*Place:* 6100 Executive Boulevard, 6100 Building, Room 5E01, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

*Contact Person:* Edgar E. Hanna, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator, NICHD, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 5E01, Rockville, MD 20852, Telephone: 301–496–1485.

*Name of SEP:* A Non-Intrusive Fiber Optic Lead Sensor (Teleconference).

*Date:* April 27, 1998.

*Time:* 1:30 p.m.—adjournment.

*Place:* 6100 Executive Boulevard, 6100 Building, Room 5E01, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

*Contact Person:* Gopal Bhatnagar, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator, NICHD, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 5E01, Rockville, MD 20852, Telephone: 301–496–1485.

*Purpose/Agenda:* To evaluate and review research grant applications.

These meetings will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C. The discussion of these applications could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with these applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. [93.864, Population Research and No. 93.865, Research for Mothers and Children], National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 16, 1998.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 98–10880 Filed 4–22–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140–01–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

### National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting:

*Name of SEP:* Pediatric Pharmacology Research Unit (PPRU), Data Coordinating Center.

*Date:* May 18, 1998.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m.—adjournment.

*Place:* 6100 Executive Boulevard, 5th Floor Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

*Contact Person:* Hameed Khan, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator, NICHD, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 5E01, Rockville, MD 20582, Telephone: 301–496–1485.

*Purpose/Agenda:* To evaluate and review contract grant proposal.

This meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C. The discussion of these contract proposals could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with these applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. [93.864, Population Research and No. 93.865, Research for Mothers and Children], National Institute of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 16, 1998.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 98–10881 Filed 4–22–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140–01–M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Public Health Service

### National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice

**SUMMARY:** The Center for Population Research of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announces the availability of educational loan repayment under the NICHD Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program (CIR–LRP or the Program). The CIR–LRP, which is authorized by Section 487B of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 288–2) as added by the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103–43). provides for the repayment of the educational loan debt of qualified health professionals (including graduate students) who agree to commit to a period of obligated service of not less than two years conducting research with respect to contraception and/or infertility. The CIR–LRP will pay up to $20,000 of the principal and interest of such individual's educational loans for each year of obligated service. In addition to the loan repayments, the CIR–LRP will pay participants an amount equal to 39 percent of the total amount of the loan repayments made for the taxable year in order to provide reimbursement for tax liability caused by the Program's loan repayments. The purpose of the CIR–LRP is the recruitment and retention of highly qualified health professionals conducting contraception and/or infertility research. Through this notice, the NICHD, NIH, announces changes in the eligibility criteria for participation in the CIR–LRP, and invites health professionals who meet the prescribed eligibility criteria to apply.

**DATES:** Interested persons who meet the eligibility requirements may request information about the CIR–LRP beginning on March 1, 1998. Applications for participation in the CIR–LRP can be submitted at any time after April 1, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Information regarding the CIR–LRP may be obtained by contacting: Dr. Louis V. DePaolo, Coordinator, Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, Building 61E, Rm. 8B01, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–7510 (Voice: 301/496–6515; FAX: 301/496–0692; E-Mail: 1d38p@nih.gov).

Applications can be submitted at any time after April 1, 1998 to: Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, Building 61E, Rm. 8B01, Bethesda, Maryland 20892–7510. For courier deliveries, the following address should be used: Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Room 8B01, Rockville, Maryland 20851.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103–43) was enacted on June 10, 1993, adding section 487B of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 288–2). Section 487B authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Director of NICHD to establish a program of entering into contracts with qualified professionals under which such health professionals agree to conduct contraception and/or infertility research in consideration of the Federal Government agreeing to repay, for each year of such service, not more than $20,000 of the principal and interest of their outstanding graduate and/or undergraduate educational loans. The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of NICHD, has established a program to provide such loan repayments. This program is known as

the Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program (CIR–LRP). In return for these loan repayments, applicants must agree to participate in contraception and/or infertility research for a period of obligated service of not less than two years. Selected applicants become participants in the CIR–LRP only upon the signing of a written contract by the Director, NICHD, the Secretary's designate.

