Baruch S. Blumberg, who headed the NASA Astrobiology Institute from 1999 to 2002, and won the 1976 Nobel Prize in Medicine for identifying the Hepatitis B virus, has died, at the age of 85, on April 5, 2011. The DPS recognizes the loss of a remarkable person and his contribution in several scientific communities, from Medicine to being the first permanent NASA Astrobiology Institute's Director.

He will be sorely missed.