

# Science for Peace

**September 16, 2020**

## **President's Column**



Dear Members,

Welcome to our new newsletter, I wanted to tell you about some of the changes underway at Science for Peace. We are in the process of renewing the organization so that it can be more effective in today's digital world and more attractive to a younger audience.

We are developing an appealing and informative communications strategy, with the help of Adnan Zuberi and Daniel Garcia. This strategy includes not only this newsletter, but also a more exciting format for our new website and our social media, and an updated internal communications platform.

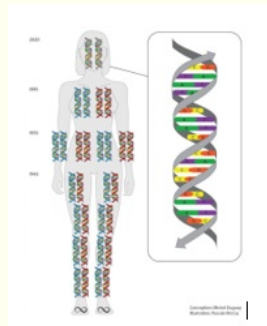
Other changes are substantive. We are refining the process of recruiting and mentoring interns, who we hope will form the next generation of peace activists. We are working on effective ways to recruit, induct and integrate new members. We are thinking through how to evaluate our effectiveness in the promotion of popular education and research on peace issues. We are presenting an integrated program in the fall term on nuclear weapons and in the spring term on militarization and climate change.

None of these changes could happen without the dedicated work of members of the executive - thanks Ellie, Rob, Jorge, Bill, Arnd, Melisa - and the board, our intern and our new nuclear weapons campaigner, Julieta Vargas. But we need you, the members, to come forward to make your own contributions: write a post for our blog, create a new ad hoc working group on a key issue that engages you, or join a working group, such as the one on nuclear weapons or the committee organizing the second term's agenda on the climate crisis.

There is much to be done, comrades.

Richard Sandbrook  
President, Science for Peace  
Professor Emeritus of Political Science  
University of Toronto

## Recent Articles



### Professor Michel Duguay on the Deep-time self-identity in nuclear disarmament

Deep-time self-identity can help in dealing with nuclear disarmament. Including one's DNA information as part of one's self-identity extends one's life line into the deep time of evolution. Genomics has shown...

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### Professor Michel Duguay: The World's Most Dangerous Man

The title and subtitles of Mary L. Trump's 2020 book are an indication that this document could acquire historical importance. Mary L. Trump is US President Donald Trump's niece and has a doctorate in clinical psychology...

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### Professor Richard Sandbrook on Racism, Class Solidarity and Systemic Change

The strategic implications of incorporating both race and class into movements for systemic change, while avoiding past errors...

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## Recent Activities

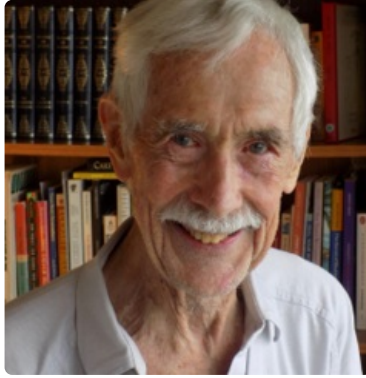
### 75 Years Since the Nuclear Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - We Remember

August 6 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons\* (CNANW) will host a virtual event on August 6th from 2:00 to 3:30 Eastern to honour the victims of this unspeakable act, and to consider new action to help rid the

### Hiroshimashi and Nagasaki: Never Forgotten Webinar

August 8 @ 10:00 am  
Terumi Tanaka-san, a survivor of the bombing of Nagasaki, will begin the event. Then, five of our well-known speakers will each present 20-minute talks. Also included will be the recitation of two poems by Dr. Asaf

## Focus on Members: Derek Paul



***Physicist, Professor Emeritus***

### **A Founding Member Answers Questions on the History of Science for Peace**

*Interview with Melisa Kuc*

Science for Peace developed from actions by Eric Fawcett in 1980. Eric, an energetic physicist of great ability, founded “The Committee for Directing Science Toward Peace” in the fall of 1980. Its objective was to prepare a paper on peace and disarmament for presentation at a forthcoming session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The Committee concluded its work in December of 1980, and I suggested at its last meeting that it should continue, because Canada needed an organization that was parallel to Pugwash and which anybody could join— Pugwash membership being invitational. All present agreed, and much work by an enlarged group resulted within three months in an incorporated organization, Science for Peace, with 17 founding members, mostly scientists. At the first Board meeting, March 1981, Eric was elected President for two years, Terry Gardner as Secretary-Vice President, and I as Treasurer-Vice President.

