

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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VARMUS NAMES DIRECTOR FOR BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE OFFICE *mb*

Nearly two years after Congress created the office, a director has been appointed for the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health. NIH Director Harold Varmus recently announced that clinical psychologist Norman Anderson will be the office's initial director.

Anderson is currently Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology and Director of the Program on Health, Behavior, and Aging in Black Americans at Duke University. He serves as a research psychologist at the Durham Veterans Administration Medical Center and a Senior Fellow at the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. He had previously served as an Assistant Professor of Medical Psychology at the Duke Medical School. Anderson earned his M.A. and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He received a B.A. in Psychology from North Carolina Central University.

The OBSSR, created by the 1993 congressional reauthorization of NIH, was charged with "coordinating research conducted on or supported by the agencies of the NIH with respect to the relationship between human behavior and the development, treatment, and prevention of medical conditions." Bureaucratic delays slowed implementation of the office, which did not officially exist until July 1994. A search committee for the new director was formed that same month. Anderson will assume his duties on July 1. COSSA and its allies had met with congressional and federal agency officials to urge a swift and smooth start for the office.

For Fiscal Year 1995 the OBSSR has a budget of \$2 million to supplement grant awards and sponsor

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SOCIAL SCIENCE FORMALLY INCLUDED IN AIDS RESEARCH PORTFOLIO AT NIH *mb*

Sociologist Judy Auerbach, former COSSA Associate Director for Government Affairs, recently was appointed Behavioral and Social Science Coordinating Chair in the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her position is one of five newly created to bring additional scientific expertise to OAR, which is charged with coordinating the scientific planning and budgeting of all AIDS research at NIH.

At the April 26 meeting of the NIH Health and Behavior Coordinating Committee, Auerbach outlined the main functions of the OAR and her role within them. These functions concern scientific priority-setting; allocating AIDS research dollars across the NIH constituent institutes, centers, and divisions; administering a discretionary fund; and conducting and evaluating the entire NIH AIDS research program.

Auerbach noted that OAR is required to produce a five-year strategic plan for AIDS research at NIH and to update it annually. This plan identifies a few

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COSSA URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS *MB*

Charles Wellford, Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland, College Park and President-Elect of the American Society of Criminology, testified on behalf of COSSA on May 2 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and State. He told the panel, chaired by Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY), that a strong research and development effort is needed to effectively wage war on crime.

Wellford urged the Subcommittee to support the Administration's Fiscal Year 1996 budget request for the research and statistics programs of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, and if possible to increase each by an additional 15 percent. The agencies involved are the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Noting the public outcry over violence and the demands of law enforcement officials for new strategies and resources to fight crime, Wellford lamented the lack of a well-funded research and development program in the area of crime and criminal justice, which he said receives only seven cents of every \$100 of federal research and development funding.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788

Outlining the contributions of research, Wellford cited gains in areas such as career criminals, sentencing alternatives such as boot camps, juvenile delinquency, drugs, gangs, family violence, and community policing. He commented that while research has made progress in these areas, there is much that is not known for lack of investment. Wellford lauded NIJ's formulation of a long-range plan to shape its future research agenda around six goals, but said that the plan lacks the resources to be truly effective. NIJ is currently able to only fund approximately one in five quality grant applications, he informed the committee.

As a specific example of NIJ-sponsored research, Wellford highlighted the work of Lawrence Sherman of the University of Maryland, who developed new strategies to better enforce existing gun laws in Kansas City and Indianapolis. Profiled in a November 1994 *New York Times* article, Sherman's work on directed police patrols significantly reduced gun crimes and increased the seizures of illegally carried weapons. NIJ has developed an award-winning dissemination plan to bring the findings of research to policymakers in a timely and succinct manner, Wellford said.

For the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, Wellford urged the appropriators to adequately support BJS's efforts to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate statistics on crime, victims of crime, criminal offenders, and operations of justice system agencies and components at all levels of government. He told the panel that while each year BJS produces over fifty reports providing important measurements of crime and justice, the Bureau's current resources do not allow it to address the many statistical needs of the justice system. Without increased funding for BJS, we will continue to fail to provide the comprehensive data policymakers and practitioners need to meet their many challenges, he said.

