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.

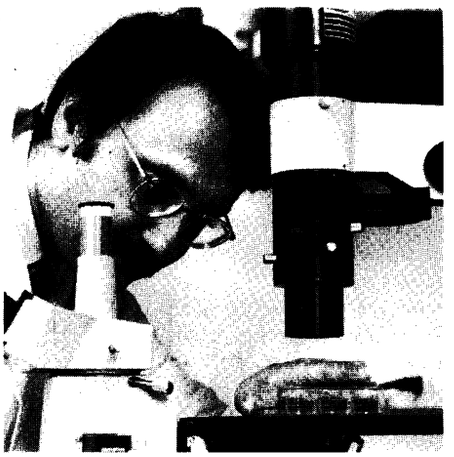
"We simply won't have the funds to do it all," says Wyngaarden. And that means tough choices about how much money to allocate to drug development, prevention, and basic biology, for example, each of which has its advocates.

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



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

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 Harvard'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."

Shervert Frazier *accused of plagiarism.*

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

conclude whether or not there may have been additional instances of plagiarism," Tosteson said.

Tosteson told *Science* that it apparently was Frazier's custom to quote extensively from others' publications when he gave speeches. Adequate attribution, Harvard found, did not make its way into print when Frazier then adapted the speeches for review articles or book chapters.

Frazier was unavailable for comment on the conduct committee's findings. Likewise, members of the conduct committee were unavailable. According to Tosteson, it is Harvard's policy not to reveal the names of members of its standing committee or of individuals who are called upon to bring special expertise on a case-by-case basis.

Frazier's failings as an author were first brought to Tosteson's attention in August by Paul Scatena of the University of Rochester. A philosophy student turned neuroscientist, Scatena was reading extensively about "phantom pain" in persons who have had an arm or leg amputated when he came across a gripping statement in one of Frazier's review articles. It said that in higher species, the amount of pain perceived is not directly related to the amount of painful stimulus. "It was one of the ideas that inspired me to go into neuroscience," says Scatena who told *Science* that he has carefully followed the adjuration of one of his professors to "always go to the primary source; don't rely on second-rate secondary sources." It was on reading the primary sources that Scatena noticed that substantial passages in Frazier were taken from other authors. He also noticed instances in which references varied from one Frazier paper to another, and in which data from a primary source were not summarized as accurately as he thinks they might have been. Harvard has notified journals and appropriate institutions of its findings.

As associate dean James Adelstein said in an interview with *Science*, "Intellectual property is extremely important in academic circles. It is part of our cultural norm and has to be taken seriously."

"What this says is that people who do science are people. Like everybody else, some have their pathologies," one Harvard professor says. Others are frankly outraged by Frazier's behavior. "This unfairly gives all of us a bad name and people here are furious," says another.

■ BARBARA J. CULLITON

Errors in *Cell* Paper Acknowledged

In a letter to the editor of *Cell*, Thereza Imanishi-Kari, David Baltimore, and their coauthors of a 1986 article have cited "three instances of misstatement" in the paper, which has been the subject of congressional hearings (*Science*, 24 June, p. 1720). Writing in the 18 November issue of *Cell*, the authors state that a reagent which the original article described as being highly specific in its reactivity cross-reacts, in fact, with more than one molecule. They have admitted as much ever since the statement was first challenged more than a year and a half ago by NIH workers Ned Feder and Walter Stewart.

Imanishi-Kari and the others also acknowledge in the letter to *Cell* that there are errors in the paper's second table. However, they reaffirm what they have been saying all along, that these are not material alterations and do not affect the conclusions of the paper, which is a discussion of gene expression in transgenic mice.

Representative John Dingell (D–MI), who has held hearings on what is widely known as the "Baltimore paper" because of Nobel laureate Baltimore's prominence as director of the Whitehead Institute at MIT, is not at all happy about the letter of correction. In a letter of his own to Health and Human Services Secretary Otis R. Bowen, Dingell alleges that the correction was written in an effort to preempt the findings of an NIH panel that has investigated the circumstances surrounding the original publication. Dingell also charges that NIH colluded with Baltimore by suggesting that he and his coauthors write the letter to *Cell*.

Dingell also asked for an investigation of an alleged leak to *Science* which reported in its 15 July issue that the review panel "is said to have found no evidence of fraudulent research." And Dingell called on Bowen to find out why the NIH review panel's report is still not complete and says that an NIH lawyer told his House subcommittee that a draft report does not even exist.

In truth, the NIH review panel of three scientists has been slower to produce its report than anyone anticipated. However, according to NIH director James B. Wyngaarden, NIH received the draft the day after receiving a copy of Dingell's 10 November letter to the secretary. That draft has now been sent to each of the coauthors of the *Cell* paper who have been asked to comment by the end of next week. "I certainly hope we'll be able to get the final report out this year," Wyngaarden says.

■ BARBARA J. CULLITON

Chimps Endangered, Research Reprieved

A wrangle between biomedical researchers and conservationists ended in a split decision last week when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to reclassify wild chimpanzees as "endangered," while leaving chimps living in research facilities under the less dire heading of "threatened."

The compromise will allow experimentation on man's closest relative to continue, while bringing into play more stringent restrictions on the importation of chimpanzees from Africa, where the species is under severe pressure due to massive habitat destruction, hunting, and capture.

"I think that this tells government officials and park officials in Africa that somebody out there in the big, wide world cares about what happens to chimpanzees," says Jane Goodall, who along with the World Wildlife Fund and the Humane Society of the United States petitioned the wildlife service to place the chimpanzee in the endangered category (*Science*, 12 August, p. 777).

The move was vigorously opposed by officials at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), who were concerned that captive populations in the United States might be lumped together with wild chimps under an endangered listing, thereby making biomedical research on the animals extremely difficult, if not impossible.

NIH officials, too, seem to harbor lingering suspicions about the motives of some of the conservationists, whom they believe are out to stop medical research on animals. Asked what effect the chimp ruling will have on research, George Galasso of NIH's Office of Extramural Research replied: "It will be business as usual until the other shoe drops." Galasso anticipates future attempts to restrict research on chimpanzees, now that the species is considered endangered.

The conservationists, in turn, harbor their own suspicions. They will look very carefully, they say, at the language that accompanies the formal proposal to change the chimp's status. The problem, as the conservationists see it, is how to distinguish between "captive" and "wild" chimpanzees in Africa.

"In Africa a chimp can be wild one day and captive the next. You just go out and shoot his mother and grab him," says Goodall, who envisions chimps being plucked from the wild, kept for a time in pens, "recycled," and then sold to traders. The wildlife service says it will have its proposal ready in about a month.

■ WILLIAM BOOTH