



# ENSURING THE BEST PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDICINE APPOINTMENTS IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

*The National Academies of*  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

## KEY SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDICINE POSITIONS

---

Since 1992, the NAS/NAE/NAM Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine and Public Policy (or its predecessor) has issued a report every four years to support the presidential transition in the White House. The report has laid out the opportunities and roadblocks for enlisting senior scientists, engineers, and medical leaders to serve in senior positions of the government.

A valuable element of each of those reports was a listing of the most important policy-making positions for which scientists and engineers would bring unique strengths to deliberations on national policies and leadership of key agencies. The list in this pamphlet is based on those developed for the 2008 edition (<http://www.nap.edu/read/12481>), updated to reflect the retitling of positions and the creation of new agencies.

The following list includes the most critical federal science, technology, and medicine appointments. The positions include both presidential and non-presidential appointments (but not career appointments) that are important for development of S&T-based policy. The secretaries of the various mission agencies are not included in the list even though they have major responsibilities for the health of the research enterprise.

In general, those listed are presidential appointees (PA) or presidential appointees with Senate confirmation (PAS). The goals of the list are to provide guidance to those involved in the appointment process about the most critical positions from the perspective of the S&T community, to encourage timely appointments to the positions, and to suggest policy positions beyond those traditionally filled with scientists and engineers for which such appointments may be considered.

The following appointment categories are used:

PAS = presidential appointment with Senate confirmation

PA = presidential appointment without Senate confirmation

FT = fixed term appointment, with length of appointment indicated

NA = Non-career appointment

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST)	PA
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)	PAS
Associate Directors, Office of Science and Technology Policy (4)	PAS
President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (part-time)	PA
Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors	PAS
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality	PAS
Director and Deputy Director, National Economic Council	PA
Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs	PA
Administrator, OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs	PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics	PAS
Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	PA [FT = 6 yrs]

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere/Administrator, NOAA	PAS
Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	PAS
Director, Bureau of the Census	PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Assistant Secretary, Defense Research and Engineering	PAS
Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics	PAS
Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)	NA
Chief Information Officer	PAS
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs	PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Director, Institute of Education Sciences	PAS
---	-----

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

Under Secretary for Science and Energy	PAS
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	PAS
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management	PAS
Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy	PAS
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy	PAS
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)	PAS
Principal Deputy Administrator of NNSA	PAS
Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy	PAS
Director, Office of Science	PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Public Health and Science	PAS
Director, National Institutes of Health	PAS
Director, National Cancer Institute	PA
Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	PAS
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration	PAS
Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	PA

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

Under Secretary for Science and Technology	PAS
--	-----

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science	PAS
Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks	PAS
Director, U.S. Geological Survey	PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics	PAS
--	-----

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environment and  
Scientific Affairs

PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

PAS

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Under Secretary for Health

PAS [FT = 4 yrs]

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

Assistant Administrator for Research and Development

PAS

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

Administrator

PAS

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

Director  
National Science Board (24)

PAS [FT = 6 yrs]

PAS [FT = 6 yrs]

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Chair and Commissioners (4)

PAS [FT = 5 yrs]

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

---

The National Academy of Sciences was established in 1863 by an Act of Congress, signed by President Lincoln, as a private, nongovernmental institution to advise the nation on issues related to science and technology. Members are elected by their peers for outstanding contributions to research. Dr. Marcia McNutt is president.

The National Academy of Engineering was established in 1964 under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences to bring the practices of engineering to advising the nation. Members are elected by their peers for extraordinary contributions to engineering. Dr. C. D. Mote, Jr., is president.

The National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) was established in 1970 under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences to advise the nation on medical and health issues. Members are elected by their peers for distinguished contributions to medicine and health. Dr. Victor J. Dzau is president.

The three Academies work together as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conduct other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The National Academies also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding in matters of science, engineering, and medicine.

Learn more about the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine at [www.national-academies.org](http://www.national-academies.org).

*The National Academies of*  
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

The nation turns to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

[www.national-academies.org](http://www.national-academies.org)