



The Biological Applications Program assesses state-of-the-art technologies arising from the cutting edge of biological science. The Program is responsible for assisting Congress in understanding biomedical technologies by exploring the consequences of those technologies and their applications on society, government, the economy, ethics, and the law.

The Food and Renewable Resources Program assesses national and international agriculture-related technologies used to provide society with food, fiber, and chemicals; technologies that affect the ability to sustain in perpetuity the renewable resource base that makes such production possible; and other technologies that affect the provision of environmental services derived from renewable resource systems. The Program also provides extensive experience in these fields as they relate to the problems of developing countries.

The Health Program's charter is reflected in two primary efforts:

- 1) assessment of specific clinical and general health care technologies, and
- 2) studies of broader issues of health policy related to, or with implications for, technology. In addition, it has



The Division comprises three programs: Biological Applications, Food and Renewable Resources; and Health.



certain statutory methodology oversight responsibilities regarding Vietnam veterans health studies, and provides staff work for OTA's mandated responsibility to appoint members of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission.

FY1991 Activities

The Health and Life Sciences Division contributed heavily to congressional consideration of issues in the 102d Congress. Studies on biotechnology addressed issues both economic and global as well as the specific concerns of the domestic dairy industry. Complex subjects such as neural grafting and health risks of immunotoxic substances were addressed in studies enabling several committees' evaluation of policy in these important areas.

The Division's work on agricultural approaches to reduce agrichemical contamination of groundwater was used to support development of several programs in the 1990 Farm Bill, and continues to be used to develop further legislation related to nitrate contamination of groundwater. The study on universities and development assistance has been used in rewriting the

Foreign Assistance Act, and work on agricultural commodities as industrial raw materials has been used in oversight of research on traditional and new crops for industrial use.

OTA'S Health Program completed a major assessment on adolescent health. Its continuing work on AIDS-related issues has been essential in keeping legislators informed on this most critical of health care issues.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN NEUROSCIENCE:
Neural Grafting: Repairing the Brain and Spinal Cord, October 1990
Biological Rhythms: Implications for the Worker, September 1991

Requested by:
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
House Committee on Veterans Affairs
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
House Committee on Appropriations

GENETIC MONITORING AND SCREENING IN THE WORKPLACE, OCTOBER 1990

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

IDENTIFYING AND CONTROLLING IMMUNOTOXIC SUBSTANCES—BACKGROUND PAPER, MAY 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

BENEATH THE BOTTOM LINE: AGRICULTURAL APPROACHES TO REDUCE AGRICHEMICAL CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER NOVEMBER 1990

Requested by:
House Committee on Agriculture
House Committee on Public Works and Transportation

EMERGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY: ISSUES FOR THE 1990s:

U.S. Dairy Industry at a Crossroad: Biotechnology and Policy Choices, May 1991
Agricultural Commodities as Industrial Raw Materials, June 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
House Committee on Agriculture

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: AGRICULTURE, NATIONAL RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT—BACKGROUND PAPER SEPTEMBER 1991

Requested by:
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

CHILDREN'S DENTAL SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM—BACKGROUND PAPER, OCTOBER 1990

Requested by:
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

ADOLESCENT HEALTH:

Volume I: Summary and Policy Options, April 1991

Volume 111: Crosscutting Issues in the Delivery of Health and Related Services, June 1991

Requested by:
Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

OUTPATIENT IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS UNDER MEDICARE, AUGUST 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Finance



