

Funding Request for FY 1993

THE DECADE OF THE BRAIN

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THE FACTS

- * The 1990s have been declared by Congress and the President as the "Decade of the Brain" in support of the premise that neurological disorders can be prevented, cured or alleviated if research is provided for adequate funding
- * More people are hospitalized with neurological disorders than any other major disease group, including cancer and cardiovascular diseases
- * Twelve percent or 8.1 million, of the country's 68 million youths 18 or under have mental, behavioral, or developmental disorders; nearly one-half of them are believed to be severely handicapped by their illness, yet only one-third get treatment
- * Neurologically-related diseases include the following:
 - o Suicide which claims more than 30,000 lives each year, according to Healthy People 2000.
 - o Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is among the most common of childhood mental disorders, afflicting 9 percent of children nationwide, and it is estimated that 70 percent of these children continue to experience the full syndrome in adolescence
 - o Traumatic brain/head injuries, affecting over 2 million Americans annually
 - o Dementia disorders, including Alzheimer's affecting over 40 percent of the population over age 80
 - o Nerve and muscle disorders, such as Lou Gehrig's Disease and neuropathies associated with diabetes, affecting 4,600 people annually
 - o Schizophrenia, the most chronic and disabling of mental illnesses, which afflicts about 1 percent of the adult population, or 1.8 million people
 - o Motor system disorders, such as Parkinson's disease, which affects over 500,000 people annually
 - o Panic Disorders affecting 1 in 75 Americans at some point in their lives

WHY IS AN INCREASE NECESSARY?

- * ADAMHA and NIH provide the majority of funding for substance abuse, mental illness, and neurological research in the United States, of which 90% is publicly funded
- * We spend \$2,600 per person on health care expenditures annually, and only \$40 per person on research to prevent and cure disease.
- * In the 1993 President's Budget Request, ADAMHA and NIH received the smallest percentage increase by comparison to other large research and development programs.
 - o Superconducting Super Collider 34% increase
 - o Global Change Research 24% increase
 - o Energy Research 18% increase
 - o National Science Foundation 18% increase
 - o Transportation Research 17% increase
 - o ADAMHA Research 5.5% increase
 - o NIH Research 5% increase

NEUROSCIENCE NEEDS

- * **Basic research** in neurochemistry, neurogenetics, neuropathology, and other of the fundamental neurosciences to identify the yet undiscovered secrets of the brain and nervous system that will open the door to new clinical opportunities.
- * **Basic and applied research** to understand the brain's control of behavior, mood and innate creativity.
- * Research efforts in the **genetic basis of neurological disorders** to address the increasing evidence of the genetic basis for many diseases.
- * **Functional imaging of the brain** to determine brain activity and structure in disease as well as the cognitive functions of learning, thinking and memory.
- * **Mechanisms of repair** to identify how the brain restores itself after being damaged and to further explore the fundamental neurobiology of the normal nervous system
- * **Controlled clinical trials** to develop and bring to the market effective therapeutics for the treatment of neurological diseases
- * **Training** of research scientists and clinicians in the field of neuroscience

RECOMMENDATIONS

The **SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE** recommends the following:

	1992 Appropriation	1993 President's Budget	Ad Hoc Group Recommendation*
NIH	\$8.9 Billion	\$9.4 Billion	\$10.6 Billion
ADAMHA	\$1 Billion	\$1.1 Billion	\$ 1.3 Billion

(*Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding)

WHAT WILL THE RECOMMENDED INCREASE SUPPORT?

