

Alison F. Richard Elected as HHMI Trustee



PROFESSOR ALISON F. RICHARD, VICE-CHANCELLOR of the University of Cambridge, has been elected a Trustee of HHMI. She is one of nine Trustees of the Institute, a medical research organization dedicated to discovering and disseminating knowledge in the life sciences.

Richard, 60, spent more than 30 years at Yale University before 2003, when she became Cambridge's 344th vice-chancellor, the chief academic and administrative officer of the university. Richard is the first

woman to hold the position on a full-time basis in Cambridge's 800-year history.

As vice-chancellor, Richard has led several notable initiatives at the university, including the introduction of a needs-based financial aid program for undergraduates, the launch of a \$2 billion fundraising campaign, and governance reforms.

Born in Kent, Richard was educated in England and trained as an anthropologist, earning her undergraduate degree at Cambridge and a doctorate from the University of London. She joined the faculty of Yale University in 1972, becoming a full professor in 1986. She was named director of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in 1990 and was credited with bringing new vitality to its storied collection. In 1994, Yale President Richard Levin appointed her as provost with responsibility for overseeing the university's budget and educational policies.

Richard is a world authority on the evolution of complex social systems among primates. She is best known for her research on lemurs in Madagascar, but she has also

done field studies in Central America, West Africa, and the foothills of the Himalayas. She has written numerous articles and two major books on the subject, including *Primates in Nature* (W.H. Freeman, 1985).

The University of Cambridge's reputation for outstanding academic achievement is known worldwide and reflects the intellectual achievement of its students as well as the research of its faculty. Members of the university have won more than 80 Nobel Prizes.

As the university approaches its 800th anniversary in 2009, it is looking to the future. Cambridge today is an international center of teaching and research in a vast range of subjects; about half the students study science or technology.

In partnership with Cambridge, HHMI offers a program leading to the Ph.D. through its Janelia Farm Research Campus. It is designed for a small number of well-prepared, highly committed students who spend one year at Cambridge (or the University of Chicago) and then conduct thesis research at Janelia Farm. ■

HHMI Donates \$1 Million for Flood Relief

FLOODWATERS SWEEPED ACROSS THE MIDWEST this summer, leaving Iowa drenched. While the biomedical research facilities at the University of Iowa escaped the worst of the water damage seen elsewhere, researchers there were still hard-hit by the shutting down of the university power plant, which provides the steam necessary for hot water, autoclaves, and temperature control in labs.

To help the biomedical research community recover from the effects of the flood, HHMI donated \$1 million to the University of Iowa and the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine.

"Given the magnitude of the flood and its devastating effect on the UI campus, we needed to participate in the recovery," says HHMI President Thomas Cech.

The contribution allows temporary heating and cooling systems to be installed at the medical school campus so that scientists—including HHMI investigators Kevin Campbell, Val Sheffield, Edwin Stone, and Michael Welsh—can continue their research.

Campbell, the head of molecular physiology and biophysics at UI, originally alerted HHMI to the severe consequences of the flooding. University officials then kept HHMI updated on the effects of the flooding and the recovery process.

"We are extremely grateful to HHMI for this generous contribution," says Paul Rothman, dean of the Carver College of Medicine. "The speed at which HHMI responded to our request for help speaks volumes to the Institute's commitment to sustaining and fostering biomedical research across the nation."

The total flood damage at the university is estimated at \$231 million, and it's unknown how much of the damage will be covered by insurance and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Donations from other organizations and individuals—totaling more than \$767,000 as of the end of August—have been given to students, faculty, and staff who lost their homes or possessions in the flood. ■