A Century of Great Discoveries

This past century was witness to an extraordinary number of scientific discoveries and technological advances that radically changed our lives. In advance of our conference that will discuss some of these issues, we'd like to give you the opportunity to express your opinion about what were the greatest discoveries of the last century.

Below are two lists; one a partial list of discoveries for which Nobel prizes were awarded and a second, a list of great engineering achievements, taken from a survey by the National Academy of Engineers. For each list, select up to 5 which you think represents the greatest achievement and which affected our lives most in the past century. We'll also give you the opportunity to predict what you think will be the most important issues in the foreseeable future. Press the submit button when you're done & we'll announce the results at the conference.

Just for curiosity:

Your age ?:
20 or less
21 to 40
41-60
61-80
Over 80

Scientific Discoveries: Here is a sample of discoveries for which a Nobel Prize was awarded. Vote for the 5 you think had the greatest impact on human life during the past century.

Discovery of fullerenes
Development of lasers
Discovery of phosphorylation mechanisms
Development of the transistor
Discover of prions
Development of holograph
Discovery of signal proteins
Discovery of superconductivity
Discovery of Woodward-Hoffman rules
Development of electron microscopy
Discovery of x-rays & radiation
Development of chaos theory
Discoveries in Quantum mechanics
Discoveries of the structure of atoms
Discovery of the theory of relativity
Development of computers
Discovery of vitamins
Discovery of causes of communicative diseases
Discovery of structure of DNA
Discoveries of how cells communicate
Discovery of penicillin & other antibiotics
Discoveries about how drugs work in our cells
Discovery of culture techniques leading to vaccines
Discoveries about how our neurons and brains work
Discovery of chlorofluorocarbons threat to ozone layer
Discovery of artificial elements beyond uranium
Discoveries of the mechanisms of the immune system

Great Engineering Achievements. Engineers completing a survey by the National Academy of Engineers identified the following as the 20 greatest engineering accomplishments of the past century. Vote for the 5 you think had the greatest impact on human existence.

Water supply & distribution
Agricultural mechanization
Airplane
Spacecraft
Radio & television
Imaging
Electronics
Electrification
Computers
Automobile
Telephone
Household appliances
Air conditioning
Internet
Highways
Health technologies
Petrochemical technologies
Laser & fiber optics
Nuclear technologies
High-performance materials