that complement those of local colleges and universities.”

The Society’s STEM Research Grant program provides support to middle school and high school teachers engaging their students in authentic scientific research. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society offered 100 teachers \$1,000 each to select from a variety of take-home kits to assist students in completing independent science research projects.

“By obtaining the STEM grant, I was able to create a stronger love for science among my students, as we are able to conduct more laboratory experiments in our daily classrooms.”

TANA SCHAFFER
Flasher High School
Flasher, North Dakota



RESEARCHING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE
A student at Flasher High School uses equipment from the STEM Research Grant program to conduct an experiment on antibiotic resistance.



Supporting Environmental Stewards of the Future

STEM Action Grants

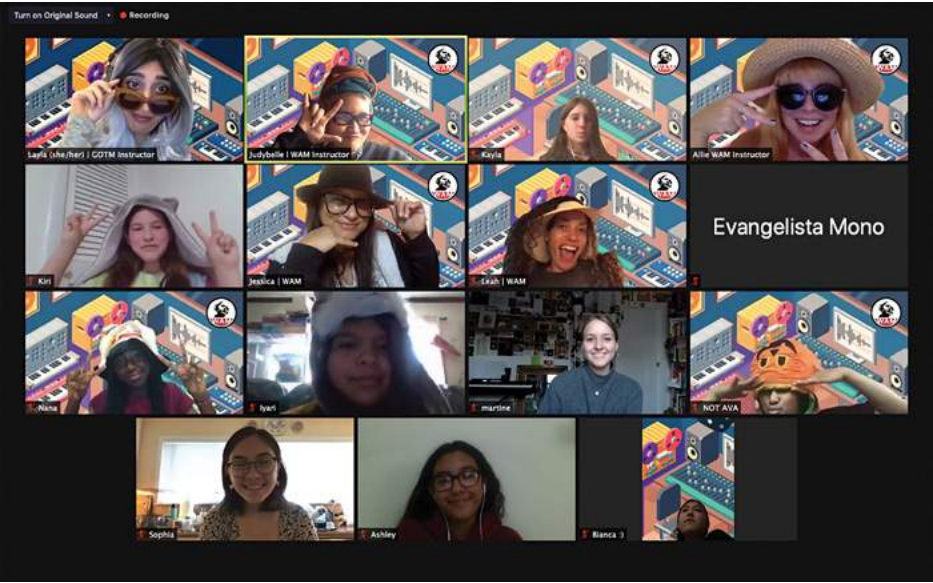
Venture Outdoors, a nonprofit located in Pittsburgh, Penn., is dedicated to removing barriers and making the outdoors more accessible to all. By connecting youth to outdoor exploration through environmentally focused STEM learning, Venture Outdoors aims to build a community of environmental stewards who work to protect their local green spaces.

Like the rest of the world in 2020, the organization faced the challenge of shifting its in-person STEM-based trips to remote STEM learning opportunities. With a \$2,500 STEM Action Grant from the Society for Science, Venture Outdoors distributed STEM kits and developed experiments to go along with them for students in the fourth and fifth grades.

This year, the Society awarded \$75,000 to 18 grassroots organizations committed to STEM education and science literacy for underserved and underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minority populations, girls, students in rural areas and more. In response to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person programming, many of these organizations launched virtual programs, determined to continue to meet the needs of students, families and communities.

Community Innovation Awards were also given to 13 young scientists seeking to make a positive impact in their hometowns with their research. They were recognized by Society-affiliated fairs with \$500 prizes.

△
EXPERIMENTING WITH WATER
Students participate in chromatography water experiments during a virtual class from Pittsburgh-based Venture Outdoors.



▽
MEETING DOLPHINS
Baltimore-based Black Girls Dive Scholars immerse themselves in a marine mammal behavior seminar featuring dolphins.

LEARNING MUSIC PRODUCTION
San Francisco-based Women's Audio Mission launched virtual training featuring top music technologists and engineers during the pandemic.



