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I am excited and honored to have been invited to join the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. This is an important project for Japan and for the international scientific community.

My own experience provides background for a pioneering effort like this. I received my Ph.D. in chemistry from Harvard University and then moved to the Neurobiology Department at Harvard Medical School, where I became a professor. My research focused on chemical signaling between nerve cells, and I was the director of the Harvard Doctoral Program in Neuroscience. Then I left the laboratory to accept a position as a senior research executive at the Neurology Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The Neurology Institute is the sixth largest of the NIH institutes.

At NIH I led many initiatives to introduce new technologies and to establish shared resources supporting basic science and the development of new treatments for neurological disorders. In recent years I concentrated on new, multidisciplinary scientific initiatives that cross institutes and agencies. I implemented and was the co-director of the Blueprint for Neuroscience, which coordinates such efforts among 16 NIH Institutes and Centers that support neuroscience research. I developed and led the NIH Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats (CounterACT) Research Network, which involved cooperation with the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, and several other federal agencies. Throughout my career I have had an interest in technology transfer and intellectual property management, and I co-chaired the trans-NIH Technology Transfer Interest Group.

My first connection with Japan was personal. My wife, Hidemi, is Japanese. Although she has her own career, from the time I was a graduate student, she has provided key support. She has helped me understand and appreciate Japan. I have participated in several scientific interactions with Japan. I was a visiting lecturer, in English, in courses at Tokyo Medical and Dental University (Tokyo Ikashika Daigaku) and at Sapporo Medical School. I established the U.S. side of the partnership for the US-JAPAN Brain Research Cooperative Program, which supports joint U.S.-Japan collaborations, and I coordinated several joint efforts with Japanese companies.

This experience provides background for taking on the challenges of creating the new graduate university at OIST. My decision to come was influenced by the tremendous amount that has already been accomplished. The Board of Governors provided key guidance at the start, and Dr. Brenner has done a remarkable job of bringing the concepts into reality. The group of international PIs and researchers, the facilities, and the courses and workshops that are already in place by this second anniversary are impressive and provide the essential foundation on which the graduate university can be built. I want to emphasize that without this initial scientific research foundation it would be impossible to build a world-class graduate program. Now it is time to continue building other components of the graduate program, and I look forward to reporting on progress next

year on the third anniversary. The Japanese staff that have supported the progress so far must be recognized, both for their performance and for their ability to change and adapt to new ways of doing things that are required by a truly novel program like this.

The goal of OIST is to become best in the world as a graduate university, but this cannot occur if OIST is not also the best in Onna-son and in Okinawa. OIST must be a productive member of the community in Okinawa or the international effort will not succeed. OIST must build a cooperative relationship with the community in all aspects of the function of the university, and I will work to ensure that this is achieved.

In closing, I will say that I really like adventures. OIST is going to be a fantastic adventure. It is great to be here. Thank you all very much.



Governor Nakaima and Mrs. Hidemi Baughman listen to Dr. Baughman's speech.