News and Notes

NEW JOURNAL STANDARDS PUBLISHED

An editorial published in a number of medical journals in the US and other countries—among them the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *Lancet*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*—calls for an end to publication of the results of clinical trials in which corporate sponsors have sole control over protocols and data.

The editorial's authors are members of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). In their article, they call on investigators to use revised ICMJE requirements on publication ethics to guide the negotiation of contracts with corporate sponsors of research. According to the revised ICMJE requirements, contracts with corporate sponsors should give researchers: a substantial say in the design of trails as well as access to raw data; responsibility for data analysis and interpretation; and the right to publish,

Under a new editorial policy outlined by the journal editors:

- Researchers will be required to state the details of their role and the sponsor's role in a study.
- Authors will sign a statement of accountability, showing they had access to the data and controlled the decision to publish results.
- Regardless of the outcomes of a study, sponsors can not impose barriers on the publication of results.

The full text of the editorial is available on a number of journal websites; see, for example, http://www.annals.org/issues/v135n6/toc.html#a3; http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v286n10/ffull/jed10056 .html; or http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/345/11/825. The full text is also on the ICMJE website at http://www.icmje.org/sponsor.htm.

The revised ICMJE requirements on publication ethics are printed in full on the *New England Journal* website at http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/345/11/825 following the text of the editorial.

WHO MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 25% of people in the world will be affected by a mental health disorder at some point in their lives.

In focusing its 2001 *World Health* Report on mental health, the WHO made a "clear, emphatic statement" that mental health "is crucial to the overall well-being of individuals." The report is a review of the state of knowledge and research on mental and neurologic disorders and provides a road map for the global reform of mental health care and prevention.

The goal of the report on mental health, according to the WHO, is to break the cycle of stigma, discrimination, and neglect of people with mental disorders.

The WHO calls on governments to take responsibility for implementing treatment and prevention programs, outlining three scenarios for action that vary based on countries' levels of affluence and economic development.

The World Health Report 2001: Mental Health: New Understanding, New Hope is available on-line at http://www.who.int/whr/.

UNICEF REPORT ON STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2002

UNICEF has released *The State of the World's Children 2002*, which describes models of leadership on the part of individuals, agencies, organizations, and alliances that have improved the lives of children and families. The report spotlights the "Say Yes for Children" campaign and the UN Special Session on Children.

UNICEF reports that while there have been outstanding examples of progress for children in the last decade, most governments have not lived up to the promises made at the 1990 World Summit for Children. The report states that lessons learned during the 1990s offer a clear map for the future and that "the promises we make now are the promises we must keep" and that "this time there is no excuse."

The State of the World's Children 2002 is available online at http://www.unicef.org/pubsgen/sowc02/.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE RELEASES REPORT ON UNINSURANCE

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance has released a report, *Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care*, the first in a series of six reports spotlighting what is known about the causes and consequences of lack of health insurance. The report provides an overview of health insurance in the United States, illustrates the instability of insurance coverage, describes populations that fre-

quently lack coverage, and identifies factors that cause a person to be uninsured at some point in his or her life.

In releasing the report, Mary Sue Coleman, co-chair of the IOM committee, said, "More than the state of the economy, the rising cost of health care services and insurance premiums, combined with a hodgepodge of policies and practices, undermines affordability for employers, their workers, and the public at large. Unless health insurance is made more affordable, the number of uninsured Americans is likely to continue growing over time."

This initial report aims to discredit the following "myths":

- *First myth:* The majority of people without health insurance are members of families in which no one works.
- *Second myth:* A main cause of the rise in the number of uninsured is the recent growth in immigration.
- *Third myth:* People who lack insurance have access to the medical care they need.

Copies of the report are available from the National Academy Press at 202-334-3313, 800-624-6242, or http://www.nap.edu. The full text of *Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care* is available on the Web at http://www.nap.edu/books/0309076099/html/.

CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES DATA FROM WELFARE REFORM SURVEY

The Census Bureau has published data files from the Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD), a study mandated by federal law to assess the impact of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. The data were collected from 1992 to 1998 and are intended to capture information from before, during, and after welfare reform. Nearly 30,000 households were included at baseline, and about 18,000 households were followed in subsequent years.

The Bureau has also released an analytic report, *Preparing to Measure Welfare Reform Using the Longitudinal Survey of Program Dynamics: 2001*, which provides an initial assessment of the data available from the survey.

The report and data files are available on-line at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/welfare.html.