

ASCB Members to Be Obama Science Advisors

If you were just elected President of the United States and wanted to reassert America's place as the world leader in science and technology, who would you call? In December, then President-elect Obama called on ASCB members Harold Varmus and Eric Lander.

Varmus and Lander will serve as Co-Chairs of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). They join John Holdren, who will be Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Holdren will also serve as a Co-Chair of PCAST.

In announcing these appointments, Obama said, "Together, they will work to remake PCAST into a vigorous external advisory

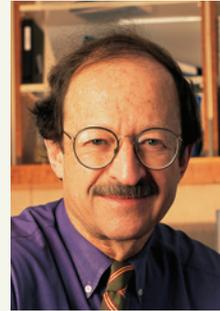
council that will shape my thinking on scientific aspects of my policy priorities."

Obama went on to say, "Because the truth is that promoting science isn't just about providing resources—it's about protecting free and open inquiry. It's about ensuring that facts and evidence are never twisted or obscured by politics or ideology. It's about listening to what our scientists have to say, even when it's inconvenient—especially when it's inconvenient. Because the highest purpose of science is the search for knowledge, truth and a greater understanding of the world around us. That will be my goal as President of the United States—and I could not have a better team to guide me in this work." ■

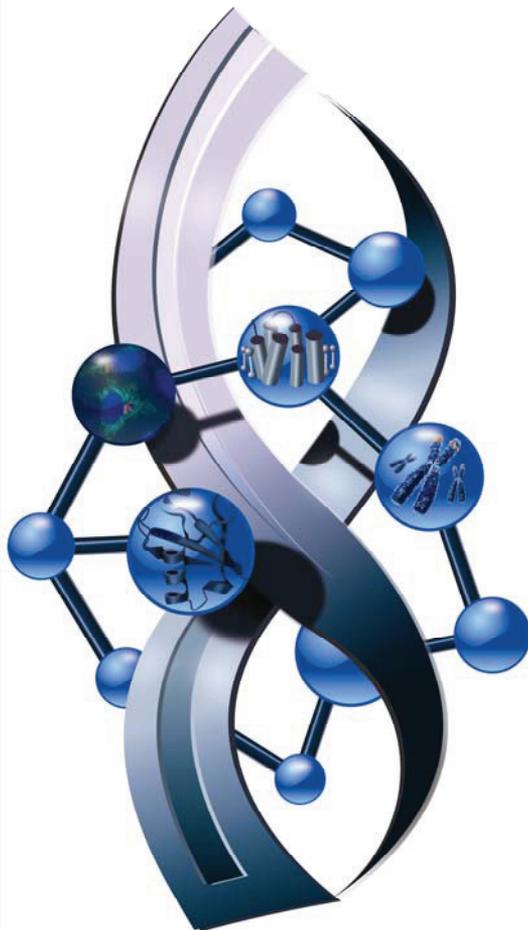
—Kevin M. Wilson



Eric Lander



Harold Varmus



Can Enzo® accelerate your discovery environment?

Absolutely.

Our CELLestial™ brand of molecular and cellular probes provide you with a diverse selection of labeling and detection solutions.

Learn about our new products in **Booth #2043** at the 48th Annual Meeting for the American Society for Cell Biology.



ASCB Briefs Obama Team on Stem Cell Policy

When the President-elect calls, you answer. Early last month, the ASCB was asked to meet with the Obama Presidential Transition Team (PTT) to brief members on potential options for a Presidential Executive Order regarding federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research. The current policy, issued by President Bush in August 2001, restricts federally funded stem cell research to human embryonic cell lines derived before August 9, 2001.

ASCB Past President Elaine Fuchs, ASCB Public Policy Committee member George Daley, and ASCB Public Policy Director Kevin Wilson were part of a small group of stem cell researchers and policy professionals who met with National Institutes of Health (NIH) Transition Team members Francis Collins, Alta Charo, Greg Simon, and ASCB member Harold Varmus.

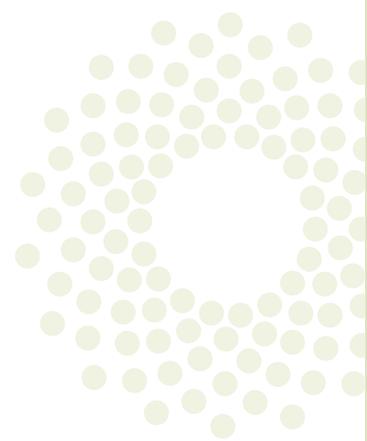
The group's overall message to the PTT was that it is critically important to remove politics from scientific decision making. The group specifically asked that the President-elect:

- Issue a "clean" Executive Order overturning the Bush embryonic stem cell policy and

directing the NIH to develop guidelines for federally funded stem cell research. Obama should also make it clear to the NIH that, when developing guidelines, NIH should only consider the science and not be concerned with the political ramifications of the guidelines.

- Be supportive of any efforts by Congress to remove the Dickey-Wicker provision of the annual Departments of Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. The Dickey-Wicker language prohibits the use of federal funds to create, harm, or destroy human embryos.
 - Be supportive of legislation Congress might adopt that would enact his Executive Order into federal statute. This would prevent a future president from overturning the Obama Executive Order for political reasons.
 - Be supportive of increased funding for biomedical research and science in general.
- At presstime, the details of the Obama Executive Order remained unclear. ■

—Kevin M. Wilson

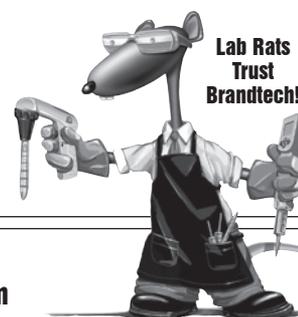


Smooth, sensitive meniscus control

With the BRAND **accu-jet® pro** motorized pipette controller

- Simple soft blow-out protects cell pellets
- Continuously variable, touch-sensitive speed control
- No meniscus jumping, even with low volume pipettes
- Sculpted handle for comfort – no hard edges
- 8 hours per charge, with low-charge LED warning

For a limited time, we'll even send you you a FREE **accu-jet® pro** when you buy three from leading lab dealers. Available in royal blue, dark blue, magenta and forest green accents.



BRANDTECH
SCIENTIFIC, INC.

Toll Free (888) 522-2726
Product & promotion details at www.brandtech.com