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Kirstin R. W. Matthews, Ph.D. is the science and technology program manager at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. She is responsible for coordinating the science and technology policy program under the leadership of Dr. Neal Lane. Dr. Matthews' current research focuses are biomedical research, science education, and health policy issues.

At the Baker Institute, Dr. Matthews' responsibilities include planning, organizing, and implementing science and technology policy events and programs; researching and writing on science policy issues; and advocating the participation of scientists in public policy. Current topics of research are state and international embryonic stem cell policies and increasing the role of women in science. Furthering this research, Dr. Matthews has organized a conference series on U.S. embryonic stem cell policy titled "Stem Cell: Saving Lives or Crossing Lines" and a program titled "Reaching for the Stars: Increasing the Role of Women in Science and Engineering" with Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman astronaut. In addition, from 2004 to 2006, Dr. Matthews was also the project director for the Task Force, Access to Health Care in Texas: Challenges of the Uninsured and Underinsured. The task force, which began in fall 2004, completed their work in April 2006 and released the report *Code Red: The Health of Texas*.

Dr. Matthews earned her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin and a doctorate in molecular biology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where she characterized immunological proteins and genes. After graduate school, Dr. Matthews left the bench to pursue work in science policy at the Baker Institute.