

Bienenstock Is New APS Vice President

Arthur I. Bienenstock, a proponent of openness in research and a former longtime director of the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory, took office as vice president of the American Physical Society on 1 January. He will become president-elect in 2007 and president in 2008.



Bienenstock

Ken Cole, special assistant to the executive officer of the APS,

said this year's slate of officers was rearranged slightly as a result of the death last August of **John Bahcall**, the society's 2005 president-elect. **John Hopfield**, who was vice president at the time (see PHYSICS TODAY, February 2005, page 80), replaced Bahcall as president-elect for the rest of the year and now serves as APS president for 2006. **Leo Kadanoff** was named president-elect for 2006 and becomes president in 2007.

The vice provost and dean of research and graduate policy at Stanford University, where he also holds a joint appointment at SSRL and in the departments of materials science and applied physics, Bienenstock said some of his primary concerns include developing strong federal funding for physics and engineering research, maintaining a strong science and technology workforce, and balancing national security requirements with the need for research without restrictions or secrecy.

"A sustained effort against terrorism requires a strong economy and advanced technology, [and] a strong economy and technological leadership require the federal government to provide healthy research funding and to seek to ensure an effective science and technology workforce," Bienenstock said in a prepared statement after his election. He said a strong S&T workforce needs to continue to attract women and minorities. Bienenstock also called for an ongoing exploration of nuclear energy.

Bienenstock received his doctorate in applied physics from Harvard University in 1962. A year later, he began

teaching in Harvard's division of engineering and applied physics, and in 1967 he joined Stanford's materials science and applied physics departments. He chaired Stanford's committee on undergraduate admissions and financial aid and served as the university's vice provost for faculty affairs and faculty affirmative-action officer.

Throughout much of that time, he was also an associate director of the SSRL. In 1978, he became director of the lab, a position he held until 1997. In 1992, SSRL was incorporated into SLAC and he became a SLAC associate director. From 1997 to 2001 Bienenstock was associate director for science of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and from 2001 to 2003, when he accepted his present position, he was director of Stanford's Geballe Laboratory for Advanced Materials.

Bienenstock served as APS general counselor; was on the APS's committees on applications of physics, audits, and public affairs; and served as chair of the ethics committee.

In other APS election news, **Margaret Murnane** was named chair-elect of the APS nominating committee for 2006. Murnane is a JILA fellow and a member of the physics department faculty at the University of Colorado. Two general councilors were selected by the society's members to serve three-year terms beginning in 2006: **Christina Back**, center head of high-energy-density physics targets and research at General Atomics in San Diego, California, and **Wendell T. Hill III**, professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, with appointments in the Institute for Physical Science and Technology and the physics department.

Alferness Elected To OSA Vice Presidency

Rod C. Alferness, senior vice president of optical networking research at Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs, was inducted in January as vice president of the Optical Society of America for 2006. Alferness will be president-elect in 2007 and president in 2008.

An elected member of the OSA board of directors from 2001 through 2003, Alferness has chaired several

OSA program committees, including CLEO, photonics in switching, and fellows and honorary members. He was also on the board of editors and the Tyndall Award selection committee. Alferness was the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Lightwave Technology* and an associate editor of *Optics Letters* and *Photonics Technology Letters*.



Alferness

Alferness received his BS in physics in 1968 from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and later earned his masters degree and PhD in physics from the University of Michigan. Alferness is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and is a fellow of the IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS). He has served as an elected member of the LEOS administrative committee and on program committees for various conferences.

In a recent interview with OSA's *Optics & Photonics News*, Alferness said OSA "needs to continue focusing on new members and the dissemination of information through good journals and good conferences."

OSA should provide networking opportunities for its members, Alferness added. "It becomes the body of the industry, the community that people look to for direction, help in finding jobs, and help in developing new skills," he said.

Also inducted in January, replacing three outgoing board members, were the society's new directors at large. **Kenneth G. H. Baldwin** is deputy director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics at the Australian National University, Canberra, and senior fellow at the atomic and molecular physics laboratories at ANU's Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering. **Philip Bucksbaum** is the director of the Ultrafast Science Center at Stanford University, a professor at SLAC and in Stanford's applied physics department, and the Peter Franken Distinguished Professor of Physics at the University of Michigan. **Ian Walmsley** is head of atomic and laser physics