

A significant portion of the MRC's developmental funds is used to assist in the correction of disparity, both regional and disciplinary, in Canada's research effort; universities attempting to build up programs in underdeveloped fields are encouraged to apply for Development Grants in a special program designed to assist the Deans of health science faculties in the recruitment of new staff by giving assurance of research funds and equipment, and, if necessary, of salary support for limited periods. A special Group Program has been developed to provide research support to groups of two or more accomplished investigators who wish to engage in collaborative work in what appear to be especially productive areas. Investigators comprising MRC Groups are expected to devote virtually all their efforts to their common research objectives, and receive from the MRC what is essentially full support of their research program. There are now six MRC Groups — the Group in Neurosciences at the University of Montreal, the Group in Transplant Research at the University of Alberta, the Group in Developmental Neurobiology at McMaster University, the Group in Drug Toxicology at the University of Montreal, the Group for Hypertension at the *Institut de Recherches cliniques de Montréal*, and the Group in Medical Genetics at McGill University. Under the heading of Research Development, the MRC also provides financial support for scientific symposia and workshops held in Canada, and assists in defraying the operating costs of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

6.1.3.2 National Health Grant

The National Health Grant was established in April 1969 to stimulate research studies, service demonstrations, and training activities of national significance for the improvement of health services. Contributions from this grant may be made to provincial or municipal governments and to any agency, association, corporation, institution or individual capable of conducting activities in the health field. Awards to date have been mainly in support of training of research personnel in the health care field and for research projects related to analysis of quality of health care and health care delivery. Contributions made from this fund exceeded \$3 million in the fiscal year 1971-72.

In November 1972, the National Health Grant was extended to include the Public Health Research Grant (\$4.5 million in the fiscal year 1971-72) which had previously allocated funds for research in disease prevention, epidemiology, health promotion, and environmental health. The amalgamation was expected to permit a more unified approach to development priorities, as well as to ease certain administrative problems. The grants are administered by the Research Programs Directorate of the Health Programs Branch.

6.1.3.3 Health economics and statistics

The Health Economics and Statistics Directorate in the Health Programs Branch provides socio-economic research and advisory services in a variety of fields including medical care, hospital care, community health services, health expenditure, manpower resources, and other matters relating to health costs and utilization. The directorate also serves as a national centre for socio-economic research in the health field to produce research reports and publications designed to increase public understanding of the organization, cost and performance of Canada's health services and resources.

6.1.3.4 Long range health planning

The long range health planning group is concerned with identifying and assessing major issues and trends in the health field which have either not yet clearly emerged or on which no consensus has yet been reached. In a sense the Branch tries to bring into focus the unstable or unpredictable elements of the health field so that they can be considered by policy makers. By comparison the operating Branches tend to plan more in the implementational and operational elements.

Specialists in the long range health planning group are available in the following fields: policy review, medicine, lifestyle health problems, medical sociology, health status indicators, health care organization, quantitative methods and pharmaceutical economics.

6.1.3.5 Consultative and technical services

The Department of National Health and Welfare extends technical advisory services to provincial agencies, universities and other organizations for the development of health programs, health manpower, and health research. Consultative services are available through