Wellford noted that while the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention primarily focuses on formula grants, training and technical assistance programs, it does contain a research and analysis component that addresses important issues worthy of the Subcommittee's strong support. He said that OJJDP collaborates with NIJ to examine such issues as the detention of juvenile offenders, the juvenile justice system's response to juvenile sex offenders, and

the effects of delays in juvenile treatment and sanctions.

For a copy of Wellford's testimony, contact COSSA at (202) 842-3525.

SCIENCE BOARD NOMINEES FINALLY CONFIRMED *HS*

The six distinguished scientists nominated by President Clinton on August 2, 1994, and re-nominated in early January, to the National Science Board (NSB) were finally confirmed by the Senate on April 6, 1995. In addition, a seventh nominee chosen early this year was also confirmed. The NSB is the policymaking panel for the National Science Foundation.

Social Scientists Join Board

The six new members include three whose training was in the social, behavioral and economic sciences: Claudia Mitchell-Kernan Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School at UCLA, who is trained as an anthropologist; Diana Natalicio, President of the University of Texas at El Paso, who is trained as a linguist; and Robert Solow, Institute Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The other three additions to the NSB are: Warren Washington, director of the Climate and Global Dynamics Division at the National Center for Atmospheric Research; Eve Menger, director of Technology Administration for Corning, Inc.; and John White, Dean of Engineering at Georgia Tech and former head of NSF's Engineering Directorate.

Sanford Greenberg, a businessman trained as a political scientist, nominated in late January 1995, also obtained Senate confirmation. The seven had been serving in a non-voting consulting capacity since their nominations, and now have the full privileges of Board membership. The NSB remains one short of its full complement of 24 members.

WHITE HOUSE SCIENCE AIDE LEAVES

M.R.C. Greenwood, Associate Director for Science at the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), left her position April 28

Greenwood has returned to the University of California-Davis. She maintained close and constructive ties with research groups, including COSSA, during her tenure. The White House is currently interviewing prospective replacements.

NAS REPORT PROPOSES NEW POVERTY MEASUREMENT *MD*

A National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report has recommended a new poverty measure to more accurately reflect who is poor in America. The recently released report, *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*, paints a very different picture of the nation's poor, showing more working families, and fewer families that receive government assistance, as living in poverty.

"The current poverty measure has not kept pace with far-reaching changes in society and the economy," said panel chair Robert Michael of the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. "Our new measure, for example, will show for the first time the effects of work-related expenses -- such as transportation costs and child care costs -- on families' available income. This new approach will provide us all with a more accurate and consistent picture of who is living in poverty today."

The current poverty measure, developed in the early 1960s, calculates the poverty line -- the dollar amount needed by individuals, couples, and families of different sizes to purchase food and other basic needs. People with incomes below the line are considered to be poor. Using 1992 data -- the most recent available for the panel's work -- there were 36.9 million, or 14.5 percent of the U.S. population, with incomes below the poverty line. The data are used for a range of policy and policy-related decisions; in 1994 for example, 27 federal programs providing low-income families with

STATISTICS CONFERENCE TO LOOK AT AREA DEFINITION

A November 29-30 conference will examine issues relating to the Office of Management and Budget's upcoming definition of metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas for the 2000 Census. The event, to be held in Bethesda, MD, is sponsored by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. For more information, call (703) 836-0404.

benefits linked applicants' eligibility to poverty status in some way.

The NAS panel's proposed measure is designed to reflect the income actually available to the nation's families for purchasing basic needs. For income, in addition to money received, it includes the value of non-cash benefits that can be used to satisfy basic needs, such as food stamps, school lunches, and public housing. It subtracts from income expenses that cannot be used for basic needs, such as taxes, child support payments, medical costs, health insurance premiums, and child care and other work-related expenses.

The panel also recommended a major change in the source of data used to estimate the number of people in poverty. Instead of using data from the Current Population Survey, the measure should be based on the Survey of Income and Program, which collects more complete data on families' sources of income.

The most dramatic effect of the new measure would be a change in the demographic and geographic composition of poverty in the United States. In the report, the panel presented an analysis keeping the number of people in poverty the same but using the new definitions of income and needs, to show how the composition of those in poverty would be altered. The analysis showed that the largest effect of the new measure would be a decrease in the percentage of poor people who are in families receiving cash welfare (Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Supplemental Security Income) and an increase in the percentage of poor people who are in working

families. People in families receiving cash welfare would make up 30 percent of the poor under the new measure, compared with 40 percent under the current measure. In contrast, people in working families would make up 59 percent of the poor under the new measure, compared with 51 percent under the current measure.

