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## Announcements

### Availability of Iron Report

An ad hoc Expert Scientific Working Group of the Life Sciences Research Office has completed a study of data on iron nutritional status collected during the second National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES II). Data analyses and interpretation of the results by the Expert Scientific Working Group form the basis for the report entitled "Assessment of the Iron Nutritional Status of the U.S. Population Based on Data Collected in the Second National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1976-1980." The report, sponsored by the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, provides a description of the methodology used to collect data on iron status indicators, and reference data for the U.S. population for hemoglobin level, mean corpuscular volume, erythrocyte protoporphyrin level, transferrin saturation, and serum ferritin level. Three different models incorporating these indicators are described and are used in estimating the prevalence of impaired iron status due to iron deficiency or inflammation. The three models are assessed, and the contribution of inflammatory disease to the prevalence estimates and the influence of factors such as race, poverty, level of education, and parity are examined. Recommendations for additional analyses of NHANES II data on iron and for the conduct of future surveys of iron nutritional status are included in the report. *For copies of report:* FASEB Special Publications Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, at \$12.00 postpaid.

### NRC Postdoctoral Fellowships for Minorities

The National Research Council plans to award approximately 35 Postdoctoral Fellowships for Minorities in a program designed to provide opportunities for continued education and experience in research for American Indians and Alaskan Natives (Eskimo or

Aleut), Black Americans, Mexican Americans/Chicanos, and Puerto Ricans. Fellows will be selected from among scientists, engineers, and scholars in the humanities who show greatest promise of future achievement in academic research and scholarship in higher education. Awards in the Postdoctoral Fellowships for Minorities Program will be made in the behavioral and social sciences, humanities, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, and biological sciences, and for interdisciplinary programs comprised of two or more eligible disciplines. *Application deadline:* 16 January 1985. *Information:* Fellowship Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20418.

### NRC Research Associateships

The National Research Council announces the 1985 Postdoctoral, Resident, and Cooperative Research Associateship Programs for research in the sciences and engineering to be conducted in behalf of 21 federal agencies or research institutions, whose laboratories are located throughout the U.S. Approximately 250 new full-time associateships will be awarded on a competitive basis in 1985 for research in chemistry, engineering, and mathematics, and the earth, environmental, physical, space, and life sciences. *Application deadline:* January 15, 1985. *Information:* Associateship Programs, Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel, JH 608-D3, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20418 (202/334-2760).

### ALS Research Award

An annual award of \$25,000 is being offered for the first time to a scientist or group of scientists who make the most significant contribution to furthering an understanding of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Sole criteria for the award is the achievement of significant progress in ALS research and applies to both advances in therapy and scientific research. *Deadline:* Feb. 15, 1985. *Information:* Awards Committee, ALSSOA, 15300 Ventura Blvd., Suite 325, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.