NIAMD RESEARCH
DIRECTOR NAMED

Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., one of the Nation's leading research workers in intermediary purine metabolism, has been named Associate Director in Charge of Research of NIAMD. His appointment, effective April 15, was recently announced by Dr. Floyd S. Daft, NIAMD Director.

Dr. Stetten will plan, develop, and execute an integrated laboratory and clinical research program for the study of arthritis and metabolic diseases.

For several years prior to his appointment, Dr. Stetten was Chief of the Division of Nutrition and Physiology at the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York, Inc. There he conducted and directed research in problems of intermediary metabolism.

Dr. Stetten was born in New York City. He received his B.A. from Harvard College, and his M.D. and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Pending completion of laboratory facilities in the Clinical Center, Dr. Stetten will continue his research in laboratories in New York.

NIH employees are invited to attend the Fourth Annual Research Equipment Exhibit to be held May 24-27 in Building 22.

Approximately 90 manufacturers will bring to NIH their latest developments in scientific equipment, including such items as a borosilicate serological pipette developed especially for NIH, a room incubator, a tracer-scanner, and an electrostatic electron microscope.

Hours of the exhibit will be from 11:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. on May 24 and 26, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 25, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 27.

For the first time, a symposium on recent developments in instrument techniques and applications will be held on three days of the exhibit. It will be sponsored by the Washington Sections of the American Chemical Society, Instrument Society of America, and the American Association of Clinical Chemists.

After a welcome by Dr. Sebrell, the opening session on May 24 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. will cover "Electroanalytical Techniques." On the afternoon of May 25, from 2 to 4 p.m., the topic will be "Spectroscopy and Molecular Structure." That evening from 8 to 10 p.m., the subject will be "Electrophoresis and Chromatography." The final session on May 26, from 8 to 9:30 p.m., will deal with "Methodology and Instrumentation in Microanalysis." All meetings will be held in the Clinical Center Auditorium except the evening session on May 25, which will be held in Wilson Hall.

In conjunction with the exhibit, a program of technical movies of interest to professional employees will be shown in Wilson Hall daily at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The schedule will be: 11 a.m., "Speedomax for Precision Performance"; 11:13, "Pressure Steam Sterilization"; 11:41, "Glass for Science." After a luncheon break, the program will continue: 12:30 p.m., "It's Only the Beginning"; 12:40, "To Greater Vision"; and 1:08, "Glass, Science, and People."
Recent studies at the NIMH Addiction Research Center of the Public Health Service Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, have led to clinical application of Nalorphine (N-allylinormorphine), a compound synthesized by Merck & Company in the early 1940's. Previous studies of the pharmacological effect of the drug on animals was conducted at Merck & Company and at Jefferson Medical College. Investigations by Dr. Harris Isbell at the Addiction Research Center have been under way since 1945.

Nalorphine, though a morphine derivative, has been found to be an antagonist, or specific antidote, for morphine and many other known narcotic drugs, including heroin, dilaudid, codeine, meperidine, and methadone. It also prevents or abolishes the sedation, depression of respiration, and lowering of blood pressure caused by toxic doses of certain narcotics.

Studies at the Center have shown that Nalorphine, instead of relieving the symptoms that follow withdrawal of morphine, intensifies them. When given to addicted persons or animals, the compound precipitates violent abstinence.

Nalorphine is a valuable clinical tool for diagnosing drug addiction. It is believed to be 100 percent effective in detecting addiction so mild that clinical detection following mere abrupt withdrawal would have been impossible. The drug also permits a diagnosis in less than one hour instead of 12 to 36 hours, and precludes failures in diagnosis due to the smuggling of drugs into hospitals.

Because of its action in preventing depression of respiration in the newborn, Nalorphine may in time significantly lower the neonatal mortality rate. Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere have shown that intravenous administration of Nalorphine to mothers who had received narcotics during labor shortened the time following delivery before the infant gasped or cried. The shortening of this interval was greatest in children born of mothers who had been moderately or deeply depressed prior to delivery.

At the Addiction Center, investigations into further clinical potencies of Nalorphine are under way. Studies of the addictive properties of mixtures of Nalorphine and morphine are in progress. Morphine addicts would not abuse these mixtures, since it would precipitate violent abstinence. The Center is also attempting to develop an orally effective, long-lasting antagonist for morphine and related drugs. Such an agent might be useful in the prevention of relapse to addiction in selected cases.

