

HHMI and *Science* Partner to Improve Science Education

HHMI AND THE JOURNAL *SCIENCE* have begun a collaboration to showcase innovative approaches to teaching science. A new monthly section of the journal will engage research scientists in thinking about ways to improve education at all levels by providing a forum for sharing ideas and sparking discussion.

The new education section will be produced by *Science's* editorial staff. It will feature peer-reviewed research as well as scholarly literature reviews, essays, and other original writing on science education. The section will focus on undergraduate and graduate level education but will also showcase innovations in K–12 science education.

“Why *Science*?” asked Peter J. Bruns, HHMI vice president for grants and special programs. “Because that’s where the scientists are. *Science* is read by scientists, and scientists are an important key to great science education. Good research and good teaching can go hand in hand to the mutual benefit of both.”

In an editorial in the December 16, 2005, issue of *Science*, HHMI President Thomas R. Cech and *Science* Editor-in-Chief Donald Kennedy argued that research scientists should care about the strength of science education in view of the “pipeline issue”—where we will get the next generation of research leaders—and in view of the policymaking threat posed by voters who do not understand science or the process of scientific thinking.

“If the electorate distrusts science and doesn’t understand how scientists explore and interrogate the natural world,” the authors asked, “how will they vote on issues ranging from stem cell research and global climate change to the teaching of intelligent design in our schools?”

The new section in *Science* debuts this year. ■



Sir Paul Nurse Elected as HHMI Trustee

SIR PAUL NURSE, PRESIDENT OF THE Rockefeller University, has been elected a Trustee of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He is one of 11 Trustees of the Institute.

Nurse, 56, is a distinguished scientist who shared the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Leland H. Hartwell and R. Timothy Hunt for fundamental discoveries concerning control of the cell cycle. A geneticist who uses fission yeast as a model system, he continues an active research program that focuses on the cell cycle and how the cell organizes its internal structures to prepare for cell division.

A native of England, Nurse became Rockefeller’s ninth president in 2003. He had been chief executive of Cancer Research UK, the world’s largest cancer research organization outside the United States.

Nurse graduated from the University of Birmingham in 1970 and received his Ph.D. from the University of East Anglia in 1973. He headed laboratories at the University of Sussex, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), and Oxford University before rejoining the ICRF in 1996 as its director general. He presided over its merger with the Cancer Research Council.

Nurse’s work has been recognized around the world. He is a fellow of the British Royal Society and, in 1995, became a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He has received the Gairdner Foundation International Award (1992), the Alfred P. Sloan Jr. Prize from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation (1997), and the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research (1998). ■

Awards Smooth Path to Research Career

THE TRANSITION FROM ADVANCED training to operating a self-sufficient lab is difficult for any scientist. Physician-scientists, who are expected to handle a clinical caseload while they are trying to establish a research career, can find it especially challenging.

To address the need for support during that transition, HHMI is establishing a program of early career awards. Former HHMI medical student fellows and HHMI-NIH research scholars who are just finishing their advanced training

or are in the first 2 years of their first independent positions are eligible to compete for the awards.

The Institute will award 13 grants annually. Each award totals \$150,000 over 3 years. Institutions employing the awardees must agree to let them spend 70 percent of their time on research. The funds may be used for research expenses, such as supplies, technical support, and small equipment.

HHMI will make its first early career awards in June 2006. ■