

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FUTURE FUNDING AND PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH DISCUSSED



At an October 19 meeting of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding, two leading science policymakers addressed issues of funding and priorities in federally-supported science. Mike Stephens, Staff Director for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and M.R.C. Greenwood, Associate Director for Science at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, made their presentations before the Ad Hoc Group, which is a diverse coalition of more than 130 medical and scientific societies, voluntary health groups, and academic and research organizations dedicated to the future of biomedical and behavioral research.

Stephens on Health Research Funding

Regarding FY 1996 funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Stephens reported that "there is not a lot of certainty about the future." Recognizing that the 3.2% overall increase for NIH for FY 1995 does not cover the inflation rate for biomedical and behavioral research, Stephens explained that NIH has fared well, given the five year budget cap for discretionary spending imposed by Congress to reduce the deficit. The freeze in domestic spending means that to increase spending in health research, other programs within the Labor and Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Subcommittee's jurisdiction must be reduced. For FY 1995, energy assistance for low income populations and some educational programs took most of the reduction. "The political system had to sweat blood to get that -- many people are not happy and there will be a political price to pay," stated Stephens. "The ability to shift money is getting more and more difficult, and after eight years of spending declines in defense, none of us should think of defense as a 'cash cow', especially when you see the multitude of international activities the U.S. is currently engaged in," warned Stephens.

Stephens credited LHHS Chairman Neal Smith (D-IA) and Ranking Republican John Porter (R-IL) for making the hard choices. He viewed FY 1995 as an "average budget year," for the NIH, and believes that "all the basic parameters for FY 1995 will exist in FY 1996, albeit slightly ratcheted down." Although Stephens felt it is unlikely that NIH will be facing real cuts at this time, he advised advocates to make certain that NIH is on the President's list of priority investments.

In addition to funding, Stephens said that the Subcommittee is also interested in NIH's indirect costs and infrastructure. He also expressed concern that negative amendments regarding fetal tissue research might encumber the appropriations process. When asked how the leadership of NIH Director Harold Varmus is viewed by Congress, Stephens' opinion was that "Varmus is perceived as an extremely bright, highly committed scientist who knows the community." Stephens anticipates significant changes at the NIH under Varmus' stewardship in the next two to three years, and cited reforms in the peer review process as an example.

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Greenwood on Science Priorities

Given the climate of very tough budget constraints, Greenwood said that the purpose of the August 1994 White House report, *Science in the National Interest*, was "to make science a priority." Greenwood said she is particularly concerned that the U.S. K-12 educational system is not producing the kind of students who will be leaders in scientific pursuits in the future. She called upon today's scientists to help foster the development of young scientists, and suggested, as one strategy, that they consider becoming members of school boards to promote the importance of science.

Greenwood listed five categories of national needs for which science is critical: national security, health, economic prosperity, environmental responsibility, and improved personal security. She expressed concern about the short-term agendas of politicians, and asked the Ad Hoc Group to consider whether there should be "a national, non-partisan action plan for science in the national interest." What we need is a "philosophy for investment over time--not just a year by year ad hoc situation," she said.

Science in the National Interest is discussed in greater detail in the August 8 issue of Update. For a copy of the full report, contact the Office of Science and Technology Policy at (202) 456-6001.

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LEFTOVERS: DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS, NSEP *HS, MB*

In the previous *Update's* review of Congress' completion of the appropriations process the outcomes in the Defense Appropriations bill were omitted. Two significant actions affecting research occurred. The appropriation for university research settled at \$1.6 billion, approximately a \$200 million decrease from the FY 1995 request. This result was an improvement over the \$900 million reduction sought by the House, but still higher than the \$79 million reduction voted by the Senate. The ire of House Subcommittee Chairman Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) over the criticisms of his earmarking propensities continues. Recent hearings held by Rep. George Brown, Chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, specifically referred to the large amounts of DOD funds Murtha has directed to institutions in his Western Pennsylvania district and its surrounding areas.

On a related note, the conference committee funded the National Security Education Program, NSEP, at the Senate-recommended level of \$8.5 million for FY 1995. Earlier this year the House had slated the exchange program for elimination.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE ASKS: IS VIOLENCE A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM? *HS*

Faced with a recently released Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report indicating a 154 percent increase in the rates of homicide deaths among young men from 1985-1991, and similar daunting statistics about crime, the medical doctors and public health professionals who make up the bulk of the members of The Institute of Medicine (IOM), focused on the nation's violence problem at their annual meeting, held on October 17.

