Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
  Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
  Food and Drug Administration
  National Cancer Institute
  National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/Centers for Disease Control
  National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
  National Institutes of Health
  National Library of Medicine
Department of the Interior
Department of Labor
  Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Department of Transportation
  Research and Special Programs Administration
Environmental Protection Agency

To support the activities of ICCVAM, NIEHS established the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM). NICEATM provides a means of communication between test developers and Federal agencies during the development and validation process. NICEATM coordinates test method workshops, expert panel meetings, and independent scientific peer reviews, where appropriate and recommended by ICCVAM. Test method developers are encouraged to contact NICEATM (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov*) prior to submission of proposed test methods for guidance on the submission and evaluation process.

Before a new or revised test method is used to generate information to support regulatory decisions, it must be: (a) Validated to determine its reliability and relevance for its proposed use and (b) determined to be acceptable by one or more regulatory agencies to fill a specific need. Criteria for validation and regulatory acceptance have been prepared and are described in the report, Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of Toxicological Test Methods: A Report of the ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (*http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/htdocs/ICCVAM/iccvam.html*). Prior to the initiation of any test method development or validation efforts, sponsors are encouraged to consider the validation and acceptance criteria described in the report.

ICCVAM is issuing revised guidance for developers on organizing information needed to assess the validation status of a new or revised test method at any stage of development and/or following the completion of validation studies. The guidance document, Evaluation of the Validation Status of Toxicological Methods: General Guidelines for Submissions to ICCVAM, is available online (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/doc1.htm*); additional copies can be obtained from the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM, contact information given below). The initial guidance document was first released in May of 1998. This version has been updated by ICCVAM to reflect experience gained with the first two test methods reviewed by ICCVAM in 1998–1999: the Local Lymph Node Assay (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/llnarep.htm*) and Corrositex® (*http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/corprrep.htm*).

The guidance document calls for the development of an ICCVAM submission for a given test method that describes the extent to which the validation and acceptance criteria have been addressed. It can also be used as a guide to prepare background review documents for methods that describe how validation criteria will be addressed in proposed studies. Background review documents serve as comprehensive compilations of all existing data for test methods. Completion of background review documents prior to the conduct of validation studies is encouraged to provide the basis for decisions on standardized protocols and design of the validation studies. In preparing test method submissions and background review documents, developers should use the outline provided to organize information. Submissions should be prepared well in advance of any peer review of the validation status of a method.

Test method developers are encouraged to consult with NICEATM and ICCVAM during submission preparation and throughout test method development, pre-validation, and validation. The objective of these interactions is to maximize the likelihood that adequate information will be generated to characterize the usefulness and limitations of a test method. If requested, ICCVAM will solicit interagency comments on proposed study designs and protocols. Validation study designs submitted to ICCVAM for comment should describe the basis for the proposed protocol and proposed validation studies. The completed submission is then used to assess the method's validation status through an independent ICCVAM peer review process. This process enhances the likelihood that agencies will be provided with sufficient information to determine a method's usefulness and limitations for meeting regulatory needs.

Request for Comments

Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments on the ICCVAM guidance document: Evaluation of the Validation Status of Toxicological Methods: General Guidelines for Submissions to ICCVAM. Comments should include name, affiliation, mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail and sponsoring organization (if any). Comments may be submitted anytime; however, those received within 60 days from the appearance of this notice will be considered by ICCVAM for a possible revision in early 2000. The document is available on the Internet at *http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/doc1.htm* or may be requested from NICEATM, MD–EC–17, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709; 919–541–3398 (phone); 919–541–0947 (FAX); and *ICCVAM@niehs.nih.gov* (e-mail). Comments should be directed to the ICCVAM Co-Chairs, Dr. William S. Stokes 919–541–7997 (phone); 919–541–0947 (fax); *stokes@niehs.nih.gov* (e-mail) or Dr. Richard Hill 202–260–2894 (phone); 202–260–1847 (fax); *Hill.Richard@epamail.epa.gov.*

Dated: November 24, 1999.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, NIEHS and NTP.

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BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Request for Standing Review Committee Nominations

AGENCY: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Request for Standing Review Committee Nominations.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to invite qualified people to serve as peer reviewers for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) standing committees to review competitive grant and cooperative agreement applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and its three Centers, the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), depend on the

quality of its extramural grant program. Applications for competing grant and cooperative agreements are subject to a review process. The first stage of this process involves peer review by a group of qualified experts, referred to as the Initial Review Group (IRG).

