

THE

CANCER NEWSLETTER

11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091 Phone 703-471-9695

ANTI-IMPOUNDMENT, PANEL STAY IN CANCER RENEWAL ACT; CONFEREES FINALLY AGREE ON RESEARCH TRAINING BILL

It was compromise time in Congress last week as the legislators managed to break away for a few moments from the impeachment mesmeria and move ahead on major items affecting the cancer program:

— Conferees reached agreement on the bill extending the National Cancer Act for three more years with Sen. Edward Kennedy prevailing on the only two significant items of those in disagreement.

— The House HEW Appropriations Subcommittee was wrapping up its work on the money bill that includes fiscal 1975 funds for NIH and the cancer program. It will have a little more in it for cancer than the President had asked, but not nearly as much as those involved in the program had hoped to get.

— The impasse on the Rogers training grant revival bill (now called the National Research Service Awards Act), finally was overcome; if it becomes law and is adequately funded, it will turn around the two-year decline in support of research training.

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In Brief

KING NAMED TO REPLACE SAUNDERS; ZUBROD RETIRES, WILL GO TO MIAMI; PERRY ACTING TREATMENT CHIEF

GORDON ZUBROD has retired as director of NCI's Div. of Cancer Treatment and will accept a major position with the Univ. of Miami Cancer Center. Zubrod, who has been with NCI for more than 20 years, organized the massive chemotherapy program which later evolved into the division with responsibility (but not necessarily the authority) for research in all treatment modalities. Seymour Perry, Zubrod's deputy, has been named acting director while a search committee undertakes the job of finding a permanent chief. NCI Deputy Director Guy Newell is chairman of the search committee and is looking for candidates. Suggestions and curricula vitae should be sent to Newell at NCI, Bethesda, Md. 20014 . . . **THOMAS J. KING**, meanwhile, has been appointed acting director of the Div. of Research Resources & Centers, taking over from J. Palmer Saunders, who will retire at the end of June to become dean of the Univ. of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Science in Galveston. King will get the permanent appointment to head this division, which administers NCI grant programs. He came to NCI two years ago after an outstanding career as a cellular biologist at Georgetown Univ. and the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia . . . **CANCER CONTROL** has been accorded division status at NCI, putting Director Diane Fink on par with King, Perry, Cause & Prevention Director James Peters, and Biology & Diagnosis Chief Nathaniel Berlin who now is the only division head left from the pre-National Cancer Act era . . .

Vol. 1 No. 19

June 14, 1974

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Subscription \$100 per year

Research Training

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HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND \$627 MILLION FOR CANCER PROGRAM

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Final action on the cancer and training bills could come anytime after the conference reports have been printed, which is a matter of days. Chairman Dan Flood of the HEW Appropriations Subcommittee has announced that his bill will be reported out by the full committee June 24. The Senate will act only after the House has passed the measure, which means the bill probably will not clear the Senate until mid-July at the earliest. Even so, barring a veto, it would mean the earliest completion of an HEW money bill in years.

Chairman Paul Rogers of the House Health Subcommittee agreed to Kennedy's insistence on establishing a new biomedical research review panel as an oversight body for NIH. Its charge will be somewhat restricted, however, from that proposed by Kennedy in the Senate bill. It will have a life of only 18 months rather than be a permanent body; and it will be limited to the review and assessment of NIH programs and the identification of policy issues.

The panel will consist of six scientific members to be appointed by the President plus the chairman of the President's Cancer Panel — an obvious attempt to get the proven effectiveness of Cancer Panel Chairman Benno Schmidt working for NIH.

Schmidt may have been flattered by the Senate's admiration of his efforts for the cancer program, but he has resisted the move to broaden his field. "Serving on the new panel, while still trying to do the job I've been asked to do on the Cancer Panel would be more than a full-time job, one I would not be inclined to accept," Schmidt has said.

His most serious objection, however, was that he did not believe the new panel could be effective unless its concept and mission had the support of the President. The original Kennedy plan obviously did not; the compromise probably is acceptable.

"In that case, if the bill is signed and becomes law, then I would accept the appointment and do the best I can," Schmidt told *The Cancer Newsletter*.

HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger had said that he would recommend a veto if the panel provision remained in the bill as it passed the Senate. However, the new version is more along the lines of a body that Weinberger had previously suggested was needed to take a look at all federally-supported biomedical research, and is now considered acceptable.

Weinberger also had objected to the anti-impoundment provision, but had not gone so far as to threaten a veto. This will extend the prohibi-

tion against impounding by the President of all health appropriations, which first became law in 1970 when Congress over-rode a veto by President Nixon. It was that law which was the basis for the successful court actions which forced the Administration to release nearly a half-billion dollars of impounded funds from 1973 appropriations.

