LAW PROVIDES MORE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Federal employees serving under indefinite appointments may be eligible for conversion to career or career-conditional appointments if they meet basic eligibility requirements set forth in recently enacted legislation.

Requirements are: (1) Three full years of continuous or intermittent employment in a pay status in the competitive Civil Service; (2) service on January 23, 1955, under an indefinite appointment, followed by continuous service through November 10, 1955; (3) supervisor's recommendation for conversion; (4) eligibility in a Civil Service examination given between June 3, 1950, and January 23, 1955, for an appropriate position occupied during the employee's Federal service. (Some examination ratings received after January 23, 1955, are acceptable.) Those who have not received an appropriate eligible rating may file for a non-competitive examination.

British Visitors View NIH Facilities

Britain's Lady Makins and Lady Mountbatten, with Commander Frank Ellis of the Royal Navy, listen to an explanation by Miss Vida Jo Niebuhr, Physical Therapy Service Chief, of the full-body immersion tank for underwater treatment exercise, while Dr. D. W. Patrick, CC Director (center), looks on. Countess Mountbatten is married to Admiral the Earl Mountbatten, 1st Sea Lord of Great Britain. Lady Makins is the wife of British Ambassador Roger Makins.

LOCAL RESIDENTS AID IN FLU VACCINE STUDY

Four to five thousand Montgomery County school children and their parents are expected to participate in an influenza vaccine study being conducted by NIMI's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases.

In its third year in the County, this voluntary program, held in cooperation with the Montgomery County Health Department, has been extended this year to six elementary schools, including Parkwood, Pine Crest, Connecticut Avenue Park, Wyngate, Wheaton Woods, and Bethesda. Inoculations began on November 14 and are expected to end December 8. Follow-ups for the occurrence of respiratory illness will be made on a triweekly basis.

This year's group will bring to 20,000 the number vaccinated since the study began in 1951.

NIH ENDS CHEST DRIVE WITH 82% OF QUOTA

With 82 percent of the 1955 quota reached, the NIH Community Chest drive closed on November 4. Ninety-two percent of the NIH staff participated in the campaign, and contributions and pledges totaled $27,007.

Special recognition goes to NIDR, DRG, and DBS for surpassing their quotas, and to NIAMD and NIMH for reaching 95 percent of their goals. NIH Chairman Robert Grant wishes to thank all employees for their cooperation and generosity in helping to bring this 1955 campaign to a successful conclusion.

NIH Chairman Robert Grant wishes to thank all employees for their cooperation and generosity in helping to bring this 1955 campaign to a successful conclusion.

DR. H. R. SANDSTEAD DIES IN PLANE CRASH

NIH lost an able and esteemed staff member on November 1 when Dr. Harold R. Sandstead, NIAMD, was killed in an airplane crash in Longmont, Colo. He was en route to Corvallis, Oregon, to deliver a speech at Oregon State College.

At the time of his death, Dr. Sandstead was Executive Director of the Interdepartmental Committee on Nutrition for National Defense. Functioning as an advisory and coordinating board, the committee is composed of representatives from HEW, the International Cooperation Administration, and the State, Defense, and Agriculture Departments. He was also continuing his interest in clinical nutrition research in the NIAMD Laboratory of Biochemistry and Nutrition.

(See Sandstead, Page 4)
A phenomenon found in the course of studies of the effects of X-irradiation on reptiles has led to a series of basic studies of red blood cells in the turtle, by investigators in the NIAMD Laboratory of Physical Biology. In turtles receiving irradiation in doses as high as 10,000 r, the group found no evidence of the marked reduction in red blood cell count seen in warm-blooded animals exposed to dosages as low as 500 r. In 1952, an investigation of the mechanism of red blood cell production in the box turtle was undertaken by Milton Parker and Mr. Edwin C. Altland, with the assistance of Mr. Paul D. Thompson.

To determine if the stimulus for the production of red blood cells of cold-blooded animals differed from that of warm-blooded animals, a series of experiments was conducted using hypoxia, cobalt, and repeated bleeding. Hypoxia (reduced oxygen supply), generally considered to be the primary stimulus for red cell production, was induced by exposing the turtles to simulated altitudes ranging from 25,000 to 45,000 feet. No red cell stimulation was obtained, although other physiological changes were noted.

Cobalt was administered to the turtles in varying dosages and, contrary to effects reported in the literature for other animals, red cell formation did not result. Evidence that the mechanism for erythropoietic response is present in turtles was obtained when reticulocytes were induced by repeated bleeding. (See illustration.)