On March 24, 1997, the NICHD, NIH published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of educational loan repayment under the CIR–LRP (62 FR 13892). In that notice, the NICHD, NIH announced the initial implementation of the program would be limited to employees of the three NICHD Contraception Research Centers and two NICHD Infertility Research Centers due to limited availability of funds. The NICHD, NIH is modifying that original eligibility criteria to read as follows:

**Eligibility Criteria**

Qualified health and allied health professionals including, but not limited to, physicians, Ph.D.-level scientists, nurses and physician assistants, as well as graduate students and postgraduate research fellows training in the health professions are eligible to apply provided that they will be or are engaged, at the time of participation in the CIR–LRP, in employment/training at an NICHD intramural laboratory or one of the following NICHD-supported extramural sites: (1) A Cooperative Specialized Contraception or Infertility Research Center; (2) a Cooperative Specialized Research Center in Reproduction Research; (3) a Women's Reproductive Health Research Career Development Center; or (4) a Reproductive Medicine Unit identified as a clinical site for the National Cooperative Reproductive Medicine Network. As such, applicants will be expected to participate in research relating to infertility and/or contraception. For purposes of the CIR–LRP, infertility research is defined as research whose long-range objective is to evaluate, treat or ameliorate conditions which result in the failure of couples to either conceive or bear young, and contraception development is defined as research whose ultimate goal is to provide new or improved methods of preventing pregnancy.

In order to be considered for selection into the CIR–LRP, an applicant meeting the above eligibility requirements must submit a completed and signed application form. In addition, the individual must: (1) Sign and submit a CIR–LRP contract by which he/she agrees to serve the obligated minimum period of two years conducting contraception or infertility research at an NICHD intramural laboratory or an eligible NICHD-supported extramural site approved by the Director, NICHD; (2) have completely satisfied any other service obligation for health professional service which is owed under an agreement with the Federal Government, State Government or other entity prior to beginning the period of service under the CIR–LRP, and (3) certify that he/she is not delinquent on any amounts which are owed to the Federal Government.

Participants must be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents. Individuals who are fulfilling internship, residency or other advanced primary-care training requirements are not eligible to participate.

**Applicaiton Procedure and Selection Process**

Submission of applications for participation in the CIR–LRP by eligible individuals will be made to NICHD on behalf of the applicant by the extramural grantee institution or the NICHD for intramural employees/affiliates. The application will include: (1) Institutional assurance of future employment/affiliation with the NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site (e.g., contract between individual and institution) of not less than two years from the anticipated effective date of the CIR–LRP contract between the individual and NICHD; (2) a description of the applicant's proposed role in the scientific research on contraception and/or infertility being conducted in the NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site, and (3) a brief statement addressing the applicant's long-range career plan for engaging in contraception or infertility research. The application will be reviewed by the CIR–LRP Panel (Panel), chaired by the Deputy Director, NICHD, and comprised of representatives of the NICHD's Office of Administrative Management, the respective Program Officers of the Center for Population Research, and special consultants as required. The Panel will review and select applications for approval based upon the credentials of the applicant and other criteria the Secretary deems appropriate such as the scientific merit of the research and the nature of the applicant's career plan focus. Priority will be given to applicants with a clear career focus in the specialized areas of contraception and/or infertility research over those engaging in general reproductive sciences research. In addition to this review, the CIR–LRP will determine whether the educational loan debt qualifies for loan repayment assistance under this Program (see below). All selections are subject to final approval by the Director, NICHD. The NICHD will notify the applicant of the outcome of the review. It is anticipated that the selection process will take approximately six to eight weeks following receipt of the application.

**Program Administration**

The applicant is required to submit: (1) a completed and signed CIR–LRP contract, and (2) a copy of an institutional assurance of employment/affiliation with an NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site for no less than a two-year period from the anticipated effective date of the CIR–LRP contract. Neither the applicant nor the Federal Government is bound by this contract until: (1) the applicant has submitted and had approved by the Director, NICHD, a complete, accurate application as required by this program announcement, (2) the contract is signed by the Director, NICHD, and (3) authorized funds are available to the NICHD to carry out the contract.

The effective date of the contract will be the date it is signed by the Director or the date employment/training begins at the NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site, whichever is later. Initial contracts will be executed to cover a two-year service period. Following conclusion of this initial contract, participants may be considered for one-year renewal contracts, subject to approval of the Panel, for up to two additional years. Graduate students must maintain full-time enrollment (as determined by the academic institution of study), and be in good academic standing (as determined by the academic institution of study) while participating in the CIR–LRP.

**Program Benefits for Participants**

The CIR–LRP will pay up to $20,000 of the principal and interest of a participant's preexisting, nondelinquent qualified (see below) educational (graduate and/or undergraduate) loan balance for each year of obligated service that is fulfilled by the applicant.