Here and There

Gallon Blood Donors

At a recent ceremony in Wilson Hall, Dr. W. H. Sebrell, Jr., presented pins to 19 NIH employees who have contributed a gallon of blood to the Red Cross. The donors are: Etta V. Benson, James B. Black, Kenneth T. Bolen, Walter T. Bowman, William W. Cissel, Karl Frank, Donald Goldtorpe, Margaret L. Keister, Bernard H. Kroll, Irving Ladimer, Ted Lefco, Priscilla B. Maury, Everette L. May, Erich Mosettig, Elbert A. Peterson, James W. Pratt, Nelson Richtmyer, Lewis J. Sargent, and E. Wilson Stewart.

USDA Summer School

The summer session of the Department of Agriculture Graduate School will begin the week of June 14. Registration for the classes will be held in Room 1031, South Agriculture Building, June 7 through 12. A schedule of classes is available from the Personnel Branch, Room 1-S-231B, Bldg. 10.

New Notary

Another notary public has been added to the NIH roster. She is Mrs. Hazel R. Norris, who is located in Room 1215, T-6, ext. 2622.

Honor

Dr. John A. Clausen, NIMH, was recently named to a nine-man committee that will direct a new research program on mental illness. The appointment was announced by the National Association for Mental Health, Inc.

Reminder

Availability of library books is in everyone’s interest. The NIH Library urges all employees to look over their shelves and return any books or journals that are overdue.
Ticket sales are booming for the Hamsters' 4th edition of Life at NIH, "Off the Record." If you haven't obtained your tickets yet, you'd better rush to your R & W building or division representative, because this year's production threatens to break all previous attendance records.

The 1954 show, which will feature a bevy of NIH beauties and a variety of songs, skits, and dances depicting the lighter aspects of life at NIH, will be presented at 8:30 p.m., May 19, 20, and 21, in the Clinical Center Auditorium. The opening night will be a benefit performance, with the proceeds going to the Clinical Center patient welfare fund.

R & W members may now take group golf lessons at Glenbrook Golf Course. If you are interested in forming a new group, call Bob Michelitch on ext. 2188. Bob is also the contact for golfers who are interested in playing in NIH handicap tournaments.

A flyer announcing the establishment of an NIH Tennis Club was recently sent to all employees. The Association has arranged to put the four tennis courts at Glenbrook Club into playing condition, and it is hoped that they will be ready by June 1. Membership dues are $5.00 for the season, and the courts will be open to members, their guests, and patients. If you did not receive an application for membership, contact Peg Badger on ext. 3137.

A total of 240 NIH and Department employees were in attendance at the highly successful Spring Frolic, held April 30 in the HEW North Building cafeteria. Highlight of the dance was the floor show starring dancers Coke Homan and Mary and Martin Chudy.

The third annual musicale attracted close to 400 NIH music lovers. The program featured compositions by Handel, Brahms, Bartok and Haydn. An overwhelming response from the enthusiastic audience points to a continuation of this popular activity.

The Stamp Club has voted to continue meeting during the summer months. They will meet on the first Thursday of each month in Room 101, Bldg. 1. Bimonthly meetings will be resumed in the fall. The sessions are always open to interested persons.

In fifteen years of Federal service, Elsie Hoffmeister, NIMH, has had the unique opportunity of working in almost every major constituent of the Federal Security Agency, now the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Starting in the Accounting Operations Division, she progressed through the Personnel, Travel, Information Service, and Public Assistance divisions of the Social Security Administration. Then she moved on to clerical and secretarial jobs in the Office of Education, the Office of the Administrator, and the PHS Bureau of Medical Services.

Elsie has continued her diversified tour of duty since her arrival at NIH in December 1951. Her first assignment was a secretarial job in the NIAMD Information Office. The next year she was transferred to the Professional Services Branch of NIMH, and is now temporarily assigned to the Research Grants and Fellowships Branch.

The youngest of eight children, Elsie was born and grew up on a farm in Boring, a small town near Portland, Oregon. She graduated from high school in nearby Gresham. After a postgraduate year at Gresham, she took a Civil Service examination. She worked for the Agriculture Adjustment Administration's Soil Conservation station in Corvallis, Oregon, for a year, and then accepted a job with the Social Security Board in Baltimore.

After two years, she was offered a job in the stenographic pool of the Social Security Administration's Washington office. A year later, she transferred to the Information Service of the Administration, where her duties involved taking clippings from newspapers and magazines and condensing them into a press digest for distribution to interested persons all over the country.

In 1947 she moved out of the Administration to a job in Information Service of the Office of Education. When this section was consolidated with the FSA Office of Publications and Reports, Elsie became a "clearing house" for all requests for Agency publications. For a brief period before coming to NIH, she worked in the PHS Bureau of Medical Services, where she helped in organizing an Inter-Agency Institute for Federal Hospital Administrators.