Panel member John Cogan of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University dissented from the final report. The recommendations, he wrote, "are not based on scientific evidence... They are value judgments made by scientists." For more information on the report, contact the NAS at (202) 334-2138.

PREWITT RETURNS AS SSRC PRESIDENT *HS*

Ken Prewitt, currently Senior Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been selected as the next President of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). Prewitt, previously served as the Council's President from 1979-85. He replaces David Featherman, who will become the Director of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, on June 12.

During his previous tenure at SSRC, Prewitt was a leader in the fight against the Reagan administration's severe cuts proposed for the social and behavioral sciences at the National Science Foundation. He was also instrumental in helping, in 1981, transform the Consortium of Social Science Associations into an advocacy group.

In his current position, Prewitt has primary responsibility for the international science-based development program emphasizing agricultural, health, and population sciences, and global environment. In recent years, he has also published articles about the difficulties facing America's research universities, public statistics and democratic politics, and the social sciences and private philanthropy.

Prewitt began his career teaching political science at the University of Chicago, where he rose to the rank of full professor and chaired the Department. From 1976-79 he served as Director of the National Opinion Research Center. During this period, Prewitt wrote extensively about political socialization, urban politics, and the recruitment of political leaders. He

served as the Vice President of the American Political Science Association, and with current APSA President, Sidney Verba of Harvard, authored textbooks on American government.

As a member of numerous advisory committees, Prewitt has demonstrated the vast breadth of his interests and talents. These have included: the American Association of University Professors' Committee on Academic Freedom, the Council on Foundations' Committee on International Grantmaking, the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Oversight of AIDS Activities, the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee to the Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences Directorate, and the United States Information Agency's Panel on International Educational Exchanges.

Prewitt currently serves on the editorial boards of *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Society*, and *Social Science Research*. He has been named a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and the Hastings Center. The New School for Social Research has presented him its Distinguished Service Award.

He received his B.A. from Southern Methodist University, two M.A.'s, from Washington University in Political Science and from the Harvard Divinity School. His Ph.D. in Political Science was earned at Stanford University.

Prewitt will take up the Presidency full-time in the Fall after a summer splitting time between Rockefeller and SSRC.

AIDS RESEARCH AT NIH

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scientific priorities within each five domain: Behavioral, Social Science, and Prevention Research; Natural History and Epidemiology; Pathogenesis; Vaccines; and Therapeutics. Under each priority are a number of research strategies for achieving them. These priorities and strategies are set Natural History and Epidemiology; Etiology and through a process that involves internal NIH staff, OAR staff, and external

researchers and AIDS activists. Auerbach will coordinate this activity for behavioral, social science, and prevention research in the next fiscal year, which begins this fall.

A second, and related function of the OAR that Auerbach described is the allocation of the AIDS research money within NIH. Since Fiscal Year 1995, Congress has given a single appropriation to the OAR (\$1.3 billion in FY 1995), and the office parcels out the money within NIH in relation to the strategic plan. Auerbach noted that one of her responsibilities is to advise OAR Director William E. Paul on the social and behavioral science components of these programs.

Auerbach plays a similar role with respect to the OAR Director's Discretionary Fund. Currently set at about \$10 million, this fund exists to allow the Director to fund projects that show unique potential for contributing to AIDS prevention and treatment in a timely fashion. All projects must be peer reviewed and recommended through an NIH office. In many cases so far, the fund has supported supplements to existing grants, where a new discovery has suggested the need for additional data or a new approach. Auerbach provides consultation to the OAR director on the requests for this fund in the behavioral and social science arena.

Critical Review of AIDS Portfolio

Finally, Auerbach described a new activity of the OAR, which involves a complete review of the entire AIDS program of NIH. This activity, organized along the same scientific categories as the strategic plan, will primarily be conducted by panels of scientists and activists who will review the accomplishments and shortcomings of AIDS research in their area and make recommendations about future directions. Auerbach noted that this is intended to be a very critical review, and that there is serious pressure to identify areas not worthy of continued support as well as those that have demonstrated effectiveness. The panel in Behavioral, Social Science, and Prevention Research is chaired by Tom Coates, a psychologist at the University of California, San Francisco.

