

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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HOUSE COMMITTEE GIVES NSF 3 PERCENT INCREASE; SAVES SPACE STATION *HS*

On June 9, the House VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee completed its markup of its multi-agency bill and provided the National Science Foundation with an almost \$100 million, or 3 percent, increase over its FY 1994 funding. For FY 1995, the Subcommittee recommended NSF receive \$3.106 billion.

The proposed increase, about one-half what the president requested in his FY 1995 budget proposal, represents an inflation boost. Given the context of a freeze on discretionary spending in the overall budget, getting any increase at all for FY 1995 spending is an accomplishment.

This bill also provides funding for NASA, EPA, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and many other small agencies. The subcommittee funded the space station at the President's request of \$2.1 billion, after intense lobbying by the White House. This decision will be challenged when the bill reaches the House floor for debate.

For Research and Related Activities at NSF, the Subcommittee allocated a total of \$2.217 billion. This represents an increase of \$53 million or 2.5 percent above last year. However, it is \$131 million below the President's request. The Subcommittee recommended specific reductions from the request in global change research, high performance computing, and civil infrastructure as well as proportionate general reductions.

As expected, the panel increased the president's request for the Academic Research Infrastructure account by \$45 million to a total of \$100 million. Although this is still \$5 million below the FY 1994 level, the subcommittee clearly did not buy NSF's argument that the problem of infrastructure deficiencies should be left to a committee of the National Science and Technology Council.

In a somewhat surprising move, the Subcommittee did accept NSF's argument

concerning the Education and Human Resource Directorate. NSF asked for a small increase of 3 percent over last year's funding for this directorate claiming it needed time to evaluate the new programs created by the enormous influx of funds provided to EHR in the past five years. The Subcommittee agreed and provided EHR with \$586 million, the president's request.

The bill now moves to the full House appropriations committee during the week of June 20 with House floor action to follow the week of June 27. The Senate will mark up its version of the bill sometime soon after the July 4 recess.

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD REVIEWS NSF'S STRATEGIC PLAN *HS*

At its June 9-10 meeting the National Science Board (NSB), the policy making body for the National Science Foundation, reviewed a draft strategic plan for its future. Faced with changing rationales for federal support of research, calls for more relevant research and constrained resources, the NSF has recently come under scrutiny from its congressional overseers and a special commission. In addition, the White House Science Office and the new inter-agency National Science and Technology Council are also exploring the role of basic research in U.S. science policy.

INSIDE UPDATE...

- ◆ Petersen Nomination Goes to Senate
- ◆ Abeles to Chair NIH Health & Behavior Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Varmus Names Interim Director for Nursing Institute
- ◆ Study Urges More Training for Behavioral Scientists
- ◆ OMB Reviewing Race & Ethnicity Categories
- ◆ National Longitudinal Study of Labor Market Experiences Seeks New Cohort
- ◆ Sources of Research Support: Department of Health and Human Services

As one participant in the meeting noted, the Board's review of the strategic plan was an "agonizing" process. NSF Director Neal Lane laid out the basic framework for the plan, which mirrored what he told the COSSA Executive Committee a few weeks ago (see *Update*, May 2). The plan should have four objectives, Lane noted: 1) a vision to capture NSF's core values; 2) clearly defined goals and measures to determine progress toward those goals; 3) priorities to guide decisions on programs and budget and criteria to determine priorities; and 4) accountability and public understanding.

According to Lane, NSF has a "unique ability to provide leadership and stewardship in all aspects of research and education across the full spectrum of science and engineering disciplines." He also credited NSF with the "agility to move quickly to new opportunities" in science.

The Director referred to a recent meeting of the chairs of the directorate advisory committees (attended by Marta Tienda, Chair of the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Advisory Committee) where the draft strategic plan came under attack for: lack of vigor in the mission statement, lack of vision for NSF's future leadership in science and engineering, and lack of a broad focus on NSF's role in education and human resource development.

