

# HEALTH

## HEALTH WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

### CDC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR FUNDING FOR MINORITY COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING THE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS

On April 28, 1993, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta (CDC) will hold a Pre-application Videoconference Workshop to help minority owned or operated community-based organizations (CBOs) learn to prepare applications for \$9 million in federal aid recently made available for minority AIDS Prevention programs nationwide.

The fund is intended to provide direct financial and technical assistance so that minority CBOs may work in their own communities to reduce the risky behaviors that lead to HIV transmission.

Only nonprofit minority CBOs are eligible. To qualify, an organization must have a governing board composed of more than 50% racial or ethnic minor-

ity members, a significant number of minorities in key positions, and an established record of service to racial or ethnic minority groups (African Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Pacific Islanders). Local affiliates of organizations that fit these criteria are also eligible. Government or municipal agencies or their affiliate organizations are ineligible.

During the Videoconference, CDC staff will discuss programmatic and business aspects related to the submission of applications for funding.

Program consultants will provide information concerning the four primary areas for funding — Street Outreach Programs, Risk Reduction Programs, Community Intervention Programs, and HIV Prevention Case Management Programs.

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## NEWS

## OF HEALTH

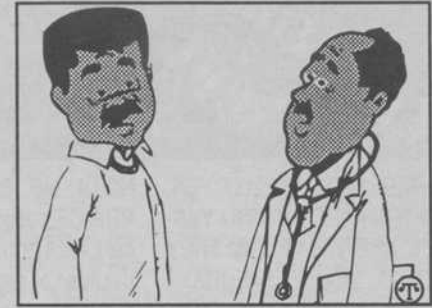
FACTS FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### AIDS Medication Recommendation

Low-dose oral interferon alpha in its various forms, including Kemron, are not recommended at this time for treatment of persons with HIV infection, according to a statement released by the AIDS Research Advisory Committee to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The committee statement concludes that several research studies—both ongoing and completed—do not support an earlier report that Kemron is an effective therapy.

In the statement, the committee also "strongly encourages HIV-infected patients to seek treatment with therapies whose benefits have been established in well-designed, controlled clinical trials," recommends that NIAID "encourage the completion and analysis of ongoing studies" of low-dose interferon alpha, and provide an updated report on ongoing research within a year.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., said, "This report is extremely important because it provides state-of-the-science information on a controversial treatment—Kemron and other forms of low-dose interferon alpha. These recommendations are vital to patients with HIV infection who want to



**HIV-infected patients should seek treatment with therapies whose efficacy have been established in clinical trials, a recent research report concludes.**

make informed medical decisions, along with their physicians, about their treatment options."

The advisory committee, composed of non-federal medical professionals, researchers and persons with HIV infection, was mandated by Congress to advise the NIAID on treatment research and dissemination of the results of that research to the patient and professional communities. NIAID is the lead institute at the National Institutes of Health responsible for conducting, supporting and coordinating many aspects of federally sponsored research on HIV infection and AIDS.

### MEDICAL LAB TECH PROGRAM AT CCSN RECEIVES COMPUTERIZED TRAINING PACKAGE FROM THE CITATION CORP.

The Community College of Southern Nevada has received a state-of-the-art computerized training package worth over \$65,000 from Citation Corporation in St. Louis for use in the college's Medical Laboratory Technician Program, according

to Paul E. Meacham, president of the college.

The educational software package will be used to train Medical Laboratory Technician students in procedures such as ordering lab tests for all body fluids, inputting test results, track-

ing data and quality control. The computer program also has the capability to print a lab report immediately for physicians. The computer program is housed at the college's West Charleston campus.

One of the features of the software, according to Jean P. Rose, department chair of the Medical Laboratory Technician Program at The CCSN, is a "flag" feature that warns students of possible lab data input.

"This system is as error-free as humanly possible," Rose said. "By training our medical lab technicians with this software package, we are able to prepare them for real-life laboratory settings."

The Medical Laboratory Technician Program at The CCSN is a two-year program which combines academic and laboratory courses on campus with practical experience at clinical affiliates.

For more information on the Medical Laboratory Technician program at The CCSN, call 877-1133, extension 275.

### PREGNANT WOMEN HAVE SPECIAL NEED TO STAY AWAY FROM ELECTRIC SHOCK

Pregnant women need to take special precautions against electric shock, warns an emergency medicine expert from Stanford University Hospital. "Unborn children appear to be very vulnerable to electric injury and so need to be checked immediately by an obstetrician even if the mother feels fine immediately after a 'jolt' from household (alternating current) electricity," explains Dr. Robert L. Norris, assistant professor of surgery (emergency medicine) at Stanford University.

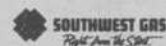
The amniotic fluid, the liquid in the uterus that surrounds the fetus, appears to be an excellent conductor of electricity. Therefore it's quite possible that an unborn fetus can sustain extensive injury or even death from a level of current that leaves the mother unscathed and feeling fine, explains Norris, who serves as associate director of emergency services at Stanford University Hospital. Although extensive research on the topic of electrical injury to fetuses has not yet been conducted, Norris says the discrepancy between the relatively low level of pain or ill effects experienced by the mother and the high risk to the fetus makes it important to be watchful and seek medical attention if an electric shock does occur.



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