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# HHS NEWS

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Contact: National Institutes Health  
Dr. Maryann Roper-(301) 496-3505  
Dr. Bruce Chabner-(301) 496-4291

Dr. James B. Wyngaarden, director of the National Institutes of Health, today announced an expansion of NIH's capacity to conduct clinical research on AIDS patients in the 500-bed NIH hospital, the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center, located on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md.

This expansion is planned in order to accelerate the promising drug development efforts currently under way at the NIH, primarily at the National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The NCI's clinical AIDS program has grown out of the pioneering work in AIDS drug development by Dr. Samuel Broder, whose research team discovered the clinical benefits to AIDS patients of the drug AZT. Clinical investigators will be working on other potential AIDS drugs in these expanded facilities.

The NIAID, headed by Dr. Anthony Fauci, also conducts and supports clinical research to develop and test effective AIDS drugs. Research on experimental use of AZT and other antiviral drugs, biological modifiers (such as interferons), alone or in combination, as well as bone marrow transplantation takes place in intramural laboratories. In addition, approximately 20 multicenter studies are under way in 19 NIAID contract-supported AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units.

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The new allocation of beds at the NIH Clinical Center will be used for small scale Phase I drug studies (aimed primarily at ascertaining safety and noting physiological changes evoked) to form a bridge between NCI's preclinical work and the large scale clinical trials at the AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units.

Although the NCI will manage the expanded NIH program, a number of studies conducted there will be done in collaboration with other NIH institutes involved in AIDS research. Nearly all of the NIH institutes support and conduct research on various aspects of AIDS.

The recruitment of specialized nurses, interested in AIDS, pharmacology and drug development, is actively under way in order to open the new program to full capacity.

Since 1981, when AIDS was first identified, physicians at the NIH Clinical Center have cared for approximately 800 adults with AIDS and 20 children with AIDS. Of the 800, about 600 have been treated by the NIAID as outpatients.