

## What's New Robert L. Park's Newsletter - 16 Jan 2013

BREAKTHROUGH: THE HIGGS WAS THE TOP BREAKTHROUGH IN 2012. As it does each year, the journal Science picked 10 breakthroughs to mark the advance of science in 2012. In the 21 Dec 2012 issue, Editor-in-Chief Bruce Alberts reported that the Higgs boson had been chosen as the "Top Science Breakthrough in 2012." There is no immediate application for the Higgs particle in sight, but it represents a huge advance in our understanding of why the universe came out the way it did. Science seeks to trace the chain of cause-and-effect relationships back to a presumed first-cause. The Higgs boson is causally linked to the formation of the material universe. The discovery was made with CERN's Large Hadron Collider at an operating budget of about \$1 billion per year and the efforts of thousands of scientists. By comparison the war in Afghanistan has so far cost the US \$1.2 trillion and 2000 lives with no tangible benefits?