## North American Women Sweep Top Honors at Intel Competition

For the first time in the history of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the top three award winners were women. Each of the three high-school students won an Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award at the fair, held last May in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Elena Glassman** from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, **Lisa Glukhovsky** from New Milford, Connecticut, and **Anila Madiraju** from Montreal each won a $50 000 scholarship and a personal computer.

For her project, Glukhovsky, a junior, used simultaneous images of near-Earth objects (asteroids) from two observatory sites and a computer spreadsheet she created to determine the distance from Earth to asteroids. Her results closely agreed with NASA predictions.

Glassman, a junior, designed a computer science project that used electrical signals from the brain to detect whether a person intends to make a left-handed or right-handed movement. A potential application is to enable handicapped individuals to operate a computer. Madiraju, a senior, showed that a method involving the use of a type of RNA to target and kill cancerous cells is effective without the toxic side effects typically associated with anticancer drugs.

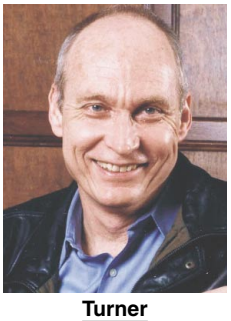
BOB GOLDBERG

**Intel trio.** Anila Madiraju, Elena Glassman, and Lisa Glukhovsky (left to right), all 17, each won an Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award.

This year, students from 36 countries competed for $3 million in scholarships and awards. Next year's competition will be held in Portland, Oregon, in May. **Anthony Tweed**

# News Notes

**Turner goes to Washington.** University of Chicago astrophysicist Michael Turner has been named to a two-year term as NSF's assistant director for mathematical and physical sciences (MPS). Turner, who recently chaired the National Research Council's committee on physics of the universe, will take over as head of the $1 billion directorate on 1 October. The directorate supports research in physics, chemistry, astronomy, materials science, mathematics, and several interdisciplinary fields.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**Turner**

"I believe there is a special opportunity to give the physical sciences a boost and realize some great opportunities for discovery, and I think I can make a difference," Turner said after his appointment was announced in late June. "NSF is in a unique position to articulate the importance of research in the physical sciences to the nation and to lead the effort to ensure that they are properly supported."

Turner will take a leave of absence from the University of Chicago, where he chairs the department of astronomy and astrophysics. He is also a senior scientist at Fermilab. Turner succeeds Robert Eisenstein, who headed the directorate from 1997 to 2002. Acting assistant director John Hunt will remain in the job until Turner arrives. **JLD**

**Weapons labs security review.** In response to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham's June directive, Linton Brooks, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, has ordered a significant tightening of security procedures at the three national weapons laboratories. The order is part of a five-part initiative intended to "reinforce current safeguards and security oversight." The labs, Sandia, Los Alamos, and Lawrence Livermore, have all been plagued with security problems for the past few years (see PHYSICS TODAY, February 2003, page 22).

"There have been a wealth of studies of security in the weapons complex over the years, including outside commissions, internal review teams, and investigative reports . . . but it is clear that not all the good ideas have been implemented," Brooks said. "I have directed a team to review the many recommendations and devise a plan for implementing any sound ideas that we have not yet undertaken."

In addition to ordering more surveillance and making changes in how security is managed, Brooks established two review groups to look at longer-range security issues. One panel will review physical security and materials control at the labs, and the other will develop recommendations for recruiting security personnel. **JLD**

**CERN outreach globe.** For its 50th birthday, CERN, the European particle physics laboratory near Geneva, is receiving a 27-meter globe from Switzerland. The lab's proposal for the globe—created as the Palais de l'Equilibre for the country's national exhibition last year in Neuchâtel—won a competition. At CERN it will be rechristened as the Globe of Innovation and will house a visitors' center and quarters for networking with industry and promoting technology transfer. As part of the expanded visitor facilities, a new neighboring building will offer views of the Large

CERN AND HERVÉ DESSIMOZ, ARCHITECT