The CIR–LRP's payments to lenders on behalf of the participants represent taxable income to the participant. The CIR–LRP reports each year to the Internal Revenue Service the payments it makes to all participants. Section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 2541–1), incorporated by reference in section 487B, provides,

however, that in addition to the loan payments made to lenders, the CIR–LRP will also pay to the participants an amount equal to 39 percent of the total amount of the loan repayments made for the taxable year. Participants should note that this payment is also considered taxable income by the Internal Revenue Service and many State and local taxing authorities.

The CIR–LRP will make quarterly payments to the lenders. Payment is made by a U.S. Treasury check shortly after the end of each full quarter of satisfactory service. Since the first payment to lenders will not be made until after the end of the first quarter of obligated service, participants should continue to make monthly loan payments for the first three months of his/her service to avoid defaulting on his/her loans and affecting his/her credit ratings.

**Loan Documentation and Qualification**

A copy of the promissory note for each outstanding loan must be submitted with the application. (This usually may be obtained upon request to the lenders.) the CIR–LRP will determine if the loans were reasonably necessary to meet the costs of education, in terms of each individual loan and in terms of each applicant's total educational loan debts. Loans **qualifying** for repayment include preexisting loans obtained by the participant for:

(1) Undergraduate and graduate tuition expenses;

(2) All other reasonable educational expenses including fees, books, supplies, educational equipment and materials required by the school, and laboratory expenses; and

(3) Reasonable living expenses including the costs of room and board, transportation, commuting and other costs incurred during an individual's attendance at school as determined by the Secretary.

Applicants must complete a lender verification form for each loan. The most current balance of each loan—principal plus interest plus loan expenses (such as the required insurance premiums on the unpaid balances of some loans)—should be determined as accurately as possible and reported by the applicant on each form. This enables the CIR–LRP to reserve adequate funds for loan repayments under the contract should the applicant become a CIR–LRP participant. The CIR–LRP will send the loan verification forms to each lender for verification. If the CIR–LRP is unable to obtain adequate loan verification from the lender, the applicant may be asked to submit other document, such as copies of the original loan application, to document that the loan (or a stated portion of the loan) was obtained for the education purposes stated previously.

Financial obligations **not qualifying** for repayment include:

(1) Physician Shortage Area Scholarship Program;

(2) Public Health Service and National Health Service Corps Scholarship Programs;

(3) Armed Forces (Army, Navy or Air Force) Health Professions Scholarship Programs;

(4) Indian Health Service Scholarship Program;

(5) National Research Service Award Program;

(6) Loans for which contemporaneous documentation is not available;

(7) Loans or ''scholarship'' arrangements which impose financial obligations upon the applicant if service is not performed;

(8) Loans without a promissory note made when the loan was given;

(9) Loans that are delinquent, defaulted, or in any manner not in a current payment status as determined by the lender;

(10) Loans, or those parts of loans, obtained for educational or living expenses while at school, which exceed the ''reasonable'' level, as determined by a review of the school's standard school budget or additional contemporaneous documentation for the year in which the loan was made, as determined by the CIR–LRP;

(11) Loans which have been paid in full;

(12) Loans not obtained from a Government entity or commercial or other charter lending institution, such as loans from friends and relatives or other private individuals;

(13) Loans for graduate studies obtained following entry into the CIR–LRP.

**Breach of the Loan Repayment Agreement**

In the event that the participant fails to begin or complete the two-year minimum period of obligatory participation in contraception or infertility research at an NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site as set forth in the contract, and payments have been rendered to the lenders on behalf of the individual, he/she is in breach of the contractual agreement, and is liable to pay monetary damages to the United States Government. Participants who leave during the first year of the initial contract are liable for amounts already paid by the Program plus an amount equal to $1,000 multiplied by the number of months of the original obligation. Participants who leave during the second year of the contract are liable for (a) the total of the amounts the Program paid the lenders, plus (b) an ''unserved obligation penalty'' of $1,000 for each month unserved. If a participant completed the two-year minimum obligatory period, but cannot complete additional obligatory periods, no obligation penalties will be levied, but the participant will owe the United States for any payments the CIR–LRP made to the lenders for which service by the participant was not performed unless, in the opinion of the CIR–LRP Panel, they continue to participate in contraception and/or infertility research during the additional obligatory periods. If a participant must terminate employment/training at an NICHD intramural laboratory of NICHD-supported extramural site for reasons beyond his/her control, and transfers to a site other than an NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site, payments will cease upon transfer. He/she may not be liable for monetary damages as described above, if, in the judgement of the CIR–LRP Panel, he/she continues to participate in contraception and/or infertility research. However, if he/she transfers to another NICHD intramural laboratory or eligible NICHD-supported extramural site and participates in contraception and/or infertility research with the approval of the Director, NICHD, the contract will be amended and the participant will still be considered bound by the ongoing contract obligations, and the lenders will continue to receive payments on behalf of the participant according to schedule.