Elsie's activities outside of working hours have been varied. During the War, she served as a volunteer receptionist for the United Nations Service Center from 12 to 4 a.m. every Sunday morning. After the War, she volunteered her services as an AWVS sightseeing escort for patients at Mount Alto and Walter Reed. Since coming to NIH, the vivacious and energetic Miss Hoffmeister has been an active supporter of R & W and Hamster activities. She is a member of the Hamster Board, and appeared in last year's production of "The Florist Shop." Last year she was NIMH's R & W division representative.

Elsie lives with her sister, brother-in-law, and their daughter in Wheaton, Md.
NCI SETS UP SECTION FOR LEUKEMIA STUDIES

Dr. John R. Heller, NCI Director, recently announced the establishment of a Leukemia Studies Section in the Institute’s Laboratory of Biology. The new Section is headed by Dr. Lloyd W. Law, who joined NCI in 1947. Since then, he has been studying the factors that affect the development of leukemia in laboratory animals.

The Section will be responsible for formulating and executing the program of NCI in experimental leukemia. This work will include investigations directed toward improving the treatment of clinical leukemia and elucidating the etiology and pathogenesis of leukemia in experimental animals.

DR. HAROLD C. HODGE TO GIVE NIDR LECTURE

Dr. Harold C. Hodge, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Rochester, will deliver the NIDR Lecture at 8 p.m., May 27, in the main auditorium of the Clinical Center. Dr. Hodge will discuss "The Mechanism of Uranium Poisoning." All interested NIH scientific personnel are invited to attend the talk, the fifth in the 1954 guest lecture series. The series will be suspended for the summer months, and resumed in September.

In 1943 Dr. Hodge was appointed Chief Pharmacologist of the Atomic Energy Project, and was an observer at the Bikini bomb tests in 1946. He has done considerable research on the physical and chemical properties of bones and teeth, and the molecular constitution of calcium phosphates. Dr. Hodge is a former member of the Dental Study Section and the National Advisory Dental Research Council.

MRS. INA HUGHES OF NCI RETIRES

Mrs. Ina R. Hughes, Statistical Clerk in NCI’s Biometry Section since 1947, retired April 30 after 20 years of Federal service. At a surprise farewell party given by her friends and co-workers, Dr. J. R. Heller, NCI Director, thanked Mrs. Hughes for her conscientious, competent, and loyal services and presented her with a watch, a handbag, and several handkerchiefs, on behalf of her co-workers.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT SERVES BOTH CC AND NIDR

The Dental Department of the Clinical Center provides a double service for NIH. It is responsible for providing complete dental care for all Clinical Center patients, and as a clinical facility for NIDR. The Department, which has been in operation since the opening of the Center, has facilities on the first floor, and plans to occupy its laboratory space on the secondfloor in the near future.

The present dental clinic is divided into a number of activities. The section for dental service gives as complete an examination as possible to the patients admitted for study by the Institutes. It has an examination room and two X-ray rooms, each equipped with its own darkroom.

A two-chair clinic containing a well-equipped dental laboratory is devoted to general prosthetics. One of the features of the laboratory is the Vitallium equipment used to construct dentures and implants for the surgeon, such as plates to correct skull defects. In addition to the general prosthetic clinic, there is a special one-chair clinic and laboratory for maxillo-facial prosthesis. This service concerns itself with the construction of replacements for lost tissues such as eyes, noses, and ears, as an adjunct to plastic surgery.

A two-chair periodontal clinic is now in operation for the treatment and study of gum diseases. The Department also contains a two-chair operative dentistry clinic where teeth are filled. The oral surgery service consists of two operating rooms, an adjoining scrub and recovery room.

Clinical investigations of the National Institute of Dental Research will be divided into several sections. At the present time, the section devoted to the study of growth and development is studying various orthodontic problems. A Broadbent Cephalometric X-ray device has been installed. With this apparatus it is possible to study very accurately the growth and development of the bones of the skull and jaws.

One of the most unique features of the Dental Department is the central dictation system, which provides dictating equipment in each room. Complete records of the examination, progress, and follow-up notes are transcribed in a central area and entered on the patient’s chart.

Clinical study projects that may be investigated in the Department include research into the problems involved in the use of antibiotics and chemotherapeutic agents in the oral cavity, the effects of radiation on oral and systemic tissues, histological changes under prosthetic replacements, and factors influencing wound healing. Other studies will be concerned with the development of new and improved anesthetic compounds and techniques, evaluation of treatment procedures for malocclusion, and research on the etiology and treatment of the various forms and degrees of periodontal disease.