

time on any telescope built there. But, says Maria Teresa Ruiz of the University of Chile and a member of the AURA board, "Under those agreements, we Chilean astronomers can just use the facilities. We have no say about what instruments will be built, so we are not putting money or brains into [those projects]. With Gemini this will be different." The University of Chile's José Maza, a member of CONICYT's astrophysics advisory committee who, from 1993 to 1995, was also Chile's project scientist for Gemini, adds that "this should give Chile a chance to train technicians and engineers and make high technology available to students." For example, some Chilean engineers and technicians will go to Mauna Kea to help get Gemini North running next year. Then they'll return to Chile in time to do the same at Gemini South, which is scheduled to see first light in 2000. Another benefit of partnership, says Maza, "is that we will have access to the northern sky."

And Australia may yet join Gemini. Australia was told "from the beginning that if Chile satisfied the conditions, negotiations would cease," notes Van Citters. But, he continues, "The [Gemini] partners will not lightly say, 'Thanks for your interest. Spend your money elsewhere.' The Australians would bring a lot of scientific and technical expertise to the partnership. So the possibility that they might add about \$9 million to a project that is just getting under way is something we will discuss seriously in the next month or two."

TONI FEDER

Biologist Baltimore Is Caltech President

On 15 October, David Baltimore will become president of Caltech. Baltimore, who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1975 (with Howard Temin and Renato Dulbecco), will be the first biologist to hold the post—indeed, he'll be the first president in Caltech's history who is neither a physicist nor an engineer.

To Caltech developmental neurobiologist David Anderson, who served on the faculty search committee, "Having a biologist as president is profoundly significant. It makes a powerful statement that Caltech recognizes the importance of biology, and that it would be difficult to remain cutting edge if it didn't move biology closer to the center of intellectual priorities."

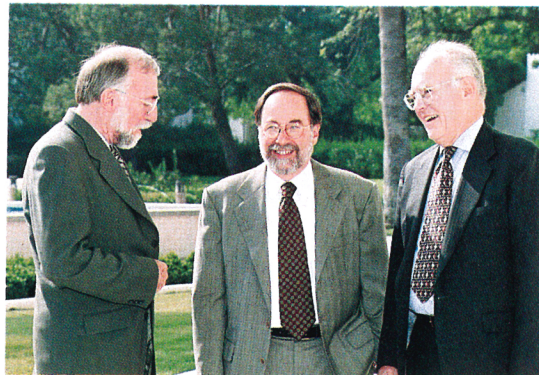
"We do see biology and its interfaces [with other sciences] as being an important major thrust for Caltech in the coming decade," agrees physicist Kip

Thorne, who chaired the search committee. But, he adds, while Baltimore's being a biologist was seen as a plus, it wasn't a key consideration. "We felt we needed a president who would have clout and visibility and influence in government, society and industry," says Thorne. "The relationships between universities and each of these other sectors are in the process of being redefined. Baltimore has enormous wisdom and strength of character and the ability to communicate. He will provide leadership within Caltech and will influence the external world with which we deal."

The choice of Baltimore has been widely welcomed by the Caltech faculty. The new president is known for his scientific achievements and for his long-time involvement in science policy, particularly in the areas of ethics of modern biology and AIDS research policy. He is also known in connection with charges of scientific fraud that were brought against his former colleague and coauthor Thereza Imanishi-Kari (who, after a decade-long saga, was exonerated last year). In general, the misconduct imbroglio isn't seen as a problem or disadvantage, says Gordon Moore, chair of Caltech's board of trustees and one of the founders of Intel. "It was a tough time in his life, but we think he came through it very well."

For the most part, the fact that Baltimore is a biologist doesn't seem to faze the physicists at Caltech, though a few worry about physics getting short shrift. As one self-described "narrow-minded and old-fashioned" Caltech physicist put it, "There is no doubt he is qualified. But we hope he recognizes that physics is the crown of science."

For his part, Baltimore says that maintaining Caltech's existing strengths will be a top priority. In addition, he notes that "there are tremendous opportunities at the interfaces between sciences. And Caltech is particularly well-positioned to take advantage [of this]. The tools physicists have are extremely important [for interdisciplinary research]." Adds Baltimore, "I have tremendous respect for physics, though it doesn't have the same direct appeal as biology." Regarding his priorities as president, Baltimore says he looks forward to working with the Caltech faculty "to solve problems as they arise."



DAVID BALTIMORE (center) with Kip Thorne (left) and Gordon Moore.

Baltimore will move his lab from MIT to Caltech, and plans to continue his research on molecular processes of the immune system. He will also stay on as chair of the National Institutes of Health's AIDS Vaccine Research Committee, to which he was appointed last January by NIH Director Harold Varmus. Baltimore's wife, Alice Huang, quit her job as dean for science at New York University to join him and, at least to begin with, will do fundraising work for Caltech.

Baltimore will be Caltech's fifth president. He succeeds Thomas Everhart, who is stepping down after 10 years. Everhart plans to take a year's sabbatical leave, and will remain on the Caltech faculty in electrical engineering.

