

FDA**Groups Announce Support for Nomination
Of Henney as Next Agency Commissioner**

The American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and the Association of American Medical Colleges Aug. 31 announced their support for the nomination of Jane Henney to be food and drug commissioner.

"It is a pleasure for the American Medical Association to support Jane E. Henney M.D. for commissioner of the FDA," said J. Edward Hill, an AMA trustee. "Rarely have the responsibilities of a demanding position so perfectly matched the abilities of its nominee."

Henney is first vice president for health sciences at the University of New Mexico. From 1992 to 1994, she worked as the deputy commissioner for operations at the Food and Drug Administration and her participation in implementing the Prescription Drug User Fee Act was noted by panelists as proof her ability to do the job successfully.

"Armed with these added funds, Dr. Henney was able to develop a program that dramatically reduced review times for new pharmaceuticals and biologics, speeding the process of bringing new and improved medications to patients in need," said Hill.

President Clinton nominated Henney to head the FDA in late June.

A hearing on Henney's nomination is scheduled for Sept. 2 at 9:30 am before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. However, the full schedule the Senate faces before beginning its fall recess may delay a confirmation vote.

Panelists said they held the press conference not only to show their support for the nomination, but to urge the Senate to conduct the confirmation process in a speedy manner.