Cover Memo: Volume 21, in Partnership with AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships

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Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted and honored to introduce the 21st Volume of the *Journal of Science Policy and Governance (JSPG)* as presented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellowships (STPF) program on the occasion of STPF's 50th anniversary. The nine articles included in this volume comprise *JSPG*'s latest issue showcasing policy ideas from the next generation of science leaders on a wide range of topics.

The articles included in this issue address a diverse array of timely and relevant topics including reproductive care, electricity, agriculture, international privacy rights, guns, biomedical research, remote work, STEM and policy training. I applaud the authors of these papers for their important contributions to science policy discourse at the international scale and thank the *JSPG* editorial leadership for their contributions to this issue and ongoing role in shining the light on science expertise.

The STPF program operates as part of the AAAS mandate to advance science and serve society. For the past half century, we have established a reputation for fostering evidence-based policy and practice by providing life-changing opportunities for scientists and engineers from a broad range of disciplines, backgrounds, and career stages to apply their knowledge and analytical skills to the formation and execution of evidence-based U.S. federal policy.

The 2022-23 class of STPF fellows is our 50th class, so this year is truly a momentous opportunity to reflect on how far science policy has come. Imagine what life would be like if policymakers did not seek the counsel of the science enterprise. That is why I am so gratified to be a part of the vital STPF mission to connect science with policy and to foster a network of science and engineering leaders who understand government and policymaking. These are the people who are the "do-ers" and are prepared to develop and execute solutions to address societal challenges.

Back in 1973, AAAS partnered with three scientific associations to launch the fellowship with an inaugural class of seven fellows on Capitol Hill. Today, STPF and nearly 30 partner societies together place nearly 300 fellows each year in all branches of the federal government.

Since 2011, *JSPG* has served as a critical international and peer-reviewed publication outlet for students, postdocs, policy fellows, and early career scientists to apply their knowledge to the widest dimensions of science, technology and innovation policy topics. *JSPG* seeks to empower early career researchers to have

their voices and ideas heard in local, national, and international science policy debates on a large number of topics.

With the respective missions of *JSPG* and STPF in mind, this issue of *JSPG* bears evidence to the importance of science policy and the power of partnering within the science policy arena. The two organizations are aligned in mission and deed, with many STPF current and alum fellows having published in *JSPG* and been in service on its editorial, governing, and advisory boards. Current STPF fellow Ben Wolfson, who is placed in the Basic Research Office in the Department of Defense, had a hand in steering the publication of this issue as *JSPG*'s Assistant-Editor-in-Chief for Standard Issues.

I invite you to review this volume and share it through social media, newsletters, and personal networks. I also invite you to attend an upcoming science policy training and networking event with published authors to learn more about this work. Over the coming months, *JSPG* will be highlighting authors of each of this issue's papers in the podcast SciPol SoundBites which can be found on several platforms. I hope you will join me in tuning in.

Finally, on behalf of both *JSPG* and the AAAS S&T Policy Fellowships, I invite you to share *JSPG* editorial and STPF fellowship opportunities with students and researchers in your network who can benefit from both vehicles to contribute to sound, evidence-based public policy and governance.

Again, my hearty congratulations to the authors included in this latest issue of *JSPG* and thanks to the *JSPG* editors, staff and to my team at AAAS for their work on this partnership.

With best of regards,

Rashada Alexander, Director of the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships program

Rashada Alexander provides strategic leadership for the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships program (STPF). With a team of 20 staff and a $16+ million-dollar annual budget, she administers programming and professional development for more than 250 fellows annually in the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the U.S. government. As an STPF alum, she puts her experience to good use in leading the next evolution of the program to ensure it continues to excel in connecting scientific expertise with policymaking. Prior to joining AAAS, she was at the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) where she optimized and streamlined operations, and assessed the impact of FFAR's research funding. Before that, she was a program director in the Division of Research Capacity Building at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Two of her 10 years at NIH were as an STPF fellow. Alexander earned her Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Kentucky. She is also a proud alum of Youngstown State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. She resides in the DC metro area with her husband, and enjoys action movies of questionable quality, doing silly dances even if people are watching, and gadgetry.