In closing her presentation, Auerbach described her role as both representing OAR and advocating for the social and behavioral sciences within it. She noted that there has been serious concern among the social

SUNY-BINGHAMTON JOINS COSSA

COSSA is pleased to announce that the State University of New York at Binghamton has the joined the Consortium as a Contributor. We look forward to working with the University on issues of common concern.

and behavioral science community that their perspectives have not been duly appreciated nor well supported at NIH (including but not limited to AIDS research), and that there is a significant amount of education that must be done with the biomedical community that dominates NIH. A first priority will be to work directly with the staff of the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research in this regard.

NIH NAMES OBSSR DIRECTOR

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conferences. Social scientist Virginia Cain, formerly of NICHD and the Office of Women's Health, has joined the OBSSR staff.

In a meeting with research advocates in early 1994, Varmus outlined four goals he had for the OBSSR:

- Funding help for social and behavioral science projects, perhaps modelled on the manner of supplemental funding provided by the Office of Minority Health and Office of Women's Health Research;
- Advice on the research portfolio for the behavioral and social sciences at NIH;
- Close ties to the Office of AIDS Research to produce effective research on the psychosocial factors of AIDS; and
- Strong leadership from a director who could work in partnership with other NIH officials.

REPORT CALLS FOR RESHAPING GRADUATE EDUCATION

MB

A recent report noted the mismatch between the preparation given to recent Ph.D.s in science and engineering and the availability of jobs and offers several recommendations to better prepare doctoral recipients for employment. The study, *Reshaping the Graduate Education of Scientists and Engineers*, was produced by the National Academies of Science and Engineering and the Institute of Medicine.

"Our graduate schools have done a superb job and our system of advanced education is a model for the world, but changes in science and in the needs of employers are placing new stresses on the system," said committee chair Phillip A. Griffiths, director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. He noted that the three primary areas of employment for scientists -- universities, industry, and government -- are experiencing significant changes.

Graduate education must better serve the needs of those whose careers will not center on research, the report stated. Between 1977 and 1991, the proportion of all scientists and engineers with U.S. doctorates employed in colleges and universities had declined from 51 percent to 43 percent. Only 31 percent of those awarded Ph.D.s between 1983 and 1986 were in tenure-track positions or have tenure as of 1991. More than half of new graduates with a Ph.D. now find work in a non-academic settings.

The report had three general recommendation. First, offer a broader range of academic options. Specifically, students should be discouraged from overspecializing, off-campus internships should be promoted, and federal support for graduate students should emphasize versatility and future employment options. Secondly, provide better information and guidance. Specifically, graduate scientists should receive more up-to-date career information, students should be encouraged to consider alternative pathways, and the National Science Foundation should continue to improve the quality of its data and analysis of science resource needs. Thirdly, devise a national human resource policy for scientists and engineers. The panel recommended that government, industry, and universities jointly examine the issues related to graduate-level human resources.

**SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** *KE*

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.

Bilingual Education: Field-Initiated Research Program

The purpose of this program is to provide grants for field-initiated research conducted by current or recent recipients of grants under subpart 1 or 2 of Part A of Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) who have received these grants within the previous five years. The Department assists research activities related to the improvement of bilingual education and special alternative instructional programs for limited English proficient children and youth.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, State educational agencies and local educational agencies that are current or recent recipients of grants under subpart 1 or 2 of Part A of Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

In order to be eligible for a grant under this program, an applicant must have received a grant under subpart 1 or 2 of Part A of Title VII, or Part A or B of Title VII of Pub. L. 100-297, within the previous five years.

Available Funds: \$1,000,000 with awards ranging between \$50,000 to \$150,000. The estimated number of awards is 10, with a project period up to 36 months.

Deadline: Transmittal of applications are due by May 30, 1995 with intergovernmental review deadline of July 31, 1995.

Contact: For applications or information contact:

Cecile Kreins
U.S. Department of Education
Room 5090, Switzer Building
600 Independence Avenue, SW,
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(202) 205-5568.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server at GOPHER.ED.GOV (under Announcements, Bulletins, and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

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