Some members of the Board echoed the advisory committee chairs in expressing dissatisfaction with the goals outlined in the plan: enable the U.S. to lead the world in fundamental science, mathematics and engineering; discover,

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integrate, disseminate and encourage the application of knowledge in areas of clear strategic importance to the Nation; and improve the quality of U.S. science, mathematics, engineering and technology education at all levels.

One board member expressed concern that the draft plan did not recognize the changes that had placed NSF in a new science and technology context. Lane defended the Foundation and claimed NSF had changed enormously, but that some problems still existed and must be addressed. These include identifying real opportunities in the strategic areas, expanding interactions with the scientific community, and improving integration of research and education, he said.

The plan continued to identify the current NSF initiatives as keys to the future. Board members wondered if these could ever be changed, since a number of them are left over from the Bush administration. Mary Clutter, Assistant Director for the Biology Directorate, in a session on emerging opportunities, noted that all the ideas for initiatives came from the scientific community, and that new ones could be pushed forward. Cora Marrett, Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, in the same session, stressed the international challenges facing American science and how NSF would respond.

A presentation on priority setting by Bob Correll, Assistant Director for the Geosciences Directorate, focused on some general criteria such as: advancing NSF's vision and mission; addressing at least one of NSF's strategic planning goals; making a difference and adding value; and leveraging intellectual, infrastructure and other financial resources. The development of measurements for these criteria and the determination of trade-offs on budget and programs are still under discussion.

Although the FY 1996 budget planning is already underway, Lane suggested there was no rush to complete the strategic plan. At its August meeting, the Board will discuss the revisions to the plan and how it fits into the FY 1996 budget NSF will propose to the Office of Management and Budget.

ABELES TO CHAIR NIH HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE *SI*

Social Psychologist Ron Abeles, Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Research at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), was recently appointed as Chair of the NIH Health and Behavior Coordinating Committee (HBCC) by NIH Director Harold Varmus. Abeles replaces Susan Blumenthal, who left the NIH to become Deputy Assistant Secretary of Women's Health for the Public Health Service.

Abeles has served as the Committee's Vice-Chair, working closely with the Institutes to promote behavioral and social science research at the NIH. Varmus praised Abeles' past work with the Committee, stating that his "knowledge and experience in this endeavor will be invaluable when the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) is established and the Director is selected." Since the OBSSR was authorized one year ago, the Committee has expressed strong interest in its implementation, and anticipates functioning as a "operating arm" of the OBSSR once the office is established.

The Health and Behavior Coordinating Committee (HBCC) assumed the functions, activities, and membership of the ad hoc NIH Working Group on Health and Behavior that was established in 1981. (See *Update*, December 13, 1993 for specific information regarding the Committee's charge.) Each Institute, Center, and Division of the NIH may appoint one representative and an alternate to serve as members. Currently, approximately 40 representatives/alternates participate in the HBCC.

Recent activities of the HBCC have included drafting the section on "Health-related Behavioral Research" of the *Fifth Biennial Report of the Director, NIH*. Also, as a result of the HBCC's efforts to stimulate behavioral and social research on tuberculosis, a national conference on behavioral research and the tuberculosis epidemic is planned with the Centers for Disease Control for August, 1994. In the future, the Committee will participate in the American Psychological Association-directed *Health and Behavior* research initiative.

PETERSEN NOMINATION GOES TO SENATE *HS*

President Clinton's nomination of Anne Petersen as the next Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation finally reached the Senate on June 8. The White House had announced its intention to nominate Petersen, currently Vice-President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Minnesota, on April 12. Petersen's confirmation should go smoothly and the hope is she will officially join NSF in early July. A professor of adolescent development and pediatrics with a Ph.D. in statistics, Petersen would be the first woman to hold one of NSF's top two positions.

VARMUS NAMES INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR NURSING INSTITUTE *SP*

At the June National Advisory Council Meeting for Nursing Research, NIH Director Harold Varmus announced that Suzanne Hurd, Director of the Lung Diseases Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) will serve as Interim Director for the NINR while the search continues to find a permanent director by the end of the year. Ada Sue Hinshaw, current NINR Director, will leave the institute on July 1 to become Dean and Professor of the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan. During Hinshaw's seven years of leadership, the National Center for Nursing Research became an Institute and grew from nine employees and a budget of \$11 million to its current level of \$51 million and 57 employees.

