

Briefings

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Fauci Gets Softer on Activists

The ninth meeting of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) held in Bethesda, Maryland, last week differed from previous ones in an important respect: patient activists were invited to listen in and even participate "to some extent" as some 1000 delegates discussed the status and direction of the federal clinical research program.

The meeting came on the heels of a stormy session at last month's AIDS conference in San Francisco where a speech by Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan was drowned out by members of the AIDS activist group ACT UP. They were particularly upset by Sullivan's stance on restrictions for foreign visitors who test positive for HIV. The secretary responded by saying he wouldn't have any more to do with ACT UP and that future government contacts would be limited to those that are "necessary and productive."

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, took a different tack at the ACTG meeting. He told participants that he "will promote the inclusion of AIDS constituency representation at every level of NIAID's process of clinical trials." He acknowledged that some scientists would feel inhibited by the activists' presence, but told them to speak freely and said he would back them up if they were unfairly criticized. In the case of valid criticisms, "I certainly hope that as scientists you would want to hear about them and make the appropriate changes," said Fauci.

Comings & Goings

Former NIH director James B. Wyngaarden, after what turned out to be a transitional stint at the White House Office

of Science and Technology, this month began a 4-year term as foreign secretary at the National Academy of Sciences, succeeding William E. Gordon of Rice University. Wyngaarden will also be serving as the first foreign secretary of the Institute of Medicine.

On the society front, Michael J. Jackson, dean for research at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., will become executive director of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, starting 1 September.

Leonardo's Secret: Cat Naps

According to legend, Leonardo da Vinci made time for his scientific and artistic endeavors by napping for 15 minutes every 4 hours, limiting his sleep to 1½ hours a day. Now a researcher at Boston's Institute of Circadian Physiology says the study of such sleep patterns may help people such as doctors or firefighters stay alert over extended periods of work.

The researcher, Claudio Stampi, has studied solo ocean racers and found that most take short naps throughout the day, averaging about 5 hours of sleep. But at a recent meeting of the Association of Professional Sleep Societies in Minneapolis, he described a more impressive accomplishment: he guided a

27-year-old male volunteer (a graphic artist) through a cycle of six 15-minute naps a day for 9 days. Although he occasionally overslept, he averaged 2.7 hours of sleep a day. Data from tests of memory, logical reasoning, and simple mathematical calculations suggested, Stampi says, that "overall performance was not significantly reduced." Surprisingly, the subject enjoyed the



Leonardo. Self Portrait

trial enough to volunteer for one lasting 2 months that will begin soon.

It's too early to say how many people could train themselves to sleep like Leonardo—assuming the legend is true. But Stampi doubts that everyone would jump at the chance to go on a sleep diet. He cites the case of the Italian artist who first got him interested in da Vinci's napping pattern 20 years ago. It seems the fellow had adopted

the da Vinci technique to enhance his own productivity, but he "stopped after 6 months," Stampi says. Why? "He didn't know what to do with all his free time, since he wasn't another Leonardo."

North Carolina Goes "Soovie"

North Carolina State University is about to be admitted into the Chinese pig cartel, a select group of research institutions that owns every Chinese pig in the United States. NC State researchers have long wanted to study the animals, but the consortium that brought the pigs into the country last year—the U.S. Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Iowa State University, and the University of Illinois—has maintained a monopoly over them. NC State was formally notified in May that it couldn't have any pigs for at least 5 years (*Science*, 15 June, p. 1304).

Enter Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC). Helms, according to an aide, spoke several times with Agriculture secretary Clayton Yeutter and last week was informed that NC State would be admitted into the consortium. ARS administrator Ronald Plowman has told NC State that it can join if it comes up with one-fourth of the costs of bringing the animals into the country and agrees to a joint research program worked out among consortium members. NC State biologist Philip Carter says he has already raised \$350,000 from North Carolina pig producers to pay the entry fee.

Use of Job Test Curbed

The Labor Department, grappling with the problem of finding a valid employment test that doesn't adversely affect minorities, wants a moratorium on the use of the General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB), the country's most widely used em-

