Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., named NIGMS Director

Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., was named Director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The appointment was announced by Dr. Robert Q. Marston, NIH Director.

Dr. Stetten has been Dean of Rutgers Medical School since its inception in 1962. One of America's foremost authorities on research in metabolic diseases, he served as director of intramural research in the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases from 1954 to 1962.

Dr. Stetten's service at NIAID he directed basic and clinical research programs in diabetes, vitamin deficiencies, and disorders of blood, bone and liver. While he was Dean of Rutgers Medical School he served as a consultant to that Institute.

Dr. Marston said of the appointment, "Dr. Stetten's background as scientist physician and Dean of a new school of medicine qualifies him uniquely to head this Institute.

"The responsibilities of the Institute range from the support of the most basic research which will underlie the future practice of medicine...to the support of certain clinical disciplines central to the Nation's total health effort.

"An integral part of this effort is... (See DR. STETTEN, Page 1)

6 US Investigators Visit Soviet Union to Observe Transplantation Research

Six U.S. scientists are spending two weeks in the Soviet Union to exchange knowledge of organ transplantation and transplantation immunology with their U.S.S.R. counterparts.

The trip, part of a scientific exchange agreement between the two countries, is sponsored by HEW's Office of International Health.

Arrangements for the visit, which started Aug. 15, were made by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The American scientists—recognized authorities in the field of organ transplanting and tissue typing—are Dr. D. Bernard Amos, professor of immunology, Duke University School of Medicine; Dr. Fritz H. Bach, associate professor, Departments of Medical Genetics and Medicine, University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Dr. Donald E. Kayhoe, chief, Transplantation Immunology Branch, NIAID.

Also, Dr. Samuel L. Kountz, associate professor of surgery, University of California School of Medicine; Dr. Roger D. Rossen, assistant professor of microbiology, Baylor College of Medicine, and Dr. Kenneth W. Soll, director of the Tissue Bank, Naval Medical Research Institute, National Naval Medical Center.

The delegation hopes to visit research institutions, hospitals, and medical schools in Moscow, Leningrad, and other cities. (See VISIT, Page 8)

Dr. Harold M. Schoolman Appointed to NLM Post

Dr. Harold M. Schoolman has been appointed assistant to the director for Medical Program Development Evaluation, National Library of Medicine.

He will evaluate NLM's programs in relation to national medical needs. Prior to this position Dr. Schoolman was in charge of training and education activities of the Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration. He received his B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Illinois, and also taught in the University's Medical School.

Dramatically Successful Drug, Reported By NINDS, Combats Neurological Disease

An experimental drug has been dramatically successful in combating a baffling neurological disease characterized by periodic episodes of muscle weakness and paralysis, NINDS scientists have reported.

The exact cause of the disease, known as hypokalemic periodic paralysis, is not known, but scientists know the ailment is associated with low levels of natural potassium in the body.

The drug, acetazolamide, used by Dr. W. King Engel, chief of the NINDS Medical Neurology Branch, in association with Dr. Robert C. Griggs and Jerome S. Resnick, had previously been used to treat patients suffering from disorders accompanied by elevated—rather than low—levels of blood potassium.

The drug was first used on a patient with a low potassium level by a doctor in Seattle, who referred the patient to Dr. Engel.

The disease yearly plagues hundreds of people in this country and abroad and is considered hereditary, although some cases occur where no relative is known to be afflicted.

Attacks Vary

Attacks vary in length and severity. They may occur only once in a lifetime, or as often as daily. The attacks are usually painless and can last from one hour to four days. They often become longer and more severe until the patient is about age 20. After 30, attacks tend to become less frequent.

In their paper published in the August Annals of Internal Medicine, the doctors reported a dramatic reduction in attack frequency and severity in 10 to 12 patients receiving acetazolamide (marketed under the trade name Diamox). Attacks were eliminated in six patients 24 hours after treatment began. In addition, there was less chronic weakness between attacks in eight of 10 patients.

The NINDS Team reported that the 10 patients have remained attack-free for 16 to 43 months, and have required no increase in dosage for as long as 3½ years. The dosage is less than the amounts of the same drug administered in treating glaucoma or convulsive disorders, and, according to the doctors, "appears... (See DRUG, Page 8)
National Medical Ass’n Honors DPM Director
And Executive Officer

Dr. Frank W. McKee receives a plaque at the convention citing him for his “efforts to promote the art and science of medicine through manpower development.” It was presented by Dr. Edmund C. Casey of Cincinnati, secretary, Board of Trustees, National Medical Association.

