Dr. Fredrickson Addresses Meeting Of Cardiologists

Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, Director of the National Heart Institute, spoke on decisions involved in planning for future Federal re- structure, and expressed the hope that the National Heart Institute would continue to do a great deal of research into the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and possible control of heart disease.

The opening session featured cardiologists and scientists attending the 16th Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology last week. The scientists and physicians had received a complete status report on current aspects of treating, diagnosing, and preventing heart disease.

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Aseptic DRS Animal Caretakers Provide Pathogen-Free Species for Scientists

By Kathleen DuBois

The life of an animal caretaker in Building 14G is not an easy one. Every day at work before starting his duties, he has to shower, scrubbing with a sterile brush and germicidal soap, brush his teeth, gargle, clean his nails, and change to a sterile uniform, complete with face mask, cap, rubber gloves, and canvas shoes. And when he returns to his job from lunch, he has to repeat the entire process.

Cleanliness Necessary

Why all this super-cleanliness? It's part of the routine devised by the Division of Research Services for providing the NIH medical investigator with another of today's highly refined laboratory tools: the pathogen-free animal.

At present, the Laboratory Aids Branch, under its new Chief, Dr. (See CARETAKERS, Page 1)
Zap of Blood Donors Turns Cold Day Warm

According to Dr. Paul J. Schmidt, Blood Bank Chief, and members of his staff, the recent cold snow had its heart-warming side. After 10- to 12-inches of snow fell on the Washington area, February 6 and 7, volunteer donors began calling the Clinical Center Blood Bank. A typical offer began: “I know some of your scheduled donors won’t be able to get there.” On the day of the snow and the two days following, 30 volunteers donated. They came from the CC and other buildings on the NIH reservation, the Barlow and Wesson buildings, and the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. The blood was used for transfusions of platelets and helping patients undergoing surgical procedures.

Files Improvement Course To Be Offered Here Soon

The Management Policy Branch, Office of Administrative Management, has arranged for a files improvement course. The course will be given by the Government Services Administration Institute at the NIH in mid-April. This workshop consists of 4 half-day sessions, all in one week, for NIH employees at any grade level responsible for organizing, arranging or maintaining official files. For further information contact your I/D Personnel Officer.

40 New Contracts Aim At Specific Objectives

Forty new research contracts totaling $1,955,807 were let during October, November and December 1966 by the National Institutes of Health. In addition, supplemental agreements amounting to $8,114,156 were executed during the same period on another 45 research contracts already in effect. The contracts were let to 37 organizations including university medical schools, pharmaceutical laboratories, and similar research facilities in 18 States, the District of Columbia, Canada and Lebanon. NIH officials pointed out that the research contract mechanism is used for research and development activities with limited, highly specific objectives which can best be performed outside the laboratories of NIH, and permit utilization of highly specialized facilities.

"The Extra Step" to Have First Run Here March 2, 3

"The Extra Step," a new 30-minute color film on improved service to the public, will be shown in the Clinical Center auditorium March 2 and 3 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The film was produced exclusively for the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Its aim is to increase awareness of the importance of public service both for the Government and for the employee.

The Civil Service Commission has stressed that every Federal employee should have an opportunity to see this film.

Dr. Tripp Gets Award, Retires and Assumes New Post With DBS

Dr. John T. Tripp, Special Assistant to the Director, DBS, receives the PHS Meritorious Service Medal from Dr. Stuart M. Sessions, NIH Deputy Director.—Photo by Ralph Fernandez.

Dr. Roderick Murray, DBS Director, announced that Dr. Tripp would remain with the Division on Civil Service Status as a Special Assistant to the Director.

Dr. Tripp has served as an Assistant Director in charge of li-
THE NIH RECORD

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The Young At Heart
Second of a Series
By Margaret George

Attractive Anne Baur, 24, is a laboratory technician in the Heart Institute's Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics. Working under Dr. Marshall Nirenberg and Dr. Thomas C. Caskey, Anne does comparative studies of nucleic acids from different parts of the cell.

Excitement in the Lab

Exciting things are happening in Dr. Nirenberg's lab. It was he and his associates who performed the famous experiment of protein synthesis in cell-free systems that "cracked" the genetic code. A 1963 graduate of Goucher College, where she majored in biology, Anne worked at the Research Institute for Advanced Studies in her native Baltimore for more than two years before transferring to the Plant Research Laboratory at Michigan State University. At Michigan her work involved the study of plant nucleic acids. She began her political career as a Wisconsin State Senator in 1946. He has served in the House of Representatives since his election to the 87th Congress Nov. 4, 1952. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Defense Subcommittee.

Rep. Michel of Peoria, Ill., served as administrative assistant to his predecessor, Congressman Harold Veibela from 1949-56. He was elected to the 86th Congress, and reelected to succeeding Congresses.

Rep. Shriver, a Wichita, Kansas lawyer, served as a State Representative and State Senator before his election to the 87th Congress Nov. 5, 1960. He has served in each succeeding Congress.

