have the potential to change global climate. May backs the assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that changes are an inevitable consequence of rising greenhouse gas emissions with potentially enormous environmental impact. "The key thing now is to convince people that it needs immediate action," May told *Science*. Blair endorsed the report by telling his audience: "You should all read it."

May's report also adds ammunition to the effort to persuade the world's skeptics that climate change is a real and serious problem. We need "to press for a solid result in Kyoto," his report says. But even getting politicians on board won't be enough, he says: "Most of the actions will be impossible unless the public in general is persuaded of the need for them."

Mitigation of climate change will require huge efforts in the energy, transport, and construction industries in terms of greater efficiency in production and use, says May. But in the short term, "these can be done with the development of appropriate current technologies," he stresses. The United Kingdom has already pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2010, if other countries will agree to similar cuts. As climate change may already be under way, the latest IPCC studies suggest, the need is to act quickly, says May: "As with turning a large ship, there are long lags between actions aimed at leveling off carbon dioxide levels and the levels actually stabilizing. This is a strong argument for early action."

Britain has a special obligation to take the lead in seeking an international consensus, May adds, because of its role in building the scientific basis for such action. "The quality of the U.K.'s contribution to research on climate change, in the broadest sense, is strong out of all proportion to our relative size on research spending," says May. He believes Britain should use its "moral authority" derived from its research and its promise to cut greenhouse gas emissions to help persuade other countries to cut their own emissions. "The U.K. takes these issues very seriously," he says.

–Nigel Williams

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

AIDS Research Chief Bows Out

William Paul, a preeminent immunologist who oversees one of the largest budgets at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as head of its Office of AIDS Research (OAR), announced last week that he is stepping aside. "There's never a perfect time to leave, but this is a pretty good one," Paul told *Science*. Paul says he feels he has accomplished much since being appointed to head the OAR in February 1994, and now wants to return to the lab. "Scientifically, I want to come back to a more vigorous approach to my own work," says Paul, who is eager to apply the latest immunological insights to AIDS vaccine research.

When Paul took over the OAR, Congress had just revamped the office (*Science*, 11 March 1994, p. 1364). Heeding the urgings of AIDS activists and researchers—and dismissing the objections of Varmus and other influential critics who were wary of appropriating money by disease rather than by NIH institute—Congress in 1993 gave the OAR broad new authority to oversee NIH's entire AIDS budget, which now stands at $1.5 billion.

As part of this congressional mandate, Paul launched an ambitious review of the mammoth program by more than 100 extramural researchers led by Princeton University's Arnold Levine. The gargantuan "Levine Report," which was released in July 1996, "provides a blueprint for restructuring the NIH AIDS science program," Paul notes in a 2 October resignation letter he sent to colleagues. He also takes pride in bringing more attention and money to AIDS vaccine research. One of his ideas, an intramural vaccine research center at NIH, won so much support that President Bill Clinton announced its formation in a speech last May.

RICK KOZAK

Back to the bench. William Paul is resuming AIDS vaccine research.

Paul's tenure, which he says will end "Novemberish," is winning plaudits even from those initially critical of giving OAR so much power. "Bill has done a great job and his departure is a real loss, but I am grateful to him for serving as long as he has," remarked NIH director Harold Varmus. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci, who headed the OAR until Paul took over, praises his old friend's record, too. "He's done what he set out to do," says Fauci. AIDS activist Mark Harrington of New York City's Treatment Action Group adds: "Bill gave credibility to the office itself and to the idea that someone could coordinate research across the institutes."

Varmus says NIH is putting together a "high-profile" search committee and "will advertise widely, hoping to find someone with talents approaching Bill's to continue his good work." Varmus adds that he hopes to find a new director within 6 months, so that the person will be ready to testify at next year's congressional appropriations hearings. As for lingering doubts about whether a coordinated approach to AIDS is still needed, Paul says, "AIDS is special. And I hope the day will come when AIDS isn't special. That will mean we've done our job."

–Jon Cohen

Fabulous Sum for a Fearsome Fossil

SOTHEBY'S

Scientists hope to learn more about the lifestyle of history's most notorious predator after the most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* ever found was auctioned off on Saturday in New York City for a record $7.6 million. The dinosaur tooth marks in her skull and a broken tooth embedded in a rib already tell them the 65-million-year-old *T. rex* was no stranger to combat.

Discovered in South Dakota in 1990, the fossil—dubbed Sue after its discoverer, Sue Hendrickson—was subsequently seized by federal agents. Since then it's been captive to litigation over ownership of the land, which is part of an Indian reservation (*Science*, 19 September, p. 1767). The courts finally ruled that it belonged to Maurice Williams, who will pocket the profit. Its new owner is the Field Museum of Chicago, which will use a donation from McDonald's Corp. to build a fossil-preparation lab where the public can watch scientists at work. Sue is expected to go on display in 2000.