

**FY 1997 APPROPRIATIONS
COMPLETED; CONGRESS
ADJOURNS** *HS*

Knowing full well the Congress' desire to end its session and allow Members to return home to campaign, President Clinton extracted a number of budgetary concessions in the final negotiations over the six unenacted appropriations bills. The Congress passed and the President signed the Omnibus appropriations bill funding nine federal departments on September 30, just beating the start of the FY 1997 fiscal year on October 1. Held up by a dispute on labor organizing at Federal Express, the 104th Congress did not officially adjourn until October 3.

As they campaign during the next month, Republicans will claim credit for the changes their leadership succeeded in generating during the last two years, both in internal congressional processes and in passing legislation. Democrats, in their attempt to retake control of the House and Senate, will trumpet their successes in mitigating what they called the radical agenda originally proposed by the Republicans. Chastised by the disastrous political consequences of 1995's shutdown of the federal government, the Republican led Congress decided most important for 1996 was to pass all the appropriations bills. In doing so, they gave the President much of the extra funding he sought, particularly in education. A number of programs emerged from the last minute negotiations between the White House and Congress with greater FY 1997 funding than they had received from the earlier actions taken by the House and Senate. *(For final appropriations figures see the chart on page 3)*

One example of this is the \$305 million appropriated for education technology; \$257 million above the House allocation, and \$226 million above the Senate number. **International education and foreign languages** received their largest appropriation ever, \$59.8 million, a \$3.6 million increase over FY 1996. On graduate education, the conferees saved the **Javits Fellowship program**, including enough funds, \$5.9 million, to support a new cohort of fellows. The program will become part of the \$30 million Graduate

Assistance in Areas of National Need program. Funding to allow current Patricia Roberts Harris fellows to complete their education was also included. **The Law School Clinical Experience program** no longer exists. Neither the President, nor Congress, asked for new funding. The **Research, Statistics and Assessment** account received an increase of \$20.6 million, although research in the Vocational Education account was zeroed out. The **Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education** received a \$3 million increase over FY 1996 to \$18 million.

Health Research Still a Major Priority

The **National Institutes of Health** once again did remarkably well with an increase of 6.9 percent over FY 1996. Rep. John Porter (R-IL) announced at the beginning of the year that he would seek a 6.5 percent increase for research and put a down payment on the new clinical center. He convinced both the Senate and the White House that he would not back down from this goal and, in the end, he succeeded. The conference agreement did not include the \$1.46 billion provided by the Senate as a separate appropriation for the NIH Office of AIDS research. However, the agreement does provide the Office with a 3 percent transfer authority for AIDS research funding between the Institutes.

In other final FY 1997 HHS appropriations, the **Agency for Health Care Policy and Research** received \$96.2 million in direct appropriations and

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\$47.1 million in Public Health Service one-percent evaluation funds. The **Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation** received \$18.5 million. Of that total, \$9.5 million will provide two years of funding to the General Accounting Office to contract for a study of the effects of medical saving accounts. The allocation for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** includes \$48.4 million from the PHS evaluation set-aside and \$23 million for antiterrorist security at CDC headquarters to better protect laboratories containing dangerous infectious agents against possible attacks.

The conference report did not include language prohibiting the **Census Bureau** from using sampling, but this is an issue that will not go away (see *Update*, September 30). The **National Institute of Justice**, aside from the \$31.4 million direct appropriation, will also receive \$20 million from the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants. Most of this money is earmarked for further development of technological responses to crime. The **National Endowment for the Humanities** suffered no more damage than already inflicted last year, as they received the same \$110 million appropriation for FY 1997 as they got in FY 1996. Funding for the **Educational and Cultural Exchange programs of the United States Information Agency** continued their downward slide, as they were cut \$12 million from their FY 1996 levels. The Fulbright program should receive \$98 million of those funds, with the rest for the myriad of other exchange programs.