Congress is nearing final action on a measure revamping its procedures for developing appropriations bills and changing the fiscal year starting date from July 1 to Oct. 1. It also spells out the procedures by which the President may impound appropriated funds, and gives Congress a veto over such action if it objects. If that bill becomes law, it would supercede the anti-impoundment section.

The Senate bill had included an amendment offered by Birch Bayh authorizing an additional \$7 million for Cancer Control to conduct Pap test demonstration projects. Conferees reduced that to \$3.5 million and decreed that the program should be evaluated before it is fully implemented.

The House language on all other items in disagreement prevailed: mandating peer review of grants and contracts and nutrition data collection and information dissemination; prohibiting HEW from interfering with NCI information programs; and a restriction preventing the Office of Management & Budget and HEW from withholding personnel slots for NCI as approved by Congress.

The appropriations bill that Flood will take to the floor probably will contain only \$605 million for NCI. This does not include money for construction, however. The law authorizing NIH to support construction expires June 30, and Flood felt that it would not be legal to appropriate such funds until that authority is renewed. There will be \$22 million more for construction when new authorization is approved, probably as a rider to one of the other health bills.

Specific authority for NIH contract programs also expires June 30, but the Flood committee felt that other public health laws were broad enough to interpret as contract authority and so included those appropriations — nearly \$200 million for NCI. The specific authority is included in the cancer act.

RESEARCH TRAINING -- ON THE ROAD BACK, WITH TRAINEE STIPENDS, PAYBACK FEATURE

It has been a year since both houses of Congress reacted to Weinberger's killing of the old training grant and fellowship programs by passing with overwhelming votes nearly identical bills to restore NIH support of research training.

The only difference between the House and Senate bills was a feature added by Kennedy that would es-

establish a commission to develop regulations governing research on human subjects. Rogers balked, and refused to go to conference until he had had a chance to conduct his own hearings on protection of human subjects in research. But even after those hearings were completed, Rogers delayed.

It became obvious that mounting pressures from the academic community, which insisted that the limited "Weinberger" fellowships would not do much to restore the flow of young scientists into research, would not move the Administration into restoring the old program. Rogers finally agreed to a conference.

As with the NIH oversight panel, Kennedy had wanted a permanent commission for patient protection; Rogers won agreement for one with a life of two years specifically charged with studying fetal research and psychosurgery. Included in the compromise was a four-month ban on live fetus research, after which the commission will be required to recommend the circumstances, if any, under which fetal research could be undertaken.

After two years, the commission would be replaced by a national advisory council for the protection of human subjects of biomedical and behavioral research.

With that out of the way, the training provisions of the bill presented no problem, since Kennedy and Rogers were already in agreement there. The program authorizes \$208 million a year for both pre and post doctoral research training awards. The bulk of the money will go to student stipends, with \$15 million earmarked for financial distress grants to institutions.

An important new feature of this program will be the payback provisions. Trainees must agree to work 12 months for each year of support (limited to three years) in either research or teaching. They may elect to practice in an HMO, the National Health Service Corps or in designated medically-underserved areas; the payback in those cases would be 20 months for each 12 months of support.

RFPs AVAILABLE

Requests for proposal described here pertain to contracts planned for award by the National Cancer Institute, unless otherwise noted. Write to the Contracting Officer or Contract Specialist for copies of the RFP. Some listings will show the phone number of the Contract Specialist, who will respond to questions about the RFP. Contract Sections for the Cause & Prevention and Biology and Diagnosis Divisions are located at: NCI, Landow Bldg. NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014; for the Treatment and Control Divisions at NCI, Blair Bldg., 8300 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, Md. 20910. All requests for copies of RFPs should

cite the RFP number. The deadline date shown for each listing is the final day for receipt of the completed proposal unless otherwise indicated.

RFP NCI-CB-48957-33

Title: *A study for an operational impact evaluation system at NCI supported cancer centers*

Deadline: *July 8, 1974*

NCI is soliciting proposals from small business organizations with experience and demonstrated capabilities in the design and operation of automatic data processing systems to develop methodology for the design, installation and operation of a system to measure the effect of the Cancer Series Program on the areas supported.

Organizations must have full-time personnel with experience in developing requirements for the evaluation of health area programs. The principal investigator must have documented experience as project director in planning for comprehensive cancer programs as defined in the National Cancer Act of 1971.

Contract Officer: H. P. Simpson
301-496-5565
Biology & Diagnosis

RFP NCI-CM-53778

Title: *Operation of animal disease diagnostic laboratory.*

Deadline: *July 3, 1974*

(A brief summary of this RFP appeared in The Cancer Newsletter, June 7)

The contractor shall maintain and operate a disease diagnostic laboratory for the diagnosis of rodent fecal specimens, feed, bedding, and other material for the presence or absence of *Salmonella* spp. and *Pseudomonas* spp. The approximate number of specimens per year to be tested shall be: fecal, 10,000; feed, 500; bedding, 250; and other, 250.

