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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Life Sciences Research Office Report

Under the terms of a contract with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Life Sciences Research Office (LSRO), Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) has completed a study examining the issues related to the development of medical foods for dietary management of diseases with orphan status. The report entitled, "Evaluation of Incentives for Development of Orphan Medical Foods," presents an overview of the current status of an evaluation of the incentives for the development of medical foods for orphan diseases. Specifically, this report addresses the identification of human diseases that may benefit from orphan medical foods, criteria to define orphan status for medical foods, identification of incentives that would benefit further development of orphan medical foods, the scope of research and development efforts that are necessary prior to the use of an orphan medical food, the impact of noneconomic barriers on product development, and a comparison of US and foreign development of orphan medical foods.

Copies of the report may be purchased (\$18 per copy, prepaid) from the FASEB Special Publications Office, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. (Maryland residents must add 5% sales tax with order.)

Bachelor's Degrees in Natural Sciences and Engineering Declined 9 Percent in 2 Years

The number of bachelor's degrees awarded in engineering and the natural sciences has declined, in contrast to the growth in bachelor's degrees in non-science fields, according to a new National Science Foundation report.

The report, *Science and Engineering Degrees: 1966-88, A Source Book*, shows the declines found in engineering and the natural sciences occurred among both men and women. For women, this decline was the first ever; for men, this decline reversed the increases evident since 1980.

Among women baccalaureates in 1988, 23 percent earned their degrees in science/engineering fields; among men, the comparable figure was 39 percent.

At the masters and doctoral degree levels, the number of awards in science and engineering continues to increase, reflecting the growth in baccalaureates in the early 1980s.

The NSF Division of Science Resources Studies has analyzed this data according to NSF categories of science and engineering fields. The period 1986 to 1988 has been highlighted here because 1986 represents the turning point for the decline in bachelors' degrees. More detailed data on bachelors, masters, and doctorates, by more specific fields, are available for the period 1966-88 from the Division of Science Resources Studies.

To obtain a copy of the report, contact: Elizabeth Michael, Division of Science Resources Studies, Room L-611, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20550, (202) 634-4284.

Scientific Meetings and Congresses

30th Annual ASCB Meeting, San Diego, CA, December 9-13, 1990. *Information:* American Society for Cell Biology, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. Tel: 301-530-7153, Fax: 301-530-7139.

Seventh International Hypoxia Symposium, "High Altitude Physiology and Medicine," Lake Louise, February 26-March 2, 1991. *Information:* Ingrid Ellis, Hypoxia '91, Conference Coordinator 1M10, McMaster University, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. L8N 3Z5. Tel: 416-525-9140, ext 2182.

Second International Conference on The Sodium/Calcium Exchange, Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, MD, April 8-10, 1991. *Information:* Conference Department, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021, Tel: 212-838-0230, Fax: 212-888-2894.

IX International Congress of Electromyography and Clinical Neuro-Physiology, Jerusalem, Israel, June 2-6, 1991. *Information:* Arie N. Gilai, Convener, EMG - CN - IX Congress, P. O. Box 29334, Tel Aviv 61292. Tel: 972-3-5102542, Fax: 972-3-660604.

Fourth International Reinhardsbrunn Symposium on Circumventricular Organs, "Circumventricular Organs and Brain Fluid Environment: Molecular and Functional Aspects," German Democratic Republic, March 24-29, 1991. *Information:* Professor A. Ermisch, Section of Biosciences, Karl Marx University Leipzig, Talstr. 33, DDR - 7010 Leipzig, German Democratic Republic.