NIH Abandons Effort To Patent DNA Fragments

WASHINGTON POST

After more than a year and a half of scientific maneuvering and scientific maneuvering and legal wrangling, the National Institute of Health (NIH) has decided today to give up its effort to patent portions of human DNA that it had patented in the early 1980s. In so doing it may effectively surrender any profits that might have accrued from the discoveries.

NIH officials said today that the patenting effort had reached a turning point in an acrimonious debate over the legal and ethical merits of patenting fragments of genetic material. NIH officials may prove to be patent holders, but exclusive rights to the use of their discovery for 17 years. In a few cases so far, rights to newly discovered genes have translated into highly profitable diagnostic tests or medicines, such as the blood-clotting factor for hemophilia.

NIH officials have argued that biomedical research would be stymied if such fundamental pieces of life were subject to monopoly ownership. 

Surgeons' Group Endorses Government-Run Health Insurance

The American College of Surgeons yesterday endorsed the concept of a government-run health insurance system similar to the one in Canada.

The single-payer approach is simpler, more workable administratively and economically, and is preferable if you are trying to preserve a patient’s choice of doctors, the surgeons’ chairman, David M. Gura, testified before the House Education and Labor Committee.

The endorsement of a government-financed plan by the 52,000-member surgeons’ group came as the health care political debate took on a new urgency.

Senate Minority Leader Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., speaking on the Conservative Political Action Conference, attacked leading Democratic

The leader of the group Dole sought to prevent bipartisan momentum from building for a plan supported by the Clinton administration, as well as by a majority of American voters.

By John Powell

Earli, Mil Grove, deputy commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administra-

NIH's largest support of civil health research would be $11 billion. (This figure in the story refers to the total budget amount and does not include amounts budgeted for administration.) The National Science Foundation, which supports most nonmedical research at universities, would receive an 8.9 percent increase, pushing its budget for grants to scientists $94 million to $71.1 billion. 

Science Benefits by $2 Billion in Clinton 1994 Budget Plan

WASHINGTON POST

In a budget otherwise focused on tax cuts and caps, American scientists and research engineers emerged winners in President Clinton’s 1994 budget plan. President Clinton’s proposed 1995 spending plan asks the Congress to boost support of research and develop-

As in past years, AT&T also plans to try to find other jobs for displaced employees, so it is unclear how many people will be laid off.

Meanwhile, the former president will not be alone in declaring that the U.S. could be doing more to help other countries.

By John Goodrich

Sarajevo Reshuffling, Serbs Spurn NATO Ultimatum

By John Powell

February 11, 1994

On February 11, 1994, the Dayton Peace Accords were signed in Paris, ending the Bosnian War.