Although most of the speakers at the meeting concentrated on violence as a public health problem that required public health solutions, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala reminded them that "violence in this society is ... far more complex than any public health problem we have ever tackled in the past." She claimed that "violence in our society is intimately connected to the very structure and culture of our society... And it is demonstrably

linked to dozens of social and economic problems yet to be fully addressed in the United States."

Shalala and the other speakers recited a litany of causes: the lack of opportunity, the loss of values, the breakdown of the family, children having children, the easy accessibility of guns, too much alcohol and drugs, poor schools, poverty, racism. However, Robert Burt, Alexander M. Bickel Professor of Law at Yale Law School, warned the scientists to be careful not to repeat earlier attempts to control violent social behavior. He asserted these past efforts, through the use of drugs and social control experiments, often violated the "do no harm" admonition of the Hippocratic oath. He urged his colleagues to move cautiously, deliberately, and modestly in seeking public health solutions.

CDC Efforts

David Satcher, Director of the CDC, outlined his agency's efforts to prevent violence using a public health perspective through its Center for Injury Prevention and Control. The focus, he said, is on prevention of youth violence, with a special concern for keeping firearms out of the hands of minors, suicide, and domestic violence. Citing a number of specific intervention programs, Satcher, as did many other speakers excoriated the media for the "glamorization of violence."

The CDC effort is part of an inter-agency, inter-sector government initiative shepherded by Peter Edelman, Counselor to the Secretary of HHS. Edelman outlined an approach that involves public-private efforts and examines "the entirety of the conditions of life." These include a youth opportunities and responsibilities strategy, that include pre-natal information and counseling to expectant mothers, early childhood interventions to produce positive development, school reform and visible safe places in neighborhoods. Rebuilding a strong sense of community, by strengthening and in some places reinventing strong neighborhood institutions also must be part of the strategy, according to Edelman. He also stressed cultural changes that make responsibility, hard work and non-violence winners over the "deadly triangle" of poor home situations, street education, and media glorification. Edelman echoed other speakers in urging greater attention to domestic violence against women.

Felton Earls, Professor of Human Behavior and Development at the Harvard School of Public Health, described his National Institute of Justice-supported project examining causal scenarios for violence. Although we can all list the probable causes, Earls noted, the difficulty is in assigning weights and vectors to them. He expressed the hope that 3-5 years down the road the study will be able to answer those weight and vector questions.

The social and behavioral science perspective was represented by Cathy Spatz Widom, Professor of Criminal Justice and Psychology at the State University of New York at Albany. Widom noted the recent National Research Council report on violence and cited research results that demonstrate aggressive behavior is stable over time, the impact of the cycle of violence as it impacts child abuse victims, and situational factors affecting violence, especially the presence of guns. She called for more research on why a majority of people affected by poor situational factors and cycle of violence factors do not become criminals.

A presentation by Markku Linnoila, Scientific Director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, illustrated the biological influences on aggressive behavior. The presence of damage to the frontal lobe of the brain and the increase in serotonin levels are associated with increased risk of violence. He was careful to point out these factors were not predictors.

Finally, there was an impassioned plea by Arthur Kellerman, Director of the Center for Injury Control at the Emory University School of Public Health, for doctors and public health professionals to help control guns in the society by taking on the National Rifle Association in the political arena.

SOCIOLOGY PRESIDENT ELECTED TO IOM

In addition to the meeting, the IOM also announced its new members. Among the 50 new inductees is Amitai Etzioni, current President of the American Sociological Association and member of the COSSA Board of Directors. Etzioni is also University Professor at the George Washington University.

GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS: WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD *NS*

In another attempt to transform American education by developing rigorous curricula frameworks, a national panel of geographers and educators released the National Geography Standards at an October 20 press conference. Saying they would "forever change the landscape of geographic education," Gilbert Grosnevor, President of the National Geographic Society (NGS), stressed the importance of geography as a discipline that "ties knowledge together."

The culmination of a two year, collaborative venture by the American Geographical Society, the Association of American Geographers, the National Council for Geographic Education, and the NGS, the standards are one of a series of disciplinary benchmarks that are part of the recently passed Goals 2000 legislation. The new law codifies the National Education Goals announced by President Bush and the nation's governors in 1989. The development of the geography standards was funded by the NGS, the U.S. Department of Education, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Over 300 professional geographers, teachers, parents, and business leaders forged a consensus under the direction of Anthony DeSouza of NGS.

The 18 standards, outlined in *Geography for Life*, are to serve as voluntary benchmarks for schools and school districts in generating their own geography curricula. The goal is to educate American students who, when they leave high school, will: see meaning in the arrangement of things in space; see relations between people, places, and environments; use geographic skills; and apply spatial and ecological perspectives to life situations.