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Two Threats to Social Science Spared by Adjournment

Finally, in non-appropriations activity, two pieces of legislation that could have severely damaged social and behavioral science research died with the end of the 104th Congress. The NSF reauthorization bill, which included the call for the elimination of the SBE directorate, passed the House but never went anywhere in the Senate. In addition, the Family Privacy Protection Act, which would have made surveys of children and adolescents more difficult to complete, passed the House but also never made it to the Senate floor, after emerging from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee in August.

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH BOARD TO CONSIDER RESEARCH PRIORITIES *HS*

The new National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board held its inaugural meeting on September 16, 17 and 18. The 30 member panel, established to provide "advice on research, extension, education and economic policies and priorities" for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, by law includes representatives from groups covering the gamut of agricultural and rural interests. Representing "National Social Science Associations," is Janice Nixon, nominated by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Nixon is an extension agent in Logan County, CO.

The new Board elected Victor Lechtenberg, Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University as Chairman, and Dan Dooley, a lawyer from California who represents many agricultural and water interests in the San Joaquin Valley, as Vice Chairman. Dooley is the brother of Representative Cal Dooley (D-CA). Barbara Stowe, Dean of the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University and an active participant in discussions of the rural social science research agenda over the years, is the "National Consumer Groups," representative on the panel.

In laying out the strategic plan for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), Acting Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics, Catherine

FISCAL YEAR 1997 APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Agency	FY 1996 Funding	FY 1997 Proposed	FY 1997 House	FY 1997 Senate	FY 1997 Final
National Science Foundation					
Total	3,220.0	3,325.0	3,253.0	3,275.0	3,270.0
Research and Related Activities	2,314.0	2,472.0	2,431.0	2,432.0	2,432.0
Education and Human Resources	599.0	619.0	612.0	624.0	619.0
Dept. of Health and Human Services					
Centers for Disease Control	2,085.8	2,230.0	2,153.0	2,168.0	2,262.0
Agency for Health Care Policy and Research	125.2	143.8	125.2	143.6	143.6
Asst. Sec. for Planning and Evaluation	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	18.5
Nat. Inst. for Child Health and Human Development	594.6	603.7	632.0	615.2	631.7
Nat. Inst. for Aging	453.4	463.5	484.4	472.1	486.0
Nat. Inst. for Nursing Research	55.8	57.0	59.7	52.9	59.74
Nat. Inst. for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	198.4	202.6	212.1	206.3	212.0
Nat. Inst. for Drug Abuse	458.1	312.0	471.3	474.1	489.4
Nat. Inst. of Mental Health	660.5	578.1	701.2	683.4	701.6
Department of Agriculture					
National Research Initiative	96.7	130.0	96.7	93.9	94.2
Economic Research Service	53.1	54.9	54.2	53.1	53.1
Dept. of Commerce/Census Bureau					
Periodic Censuses and Programs	150.3	248.7	205.1	210.5	210.5
Census Salaries and Expenses	136.0	150.7	133.6	139.7	135.0
Bureau of Economic Analysis	45.9	53.5	45.9	49.4	45.9
Department of Education					
Education Research & Laboratories	107.0	108.0	121.6	107.0	123.8
Education Statistics	46.2	50.0	50.0	46.2	50.0
Assessment	32.6	32.7	32.6	32.6	32.6
Javits Fellowships	5.9	-----	-----	-----	-----
Graduate Assistance in Areas National Need	27.3	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
International Programs	56.2	59.1	58.2	59.6	59.8
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development					
Policy Development and Research	34.0	45.0	34.0	34.0	34.0
Department of Justice					
National Institute of Justice	30.0	41.0	30.0	31.6	31.4
Bureau of Justice Statistics	21.4	22.0	21.4	21.4	21.4
Juvenile Justice	149.5	144.0	148.5	158.5	170.0
Department of Labor					
Bureau of Labor Statistics	291.8	320.4	302.6	299.7	309.7
Natl. Endowment for the Humanities					
	182.0	136.0	104.4	99.4	110.0
Smithsonian Institution					
Woodrow Wilson Center	10.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
U.S. Information Agency					
Educational and Cultural Exchanges	199.7	202.4	185.0	183.0	185.0