Varmus reminded Council members of the special role they might play in the search, and urged them to spread word of the position. "The search committee has met once, and the position announcement will be available soon," he reported. When Varmus declared that he did not feel it was necessary that the new director be a nurse, he was "perhaps unaware of the fireball he threw to the Council," according to one observer at the meeting.

After expressing his concerns about the small increase slated in FY 1995 funding for the NIH (the President's request is a 4.7% increase, however, only a 3% increase by Congress is likely), Varmus described his plan to heighten the priority of the NIH in Congress. His strategy to build his budget in Congress includes defining exciting research at NIH and a retreat of the institute directors to

identify research initiatives. Unfortunately, Varmus was absent for the Nursing Council's discussion entitled "Identification of Exciting Scientific Opportunities," which immediately preceded his presentation.

When council members expressed their frustration that the NINR has one of the lowest success rates of all of the institutes at the NIH, Varmus advised members to "see your own pain in relationship to the pain of other institutes," and he asked how many nurses were funded by other institutes. Council members responded that although nurses were funded through other institutes, there is a "critical mass" that is necessary to maintain at any institute. Varmus ended the fiscal discussion by saying that NINR's budget was not likely to be significantly increased, and that he welcomed the spirited discussion but "a clear scientific justification" would be necessary for an increase of NINR's budget.

Council member Marguerite Kinney queried Varmus regarding NINR's role in violence research. NINR had identified violence as an "exciting scientific opportunity" for future research. Varmus responded by giving his opinion of the NIH Report of the Panel on Antisocial, Aggressive, and Violence-Related Behaviors and their Consequences. Although Varmus acknowledged that the report gave an effective summary of the problem and identified the projects that have been funded, he felt that it was not clear what the benefits of the research have been. He suggested that the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (an office authorized one year ago, but still not implemented), might study the value of the research.

In addition to violence research, other initiatives the NINR would like to pursue include, but are not limited to: nursing health systems and services research, nurse midwifery, nonpharmacological methods of pain management, studies of homeless children, adherence to medical regimes with patients as real collaborators, translating and marketing successful nursing interventions, health promotion of children in high risk groups, community-based interventions, AIDS and other STD's, research training, care of acute patients in the home, health needs of immigrants, and culturally sensitive research.

Further, Hinshaw reported that the NINR is strongly committed to encouraging minorities to become biomedical and behavioral researchers. In 1990 the NIH established a minority supplement

mechanism to provide support for research experiences at grantee institutions for minorities throughout the continuum from high school to the faculty level. The NINR has "led the NIH with the highest dollar amount as a percentage of total expenditures on eligible research grants for minority supplements," according to Hinshaw. Achieving equal opportunity for minorities and women both in the extramural and intramural program is among the top goals Varmus has endorsed for the NIH.

STUDY URGES MORE TRAINING FOR BEHAVIORAL SCIENTISTS *SP*

The Committee on National Needs for Biomedical and Behavioral Research Personnel of the Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel, National Research Council, recently completed its report on the future need for biomedical and behavioral research scientists and the role of the National Research Service Awards (NRSA) in meeting those needs. The report will be sent to Congress and the National Institutes of Health.

The study recommended increasing the annual number of NRSA awards for research training in the behavioral sciences from 1,069 to 1,450 between 1993 and 1996. This was advocated by COSSA's Associate Director for Government Affairs, Susan Persons, who participated in the deliberations of the committee by providing both oral and written testimony at the public hearing. (See *Update*, May 17, 1993)

The Committee was charged with "establishing the nation's overall need for biomedical and behavioral research personnel, the subject areas in which such personnel are needed, and the number of such personnel needed in each area for 1994 and beyond." Ira J. Hirsch and John D. Stobo, of Washington University and Johns Hopkins University respectively, chaired the committee.

