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WHAT'S HAPPENING TO SCIENCE

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Basic biomedical research in the United States is in the midst of its second postwar revolution. The first created the “Endless Frontier,” transforming science from a profession of privileged elites to a vigorous, academically focused venture handsomely supported by public funds. The second, going on right now, is powered increasingly by private philanthropy and corporate risk capital. The current revolution has brought new questions about the relationship of universities and their faculties to industrial partners; revisions of accepted community standards for openness and data-sharing; issues about intellectual property and its protection; a flood of large projects with multiple authors; and capital infrastructures that make possible industrial-strength biology. Donald Kennedy, Ph.D., editor-in-chief of Science magazine, will explore these consequences for practitioners, their institutions and the journals that publish their work.

Kennedy, a biologist by training, currently works on a variety of problems at the intersection of science and public policy. Bing Professor of Environmental Science and President Emeritus at Stanford University, he has served as editor-in-chief of Science, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, since June 1, 2000.

A former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Kennedy is the author of Academic Duty (Harvard University Press, 1997), a book discussing some of the challenges facing American institutions of higher education.

The Cohn Forum is a series of colloquia on issues in health and biomedicine. The Cohn Forum’s Web site is http://www.rockefeller.edu/pubinfo/cohn.html.

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