

Making History

This year was special, as we celebrated the centennial of Society for Science. In our first 100 years, the Society launched a magazine, advised government agencies, created and grew three world-class STEM research competitions and developed a suite of outreach programs focused on ensuring that every young person with an interest in STEM has an opportunity to pursue that passion.

The Society launched a digital timeline in recognition of our impressive history, dating back to our founders' first meeting. University of California professor and zoologist William Ritter connected with newspaper magnate Edward W. Scripps in the summer of 1903, and in 1921 they founded Science Service, now called Society for Science. And as they say, the rest is history.

Our magazine, *Science News*, created a special series to celebrate our centennial. *Century of Science* delves into major advances across the sciences, including Earth's history, human evolution, the genetic revolution, climate change, the workings of our brains and the vastness of the cosmos. One element that excited us: all the content found in *Century of Science* is grounded in the more than 90,000 articles in the *Science News* archive.

In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society worked to ensure that the virtual experience had by all the finalists who competed in our world-renowned science research competitions was second to none. To celebrate Science Talent Search's 80th anniversary, the virtual Regeneron STS finalists were also honored to have four Nobel laureates—Walter Gilbert, Sheldon Glashow, Roald Hoffman, and Frank Wilczek—who are also STS alumni, speak with them via Zoom. The Broadcom MASTERS finalists were brought together via Zoom to participate in exceptional team challenges and met alumni from around the country during a 10-year anniversary event.

The biggest digital achievement was the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair going fully online. We created a virtual world for the Regeneron ISEF finalists that enabled them to interact, play virtual soccer and hear from industry experts, in addition to being judged—1,779 finalists from 64 countries, regions and territories participated in nearly 6,000 virtual judging appointments! We awarded over \$5 million, with nearly 30,000 views of the virtual awards ceremony. Our outreach and equity programs, meanwhile, continued to provide thousands of teachers and millions of students with resources for their classrooms aimed at helping

them during an exceptionally challenging school year.

Science News and *Science News for Students* not only continued to provide their audiences with the latest scientific information but also kept readers informed about the latest COVID-19 variants. The Science News Media Group also hosted a virtual symposium on topics ranging from climate change to COVID-19.

The Society has an incredible team, and we are grateful for all the work they do to ensure the success of our journalism, competitions, and outreach and equity programs.

We thank the Board of Trustees, whose commitment and guidance ensure the continued success of the Society. We extend our deepest thanks to Paul Maddon, Tom Leighton and Alan Leshner for their long-term service to the Board. We will miss them. We welcome Lance R. Collins, Mariette DiChristina and Charles McCabe to the Board and look forward to their guidance in the years ahead. We also thank our sponsors for their valued support of our competitions and programs. Most importantly, we could not do our work without the generous support of you, the Society's subscribing members, donors, alumni and readers. Here's to another extraordinary century at Society for 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, University of Michigan
STS 1961
ISEF 1959–1960