

THE

CANCER NEWSLETTER

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THE EDUCATION OF DAN FLOOD GETS \$60 MILLION INCREASE FOR NCI; HOUSE VOTES HEW MONEY BILL

The House of Representatives came very close to acting on an appropriations bill that would have given NCI only \$5 million more for fiscal 1975 than had been requested by President Nixon, as the result of con-
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In Brief

CANCER ACT EXTENSION, TRAINING BILLS BREEZING THROUGH CONGRESS; ARMY CAUSES FT. DETRICK FLAP

CANCER ACT extension bill was scheduled to move through the House of Representatives this week, with the House voting on the compromise conference report. The bill authorizes \$803.5 million for fiscal 1975 for NCI, \$898.5 million in 1976 and \$1.073 billion in 1977; establishes a new Presidential panel to take a look at all biomedical research; prohibits impounding of any health appropriations; authorizes NCI to establish and fund any training programs it deems necessary, regardless of objections from the HEW secretary, OMB or the President. The Senate, not in session this week, probably will vote on the bill next week. Meanwhile, both House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill re-establishing the research training grant program, with significant changes from the old system but permitting predoctoral training and institutional support. The vote was 311-10 in the House, 72-14 in the Senate, veto-proof margins. Research manpower training appears to be back on track, despite Caspar Weinberger's determined effort to derail it . . . THE ARMY, which still retains title to Ft. Detrick and maintains housekeeping responsibility for it, has been giving NCI some problems, recently demolished two buildings within the Frederick Cancer Research Center compound (but which were not being used by NCI) without clearing it with NCI. Bob Stevenson, who runs the center for Litton Bionetics, has asked NCI to push for transfer of the facility from Defense to HEW . . . THE IUCC meeting scheduled for Florence, Italy, in October is in financial trouble. Italy's economic problems plus registration of about half the number of expected participants prompted the organizers to sound out NCI on chances of getting some help. The Cancer Panel was cool to the suggestion: "Italy undertook that as a national program and should support it out of national pride," said Panel member Lee Clark, who put on the last IUCC meeting in Houston without any federal financial assistance . . . NCI TREATMENT programs are being scrutinized for possible reorganization. They are scattered throughout four of NCI's five divisions, which evoked considerable criticism from Gordon Zubrod before he retired as head of the Div. of Cancer Treatment. NCI Director Frank Rauscher hasn't promised any drastic shakeup but said "if we're going to make any changes, now is the time to do it," before a new permanent replacement for Zubrod is hired . . .

Attempt Falls
To Establish
Diagnostic
Coordinating
Group

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NIH APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDE \$43 MILLION FOR REVIVED RESEARCH SUPPORT

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fusion caused by expiration of research contract authority (*The Cancer Newsletter*, June 21).

Instead, when the bill did reach the floor, it had in it what amounts to \$660 million – \$60 million more than the budget request – thanks to effective behind-the-scenes “educational” efforts by health lobbyists and NCI executives.

NCI staff members were elated. The \$660 million is the least the cancer program will get for the fiscal year that started July 1. The Senate always adds money for NIH; considering the fact that the new cancer act will authorize \$803.5 million for 1975, the Senate might well vote \$725 or even \$750 million for cancer. House-Senate conferees usually split the difference down the middle, which could mean NCI eventually will get \$700 million.

Chairman Dan Flood of the House HEW Appropriations Subcommittee had not intended to give cancer only \$605 million when he sent the bill to the full committee last week. The bill showed \$425 million for cancer, with the notation this did not include contract money. When NCI and others pointed out that contracts could only account for about \$180 million, Flood agreed to an amendment offered in the committee session lifting the figure to \$480 million plus contracts.

Here's how NCI plans to divide the extra \$60 million:

- \$20 million more for regular research grants.
- \$15 million more for centers.
- \$5 million more for manpower training and the cancer clinical education program.
- \$5 million for NCI “on-campus” research including establishment of a breast cancer unit at the NIH clinical center.
- \$2 million more for task forces and organ site programs.
- \$3 million more for information activities.
- \$10 million more for construction.

The rest of NIH got increases over the budget reported by *The Cancer Newsletter* June 21. One important figure not reported then was the total of \$125.8 million for the NIH Div. of Research Resources, \$43.1 million more than Nixon had requested.

The entire extra \$43 million for Research Resources was earmarked for the General Research Support program the Administration had intended to kill. GRS money, apportioned to institutions with NIH grants, has been considered vital to continued participation by the institutions in NIH-supported research. The Administration had considered it luxury.