Positive cultures shall be identified serologically and biochemically. Unusual or atypical serotypes shall be confirmed by another laboratory under Government contract, as directed by the Project Officer.

The contractor shall conduct studies toward the development of better diagnostic methods and techniques for controlling salmonellosis and pathogenic effects of *Pseudomonas* spp. in mice. These investigations shall include the following:

– Studies to improve the reliability and selectivity of cultural systems for the detection and isolation of *Salmonella* spp. and *Pseudomonas* spp. in the feces of laboratory mice.

– Investigations to develop procedures for the diagnosis and confirmation of the shedding of *Pseudomonas* spp. to be used concurrently with

those used for Salmonella spp. detection.

— Studies to separate, identify and further elucidate the source and nature of the materials produced by Aerobacter cloacae that inhibits the growth of Salmonella spp.

— Other studies as they relate to the workscope of this project.

Generally, groups of samples will be submitted to the contractor from various sources (as directed by NCI) on a bimonthly basis. It will be the first and major responsibility of the contractor to evaluate these samples for the presence or absence of Salmonella spp. or Pseudomonas spp. Any portion of the effort not utilized in performance of this service function will be used to perform the above-mentioned "Experimental Investigations." It is anticipated that the experimental portion of this contract will not exceed 10% of the total contract effort.

Contract Specialist: Joseph Kerner
301-427-7470
Cancer Treatment

SOUTHERN GETS TWO MORE CONTRACTS TOTALLING \$4.5 MILLION FROM NCI

Southern Research Institute landed two more million dollar contracts last week to add to its five-year, \$11-million contract for primary and secondary screening and methodology (*The Cancer Newsletter*, June 7)

The new awards are a five-year contract for synthesis of potential anticancer agents, totalling \$3,296,543; and a three-year pharmacological study of antitumor agents, totalling \$1,304,045.

Microbiological Associates Inc., Bethesda, Md., received a three-year contract for synthesis of unique compounds for cancer chemotherapy. It will be worth \$1,124,325 over the three years.

Other contract awards announced included:

Title: Screening of compounds for anti-tumor activities

Contractor: Litton Bionetics, \$317,699 (continuation)

Title: Study of the resynthesis of drugs and chemicals

Contractor: Monsanto Research Corp., \$52,687

Title: Development and production of oral dosage forms for clinical investigation

Contractor: Univ. of Iowa, \$399,053

Title: Synthesis of nitrogen heterocycle compounds as potential antitumor agents

Contractor: Univ. of Colorado, \$77,555

Title: Cancer training programs for physical and/or occupational therapists

Contractor: Univ. of Iowa, \$178,814

Contractor: Univ. of Alabama, \$192,524

Title: Training programs for maxillofacial prosthodontist and maxillofacial dental technicians

Contractor: M. D. Anderson, \$288,322

Title: Breast cancer demonstration project

Contractors: Virginia Mason Research Center, Seattle, \$183,536; Mountain States Tumor Institute, Boise, \$181,463; Univ. of Cincinnati, \$170,000; Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, \$180,000

Title: Prototype network demonstration project in breast cancer

Contractor: Univ. of Alabama, \$174,955

Title: Asbestos workers study

Contractor: Texas Chest Foundation/East Texas Chest Hospital, Tyler, \$1,297,718

Title: Prototype comprehensive network demonstration project for head and neck cancer

Contractors: Northwestern Univ., \$188,081; Univ. of Wisconsin, \$77,334

Title: Production of solid dosage forms

Contractor: Philips Roxane Laboratories, Columbus, Ohio, \$63,778 (continuation)

SOLE SOURCE

Proposals listed here are for information purposes only. RFP's are not available.

Title: Development of propagation procedures, purification and characterization of viruses

Contractor: Electro-Nucleonics Inc., Bethesda, Md.

Title: In vitro study of the nature of interaction between chemical and viral carcinogenesis

Contractor: BioLabs Inc., Northbrook, Ill.

Title: Processing of clinical patient research data

Contractor: Control Data Corp.

Title: Preparation of bulk chemicals and drugs

Contractor: Pharm-Eco Laboratories Inc., Simi Valley, Calif.

Title: Immunological characterization studies

Contractor: Mason Research Institute

Title: Breast cancer detection demonstration projects

University City Science Center, Philadelphia; St. Vincents Medical Center, Jacksonville; St. Joseph's Hospital, Houston.

The Cancer Newsletter—Editor JERRY D. BOYD

Published weekly by National Information Service Inc., 11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Va. 22091.
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