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Genie Scott to retire; Ann Reid to take the reins

Ann Reid is joining NCSE as Executive Director, starting January 2, 2014. She will replace Eugenie C. Scott, who has led NCSE in fighting the good fight for science education for [27 years](#). [4]

As a molecular biologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, she co-lead the team that sequenced the 1918 flu virus—an effort that was hailed as "a watershed event for influenza researchers worldwide." She then served as a Senior Program Officer at the National Research Council's Board on Life Sciences for five years and then, most recently, as director of the American Academy of Microbiology. In both roles she oversaw major efforts aimed at communicating science to the public. And as its director, Reid oversaw all of the operations of the American Academy of Microbiology, from coordinating scientific research and publishing technical reports to communicating with the public and organizing dozens of scientific meetings.



Photo credit: Chris Condayan, asm.org

"Ann is the consummate cat herder," says Margaret McFall-Ngai, Professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at University of Wisconsin. "She's thoughtful, creative, and handles people with respect and finesse. But she's no pushover. She knows how to take charge, aided by her broad historic understanding of the issues and the science."

As a researcher and communicator, Reid has authored scores of peer-reviewed research papers, National Research Council reports, and FAQ documents, ranging from "Origin and Evolution of the 1918 'Spanish' Influenza Virus Hemagglutinin Gene" to the popular brochure *If the Yeast Ain't Happy, Ain't Nobody Happy: The Microbiology of Beer*.

"Ann is a spectacular biologist," says Indy Burke, Director of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. "She's been at the forefront of scientific synthesis and communication about the most important issues facing the life sciences today—especially life sciences education and the ecological impacts of climate change."

Reid came to microbiology via a circuitous route, first earning degrees in environmental science and advanced international studies. After several years as a policy analyst, she took a research technician job at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "That's when I fell in love with science," says Reid. "Working there, I finally came to appreciate the power, the beauty, and the joy of science. That's a big reason why I think that science education is so important—so students can share that experience while they're learning."

Reid joins NCSE at a time when the integrity of science education is constantly under attack. In 2013 alone, legislation was introduced in seven states that would allow teachers to misrepresent "controversial" topics, including evolution and/or climate change. "It is crucial, now more than ever, for students to understand evolution and climate science," Reid commented. "I am excited at the prospect of helping NCSE to continue its important work in ensuring that these topics are taught properly—accurately, thoroughly, and without ideological interference."

And Genie Scott expressed her confidence in Reid's ability to do so. "Her stint as a research scientist grounds her in what science is and what scientists do. Her work at the National Research Council connected her with the top scientists in the country. And her experience as the director of a non-profit organization provides her with invaluable knowhow," she said, adding, "I have no doubt that attacks on science education will continue. But with Reid at the helm, I have no doubt that NCSE will continue to be at the forefront of the defense."

Links:

Video: ["Microbes After Hours"](#) [5]

Video: ["A New Biology for the 21st Century: A National Research Council Report"](#) [6]

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The National Center for Science Education (NCSE) is a not-for-profit membership organization that defends the teaching of evolution and climate change in the public schools. The NCSE provides information, resources, and advice to schools, teachers, parents, and concerned citizens defending science education. We educate the press and public about the scientific, educational, and legal aspects of these issues at local, state, and national levels. Our 4000 members are scientists, teachers, clergy, and citizens with diverse religious affiliations.

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