

4. Marilyn and Lawrence Cutler on behalf of Lawrence Cutler, New Brunswick, New Jersey, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0302 V
5. Iris Maldonado on behalf of Ruben Anibal Felipe Maldonado, Orlando, Florida, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0314 V
6. Mark Harrington, Belzoni, Mississippi, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0316 V
7. Michelle and Richard Emmons on behalf of Lauren C. Emmons, Vista, California, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0327 V
8. Tina and Shawn Saladiner on behalf of Somer Saladiner, Culpeper, Virginia, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0331 V
9. Aida Miucin on behalf of Marko Miucin, San Diego, California, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0336 V
10. Thomas J. Sansone, Sr. on behalf of Thomas J. Sansone, Jr., Mount Kisco, New York, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0337 V
11. Thomas James Owens, Jr., Covington, Louisiana, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0360 V
12. John Franklin Rowe, Jr., Hagerstown, Maryland, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0366 V
13. Betsy and Michael Cuthbertson on behalf of Nicole Cuthbertson, Frisco, Colorado, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0367 V
14. Patton and Richard Carter on behalf of Rebecca Carter, Deceased, Ashland, New Hampshire, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0387 V
15. Tara Davis on behalf of Shayna Adams, Overland Park, Kansas, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0392 V
16. Deborah Hartkopf, on behalf of Lindsey Hartkopf, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0403 V
17. Wendy and Steven Jarvis on behalf of Philip Thomas Jarvis, Thomasville, North Carolina, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0405V
18. Julie and David A. Ryan on behalf of Emilee Ryan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0412 V
19. Thuy Bui Cung and Thach Bui Kim on behalf of Diane Cung, Deceased, Westminster, California, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0420 V
20. Christina and James Michener on behalf of Barak Ross Michener, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0421 V
21. Margaret Reed, Vienna, Virginia, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0427 V

22. Danielle Deidun on behalf of Jalyne Deidun, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0430 V
23. Debra Valois on behalf of Alvin Cole Valois, Hammond, Louisiana, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0433 V
24. Carlene T. Giuffrida on behalf of Megan-Rose Giuffrida, Stony Brook, New York, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0436 V
25. Paula and Rick Rohl on behalf of Samuel Rohl, Lihue, Hawaii, Court of Federal Claims Number 97-0440 V

Dated: August 28, 1997.

Claude Earl Fox,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-23374 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service

Availability of Funds for Loan Repayment Program for Repayment of Health Professions Educational Loans

AGENCY: Indian Health Service, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration's budget request for fiscal year (FY) 1998 includes \$11,706,000 for the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program for health professions educational loans (undergraduate and graduate) in return for full-time clinical service in Indian health programs. It is anticipated that \$11,706,000 will be available to support approximately 250 competing awards averaging \$50,000 per award.

This program announcement is subject to the appropriation of funds. This notice is being published early to coincide with the recruitment activity of the IHS which competes with other Government and private health management organizations to employ qualified health professionals. Funds are required to be expended by September 30 of the fiscal year. This program is authorized by section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) as amended, 25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. The IHS invites potential applicants to request an application for participation in the Loan Repayment Program.

DATES: Applications for the FY 1998 Loan Repayment Program will be accepted and evaluated monthly beginning January 2, 1998 and will continue each month thereafter until all

funds are exhausted. Subsequent monthly deadline dates are scheduled for Friday of the second full week of each month. Notice of awards will be mailed on the last working day of each month.

Applicants selected for participation in the FY 1998 program cycle will be expected to begin their service period no later than September 30, 1998.

Applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either:

1. Received on or before the deadline date; or

2. Sent on or before the deadline date. (Applicants should request a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark or obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks shall not be acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Applications received after the monthly closing date will be held for consideration in the next monthly funding cycle. Applicants who do not receive funding by September 30, 1998 will be notified in writing.

FORM TO BE USED FOR APPLICATION:

Applications will be accepted only if they are submitted on the form entitled "Application for the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program," identified with the Office of Management and Budget approval number of OMB #0917-0014 (expires 11/30/99).