2020 STEM ACTION GRANTEES

- Black Girls Dive Foundation
- Congressional App Challenge
- Connect Crew at Memphis Public Libraries
- inteGIRLS Inc.
- Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
- Kul Wicasa Wópasi
- Learn Fresh Education Company
- Marie's Kids
- Project Invent
- Rosie Riveters
- Safe Alternative Foundation for Education
- Science from Scientists
- STEM NOLA
- The STEMInista Project at the Michigan Science Center
- Urban Science Summit
- Venture Outdoors
- Women's Audio Mission
- Youth Code Jam

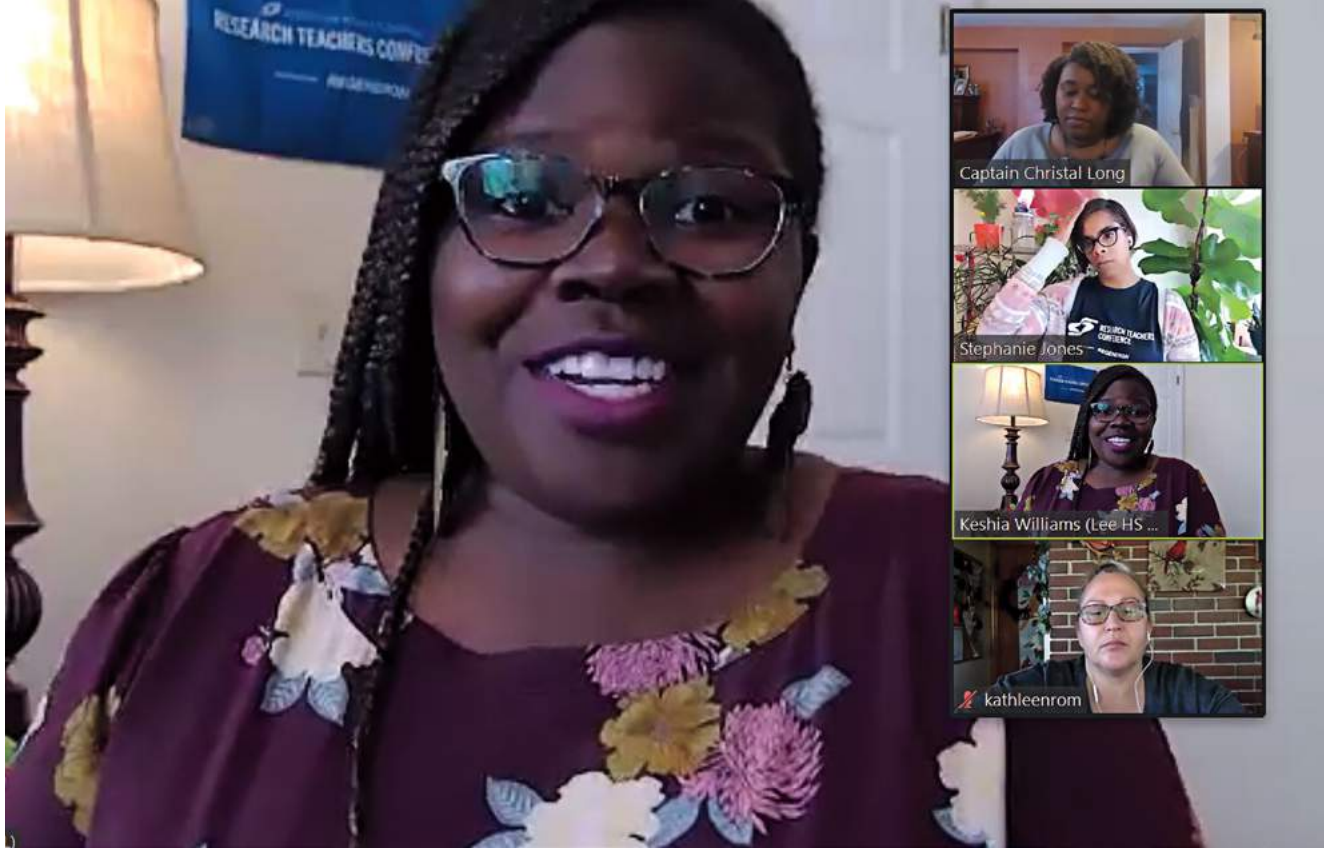
Beginning a Virtual School Year Together

Middle School Research Teachers Conference

During a time when teachers were faced with great uncertainty and a lack of tried-and-true methods for virtual teaching, the Society brought 104 middle school educators together online and gave them an opportunity to connect with their peers from across the country. The second Middle School Research Teachers Conference provided an oasis for teachers during the start of distance learning and enabled them to discuss how best to navigate virtual classrooms, share resources with one another and ensure that students could continue engaging in scientific research even if they were virtually learning from home.

// Citizen science projects are great for students to see cutting-edge current research ideas across the science and humanities.”

