



June 16, 2017

AAAS Statement on White House Executive Order on Cuba Relations

We are concerned about President Trump’s announcement that he will walk back relations between the United States and Cuba, and the potential negative impact on cooperation between scientists in our two countries. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) remains committed to engaging in the exchange of scientists and scientific knowledge between the U.S. and Cuba.

AAAS and the Cuban Academy of Sciences signed a [historic agreement](#) in 2014 to facilitate scientific cooperation and mutual learning in four areas: infectious disease, cancer, resistance to antimicrobial drugs, and neurological and neurodegenerative disease. Our collaborations with the Cuban Academy of Sciences include organizing joint scientific symposia and workshops, most recently on [neuroscience](#) (December 2015) and [cancer control](#) (May 2016).

Cuba and the United States are inextricably linked: the nations share emerging health and environmental challenges, and their common backyard is an ocean filled with limited resources. During difficult times in the history of the Cuba-U.S. relationship, scientists have worked to keep partnerships alive and will continue to do so in the face of changing policies. Science knows no borders, and we remain focused on facilitating the open exchange of scientific information in order to advance knowledge and benefit society.

-- Rush Holt, CEO, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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