

HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Robert E. Windom, M.D., has announced the award of five-year grants to six research teams for studies that apply techniques of structural biology to the design of drugs for the treatment of AIDS. The first-year costs of these grants will exceed \$5 million.

The grants were made by the National Institutes of Health to: David Eisenberg, Ph.D., of the University of California, Los Angeles, \$1,333,773; Donald M. Engelman, Ph.D., of Yale University in New Haven, Conn., \$975,672; Peter W. Jeffs, Ph.D., of SmithKline & French Laboratories in Swedeland, Pa., \$458,520; George L. Kenyon, Ph.D., of the University of California, San Francisco, \$1,017,579; David A. Matthews, Ph.D., of Agouron Pharmaceuticals Inc. in La Jolla, Calif., \$804,050; and Don C. Wiley, Ph.D., of Harvard University, Boston, Mass., \$514,193.

Structural biology is the study of the relationship between the form and function of biological materials. The techniques of structural biology, which include X-ray crystallography and theoretical chemistry directed toward molecular modeling, have many applications to the study of viruses, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. A detailed understanding of the relationship between the structure of HIV and its action may enable scientists to design drugs specifically targeted to the virus' ability to infect human cells.

(More)

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is managing these grants; beginning in fiscal year 1989, the institute will also assume responsibility for their funding. NIGMS supports research and research training in basic biomedical sciences such as cellular and molecular biology, genetics, pharmacology, biorelated chemistry and biophysics. Grantees of NIGMS, who study life at the level of molecules, can provide the new knowledge, theories and concepts necessary to make advances in the treatment of disease.
