

An Open Letter to the American People

This year's presidential election is among the most significant in our nation's history. The country urgently needs a visionary leader who can ensure the future of our traditional strengths in science and technology and who can harness those strengths to address many of our greatest problems: energy, disease, climate change, security, and economic competitiveness.

We are convinced that Senator Barack Obama is such a leader, and we urge you to join us in supporting him.

During the administration of George W. Bush, vital parts of our country's scientific enterprise have been damaged by stagnant or declining federal support. The government's scientific advisory process has been distorted by political considerations. As a result, our once dominant position in the scientific world has been shaken and our prosperity has been placed at risk. We have lost time critical for the development of new ways to provide energy, treat disease, reverse climate change, strengthen our security, and improve our economy.

We have watched Senator Obama's approach to these issues with admiration. We especially applaud his emphasis during the campaign on the power of science and technology to enhance our nation's competitiveness. In particular, we support the measures he plans to take – through new initiatives in education and training, expanded research funding, an unbiased process for obtaining scientific advice, and an appropriate balance of basic and applied research – to meet the nation's and the world's most urgent needs.

Senator Obama understands that Presidential leadership and federal investments in science and technology are crucial elements in successful governance of the world's leading country. We hope you will join us as we work together to ensure his election in November.

Signed,

Alexei Abrikosov	Physics	2003	Leland H. Hartwell	Medicine	2001
Peter Agre	Chemistry	2003	Herbert Hauptman	Chemistry	1985
Sidney Altman	Chemistry	1989	Dudley Herschbach	Chemistry	1986
Philip W. Anderson	Physics	1977	Roald Hoffmann	Chemistry	1981
Richard Axel	Medicine	2004	H. Robert Horvitz	Medicine	2002
David Baltimore	Medicine	1975	Louis Ignarro	Medicine	1998
Baruj Benacerraf	Medicine	1980	Eric R. Kandel	Medicine	2000
Paul Berg	Chemistry	1980	Har Gobind Khorana	Medicine	1968
Günter Blobel	Medicine	1999	Walter Kohn	Chemistry	1998

J. Michael Bishop	Medicine	1989	Roger Kornberg	Chemistry	2006
N. Bloembergen	Physics	1981	Leon M. Lederman	Physics	1988
Michael S. Brown	Medicine	1985	Anthony Leggett	Physics	2003
Linda B. Buck	Medicine	2004	Roderick MacKinnon	Chemistry	2003
Mario R. Capecchi	Medicine	2007	Craig C. Mello	Medicine	2006
Martin Chalfie	Chemistry	2008	Kary Mullis	Chemistry	1993
Stanley Cohen	Medicine	1986	Yoichiro Nambu	Physics	2008
Leon Cooper	Physics	1972	Marshall Nirenberg	Medicine	1968
James W. Cronin	Physics	1980	Douglas D. Osheroff	Physics	1996
Robert F. Curl	Chemistry	1996	Martin Perl	Physics	1995
Johann Dieneshofer	Chemistry	1988	Stanley B. Prusiner	Medicine	1997
John B. Fenn	Chemistry	2002	Norman F. Ramsey	Physics	1989
Edmond H. Fischer	Medicine	1992	Robert Richardson	Physics	1996
Val Fitch	Physics	1980	Burton Richter	Physics	1976
Jerome I. Friedman	Physics	1990	Irwin Rose	Medicine	1968
Murray Gell-Mann	Physics	1969	Sherwood Rowland	Chemistry	1995
Riccardo Giacconi	Physics	2002	Richard R Schrock	Chemistry	2005
Ivar Giaever	Physics	1973	Oliver Smithies	Medicine	2007
Walter Gilbert	Chemistry	1980	George Smoot	Physics	2006
Alfred G. Gilman	Medicine	1994	Joseph H. Taylor Jr.	Physics	1993
Donald A. Glaser	Physics	1960	E. Donnall Thomas	Medicine	1990
Sheldon L. Glashow	Physics	1979	Charles H. Townes	Physics	1964
Roy Glauber	Physics	2005	Roger Tsien	Chemistry	2008
Joseph Goldstein	Medicine	1985	Daniel C. Tsui	Physics	1998
Paul Greengard	Medicine	2000	Harold Varmus	Medicine	1989
David Gross	Physics	2004	James D. Watson	Medicine	1962
Robert H. Grubbs	Chemistry	2005	Eric Wieschaus	Medicine	1995
Roger Guillemin	Medicine	1977	Frank Wilczek	Physics	2004
John L. Hall	Physics	2005	Robert W. Wilson	Physics	1978

The views expressed in this letter represent those of the signers acting as individual citizens. They do not necessarily represent the views of the institutions with which they are affiliated. The Medicine award is for "Physiology or Medicine."