

NIAID Sets Program to Coordinate AIDS Research

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases today announced a new program to coordinate NIAID-supported research on AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

In making the announcement, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID Director said, "The Institute's AIDS research activities have increased rapidly in the 5 years since the syndrome was first recognized. By marshalling our resources under this program, we can accelerate progress in finding ways of preventing and treating AIDS."

AIDS, which has been diagnosed in more than 16,000 Americans since 1981, has become a worldwide problem. There is no effective treatment, and most of its victims die within 2 years of diagnosis.

AIDS Coordination

NIAID is heavily involved in research on AIDS, both at the Institute's laboratories in Bethesda, and through grant and contract support of scientific projects throughout the United States and in some foreign countries. The newly established Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Program will set priorities for NIAID-supported AIDS research and ensure maximum use of funds and other resources.

Establishment of the new program will also enhance coordination of all aspects of NIAID's research efforts on AIDS.

Dr. Fauci, who is also coordinator of AIDS research for the entire National Institutes of Health, said, "This program is an important new element in the Federal Government's concerted response to one of the most baffling and deadly medical challenges of the modern era. In a complex and rapidly developing field like AIDS research, we must have the capacity to respond creatively and flexibly to emerging needs."

Treatment Methods

NIAID's current research efforts are mainly focused on the search for effective treatment methods, including evaluation of treatment strategies in patients, and the development of an AIDS vaccine. Important to the achievement of these goals are basic laboratory studies of the virus that causes AIDS, and research on the immune disorder seen in persons with AIDS.

Scientists are investigating the mechanisms and patterns of virus transmission from person to person, and are tracing the development of the disease in individual patients. A crucial step in vaccine development is the establishment of AIDS or AIDS-like disease in laboratory animals.

Animal models are also needed for the evalu-

ation of drugs and other treatment approaches.

The new AIDS program will direct and manage research grants, contracts and related training in these areas and others. Identification of new and continuing research needs will be aided by close coordination with other government agencies, including other Institutes at NIH, as well as professional and voluntary health organizations. □

National Conference on AIDS Slated for March 6-8 in D.C.

A national conference on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) for practitioners will be held Mar. 6-8 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

Dr. David Henderson, chief of the Clinical Center's Hospital Epidemiology Service, and Joan Jacobs, an NCI nurse specialist in research, are among a panel of experts that will discuss critical issues, questions and conflicts affecting those who care for AIDS patients.

To register for the conference, contact Resource Applications, Inc., (301) 962-0250. A discount will be given to those who register on or before Feb. 21.

OMS Workshop Planned For Adult Children of Alcoholics

Growing up in a family in which one or both parents is an alcoholic has a powerful effect on the children. Parents who are involved in alcohol-related problems often are not able to meet their children's needs at various stages of growth and development. Effects from a childhood of double messages about love and rejection continue into adulthood.

Not Being Alone

When adult children of alcoholics are in a group with people of similar backgrounds, the first reaction is tremendous relief—not being alone, not being crazy. And then there is hope—hope of taking control of one's life.

The Employee Counseling Services of the Occupational Medical Service will offer a workshop about the effects of growing up with an alcoholic parent on Feb. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C02A. A list of community meetings will also be provided. If you plan to attend call Rachelle Selzer at 496-3164.

New Time-Sharing Guide On DECsystem-10 Available

An all-new edition of the DECsystem-10 Timesharing Guide has just been published. The guide is the primary source of information concerning policies, programs, and special facilities associated with the NIH DECsystem-10 computer system. This new edition is completely reorganized and has many practical examples that will benefit computer users at all levels of expertise.

The guide presents general information concerning policies, important concepts, and everyday interactive computing. The program library chapter contains synopses of all software available on the DECsystem-10; software of special interest is highlighted. Programmers with complex applications will appreciate the more technically oriented chapters of the guide.

Scientists with laboratory or personal computers will continue to enjoy the advantages of communicating with the DECsystem-10.

More About DNA

Molecular biologists can find more information about the DNA and protein sequence data bases, and the special programs designed to analyze such sequence data.

The DECsystem-10 Timesharing Guide is a valuable reference too for describing the hierarchical file system, summarizing the many magnetic tape utilities, explaining the extensive file protection facilities, and much more.

To obtain a copy of the guide, contact: Technical Information Office, Computer Center Branch, Division of Computer Research and Technology, National Institutes of Health, Bldg. 12A, Rm. 1017, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-5431. □

