

Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences



NOVEMBER 1975

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 11

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All expressions of opinion and statements of supposed fact appearing in articles or editorials carried in this journal are published on the authority of the writer over whose name they appear and are not to be regarded as necessarily expressing the policies or views of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Offices—Editorial, Advertising, and Subscription Offices: 2215 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Printing Offices: 20th & Northampton Streets, Easton, PA 18042

Annual Subscriptions—United States and foreign, industrial and government institutions \$50, educational institutions \$50, individuals for personal use only \$30; single copies \$5. All foreign subscriptions add \$5 for postage. Subscription rates are subject to change without notice. Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association may elect to receive the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* as a part of their annual \$55 (foreign \$60) APhA membership dues.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH POLICY

A frequently heard criticism relates to the absence of any clearly defined national science policy on the part of the United States government. Inasmuch as research is a key element of science—and in the minds of many is synonymous with it—it is evident that what is equally lacking is a clear federal policy concerning research *per se*.

Naturally, what is of greatest interest to us and to the majority of our readers is that biomedical research constitutes one facet of this great policy wasteland.

We were heartened, therefore, when U.S. President Ford—at the urging of Congress—appointed a group of knowledgeable scientists to review, study, and report on the subject of biomedical and behavioral research. The group, designated “The President’s Biomedical Research Panel,” is to come up with specific recommendations based upon its year-long analysis.

As part of the fact-finding and opinion-soliciting phase of operation, the panel identified a number of organizations in the health-care field and invited comments from them. Included among these organizations was the American Pharmaceutical Association. APhA accepted the invitation to offer its views and, in turn, solicited input from its two academies—the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Academy of Pharmacy Practice.

Ultimately, a rather comprehensive paper was prepared and submitted by APhA based upon the collective input provided from its academies, its officers, and its staff. Reflected in this paper is a broad spectrum of views and thinking which hopefully will have a positive impact on the report prepared by the President’s panel. And, subsequently, we trust that the panel’s report will, in fact, result in the establishment of the long-needed federal biomedical research policy. If, as we hope and anticipate, the panel prepares a report at least compatible with—if not patterned after—the views expressed by APhA, then it is our further wish that the President will respond favorably, with the result that the panel’s report forms the basis of the national research policy that is established.

In light of the fact that many of our readers have a basic interest in this subject, we are publishing in full, on pages iii-iv in this issue of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, the comments approved by the APhA Board of Trustees and submitted by the Association. We respectfully suggest that these comments be read in their entirety by everyone having an interest in the subject of Biomedical Research.