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be obtained by calling or writing to the address below. In addition, completed applications should be returned to: IHS Loan Repayment Program, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway—Suite 100, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 [between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please address inquiries to Mr. Charles Yepa, Chief, IHS Loan Repayment Program, Twinbrook Metro Plaza—Suite 100, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 (between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 108 of the INCA as amended by Public Laws 100-713 and 102-573, authorizes the IHS Loan Repayment Program and provides in pertinent part as follows:

The Secretary, acting through the Service, shall establish a program to be known as the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Loan Repayment Program") in order to assure an adequate supply of trained health professionals necessary to maintain

accreditation of, and provide health care services to Indians through, Indian health programs.

Section 4(n) of the IHCIA, as amended by the Indian Health Care Improvement Technical Corrections Act of 1996, Public Law 104-313, provides that:

"Health Profession" means allopathic medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatric medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, podiatric medicine, nursing, public health nursing, dentistry, psychiatry, osteopathy, optometry, pharmacy, psychology, public health, social work, marriage and family therapy, chiropractic medicine, environmental health and engineering, an allied health profession, or any other health profession.

For the purposes of this program, the term "Indian health program" is defined in section 108(a)(2)(A), as follows:

* * * any health program or facility funded, in whole or in part, by the IHS for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives and administered:

- a. Directly by the service; or
- b. By any Indian tribe or tribal or Indian organization pursuant to a contract under:
 - (1) The Indian Self-Determination Act; or
 - (2) Section 23 of the Act of April 30, 1908 (25 U.S.C. 47), popularly known as the Buy Indian Act; or
 - (3) By an urban Indian organization pursuant to title V of this Act.

Applicants may sign contractual agreements with the Secretary for 2 years. The IHS will repay all or a portion of the applicant's health professions educational loans (undergraduate and graduate) for tuition expenses and reasonable educational and living expenses in amounts up to \$30,000 per year for each year of contracted service to be made in annual payments to the participant for the purpose of repaying his/her outstanding health professions educational loans. Repayment of health professional educational loans will be made to the participant within 120 days after the participant's entry on duty has been confirmed by the IHS.

The Secretary must approve the contract before the disbursement of loan repayments can be made to the participant. Participants will be required to fulfill their contract service agreements through full-time clinical practice at an Indian health program site determined by the Secretary. Loan repayment sites are characterized by physical, cultural, and professional isolation, and have histories of frequent staff turnover. All Indian health program sites are annually prioritized by discipline, based on need or vacancy by the Agency.

All health professionals will receive up to \$30,000 per year, regardless of

their length of contract. Where payments under the Loan Repayment Program result in an increase in Federal income tax liability the IRS will pay up to 31 percent of the participant's total loan repayments to the Internal Revenue Service on the participant's behalf for all or part of the increased tax liability of the participant.

Pursuant to section 108(b), to be eligible to participate in the Loan Repayment Program an individual must:

- (1) A. be enrolled:
 - (i) In a course of study or program in an accredited institution, as determined by the Secretary, within any State and be scheduled to complete such course of study in the same year such individual applies to participate in the Loan Repayment Program. (This includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau); or
 - (ii) In an approved graduate training program in a health profession; or
- B. Have a degree in a health profession and a license to practice; and
- (2) A. Be eligible for, or hold an appointment as a Commissioned Officer in the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service; or
- B. Be eligible for selection for civilian service in the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service; or
- C. Meet the professional standards for civil service employment in the IHS; or
- D. Be employed in an Indian health program without service obligation; and
- (3) Submit to the Secretary an application and contract to the Loan Repayment Program; and
- (4) Sign and submit to the Secretary, a written contract agreeing to accept repayment of educational loans and to serve for the applicable period of obligated service in a priority site as determined by the Secretary; and
- (5) Sign an affidavit attesting to the fact that they have been informed of the relative merits of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the Civil Service as employment options.

Upon approval of the applicant for participation in the Loan Repayment Program, the applicant will receive confirmation of his/her loan repayment award and the duty site at which he/she will serve his/her loan repayment obligation.

The IHS has identified the positions in each Indian health program for which there is a need or vacancy and ranked those positions in order of priority by developing discipline specific

prioritized lists of sites. Ranking criteria for these sites include the following:

- Historically critical shortages caused by frequent staff turnover;
- Current unmatched vacancies in a Health Profession Discipline;
- Projected vacancies in a Health Profession Discipline;
- Ensuring that the staffing needs of Indian health programs administered by an Indian tribe or tribal or health organization receive consideration on an equal basis with programs that are administered directly by the Service; and
- Giving priority to vacancies in Indian health programs that have a need for health professionals to provide health care services as a result of individuals having breached Loan Repayment Program contracts entered into under this section. Consistent with this priority ranking, in determining which applications to approve and which contracts to accept, the IHS will give priority to applications made by American Indians and Alaska Natives and to individuals recruited through the efforts of Indian tribes or tribal or Indian organizations.

