

National Research Council names Goldstein to nanotechnology panel

1/21/05

Dr. Alan H Goldstein, who holds the Fierer Chair of Biomaterials Engineering in the School of Engineering at Alfred University, has been appointed by the National Research Council to a committee that will conduct an evaluation of the National Nanotechnology Initiative. This committee will also perform a one-time assessment of the need for standards, guidelines, or strategies for ensuring the responsible development of nanotechnology. This effort will include a workshop to study the technical feasibility of molecular self-assembly for the manufacture of materials and devices at the molecular scale. Goldstein's appointment to this panel is based on both the growing success of Alfred University's Biomedical Materials Engineering Science Program and his own popular articles on the science and ethics of nanotechnology, which includes a 2003 Shell-Economist Prize for his essay "Nature vs. Nanoengineering: Rebuilding Our World One Atom At A Time." "The appointment of this committee is far more important than many will appreciate," said Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, Alfred University president. "Thoughtful scientists must provide leadership in establishing a framework for public discourse about nanoscience in the complicated issues of standardization and, even more urgently, ethics. I can think of no one better prepared to exercise that leadership than Alan Goldstein." "I am honored by the opportunity to serve our nation in this capacity " said Goldstein. "It's going to be a challenge in its intellectual and time commitment, but representing AU at the highest national levels makes such an investment of effort worthwhile. The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University pioneered the engineering of ceramics and glass at the beginning of the 20th century and we are positioned to continue this tradition of excellence in the new millennium. "By creating the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), the United States government recognized the vast potential of this field," Goldstein added. "The NNI is a logical extension of the trend in science and engineering towards manipulating materials at the atomic level to create molecular machines that do new and amazing things. The biotechnology revolution is based on our understanding of the molecular biology of the gene, and materials science is moving along parallel lines. Coordinating and understanding the vast implications of nanotechnology will be one of the great intellectual challenges of the 21st century." "The current committee includes a distinguished membership that spans academia, industry, and the federal government. I am proud to have been selected to participate in this essential work," he said. "We are delighted that the National Resource Council has tapped one of our faculty members for this important committee," said Dr Alastair N. Cormack, dean of the School of Engineering at AU. "Dr Goldstein's appointment reflects the high regard in which our faculty and programs are held across the country. Dr Goldstein is certainly well-qualified for this task and we expect him to contribute significantly."