

remained robust. Available indicators suggest that the expansion in business capital spending has slackened somewhat after a surge this spring. The nominal deficit on U.S. trade in goods and services widened substantially in the second quarter. Consumer price inflation has been boosted in recent months by an appreciable rise in energy prices; against the background of very tight labor markets, increases in wages and total compensation have been somewhat larger.

Most interest rates are little changed on balance since the meeting on June 29-30, 1999. Key measures of share prices in equity markets have posted mixed changes over the intermeeting period. In foreign exchange markets, the trade-weighted value of the dollar has declined slightly over the period in relation to the currencies of a broad group of important U.S. trading partners.

M2 and M3 have grown at a moderate pace in recent months. For the year through July, M2 is estimated to have increased at a rate somewhat above the Committee's annual range and M3 at a rate approximating the upper end of its range. Total domestic nonfinancial debt has continued to expand at a pace somewhat above the middle of its range.

The Federal Open Market Committee seeks monetary and financial conditions that will foster price stability and promote sustainable growth in output. In furtherance of these objectives, the Committee reaffirmed at its meeting in June the ranges it had established in February for growth of M2 and M3 of 1 to 5 percent and 2 to 6 percent respectively, measured from the fourth quarter of 1998 to the fourth quarter of 1999. The range for growth of total domestic nonfinancial debt was maintained at 3 to 7 percent for the year. For 2000, the Committee agreed on a tentative basis in June to retain the same ranges for growth of the monetary aggregates and debt, measured from the fourth quarter of 1999 to the fourth quarter of 2000. The behavior of the monetary aggregates will continue to be evaluated in the light of progress toward price level stability, movements in their velocities, and developments in the economy and financial markets.

To promote the Committee's long-run objectives of price stability and sustainable economic growth, the Committee in the immediate future seeks conditions in reserve markets consistent with increasing the federal funds rate to an average of around 5-1/4 percent. In view of the evidence currently available, the Committee believes that prospective developments are equally likely to warrant an increase

or a decrease in the federal funds rate operating objective during the intermeeting period.

By order of the Federal Open Market Committee, October 13, 1999.

Donald L. Kohn,

Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee.

[FR Doc. 99-27315 Filed 10-19-99; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Monday, October 25, 1999.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Proposed Federal Reserve check automation strategy.

2. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

3. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: October 15, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-27458 Filed 10-18-99; 10:41 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary, DHHS

Request for Nominations for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is announcing the establishment of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation (SACX) and is soliciting nominations for qualified individuals to serve on the SACX.

DATES: Nomination packages should be submitted to Dr. Mary Groesch, Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of Health, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 302, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7010 by December 6, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary Groesch, Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of Health, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 302, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7010, telephone 301-496-0785, facsimile 301-496-9839, e-mail groeschm@od.nih.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Xenotransplantation involves use of live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source transplanted or implanted into a human or used for ex vivo contact with human body fluids, cells, tissues or organs that are subsequently given to a human recipient. Interest in xenotransplantation has been renewed by the continuing, critical shortage of donated human organs and by advances in immunology and in the biology of organ and tissue rejection. Xenotransplantation holds potential for the treatment of a wide range of conditions and disorders, including diabetes, Parkinson's disease, intractable pain, and other diseases involving tissue destruction and organ failure. However, xenotransplantation research also poses certain challenges with respect to the potential for transmission of infectious agents from animal donors to human recipients.

Public awareness and understanding of xenotransplantation is vital because the infectious disease risks posed by xenotransplantation could extend beyond the individual patients to the public at large. In addition to these safety issues, a number of individuals and groups have raised concerns about the implications of xenotransplantation for human rights, community interest and consent, social equity in access to novel biotechnologies, allocation of human allografts, and animal welfare. For all of these reasons, scientific review of and public discourse on

xenotransplantation research are critical and necessary.

The Secretary, DHHS, has established the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation to provide a forum for the discussion of, and public input on, these and other relevant issues.

Abridged Committee Charter

Purpose

The DHHS has a vital role in safeguarding public health while fostering the development of promising strategies to treat tissue destruction, organ failure and other public health needs. The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation considers the full range of complex scientific, medical, social, and ethical issues and the public health concerns raised by xenotransplantation, including ongoing and proposed protocols, and makes recommendations to the Secretary on policy and procedures. The recommendations of the Committee will facilitate DHHS efforts to develop an integrated approach to addressing emerging public health issues in xenotransplantation.

