

**PSYCHOLOGIST TO LEAD
NSF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DIRECTORATE** *HS*

Bennett Bertenthal, Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, has been selected as the new Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Bertenthal succeeds Cora Marrett, who returned to the University of Wisconsin in early October. He will join NSF full-time in January. Until then, Jeff Fenstermacher, Executive Officer for the directorate, will serve as Acting Assistant Director, with Bertenthal taking part in NSF activities on a part-time consulting basis.

The new Assistant Director, whose specialty is developmental psychology, has conducted research focused on infant's self-recognition, perception, and early activities. The research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). He has also received grants from the MacArthur Foundation, the McDonell-Pew program in Cognitive Neuroscience, and the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Education Foundation. Bertenthal has also received research training grants from NIMH.

He currently serves as co-chair of the program committee for the Society for Research on Child Development's biennial meeting. A member of the editorial board of *Developmental Psychology*, Bertenthal has been the chair of the Human Development and Aging Study Section for the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. He has served as an extramural reviewer of the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He has presented invited colloquia at many universities throughout the United States and abroad, including the Institute of Child Development at Beijing Normal University.

A Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society, Bertenthal has received an NIH Research Career

Development Award, and the Boyd McCandless Young Scientist Award.

He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Denver and a B.A. from Brandeis University. He served as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Brain Research Institute and Department of Pediatrics at the UCLA School of Medicine.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY
PLEDGES GREATER
RESEARCH EFFORT** *HS*

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), viewed mostly as a regulatory agency, has been moving to increase its extramural research program. In the past three years, peer reviewed, competitive research has grown significantly, both in budget and attention. Whether this is a response to the movement for a National Institute for the Environment, which would separate research from EPA's regulatory function, is unclear.

According to the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, a White House sponsored inter-agency group, EPA is also trying to increase its emphasis on socio-economic research. These efforts

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are directed at accurate valuation methods, integrated assessment tools, and data and methods for assessing environmental justice issues. They also emphasize information on the consequences of changes in environmental regulations to the size, structure and performance of economic markets, and impacts on individual behavior. Another research focus is the continued development and appropriate use of methods to ascribe value to environmental services.

At a recent conference, officials from EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) discussed the past few years and laid out their plans for FY 1997. According to Robert Huggett, ORD's director, "EPA is in the business of funding research we need to have done." As a mission agency, relevance is an important part of the criteria for soliciting and funding proposals. Thus, all proposals are peer reviewed by outsiders, and then subject to a "relevancy review" by EPA officials, both from the research office and program offices. This is important, said Huggett, because the agency needs the research results disseminated quickly.

Investigator Initiated Research

The agency does fund investigator initiated research through its Exploratory Grants program. In FY 1997, EPA expects to have \$20 million available for new and continuing grants in broadly identified areas including social science (see *Sources of*

Research Support on page 7). The funding for this program has been steady over the past four years.

The major growth for EPA research has come in topics selected by ORD that meet national environmental science needs and that complement EPA's in-house research program. This portion of the EPA portfolio has grown from \$22 million in FY 1995 to approximately \$70 million in the President's FY 1997 request. Since Congress did not provide the whole EPA research request, this number will likely decrease. For this fiscal year EPA has established the following areas of special interest to its mission: ecosystem indicators; issues in human health risk assessment; endocrine disruptors; ambient air quality; health effects and exposures to particulate matter and associated air pollutants; drinking water; and contaminated sediments. Within the human health risk assessment arena there is funding for a "Consumer Right to Know Initiative" that includes risk communication research (see *Sources of Research Support*).

In addition, EPA has a graduate fellowship program. Funded at \$10 million in FY 1996, these are 3 year awards. They have funded 100 fellows during the first two years of the program, and they had hoped to fund another 100 in 1997. However, Congress reduced the appropriation from \$15 million to \$8 million and that will lead to fewer fellowships. During the first two years of the program, EPA did not provide indirect costs to the universities where the fellows were enrolled. After many complaints from these institutions, EPA is reassessing this practice.

EPA has also engaged in inter-agency cooperative efforts with NSF, the Department of Energy, and others. One of the joint efforts with NSF has been grants for policy assessment research called for in the U.S. Global Change Research Program. An announcement for research co-funded jointly by NSF and EPA regarding decision-making and valuation for environmental policy will be released November 1.

For further information about EPA's research program go to <http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa> or call 1-800-490-9194.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral scientists. *Update* is published 22 times per year. 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.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM'S SERVICE MANDATE CHANGED *mb*

A controversial change to the National Security Education Program (NSEP) has been modified, addressing concerns of those opposed to a mandate imposed in 1995 requiring scholars to fulfill their obligation by working for a defense or national security agency. NSEP, which supports area studies and exchange programs from a trust fund drawn from money that had been allocated for defense and intelligence, is housed in the Defense Department.

In 1995, Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-FL) successfully sponsored an amendment requiring NSEP grantees to serve in a defense or intelligence capacity. Recipients could previously fulfill program requirements by working in any branch of the federal government or in education. Young had argued that the defense and intelligence agencies who pay for the program should reap more of the benefits.

Shortly before this year's congressional adjournment, Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) included provisions in the Defense Department appropriations bill that would broaden the requirements by having grantees work in an agency with "national security responsibilities" -- something program administrators believe will be interpreted broadly -- or through college-level teaching if the recipient were unable to obtain a federal job.

International education advocates had argued that the Young requirement would jeopardize the academic integrity and appeal of the program.

NEH, MELLON FOUNDATION FORM PARTNERSHIP *mb*

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced an October 21 cooperative funding initiative with the Andrew M. Mellon Foundation, representing the largest public-private partnership ever formed by NEH. The two organizations will jointly provide a multimillion-dollar grant program to support advanced research fellowships in history, literature, philosophy, classics, jurisprudence and other humanities disciplines at the nation's independent research libraries, museums and other centers for advanced study.

Since 1974, NEH has supported the work of more than 1,500 scholars at centers for advanced study. The NEH/Mellon partnership, a model of public-private enterprise, will greatly increase funding for fellowships at centers over the coming years.

According to the partnership, the Mellon Foundation is awarding grants totaling \$4.8 million of new funding to nine centers that will support approximately 92 fellowships and related costs over the next five years.

Twenty centers for advanced study currently receive NEH funding in support of their fellowship programs. Under the terms of the partnership, the NEH allocation to support fellowship programs at independent research institutions will rise from the Fiscal Year 1996 level of \$1.25 million to a Fiscal Year 1997 and 1998 total of \$5 million.

JUSTICE SERIES BRINGS RESEARCH TO POLICY MAKERS *mb*

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research and development arm of the Justice Department, has conducted 22 "Research in Progress" seminars over the past two years, bringing social science research to key policy makers, including Attorney General Janet Reno.

The one-hour seminars have attracted a diverse audience of Justice Department officials, police leaders and officers, and other state and local law enforcement officials. Reno has attended several sessions. According to NIJ Director Jeremy Travis, NIJ has sold, at cost, over 3,400 videotapes of the presentations, making the series self-supporting. Travis said that they are used extensively in both academic classrooms and police academies. Carnegie Mellon University Professor Al Blumstein's presentation on youth gun markets remains the program's best-selling tape.

At an October 17 seminar, also attended by Reno, Marcia Chaiken of the Virginia-based LINC presented her study, "Youth Afterschool Programs and the Role of Law Enforcement." Chaiken gave an overview of her research, which examined issues such as target audiences, impact of crime on program

sites and providers, effects of police partnerships, and impact of afterschool programs on neighborhood crime.

To obtain a list of available videotapes, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at (800) 851-3420.

REPORT EXAMINES RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AS

According to a National Research Council report, *Understanding Violence Against Women*, "well-organized research will be critical to the long-term goal of preventing and ameliorating the effects of violence against women." The report found that despite increased public awareness and more services for victims of violence and their offenders, research data confirm that "violence against women is still a major problem in the U.S." The study, requested by Congress, examines current research and outlines an agenda for future study. Congress specified that the agenda focus primarily on preventive, educational, social and legal strategies, including consideration of the needs of underserved populations.

The panel concluded that "violence against women is not a problem that can be solved in the short term." Additionally, the panel, while emphasizing that prevention is the foundation for long-term solutions, also called for well-organized and better research. "After reviewing the literature on battering, rape, and sexual assault, the panel concludes that significant gaps exist in understanding of the extent and causes of violence against women and the impact and effectiveness of preventive and treatment interventions." A research agenda to facilitate development in four major areas to begin to close those gaps was recommended by the panel.

Preventing Violence Against Women -- "The panel concludes that in order to significantly reduce the amount of violence against women in the U.S. the focus must be on prevention" with the following recommendations:

- Longitudinal research to study the developmental trajectory of violent behavior against women and

whether and how it differs from the development of other violent behaviors;

- The inclusion of questions about violent behavior against women in research on the causes of other violent behavior;
- The examination of risk factors, such as poverty, childhood victimization, and brain injury, for sexual and intimate partner violence in studies of at-risk children and adolescents;
- Rigorous evaluation of both short- and long-term effects of violence, including school-based education programs, media campaigns, and legal changes intended to deter violence against women; and
- The inclusion of intimate partner and sexual violence outcomes in evaluations of nonviolent conflict resolution programs and other programs designed to prevent delinquency, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, gang involvement, and general violence.

Improving Research Methods -- Because

"researchers working on violence against women come from a wide spectrum of disciplines," several key topics were recommended for improving research on violence against women:

- Clear definition by researchers and practitioners of the terms used in their work;
- The development and testing of scales and other tools of measurement to make operational the key and most used definitions;
- Improvement in the reliability and validity of research instruments with guidance from subpopulations with whom the instruments will be used, for example, people of color or specific ethnic groups;
- Clarification of theory and the outcomes expected from the intervention in evaluation research;
- The use of randomized, controlled outcome studies to identify the program and community features that account for effectiveness (or lack thereof) of legal and social service treatment interventions with various groups of offenders;
- Both qualitative and quantitative research to recognize the confluence of the broad and social and cultural context in which women experience violence, as well individual factors, with attention to such factors as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and sexual orientation in

shaping the context and experience of violence in women's lives.

Building Knowledge -- Because research on violence against women "has advanced along categorical lines . . . rather than on women's experiences, which are believed to include multiple forms of violence," the panel finds that there are many gaps in understanding violence against women. The following areas were identified by the panel as being the "most important next research steps:"

- The development of both national and community-level survey studies using the most valid instrumentation and questioning techniques to measure incidence and prevalence of violence against women;
- The inclusion of questions pertaining to violence against women in national and community surveys of topics such as women's mental or physical health or social or economic well-being;
- Research on the consequences of violence against women that includes intergenerational consequences, effects of race and socioeconomic status on consequences, and costs to society, including lost productivity and the use of the criminal justice, health and social service systems;
- Studies that describe current services for victims of violence and evaluate their effectiveness;
- Studies to investigate the factors associated with victim's service-seeking behavior, including delaying seeking of services or not seeking services at all, in order to identify barriers to service seeking and alternative approaches and settings for service provision; and
- Studies that examine discretionary processes in the criminal and civil justice systems, including legal research on the theory and implementation of new laws and reforms, police and prosecutorial decision making, jury decision making, and judicial decision making.

Developing the Research Infrastructure -- Noting that the responsibility for research on violence against women is spread across the federal government, the panel concludes that the research "will be strengthened by a research infrastructure that supports interdisciplinary efforts and helps to integrate those efforts into service programs and institutional policies." Two key actions were

recommended for improving research capacity and strengthening ties between researchers and practitioners:

- Development of a coordinated research strategy by government agencies; and
- Establishment of a minimum of three to four research centers, within academic or other appropriate settings, to support the development of studies and training programs focused on violence against women, to provide mechanisms for collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and to provide technical assistance for integrating research into service provision.

Copies of the *Understanding Violence Against Women* report can be obtained from the National Academy Press; tel. (202) 334-3313 or 1-800-624-6242.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The chart on the following page, *Fiscal Year 1997 Appropriations for Agencies that Support Social and Behavioral Science Research*, is revised from the version that appeared in the October 14 issue of *Update*.

On the amended chart, the figures for six agencies at the National Institutes of Health include Office of AIDS Research (OAR) transfers.

In recent years, the House and Senate have disagreed over providing a separate allocation for OAR. The conference agreement funding NIH for FY 1997 did not include a separate appropriation for OAR, but did provide the office with a 3 percent transfer authority for AIDS research funding between the Institutes.

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

(All figures in millions; asterisk includes Office of AIDS Research transfers where appropriate)

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	56.9	59.7	58.0	59.7
* Nat. Inst. for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	198.4	202.6	212.1	206.3	212.0
* Nat. Inst. for Drug Abuse	458.1	466.3	487.3	474.1	489.4
* Nat. Inst. of Mental Health	660.5	671.2	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

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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.

Office of Research and Development

Exploratory Research:

Social Science - Applications submitted in this area may include economic (cost-benefit analysis), public policy (alternative approaches to regulation), and sociological (individual and organizational behavior) aspects of environmental problems. Studies focusing on existing initiatives such as the Common Sense Initiative, Project XL (Excellence and Leadership) and Community-based environmental protection are of particular interest.

Approximately \$5 million is expected to be available in FY 1997 for new exploratory research grants across a range of disciplines. The projected award range is \$75,000 to \$125,000/year for up to three years. **Application deadline: January 15, 1997.**

Issues in Human Health Risk Assessment:

Consumer Right-to-Know - The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 requires the federal government to provide consumer right-to-know information in a format understandable to a lay person. Such information would be distributed to large retail grocers for public display related to risks and benefits of pesticide chemical residues in or on food purchased by consumers with recommendations to consumers for reducing dietary exposure to pesticide chemical residues in a manner consistent with maintaining a healthy diet. Therefore, research is needed on how best to communicate the results of these more comprehensive assessments.

Risk communication research is needed: 1) to identify optimal communication strategies and tools to disseminate information and educate consumers, and 2) determine what kinds of information consumers will find most useful. Research is needed to explore whether any adjunct or complementary communication strategies (e.g., public information, health information campaign) would contribute to assuring that the public receives accurate, pertinent, and useful information. Factors that could be explored include, but need not be limited to: 1) strategies for increasing comprehensibility and retention of information, 2) strategies to motivate behavioral changes to reduce potential exposures, and 3) identifying factors key to ensuring understanding and cultural acceptability to minorities and potentially susceptible subpopulations.

Approximately \$5 million is expected to be available in FY 1997 for human health risk assessment research. The projected award range is \$50,000 to \$300,000/year for up to three years. **Application deadline: February 15, 1997.**

For more information:

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Issues in Human Health Risk Assessment

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Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for the Advancement of
Socio-Economics
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
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Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association

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