Woteki, explained to the Board the outcomes the programs must deliver. They include: a competitive agricultural system in a global economy; a safe, secure food and fiber system; a healthy, well-nourished population; harmony between agriculture and the environment; and enhanced economic development and quality of life for rural families. The tools to accomplish these results include: basic research; applied research; extension, outreach and dissemination; support for higher education; and developmental research and technology transfer. The panel needs to help the Department determine the effectiveness of the tools to produce the desired outcomes, Woteki noted, particularly as the Government Performance and Results Act becomes a real part of assessments and budgetary planning.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Economic Research Service, whose administrator Susan Offut, called the "only social science research agency in the Federal government," provide the data collection and analysis for informing the public and private decisions on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural development. Both of these USDA agencies help answer the vexing questions facing modern rural America, including "What is a farm these days?"

Many had hoped that the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants program would become the cornerstone of the USDA's basic research thrust. Originally envisioned as a \$500 million, peer-reviewed competition, appropriations for the NRI have stagnated at slightly under \$100 million in recent years. As Bob Robinson, Administrator for CREES, noted, the NRI suffers from a lack of a constituency. It also has a problem with consistency. Often, the same universities who argue for increased funding for the NRI and peer review, are also asking Congress for special grants for their own special projects. Congress thus gets a mixed message, and is much happier funding proposals in their districts for which they can receive credit.

Fund for Rural America

Another reason the NRI did not get its proposed increase for FY 1997, is that Congress has created a Fund for Rural America. This fund, using dollars saved from revising commodity support programs, has \$100 million to spend in each of the next three years.

From one-third to two-thirds of this money must be spent on research. Robinson, said the fund, would support proposals that would: help solve problems; emphasize integrative approaches; create new partnerships among educational institutions, researchers, the public, and State and local governments; and explore new problem solving practices. The Department would use a broad based competitive model where merit review and relevance would be key factors in evaluating proposals.

Colien Hefferan, Associate Administrator for CREES, outlined the time line for the proposal process. By the end of 1996 the solicitation should be available for prospective applicants for research grants. The RFP should be in the Federal Register in December. The first awards would be made by June 1997. She expects 3,000 to 5,000 proposals and she thinks there will be funding for 800/1,200. She hopes that each proposal will have five reviewers. The project awards could last for five years. Although the program is supposed to end after FY 1999, success could breed further renewal.

NIMH DIRECTOR OUTLINES FUTURE DIRECTIONS AS

National Institute of Mental Health Director Steve Hyman noted at the September meeting of the NIMH Advisory Council Meeting that we are living "in a paradoxical time of unprecedented scientific times. We have new opportunities from increasing interdisciplinary research, and at the same time we are faced with doing research in a steady state environment, slightly above inflation." To capitalize on these opportunities, he urged prioritizing in a thoughtful way with a planning process that includes constituencies.

Hyman noted that the council had initiated and is taking an active role in three working groups. One group is examining the critical area of increasing communication with the public. Hyman related that House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Porter (R-IL) has noted on a number of occasions that NIH is not doing a good enough job of informing the public, especially in the area of mental health. Hyman suggested that not all NIMH's funds can be spent on

direct research and the Institute would have to decide what its role would be in educating the public.

The second working group would review NIMH's investment in the Use, Needs, Outcomes and Costs of Child and Adolescent Populations (UNOCCAP) survey, a nationwide survey of 10,000 children and adolescents. The issues of childhood mental health borders on an emergency situation, said Hyman. UNOCCAP represents a substantial investment and now is an opportune time to review it, since much of the actual survey work has yet to be initiated.