As stated in the report, the NRSA program has a twenty year history of expanding federal health research programs through a combination of training grants to institutions and the direct support of qualified individuals as research fellows. Although the total number of NRSA trainees is small relative to the total number of graduate students trained each year in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, the authors of the report believe that the program "is enormously powerful in its ability to change research emphases and to

attract the highest quality individuals to research careers."

The Committee's other recommendations include:

- 1) raise the real value of stipends to more competitive levels;
- 2) expand the overall NRSA program from 15,112 slots in fiscal 1993 to 16,260 slots in fiscal 1996;
- 3) maintain the annual number of predoctoral awards in the basic and biomedical sciences at 1993 levels;
- 4) increase the number of Medical Scientist Training Program awards each year from 822 in 1993 to 1,020 by 1996 and the number of postdoctoral fellows in the clinical sciences from 68 in 1993 to 160 in 1996;
- 5) increase the number of awards in oral health research to 430 by 1996, in nursing research to 500 by 1996, and in health services research to 360 by 1996;
- 6) examine research training opportunities for women through the NRSA program and strengthen the role of postdoctoral support to assist women in establishing themselves in productive careers as research scientists.

OMB REVIEWING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CATEGORIES *HS*

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has announced it will review the racial and ethnic categories used government-wide for federal statistics and administrative reporting. Based on OMB Statistical Policy Directive #15, issued seventeen years ago, these standards have come under increasing criticism as not accurately reflecting the current diversity of our nation's population.

Under the present policy, the racial and ethnic categories are: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, or White. In addition, to their statistical purposes, these classifications are necessary for Voting Rights Act compliance, reviewing State redistricting plans, establishing and evaluating affirmative action plans, monitoring and enforcing desegregation plans in the

public schools, and for meeting many other statutory requirements.

Congressional hearings (see *Update*, August 9, 1993), a workshop held by the Committee on National Statistics, and an interagency committee established by OMB, have led to a number of suggestions for change. These include: adding a "multi-racial" category, adding an "other" category, providing an open ended question to solicit information on race and ethnicity, including Native Hawaiians as a separate category, including Hispanic as a racial designation, rather than as a separate ethnic category, and adding a "Middle Easterner" category to the list of ethnic designations. Some have suggested eliminating the classification of persons by race and ethnicity altogether. Others claim that since identification of an individual's racial and ethnic category often is a subjective determination, these categories should not be used for statistical purposes.

OMB will be holding hearings in three cities, Boston on July 7, Denver on July 11, and San Francisco on July 14 to provide opportunities to hear views from the public. Further information about these hearings and requests for speaking time should be obtained, before July 1, from the Statistical Policy Office, OMB, 725 17th St., NW; Washington, DC 20503. Phone 202/395-3093. FAX 202/395-7245.

Those interested in commenting directly to OMB can write to Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistical Policy, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, at the address above. For a full discussion of this request for comment see the Federal Register, June 9, 1994 pp. 29831-35.

NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF LABOR MARKET EXPERIENCES SEEKS NEW COHORT *HS*

Since 1966 the National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) has examined the labor market experiences of American men, women, and children over significant segments of their life span. Through a series of national sample surveys conducted at multiple points in time, the NLS has gathered information on five groups of American men and women. Recently, the NLS expanded to collect data on a group of children born to women who make up one of the national survey cohorts. This set of national surveys has created a treasure chest of data for researchers and policymakers. Sponsored by the

Bureau of Labor Statistics, the NLS currently seeks funds from Congress to add another cohort to the surveys.

The original samples included a cohort of older men (45-59) who were followed from 1966 to 1990 and young men (14-24) who were interviewed from 1966 to 1981. In 1967 a group of mature women (30-44) were added, and a year later a group of young women (14-24) joined the survey. These two groups of women are still interviewed. In 1979 a new youth sample (14-21), called the NLSY, was interviewed for the first time and has been questioned annually since. In 1986, with funding from the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), data collection began on mothers in the NLSY and their children, including a series of child cognitive-socioemotional-physiological assessments. Since the respondents in the original NLSY group are now 29-36 years of age, the BLS, in its FY 1995 budget request, has asked Congress for funds to begin a new youth cohort.

