

■ *Science* has learned that Kenneth Olden, director of Howard University's Cancer Center, has been chosen to head the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Created in 1969 as the government's basic research center on health risks posed by chemicals and other agents in the environment, NIEHS has been without an official chief since last September, when David Rall retired as director.

Olden has excellent credentials as a basic scientist and research manager, but he has no background in environmental research and has had little contact with NIEHS in the past. His inexperience may work in his favor as far as the Bush Administration is concerned, since he would bring no insider politics to the job. But some worry that Olden—who has not yet officially accepted the job—may not be fully prepared to fend off budget slashers at the White House. This year, for example, the Administration sought an increase in NIEHS's funding of only 5.6% (to \$254 million)—less than the average increase (7%) at NIH institutes. What NIEHS really needs, some of its fans argue, is an adept practitioner of inside politics.

Teen Troubles

■ The dangers adolescents face—depression, suicide, parental divorce, drugs, and pregnancy—have collectively reached crisis levels despite the buckets of federal dollars they've absorbed, according to several recent and widely publicized reports. In an attempt to better understand the roots of such behavioral pitfalls and disorders, several federal agencies are planning a series of new demographics initiatives aimed at pinpointing teenagers at risk.

For instance, NIH's Institute of Child Health and Human Development plans to invite selected demographers to examine critical but unresolved questions—such as which kids will have the most trouble dealing with parental divorce. Instead of using new data, the demographers will take advantage of several existing longitudinal and cross-sectional surveys of American youth. On Capitol Hill, Senator Daniel P. Moynihan (D-NY) has drafted a bill requesting the secretary of Health and Human Services to determine and measure risk factors for children and families who are in danger of becoming welfare dependents. And the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration plans to increase research funding on child mental health disorders to



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Which of these kids faces the greatest risk of adolescent trauma?

\$147 million in 1992 (up \$36 million from 1990), a part of which will include funds for demographic studies of children.

While it's probably too late for either the Moynihan or NIH

proposals to make it into 1992 budgets, widespread federal support for improving adolescent health and Moynihan's strong legislative track record make them likely bets for 1993.

FCCSET Under Fire

■ Trouble looms on the horizon for the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET), an interagency body that received rave reviews this winter when three of its committees unveiled coordinated, multi-agency initiatives in science education, high performance computing, and global change (*Science*, 15 February, p. 737). Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. is the first to register major dissatisfaction with FCCSET process—especially its encroachment on the

budgetary prerogatives of Cabinet secretaries.

In a 14 May memo addressed to FCCSET chairman and presidential science adviser D. Allan Bromley and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) director Richard G. Darman, Lujan complained that although his department won't be ready to send its overall budget request to OMB until September, FCCSET requires budget requests for agencies involved in its projects (in this case, primarily the U.S. Geological Survey) by 15 July. So Lujan laid down the law: "No bureaus of the department may transmit any fiscal year 1993 budget figures to FCCSET committees prior to my final decisions." Lujan is also upset because funds allocated to an agency for a FCCSET project cannot later be transferred to another bureau, thus limiting his flexibility in funding Interior activities.

Other agencies are sympathetic to Lujan's complaints, but so far no one else is as close to bolting from the fold. FCCSET advocates say the process can be adjusted to satisfy Lujan's concerns, but right now it seems FCCSET needs fixin'.

HHS Considers a Crackdown on Leakers of Fraud Report

■ The inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services may soon begin an investigation into one of the more contentious press leaks within the scientific community: the premature public release of a draft report by NIH's Office of Scientific Integrity (OSI) that accused Tufts immunologist **Theresa Imanishi-Kari** of fraud (*Science*, 29 March, p. 1552).

In a 9 April letter to Imanishi-Kari attorney Bruce Singal, Suzanne Hadley, a special assistant to the OSI director, wrote that OSI has asked the inspector general "to review the [unauthorized release of the report] and conduct any investigation it deems to be warranted." Singal had already complained in a 29 March let-

Imanishi-Kari and the report.

ter that "NIH's violation of its own confidentiality procedures" had "impugned the integrity of [the OSI] investigation." In another letter on 23 May he charged: "Now that OSI is 'on record' nationally as having exonerated Dr. Imanishi-Kari for falsifying data, it will not alter its results, whatever the evidence."

Science obtained this correspondence in a package that also contained Imanishi-Kari's 45-page rebuttal of OSI's forensic and statistical evidence. A summary of that rebuttal has previously appeared in *Nature*.



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