

Opening the door

The following 1995 internal memo from then-National Institutes of Health Director Harold E. Varmus eliminated or eased several rules intended to prevent conflicts of interest among agency scientists.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

NOV 03 1995

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

TO: ICD Directors
OD Staff

FROM: Director, NIH

SUBJECT: Changes in NIH Policies on Outside Activities

As discussed at the ICD Directors meeting on September 21, the
recently conducted an audit

1. Activities Performed by High-Level Officials

High level officials may now perform the same types of outside activities as all other NIH employees. High level officials include the NIH Director, Deputy Directors and Associate Directors, and ICD Directors and Deputy Directors, except Presidential appointees.

Page 2 - ICD Directors

2. Prohibited Source Criteria for Intramural Employees

Intramural employees may now engage in activities for any outside organization except those with whom they have direct official business dealings as government employees. They are no longer precluded from engaging in activities with outside organizations that had or currently have research agreements or contracts with the employees' laboratory or branch.

4. Stock as Compensation

Employees may accept stock as payment for approved outside activities. The former policy prohibited the acceptance of stock as full or partial payment for outside activities.

5. Compensation Limits

There is no longer a dollar limit on the amount of income that can be received from activities performed for one or more outside organizations.