LabUPDATE

ISSUE 1 – FEBRUARY 2003

News from the University of California Office of the President about the Berkeley, Livermore and Los Alamos national laboratories

For complete information on the following items visit www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/losalamos and other indicated sites.

RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS

Los Alamos, Livermore team up for homeland security: A biological detection system developed by the Los Alamos and Livermore labs is at the ready for deployment at sites and events nationwide as part of the homeland security effort. The technology – which President Bush cited in his State of the Union address – reduces the time for detecting a bioagent release from days or weeks to less than a day. This more rapid detection allows public health officials to have much faster warning and could mean the difference between life and death for people in any contaminated area. The system was used in Salt Lake City during the Winter Olympic Games and in New York City after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

LBNL researchers promote energy efficiency for Oakland: Berkeley lab researchers are key partners in a program to help Oakland businesses and residents become more energy-efficient. Lab researchers are providing technical expertise to bring energy and cost savings to street lighting and public and private office, medical, hotel, educational and retail buildings in the city. Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown said, "The Partnership will put four million dollars a year in energy cost savings back in the pockets of Oakland businesses and residences. It will strengthen the city's economy by moving it closer to sustainability."

Combating nuclear threats: The UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, a statewide research center for international affairs at UC San Diego, has received a National Science Foundation grant to train graduate students who will be the next

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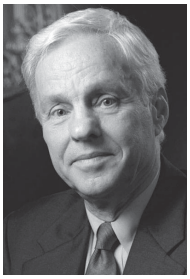
Message from the president



Welcome to the first issue of "Lab Update," a periodic newsletter about the University of California-managed national laboratories. This newsletter is intended for all those interested in the activities of the laboratories at Berkeley, Livermore, and Los Alamos, and I hope it helps keep you informed about developments at these laboratories.

As you may know, much attention has been given recently to problems in the business practices of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Since learning of these problems, I have initiated aggressive action to make the necessary corrections. The University is determined to take the steps required to ensure that the business practices of all the UC-managed laboratories are of the same high quality as the scientific and technical programs at the laboratories. We are making significant progress, as you will read below.

The University of California is proud of its 60-year partnership with the federal government in the interest of science and national security. The laboratories' contributions to our nation are particularly important at this critical moment in international affairs. The University will continue working with Congress, the Department of Energy, and all other interested parties to resolve the issues that have been raised and to maximize the effectiveness of the University's management of the laboratories.

I appreciate your interest and support, and hope you will find these periodic updates useful.

Richard C. Atkinson
President

MANAGEMENT NEWS

UC's sweeping management changes continue at Los Alamos

In response to reported shortcomings in the business practices of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the University of California continues to take swift and decisive actions to put in place a strong management team and measures that will ensure improved business practices at the laboratory. The University's objective is to restore the full confidence of American taxpayers in the business practices of the laboratory.

UC will continue to work closely with the Department of Energy, Congress, and law enforcement on these matters. The University welcomes any credible information, including from former and current laboratory employees, about inappropriate practices at any of the laboratories it manages. UC will partner fully with the appropriate agencies to identify potential problems and make necessary reforms.

What follows is a summary of UC actions to improve the business operations of the Los Alamos lab.

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RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS *(continued from front)*

generation of policymakers, scholars and international security analysts to deal with the continuing worldwide nuclear threat. In implementing the program, the institute will work with the science and social science departments on UC campuses and benefit from interdisciplinary seminars, policy workshops and internships at the Livermore and Los Alamos labs.

Los Alamos employees fund New Mexico scholarships: A program established and funded by donations from Los Alamos lab employees and retirees will award $100,000 in scholarships this spring to students from seven counties and eight Native American pueblos in northern New Mexico. The Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, created by UC, administers the scholarship program, now in its fifth year. Past scholarship recipients currently attend some of the nation's most prestigious universities, including UC campuses.

Innovations of LBNL, other labs win award: Two Berkeley lab technologies have won the Federal Laboratory Consortium's technology transfer award this year. The judges for this award consider the significance of the technology's impact on society as well as the success of the transfer of the technology from research lab to the public. The first technology is the extreme ultraviolet lithography tool — a joint effort by the Berkeley and Livermore labs, and the Sandia National Laboratory — which overcomes the limitations of lenses for printing smaller chip features by using coated mirrors to bend and focus the light. The second is VISTA, a user-friendly computer program that allows researchers to quickly compare the genomes of various organisms. VISTA was made available for use and web downloading through the efforts of a LBNL/UC Berkeley team and is now one of the most popular and widely praised comparative genomics tools available.

LANL helps forecast frequency of giant meteors: A system operated by the Los Alamos lab and used to "listen" for clandestine nuclear tests has played a key role in helping scientists more accurately determine how often Earth is hammered by giant meteors like the one that flattened 1,200 square miles of forest in Russia in 1908. Previously, scientists believed that such meteors entered Earth's atmosphere every 200 to 300 years. Now, in a paper in the journal Nature, Los Alamos researcher Doug ReVelle and his colleagues have collected evidence indicating that these catastrophic meteor strikes occur less frequently — about every thousand years.

For more news and information visit these sites:

University of California: www.universityofcalifornia.edu
U.S. Department of Energy: www.energy.gov
National Nuclear Security Administration: www.nnsa.doe.gov
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: www.lbl.gov
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory: www.llnl.gov
Los Alamos National Laboratory: www.lanl.gov

Please direct questions about this newsletter to Rick Malaspina, University of California Office of the President, (510) 987-9232, rick.malaspina@ucop.edu

MANAGEMENT NEWS *(continued from front)*

Lab personnel changes

Several changes have been made in the on-site lab management:

- The appointment of an interim lab director – retired Vice Admiral George P. "Pete" Nanos, following the resignations of Director John Browne and Principal Deputy Director Joseph Salgado.
- Reassignments of senior personnel and organizational changes, including direct reporting of functions to UC senior officials, in the lab functions related to audits and assessments, security inquiries, and business management, including budgeting, accounting and systems, property management, procurement, and shipping and receiving.
- The reinstatement of Los Alamos investigators Glenn Walp and Steven Doran together with meetings between them and UC officials to learn first-hand about their allegations and the circumstances surrounding their dismissals.

UC governance changes

UC has taken a number of steps to strengthen its oversight of the national labs. These include:

- The appointment of longtime senior administrator Bruce B. Darling, senior vice president for university affairs, as interim vice president for laboratory management.
- The appointment of Robert Kuckuck, former acting principal deputy administrator at the National Nuclear Security Administration, as a senior UC advisor.
- The formation of an oversight board to help guide Interim Director Nanos on general laboratory management issues. The panel consists of three members of the UC Board of Regents – Richard C. Blum, Gerald Parsky and Peter Preuss – UC San Diego Chancellor Robert Dynes, a physicist; and Sidney D. Drell, a Stanford University professor emeritus of physics and a noted arms control advisor.

Progress on identifying problems

UC continues to work to identify problems in business and security practices at Los Alamos. Key areas subject to review include, but are not limited to, allegations about the inappropriate use of purchase cards, criminal activities related to the lab's purchasing system and improper property management.

Hotline activated for employee concerns

In addition to reaffirming to lab employees UC's interest in receiving information about any suspected improprieties and to informing them of avenues available to make a report, UC has added the Los Alamos and Livermore labs to the University of California AlertLine Ethics and Compliance Hotline. The service, operated independently by the Pinkerton company, assures confidentiality and acts as an intermediary for the institution. Callers need not identify themselves but can receive information on the status of reported matters through the use of an assigned case number. The Berkeley lab has a comparable service operated by an independent agency.