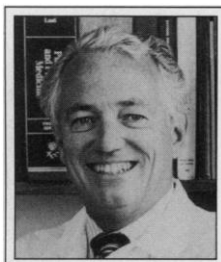


New Boss at Salk Institute

After a difficult 3-year search that saw two eminent scientists turn down the job, the Salk Institute is expected to announce this week that it has finally found a new president. Brian E. Henderson, a 55-year-old epidemiologist who heads the University of Southern California's Kenneth Norris Jr. Comprehensive Cancer Center, has agreed to take over the Salk—an elite biological research institute perched on the cliffs above the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla (*Science*, 22 November 1991, p. 1131).

Henderson will come aboard at a time when the 32-year-old institute is in the midst of an ambitious fundraising campaign. Salk administrators hope to finance a planned \$21 million labo-



Brian E. Henderson

ratory building and boost the institute's \$25 million endowment in order to provide a buffer in case federal research dollars decline. "All of us are concerned about the long-term support of science and the ability to keep scientific inquiry as free as we can from commercialization," Henderson told *Science*. "To me, the greatest challenge is how to maintain the preeminence of our biomedical research" as public funding of research gets tighter.

To take on these financial challenges without losing touch with his research, Henderson says that he plans to split his time between administrative duties and research on cancer epidemiology and prevention. Henderson replaces current institute director and Nobel laureate Renato Dulbecco on 1 February.

Society Rethinks Brain Initiative

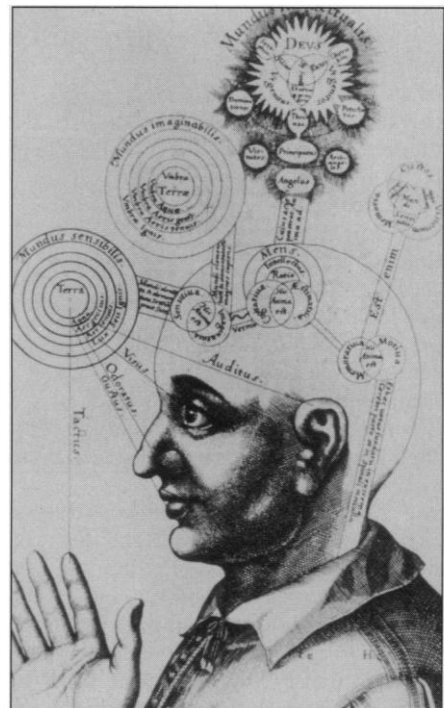
Responding to complaints that the Decade of the Brain hasn't spurred the budgetary windfall for neuroscience that researchers had hoped for, the American Society for Neuroscience is planning a new strategy to win more federal dollars for the initiative.

The society intends to press for a dedicated budget line for the entire Brain Initiative in next year's appropriations bill, says former National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) director Lewis Judd. This is a change from past efforts, in which the society has lobbied for separate budget increases for NIMH and each of the other institutes at NIH involved in neuroscience research. "It's a strategy question," says Judd, who's now at

Brainstorm. Neuroscience society conjures up new ideas for Decade of the Brain.

the University of California, San Diego. "Do you get more by 10 people asking for \$25, or one person asking for \$250?" He suggests that the appropriation request would be for about \$250 million.

But for Judd's plan to succeed in the wake of Silvio Conti's death last year—Conti was the congressman who put the Decade of the Brain on the political agenda—neuroscience will need to find another "congressional champion," predicts Floyd Bloom, a neuropharmacologist at the Scripps Clinic. Bloom adds that he'd love to regale Congress with the initiative's scientific promise.



ROBERT FLUDD/NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Academia Deems PHS Investigations Private

Several academic associations* are poised to take a stand against what they view as violations of privacy that might result from the disclosure of detailed information in misconduct investigations. In doing so, the societies hope to lend support to the federal government, which is expected to seek a reversal of a recent court decision that could force the disclosure of names of scientists who have come under suspicion but were exonerated.

The ruling the government seeks to overturn came down last August, when NIH biophysicist Charles McCutchen won a suit against the Public Health Service (PHS) on the grounds that researchers' privacy rights are not

as strong as the public's right to know about research that had been seriously questioned by the government (*Science*, 4 September, p. 1341). McCutchen hailed his victory as a precedent that will allow outsiders to monitor how thoroughly PHS conducts misconduct investigations.

But of six scientific associations have some misgivings about the court decision, and their representatives met last week to discuss the

possibility of filing a brief on the government's behalf. "It strikes me that...people ought to be free from public harassment through public exposure," says Robert Rosenzweig, president of the Association of American Universities. A decision on whether to file the brief is expected soon.

Academic Pork Gets Its Own Peer Review

Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) has tried to keep academic pork projects out of the Pentagon's budget in the past, but his most recent and perhaps least successful attempt—in legislation that cleared Congress on 5 October—has left some people scratching their heads. It singles out certain academic lobbies as a source of peer reviewers, while snubbing others.

In the final days of the 102nd Congress, Nunn introduced a compromise amendment that allowed \$75 million worth of "earmarks" proposed by senators to go into effect. This was just one of three academic pork packages in the bill (now signed into law), for a total value of \$271 million. Although the clause lets these projects go through, Nunn's amendment also instructs the Secretary of Defense to review and fund

the \$75 million worth "in accordance with a merit based selection process." However, the participants must be selected "only from the faculty or staff of institutions that are members of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges or the American Association of State Colleges and Universities." Glaringly omitted is the Association of American Universities, umbrella for the big research schools.

Nunn explained that his amendment includes the land-grant colleges, which sometimes get short shrift. But academic lobbies regard this as a bad precedent. As one association staffer says, institutional affiliations are poor guides for identifying good peer reviewers. For example, Nunn's rule will exclude the Georgia Institute of Technology—no doubt unintentionally.

*The Association of American Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, the American Council on Education, and the American Society for Microbiology.