- With respect to priorities among the various health professions, the statute requires that of the total amount appropriated for FY 1998 for loan repayment contracts, not less than 25 percent be provided to applicants who are nurses, nurse practitioners, or nurse midwives and not less than 10 percent be provided to applicants who are mental health professionals (other than nurses, nurse practitioners, or nurse midwives). This requirement does not apply if the number of applications from these two groups, respectively, is not sufficient to meet the requirement.

- Subject to the above statutory priority for nurses and mental health practitioners, the IHS will give priority in funding among health professionals to physicians in the following priority specialties: Anesthesiology, emergency room medicine, general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology/otorhinolaryngol, psychiatry and radiology.

The following factors are equal in weight when applied, and are applied when all other criteria are equal and a selection must be made between applicants.

One or all of the following factors may be applicable to an applicant, and the applicant who has the most of these factors, all other criteria equal, would be selected.

- An applicant's length of current employment in the IHS, tribal or urban program.

- Availability for service earlier than other applicants (first come, first served); and
- Date the individual's application was received.

Any individual who enters this program and satisfactorily completes his or her obligated period of service may apply to extend the contract on a year-by-year basis, as determined by the IHS, at the maximum amount of up to \$30,000 per year and additional 31 percent for Federal Withholding. If funds are available, the maximum amount will be funded in this manner and will not exceed the total of the individual's outstanding eligible health professions educational loans.

Any individual who owes an obligation for health professional service to the Federal Government or to a State or other entity under an agreement with such State or other entity is not eligible for the Loan Repayment Program unless such an obligation will be completely satisfied prior to the beginning of service under this program in the year that an application is made for this program.

This program is not subject to review under Executive Order 12372.

(The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.164.)

Dated: August 11, 1997.

Michael H. Trujillo,

Assistant Surgeon General, Director.

[FR Doc. 97-23508 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-16-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Center for Research Resources; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Center for Research Resources Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting:

Name of SEP: Minority Initiative: K-12 Teachers & High.

Date: September 16, 1997.

Time: 8:00 a.m.-Until Adjournment.

Place: Holiday Inn Bethesda, Montgomery Room, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 652-2000.

Contact Person: Dr. Jill Carrington, Scientific Review Administrator, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7965, Room 6018, Bethesda, MD 20892-7965, (301) 435-0811.

Purpose/Agenda: To evaluate and review grant applications.

This meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C.

Applications and/or proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications and/or proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet time limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.306, Laboratory Animal Science and Primate Research).

Dated: August 28, 1997.

LaVeen M. Ponds,

Policy Analyst, NIH CMO.

[FR Doc. 97-23479 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the following National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

The meeting will be open to the public to provide concept review of proposed contract or grant solicitations.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Panel: Strategies to Augment Alveolarization.

Date: September 29, 1997.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: II Rockledge Center, Room 10229, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

Agenda: To discuss current concepts concerning alveolarization including basic science and clinical issues.

Contact Person: Mary Anne Berberich, Ph.D., NHLBI/DLD, II Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Rm. 10102, MSC 7952, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-0222.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; and 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: August 27, 1997.

LaVeen M. Ponds,

Policy Analyst, NIH CMO.

[FR Doc. 97-23477 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the following National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

The meeting will be open to the public to provide concept review of proposed contract or grant solicitations.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Panel: Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and Blood Transfusion.

Dates of Meeting: September 24, 1997.

Time of Meeting: 9:00 a.m.

Place of Meeting: NIH, Building 31, C Wing, Conference Room 7, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

Agenda: To discuss and develop plans for research in the area of CJD and its possible transmission by blood transfusion.

Contact Person: Luiz H. Barbosa, D.V.M., NHLBI/DBDR, II Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Rm. 10146, MSC 7950, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-0075. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; and 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: August 27, 1997.

LaVeen M. Ponds,

Policy Analyst, NIH CMO.

[FR Doc. 97-23478 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the following National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

The meeting will be open to the public to provide concept review of proposed contract or grant solicitations.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should inform the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Panel: Research Priorities in Blood Diseases and Resources.