# Director's Page

## Frans Spaepen—12.01.02

The Rowland Institute for Science was unique -- like Edwin Land's other ideas, inventions and organizations. The Rowland Institute at Harvard continues to be based on what made Dr. Land's vision of the ideal laboratory special: a broad view of science and an appreciation for the rich potential for discovery in the contact between the traditional disciplines; a dedication to small-scale laboratory science; an emphasis on technical support of the highest level for experimentation; and a desire to let the best minds be creative without concern for the vagaries of the funding world.

Central to the Institute will be the Rowland Junior Fellows program. Starting in the fall of 2003, young scientists will have the opportunity to perform independent experimental work for five years, with full institutional support and access to the Institute's outstanding technical and scientific resources. We hope to increase the number of Rowland Junior Fellows to about ten over five years. We will consider candidates in all the natural sciences (physics, chemistry, biology,...) as well as in engineering, with special attention to interdisciplinary opportunities and to the development of new experimental methods. Applications are being solicited right now.

The Rowland Junior Fellows will have as mentors members of the Harvard faculty and, in particular, the Rowland Senior Fellows, whose activities are described on this website.

The Institute has been an "incubator" for scientific talent, similar in spirit to the Bell Laboratories in their glory days, where young people were hired if they had a compelling vision of how they would "fill an empty laboratory". Working in small teams, surrounded by the best scientific minds and technical expertise, these scientists were the ferment of scientific innovation, and many of them went on from there to illustrious academic careers. Examples among Rowland alumni are Stanford's Steven Block and Harvard's Lene Hau. The Rowland Institute will continue to give similar opportunities to some of our brightest and most resourceful young scientists.