

In Memoriam

Richard Gordon Darman

1943–2008

Richard Gordon Darman, a financial executive with a distinguished career in public service and a Trustee of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, died January 25, 2008, in Washington, D.C. He was 64.

Darman was a partner of The Carlyle Group, a global private equity firm, and chairman of the board of AES Corp., an international power company. He became an HHMI Trustee in 2005, served as chairman of the Institute's Audit and Compensation Committee, and was also a member of its Finance Committee.

Throughout his tenure in the federal government, Darman played key roles in the development of tax, spending, and economic policies. He served four presidents, holding positions in the White House, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and six cabinet departments.

As deputy treasury secretary during the Reagan Administration, Darman was recognized with the Treasury's highest

award, the Alexander Hamilton medal, for his contributions to the 1986 Tax Reform Act and two international monetary policy accords. Darman subsequently served as director of OMB in the administration of President George H.W. Bush from 1989 to 1993 and was the principal executive branch negotiator for the 1990 budget agreement.

Darman joined The Carlyle Group in 1993. He became a member of the AES board in 2002 and was elected chairman in 2003. Darman was also a trustee of several publicly traded mutual fund groups and was the current chairman of the board of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Darman graduated with honors from Harvard College in 1964 and from the Harvard Business School in 1967. A former fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, he wrote widely about public policy and politics. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Emmet, and three sons, William T.E. Darman, Jonathan W.E. Darman, and C.T. Emmet Darman.

HHMI Offers Boost to Early Career Scientists

MANY EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS LAUNCH their own labs with start-up funds from their host institution. That support is provided with the expectation that the scientist will establish his or her own research program with independent funding. In the current funding climate, that transition has become a daunting hurdle. Now, a \$300-million HHMI initiative aims to eliminate that stumbling block for as many as 70 of the nation's best early career faculty, chosen through a national competition.

The new program is directed at researchers who have run their own labs for two to six years and who may be ready to move their research in creative, new directions. The scientists will come from any of approximately 200 eligible U.S. medical schools, universities, and research institutions.

The six-year, nonrenewable appointments to HHMI will allow the scientists,

most of whom will be assistant professors at the time of the award, to receive full salary and research support from HHMI. In selecting the early career scientists, HHMI will be guided by the principle of people, not projects—providing the early career scientists with the freedom to pursue their scientific interests wherever they lead.

This initiative comes at a critical time. Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's largest supporter of basic biomedical research, has remained essentially flat during the last five years, unable to keep up with inflation. Nowhere has the impact of this constrained funding been felt more intensely than by early career scientists who are competing with their peers and more experienced researchers to win research project (R01) grants from NIH.

HHMI President Thomas R. Cech and his advisors saw this as a clear opportunity.

“Many of these scientists who have led their own laboratories for a few years are at a high point of their creativity just as they see their start-up funds and other early career awards ending,” says Cech. “Some of them may still be in line for their first NIH R01 grant, while others may have their first grant but are facing the very challenging first renewal of that grant. It is this period of career vulnerability that the HHMI Early Career Scientist Program aims to bridge.”

HHMI is seeking scientists from all areas of basic biology and biomedicine as well as areas of chemistry, physics, computer science, and engineering that are directly related to biology or medicine. Candidates can apply directly to HHMI, a new approach the Institute used successfully in 2006 and 2007 competitions, broadening its pool of applicants by moving away from accepting nominations only from applicants' host institutions.

Detailed information about the competition, including the list of eligible institutions, may be found on the HHMI Website (www.hhmi.org/earlycareer2009/). ■