The third area for examination is fully integrating NIMH into NIH's Division of Research Grants (DRG), as NIH continues to explore improving its peer review process. "We now have the tools and people to permit this to occur in a thoughtful way," said Hyman, noting that Ellie Ehrenfeld will become DRG's full time director in January. During two sets of meetings among the directors of the National Institute on Neurological Diseases, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute on Aging, and Deputy Director of Extramural Research Wendy Baldwin, agreement was reached to ensure that no matter how the process changed, the goal remained ensuring that the best science would get performed. Hyman noted that the directors are mindful that going from molecules to behavior and mental health is extraordinarily challenging and that we "do not want to lose our ability to motivate the neuroscientists . . . We have to protect our core mission."

Hyman indicated that integrating peer review revisions is "a very sensitive issue to many grantees -- but science changes." We want, he said, "the best and most flexible review that will allow the accomplishment of NIMH's goals." He further noted that constituency groups felt isolated and that he had directed NIMH legislative liaison Louis Steinberg to work with them.

Reviewing the NIMH Intramural Research Program

Harold A. Sackeim of the New York State Psychiatric Institute briefed the council on the preliminary recommendations of the Intramural Research Program (IRP) Committee. However, he

said, the recommendations are subject to revision. Congress is the impetus for the review, and additionally, an external advisory council to the NIH director recommended in 1994 that each intramural research program undergo an evaluation. The NIMH IRP review is at its midpoint and the preliminary recommendations being sketched out are not dissimilar to the recommendations that all of NIH is receiving, said Sackeim.

Rationales for the review, said Sackeim, include: lack of congressional appropriation increases; assessment of the impact of managed care on clinical research; leadership changes; perception of diminished quality and morale; and the centrality of the NIMH IRP to national efforts in mental health research.

The Committee asked the question: Should there be an IRP? The response was positive because of NIMH's unique clinical and technological resources, its funding methods can promote innovation; and there is a critical mass of resources and potential collaboration to address national and programmatic needs. The committee feels revitalizing the IRP is necessary and its recommendations will aim to provide the tools and direction for that restructuring, said Sackeim. Further, the committee feels that consistent and effective leadership for the IRP program is key, he concluded.

The committee's preliminary scientific reorganization includes: reconceptualizing the role of the branch and laboratory chiefs; allocating resources at the level of the tenure scientists, which is already in place at NIMH; reducing the size of the laboratories and branches; supervising basic research scientists by clinical researchers should be the exception; redeploying less productive tenured scientists; and recruiting new middle level and senior investigators.

ROLE OF SCIENCE IN DRUG WAR HIGHLIGHTED

"Science is the process by which common sense gets revised," said National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Alan Leshner at the NIDA-sponsored **National Conference on Drug Abuse Prevention Research: Putting Research to Work for the Community**. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala and the Director of the Office of

National Drug Control Policy, General Barry McCaffrey, delivered the keynote addresses.

Drug abuse and addiction are among the one or two issues that affect everyone whether directly or indirectly, said Leshner. There is no magic bullet, he continued, "it is a most complex problem and will have to have a complex solution." Leshner described drug abuse and addiction as a biobehavioral disorder; the epitome of biology and behavior coming together. "Drug abuse is a preventable behavior . . . People don't understand that prevention can be science based," he explained. It is a "process of education and behavior change." Leshner told the participants that NIDA's conference is the "first step in a process that links prevention science to community action." The many segments of society participating in the two-day conference "speaks not only to the importance but our nation's commitment" in the fight against drug abuse and addiction, said Leshner. "Research alone is not enough. We need to energize the community of concerned and caring parents, community leaders, educators, and government officials to consider what has been learned and to integrate this knowledge into new and existing programs at the community level." Concluding, Leshner said that "science will have to replace ideology as the foundation for drug abuse and addiction prevention, treatment and policy strategies."

Secretary Shalala praised Leshner for his efforts in developing strategies against drug abuse and addiction across the Department. "Behind the research," said Shalala, "science is about saving lives and begins and ends with young people . . . NIDA sponsored research continues to illuminate the dangers of marijuana," said Shalala.