Objectives Given

During the 3-day meeting, the conferees attempted to measure the importance of digestive disease as a national health problem, using all possible sources of information. They also attempted to define the major unmet needs for further research and development; to explore the opportunities for interagency collaboration in overcoming obstacles to progress in this field; and to draw up a list of national objectives as a guide and incentive to further work.

A substantive report on the conference proceedings will be issued in the near future.

NIAMD Co-Sponsors Conference at NIH On Digestive Diseases

A conference to evaluate the importance of digestive diseases as a national health problem and to draw plans for intensifying research and research training in this field was held at the National Institutes of Health, Feb. 5-7. About 70 representatives of professional, scientific and industrial agencies participated in the conference, sponsored by the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, the American Gastroenterological Association, and the Digestive Disease Foundation (the voluntary agency in the field). The full impact of these diseases on the productivity of our population, however, has never been fully assessed.

In spite of some remarkable examples of scientific progress in gastroenterology during the past 15 years, the sponsoring agencies both governmental and private, believe that progress in this field would be advanced more rapidly through a concerted effort.

Dorlene Levenson (left) and Anne Baur of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics Branch, NHI, discuss an experiment scheduled for the day. Apparently, even such a weighty matter as the genetic code has its lighter side.—Photo by Ralph Fernandez.
NHI Audience Participation Exhibit on Stroke Shown at Cardiology Meeting

An NHI audience-participation exhibit, recently shown for the first time at the American College of Cardiology, reviewed the findings of a 14-year study of factors possibly associated with development of strokes.

The exhibit, “The Epidemiology of Stroke,” is based on the reports of Drs. William B. Kannel and B. L. Troy of the Framingham (Mass.) Heart Study.

It pinpoints possible relationships of such factors as ECG abnormalities, elevated blood pressure, impaired cardiac function, and abnormal carbohydrate metabolism to increased risk of strokes.

As part of the exhibit to be shown to professional societies and meetings, the audience will actually participate in a demonstration of how Framingham data is gathered.

Blood pressure, ECG, and cardiac capacity determinations will be taken on the spot from visitors by Framingham and the exhibit staff members.

Prevention Stressed

The theme of the exhibit is tuned to the preventive approach to cerebrovascular disease. Since Framingham studies have shown the close similarity between factors increasing susceptibility to stroke and those increasing susceptibility to coronary heart disease, it is clear that vascular disease of the brain is merely part of the larger problem of cardiovascular disease in general.

Thus, measures indicated for prevention of stroke are generally the same as those for prevention of coronary heart disease. They pinpoint those factors associated with increasing risk or correct or ameliorate them where possible.

The new exhibit was produced in a simple filter cage system or under conditions approximating those in the production colonies.

The pathogen-free program, begun in 1963 as a pilot study, is now a permanent and growing part of LAB’s activities, as more and more NIH scientists express their preference for these animals for many kinds of experiments.

Dr. Miller attributes a large measure of the program’s success to the dedication of the caretaking staff. This hand-picked staff of nine, instead of considering their restricted working conditions a hardship, take pride in their extra responsibilities of maintaining the barrier and guarding the health of their small charges.

The LAB colonies are now producing enough of the two pathogen-free species—BALB/c mice and Sprague-Dawley rats—to meet immediate needs. By sending an animal request form, NIH-79, to Bldg. 14G, Rm. 101, or by phoning Ext. 6225, any NIH scientist can acquire these highly refined, highly reliable laboratory animals.

by Hanford Moxley of the Exhibits Section of the Heart Information Center. It is scheduled also for exhibition at the American Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Miami, Fla., in August of 1967. A booklet, describing the exhibit in detail, is distributed with the exhibit.

Former CC Head Nurse Promoted in Vietnam

A former Clinical Center head nurse, Anne Pirnie, has been appointed Chief Nurse for the State of South Vietnam.

Anne Pirnie, R.N., is taking notes concerning a patient during her days at the Clinical Center. She is now Chief Nurse, Agency for International Development, in South Vietnam.

Department’s Agency for International Development health program in Vietnam.

Miss Pirnie was promoted to her new position on returning to Vietnam in January after receiving an award on behalf of the AID nurses. She is a PHS commissioned officer on loan to AID.

Here From ’54–’59

Miss Pirnie served at the CC from 1954 through 1959 and was Head Nurse of the Surgical Unit, Neurology Nursing Service. Associated with her for her efficiency and sunny disposition.

Thousands of visitors have seen her portraying a typical CC nurse in the NIH orientation film, narrated in six languages, presented almost daily at the CC. Miss Pirnie visited the Clinical Center just before returning to Vietnam.

She is stationed in Saigon but spends most of her time in the provinces, supervising nurses on duty at civilian hospitals sponsored by AID and the South Vietnamese government. The 86 American nurses help the Vietnamese adapt to modern nursing methods and upgrade general nursing care.

The award that she received was presented in a New York City ceremony by Mademoiselle Magazine to her and her colleagues as being a group of “The Most Exciting Young Women of 1966.”