

Dr. Bruce Alberts, Editor-in-Chief, *Science*

Biography

Bruce Alberts, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief of *Science*, one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals. Prior to his role at *Science*, Alberts was the president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and chair of the National Research Council (1993-2005) for two terms. Alberts, who earned a doctorate from Harvard University in 1965, is well-known for his work in biochemistry and molecular biology and, in particular, for his extensive study of the protein complexes that allow chromosomes to be replicated. He spent 10 years on the faculty of Princeton University and then moved to the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco, where he later became chair and is now Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

Alberts has long been committed to the improvement of science education, dedicating much of his time to educational issues. He is one of the original authors of "The Molecular Biology of the Cell," a leading textbook whose 5th edition was published in 2007. Albert is also an author of "Essential Cell Biology" (2003), which presents the same subject matter for a wider audience. During his tenure at the NAS, Alberts was instrumental in developing the landmark National Science Education standards that have been implemented in school systems nationwide. The type of "science as inquiry" teaching we need, says Alberts, emphasizes "logical, hands-on problem solving, and it insists on having evidence for claims that can be confirmed by others. It requires work in cooperative groups, where those with different types of talents can discover them – developing self confidence and an ability to communicate effectively with others."

Alberts is also noted as one of the original authors of The Molecular Biology of the Cell, a preeminent textbook in the field now in its fourth edition. For the period 2000 to 2009, he serves as the co-chair of the InterAcademy Council, a new organization in Amsterdam governed by the presidents of 15 national academies of sciences and established to provide scientific advice to the world.

Committed in his international work to the promotion of the "creativity, openness and tolerance that are inherent to science," Alberts believes that "scientists all around the world must now band together to help create more rational, scientifically-based societies that find dogmatism intolerable."

Widely recognized for his work in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology, Alberts has earned many honors and awards, including 16 honorary degrees. He currently serves on the advisory boards of more than 25 non-profit institutions, including the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

(Excerpts from May 2, 2005 NAS Annual Meeting Speech)