JENNIFER NILVO
School of Dreams Academy
Los Lunas, New Mexico



Connecting Educators During a Pandemic

High School Research Teachers Conference

Events that occurred in 2020 highlighted the importance of building a future without racism—one that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion. They also reinvigorated

Society for Science’s efforts to uplift marginalized voices. In its sixth year, the Society’s High School Research Teachers Conference shifted from an in-person to online environment,

virtually welcoming 286 high school educators and hosting sessions dedicated to empowering underrepresented students in STEM.

// One of the things I try to do is expose students to many different opportunities, and let them know the opportunities that are available to them to spike their interest.”

KESHIA WILLIAMS
Lee High School
Montgomery, Alabama

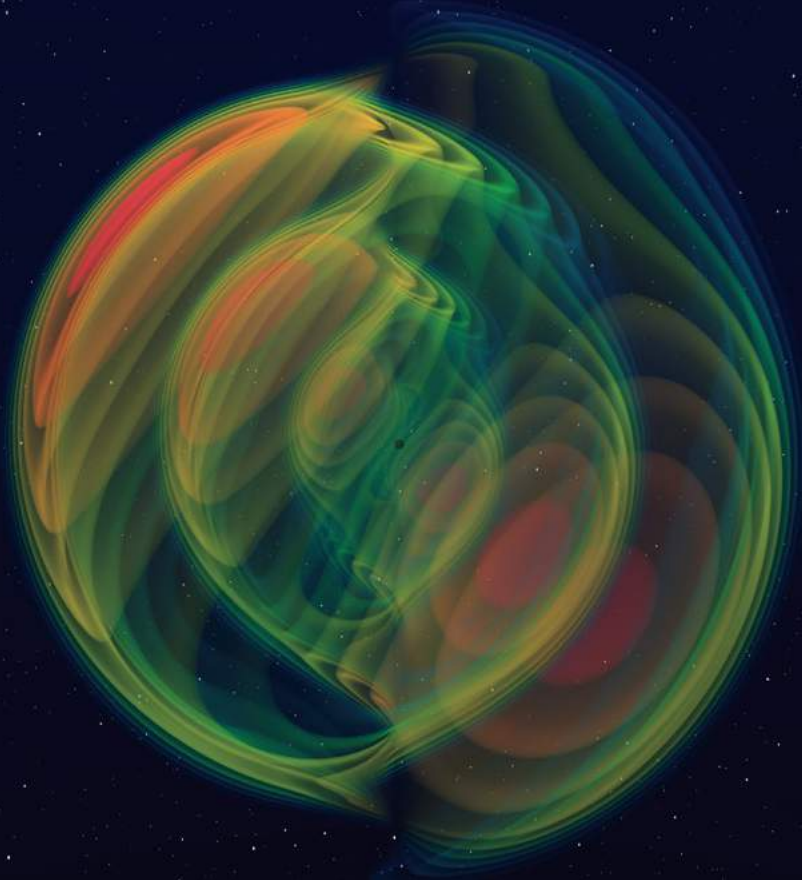
SERVING AS ROLE MODELS
Keshia Williams shares her experience serving as a strong role model for her female students who identify as Black or African American.



LEARNING TOGETHER
Educators Celia Castellanos, Andrea LaRosa and Maria Isabel Reyna discuss how to better support students who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

SCIENCE NEWS | APRIL 20, 2020
A black hole orbiting with a much smaller partner stirred up gravitational waves (illustrated by colors in this simulation) that scientists with the LIGO and Virgo experiments detected on Earth.

© N. FISCHER, H. PFEIFFER, A. BUONANNO/MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR GRAVITATIONAL PHYSICS, SIMULATING EXTREME SPACETIMES (SXS) PROJECT



EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

Society Growth in 2020

Society for Science operates within three broad areas of program work: (1) science journalism, (2) world-class science competitions for high school and middle school students and (3) outreach and equity programming. In 2020, 85 cents of every dollar spent by the Society supported program work. General and administrative costs accounted for 7 cents of every expense dollar, and fundraising costs equaled 8 cents of every expense dollar.

Although all of the science competitions were held virtually in 2020, they remained a vibrant and important segment of our work and accounted for 51% of program spending. Our growing outreach and equity programming, which seeks to expand access to STEM opportunities, together with our work aimed at building our alumni community, accounted for 10% of program spending. Science News Media Group’s work accounted for 37% of program spending.