The IRG's review of applications is intended to provide peer review, in the sense that reviewers are selected for their expertise in the profession and disciplines relevant to the application. The central purpose of that review is to provide a competent and objective evaluation of the merit of each application and to identify those applications that are of the highest quality so that program officials will have a sound basis for making funding decisions. The review system rests on the assumption that advice on the scientific/technical merit of an application can be obtained best by selecting and engaging appropriately qualified reviewers of the highest caliber in the committee process that enables them to discuss each others' views on individual applications relative to established review criteria.

Members of the standing committees will be expected to attend no more than three meetings per year in the Washington, DC, area, held over a span of up to 5 days. Members will serve a three-year term (except for initial appointments which will be staggered to ensure IRG continuity) for each standing committee, but occasionally may be also asked to serve on ad hoc committees. Typically, committees are managed by a Chairperson, a non-Federal person, and a Review Administrator, a Federal staff person to ensure that SAMHSA guidelines are being followed. Members are expected to review applications according to the published Guidance for Applicants (GFAs) and write critiques of the applications based on the review criteria in the GFA. Travel, lodging, and meals will be paid by SAMHSA; reviewers also will receive an honorarium.

Cultural competency is an important part of every committee as well as an appropriate balance of membership by expertise, gender, ethnicity, geographic distribution, and representation of consumers, families, and community-based organizations. SAMHSA particularly wishes to ensure that women, ethnic/racial minorities, and persons with disabilities are adequately represented on its peer review committees.

Candidates must have substantial expertise in the mental health, and/or substance abuse prevention/treatment fields or HIV/AIDS. Standing committees may review applications for different GFAs, which can vary by year or can be standing announcements. SAMHSA program areas can cover, but are not limited to, the following topics: Coalitions/Partnerships/Linkages; Communications/Media/Public Information; Violence; Evaluation; Managed Care; Organizational Development; Program Management; Research; Services; Test Development; and Training.

Grant announcements often focus on specific populations and/or experiential groups such as: Criminal Justice; Dual Diagnosis; Early Childhood Development; Elderly; Family Units; Hardcore Substance Abusers; Homeless Populations; Persons With Disabilities; Rural Populations; Welfare Recipients; and the Workplace.

For more information on SAMHSA, its Centers, and current GFAs see SAMHSA's web site at http://www.samhsa.gov.

To Apply: Prospective members should send a one page cover letter and curricula vitae or resume. The cover letter should state the person's name, address, contact information, and current affiliation/employment.

The curricula vitae may be in any format or length but must include sufficient information to evaluate the person's credentials, including education and experience. These documents should be mailed to Ms. McMenamin, Director of DEAPR, Parklawn Building, Room 17–89, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Documents can also be sent via e-mail to Dmcmenam@samhsa.gov or fax to (301) 443–1587 or (301) 443–3437. For further information, call Ms. McMenamin at (301) 443–4266.

Although letters should be received by January 15, 2000, to be considered for standing committees forming in fiscal year 2000, letters will be reviewed after January 15 for further consideration as additional standing committees are formed. Potential nominees will be contacted by SAMHSA staff to further discuss responsibilities and expectations. Members will be notified of their selection after committees are formed and approved by the Administrator.

Dated: November 26, 1999.

Richard Kopanda,

Executive Officer, SAMHSA.

[FR Doc. 99–31229 Filed 12–1–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Current List of Laboratories Which Meet Minimum Standards To Engage in Urine Drug Testing for Federal Agencies, and Laboratories That Have Withdrawn From the Program

AGENCY: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services notifies Federal agencies of the laboratories currently certified to meet standards of Subpart C of Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (59 FR 29916, 29925). A similar notice listing all currently certified laboratories will be published during the first week of each month, and updated to include laboratories which subsequently apply for and complete the certification process. If any listed laboratory's certification is totally suspended or revoked, the laboratory will be omitted from updated lists until such time as it is restored to full certification under the Guidelines.

If any laboratory has withdrawn from the National Laboratory Certification Program during the past month, it will be identified as such at the end of the current list of certified laboratories, and will be omitted from the monthly listing thereafter.

This Notice is now available on the internet at the following website: http://www.health.org/workpl.htm.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Giselle Hersh or Dr. Walter Vogl, Division of Workplace Programs, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockwall 2 Building, Room 815, Rockville, Maryland 20857; Tel.: (301) 443–6014.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please use the above address for all surface mail and correspondence. For all overnight mail service use the following address: Division of Workplace Programs, 5515 Security Lane, Room 815, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing were developed in accordance with Executive Order 12564 and section 503 of Pub. L. 100–71. Subpart C of the Guidelines, ''Certification of Laboratories Engaged in Urine Drug Testing for Federal Agencies,'' sets strict standards which laboratories must meet in order to conduct urine drug testing for Federal agencies. To become certified an