

Biography of Dr. Robert Detrick
Assistant Administrator of OAR

Dr. Robert Detrick will be the Assistant Administrator (AA) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), effective February 13, 2012.

As OAR AA, Dr. Detrick will serve as acting chair of the NOAA Research Council, and will lead efforts to advance NOAA's climate and key science enterprise goals.

A marine geophysicist, Dr. Detrick has extensive experience in marine science, technology, and marine operations. Before coming to NOAA on Feb. 13, 2012, Dr. Detrick was Director of the National Science Foundation's Division of Earth Sciences. He had been there since November 2008, while on leave from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), where he was a Senior Scientist for more than 20 years and Vice President for Marine Facilities and Operations.

Dr. Detrick's research focused on aspects of marine geology. He lists more than 100 scientific publications on the seismic structure of mid-ocean ridges and oceanic crust, the size, depth, and properties of ridge crest magma chambers; and the nature of mantle flow beneath mid-ocean ridges and relationship to ridge segmentation and axial topography.



Robert Detrick, Ph.D.

A Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, Detrick received the A. G. Huntsman Medal in 1996 which honors "marine scientists who have had and continue to have a significant influence on the course of marine scientific thought."

He has participated in more than 30 major oceanographic cruises, 18 as Chief Scientist or Co-chief Scientist. He was Co-principal Investigator for WHOI's ocean bottom seismic instrumentation laboratory which builds and operates ocean bottom seismometers for the U.S. National Ocean Bottom Seismic Instrumentation Pool. He was Senior Principal Investigator on WHOI's NSF-funded project to build a replacement for WHOI's Deep Sea Research Vessel *Alvin*.

Dr. Detrick has served on and chaired committees and panels for various international and national organizations including the RIDGE Steering Committee (Chair from 1992-1995), the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling (JOIDES) Executive Committee of the Ocean Drilling Program (Chair from 1996-1998) and the NSF Geosciences Advisory Committee (Chair 2004-2005). He was a member of the Board of Governors of Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI) (1995-2007) and chaired the JOI Board from 2002-2004. He is a Past President of AGU's Tectonophysics Section and is chair of the International Continental Drilling Program Assembly of Governors.

He holds a bachelor's degree in geology and physics from Lehigh University (1971), a master's degree from the University of California, San Diego in marine geology (1974), and a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography (1978).

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., he now lives on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.