

than concerns over human-subject protection, drive FDA's oversight of clinical investigators. The Inspector General also found that the bioresearch monitoring program lacks clear and specific guidelines. FDA is currently evaluating a broad range of issues related to clinical trials and the protection of human subjects.

- **Genomics Conference:** On June 6-7, the annual scientific conference of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation will examine Genomics and Cancer. Speakers will include Dr. Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Human Genome Research Institute Director, and Dr. Craig Venter, Celera Genomics president. Topics will include genomic sequencing, genetic analysis of various cancers, and gene expression of cancer. The event will be held at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD.
- **Women in Clinical Trials:** On June 1, HHS published a final rule to expand the criteria for imposing a clinical hold on studies for drugs intended to treat a life-threatening disease or condition. ~~These drugs are those that are intended to improve the health of a person~~ is excluded from the study solely because of a risk of reproductive or developmental toxicity from use of the drug. 

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- **Agreements to Promote Homeownership in China:** Secretary Cuomo reached agreements during his May 19-24 trip to China that will help China establish a secondary mortgage market and collaborate with the U.S. on affordable housing and urban development projects. In Beijing, Secretary Cuomo held talks with Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and signed the first-ever agreement between the U.S. and China to collaborate on affordable housing and urban development projects. Secretary Cuomo's meeting with Zhu focused on the human and economic issues at the heart of urban housing, a central component of Zhu's program to reform China's economy by, among other things, ending subsidized housing and promoting homeownership. The agreement between Secretary Cuomo and his Chinese counterpart will begin with a project under the U.S.-China Housing Initiative to design and build a model community of affordable, low-density housing for more than 1,000 Chinese families. Secretary Cuomo launched a housing finance pilot project that will assist the Chinese government and banks to set up a secondary mortgage market similar to the Federal Housing Administration, giving Chinese homebuyers sufficient access to credit.
- **HUD Budget:** HUD's House Appropriations Subcommittee on administration made cuts last week, significantly reducing spending on HUD programs compared to the request. The full House is expected to vote on the HUD budget in June. The Senate has not yet acted. Initiatives whose funding would be cut include APIC, Mississippi Delta Redevelopment, "Brownfields", CDBG, Affordable housing vouchers, and the Community Gun Safety and Violence Reduction initiatives.