Public Affairs Report

FY 2010 Appropriations Update

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2010 (HR 3288) was signed into law on 16 December. The legislation combines six of the seven FY 2010 appropriations bills which Congress did not pass separately, including Commerce, Justice and Science, which includes funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), and Labor Health and Human Services, which includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Agriculture, Energy, Environment and Homeland Security appropriations bills were signed into law earlier in 2009. The funding bills for FY 2010 include the following increases for research and public health programs.

The National Institutes of Health. The NIH would receive $31 billion, which is $250 million above the Administration’s request and $692 million above the FY 2009 appropriations level, a 2.3% increase. The FY 2010 budget base does not include the $10.4 billion that NIH received under the Recovery Act of FY 2009–10. The NIH FY 2010 budget includes a transfer of $304 million from Project BioShield.

National Science Foundation. The NSF would be budgeted at $6.9 billion for FY 2010, $436 million over the FY 2009 appropriation and $119 million below the $7.04 billion requested by the Administration. The increase for NSF is 6.7% over FY 2009. The NSF received $3 billion under the Recovery Act for FY 2009–10. The NSF budget includes $5.6 billion for Research and Related activities, $435 million, or 8.4% above the FY 2009 appropriation. NSF Education and Human Resources would receive $873 million, a 3% increase over FY 2009. The conference report identifies $310 million in climate change research and education at NSF.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC would receive $6.8 billion for FY 2010, $128 million above FY 2009, a 1.9% increase in funding.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In October, the President signed the FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill which included $2.4 billion for the FDA, a 15% increase over the FY 2009 level.

Department of Agriculture: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture received $1.3 billion, a 10% increase over FY 2009 while the Agriculture and Food Research Institute was funded at $262 million a 30% increase over FY 2009 and $60 million above the FY 2010 President’s request. The Agriculture Research Service received $1.3 billion, a 6% increase in funding.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) R&D. The EPA science and technology budget was funded at $565 million, a 5.5% increase.

Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE Office of Science received $4.9 billion in FY 2010 a 3% increase over the FY 2009 level. Biological and Environmental research received $604 million while Basic Energy Sciences received $1.6 billion.

An updated chart highlighting FY 2010 R&D funding can be found on the ASM website at http://asm.org

ASM Represented at CDC/APHL Meeting on TB Testing Survey

On 10–11 December, Yvette McCarter represented ASM at a meeting organized by the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of TB Elimination (DTBE) regarding tuberculosis (TB) testing in the United States. The purpose of the meeting, which occurred at APHL’s headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., was to review and discuss a comprehensive survey instrument designed by APHL and DTBE to assess the availability of TB laboratory services in the United States. The survey will be distributed to public health, clinical, and commercial laboratories with the primary goal of identifying gaps in the TB testing capabilities and capacities of U.S. diagnostic laboratories.

Revised Sentinel Laboratory Guideline on Yersinia pestis

The ASM Sentinel Laboratory Guideline for Yersinia pestis, was revised by its author, Susan E. Sharp, to include updated information on the number of cases and when most cases occur in the United States. The guideline is designed to assist Sentinel Level Clinical Microbiology Laboratories with information and techniques to rule out
and refer specimens to Laboratory Response Network (LRN) reference laboratories for confirmation. ASM Sentinel protocols/guidelines offer clinical microbiology laboratories standardized, practical methods to aid microbiologists in ruling out critical agents that may be used in a bioterrorist event or associated with an emerging infectious disease. To download this and other sentinel level guidelines, go to http://www.asm.org/Sentinelguidelines.