

chlorophenyl) ethylene (p,p'-DDE (DDE). We will assess timing of menopause among women who previously participated in the North Carolina Infant Feeding Study. PCB and DDE levels were analyzed in blood and breast milk samples around delivery and after pregnancy. The median age of the women as of March 2002 is 50 years. Data will be collected in a telephone interview focusing on reproductive and menstrual history with additional information collected on demographic, social and behavioral factors that could affecting time of menopause.

Approximately 50% of participants based on sampling strata that involve criteria relating to age and menopausal status will also have a blood sample collection. The purpose of this study is to assess the association between the baseline organochlorine measurements and timing of natural menopause. A secondary aim will be to conduct exploratory analyses of the association between specific factors (e.g., pregnancy history, weight change) and rate of change in organochlorine levels.

**Frequency of Response:** 1.1 responses per respondent. There also will be a yearly assessment of menopausal status based on a short interview (fifteen minute telephone interview) targeting women who are pre-menopausal based on the initial interview. **Affected Public:** Individuals or households. **Types of Respondents:** Women who participated in the North Carolina Infant Feeding Study. The annual reporting burden is as follows: **Estimated Number of Respondents:** 642 **Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:** 1.1. **Average Burden Hours Per Response:** 0.66. **Estimated Total Burden Hours Requested:** 426. Annualized cost to respondents is \$6,816. There are no Capital Costs to report. There are no Operating or Maintenance Costs to report.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS:** Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of

appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DIRECT COMMENTS TO OMB:** Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Regulatory Affairs, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Desk Officer for NIH. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact: Dr. Glinda Cooper, Epidemiology Branch, NIEHS, Building 101, A3-05, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 or call non-toll-free number (919) 541-0799 or E-mail your request, including your address to: "cooper1@niehs.nih.gov".

**COMMENTS DUE DATE:** Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Dated: March 20, 2003.

**Francine Little,**  
NIEHS, Associate Director for Management.  
[FR Doc. 03-7578 Filed 3-28-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Extramural Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals From Disadvantaged Backgrounds

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites applications for the Extramural Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (ECR-LRP or Program) for fiscal year 2003. Pursuant to authority granted by Public Law 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, which amended Section 487E of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 288-5), as added by the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-43), the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), acting through the Director of NIH, has established a loan repayment program that offers the repayment of educational loan debt to qualified health

professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have substantial debt relative to income and agree to conduct clinical research. The Director of NIH may enter into contracts with qualified health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds who agree to engage in clinical research for a minimum of two years in exchange for loan repayments toward their outstanding educational loan debt, up to a maximum of \$35,000 per year. Payments equal to 39 percent of total loan repayments are issued to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of the participants to offset Federal tax liabilities incurred due to their participation in the Program.

**DATES:** Information regarding the ECR-LRP is currently available, and the following are the application deadline dates: Fiscal Year 2003—January 31, 2003; Fiscal Year 2004—January 31, 2004; and Fiscal Year 2005—January 31, 2005. All applications must be submitted on-line by 5 p.m. (eastern standard time). If an Application Deadline Date falls on a weekend or holiday, the application is due on the following business day by 5 p.m. (eastern standard time).

**ADDRESSES:** The information and an on-line application may be obtained at the NIH Loan Repayment Program Web site at [www.lrp.nih.gov](http://www.lrp.nih.gov) or by contacting the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Attention Kenya McRae, non-toll free telephone number (301) 402-1366, or via email at [mcraek@od.nih.gov](mailto:mcraek@od.nih.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Definitions

(1) "Clinical research" is defined as patient-oriented clinical research conducted with human subjects or research on the causes and consequences of disease in human populations involving material of human origin (such as tissue specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects in an outpatient or inpatient setting to clarify a problem in human physiology, pathophysiology or disease, or epidemiologic or behavioral studies, outcomes research or health services research, or developing new technologies, therapeutic interventions, or clinical trials.

(2) "Debt threshold" is the minimum amount of qualified educational loan debt an applicant must have in order to be eligible for Program benefits. An applicant must have qualified educational loan debt equal to at least 20 percent of the applicant's annual