



## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE IN INFORMING POLICY AND POLICYMAKERS**

Presented by  
**Alan McHughen, Ph.D.**  
Jefferson Science Fellow  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
University of California Riverside

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### **Abstract:**

This presentation addresses the role of public academic scientists in helping inform public policy and policymakers. Programs such as the AAAS Science Policy Fellowships and the National Academy of Sciences Jefferson Science Fellows allow interchange between scientists and policymakers 'inside the beltway' of Washington DC. Drawing on examples of poor public policy --based on absent or misinformed science-- the presentation will explore the consequences of failure to inform policymakers and the wider public on issues involving science, especially obscure or controversial science. Agriculture and biotechnology are especially ripe fields for ill-informed policy, both in the USA and internationally. Encouraging stronger links between academic scientists and policymakers is crucial to overcoming these deficiencies, leading to better public policies and, of at least equal importance, a better informed public.