



letter from the chairman of the board

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you the 2008 Annual Report of the Marine Biological Laboratory. You'll find that this was another exciting and productive year for the MBL, in spite of the economic decline that began having an impact on all of us over the past year.

The most thrilling event of 2008 had to be the announcement in October that MBL Distinguished Scientist Osamu Shimomura had been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery of green fluorescent protein. It was a stunning day in Woods Hole, complete with a press conference and an international media frenzy, which the staff handled beautifully. Gary Borisy and I were honored to be able to join Dr. and Mrs. Shimomura at the award ceremony in Stockholm later in the year.

The momentum continued in November when Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick came to the MBL to join our announcement that the Howard Hughes Medical Institute had awarded the MBL an unprecedented \$15 million to help renovate Loeb Laboratory. The Governor himself came bearing good news: that the Board of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center would be voting the next day to release \$10 million in support of that project, the result of a funding authorization in the recently signed Massachusetts Life Sciences legislation. I know the Board joins me in expressing our deep gratitude to the Governor, Senate President Therese Murray, the Cape delegation, and many others for their visionary leadership and efforts on behalf of the MBL.

Thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers and the far-sighted generosity of our donors, fundraising was at a record high in 2008. More than \$30.8 million was raised to support a variety of important initiatives at the MBL. This is a remarkable achievement and speaks to the confidence that individual donors, foundations, corporations, and the community at large have in the mission of the laboratory.

While the MBL has not been immune to the economic decline, the institution is weathering the storm reasonably well, thanks to strong leadership, successful fundraising, and careful budget management and oversight. With your continued support, I am confident the MBL will come through the economic crisis stronger than ever before, and even better able to fulfill its mission as a leader in biological research and education.

In closing, I wish to express my thanks to Richard DeWolfe, Mark Fishman, George Logan, and Robert Prendergast, whose terms on the Board of Trustees ended in 2008. And I welcome new members Robert Ament, Patrick Gage, Matthew Mallow, and Patricia Robertson to the Board. As always, I am grateful for the commitment that all Board members make to the MBL. We are a stronger institution thanks to your wisdom and guidance.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Rowe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John W. Rowe, M.D.