The Society’s balance sheet continues to be very healthy, with total net assets of \$88 million, composed

of unrestricted net assets of \$20.3 million and restricted net assets of \$67.7 million. The Society carries no long-term financing and owns its primary office real estate. As a result, unrestricted current assets exceed current liabilities by \$45.3 million, resulting in a 5.5 ratio of current assets to current liabilities. The Society’s unrestricted investment balance is entirely liquid and accounts for 50% of current assets composed of cash, investments, prepaid expenses and the amount of grants receivable to be received in the next year. The investment portfolio holdings are well diversified and professionally managed in order to take advantage of market growth while minimizing risk of loss.

Restricted assets make up the largest asset class and are mostly grants receivable for future funding commitments from Regeneron, Broadcom and other funders for science competitions and other program work, with all of the receivables to be provided within the next five years.

Current Year Operating Revenue and Expense

Revenue	2020	2019
Science News magazine	\$ 8,391,534	\$ 7,263,745
Science education programs	14,398,211	23,486,085
In-kind and other revenue	1,508,643	1,284,442
Total operating revenue	\$ 24,298,388	\$ 32,034,272
Expense		
Program services	\$ 21,462,807	\$ 25,968,983
General and management	1,706,787	1,635,487
Fundraising	2,007,560	2,012,530
Total operating expense	\$ 25,177,154	\$ 29,617,000

Non Operating Activities and Pledges

	2020	2019
Non Operating Activity		
Investment income	\$ 2,378,815	\$ 3,954,217
Change in post retirement benefit liability	(309,000)	(499,000)

Pledges and Contributions Designated for Future Years		
Pledges and contributions	\$ 18,065,200	\$ 14,479,885
Prior years’ pledges used in current year	(14,227,928)	(20,949,677)
Non Operating Activity	\$ 5,907,087	\$ (3,014,575)

Change in Net Assets	\$ 5,028,321	\$ (597,303)
Net assets at the beginning of the year	\$ 82,997,123	83,594,426
Net assets at the end of the year	\$ 88,025,444	\$ 82,997,123

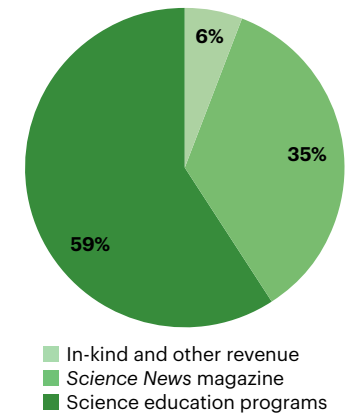
Balance Sheet

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash, short term receivables & prepaids	\$ 11,004,531	\$ 13,112,529
Investments	30,557,978	28,643,058
Grants receivable	60,818,023	53,366,484
Property and equipment	45,977	50,839
Total Assets	\$ 102,426,509	\$ 95,172,910

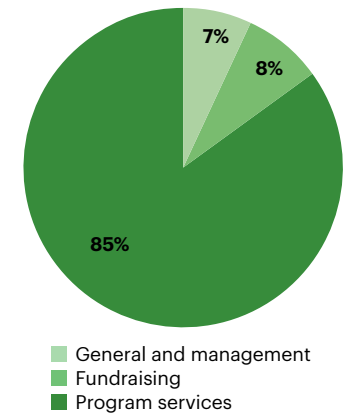
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,739,953	\$ 1,415,260
Awards payable	4,807,952	4,512,648
Deferred subscription revenue	3,441,160	4,045,879
Note payable	1,826,000	—
Post retirement benefit liability	2,586,000	2,202,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 14,401,065	\$ 12,175,787

Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 20,311,751	\$ 19,434,160
With Donor Restrictions	67,713,693	63,562,963
Total Net Assets	\$ 88,025,444	\$ 82,997,123

FY 2020 Operating Revenue



FY 2020 Operating Expense



SCIENCE NEWS | APRIL 11, 2020
Scientists anchored to an ice floe near the North Pole are investigating how life survives polar night and what changes will occur as the Arctic continues to warm. A guard scans the horizon for polar bears. During polar night, the guard has to rely on his headlamp and spotlights from the ship.
LUKAS PIOTROWSKI

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For a century, *Science News* has covered advances in science, medicine and technology for the general public, informing and inspiring readers with their coverage. The talented editors and journalists continue to put the public first by exploring new and different ways to engage with audiences—not just on the science itself, but on the important considerations that accompany breakthrough discoveries and their transformative role in society. This approach directly aligns with The Kavli Foundation’s mission to advance science for the benefit of humanity and our commitment to ensuring that the people, processes and products of science contribute meaningfully to society by inviting and engaging the public in these critical conversations. We appreciate the ingenuity and thoughtfulness of the entire staff at *Science News* and Society for Science, and are proud to support their endeavors.