A possible explanation for the unusual resistance of the blood-forming system of turtles to various stimuli may be found in the results of a study of the longevity of the red cell. In collaboration with Dr. Kirkland C. Brace of the NCI Radiation Branch, the group found that turtle red cells labelled with carbon-14 maintain a high specific radioactivity for at least two years. This is exceptional, since red blood cells of the mouse live for approximately 25 days, those of the dog for 110 days, and those of man 120 days.

Results of these studies suggest that there is a fundamental difference between the erythropoietic systems of cold- and warm-blooded animals. An understanding of this difference awaits further investigation.
VI. Azabicyclodecanes derived from bacterium violaceum.

2-(m-Methoxyphenyl) cyclohexanone.

3. Culture of human skin.

4. Tryptophan metabolism in Chromobacterium violaceum.

5. Enzymatic hydroxylation of aromatic compounds.

Oliver, Louis. The location of the schistosome vectors. Biophotovirustratus.

Tropics of centrometria, on and in the soil on dry habitats. Y. O'Rourke, Jansen et al. An initial evaluation of prednisone therapy in ocular in-flammation.


Piper, E. Preliminary studies in a quantitative approach to skin carcinogenesis.

Pugh, Mary H. Water repellency of silicone on microburette tips.


Riggle, Grant C. Expanded cuvette holder for model DU spectrophotometer.

Rodman, Gerald P., et al. Reversal of the respiratory lesion in dietary necrotic liver disease by intraportal injection of various thiacotefens.

Schneider, Walter C. Methods for the isolation of particulate components of lymphoma.


Polymorphic modifications of podophyllotoxin (components of podophyllotoxin) (XVIII).


Shimkin, Michael B. Lung cancer--a research problem.


Stahl, Helmut, and T. The stimulation of erythropoiesis in sublethally irradiated rats by a plasma factor.


Towler, Donald B. Neurochemical aspects of pyridoxine metabolism and function.


Wells, Charles E. Hypoventilation and oligemia: a case report.

Yarrow, Marian Radke, et al. The psychological meaning of repeated illness in the family.

Young, Martin D., et al. The effect of purumycin against Enterococci histolytica and other intestinal parasites.

The next NIH Film Society presentation, last in the current series, will be "Five Fingers," an American film starring James Mason. It will be shown in the CC Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. on November 23 and 24. Since the Society has finished the series in the black, it is planning to offer a free "bonus" film, open to all employees and their friends. "Anna-purna," a color documentary based on Maurice Herzog's best-selling adventure story, has been selected, and the showing is scheduled for December 28 and 29 in the CC Auditorium.

On October 31, the Hamsters elected officers for the 1956 season. Hazel Rea was re-elected chairman of the group; Dick Williams was chosen vice chairman; Doris Allnutt, secretary; Phil Joram, treasurer; Alida McBurney, property manager; and Sue Oliver, Bill White, and Ery Liljegren, members-at-large. Next on the Hamster's agenda is a workshop presentation in early December. Plans for the early spring include another "Life at NIH," presentation of the three one-act plays produced by the workshops, and participation in the annual one-act play tournament sponsored by the D. C. Recreation Department.

Myra's beauty was recognized at the tender age of two, when she won honorable mention in a photography contest. Another honor came during her teens, when she was selected to represent Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School as a model and consultant on the fashion business in a local department store. As a sophomore in college, she represented the class on the homecoming float.

Her talents are practically unlimited. She sings, dances, acts, paints, sews, swims, and hikes. In college she sang in the chorus and played one of the leads in the musical comedy "Good News." She studied drama as a child and has appeared in many church and school productions. Art, too, is a favorite activity, and she has completed a number of posters and water-color paintings. Her interests are not only those of a participant, but also a spectator, for she enjoys thoroughly musicals, plays, and visits to art galleries, exhibits, and sports events.

(Ed. Note for Men Only: Myra is neither engaged nor going steady--as of press time, that is.)

NIH Spotlight

She's beautiful, intelligent, and talented.

She's this year's Miss NIH--listed on personnel records as Myra F. Embrey, NCI.

Blond, brown-eyed Myra was born in Washington, D. C., but spent most of her 22 years in Bethesda. She came to NIH in August as a biologist in the Cellular Biology Section, Laboratory of Biology. Here she is learning the many facets of her job, and so far has done some chemical tests on liver homogenates, prepared tissues for the electron microscope, and studied photographic techniques.