The motivation came from fear of imminent nuclear war because the diplomats of the Soviet Union on the one hand and the United States and Canada on the other hand were not communicating at all with each other.

I would describe the newly formed organization’s strategy as keeping in touch with government and searching for ideas that would be useful in the search for peace. The second strategy determined the agenda of a weekend retreat in April 1981, at Griffin Lodge, on Mary Lake in Muskoka.

Science for Peace had a great start. It was assisted from early on by George Ignatieff, who deserves mention here. He had been a highly distinguished Ambassador in the Canadian civil service, and had resigned a few years back from being Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations. By the time Science for Peace was formed, George was Chancellor of the University of Toronto, with an office in Simcoe Hall—conveniently near the Physics Department. George soon accepted to become a member of Science for Peace, next a Board member and, five years later, President. He was an inspiration to us because of his experience in diplomacy and the clarity of his thinking.

The earliest project of SfP was the proposal to create an international space satellite for detailed observation from space. At that time, only the United States had the capacity to take photographs of high resolution from outer space. The French President, Giscard d’Estaing had already made a similar proposal, which encouraged the SfP effort to get the Canadian government on

board. The paper containing this proposal was duly sent to Ottawa, supported by the Executive, by George Ignatieff, and others. It involved us in at least one appearance before a parliamentary committee—the one I remember included John Polanyi among three others. Eventually the project was turned down because the UN could not see its way to funding the very costly analysis of the huge flow of data coming in from such a satellite. Our proposal nevertheless inspired the department of arms control and disarmament within external affairs to do some other very useful work, which bore fruit later. In the early years of Science for Peace, nearly all our work was related to nuclear weapons and their abolition. The international satellite would have been concerned with verification of compliance.

In parallel with all other activities, Eric organized many talks on subjects related to peace, on the U of T campus, thereby introducing a wide variety of speakers. He also made a great effort to sustain chapters of SfP all over Canada.

Another activity that began in the early days was the preparation and submission of briefs to government—one of the first being to the Department of Defence. Also early on, a conference on education (for peace) was organized by Terry Gardner. Terry also played a leading role in the independent publication of the book, *The Name of the Chamber was Peace*.

Soon after Anatol Rapoport's return from a long period abroad in 1984, Terry persuaded him to join SfP and accept the post of President when it became vacant in May of that year. Anatol needs no introduction here—see special issue of *The Bulletin*, February 2007.

Anatol brought SfP back from its 1983 indebtedness and supported and participated in SfP's 1985 Conference on the defence of Europe and the MBFR talks—these latter were negotiations to reduce the E-W conventional forces in Europe. This relatively high-level international conference was held in Massey College. Anatol also triggered SfP's book publishing efforts: 1986-2000. A setback Science for Peace has sometimes faced since 1988 is finding a new President. We also had some financial setbacks. However, we always recovered because there were enough people who realized that it is essential to have a peaceful world.

Our most effective efforts generally had some connection with government. Our greatest challenge today is that the world is in a time of change, and it is close to a climatic point of no return, the road to extinction. The world is also at a point of danger of social collapse. The abolition of war can be achieved cooperatively if the world sets its mind to it.

Science for Peace needs to open channels to government—the Prime Minister's office, also foreign affairs, defence, environment, resources, finance. Contacts at these levels are very important.

*To hear the full interview, please visit <https://scienceforpeace.ca/about-us/>.*

**Upcoming**



## Working for the elimination of nuclear weapons

### October Webinar: Global Efforts

Ray Acheson of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will discuss the state of nuclear disarmament and the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The proposed date is the second week of October.

### November Webinar: Canadian Efforts

Science for Peace to co-sponsor a webinar with the Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition and the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute with representatives of the political parties to discuss nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons abolition and how to get a meaningful debate on this topic in Parliament. Setsuko Thurlow will speak about her efforts to break the silence in Canada about nuclear weapons. This would then be followed by the MPs speaking about nuclear weapons abolition. The proposed date is the week of November 9-15.

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