INSPIRING CENTURIES OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS
The New York Academy of Sciences

The New York Academy of Sciences’ core mission is to drive innovative solutions to society’s challenges by advancing scientific research, education, and policy. The Academy is an independent, non-government, not-for-profit organization founded in 1817.

The Academy achieves its mission by catalyzing novel public private partnerships to address global problems. It creates and empowers expert panels to solve scientific challenges, advise governments, create and disseminate new knowledge, and inspire the next generation of scientists.

NEW YORK TO THE WORLD

Unique as a local institution that has grown globally, the Academy is a membership organization, advocating for both the scientific enterprise and the individual. It boasts 20,000+ members across 100 countries. It is deeply committed to the next generation, with nearly 8,000 students and postdoctoral members active in its community.

The Academy is simultaneously democratic—open to all with a passion for science—and elite, with scores of Nobel Prize winners and corporate and government leaders playing key advisory roles in the Academy’s programs.
AT THE FOREFRONT OF DISCOVERY

The Academy has historically achieved and continues to make seminal contributions to the world’s grand challenges. Its earliest work is marked by many firsts that have changed the course of scientific discourse and discovery, from landmark colloquia on antibiotics to HIV-AIDS, from the SARS crisis to the swine flu (H5N1). Academy conferences have led to the deeper understanding of scientific research, new treatments, and greater commitments across disparate groups to solve these tough challenges.

Today, this game changing work has taken on a new immediacy with the Academy and its partners working to drive change, using the Academy’s convening and disseminating power and influence to activate research around solving real-world challenges, building scientific capacity, and creating innovative scientific enterprise with visionary governments.

TAKING ON THE WORLD’S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

The Academy is uniquely qualified to act as a problem solver and an originator of novel scientific alliances. It connects the scientific community—from early-career scientists to Nobel laureates—at 150 scientific events per year, leading to research breakthroughs across traditional silos and barriers. The Academy drives critical change through these convenings.

2013
BRAINSTORMING WHERE MIND MEETS MACHINE
Accelerating Translational Neurotechnology: Fourth Annual Aspen Brain Forum
Swiftly following the launch of President Obama’s “BRAIN” Initiative, neuroscientists and engineers profile innovative neurotechnologies from wearable bionic skeletons that allow paraplegics to walk to the world’s first approved device to restore functional vision to the blind.

2010
FIGHTING CANCER GETS PERSONAL
Towards Personalized Cancer Medicine
Global cancer experts gather in Barcelona to profile breakthroughs in less toxic and more effective therapies for cancer, based on the individual genetic, epigenetic, and phenotypic makeup of patients — paving the way for a healthcare revolution.

2009
RAPID REACTION OF EPIDEMIC SCIENCE AS SWINE FLU CIRCLES GLOBE
Human Swine Flu (H1N1) and Novel Influenza Pandemics
Just days prior to the World Health Organization’s declaration of a pandemic of the novel swine influenza strain H1N1, the Academy convenes vaccine experts, epidemiologists, and policymakers to share data that informs real-time public health strategies to quell the spread of the virus.

2009
ADAPTING CITIES TO BETTER WEATHER CLIMATE CHANGE
Cities as Solutions for Climate Change
Leading climate and social scientists and risk management experts convened by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, develop state-of-the-science-driven strategies for New York City’s risk-based response to climate change that could ultimately ameliorate the devastation of future extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy.

2011
HIV TREATMENT AS PREVENTION
Cracking the Safe: Advances in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment
New research reveals that antiretroviral treatment prevents the sexual transmission of HIV-1; recognized by Science Magazine as the “Breakthrough of the Year” in 2011.
ACCELERATING RESEARCH TO FIGHT ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA
The Academy, through its Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Initiative (ADDI), is helping to accelerate new treatment and prevention methods to fight Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, a public health problem that is devastating families and communities and causing economic adversity in countries as the global population ages.

The Academy pioneered the 2013 Alzheimer’s Disease Summit, with the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer’s Disease and the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health, leading to a series of recommendations that were echoed in the subsequent G8 commitments on dementia. ADDI is furthering these shared objectives through collaborative multi-sector partnerships, convenings, publications, challenge grants, public outreach, and projects such as the creation of a Global Alzheimer’s Platform for clinical trials and the development of innovative models of funding for research.

The Academy developed a research report to assess the economic implications of accelerating Alzheimer’s research and development. Collaborations with global partners, including the Innovative Medicines Initiative, will drive toward this goal.

