

Broder Picked to Head NCI

The White House is expected to announce this month that Samuel Broder will be the new head of the National Cancer Institute. With a budget of \$1.5 billion, it is the largest and most powerful of the 12 institutes at the National Institutes of Health. Broder and NIH officials declined to confirm or deny the appointment, which was first reported in the *Washington Post*, though it is common knowledge throughout the cancer institute. The White House is now conducting the requisite background check.

Broder, 43, a longtime cancer researcher and associate director of the clinical oncology program at the cancer institute, is best known for his recent work on developing the AIDS drug AZT. He replaces Vincent DeVita, who left the institute in August after 9 years to become physician-in-chief at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Broder was selected from a very short list submitted to the White House in early November, after a 5-week search remarkable for its brevity. The rush was imposed by the White House, which, after some delay in setting up a search committee then set a deadline of 11 November. The search committee, headed by NIH director James B. Wyngaarden, sent out more than 1000 letters seeking suggestions. They ended up with a list of over 70 names to review, which they then whittled down to a dozen or so, some of whom removed themselves from consideration. In the end, only two or three names were reportedly submitted to the White House. Also on the short list was Alan Rabson, who has been acting director since DeVita left.

Broder, who has been at the cancer institute since 1972, is known as a workaholic and a blunt, no-nonsense administrator—a prerequisite in taking charge of the cancer institute. "Sam is young and energetic and very tough," says a colleague, who adds, "he will need it."

Broder will assume the post at a time of fiscal constraint, a recent phenomenon for the cancer institute, which grew rapidly throughout the DeVita years. Although the budget, at \$1.5 billion, is larger than that of any other institute, growth has slowed significantly in the past few years. Within the institute, funds are being reallocated, and job slots are down.

"We simply won't have the funds to do it all," says Wyngaarden. And that means tough choices about how much money to allocate to drug development, prevention, and basic biology, for example, each of which has its advocates.

In the past few years the cancer institute has been criticized for its emphasis on large and expensive clinical trials of new drugs, a reflection of DeVita's own interests in chemotherapy. From the standpoint of immediate gains, this approach has been very effective, says Wyngaarden, "but some people question whether it deserves the extraordinary priority it received under DeVita."

With his background in immunology and cell biology, Broder is expected to shift the emphasis more toward early diagnosis and prevention. A more general question facing the institute is how to apply the wealth of new knowledge on oncogenes and regulatory and growth factors.

A sticky issue Broder will have to grapple with is the diversion of cancer funds and staff slots to AIDS research, which has caused considerable grumblings within the cancer institute. Nearly \$124 million is slated for AIDS research this year in NCI. Broder will be in a unique position to do so, given his own foray into AIDS research.

Broder will also have to withstand lobbying from various groups championing a greater emphasis on breast or bowel cancer or more funds for specific therapeutic approaches. "It is not a restful job," says David



Samuel Broder: "Young, energetic, and tough."

Korn, dean of Stanford Medical School, who declined to throw his name into the hat when asked.

The *Washington Post* also reported last week that Tony Fauci, associate director of AIDS research at NIH, is being considered for the director's job at NIH. Neither Wyngaarden nor Fauci had heard of the rumor beforehand, and at this stage, Wyngaarden has no plans to leave. When other administration officials were asked to submit their resignations for the Bush transition, Wyngaarden was asked if he was interested in staying on at NIH. ■ **LESLIE ROBERTS**

Harvard Psychiatrist Resigns

Shervert H. Frazier is one of the nation's most well-known academic psychiatrists. He has served as director of the National Institute of Mental Health and, for more than a dozen years, as psychiatrist-in-chief of Har-

vard's McLean Hospital and professor in the medical school. He has been described as a "human dynamo who can get a morning's work done by 7 a.m."

This week Frazier was forced to resign all his Harvard positions after the Harvard Medical School Faculty Conduct Committee verified allegations that he is guilty of plagiarism. The incident is another painful blow to the reputation of academic medicine, but Harvard's uncompromising response in demanding that Frazier relinquish even his tenured professorship is evidence that the university is learning to act tough.

In a letter to the faculty, medical school dean Daniel C. Tosteson reported confirmed instances of plagiarism in four review papers published by Frazier between 1966 and 1975. He also cited "careless scholarship" in three of the publications but no evidence that original research data were fabricated. "Given Dr. Frazier's extensive bibliography, and the fact that the plagiarism may have resulted from his lax and sometimes hurried method of preparing these papers, the committee was unable to



Shervert Frazier accused of plagiarism.