Function

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation shall advise the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for Health, on all aspects of the scientific development and clinical application of xenotransplantation. The Committee's charge includes the following activities:

- Advise the Department on the current state of knowledge regarding xenotransplantation.
- Review current and proposed xenotransplantation clinical trials. Identify and discuss the medical, scientific, ethical, legal, and/or socioeconomic issues raised by these clinical trials.
- Advise the Department on the potential for transmission of infectious diseases as a consequence of xenotransplantation.
- Recommend to the Department, as needed, changes to the PHS Guideline on Infectious Disease Issues in Xenotransplantation.
- Discuss additional scientific, medical, public health, ethical, legal and socioeconomic issues, including international policies and developments, that are relevant to xenotransplantation.

Structure

The Committee shall consist of 15 voting members, including the Chair, appointed by the Secretary or designee. Members shall be selected by the

Secretary, or designee, from authorities knowledgeable in such fields as xenotransplantation, epidemiology, virology, microbiology, infectious diseases, molecular biology, veterinary medicine, immunology, transplantation surgery, public health, applicable law, bioethics, social sciences, psychology, patient advocacy, and animal welfare. Of the appointed members, at least one shall be a current member of the Xenotransplantation Subcommittee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Biologic Response Modifiers Advisory Committee and at least one shall be a current member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee.

In addition, the Committee shall include non-voting, *ex officio* members from relevant DHHS components, including the Office of the Secretary, CDC, FDA, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Institutes of Health and others as deemed appropriate by the Secretary or designee. As necessary, standing and ad hoc subcommittees composed of members of the parent committee may be established to perform specific functions within the Committee's jurisdiction.

Members shall be invited to serve for overlapping four year terms; terms of more than two years are contingent upon the renewal of the Committee by appropriate action prior to its termination. The Committee shall be able to call upon special consultants, assemble ad hoc working groups and convene conferences and workshops as necessary to assist in the work of the Committee. Management and support services shall be provided by the Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, with direction and guidance from the Assistant Secretary for Health.

Meetings

Meetings shall be held approximately three times per year at the call of the Chair with the advance approval of a Government official who shall also approve the agenda. A Government official shall be present at all meetings. Meetings shall be open to the public except as determined otherwise by the Secretary or designee; notice of all meetings shall be provided to the public. Meetings shall be conducted, and records of the proceedings kept, as required by applicable laws and Departmental regulations.

Nominations

DHHS will consider nominations of all qualified individuals. Committee

members will have expertise in such fields as xenotransplantation, epidemiology, virology, microbiology, infectious diseases, molecular biology, veterinary medicine, immunology, transplantation surgery, public health, law, bioethics, social sciences, psychology, patient advocacy, and animal welfare. Individuals may nominate themselves or other individuals, and professional associations and other organizations may nominate individuals.

DHHS has a strong interest in ensuring that women, minority groups, and physically challenged individuals are adequately represented on the Committee and, therefore, encourages nominations of qualified candidates from these groups. DHHS also encourages geographic diversity in the composition of the Committee.

A nomination package should include the following information for each nominee: (1) A letter of nomination stating the name, affiliation, and contact information for the nominee, the basis for the nomination (*i.e.*, what specific attributes recommend him/her for service in this capacity), and the nominee's field(s) of expertise; (2) a biographical sketch of the nominee and a copy of his or her curriculum vitae; and (3) the name, return address, and daytime telephone number at which the nominator can be contacted. Optimally, a nomination package would also include a statement by the nominee that he/she is willing to accept an appointment to Committee membership.

All nomination information should be provided in a single, complete package within 45 days of the publication of this notice. The nomination letter should bear an original signature; facsimile transmissions or copies cannot be accepted. All nominations for membership should be sent to Dr. Mary Groesch at the address provided above.

Dated: October 13, 1999.

David Satcher,

Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General.

[FR Doc. 99-27306 Filed 10-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Title: Online Interstate Referral Guide (IRG).

OMB No.: New.