



Memo

Date: January 25, 2005

To: All Employees

From: Praveen Chaudhari *Praveen Chaudhari*

Subject: Associate Laboratory Director of High Energy & Nuclear Physics

I am pleased to announce that Physics Department Chair Sam Aronson has agreed to become Brookhaven's next Associate Laboratory Director for High Energy and Nuclear Physics. Sam will succeed Thomas Kirk, who will step down after more than 10 years of dedicated service.

Since Sam is on sabbatical until the end of March, I have asked Satoshi Ozaki to serve as acting ALD and oversee the day-to-day operations of the directorate. Sam will assume full responsibility when he returns to BNL, but I know that the directorate is in good hands until that time with Satoshi at the helm.

I would like to thank Tom for the significant contributions he has made to the Laboratory since becoming ALD in 1994. Under his watch, the Laboratory saw some of its finest moments in physics, including the commissioning of RHIC and four spectacular physics runs (with the fifth now underway) that have stimulated enormous interest in the worldwide physics community; hints of physics beyond the Standard Model from the muon g-2 collaboration and the rare-K decay experiment; and an ongoing collaboration building the ATLAS detector for the Large Hadron Collider, due to begin operation at CERN later this decade. Tom also developed a vision for the future of the program, and has actively pursued several potential long-range projects.

Sam has been a key leader for this Laboratory, both as an administrator of his department, as the Project Director of the PHENIX detector construction, and as the head of BNL's PHENIX detector group during RHIC's construction. He has continued his research role with the PHENIX collaboration, and has been a reliable and successful communicator of RHIC's successes to the scientific community and to the broader public. I know that Sam will bring that same dedication to the position of ALD, and provide strong leadership as we enter a new era of scientific investigation for the Laboratory.

A resident of Poquott, Sam Aronson earned his B.A. in physics from Columbia University in 1964, and his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University, in 1968. From 1968 to 1972, he worked at the University of Chicago's Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies as a research associate. He then moved to the University of Wisconsin, where he was on the faculty until 1977.

Aronson joined Brookhaven's Accelerator Department in 1978 as an associate physicist, and was named physicist in 1979. He joined the Physics Department in 1982, was appointed associate chair of the department in 1987, and deputy chair in 1988. In 1991, Aronson gave up this position and, as a senior physicist, served as leader of the PHENIX group and director of the PHENIX project during the construction of RHIC, a challenge he successfully completed before he became chair of the Physics Department. In 2000, Aronson was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society.