

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC SOCIETIES BRIEF

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES
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The CAS Brief is prepared by the staff of the AAMC Council of Academic Societies and is distributed through the auspices of your member society.

HEALTH BUDGET. Prior to the change of Administrations, President Carter submitted to Congress a budget request for FY 1982 and a request for funds to be rescinded from the current year (FY 1981) budget. A "rescission" is the mechanism provided by the 1974 Budget and Impoundment Control Act that allows a President to appeal to Congress to take back funds already appropriated for use in the current fiscal year. Congress has 45 days in which to approve a rescission request. This year, President Carter asked for a rescission of \$334 million from the HHS budget, all but \$10 million of which would be taken from the Public Health Service. Among other things, the Carter Administration advocated a rescission of: 1) all capitation funds, 2) \$77 million in Alcohol and Drug Abuse formula grants, and 3) \$50 million of the \$126 million increase the NIH was granted for this year. Areas that would be particularly hard hit within NIH if the rescission receives Congressional approval include: research centers, R&D contracts, Basic Research Support Grants, and the intramural program.

The Carter Administration's proposal for next year's budget requests approximately an 8% increase for ADAMHA and a 7% increase for NIH as a whole. Carter Administration priorities that are reflected in the budget are stability in research grant funding and maintenance of the current training effort. Funds are provided in the NIH budget for 5,000 investigator-initiated grants and for training approximately the same number of trainees as were supported last year. Obviously, with a total increase for NIH held considerably below the inflation level, the NIH programs cited above bear the brunt of the budget squeezing anticipated for FY 1982.

Within the next few days, the Reagan Administration will release its budget package for FY 1982. Considering the well-publicized intention of the new Administration to decrease Federal spending and the difficulties inherent in controlling the entitlement programs that comprise 90% of the health budget, it is anticipated that health education and research programs in general may be in serious jeopardy. There are reliable rumors currently circulating that President Reagan will propose sizeable further rescissions in the NIH budget. It is understood that this Administration is also committed to protecting the stability of ROIs and POIs and that research training will, as a consequence, be the target for the additional rescissions. If these rumors are substantiated when the Reagan budget is made public and if the viability of research training is indeed threatened, CAS members will be immediately notified.

AAMC RESPONSE TO THE GMENAC REPORT. The AAMC has distributed its response to the Report of the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee to the Council of Academic Societies, Council of Deans, Council of Teaching Hospitals, and Organization of Student Representatives. The response focuses on the major issues of concern to academicians and their institutions. For a copy of the response, contact Lynn Gumm, Administrative Secretary, AAMC at 202-828-0482.

1981 INTERIM MEETING — FEBRUARY 26-27

NRSA RENEWAL. The National Research Service Awards (NRSA) Act, which provides the legislative authority for the NIH research training program, is due to expire in the fall. In order to avoid a hiatus in research training support, the health authorizing committees in the House and Senate must complete their work on the renewal legislation by May 15. Since nearly all research training in the country is supported by NRSA, it is critically important that this legislation is renewed. Congressional staffers who will work on this issue do not presently anticipate major problems with the continuation of NRSA's but warn that all legislation will be closely scrutinized by the budget-conscious new Congress. One of the provisions that may be re-examined during Congressional consideration of the NRSA Act is the controversial payback clause with an eye towards minor modifications that would make this provision less of a deterrent to MDs considering research training.

NEW CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION. The new leadership in the Congress and in the Administration is beginning to coalesce. In the new Republican-dominated Senate, two key figures will be Harrison Schmitt from New Mexico as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Labor-HHS Appropriations and Orrin G. Hatch (Utah) as head of the Labor and Human Resources Committee. The health subcommittee that formally was a substructure of the Labor and Human Resources Committee has been abolished, and health issues will be dealt with by the full Committee. Senator Edward Kennedy has become the ranking minority member of this committee. On the House side, Henry Waxman (California) will continue as the Chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce health subcommittee with Edward Madigan (Illinois) replacing Tim Lee Carter who retired last year as the ranking minority member. William Natcher (Kentucky) will continue to chair the House health appropriations subcommittee.

Appointments are being made almost daily to top positions in Secretary Schweiker's Department of Health and Human Services but the precise hierarchy and titles are not yet clear. David Swope will serve as the Department Under Secretary or Deputy Secretary. Formerly director of the California Department of Social Welfare, Swope is currently legislative director for Senator William Armstrong (Colorado). The chief health position in the Department will be filled by Edward Brandt, Jr., MD, PhD who has been the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Reporting to Dr. Brandt and having responsibility for the health agencies will be Charles Koop, M.D., a pediatric surgeon from the University of Pennsylvania. Carolyn Davis, former dean of the nursing school and now associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of Michigan, is expected to be appointed administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration. Top agency positions such as head of FDA and ADAMHA remain unfilled at the moment.

1980-81 CAS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD. At the October 1980 Meeting of the Council, Dr. David Brown was elected CAS Chairman-Elect. Dr. Brown is a Professor of Pediatrics and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Minnesota and is a Representative of the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists. New Board members also elected at the October meeting are: Dr. William F. Ganong, Chairman of the Department of Physiology at UC-San Francisco and a Representative of the Association of Chairmen of Departments of Physiology; Dr. Brian A. Curtis, Associate Professor of Physiology at the University of Illinois and a Representative of the American Physiological Society; and Dr. John B. Lynch, Chairman of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Vanderbilt University and a Representative of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. Re-elected to the Board was Dr. Robert L. Hill, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at Duke University and a Representative of the Association of Medical School Departments of Biochemistry.