

Looking back

It was an eventful year to be sure, but what most affected your life? Here's what some of you had to say:

The identification of a new strain of extremely or extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) serves as a 'wake up call' for the need for new treatment options which are not drug resistant, and that can shorten dramatically the more-than-six-month treatment regimen.

MARIA FREIRE,
Global Alliance for TB Drug Development

The biggest event in biomedical science this year may be the flat budgeting of the NIH by both Congress and the administration. Biomedical research seems to have lost its previously firm support from politicians which will hamstring innovative work in the future.

DAVID BALTIMORE,
California Institute of Technology



By far, the most important development in 2006 in the tobacco field was the California Environmental Protection Agency's determination that secondhand smoke (and smoking) cause breast cancer in younger women.

STAN GLANTZ,
University of California in San Francisco

The assault on the integrity of science took the form of fraud (involving stem cell research in South Korea), misrepresentation of data for profit and the increasing tendency for scientists to 'sign on' as authors of papers from industry partners with whom they have a financial relationship.

MICHAEL SCHWARTZ,
University of Washington



The National Academy of Sciences report on men and women in science showed that science will only be as good as the scientists who do it and, to do it optimally, we need to attract both men and women into science, train them, support them, and keep them there — and at every level.

ELLEN VITETTA,
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center



You'll never believe it, but...

233,000

Number of deaths worldwide each year due to cervical cancer

6.2 million

Number of new genital HPV infections each year in the US

\$360

Price of three doses of the new HPV vaccine Gardasil

80%

Proportion of cervical cancer deaths that occur in developing nations, including sub-Saharan Africa

\$500

Average annual income in sub-Saharan Africa

0%

Intake of trans fats that is considered safe by the Institute of Medicine

5.8 grams

Estimated trans fats consumed by an average adult per day in the US

11 grams



Trans fats in a Double Quarter Punder with Cheese, large fries and medium soft drink served at a US-based McDonald's

150,000

Average number of heart attacks that could be prevented each year in the US if trans fats were to be eliminated from the diet

\$9,196

Estimated amount to treat a heart attack in the US in 2001.

61%

Proportion of New Yorkers in a *Wall Street Journal* poll who support a ban on trans fats in the city's restaurants



N. Engl. J. Med.; Wall St. J.; NY Times; Am. Heart J.