



Dear OSA Member,

Today U.S. President Barack Obama made a major policy speech at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. announcing his Administration's emphasis on investments in scientific research and development.

President Obama said he wants the U.S. to exceed the level of scientific innovation achieved at the height of the space race. "The commitment I am making today will fuel our success for another 50 years," he said. "This work begins with an historic commitment to basic science and applied research, from the labs of renowned universities to the proving grounds of innovative companies."

Highlights of the speech include:

- A goal to spend 3 percent of U.S. GDP on scientific research and development.
- Renewed commitment to keep on track the doubling of the budgets at three key scientific agencies – the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science.
- Support for the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPAE), a new program at the DOE, modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), that will focus on high-risk, high-reward, energy-related research.
- Support for grants to establish 46 Energy Frontier Research Centers, expected to employ 1,800 researchers and students, to "address current fundamental scientific roadblocks to clean energy and energy security."
- Support to strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs in the U.S., including funding to improve STEM teacher training, encourage more students to pursue science careers and modernize science laboratory classrooms in schools.
- The appointment of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), which will advise the President on "national strategies to nurture and sustain a culture of scientific innovation."

If you are interested in getting involved with OSA's global science policy efforts, please join our grassroots e-mail list, the Optics Legislative Network, or consider participating in this year's Capitol Hill Day event, June 3 – 4 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Rogan".

Elizabeth A. Rogan  
Executive Director  
The Optical Society