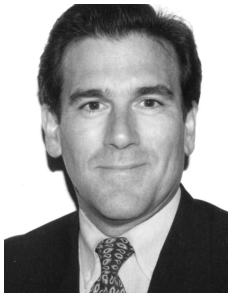
board in 2003, succeeding **Charles W. Coffrey II**, chief clinical physician at Vanderbilt University.

"We should recognize that changes in health-care funding will continue and the AAPM must advocate vigilantly for the professional interests of its members," says Gould.



GOULD

After earning a BA in chemistry from the College of Wooster and an MS in biomedical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, Gould received an ScD in medical physics from Harvard University in 1977. In 1978, he joined UCSF's radiology department, where he currently works on digital imaging, advances in three-dimensional imaging, and a picture-archiving and communications system that allows medical images to be stored and accessed via the Internet.

Others who took office on 1 January for three-year terms on AAPM's board of directors were **Gary Ezzell**, a senior physicist at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona; **John D. Hazle**, a physicist at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas in Houston; **Eric E. Klein**, an assistant professor of physics at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis, Missouri; and **Robert J. Pizzutiello Jr**, president of Upstate Medical Physics in Victor, New York.

IN BRIEF

Baruch Blumberg, winner of the 1976 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine and director of NASA's Astrobiology Institute, was appointed as senior adviser to NASA Administrator **Daniel S. Goldin** in October. In this capacity, Blumberg will help NASA's newly created Office of Biological and Physical Research to develop an interdisciplinary research program that will bring together physics, chemistry, biology, and engineering. He will also continue as director of the institute.

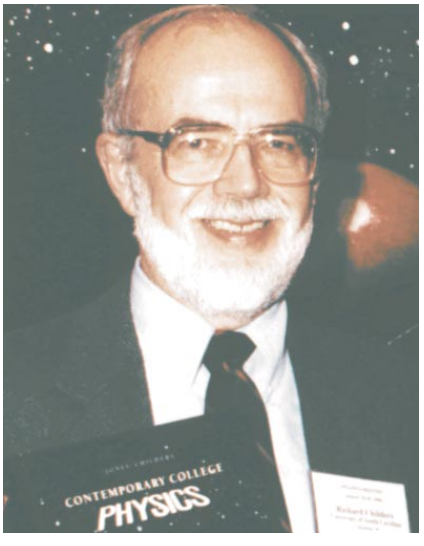
Robert H. Romer, editor of the *American Journal of Physics* since 1 June 1988, will be retiring on 30 June both as editor and as a professor of physics at Amherst College. Following his retirement, he plans to go "back to the lab," he says. **Jan Tobochnik**, a professor of physics and computer science at Kalamazoo College, will take over the editorship on 1 July.

This year's Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology (Theoretical) and Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology (Experimental) were awarded this past November at the eighth Foresight Conference on Molecular Nanotechnology in Bethesda, Maryland, in recognition of "major advances in the ability to build useful devices and structures with atomic precision," according to the Foresight Institute, which sponsors the prize. The theoretical prize went to **Uzi Landman**, Regents and Institute Professor of Physics and Fuller E. Callaway Chair at the Georgia Institute of Technology, for "his pioneering work in computational materials science for nanostructures. Such computer modeling provides deep insights into the nature and properties of matter at the nanoscale, and is essential in predicting what could be built at the molecular level, reducing time spent on expensive 'wet' lab experiments." The experimental prize went to the multidisciplinary team of **R. Stanley Williams**, director of the Quantum Science Research Laboratory at HP Labs in Palo Alto, California; **Philip Kuekes**, a senior scientist in the Quantum Science Research Laboratory; and **James Heath**, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UCLA. They were cited for "building a molecular switch, a major step toward their long-term goal of building entire memory chips that are just a hundred nanometers wide, smaller than a bacterium."

OBITUARIES

Richard Lee Childers

Richard Lee Childers, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of South Carolina (USC) who had a lifelong interest in the history of physics and was an avid collector of antique physics apparatus, died in Columbia, South Carolina, of lung cancer on 19 February 2000.



RICHARD LEE CHILDERS

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, on 10 December 1930, Richard obtained three degrees in physics: a BA from Presbyterian College in 1953, an MS from the University of Tennessee in 1956, and a PhD from Tennessee in 1962. In 1963, he became an assistant professor of physics at USC and then an associate professor in 1966. He served from 1968 to 1970 as the director of the USC honors program before the present Honors College was established (in 1977).

From the mid-1960s until the early 1970s, Richard collaborated with other members of the USC intermediate energy group, first on the Cosmotron at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Because of a lack of funds, however, the group had to bootleg time on the Cosmotron, borrowing the University of Rochester's spectrometer—which was installed on the beam line at the Cosmotron—and its ancillary electronic equipment when beam time was assigned. The group later collaborated on the cyclotron at NASA's Space Radiation Effects Laboratory in Newport News, Virginia. One time the group members were told they could run on the cyclotron if they went there immediately. So they loaded their equipment onto a colleague's plane, flew up to the cyclotron in Virginia, and were running within four hours.

A permanent faculty member at USC, Richard conducted research as a "suitcase physicist," traveling to laboratories for short intervals when beam times were available for specific experiments. From 1972 to 1978, he worked at USC on problems connected with acoustics. His research in high-energy physics took him to Europe in the late 1970s, where he worked with Colgate W. Darden III on the Argus Detector at the German Electron Synchrotron (DESY). This effort represented the