

A plan to promote sustainable US scientific discovery and innovation in the 21st century is proposed in OMICS

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The U.S. needs a comprehensive and transformational policy for the 21st century to ensure that it remains competitive in the global science and technology arena, according to a provocative opinion piece in the latest issue of *OMICS: A Journal of Integrative Biology*.

Eugene Kolker, PhD, Editor-in-Chief of *OMICS* and Chief Data Officer, Seattle Children's Hospital and Head, Bioinformatics & High-throughput Analysis Laboratory, Seattle Children's Research Institute, presents his

views on the critical role science and [technology](#) will continue to play in U.S. economic growth and the enormous benefits society stands to gain from [scientific discovery](#) in, "A Vision for 21st Century U.S. Policy to Support Sustainable Advancement of Scientific Discovery and Technological Innovation."

Dr. Kolker bases his views on a published analysis of U.S. research funding since World War II, as well as data on the numbers of graduate students, patents, and publications in the sciences and engineering. This comprehensive assessment also included a comparison of the level of U.S. support for R&D with that of the European Union and China over the past decade.

Dr. Kolker views the competition from other countries as healthy rather than threatening, saying, "We welcome such a new reality in which we both compete and collaborate and, as a result, benefit all the countries involved."

He proposes a three-step plan for sustainable advancement and innovation in the U.S. that includes transformation of the federal Office of Science and Technology to a Department of [Science](#) and Technology; increased support for basic and applied research; and new policies designed to foster modern approaches to collaboration.

More information: The commentary is available free online at www.liebertpub.com/omi

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