



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The American way of life is experiencing many profound transitions. Nowhere is that more evident than in the interaction between family and work.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Workplace, Workforce and Working Families Program provides an important research focus on the contemporary challenges faced by employers, workers, and families trying to address the sometimes conflicting demands of work and home. Both the productivity of business and the quality of life of families will be improved if we learn to deal better with these conflicts.

We want Sloan-supported research to be a catalyst for innovative family friendly workplace policies and practices pertaining to the health of families and business.

There are six Alfred P. Sloan Centers, which function as regional laboratories for the rigorous examination of work-family issues. These Centers are housed within leading research universities across the country and focus on issues ranging from employment options for older workers and retirees, the changing nature of the family with the rise of dual-income parents, and the role of social capital in navigating everyday life. The research efforts and policy recommendations of the Centers enter into national discussion through conferences, publications, and media dialogue. Graduate and undergraduate students are receiving important training as the next generation of scholars who will contribute to society's ability to integrate work and family life.

In addition to the Centers, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation invests in research projects conducted by outstanding academic and nonprofit experts who can offer important insight into work-family developments. These efforts, along with the work of the Centers, provide unusual opportunities for collaboration and discussion among all stakeholders addressing the interconnection of work and family life.