LOWELL T. HARMISON, PH.D.

DR. HARMISON IS CEO AND PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, INC. (USET) AND FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

USET IS ASSISTING UNIVERSITIES, INDUSTRIES AND GOVERNMENT IN APPLYING THE FRUITS OF THEIR RESEARCH AND THE BENEFITS OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TO THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SOCIETY. THIS IS CAPTURED BY OUR MOTTO, "SOLUTIONS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY."



Dr. Lowell T. Harmison was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health of the U.S. Public Health Service on October 8, 1986.

In this position, Dr. Harmison was the principal advisor and deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Health and shared responsibilities with him for direction of the activities of the Public Health Service, which includes the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. He provided leadership and policy guidance for other Departmental health programs and maintained relationships with other governmental and private agencies concerned with health. In the absence of the Assistant Secretary for Health, he was the principal Departmental advisor on health and served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Health. A notable accomplishment during his tenure has been development of the strategy and framework for implementing the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 to make accessible to the biomedical industry new ideas, knowledge, and results from biomedical research conducted and supported by the Public Health Service, providing benefits to patients and incentives for inventors, government, and industry.

Before being named Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Harmison was Science Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health, a key position concerning the direction of biomedical research which he had held since 1974. As Science Advisor, he focused on recombinant DNA and toxic substance issues, drug and vaccine research-and-development activities, biotechnology transfer, and other medical and health care delivery responsibilities. During this period, he also led the Public Health Service-industry team that translated the laboratory test for the AIDS virus antibody into an FDA-approved and commercially available screening test for the American and foreign blood supply.

Dr. Harmison was born March 20, 1937, in West Virginia. He is trained as an engineer, a physicist, and a biophysicist, receiving B.S. and M.S. degrees from West Virginia University in 1960 and 1961, respectively; a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1965; and postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan in 1966. He is also a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute (1973) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management (1985). His master's thesis produced the first work in the United States on radiation-induced polymerization of selected chemicals with wood. His doctoral dissertation involved the extension of neutron activation analysis to non-activable trace elements in blood and other media.

In the early 1960s, Dr. Harmison served on active duty as a U.S. Army field and air defense artillery officer and later worked for Pratt and Whitney, Martin-Marietta, and a private consulting firm. From 1967 to 1974, he worked for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. While there, he developed and tested the first completely implantable device to augment the function of the diseased heart and the totally implantable artificial heart. He holds the first U.S. and foreign patents for the completely implantable artificial heart.

Dr. Harmison is the author of more than 75 scientific publications and has edited two books: "The Artificial Heart Program" and "Research Animals in Medicine." He is a member of the U.S. Senior Executive Service and many professional and honorary societies. He has been the recipient of numerous achievement awards and served on many select governmental and intergovernmental committees.

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