A temporary appointment for the summer of 1954 as a laboratory aid in NCI's Tissue Culture Section introduced Myra to NIH. She worked here while on vacation from studies at the University of Richmond. After graduation in June, she applied for a full-time position. Before starting her career, however, she decided to take a brief vacation, and sailed for Europe. During the next two months she visited Athens, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Paris, and London. 'I'm still on a cloud from that trip,' she admits.

Her decision to become a biologist stems from what she terms her "love of life and people." She's "always been very curious and wanted to study what makes life tick." Winning the "Miss NIH" contest was for Myra an astonishing and thrilling experience. It has also entered her in the popularity race for queen of the Bethesda Christmas Lane parade.

Myra's beauty was recognized at the tender age of two, when she won...
NIH CLINICAL RESEARCH GROUP TO MEET DEC. 10

Because of the enthusiastic response to the first NIH clinical research meeting held last month, a second meeting is planned for December 10, at 10:30 a.m., in the assembly hall on the 14th floor of the Clinical Center. The program will feature 10-minute presentations from each of the institutes, followed by brief discussions. A copy of the program will be mailed to interested personnel at a later date.

SANDSTEAD Cont’d

Dr. Sandstead was born December 17, 1904, in Davenport, Nebraska. He received his B.Sc. from Cotner College in 1927, and his M.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1931. Since joining PHS as a career officer in 1934, he had served in many capacities as a research scientist and consultant in nutrition. His consultant work had taken him to the Netherlands, Alaska, Guam, the Philippines, Korea, and the Middle East. In 1945 he was made an Officer of the Order of the Orange Nassau of the Netherlands Government, and was awarded the Bronze Star by the U. S. Army. He received the Bronze Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster from the Army in 1954.

Dr. Sandstead resided in Silver Spring and is survived by his wife, Florence Hilton, son, Harold H., and daughter, Martha E. Sandstead. The Sandstead Memorial Fund for Medical Students has been established by Dr. Sandstead, and his wife, Florence, and George T. Moore work on various media. By providing media, or food, for microorganisms, the Media Preparation Section of the Laboratory Aids Branch contributes immeasurably to NIH research.

Principal users of this section’s services are those investigators engaged in clinical diagnostic work, tissue culture research, and basic bacteriological studies. Headed by Melvin W. Bryant, the staff includes nine employees who prepare the hundreds of different type media requested.

Such clinical pathological media as phenol red carbohydrate, used to differentiate acid- and gas-producing microorganisms; modified sauvourads with antibiotics, for yeast molds; and Jensen’s glycerine egg media for tuberculous cultivation are all prepared in this section. Concentrates for tissue culture research, including Earle’s and Eagle’s solutions, are made regularly. The media used for polio tissue culture work being conducted at NIH are also supplied by this section.

Scientists working with microorganisms often find that a particular type of nourishment is needed, and furnish the Media Preparation Section with the probable composition. By repeated testing, the section develops the technique for the medium requested, and prepares the necessary quantity. Around 10 new media are requested each month.

The Media Preparation Section occupies several rooms on the B2 North corridor of the Clinical Center. Here the employees prepare the media, using various chemical combinations, and during certain steps use such equipment as the autoclave, atmospheric-pressure sterilizer, or incubator. In one room, called the "ingredient room," are kept dehydrated media. In another, maintained at a constant cold temperature, differentiation media are stocked for filling emergency requests.

Media may be obtained from this section by request. Almost 3,000 orders have been filled so far this year. Investigators receiving media from this section are urged to return all delivery containers.

CIVIC GROUP LEADERS ATTEND NIMH MEETING

Representatives of 14 leading national civic organizations attended the Open House sponsored by NIMH on November 16 in the Clinical Center. PHS speakers included Dr. W. Palmer Dearing, Deputy Surgeon General, who extended greetings on behalf of DHEW Secretary Marion B. Folsom; Dr. James A. Shannon, NIH Director; and Dr. R. H. Felix, NIMH Director.

Xmas Decorations Needed

Decorations for Clinical Center patients’ Christmas trees are needed, and contributions will be gratefully accepted. Please bring donations to Room 4D-39, Building 10, or call Mrs. Kathleen Sommers, ext. 3121.

BLOOD DONORS

During the recent visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile, 102 NIH employees donated blood. The Bloodmobile will be here again January 3.