

Inter-University Cooperative Research Centres in Biology

The National Research Council of Canada in its brief to the Senate Special Committee on Science Policy points out that "because of the unpredictability of scientific discovery, new scientific advances cannot be planned or centrally directed". Planning and decision making with respect to scientific research, at the Government level, should be primarily confined to the establishment of the appropriate scale of overall funding and provision for major research facilities.

Whereas we fully agree that new scientific advances cannot be centrally directed by the Government, we would like to point out in this private brief that new scientific advances can be planned by the scientists themselves.

Scientific research is now so expensive, so specialized and so diversified that it now becomes urgent to promote cooperative efforts in order to save time and money. With this in view and in an attempt to foster larger research units in University Departments, so that research can be planned and carried out by well integrated teams rather than on an individual basis, the National Research Council has in recent years awarded Negotiated development grants to get such teams off the ground. These grants are of a large order of magnitude moneywise and must perforce be limited in number. This is particularly unfortunate in the case of biology where the fields of research are so diverse that any particular research theme supported by