

Bruce Alberts: International Man of Science

Bruce Alberts, an ASCB past president, can now add “diplomat” to his lengthy list of accomplishments.

In early November, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at the Forum for the Future in Marrakech, Morocco. She used her remarks to outline a series of outreach initiatives the U.S. State Department is undertaking in response to U.S. President Barack Obama’s speech in Cairo, Egypt, earlier in the year. In that speech, Obama called for a new relationship between the U.S. and Muslim communities around the world.

One of the programs Secretary Clinton announced was the establishment of a science envoys program. She also announced the



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first three envoys: *Science* Editor-In-Chief and University of California, San Francisco, Professor Bruce Alberts; Elias Zerhouni, former Director of the U.S. National Institutes of



Elias Zerhouni

Health (NIH); and Ahmed Zewail, 1999 Nobel laureate in Chemistry. In announcing the envoys, Secretary Clinton said, “Each of these men has agreed to travel to North Africa, the Middle East, [and] South and Southeast Asia

to fulfill President Obama’s mandate to foster scientific and technological collaboration.”

Clinton also announced that the State Department would also be expanding the number of environment, science, technology, and health officers at U.S. embassies around the world. ■

—Kevin M. Wilson

And The Tote Board Says...

The data are only preliminary, but indications are that the \$10.4 billion the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are working.

The NIH reports on the NIH ARRA website that it has issued \$4.35 billion in grants to 12,788 projects. Sixty percent of the FY09 ARRA funds are supporting new science and the remaining 40% are accelerating the science of existing projects.

The goal of the ARRA program is to improve the U.S. economy. And the NIH estimates that, based on this early data, its portion of the ARRA bill will create or retain about 50,000 jobs during the two years of the program.

The NIH estimates that it received and reviewed over 20,000 Challenge Grant

applications and awarded over \$389 million to 840 projects. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute issued 136 grants totaling just over \$65 million, the highest number of grants by any institute.

The NIH also received more than 2,000 applications for Grand Opportunities (GO) grants, which fund large-scale, high-impact research. Three hundred and seventy-six projects received GO Grant funds. The National Cancer Institute issued the most GO Grants of any institute, awarding 71 grants worth almost \$90 million. The ASCB was a recipient for *The Cell: An Image Library*. For more information, see www.ascb.org.

To read the complete report, go to http://report.nih.gov/PDF/Preliminary_NIH_ARRA_FY2009_Funding.pdf. ■

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