Three themes for the next century of astronomy:

1. The quest for Physics... the use of the universe as a laboratory... to discover new physical laws, constants and particles.

2. The quest for the origins. By this I do not mean simply a slogan but the study of the evolution of the universe in order to relate causally the physical conditions during the Big Bang to the development of RNA and DNA.

3. The quest for living space.... Clearly Astronomers will be the pilots and navigators of this enterprise.

Riccardo Giacconi
visit to Uraniborg
I felt my greatest contribution to the field could be to build great instruments available to the entire astronomical community and to operate them in such a way as to maximize the scientific returns.

Science Models

Distinct, self-contained multi-disciplinary teams

Explorer-class or medium-scale missions
Science Models

Distinct, self-contained multi-disciplinary teams

Explorer-class or medium-scale missions

“Giacconi Model”

Enabling access and data for all
Science Models

“Giacconi Model”

Enabling access and data for all

enables science at all scales

Cycle 18, 2010
Science Models

enables science at all scales

engages a broad community

“Giacconi Model”

Cycle 21

Enabling access and data for all

Large, diverse science community > 12,000
Making our data available to other scientists for their analysis would increase, not decrease, the impact of our work.

Making our data available to other scientists for their analysis would increase, not decrease, the impact of our work.

I wrote chapter’s twelve through fifteen as a kind of manual on how I ran STScI, ... at least how I believe I ran it....
"The reviewers had to read the proposals carefully and think about them, rather than taking the shortcut and assuming the more famous astronomers should win. With evaluations based entirely on proposal merit, newcomers or people from lesser-known institutions get a chance, and those who are well established will continue to face critical review."