

Contact Person: Rhonda W. Stover or John B. Schupp, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-7001, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12531. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: The committee will discuss new drug applications (NDA's) 20-977 (tablets) and 20-978 (oral solution) for abacavir sulfate (Ziagen, Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.) for the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by October 26, 1998. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 11 a.m. and 12 m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before October 26, 1998, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: October 2, 1998.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 98-27082 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

1998 FDA Science Forum on Biotechnology: Advances, Applications, and Regulatory Challenges

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Office of Science is announcing the following meeting: "1998 FDA Science Forum on Biotechnology: Advances, Applications, and Regulatory Challenges." The meeting will bring FDA scientists together with representatives of industry, academia,

government agencies, consumer groups, and the public to discuss the impact of the enormous advances in biotechnology on product development and regulation. The program will encompass bioengineered products, novel therapeutic and preventive approaches, diagnostics and detection methodologies, and safety and efficacy assessment.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on December 8, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and December 9, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Washington Convention Center, rms. 30-33 (lower level) and Hall C (upper level), 900 Ninth St. NW., Washington, DC.

Contact: Susan A. Homire, Office of Science (HF-33), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-3366, e-mail "shomire@bangate.fda.gov" or American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists 703-518-8429, e-mail "meetings@aaps.org".

Registration: December 8 and 9, 1998, 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Registration and program information are available on the Internet at "<http://www.aaps.org/edumeet.html>". Attendance will be limited, therefore, interested parties are encouraged to register early.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists at least 3 weeks in advance.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-27081 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

National Consumer Forum; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the following meeting: "National Consumer Forum." This forum will provide an opportunity for consumers and older Americans to engage in an open dialogue with senior FDA officials on specific health concerns and consumer protection issues. These types of forums enable the agency to better determine the level of

public interest in its current policies, as well as to promote a better understanding of consumer issues and concerns.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 1998, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: The meeting will be held at the Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert Humphrey Bldg., Great Hall, 200 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC.

Contact: Synthia E. Jenkins, Office of Consumer Affairs (HFE-40), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, 301-827-4412, FAX 301-443-9767.

Registration: Send registration information (including name, title, firm name, address, telephone, and fax number), to the contact person by October 15, 1998.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Synthia E. Jenkins at least 7 days in advance.

Transcripts: Transcripts of the meeting may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting at a cost of 10 cents per page.

Dated: October 6, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-27338 Filed 10-7-98; 12:38 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98N-0546]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Announcement of OMB Approval; Food Labeling Regulations

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a collection of information entitled "Food Labeling Regulations (21 CFR Parts 101, 102, 104, and 105)" has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret R. Schlosburg, Office of Information Resources Management (HFA-250), Food and Drug

Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-1223.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of July 21, 1998 (63 FR 39093), the agency announced that the proposed information collection had been submitted to OMB for review and clearance under section 3507 of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3507). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has now approved the information collection and has assigned OMB control number 0910-0381. The approval expires on September 30, 2001.

Dated: October 1, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-27079 Filed 10-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service

Availability of Funds for Loan Repayment Program for Repayment of Health Professions Educational Loans

AGENCY: Indian Health Service, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration's budget request for fiscal year (FY) 1999 includes \$11,000,000 for the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program for health professions educational loans (undergraduate and graduate) in return for full-time clinical service in Indian health programs. It is anticipated that \$11,000,000 will be available to support approximately 250 competing awards averaging \$50,000 per award.

This program announcement is subject to the appropriation of funds. This notice is being published early to coincide with the recruitment activity of the IHS, which competes with other Government and private health management organizations to employ qualified health professionals. Funds must be expended by September 30 of the fiscal year. This program is authorized by Section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) as amended, 25 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.* The IHS invites potential applicants to request an application for participation in the Loan Repayment Program.

DATES: Applications for the FY 1999 Loan Repayment Program will be accepted and evaluated monthly

beginning January 15, 1999, and will continue to be accepted each month thereafter until all funds are exhausted. Subsequent monthly deadline dates are scheduled for Friday of the second full week of each month. Notice of awards will be mailed on the last working day of each month.

Applicants selected for participation in the FY 1999 program cycle will be expected to begin their service period no later than September 30, 1999.

Applications shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either:

1. Received on or before the deadline date; or

2. Sent on or before the deadline date. (Applicants should request a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark or obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Applications received after the monthly closing date will be held for consideration in the next monthly funding cycle. Applicants who do not receive funding by September 30, 1999, will be notified in writing.

Form to be Used for Application: Applications will be accepted only if they are submitted on the form entitled "Application for the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program," identified with the Office of Management and Budget approval number of OMB #0917-0014 (expires 11/30/99).

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be obtained by calling or writing to the address below. In addition, completed applications should be returned to: IHS Loan Repayment Program, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway—Suite 100, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 [between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please address inquiries to Mr. Charles Yepa, Chief, IHS Loan Repayment Program, Twinbrook Metro Plaza—Suite 100, 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 [between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 108 of the IHCIA, as amended by Public laws 100-713 and 102-573, authorizes the IHS Loan Repayment Program and provides in pertinent part as follows:

The Secretary, acting through the Service, shall establish a program to be known as the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Loan Repayment Program") in order to assure an

adequate supply of trained health professionals necessary to maintain accreditation of, and provide health care services to Indians through, Indian health programs.

Section 4(n) of the IHCIA, as amended by the Indian Health Care Improvement Technical Corrections Act of 1996, Public Law 104-313, provides that:

"Health Profession" means allopathic medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatric medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, podiatric medicine, nursing, public health nursing, dentistry, psychiatry, osteopathy, optometry, pharmacy, psychology, public health, social work, marriage and family therapy, chiropractic medicine, environmental health and engineering, an allied health profession, or any other health profession.

For the purposes of this program, the term "Indian health program" is defined in Section 108(a)(2)(A), as follows:

* * * any health program or facility funded, in whole or in part, by the IHS for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives and administered:

- a. Directly by the service; or
- b. By any Indian tribe or tribal or Indian organization pursuant to a contract under:
 - (1) The Indian Self-Determination Act; or
 - (2) Section 23 of the Act of April 30, 1908, (25 U.S.C. 47), popularly known as the Buy Indian Act; or
 - (3) By an urban Indian organization pursuant to Title V of this act.

Applicants may sign contractual agreements with the Secretary for 2 years. The IHS will repay all or a portion of the applicant's health professions educational loans (undergraduate and graduate) for tuition expenses and reasonable educational and living expenses in amounts up to \$30,000 per year for each year of contracted service to be made in annual payments to the participant for the purpose of repaying his/her outstanding health professions educational loans. Repayment of health professions educational loans will be made to the participant within 120 days after the participant's entry on duty has been confirmed by the IHS.

The Secretary must approve the contract before the disbursement of loan repayments can be made to the participant. Participants will be required to fulfill their contract service agreements through full-time clinical practice at an Indian health program site determined by the Secretary. Loan repayment sites are characterized by physical, cultural, and professional isolation, and have histories of frequent staff turnover. All Indian health program sites are annually prioritized within the Agency by discipline, based on need or vacancy.