STACEY BAILEY
Communications Director, The Kavli Foundation

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WHY I GIVE

Advocating for Science Fairs

Science fairs profoundly shaped my life and career. They helped me cultivate my nascent passion for science and taught me how to communicate science effectively to scientists and nonscientists alike, a skill that overwhelmingly impacted my career. Today, I advocate for science fairs every chance I get. At a time when it is absolutely critical that we restore science to its rightful place in society, engaging and serving all of society, I am honored to join the Board of Trustees of Society for Science to help steward a bright future for this important organization.

ADAM BLY

Founder and CEO, System ISEF 1998

Adam Bly is a member of the Society’s Board of Trustees and National Leadership Council. Adam is the Founder and CEO of System, a Public Benefit Corporation reinventing how we organize and discover data and knowledge. He was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and has been a Visiting Senior Fellow in Science, Technology and Society at Harvard Kennedy School and an adviser at the United Nations. For his efforts to advance the public’s understanding of science, Adam was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.

WHY I GIVE

Supporting Future Entrepreneurs

ISEF was one of the most formative experiences for me while growing up. It exposed me to the sheer impact we can have on society when we combine science and business, and it built my entrepreneurial skills that help drive Modern Fertility today. I’m honored to be able to pay it forward to the next generation of entrepreneurial scientists as a member of the National Leadership Council. Modern Fertility recently hosted the STS finalists, and we were blown away by their ambition, curiosity and ideas. I look forward to one day working closely with (or for!) them.

AFTON VECHERY
Co-Founder and CEO, Modern Fertility
ISEF 2005
STS 2007

Afton Vechery is the Co-Founder and CEO of Modern Fertility, a women’s health company making personalized, proactive fertility information more accessible to women everywhere, whether they are trying for kids or not. Afton serves as a member of the Society’s National Leadership Council.



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Chief Business Strategy Innovation Officer
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Willie T. Reaves Jr. is a member of the National Leadership Council. As the Chief Business Strategy Innovation Officer at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), Willie leads business strategy and product development for platforms that drive the development of new medicines and help life sciences companies grow.

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William J. Bencze Apple STS 1985 ISEF 1983–1984	Catherine Havasi* Dalang Health Luminoso Technologies, Inc. STS 1999 ISEF 1998–1999	Willie T. Reaves Jr. Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) ISEF 2007–2008
Adam Bly System ISEF 1998	Kevin Heller NextCure STS 1989	Anna-Katrina Shedletsky Instrumental STS 2004 ISEF 2003–2004
Christopher Bouton* Vyasa Analytics STS 1992	David Holz Ultraleap ISEF 2006	Rajen Sheth Google STS 1994 ISEF 1992–1994
David Bray Atlantic Council GeoTech Center Commission on the Geopolitical Impacts of New Technologies and Data STS 1996 ISEF 1993–1995	Elyse Hope Genome British Columbia STS 2006 ISEF 2004–2006 DCYSC 2002	Ramji Srinivasan Teiko.bio ISEF 1999
Rob Chang Iliotech Software Services Gearcloud Labs STS 1980	Scott Duke Kominers Harvard University STS 2005 ISEF 2005	Nevin Summers MIT Synthetic Biology Center STS 1967 ISEF 1965–1967
Michael Colsher HAP LLC STS 1997 Shantanu Gaur Allurion Technologies ISEF 2003–2004	Meredith M. Lee UC Berkeley Computing, Data Science, & Society ISEF 2000	Sheel Tyle Amplo ISEF 2006–2008 DCYSC 2005
Eden Full Goh** Mobot ISEF 2007–2008	Michael Li The Data Incubator STS 2003 ISEF 2003	Nina Vasan Brainstorm: The Stanford Lab for Mental Health Innovation Real STS 2002 ISEF 2002
Felipe Gómez del Campo* FGC Plasma Solutions Inc. MIT RGD Lab ISEF 2012	Kate Lowry* Science Philanthropy Alliance STS 2006	Afton Vechery Modern Fertility STS 2007 ISEF 2005
Michelle Hackman <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> STS 2011	Divya Nag Apple STS 2009 ISEF 2007, 2009	

*Term started January 2021
**Resigned 2021

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Stephen Egts
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Gayle Kansagor
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All Leadership and Staff
as of June 30, 2021



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