

Medical Schools Hurt By Loss Of Federal Funds

WASHINGTON -- America's medical schools are beginning to feel the pinch from a halt in the growth of the National Institutes of Health, which supplies as much as half of the schools' budgets through research grants.

The real squeeze will come later this year when present grants run out, medical school officials say.

Instead of research, NIH is also considering a new program to give direct grants to the schools to support medical education.

Medical schools became locked into depending on NIH grants during the last 20 years when the federal agency's influence in the research field and its budget grew in a seemingly unending manner.

NIH grants enable doctors to devote full time to research and teaching as medical school faculty members. The schools pay part of the salaries and research grants make up the rest.

THE GRANTS also pay for expensive equipment that is supposed to be used for research only. But since the research also involves patients, the equipment serves to add to a medical center's treatment facilities.

"The research part of the medical school's activity... has had to carry much of the cost of faculty salaries, physical plant and scientific equipment that is essential for educational functions," says Dr.

Lewis Thomas, dean of New York University's School of Medicine.

"Much of what exists today for medical education has thus become dependent on research productivity."

For years NIH appeared to be the perfect benefactor of medical schools. Its allies in Congress and nongovernmental lobbyists combined each year

to get NIH more money than the administration requested.

Now that has changed. The steady increase in NIH appropriations, which sometimes amounted to as much as 33 per cent a year, leveled off.

NIH's 1967 appropriation of \$1.2 billion was an increase of 8 per cent, barely enough to

meet the pressures of rising costs and not enough to finance new projects or expand old ones.

"That's what people never expected," says Clifford F. Johnson, NIH's director of research information.

NIH's financial troubles spring from a squeeze play caused by the Vietnam war and the death early last year of Rep. John E. Fogarty (D-R.I.),

its staunchest supporter in Congress and chairman of the House Appropriations sub-committee that handles its budget.

With its budget growth stalled, NIH Director James Shannon says the Institutes' greatest problem is continuing present projects while financing new research so young scientists can get the chance to show their stuff.

THEY FEAR THE squeeze could cause some schools already on shaky financial footing to close.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see some go to the wall," says Dr. Thomas B. Turner, dean of Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore.

This comes at a time when the federal government and the medical profession are acutely aware of a shortage of doctors in the nation. Studies show that the nation's medical schools do not graduate enough doctors to meet present and future needs.

Because of the cutback in its appropriations, NIH has judged projects as Georgetown University Medical School in Washington and Johns Hopkins worthy of support, but has failed to come up with the cash, officials at both medical schools report.

They are among the largest recipients of NIH grants.

"It's a new phenomenon," says Dr. Turner. "What is disapproved at the moment is not important. But it is perfectly clear that this process is going to accelerate. We can't count on NIH money any more."

INSTEAD, THE medical schools are seeking other forms of federal support, tied to education.

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Tennis fans in this area will have the opportunity to see the world's top professionals in the Michigan Tennis Classic, a three-day tournament featuring eight outstanding players from six nations, which will open in the University Events Building on Friday, March 8.

The tourney will be completed in Detroit's Cobo Hall on Saturday and Sunday. Matches here will start at 8 p.m.

The all-star roster contains the names of Australian Davis Cup greats John Newcombe and Tony Roche, who just turned pro; Dennis Ralston and Butch Buchholz of the United States; Cliff Drysdale of South Africa; Nicki Pilić of Yugoslavia; Roger Taylor of England; and Pierre Barthes of France.

NEWCOMBE is the defending Wimbledon and Forest Hills champion. The 23-year-old Australian is the youngest of the group which contains three left-handers--Roche, Pilić and Taylor.

Ralston and Buchholz will represent the U.S.; Newcombe and Roche, Australia; Pilić and Barthes, Europe and Taylor and Drysdale will form the Great Britain-South Africa team.

All players will wear bright colors instead of the traditional white and the Van Allen Sim-plified Scoring System (VASS) will be used to make the game easier to follow.

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PAUL HORTON, 24064 Maryland Court, Farmington, has been promoted to vice president for business development by City National Bank. He joined the banking institution in January, transferring from Massey-Ferguson Inc. of Detroit where he served as secretary and assistant treasurer.

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