**Additional Program Information**

This Program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

This Program is subject to OMB clearance under the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. A Request for OMB Review and Approval of information collection associated with the Program is being prepared by the NIH and will be sent to OMB for review and approval prior to implementation of the CIR–LRP.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for the CIR–LRP is 93.209.

Dated: April 7, 1998.

**Ruth L. Kirschstein,**

*Deputy Director, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 98–10872 Filed 4–22–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Periodically, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will publish a list of information collection requests under OMB review, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these documents, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443–7978.

*Evaluation of the Methadone/LAAM Treatment Program Accreditation Project—New*—SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), in conjunction with other Federal Agencies, is involved in planning and developing accreditation processes for methadone/LAAM treatment programs (MTPs). This project will evaluate the process, costs, and administrative and clinical impacts of the accreditation process, and will estimate the costs of national implementation of an accreditation system. In collaboration with accreditation and technical assistance contractors, evaluation activities will be conducted at a sample of treatment sites, with a control group of treatment sites. Measures will include program structure and operation, costs, clinical practice, staff appraisal, patient satisfaction and treatment outcomes. The estimated annualized burden for the three-year data collection period is summarized below.

| Instrument | Number of respondents | Number of responses per respondent | Average burden per response (hours) | Total burden hours | Annualized burden hours |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Site Survey | 180 | 2 | 1.5 | 540 | 180 |
| Cost Survey[1] | (180) | 2 | 3.5 | 1,260 | 420 |
| Activity Log[1] | (135) | 13 | 0.5 | 877.5 | 292.5 |
| Treatment Staff Questionnaires | 1,800 | 2 | 0.33 | 1,188 | 399 |
| Treatment Staff[2] (Focus Groups) | (1,080) | 1 | 1.5 | 1,620 | 540 |
| Patient Questionnaire | 14,400 | 1 | 0.25 | 3,600 | 1,200 |
| Total | 16,380 | ..... | ..... | 9,085.5 | 3,031.5 |

[1] Site level response by participating sites.
[2] Focus group respondents are a subset of the treatment staff.

*Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of this notice to:* Daniel Chenok, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: April 16, 1998.

**Richard Kopanda,**

*Executive Officer, SAMHSA.*

[FR Doc. 98–10786 Filed 4–22–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4162–20–P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Periodically, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will publish a list of information collection requests under OMB review, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these documents, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443–7978.

*State Treatment Needs Assessment Studies—New*—SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), as part of its State Treatment and Needs Assessment Program (STNAP), awards contracts to States to conduct studies for the purpose of determining the need and demand for substance abuse treatment within each State. In order to receive funds from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, States must submit in their annual block grant applications an assessment of service needs Statewide, at the sub-state level, and for specified population groups (as required by Section 1929 of the Public Health Service Act). Most States plan to conduct an adult telephone household survey to collect information on needed treatment for substance abuse/dependence. In addition, many States plan to conduct a variety of more focused studies which will collect data on treatment need in special populations, including adolescents, pregnant women, injecting drug users, American Indians, arrestees and other criminal justice populations. The estimated annualized burden for the State needs assessment studies over the next three years is presented below.

| | Total Number of respondents | Number of responses/ respondent | Hours/response | Total burden hours | Annualized burden hours[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adult Household Telephone Surveys | 92,499 | 1 | 0.51 | 48,177 | 16,059 |
| Adolescent Surveys | 99,500 | 1 | 0.52 | 51,391 | 17,130 |
| Criminal justice populations | 10,800 | 1 | .84 | 8,425 | 2,808 |
| Medicaid recipients | 10,460 | 1 | 0.72 | 7,252 | 2,417 |
| Other population groups | 13,050 | 1 | .66 | 7,649 | 2,550 |