The primary purpose of the NLS has been the collection of data on current labor force and employment status, work history, and characteristics of jobs. It has also gathered information on factors potentially affecting labor market attachment such as investments in education and training, geographic region of residence and local labor market conditions, the formative influence of parents, current marital and family responsibilities, financial characteristics, work-related attitudes and aspirations, health problems and job discrimination.

Expansion and Diversification

The advent of the NLSY in the late 1970s expanded and diversified the surveys as other government agencies besides the Department of Labor took an interest. The Department of Defense made possible interviews with youth enlisted in the military. The National Center for Research on Vocational Education co-sponsored surveys of high schools of civilian NLSY respondents and the collection of detailed transcript information on potential high school graduates. Alcohol and substance abuse questions became part of the NLSY questionnaire at the request of the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. As mentioned earlier, the NICHD sponsored special assessments of the NLSY children as well as fertility and child care questions.

Important Tool for Researchers and Policymakers

The NLS has served as an important tool for economists, sociologists, and other researchers studying the determinants of labor supply, earnings and income distribution, job search and separation, labor market inequities, and human capital investments. In addition, these data have been used to study the impact of governmental policies and programs and various social-psychological factors on labor force participation.

The broad range of core NLS data coupled with the recent addition of the youth surveys, the ongoing longitudinal nature of the data, and the replication of cohorts across time make the NLS a rich source of data for the continued study of such issues as: life cycle changes, the family, the aging process, retirement decisions, geographic and occupational mobility, and a host of other topical and methodological analyses.

NLS Publications Available

Several comprehensive reviews of NLS based research exist and annually updated annotative bibliographies are published by the Center for Human Resources Research at the Ohio State University. The Center manages the project for the BLS; the Census Bureau and the National Opinion Research Center conduct the surveys. A summary of uses of NLS by the federal government is also available. BLS releases a quarterly publication entitled "Work and Family" that features special topical analyses of data from one or more of the NLS survey groups.

In 1993 the NLSY began using computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) to improve the quality and timeliness of NLS data releases. In addition, NLS data are now available on CD-ROM, with data from the four original cohorts available on a single compact disc.

For more information about the NLS contact Randall Olson, Director, Center for Human Resources Research, the Ohio State University, 614/442-7300.

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** MB

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

**National Institute on Child Health and Human Development
Unintended Pregnancy in the United States**

The Center for Population Research of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development invites scientists to submit grant applications for the support of research on the definition of, the measurement of and the determinants of intended versus unintended pregnancies and births in the contemporary U.S. Research on various aspects of contraceptive use and non-use is an important part of the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch's program, within the Center for Population Research.

Two sets of research questions are at issue and applications may address aspects of either or both. First, the request seeks to provide a richer understanding of the meaning of unintended pregnancy, as conventionally defined, as well as to build a scientific base for improved measures that may be used in demographic surveys. Second, the request seeks to improve and extend research on the determinants of unintended pregnancy and birth at the cultural, societal, couple, and individual levels. **Sociological, psychological, social-structural, and contextual approaches are welcome. Qualitative as well as quantitative methodologies would be appropriate.**

Application Procedure: Applications are to be submitted on form PHS 938 that is available in most institutional offices of sponsored research and from the Office of Grants Information, Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Westwood Building, Room 449, Bethesda, MD 20892, telephone (301) 594-7248.

Budget: NICHD has set aside \$1,000,000 in direct costs for the first-year of support for the program. It is anticipated that four to six awards will be made depending on the nature and scope of the projects.

Review Process: The applications will be reviewed for scientific merit by an initial review group convened solely for this purpose by the Division of Scientific Review, NICHD, and the NICHD Advisory Council for program relevance and policy issues before awards for meritorious applications are made.

Deadlines: August 19, 1994

Contact: Susan F. Newcomer, Ph.D.
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