Three Los Alamos scientists named ‘Most Influential Scientific Minds’

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Aiken, Korber and Perelson spotlighted in Thomson Reuters report

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., July 22, 2014—Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists Allison Aiken, Bette Korber and Alan Perelson have been named to Thomson Reuters list of “The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds.”

“To have three of our premier scientists recognized on this list is a great honor and attests to the intellectual vitality that feeds the breadth of disciplines essential to our national security mission,” said Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Charles McMillan. “The fact that one of those named is a former student and postdoctoral
researcher makes me confident that our pipeline programs are actively inspiring future
generations of scientific excellence.”

Alan Perelson

“It is an honor to have the value of my work recognized and to be included in this list,”
Perelson, of the Laboratory’s Theoretical Biology and Biophysics group, said. “However,
the real success in my area of modeling infectious disease only comes when the work
has an impact on treating diseases such as HIV, influenza and hepatitis and ultimately
in saving lives.”

Perelson is part of a multinational team whose work contributed to the understanding of
the Hepatitis C virus and a possible cure. Originally from New York City, he is a Senior
Fellow at the Laboratory, an external professor at the Santa Fe Institute, an adjunct
professor of bioinformatics at Boston University, an adjunct professor of biology at the
University of New Mexico and an adjunct professor of biostatistics at the University of
Rochester’s School of Medicine.

He earned his bachelor’s degrees in life sciences and in electrical engineering from
the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and his doctoral degree in biophysics from
the University of California-Berkeley. He has been the group leader of the Theoretical
Biology and Biophysics group at the Laboratory. He is a member of the American
Academy of Arts and Sciences and the recipient of the National Institute of Health’s
MERIT Award. Perelson has published more than 490 articles that have been cited over
45,000 times.

Bette Korber

Korber is also part of the Laboratory’s Theoretical Biology and Biophysics group.

“I am proud to have made the list and it is particularly nice to be there along with my
colleague Alan Perelson,” she said.

Korber is a Laboratory Fellow and also works at the New Mexico Consortium. Her work
focuses on the human immune response to HIV infection and HIV evolution. She uses
that knowledge as a foundation to enable HIV vaccine design. She also leads the HIV
sequence and immunology database project at Los Alamos, a global service for HIV
researchers.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from California State University-Long
Beach, where she comes from, and her doctoral degree in Chemistry and Biology from
the California Institute of Technology.

Allison Aiken

“All I am excited to be on the list and I am very thankful to all of my mentors and
colleagues,” Aiken, of the Laboratory’s Earth System Observations group, said. Aiken
was converted from a post-doctoral researcher to a research scientist last year at the
Laboratory and is early in her career for such a distinguished recognition; her focus has
been on ambient aerosol measurements. She received her undergraduate degrees
from Furman University in 2002 in both chemistry and biology, where she was already
combining laboratory and field work.

Originally from Winter Park Florida, she came to the Laboratory as a student in 2000,
which inspired her to pursue her doctorate degree in atmospheric science. She
received her doctoral degree in Chemistry in 2008 from the University of Colorado-
Boulder for her work on aerosol mass spectrometry, which included both laboratory
and field measurements. While earning her doctoral degree, she developed a new
and largely applied elemental analysis procedure for aerosol mass spectrometry. Her specialties include the complex data analysis required from real-time direct online aerosol measurements.

The Most Influential Scientific Minds List

Highlighting some of the standout researchers from the past decade, Thomson Reuters compiled 3,000 of the most influential authors in 21 fields of science or social science. These researchers earned this distinction by writing the greatest numbers of reports officially designated by essential science indicators as highly cited papers. The authors on the World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds list rank among the top 1 percent most cited for their subject field between 2002 and 2012. The listings of highly cited researchers feature authors whose published work in their specialty areas has consistently been judged by peers to be of particular significance and utility.