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## A New Look...And A New Commitment

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This issue of *The Scientist* is clearly different from those of the past. The newspaper is growing—both expanding its range of features and sharpening its focus. The new look, new coverage, and new features are a direct response to your suggestions.

From its inception, *The Scientist* has kept you informed about important developments on the science policy scene. A glance at this issue will show that we are continuing our commitment to bring you incisive and timely reporting on policy decisions that affect your work. In this issue, we examine NSF's engineering research centers. Many scientists and policymakers are questioning the effectiveness of these centers and the wisdom of proceeding with new science and technology centers.

In our News section, however, you'll discover that we have broadened our reportorial reach with special coverage of research labs—university and industrial labs, as well as federal and nonprofit labs. What's more, we focus on entrepreneurial scientists, their careers and the news they make. Read in this issue about a scientist who opted for risk and reaped rewards by joining Sol Snyder's

startup company Nova Pharmaceuticals.

What *The Scientist* is offering, with renewed vigor, is an inside look at the conditions that can make the practice of science fulfilling or frustrating. You'll find stories of great careers and great research environments, along with stories about some that are not so great—stories all of us can learn from.

After News comes Opinion. No surprises here. Many of you have told us, in reader surveys and at conferences, that you like this section just the way it is: an open and expansive forum. You've shaped the discussion in the past and it's yours to shape in the future. In this issue, you can read what one scientist thinks of the SDI research juggernaut and why he walked away from it.

The Research section is new. In two features—"Hot Papers" and "Articles Alert"—we draw your attention to important and interesting recent papers, those the scientific community itself is identifying as significant or intriguing in some way. Another feature, "Frontiers," provides commentaries by pioneering researchers on breakthrough areas—what we already know about them, the questions still to be

answered, and the next steps. "Connections," which follows "Frontiers," is similar in concept but focuses on areas of multidisciplinary research.

Moreover, in this section you'll find what many of you have been asking for: trend analyses of science based on citation data extracted from the computer files of the Institute for Scientific Information. We look at the scientific performance and impact of individual institutions and of entire nations. We examine scientific progress field by field. The Research section gives you guidance and insight on the direction of science today.

Finally there's a new section we call Profession. It's all about your career and what keeps it going: salaries, employment trends, and

grants. We also cover tools of the trade—new hardware and software instruments and materials, as well as the latest books and journals. We tell you about the individuals and research teams making news and about contract and grant opportunities. In this issue for example, we feature a full report on how scientists view NSF's grants process.

Forty years ago few imagined that scientists would someday need their own newspaper. But times change. Today all of us must cope with ever busier careers and increasing information overload. *The Scientist*, by covering the entire spectrum of the business and profession of science, is designed to help you succeed in this flourishing and increasingly challenging environment. ■