

# Archived Information

## Susan Hockfield

Susan Hockfield is the sixteenth president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A strong advocate of the vital role that science, technology and the research university play in the world, she believes that collaborative work among disciplines and institutions is crucial to addressing successfully the critical issues affecting society.

Dr. Hockfield believes strongly in the importance of scientific literacy for all citizens and hopes to accelerate the national discussion on improving K-12 education in math and science. She is also a strong proponent of the value that international students and scholars bring to the educational and research programs of American universities and of the importance of working with institutions in other countries on issues of global significance.

Before assuming the presidency of MIT in 2004, Dr. Hockfield was provost at Yale University, where she had been a member of the faculty since 1985. As provost, she advanced Yale's major initiatives in science, medicine and engineering, and fostered collaborative work among the humanities, social sciences and the sciences. During four years as dean of Yale's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, she strengthened academic, extracurricular, and financial support for graduate students.

A noted neuroscientist, Dr. Hockfield is the first life scientist to lead MIT and holds a faculty appointment as professor of neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. She has focused her research on the development of the mammalian brain and particularly on glioma, a deadly brain cancer. Her work on the spread of cancer in the brain has suggested new therapeutic opportunities.

Following graduation from the University of Rochester, Dr. Hockfield earned her Ph.D. from the Georgetown University School of Medicine, while carrying out her dissertation research in neuroscience at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at the University of California at San Francisco, and then joined the scientific staff at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York.

Dr. Hockfield lives in Cambridge with her husband, Thomas N. Byrne, M.D., and their daughter, Elizabeth.