

problems, including ones caused by occupational and environmental factors, alcohol, drugs, and violence, "there is justification to looking towards the sectors of our society that may have harmed our citizen's health" and to ask these sectors "to contribute more directly toward the furtherance of NIH research," he said. Because NIH findings set standards for medical care that health insurers rely upon, the insurance industry is also indebted to NIH. "What I am suggesting," Frank said, "is that we should find ways to let NIH research funding get something back from those who have benefitted the most from it."

FBR Publishes Animal Research FAQ

The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) has just published a brochure entitled "Frequently Asked Questions About Animal Research." The brochure offers responses to the kinds of questions individuals involved in animal research often find themselves facing, such as, "How can research results derived from animal testing be extrapolated to humans?" and "Why can't alternatives such as computer models and cell cultures replace animal research?"

The brochures cost \$0.25 each and are available from FBR at 818 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 303, Washington, DC 20006. For more information call 202-457-0654.

Clinton Submits Funding Request

In the budget sent to Capitol Hill February 6, President Clinton proposed a funding level of \$11.773 billion in FY 1996 for NIH. This represents an increase of \$468 million, or 4.1% above the comparable FY 1995 level. According to NIH, this budget could fund a total of 23,874 research project grants (RPGs), plus an additional 1,195 for the small business grants known as SBIRs and STTRs. (SBIRs/STTRs are being counted separately from RPGs in the FY 1996 budget.) This would mean funding for 22 more RPGs in FY 1996 than the 23,852 expected to be funded in FY 1995, plus 153 new SBIR/STTRs. New RPGs would total 6,046, which is 522 fewer than the number of new grants expected to be awarded in FY 1995. The proposed budget would provide an FY 1996 success rate of 23% compared with a 24% success rate anticipated in FY 1995.

VA Medical and Prosthetic Research, which has had a relatively stagnant budget for the past several years, was recommended for a modest 2.1% increase. The NSF as a whole got a 3% increase, but a much higher increase of 7.6% was recommended for Research and Related Activities overall, as well as a 7.6% increase specifically for the Biological Sciences Directorate. A decrease of \$100,000 was recommended for APHIS Animal Care activities, including Animal Welfare Act (AWA) Enforcement, which has also been stagnant for a number of years.

President's FY 1996 Budget Request Compared with FY 1995 Funding (dollars in millions)

Agency	FY 1995 Enacted	FY 1996 Request	\$ Change FY 1995-96	% Change FY 1995-96
NIH	\$11,305.5	\$11,773.0	+\$467.5	+4.1%
VA Medical and Prosthetic Research	\$251.7	\$257.0	+\$5.3	+2.1%
NSF				
Research and Related Activities (total)	\$2,280.0	\$2,454.0	+\$174.0	+7.6%
- Biological Sciences Directorate	\$301.0	\$324.0	+\$23.0	+7.6%
APHIS Animal Care	\$9.6	\$9.5	-0.1	-1%