- * Full funding for the National Academy of Sciences recommendation of 13,004 research trainees under the National Research Service Award (NRSA) program. The proposal also would support additional research career development awards.
- * Support for both existing and new research centers and clinical trials, and for the research infrastructure
- * Expansion in all areas of ADAMHA and NIH's research and research training initiatives
- * Fund slightly more than one-third of the peer-reviewed research grant applications in FY 1993

ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES

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- During the past ten years the activities of the animal rights movement have increased considerably. While most groups within this movement were originally concerned with the humane care and treatment of animals, many organizations have now shifted their goals to abolishing all use of animals.
- Today there are well over 150 organizations in the U.S. dedicated to opposing the use of animals in biomedical research, education and consumer product safety testing.
- The animal rights movement maintains a constant level of high profile activities designed to attract media attention, thus keeping their side of the issue in the public eye. These activities include:
 - * Break-ins at animal facilities
 - * Arson
 - * Vandalism
 - * Threats against people and property
 - * Civil disobedience
 - * Demonstrations and picketing
 - * Lawsuits against federal agencies, research facilities, and others
 - * Sit-ins
 - * Letter campaigns to newspapers
 - * Letter campaigns to elected officials
 - * Boycotts
- The animal rights movement has increasingly resorted to illegal acts to further their cause. Laboratories have been broken into and vandalized, animals have been stolen, research data has been tampered with, and individual researchers have been personally harassed and threatened.
- The animal rights movement is attacking the following targets:
 - * Biomedical research institutions: for use of lab animals
 - * Individual researchers: for use of lab animals or speaking in support of those who use them
 - * Farmers and the Farming Industry: poultry and veal producers have been particularly hard hit
 - * Cosmetics Industry: for use of the Draize test to ensure product safety
 - * Consumer Product Industry: for use of the LD50 test to ensure product safety

> > > MORE > > >

- o While the animals rights movement is growing in the U.S., we have not yet reached the level of violence experienced in Great Britain. According to New Scotland Yard, there were over 400 reported crimes linked to the animal rights movement in 1989 alone, including bombings (which injured innocent bystanders), break-ins, and the delivery of unsolicited goods (i.e. dead animals). It is believed that the U.S. is not more than two years behind Great Britain in terms of the terrorist activities being employed by the animal rights movement.

LEGISLATION REGARDING FEDERAL PROTECTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

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During the last ten years, research facilities throughout the United States have been under attack by radical members of the animal rights movement. Since 1981, more than 90 serious criminal acts have been reported by research facilities. These attacks have included bomb threats, death threats, vandalism, arson, theft and break-ins.

Not only are crimes committed against facilities, but also against researchers themselves. Animal activists have targeted individual researchers with hate mail, death threats, bomb threats and other means of harassment.

It should be a federal crime to break into research facilities, steal lab animals and research data, and damage or destroy research equipment and laboratories for the following reasons:

- o Crimes against research facilities are steadily increasing in number and severity. Most are committed with virtual impunity.
- o The people hurt most by these crimes are those waiting for cures and better treatments that are discovered only through animal research.
- o Public health is threatened not only through the loss of research, but also because "liberated" animals may be infected with dangerous diseases.
- o Scientists, for fear of personal attacks, are abandoning the field of biomedical research which involves animals. Promising researchers are becoming discouraged from entering the field.
- o Illegal acts increase the cost of research because more and more already limited research funds must be diverted to security and crisis management.
- o This is a national problem which occurs on an interstate and, perhaps international level. State laws alone are not sufficient to investigate and prosecute crimes of this kind.
- o Some people are concerned that this legislation would inhibit whistleblowing. The U.S. Constitution prohibits restricting the content of expression, and the Animal Welfare Act requires research facilities to train all staff to report problems in animal care and treatment. Whistleblowers could and should report their concerns to their institution, the media or Congress. However, they must not employ illegal means to express those concerns.

Senator Howell Heflin introduced S.544 which provides federal protection for research facilities. This bill passed unanimously in the Senate last October.

Congressman Charles W. Stenholm introduced a similar bill. The major difference is that Mr. Stenholm's bill provides broader coverage in that it also includes farms and ranches. H.R. 2407 has more than 260 co-sponsors. On April 2, this bill was marked-up and reported out of the Agriculture Committee. It now awaits action in the Judiciary Committee prior to going to the floor for a full House vote.