

### **Elias Zerhouni**

The White House announced during March 2002 the nomination of Elias Zerhouni as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). If confirmed, Zerhouni will lead the NIH at a time of unprecedented funding increases. It is thought that Zerhouni's potential nomination is related to his support of the Bush Administration's controversial limits on stem cell research and its support for a ban on human cloning. Zerhouni was chosen as a nominee over Dr. Anthony Fauci, a leading AIDS researcher and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Dr. Ruth Kirschstein was appointed the Acting Director of NIH in January 2000, after Dr. Harold Varmus stepped down in late 1999.

### **Rita Colwell**

Rita Colwell was appointed to a five year term as Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in August 1998. During her term at NSF, Dr. Colwell has led education (NSF Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education program), nanotechnology, biocomplexity and IT initiatives. She also serves as Co-chair of the Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council. Dr. Colwell has served her term as Director at NSF during a time when the Foundation has received significant budget increases, funding levels recently reaching a level approximately \$4.8 billion. She is currently conducting a major program that provides funding, to a wide range of US universities, to develop a powerful distributed computer facility using high-speed Internet access available to all university researchers in the US and possibly Canada.

### **Raymond L. Orbach**

On December 11, 2001, Bush announced his intention to nominate Raymond L. Orbach, UCR Chancellor, as Director of the Department of Energy Office of Science. Orbach, is a theoretical physicist who also is involved in active research programs UCR Until confirmed by the US Senate, Orbach will remain at UCR. If confirmed, Orbach will replace James F. Decker, a physicist and member of the Office of Science since 1985. The Office of Science is an agency within the Department of Energy (DOE) which oversees the funding of national laboratories and advises the President on an efficient scientific agenda. Currently, the DOE Office of Science is the third largest sponsor of basic research in the United States.

### **Bruce P. Mehlman**

Bruce P. Mehlman was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy by the Senate on May 31, 2001. In addition to his responsibility for technology (mainly industrial R&D), his position also has responsibility for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He has served as Telecommunications Policy Counsel for Cisco Systems since 1999, and previously served as General Counsel for the House Republican Conference and the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1996 to 1999. He is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Virginia Law School.

### **National Academies Appointment of Security Research Committee**

The Committee on the Science and Technology Agenda for Countering Terrorism, an integral part of the National Academies' counterterrorism efforts, is chaired by Richard D. Klausner, National Academies Advisor on Counterterrorism and Lewis Branscomb, a physicist and adviser to several US Presidents. This Committee's agenda focuses on identifying high-priority research areas; biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological threats; IT; transportation; and infrastructure safety. A current project: "Science and Technology for Countering Terrorism" aims to advise the Executive Office of the President on the most effective use of science and technology communities in the response to terrorist attacks .