

studies that explore health processes, the NICHD forms partnerships with organizations or institutions to ensure effective use of scientific findings and research products.

The NICHD utilizes program evaluations and strategic assessments to support Institute planning and policy development, and to help determine programmatic and scientific objectives and priorities. Research partner surveys will augment the NICHD's ongoing efforts to evaluate research-related activities. The two principal objectives are (1) to measure the personal satisfaction of research partners with NICHD programs or initiatives, including both responsiveness to scientific aims and convenience of operations to support research and its effective use; and (2) to learn from

research partners the ways in which the NICHD can improve the overall planning and management of its programs and initiatives. Findings will be used to improve the NICHD's research programs and initiatives in the following ways: (1) To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of operations; (2) to identify opportunities for improving program performance; (3) to develop plans to incorporate innovations in program management; (4) to measure partner satisfaction and document program outcomes for governmental accountability reporting; and (5) to identify the need for creating new programs or initiatives or restructuring existing ones to respond to emerging scientific opportunities.

Frequency of Response: Annual [As needed on an ongoing and concurrent

basis]. *Affected Public:* Members of the public, researchers, practitioners, and other health professionals. *Type of Respondents:* Members of the public; eligible grant applicants and actual applicants (both successful and unsuccessful); clinicians and other health professionals; and actual or potential clinical trials participants. The annual reporting burden is as follows: *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 13,625; *Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1; *Average Burden Hours Per Response:* Varies with survey type, see below; and *Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours Requested:* 2,920.00. The annualized cost to respondents is estimated at: \$43,800.00. There are no Capital Costs to report. There are no Operating or Maintenance Costs to report.

Type of respondents/survey modality	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Estimated total annual burden hours requested
Web-based	10,000	1	0.167	1,670.00
Paper Survey	2,500	1	0.25	625.00
Telephone Interview	1,000	1	0.50	500.00
In-person Interview	125	1	1.00	125.00
Total	13,625	2,920.00

Request for Comments: Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: To request more information on the proposed project, contact Mona Rowe, NIH NICHD Office of Science Policy, Analysis and Communication (OSPAC), 9000 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 31, Rm. 2A-18, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-2425, or call non-toll-free at 301-402-3213. You may also e-mail your request to rowem@exchange.nih.gov.

Comments Due Date: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Dated: February 2, 2004.

April Edwards,

NICHD Project Clearance Liaison, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 04-3151 Filed 2-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Career Survey of Science-Oriented Scholars

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Office of Loan Repayment and Scholarship (OLRS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

Proposed Collection: (1) *Title:* Career Survey Science-Oriented Scholars (CSSOS). (2) Focus group of current and former participants in the Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) at NIH. This survey and focus group are part of a comprehensive evaluation of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP), the purpose of which is to evaluate the success of the UGSP in achieving its intermediate goal of keeping scholars from disadvantage backgrounds on track to eventually become tenured research scientists at the NIH. The CSSOS will collect information on undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate education and training; employment history; experiences with the NIH; career status and goals; and demographic data. The protocol for the focus groups will address the program application process; experiences during the school year, particularly relations with college mentors; experience during the summer internship; experiences during years spent in payback; perceptions of program effects; career plans; and potential program improvements. Such information can be used to gauge whether the program is meeting the expectations of program managers and how the program could be improved in

the future. It will be used to address the outcome and impact study questions related to short and long term retention, both at NIH and in research generally.

In addition to informing OLRs about the effectiveness of the UGSP program, the results of the evaluation will become the basis for recommendations on how the program could be modified to improve outcomes. Indeed, some of the

findings may be useful to the Office of the Director in terms of human resources policy in particular and NIH policy generally. Also, the information collection will help our nation's leaders in setting policies to ensure a solid infrastructure for biomedical research. Encouraging the nation's brightest minds to pursue careers in biomedical research, both in public service such as

NIH and in private laboratories, is critical to this effort. *Frequency of Response:* One time data collection. *Affected Public:* Individuals. *Type of Respondents:* Current and former NIH UGSP finalist applicants and scholars. The annualized cost to respondents is estimated at \$6,687. There are no capital costs, operating costs and/or maintenance costs to report.

Type of respondent	Approximate number of completed responses	Response per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours	Wage rate (per hour)	Total hour cost
College Students	30	1	.50	15.0	\$20.00	\$300
College Graduates	120	1	.75	90.0	44.82	4,034
Focus Group Participants	35	1	1.5	52.5	44.82	2,353
Total	185	157.5	6,687

Requests for Comments: Written Comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Ways to

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact Dr. Alfred C. Johnson, Director, Undergraduate Scholarship Program, NIH, 2 Center Drive, Room 2E30 Bethesda, MD 20892-0230 or call toll-free 1-800-528-7689 or call non-toll free number (301) 480-7430 or E-mail your request including your address to: ACJohnson@nih.gov

Comments Due Date: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if

received within 60-days of the date of this publication.

Dated: February 9, 2004.

Alfred C. Johnson,

Director, Undergraduate Scholarship Program
National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 04-3162 Filed 2-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Application for the Pharmacology Research Associate Program

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

Proposed Collection: Title: Application for the Pharmacology Research Associate Program. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection, OMB No. 0925-0378, expiration date June 30, 2004. *Form Numbers:* NIH 2721-1, NIH 2721-2. *Need and Use of Information Collection:* The Pharmacology Research Associate (PRAT) Program will use the applicant and referee information to award opportunities for training and experience in laboratory or clinical investigation to individuals with a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology or a related science, M.D., or other professional degree through appointments as PRAT Fellows at the National Institutes of Health or the Food and Drug Administration. The goal of the program is to develop leaders in pharmacological research for key positions in academic, industrial, and Federal research laboratories. *Frequency of Response:* Once a year. *Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profit. *Type of Respondents:* Applicants and Referees.

The annual reporting burden is as follows:

Type and number of respondents	Estimated number of responses per respondent	Estimated total responses	Average burden hours per responses	Estimated total annual burden hours requested
Applicants: 50	1	50	2.00	100
Referees: 150	1	150	0.167	25

Total Number of Respondents: 200.

Total Number of Responses: 200.

Total Hours: 125.

The annualized cost to respondents is estimated at:

Applicants: \$5,500.00.

Referees: \$1,250.00.

There are no capital costs, operating costs, and/or maintenance costs to report.

Request for Comments: Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed