

Boston University Physics Colloquium



The Ethical Responsibility of Scientists

I will argue that scientists, as subject matter experts and citizens, have the ethical obligation to understand the potential for misuse of science and technology and to educate the public and decision makers. But unfortunately, scientists have usually not been trained to consider the societal consequences of the applications of science and technology. I will thus also argue that there is an urgent need for ethics and policy education for scientists and for science education for policy makers. To illustrate the necessity for these actions, I will discuss relevant examples from the science of climate change, energy policy, nuclear weapons, and missile defense.

Dr. Charles D. Ferguson

Federation of American Scientists, President

October 4, 2011 (Tuesday) at 3:30pm (Refreshments at 3:15pm)

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