The standards revolve around six essential elements: 1) the world in spatial terms; 2) places and regions; 3) physical systems; 4) human systems; 5) environment and society; and 6) the uses of geography. In each of these, the standards establish skills and levels of understanding that students should know at the end of the fourth, eighth and twelfth grades.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

In the previous *Update's* story on the release of the National Health and Social Life Survey, also known as the Adult Sex Survey, we neglected to give credit to the National Opinion Research Center and the role it played in demonstrating the willingness of people to answer questions about their sexual behavior and its overall support for conducting of the survey.

Reflecting on the role of the standards for America's future, AAG Executive Director Ron Abler noted: "The National Geography Standards will enrich society in the short run, but their true worth will emerge in the third and fourth decades of the next century, when the students whose educations were enhanced by the standards manage the country's affairs."

The release of the standards represents the culmination of a ten year effort, led and funded by the NGS, to restore geography to the nation's school systems. Still to arrive are standards in civics and government, history, economics, science, English, and foreign languages. Already released are standards for math, social studies, and the arts.

Copies of *Geography for Life* and an executive summary are available from the National Geographic Society, P.O. Box 1640, Washington, DC 20013-1640 or by calling 1-800-368-2728.

NSB HEARS OVERVIEW OF HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL CHANGE *NS*

A recent meeting of the National Science Board, the policymaking overseer of the National Science Foundation, heard several presentations on the Foundation's role in supporting environmental and global change research. Coordinated by Thomas Baerwald, Geography program officer in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE), the discussions focused on research leading to understanding the natural and human processes that impact the environment and national and international policymaking activities.

Baerwald noted that the White House National Science and Technology Council includes a Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources with subcommittees on Global Change, Social and Economic Sciences, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Dynamics, and Environmental Technology. NSF provides support for multidisciplinary research that encompasses these areas.

Cheryl Eavey, Methodology, Measurement and Statistics program officer in SBE, highlighted the NSF program on Human Dimensions of Global Change (HDGC). She noted the "significant multidisciplinary collaborations" engendered by projects in this area. The goal of HDGC research, according to Eavey, is to "advance our understanding of the complex ways in which human systems interact with natural systems in a dynamic framework and to examine these interactions within the broader context of social systems, cultural norms, and institutional constraints."

HDGC Research Examples

Citing four broad areas NSF is currently supporting, she illustrated each with examples. The *Methods for Integrated Assessment* area includes research on computational and statistical methods, assessment modeling, and the value of information. Benjamin Hobbs and his colleagues at Case Western Reserve University have examined the impacts of climate change by expanding a prototype model for Lake Erie to the entire Great Lakes system, linking hydrologic, environmental and socio-economic submodels in a simulated environment. In addition, the environment is integrated with a multi-criteria decision model. This research increases understanding of the policy implications of lake management options for commercial navigation, hydroelectric power, ecosystems, flood damage, recreation and other issues.

Research on *International Population Trends and the Human Condition* encourages interdisciplinary research linking population growth, migration and displacement, and environmental health and human conditions. The Panel Study on Income Dynamics database provides information about geographic mobility, energy consumption, and labor mobility. This annual survey of 7,000 households has added an explicit environmental component to its questionnaire that provides information on individual expenditures related to environmental health concerns.

LINGUISTICS CONFERENCE CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Georgetown Linguistics Society (GLS) announces a call for abstracts and colloquium proposals on any aspect of, and approach to, discourse analysis. The GLS 1995 Conference, *Developments in Discourse Analysis*, will be held February 17-19 at Georgetown University.

The deadline for proposals is November 18. For more information, contact GLS at (202) 687-6166.

The *Adaptation and Mitigation* research component stresses interdisciplinary research linking voluntary adaptation and socio-cultural change, managed intervention and resource use, and collective action, institutions and governance. William Clark at Harvard and Peter Maas at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst are seeking answers to how organizations learn to deal with long-term environmental problems such as climate change, acid rain and ozone depletion. Working as part of a larger international collaborative effort that has developed detailed case studies of eight countries, Clark and Maas examine how management functions have been altered to handle global environmental risks.

The fourth component of HDGC, *Patterns of Trade and Global Economic Activity*, examines research linking economic growth, international trade, global sectoral modeling, and technological diffusion. Peter Ashton and his colleagues from a variety of disciplines at Harvard are collecting field data on residents of rich and poor Sumu Indian Villages in Honduras. They are looking at resource use, the ecological sustainability of foraging activities, household economics, and the value of non-timber forest products. The goal is to assess hypotheses relating different aspects of economic development to the extraction of non-timber forest products.