ATTEMPT TO PUSH NCI TO ESTABLISH DIAGNOSTIC COORDINATING GROUP FAILS

“How can we give advice on what is needed if we don't know what is going on?”

David Rockoff, chairman of George Washington University's radiology department, asked that question of his fellow members of the NCI Diagnostic Radiology Committee. Rockoff had submitted a motion at the committee's recent meeting calling on NCI to “recognize the importance of setting up a coordinating body for the purpose of determining what cancer diagnosis research is taking place in the U.S. sponsored by any NIH unit and by other agencies.”

Rockoff had complained about what he said were a variety of activities supported by entities outside NCI which had not been brought to the committee's attention.

“There is just no coordination with non-NCI institutes at NIH. We know what NCI is doing – that's readily available, anytime. But that isn't the case for the other institutes, nor for other agencies.” He mentioned as examples ultrasound studies supported by the National Science Foundation, and other committee members mentioned research conducted by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Judith Prewitt, an NCI mathematician and a member of the committee, cited an example in which an investigator with an NCI contract also was working on a grant awarded through NIGMS for closely related work. “We didn't know he had a grant.”

“That's not the problem I've been talking about,” Rockoff said. “We need information to help guide the diagnostic committee in making decisions. Your intramural problems are not pertinent to that.”

Max Woodbury, Duke biomathematician, asked if the coordinating body Rockoff proposed would do the work the NCI information system is supposed to do. “Perhaps they could do the job if they had more hardware or software, or more staff support,” he said.

David Kuhl, Univ. of Pennsylvania, said “The function of this committee is to determine what areas are the most rewarding for research. Whether or not a group is double supported is an administrative task, not the function of this committee.”

“That's not my point,” Rockoff answered. “How can you give advice on what is needed if you don't know what is going on?” Rockoff said he had attempted to make a survey on diagnostic research activities and discovered that “one cannot find out without an enormous undertaking.”

“This committee membership was selected because it has a broad knowledge of what is going on,” Prewitt responded. “We believe you already have the expertise to make intelligent decisions.”

After Prewitt withdrew her second of Rockoff's motion “because it is too general,” Rockoff gave up and withdrew the motion.

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-CN-55157-03

Title: Cervical cancer screening program for state and territorial health departments in the U.S.

Deadline: To be determined when the RFP is issued in late July.

The Cancer Control Program is seeking contract proposals for U.S. state and territorial health departments to carry out cervical cancer screening programs among low-income women. This procurement is exclusively for state and territorial health departments. The contractor shall design, develop and carry out activities to either expand existing cervical cancer screening programs or establish new activities in cervical cancer screening. "Screening" is defined as covering procedures leading to definitive diagnosis.

Proposals must include assurances that all women with positive or suspicious test results will be notified, with effective actions for the retesting of these women, and provisions for biopsies and other diagnostic work as indicated. Proposals must also include assurances that all women with cancer are provided quality, therapeutic rehabilitation and follow-up care.

Contracting Officer: Hugh E. Mahanes Jr.
Cancer Control
301-427-7984

RFP NCI-CN-55056-03

Title: Planning cervical cancer screening program for state and territorial health departments in the U.S.

Deadline: To be determined when the RFP is issued in late July.

The Cancer Control Program is seeking contract proposals for U.S. state and territorial health departments to plan cervical cancer screening programs among low-income women. This procurement is ex-

clusively for state and territorial health departments of the U.S.

The contractor shall design and develop plans to carry out three-year screening programs in cervical cytology (Pap tests). "Screening" is defined as covering procedures leading to definitive diagnosis. Proposals must plan to include assurances that all women with positive or suspicious test results will be notified, with effective actions for the retesting of these women, and provisions for biopsies and other diagnostic work as indicated. Proposals must also include a plan assuring that all women with cancer are provided quality, therapeutic rehabilitative and follow-up care.

Contracting Officer: Hugh E. Mahanes Jr.
Cancer Control
301-427-7984

SOLE SOURCE

Proposals listed here are for information purposes only. RFPs are not available.

Title: Intrathecal toxicity study of antineoplastic agents in primates

Contractor: Hazleton Laboratories, Vienna, Va. (continuation)

Title: Carcinogenesis by irradiation plus estrogen

Contractor: Alto Oschsner Medical Foundation, New Orleans (continuation)

Contract Awards

NCI BEATS FY DEADLINE WITH TORRENT OF CONTRACTS; CCP AWARDS \$10 MILLION

A torrent of contract awards poured out of NCI last week as harried contract officers struggled to beat the end of the fiscal year deadline for committing fiscal 1974 money.