General McCaffrey began by praising the federal agencies that provide him the background information regarding the drug challenge and emphasizing that we "have to take a comprehensive look" at the teenage drug use. McCaffrey said that "the war on drugs . . . has to be a long-term engagement." McCaffrey's top priority is "to motivate U.S. youth to reject drugs." He cited "generational forgetting" -- parents not talking to their kids, the news media cessation of talking about drugs, the school system backing off the drug issue, and the lack of ministers in the fight as some of the reasons why teens are using drugs. "We need a consistent message appropriate to the age group," said McCaffrey. Concluding his address,

McCaffrey told the scientists to "tutor us [he and Shalala] on what works and what doesn't work and assume that Shalala and I will take the work and be your public servants."

NURSING RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMS DISCUSSED

Celebrating its 10th anniversary as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), The National Institute on Nursing (NINR), recently held its 30th advisory council meeting. The NINR has become a permanent part of the NIH community and is continuing to "make a mark," said NINR's Director Patricia A. Grady. Nursing research has flourished over the past ten years and has made a significant impact in several areas including: behavioral and biobehavioral studies, disease prevention, cost effectiveness of different care settings, ethical issues in genetics research, women's health, aging and pain and symptom management, she said.

In her director's report to the council, Grady updated the council on NINR's recent program to provide intramural training for extramural researchers. "The focus," said Grady, was on "training for researchers in training." She noted that multiple institutes participated in the one week training program. The program, she said, could serve as a model for nurse scientist training programs. According to Grady, the one week course addressed NIH policies, procedures and applications and "provided practical strategies for conducting clinical research." NINR shared with the 23 selected participants (out of a pool of 400 applicants) the structure, function and responsibilities of the NIH community. The participants, in feedback to the NINR, said that the opportunity to participate should be expanded and reported that they liked the exposure to NIH programs, as well as the insight into the grant review process. Most reported, said Grady, that they now "felt better prepared to interact with NIH in the future." The director pointed out that the number of applicants exceeded the available spots by a ratio of 20:1 and revealed a need for the course. NINR hoped to continue the program in the future.

Additionally, Grady explained that several areas of emphasis at NINR overlapped with legislative

interests including genetics. "Genetics," said Grady, "is a burgeoning area." The area "raises a host of ethical, social and legal questions that are being addressed by the Congress," she stated. Citing the convening of a multidisciplinary work group to review genetics research opportunities, Grady said the NINR is developing programs to deal with these issues. She also noted that NINR, the National Center for Human Genome Research, and the National Cancer Institute cosponsored a workshop to define core curriculum for nursing genetics.

Hillary Sigmon, reporting on the work group's meeting, cited several areas of opportunities for

genetics research at NINR. The Institute has identified initiatives to close gaps in the research agenda, including behavioral research in conjunction with genetic testing to reduce disease risk. In response to this gap, the NINR has issued a Program Announcement on the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Human Genetic Research.

Other examples of research directions identified by the workgroup include: outcome measures, disease markers and mechanisms, patients' decision making and learning styles, risk reduction behaviors and special population groups.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE *KC*

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.

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Applications are invited for competitive grant awards in agricultural, forest and related environmental sciences under the National Competitive Research Initiative Grants Program administered by the Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management Division, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The program sponsors social science related research primarily in the Markets, Trade and Policy component. This component consists of two areas: Markets and Trade, and Rural Development.

Project Types: *Conventional Projects* -- (a) Standard Research Grants: Research will be supported that is fundamental or mission-linked, conducted by individual investigators, co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams. (b) Conferences: Scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research needs, update information, or advance an area of research are recognized as integral parts of research efforts. *Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards* -- In order to contribute to the enhancement of research capabilities in the research program areas described herein, applications are solicited for Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards.

Eligible Participants: Applications may be submitted by any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual.

Budget: Funds available for Markets, Trade and Policy for FY 1997 are \$3.8 million.

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked by December 15, 1996.

Contact: For information and an application kit contact: Proposal Services Branch, Office of Extramural Programs, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 2245, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-2245; telephone (202) 401-5048. Requests for solicitations and application materials may also now be made via Internet by sending a message with your name, complete mailing address, phone number and materials that you are requesting to: psb@recusda.gov.

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