COMBATING MALNUTRITION
The mandate for The Sackler Institute for Nutrition Science at the Academy is clear: Drive cooperative research and funding around nutrition sciences to solve malnutrition, a life threatening condition that affects more than a quarter of the world. In cooperation with World Health Organization and experts in nutrition science, a global research agenda that identifies the most pressing gaps in nutrition – and how these gaps can be closed through research – has now been developed, and is being taken up by the international community.

Working with the highest levels of influencers in nutrition science, the Sackler Institute is creating a more streamlined and coordinated system in which to identify and fund nutrition research. It offers a scientific problem solving approach that will help inform decision-making about research and maximize resources that lead to solutions.
Imagine creating the next generation of scientific brilliance by engaging students throughout the world working in real-time on research projects, mentored by Nobelists and the world's most promising young scientists.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ECONOMIES
The Academy supports the next generation of scientific innovation and scientists.

SOLVING THE GLOBAL STEM CRISIS
The Academy launched the first Global STEM Alliance in 2013 to solve the growing science, technology, education, and math (STEM) education crisis. In 2018, 75% of all jobs will require STEM knowledge but today’s students are forecast to be ill-prepared. With its partner, Cisco Systems, Inc., the Academy is developing the world’s first digital network for STEM education as an enhancement to the Academy’s in-country STEM programming. Among its key impacts:

- Creating the Junior Academy, the first global network for gifted science students with the opportunity to engage in real research experiences via access to the world’s best researchers.
- Enhancing science education for students in low-resource areas via hands-on mentoring with working scientists.

ADVISING THE WORLD’S VISIONARY GOVERNMENTS ON SCIENTIFIC ENTERPRISE
The Academy leverages its knowledge, expert network, and neutrality to counsel governments on increasing their global competitiveness and creating public policy that will support and advance scientific knowledge and economic viability. Through novel alliances, the Academy has advised on:

- Developing greater scientific capacity and funding opportunities, as well as strategies for the dissemination and commercialization of new technologies, in Malaysia.
- New public policy for a knowledge-based economy in Qatar.
- A framework for the Russian Federation’s national innovation strategy.
- Turning Mexico City into an urban knowledge economy.

SPEEDING SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION
The Academy is driving the next generation of scientific brilliance. It has created and now administers the highly sought after Blatvatnik Awards for Young Scientists, which recognizes and rewards the most enterprising scientific minds in the United States.

In addition, the Academy provides open innovation challenge funding to individuals working at the cutting-edge of science in order to generate scientific solutions to global development challenges. Recent challenges have led to new, viable solutions around topics as diverse as mental health care and food safety.

To further support young scientists, the Academy is at the forefront of entrepreneurship and career training programming. Recognizing that what it means to be a scientist and the practice of science has evolved, the Academy works with a consortium of universities, teaching hospitals, independent research facilities, and organizations to provide students with career training for today’s science jobs.

$1.45 MILLION
DIRECTED TO THE MOST
FORWARD-THINKING,
EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS
IN THE NATION
TO ACCELERATE IMAGINATIVE,
INNOVATIVE WORK
The Academy’s Impact by Numbers

22,000+ ACTIVE ACADEMY MEMBERS ACROSS THE WORLD

3 MILLION PEOPLE REACHED BY THE ACADEMY’S PROGRAMMING AND PUBLISHING EACH YEAR

2 MILLION DOWNLOADS OF ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

8,000 MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY ARE YOUNG, PROMISING SCIENTISTS. THEY ARE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

27 NOBEL LAUREATES ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DIRECTING THE ACADEMY’S PROGRAMMING

1,000+ CORPORATE, GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

150 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GOVERNANCE

Led by an international board of governors, the Academy draws from top academic and industry leaders that are representative of the Academy’s diverse membership. In addition, the President’s Council, with its complement of Nobel laureates, functions as an advisory board and bellwether for the Academy.

ADVANCING THE ACADEMY

With generous contributions from government, industry, foundations, and individuals, the Academy has created a series of unprecedented initiatives. For nearly 200 years, it has depended on the support of those who value science and the critical role it plays in driving solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. We invite you to join us.
ABOUT THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The New York Academy of Sciences is an independent, not-for-profit organization that since 1817 has been driving innovative solutions to society’s challenges by advancing scientific research, education, and policy. With more than 20,000 members in 100 countries, the Academy is creating a global community of science for the benefit of humanity. Please visit us online at www.nyas.org and follow us on Twitter at @NYASEvents.