

Brown (D-CA), calling for a separate Social, Economic and Psychological Sciences (SEPS) directorate. The idea has also been promoted by two NSF advisory groups, including a task force appointed by Mary Clutter, head of NSF's Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences Directorate.

Clutter herself and others have expressed doubts about such a reorganization, saying that it could operate to the detriment of the behavioral sciences by further isolating them from their biological underpinnings. But witnesses from a range of professional societies, testifying at hearings held by the task force last November, disagreed. "We need a distinct identity and voice to reverse the inequitable funding patterns of the last decade," said Alan Kraut of the American Psychological Society.

That argument was firmly rejected by former NSF director Erich Bloch. But several NSF officials have expressed confidence that the concept of a SEPS directorate will be considered sympathetically by NSF's new director, physicist Walter Massey. The task force is planning to issue an interim report later this month, coinciding nicely with Massey's arrival. The final report, on which Clutter will base her recommendations, is slated for 1 April.



Mary Clutter

5-year center grants, for roughly \$2 million a year each, to Thomas Caskey at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and to Raymond White and Raymond Gesteland at the University of Utah. The Utah center will focus on developing lots of new, high-quality DNA markers for the genetic map—especially for mapping chromosomes 16, 17, and 5. The group will also collaborate with researchers at the University of Alberta on rapid methods for DNA sequencing. At Baylor, researchers will be working on a different type of map, the physical map—a collection of overlapping pieces of DNA—for the X chromosome and chromosome 17. The Baylor team also plans to build a genetic map of chromosome 6 and to sequence disease genes as they come upon them.

The centers now total six, and Elke Jordan, associate director of the genome effort at NIH, says there is room for three more this year. "We have pared them down to bare bones," explains Jordan, who estimates that each will get about \$3 million a year

rather than the \$4 million originally anticipated. The president has requested \$110.5 million for the NIH genome effort next year, which would include funds for two more centers. Tentative plans are to have fourteen in place by 1995.

## Log On, Ye Clinicians

Medline, the National Library of Medicine's on-line bibliographic service, has just taken on a new role: town crier.

The National Institutes of Health has been looking for efficient ways to alert doctors about important new clinical findings before they are published (*Science*, 28 January, p. 374). So, at a meeting held last month to discuss the issue, NLM director Donald Lindberg proposed using Medline to put the news out electronically. And, yes, the idea was an instant hit.

The very next day, Medline users were greeted with an announcement from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development that a

clinical trial testing intravenous immunoglobulin for the prevention of bacterial infections in children harboring the AIDS virus had been terminated because the therapy was clearly beneficial.

A few more scoops like this one and Medline, which has had a limited audience—there are only about 50,000 users, and only 13,000 a month log on—may prove the on-line hit of the year.

## Biotech Directory

Biotechnology researchers will soon have a new tool to aid their investigations: a directory of virtually everyone in the United States doing full-time biotechnology research at an academic institution.

The project is being undertaken by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, with the help of Synergistic Technologies, Inc. It "has just taken off like crazy,"

says Mark Dibner of the center. Seven professional societies have agreed to participate in the project, some of them sending questionnaires at their own expense. The National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Agriculture are also sending questionnaires to their grantees. Dibner says researchers will decide for themselves whether they fit the criteria, defined as anyone involved full time in "any science investigation that utilizes new cell, protein, and nucleic acid technologies such as RDNA, hybridoma/monoclonal production, protein engineering, and other related fields." That population is estimated to be about 25,000.

The first issue of the new directory, which the center hopes to update periodically, will be published next fall. Researchers can obtain questionnaires from the center at P.O. Box 13547, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. Or they can call a USDA computer bulletin board at 1-800-624-2723.

## NEW NSF S&T CENTERS

CENTER	5-YEAR BUDGET (IN MILLIONS)
Center for Light Microscope Imaging and Biotechnology Carnegie Mellon University*	\$7
Center for Light Microscope Imaging and Biotechnology Kent State University	\$9.3
Center for Advanced Liquid Crystal Optical Materials SUNY Stony Brook	\$10.1
Center for Astrophysical Research in Antarctica University of Chicago	\$13.6
Center for Ultrafast Optical Science University of Michigan	\$9.3
Center for Research in Cognitive Science University of Pennsylvania	\$9.8
Southern California Earthquake Center University of Southern California	\$13.4
Center for Synthesis, Growth and Analysis of Electronic Materials University of Texas at Austin	\$10.5
Center for Biological Timing University of Virginia	\$10.6

\*Only the primary universities are named; in many cases, several other institutions or government agencies are involved.

*The National Science Foundation has announced 9 of the 14 new Science and Technology Centers it intends to fund this year. The centers—NSF's strategy for supporting large-scale multidisciplinary science—were approved months ago, but the announcement was delayed after a last-minute \$40-million cut forced the agency to rethink its plans (Science, 4 January, p. 19). The figures above represent a maximum 5-year commitment—future budget cuts could change the picture. Eleven centers were funded in 1989; when the remaining 5 of this year's crop are named, the total will be 25.*