they work: federally funded R&D centers (FFR&DCs, which employ 36% of respondents); defense and space agencies, such as NASA (32%); the military (10%); and other federal, state and local agencies (22%). The last category includes science-oriented agencies such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as well as other government entities, including the Internal Revenue Service and the Veterans Administration.

The study found that 70% of those working at an FFR&DC have a PhD, compared to 38% of those at a defense or space agency and none in the active military. Physicists who work for FFR&DCs and defense and space agencies are more likely to engage in research, while those in the military tend to be engaged in more managerial activities. When asked to identify aspects of their physics education that had been most important in shaping their careers, about half of the respondents cited their analytical skills, a third said physics knowledge and a quarter mentioned technical knowledge.

The report, prepared by the American Institute of Physics, is based on a survey of members of Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honors society; those surveyed had earned at least one degree in physics. Single copies of *Physicists in Government* are available free of charge from the Education and Employment Statistics Division, AIP, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; phone 301-209-3070, e-mail stats@aip.org.

Springer-Verlag Acquires AIP Press

On 30 April, Springer-Verlag New York purchased the assets of AIP Press, the book publishing branch of the American Institute of Physics. In exchange for an undisclosed cash payment plus royalties on future book sales, Springer-Verlag acquired the AIP Press backlist (about 170 titles) as well as the 50 books still under contract, which it will publish and distribute internationally. Future titles and new editions of current books will carry the logos of both Springer-Verlag and AIP Press.

AIP began soliciting bids for AIP Press late last year. In weighing the offers tendered, said Darlene Walters, AIP's vice president for publishing, the institute "wanted to make sure that those authors who had signed up in good faith with AIP would be satisfied." Springer-Verlag New York, a subsidiary of Springer-Verlag GmbH, is one of the world's leading science publishers, with over 10 000 titles in print. "This sale will mean wider support for the authors and editors of AIP Press and better distribution of books," said Marc Brodsky, AIP's executive director and CEO.

Maria Taylor, who joined Springer-Verlag at the end of May after six years as head of the books division at AIP, will serve as editor for the AIP Press imprint. Taylor said there are already plans to expand several AIP Press series, including those on acoustics, biological physics and atomic, molecular and optical physics.

AIP's entry into book publishing was a fairly recent one. According to AIP journal publisher John T. Scott, the institute began publishing books in the early 1980s, when it agreed to take over several history of science books from Tomash Publishers. Prior to that, AIP had handled only conference proceedings and an occasional title for one of its member societies. Eventually, the institute's book catalog grew to more than 200 titles, including reference volumes, general-interest books, textbooks and research monographs. In 1993 the books program was renamed AIP Press.

AIP continues to publish physics and astronomy journals and conference proceedings, as well as a small number of specialty directories, including the *Directory of Physics, Astronomy and Geophysics Staff* and a guide to physics graduate programs.

Physicists' Salaries Rise, though Not All Beat Inflation

Every two years, the American Institute of Physics reports on salary trends among the members of its ten member societies. The latest such survey, conducted in 1996, found that, on average, physicists' salaries paid by the government and federally funded R&D centers stayed slightly ahead of inflation, while those in industry and universities lagged behind the inflation rate.

The median annual salary for members with PhDs—who represent the vast majority of member society members—was $65 000 in 1996, up only 1.6% since 1994. Those working in federally funded R&D centers garnered the highest median annual salary, $78 500, while those at four-year colleges, who tend to work on 9–10 month contracts, continued to be the lowest paid, at $49 200. Universities, which employ nearly half of the society members with PhDs, paid median salaries of $58 000 to those on 9–10 month contracts and $70 000 to those on 11–12 month contracts. Among the one-fifth of society members who work in industry, the median annual salary was $77 000. Salaries for postdocs, who make up 5% of member society members, remained virtually unchanged since 1992, ranging from $39 000 for those working in federally funded R&D centers to $31 000 for those in universities.

Although median salaries vary widely across employment sectors for PhDs in their early and middle careers, they converge on the $90–$95 000 range for PhDs who have spent 25 years or more in the workplace.

About one-fourth of employed society members hold a bachelor's or master's degree as their highest degree; they work primarily in industry, secondary schools and government. The median annual salary in 1996 for those with master's degrees was $55 000 and with bachelor's degrees, $50 000.

Copies of *1996 Salaries: Society Membership Survey*, which also reports on geographical and gender differences in salary, are available from the Education and Employment Statistics Division, AIP, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; phone 301-209-3070, e-mail stats@aip.org.

Lectureship Prize for Young Physicists Is Established

The Michelson Postdoctoral Prize Lectureship is a new award that will be given annually to a promising young physicist who shows a talent for communicating physics to a nonspecialist audience. The lectureship was established by Case Western Reserve University's physics department, using money from its 1987 centenary celebration of the Michelson–Morley experiment (which was originally performed at Case Western). The winner is invited to give several lectures at Case Western, expenses paid, and receives a $750 honorarium.

THOMAS WALTHER

The first winner was Thomas Walther, a postdoc at Texas A&M University. His lectures, delivered in April, were on diverse topics: ultraviolet–infrared and infrared–ultraviolet