



Cyprus Institute associate appointed White House adviser

President-elect Barack Obama has appointed Nobelist Harold Varmus, one of the scientists involved in the creation of the Cyprus Institute, co-chair with John Holdren and Eric Lander of the president's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

Professor Varmus has played an important role in the shaping of the Cyprus Institute from its very inception. His involvement dates back to 2001, when he accepted to help scope one of the Institute's Research Centres - the Biological Sciences and Human Health Research. He was one of the principal and active participants in the 2002 Convocation of International Scholars that helped define the concept of the Institute. He maintained interest in the Institute and continues to support its development.

Harold Varmus, a co-recipient of a 1989 Nobel Prize for studies of the genetic basis of cancer, has served as president and chief executive of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York since January 2000 and Director of the National Institutes of Health under President Clinton.

He was the Guest Lecturer of the 2007 Annual Curien Lecture of the Cyprus Institute which was delivered in Nicosia. The topic of the lecture was "Realising the Promise of Modern Biology to Transform Medicine and Public Health" which

was given on February 9, 2007.

These choices, along with the naming of Nobel-prize laureate physicist Steven Chu last week to head the Department of Energy, underline the emphasis that the new US administration is placing on energy, climate change research and policies and the importance of genetic research. This is in complete reversal from the Bush administration, which refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and on his policies on stem cell research.



Prof. C.N. Papanicolas, president of The Cyprus Institute and Prof. Harold Varmus.