

sistant Secretary for Health Edward Brandt defended the PHS's "massive effort" against AIDS, and said that impediments to planning have been posed more by "the rapidly changing problem" than by inadequate resources. Brandt also expressed the view that "a concerted effort in public education or . . . psychosocial factors cannot take place" until the biomedical puzzle is solved.

Ethical, social, legal, and medical problems relating to AIDS are likely to become increasingly complex as the disease spreads beyond high-risk groups. Over 7000 cases have been reported so far, and the government predicts 40,000 more in the next 2 years.—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

White House Awards Science, Technology Medals

February appears to be the month for bestowing high honors on some leading practitioners of science and technology. On 19 February, President Reagan awarded the National Medal of Technology to 12 individuals and one U.S. company, and 8 days later he presented the National Medal of Science to 19 prominent scientists.

The recipients of the National Medal of Science were: **Howard Bachrach** (U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plum Island Animal Disease Center); **Paul Berg** (Stanford University); **Margaret Burbidge** (University of California [UC] San Diego); **Maurice Goldharber** (Brookhaven National Laboratory); **Herman Goldstine** (American Philosophical Society); **William Hewlett** (Hewlett-Packard Company); **Ronald Hoffmann** (Cornell University); **Helmut Landsberg** (Resources for the Future); **Walter Munk** (UC San Diego); **George Pimentel** (UC Berkeley); **Frederick Reines** (UC Irvine); **Wendell Roelofs** (Cornell University); **Bruno Rossi** (MIT); **Berta Scharrer** (Albert Einstein College of Medicine); **Robert Schrieffer** (UC Santa Barbara); **Isadore Singer** (UC Berkeley); and **Richard Zare** (Stanford University). In addition, the medal was awarded posthumously to **George Low** (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and **John Trump** (MIT).

Recipients of the National Medal of

Technology were: **Frederick Brooks, Jr.**, **Erich Bloch**, and **Bob Evans** (IBM); **Steven Jobs** and **Stephen Wozniak** (Apple Computer Inc.); **Marvin Johnson** (Phillips Petroleum Company); **Ralph Landau** (Halcon-Scientific Design Group); **John T. Parsons** and **Frank L. Stulen** (John T. Parsons Company); **Harold A. Rosen** and **Allen E. Puckett** (Hughes Aircraft Company); **John F. Sutter** (Boeing Commercial Airplane Company); and **AT&T Bell Telephone Laboratories**.—**COLIN NORMAN**

Science Board Takes on Pork-Barreling

The National Science Board has issued a report sharply critical of the growing trend whereby scientific facilities have been directly funded by Congress without being subjected to merit-based review.

The ad hoc Committee on Excellence in Science and Engineering, headed by Charles E. Hess, found that in the past 2 years, 15 universities have obtained over \$100 million by this process (*Science*, 2 November 1984, p. 519). In some cases, "funds were diverted from other scientific activities that had been selected on the basis of their merit," says the report.

The following universities have been successful in appealing directly to Congress for funds, according to the committee: Catholic University, Columbia University, Florida State University, Northwestern University, Boston University, West Virginia University, Indiana University, and the universities of Utah, North Carolina, Connecticut, Hawaii, Oregon, Kansas, and New Hampshire. In addition, the University of New Mexico narrowly missed getting funds for a new engineering building, but a congressional report said the project should be given "high priority" for a possible construction grant in the future.

The committee says the actions set "a dangerous precedent," which "could seriously undermine" the system of merit competition for research funding, and "could well threaten the integrity of the U.S. scientific enterprise. . . ."

Clearly, says the report, the resort to "opportunistic solutions" reflects

the fact that the research infrastructure needs more money. The committee proposes that the National Science Foundation put more effort into emphasizing the importance of merit review, reevaluate its own procedures and review those of other agencies, and stage a Conference on Academic Research Facilities with the National Academy of Sciences and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**

Getting Health Promotion into Medicare

Senator David Durenberger (R-Minn.), chairman of the Senate health subcommittee, has introduced three legislative proposals designed to give Medicare more of a role in disease prevention through "incentives to promote self-responsibility."

In view of evidence that "better late than never" applies to the development of healthy habits, the first proposal, S. 357, would give nonsmokers and ex-smokers who have been off cigarettes for 6 months a \$1 monthly reduction in their premiums for non-hospital services. Most life insurance companies already give nonsmokers a break, but the practice is still not widespread among health insurers. However, some Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans have adopted nonsmoker discount plans.

The second proposal, S. 358, would raise the deductible for nonhospital services from \$75 to \$100. But expenditures on nonreimbursed preventive care—namely, immunization, health screening, and antihypertension medication—would be counted toward satisfying the deductible.

Finally, in S. 359, Durenberger has proposed that the Department of Health and Human Services fund five demonstration projects that would provide a variety of preventive services including dietary advice, stress reduction, and "targeted mental health intervention."

Durenberger, who says he recently gave up smoking a pipe, argues that "Staying well and providing suitable incentives for maintaining good health not only makes good health sense, it also makes sound economic sense."—**CONSTANCE HOLDEN**