

GRANT AWARDED BY NATIONAL FUND FOR
MEDICAL EDUCATION TO THE
AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EVALUATION OF INNOVATIVE AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

The Society has been informed by Howard Corning, Jr., Executive Vice-President of the National Fund for Medical Education, that its proposal for evaluation of innovative audiovisual materials has been approved by the Board of Directors.

During the year 1972-1973 the Education Committee of the American Physiological Society cooperated with the National Library of Medicine and the National Medical Audiovisual Center in a critical review of the vast backlog of audiovisual material pertaining to physiology that has been circulating in the academic community. Peer review panels winnowed 1,000 audiovisuals to obtain 263 which rated adequate or better. During the ensuing year more audiovisuals became available and the Education Office of the Society received many requests for evaluation of new audiovisuals. As a result, application was made to the National Fund for Medical Education for an additional year's support. The approved grant will begin July 1, 1974.

Recently the Association of American Medical Colleges accepted responsibility for a continuing review and evaluation of audiovisual material used throughout the medical school curriculum, but it may require a year's time to fully implement this program. It is hoped that the NFME grant to the Society will allow the AAMC and APS programs to be brought into synchronization. At that time continued review of physiological audiovisual material would also be subsumed under the auspices of AAMC.

The long range purpose of this work is to enable doctors to give better care to people; for by improving their education, more knowledge and skill may be brought to bear on the patient's problems. The rapid expansion of knowledge has made it apparent that more efficient teaching methods are essential if the future doctor is to learn all that he must know to give first-rate care to his patients. One way of improving the quality and efficiency of his training is by sifting the gold from the dross in the mountain of audiovisuals available.

This grant will make possible the evaluation and classification of new audiovisual material over the next year. The field of physiology will be divided into ten subdisciplines and panels will be organized to conduct reviews. Ratings will indicate recommended audience, educational purpose, and scientific content and the information will be made available to faculties of all medical schools.

William De Hart
Educational Administrator