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CONTRACT PROGRAM, CENTER FOR POPULATION RESEARCH, NICHD

An expanded contract program in population research is to be launched this year by the new Center for Population Research of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Bethesda, Maryland. This research effort will be directed toward the development of new contraceptive methods and population research in the social sciences and will supplement research performed in NIH laboratories and supported by NIH grants.

Certain critical research areas have already been identified. These areas are not exclusive; research on other subjects will also be considered. In contraceptive development, special areas include: (1) maturation and fertilizing capacity of spermatozoa; (2) oviduct function and gamete transport; (3) corpus luteum function and implantation; and (4) the biology of the preimplantation ovum.

Four special areas in the social sciences are: (1) trends in fertility and related variables, to document changes in patterns of child-bearing and fertility control; (2) the antecedents, processes, and consequences of population structure, distribution, and change; (3) the effects of explicit or implicit government population policies and data needed to help formulate population policies; and (4) the effects on fertility of family structure and patterns of sexual behaviour.

Advisory panels composed of outstanding scientists will be appointed to develop and oversee the programs for these topics.

Further information may be obtained from Philip A. Corfman, M.D., Director, Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, USA.

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