TONI FEDER

IN BRIEF

Switzerland's new secretary of state for science and research is Charles Kleiber, an architect by training and more recently a hospital manager and economics professor. Kleiber told PHYSICS TODAY that his main priorities include maintaining the country's current scientific strengths, for example in the life sciences, nutrition and microtechnology; emphasizing foreign science policy to increase representation of Swiss science and technology abroad; stimulating cooperation among Switzerland's universities, industry and society; and getting Swiss industries to increase their investments in domestic R&D. Currently, more than half of about \$9 billion annually in such in-



CHARLES KLEIBER

HÉLÈNE TOBLER

**Tennelec
NIMs**

PROVEN PERFORMANCE



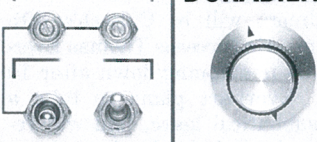
RELIABILITY



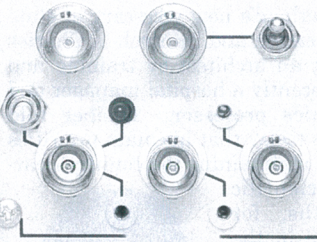
VERSATILITY



DURABILITY



COST EFFECTIVE



For 36 Years

OXFORD

TENNELEC/NUCLEUS

1-800-769-3673

Oxford Instruments Inc • Nuclear Measurements Group
601 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830 USA
Tel: (423) 483-8405 • Fax (423) 483-5891
E-Mail: nimg@oxfordnm.usa.com
WWW: <http://www.oxinst.com/>

Circle number 34 on Reader Service Card

vestments is made outside the country, and more than half of that is invested in the US. Public investment in R&D, by comparison, comes to about \$2 billion annually. Kleiber, who took office on 1 October, will continue to teach health economics at the University of Lausanne, because, he says, "it's necessary to keep the link to education and to understand what's going on in the universities."

Peter Moore, a biophysical chemist at Yale University, became editor of the *Biophysical Journal* on 1 July. The number of annual submissions to the monthly, which was founded in 1960 and has a circulation of about 5000, doubled under the previous editor, Victor Bloomfield, and Moore notes the "wisdom of not fixing that which is not broken." He says the journal's current emphasis on molecular and atomic ex-

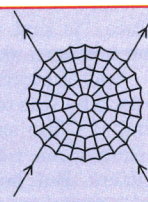
planations for cellular and biomolecular phenomena will deepen in the immediate future. But some changes are already in the works: There are plans for the journal to begin publishing advertisements, and Moore plans to put the journal on-line in January.

At the end of August, the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry officially adopted names for the transfermium elements, thus ending a drawn-out dispute (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, May, page 52). The names are element 101, mendelevium (Md); 102, nobelium (No); 103, lawrencium (Lr); 104, rutherfordium (Rf); 105, dubnium (Db); 106, seaborgium (Sg); 107, bohrium (Bh); 108, hassium (Hs); and 109, meitnerium (Mt). IUPAC's recommendations are generally adhered to by the international scientific community, although they do not carry legal weight. ■

Web Watch

► <http://www.bigscience.com/setiathome.html>

SETI@home will let you participate in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence via the Internet. It is the first project being undertaken by a group called Big Science, whose goal is to harness the distributed processing power embodied in the computers connected to the Internet. Here's how it works: Data collected at the Arecibo Observatory by the SERENDIP program will be divided up into chunks small enough for a typical personal computer to handle. To participate in the project, you get a copy of a special screen saver program that, when your PC would otherwise be twiddling its digital thumbs, will download some of these chunks of data, process them and return the results to SETI@home. The screen saver will also display a visualization of the progress of the project. At present the project is under development—the first version is scheduled for testing in late 1997, and the real thing is scheduled for early 1998. The SETI@home page provides more information and the opportunity to sign up as a volunteer (in addition to aliens, they're looking for programmers, graphic designers and science teachers) or to receive news releases.



► <http://pdg.lbl.gov/cpep.html>

The Contemporary Physics Education Project, a nonprofit organization consisting of physicists, teachers and educators, has two main on-line features. "The Particle Adventure" is an interactive, elementary course on particle physics, loaded with lively graphics and occasional pop quizzes. Several "paths" through the adventure follow specific themes, including the Standard Model, experimental evidence and beyond the Standard Model. Classroom activities include student worksheets and password-protected pages for teachers (no cheating!). "Fusion—Physics of a Fundamental Energy Source" is aimed at introductory physics students and teachers, and covers the topic in greater depth and complexity than its particle physics sibling.

► <http://www.iop.org/Journals/na>

Multimedia Research Papers in Nanotechnology have been introduced in the on-line edition of the journal *Nanotechnology*, published by the UK's Institute of Physics (IOP). An article by J. Han *et al.*, from the September 1997 issue, is available free to all browsers. It features MPEG animations of simulations of gears using carbon nanotubes as the shafts and benzyne molecules as the gear teeth. Papers with multimedia enhancements can also be submitted to the IOP's *Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering* and *Combustion Theory and Modelling*. Full access to the IOP's electronic journals is provided with institutional subscriptions to the print journals.

► All links mentioned in Web Watch are included on *PHYSICS TODAY*'s home page, <http://www.aip.org/pt/>. If you have suggestions for other topics or sites to be covered in Web Watch, please e-mail them to ptwww@aip.acp.org.

Compiled by **GRAHAM P. COLLINS**