



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

Alan I. Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Publisher, *Science*

March 9, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, I thank you for your executive order on federal support for human embryonic stem cell research, and applaud your decision to issue presidential guidance on scientific integrity.

Both topics have great significance for all Americans. We believe embryonic stem cell research holds great promise for many millions of people around the world—scientists, physicians, patients and their families—and that American scientists should be at the forefront of this research enterprise. Your comments about substituting science for ideology as the starting point for policymaking is to us exactly the right approach.

We are delighted to have a government that so visibly values science and sees, as we do, its relevance to virtually every issue of modern life. We know that there will continue to be questions and challenges; that is the nature of scientific progress. AAAS stands ready to work with you and the Congress in addressing these and other complex subjects in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Leshner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan I. Leshner