New Emphasis on Policy Sciences

In FY 1995, HDGC will place increased emphasis on policy sciences research. Approximately \$7 million has been allocated for this research (it may include some center money, see below). NSF seeks to support

interdisciplinary research on methodological and statistical issues relevant for the requirements of policy analysis and for understandings of the policy process. Potential topics include: models of the policy process, including the extraction of general relationships from case studies; applied and methodological research on forecasting and simulation; the role of institutions, cultural norms, values and human actions; and research on the valuation of environmental resources, includes theoretical approaches.

Among the areas in global environmental change research encompassed by this new initiative are: 1) human adaptation; 2) societal values and environmental justice; 3) technological innovation and diffusion; and 4) the international/transnational environment.

In addition, for FY 1995, NSF has designated \$6 million for a consortium of centers on HDGC research. The goals of this competition are to: facilitate the progress of HDGC research; promote HDGC education and training of researchers ranging from undergraduate to postdoctoral levels; and foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations on HDGC issues.

Announcements for these two FY 1995 initiatives are expected in November. For more information contact Thomas Baerwald or Cheryl Eavey, Division of Social, Behavioral and Economic Research, NSF, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Phone 703/306-1754 or 703/306-1729.

FREITAG NAMED HISTORY ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandria Freitag has been named Executive Director of the American Historical Association. Recommended by a search committee appointed by AHA President and COSSA Board of Directors Member Thomas C. Holt, Professor of History at the University of Chicago, Freitag's appointment was confirmed by the AHA council. She succeeds Samuel R. Gammon, who retired earlier this year.

Freitag received her Ph.D. in South Asian history from the University of California at Berkeley in 1980. A scholar of India, she has edited three anthologies of

essays on modern Indian history. Her 1989 book *Collective Action and the Community: Public Affairs and the Emergence of Communalism in North India, 1970-1940* analyzes the transformation of historically localized religious conflict and accommodation into the nationwide pattern of communal strife in the 20th century.

Freitag previously served for 8 years in the Office of the President of the University of California, where she managed intersegmental relations -- the relations between the University of California system and the other segments of the California education system. She also served as the representative of the University on the Policy Board of the California History-Social Science project. Recently she has been the strategic planning manager for the University of California Press, where she developed a long-range operating plan to help the Press respond to a period of financial stress.

COSSA STAFF MEMBER CHOSEN FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

COSSA Associate Director for Government Affairs Susan Persons was recently selected to participate in the *Women in Leadership Program*, a public policy training and professional development program established by the Women in Government Relations Leader Foundation. The Leader Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Women in Government Relations, Inc. (WGR), an organization committed to the professional and educational development of women in the field of government relations. Persons was one of fifteen women from an applicant pool of two hundred fifty selected for the program.

Open to women in all professions at all levels of their careers who wish to enhance their skills in the public policy arena, the *Leadership Program* includes instruction on conflict management, networking, coalition building, media training, the regulatory and legislative process, advocacy, testimony preparation and presentation, group process, and grass roots campaigns. The seven-month program includes evening and weekend training sessions, interviews and group projects with a strong emphasis on "learning by doing." After an initial training period, participants choose a project and complete a written report.

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION** *MS*

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application material presented to a panel of judges for assessment. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program

The Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program (MMS) of the National Science Foundation is an interdisciplinary program in the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research. The MMS program seeks proposals that are interdisciplinary in nature, methodologically innovative, and grounded in theory. More specifically, it supports:

- The development, application, and extension of formal models and methodology for social and behavioral research, including methods for improving measurement. The proposed research must have implications for one or more of the social and behavioral sciences.
- The development of formal models that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries.
- Research on statistical methodology or statistical modeling having direct implications for one or more of the social and behavioral sciences.
- Research on methodological aspects of new or existing procedures for data collection, including methodology for survey research, and research to evaluate or compare existing data bases and data collection procedures.
- The collection of unique databases with cross disciplinary implications, especially when paired with developments in measurement or methodology.
- The organizational infrastructure of social and behavioral research.

Application Procedure: All proposals must conform to the guidelines in the *Grant Proposal Guide* (NSF 94-2) and are limited to 15 pages.

Review Process: The MMS program uses both independent external reviewers and an advisory panel composed of scholars with expertise in research methodology and statistics from various disciplines within the social and behavioral sciences. Each proposal receives a minimum of three written reviews plus an evaluation by the MMS panel. All reviews are advisory.

Deadlines: January 15 and August 15

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Society for the Scientific Study of Sex
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
The Institute for Management Sciences

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