

PREFACE

Science and technology have served the Nation well in war and in peace. The Federal role in U.S. science and technology is essential and unique, enabling broad and sustained national capabilities to seize new opportunities for science and technology and to respond to current and future national needs. Recent events dramatize the importance of maintaining a future oriented science and technology policy to be prepared to address both the challenges we are able to articulate now and those not yet imagined. The growing reliance on science and technology in government, the economy, national security and the society raises the urgency for adopting a comprehensive Federal process for research budget coordination and priority setting to align Federal support for research with broad national goals.

In March 1999, in response to a request from the House Appropriations Committee and with the encouragement of Office of Management and Budget, the National Science Board reconstituted its Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Science and Engineering Policy Issues and charged it to undertake a study on budget coordination and priority setting for government-funded research. This report, *Federal Research Resources: A Process for Setting Priorities*, presents the findings and recommendations developed by the committee and approved unanimously by the National Science Board. The study included review of the literature on Federal budget coordination and priority setting for research, and invited presentations from and discussions with representatives of the OMB, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Federal R&D agencies, congressional staff, high-level science officials from foreign governments, experts on data and methodologies, and spokespersons from industry, the National Academies, research communities, science policy community, and academe. Discussions focused on research priority setting as it is practiced in government organizations, and possibilities for enhancing coordination and priority setting for the Federal research budget.

On behalf of the National Science Board, I want to commend my colleagues and fellow members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Science and Engineering Policy Issues—Drs. John Armstrong, MRC Greenwood, Anita Jones, Joseph Miller, Robert Richardson, and Warren Washington—for their tenacity, energy, and wisdom throughout this complex study. Jean Pomeroy, Senior Policy Analyst in the National Science Board Office provided outstanding and tireless support as Executive Secretary to the Committee.

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