The Cancer Control program, which got a late start in the contract award process because it was still being organized through much of the year, set the pace with awards totalling more than \$10 million.

Cancer Control was able to obligate all of its \$34 million by the June 30 deadline despite the late start. Control contracts announced last week included projects in rehabilitation demonstration, breast cancer screening and breast cancer prototype network demonstration projects, oncology nursing programs, cervical screening programs and others (see below). The largest was \$949,047 to the Univ. of Texas Health Sciences Center at Dallas for cancer rehabilitation facilities demonstration.

A \$3.9 million award to Litton Bionetics for construction, alterations and equipment purchases at Frederick Cancer Research Center was the largest announced last week. That amount was committed out of Litton's second-year contract for operating the

center; the third-year contract was recently negotiated, calling for \$12.2 million, all of it for research.

Another big contract went to Microbiological Associates, Bethesda, Md., for storage and distribution of drugs and chemicals used in the cancer chemotherapy program. The firm will receive \$2.1 million over a five-year period extending to June 24, 1979.

Title: Prototype network demonstration project in breast cancer.

Contractors: West Coast Cancer Foundation, San Francisco, \$289,470; SUNY Research Foundation, \$367,937; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, \$275,075; The Albany Medical College of Union Univ., Albany, N.Y., \$218,680; Dartmouth College, \$261,133.

Title: Oncology nursing programs in cancer centers.

Contractors: M. D. Anderson, \$396,867; Memorial Hospital, N.Y., \$415,561; Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, \$165,514; Univ. of Wisconsin, \$356,169; Ohio State Univ., \$359,599.

Title: Breast cancer detection demonstration project.

Contractors: Univ. of Oklahoma, \$183,333; Univ. of Southern California, \$176,194; Univ. of Kansas Medical Center, \$165,170; The Medical College of Wisconsin, \$260,937.

Title: Expansion of state cervical cancer screening programs.

Contractors: Kentucky Dept. of Human Resources, \$504,379; Connecticut Dept. of Health, \$546,527; Mississippi Board of Health, \$575,827; Oklahoma State Dept. of Health, \$897,539; Texas State Dept. of Health, \$732,787.

Title: Demonstration of cancer rehabilitation facilities and/or departments.

Contractors: Univ. of Alabama, \$268,025; Univ. of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, \$939,047.

Title: Enterostomal therapy education program.

Contractors: Emory Univ., Atlanta, \$193,063; M. D. Anderson, \$207,918; Boston Univ., \$234,995.

Title: Cancer control radiologic physics centers.

Contractors: Memorial Hospital, \$148,473; Univ. of Wisconsin, \$101,504.

Title: Continuation of the model system for screening agents against spontaneous murine mammary cancer.

Contractor: Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens, Inc., New York, \$264,229.

Title: Continued maintenance of a rodent production center for inbred, hybrid, and outbred rodents in a modified conventional environment.

Contractor: ARS/Sprague Dawley Division, The Mogul Corp., Madison, Wisc., \$116,153.

Title: Study of the incidence and natural history of genital tract anomalies and cancer in offspring exposed in utero to synthetic estrogens.

Contractor: University of Southern California, \$185,025.

Title: Preparation of bulk chemicals and drugs.

Contractor: Pharm-Eco Laboratories Inc., Simi Valley, Calif., \$171,716

Title: Maintenance of genetic production center for inbred and hybrid rodents.

Contractor: Texas Inbred Mice Co., Houston, \$43,125.

Title: Study of the interaction of anticancer agents at the cellular level.

Contractor: Washington Univ. School of Medicine, St. Louis, \$320,821

Title: Synthesis of nucleosides and related derivatives for cancer chemotherapy studies.

Contractor: Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, \$662,132

Title: Synthesis of bleomycin and structural modifications.

Contractor: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, \$177,331.

Title: Training programs for maxillofacial prosthodontists and maxillofacial dental technicians.

Contractor: New York Univ. Brookdale Dental Clinic, \$341,336.

Title: Collection of scientific literature on smoking and health.

Contractor: Herner and Co., Washington, DC, \$124,619.

Title: "Dial Access" telephone communication consultation cancer service for cancer control.

Contractor: Univ. of Texas, M. D. Anderson, \$244,698.

Title: Evaluation of the effectiveness of cancer rehabilitation systems leading to the improvement of educational requirements.

Contractor: Applied Science Associates, Valencia, Pa., \$246,274

Title: Development and utilization of rehabilitation and/or continuing care resources and services.

Contractor: Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, \$274,506.

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