Dr. Frank W. McKee, Director, Division of Physician Manpower, BEMT, and Clifford Allen, executive officer of the Division, were both honored at the Diamond Jubilee Convention of the National Medical Association.

The organization’s 75th convention was held in Atlanta early this month.

Dr. McKee received a plaque inscribed: “In recognition and appreciation of your individual efforts to promote the art and science of medicine through manpower development.”

Mr. Allen was a guest of honor at a reception where he was cited for his “work in the Federal Government and his contributions to the field of manpower.”

DPM is funding a survey on black physicians in the U.S. It is being conducted by the NMA Foundation, and will stress current data on the distribution and characteristics of the black physician population.

VISIT

(Continued from Page 1)

The American scientists also hope to visit hospital wards to observe joint transplant surgery and to examine patients with joint transplants. A final, detailed itinerary will be arranged after their arrival in Moscow.

The delegates will leave Leningrad on August 29 for Uppsala, Sweden, where several will attend the Third International Conference on Lymphatic Tissue and Germinal Centers in Immune Reactions from Sept. 1-4.

Some of the members also will visit the Hague to attend a workshop, Sept. 4-5, on Microvascular Transplantation Surgery, and the Sept. 7-11 meeting of the Third International Congress of the Transplantation Society.

Dr. W. J. Bowen, NIAMD, Dies of a Heart Attack

Dr. William J. Bowen, 58, a scientist with the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, died of a heart attack on July 28 while walking to work.

Dr. Bowen was chief of the Section of Bioenergetics, Laboratory of Biophysical Chemistry. He had been there since 1946.

He took part in investigations on the problem of how energy released in biological processes is related to mechanical work carried out by the muscles.

This included studies of enzymes involved in the release of chemical energy. He was the author of more than 45 publications and papers relating to his work.

In 1948 he worked at NIH with Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, a Nobel Prize winner, on the study of muscular contractions and since that time this had been his main research interest.

Dr. Bowen, who received his Ph.D. degree in Physiology and Zoology at Johns Hopkins University, also taught there and at the University of North Carolina.

He joined NIH in 1942 and held the rank of Scientist Director in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

He was a member of the American Physiological Society, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and the Council of the NIAMD Assembly of Scientists.

Dr. Bowen is survived by his wife Lois, and a son, Cotton, now serving with the Army in Germany.

Air Force Band to Present Concert at CC on Aug. 20

The United States Air Force Band will present a concert for Clinical Center patients on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jack Masur Auditorium.

NIH employees, their families and friends, are invited, but patients will have seating priority.

Dr. Robert H. Ebert is Elected Chairman, NLM Regents Board

Dr. Robert H. Ebert, Dean of the Harvard Medical School, was elected Chairman of the National Library of Medicine Board of Regents at a meeting held in June at the Library.

Dr. Ebert succeeds Alfred Zipf, who will retire from the Board before November.

Among the speakers who addressed the annual meeting were Dr. Roger Egeberg, HEW Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, and Dr. F. Fernandez-Moran, professor of Biophysics, University of Chicago.

"Dire predictions of the health dangers from environmental contamination are routine in the news media and are common topics of daily conversation."

This is the opening sentence in Man's Health and the Environment—Some Research Needs, a 260 page advisory report prepared for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The report is the culmination of some 2 years of effort by a Task Force on Research Planning in Environmental Health Sciences, headed by Drs. Norton Nelson, New York University Institute of Environmental Medicine and James L. Whittenberger, Harvard's Kresge Center for Environmental Health.

It will provide NIEHS with guidance on the "status of current knowledge, problems, and objectives in environmental health sciences, and will also identify "key research needs, opportunities, and strategies for the future."

NIEHS is responsible for performing basic research on the effects of environmental agents on human health. The Institute is located in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Dr. Paul Kotin, NIEHS Director, emphasized that the report is "essential to the orderly development of research programs which will inform us of the extent of the health threat from environmental change and indicate ways in which potential threats can be met."

The Task Force, with 50 members, was established in 1968 by the Environmental Health Sciences Advisory Committee. Their recommendations call for increased research on specific environmental problem areas, methods and specific disease conditions, and social and behavioral sciences, technological trends, training and organizational needs.

The report covers subjects as diverse as the familiar "air and water pollution" and the less familiar "cancerogenesis, mutagenesis, and teratogenesis."
The last three are hazards which might result from exposure to certain environmental agents.

Marston Lauds Report
Dr. Robert Q. Marston, NIH Director, stated that "the report will provide an essential resource for NIEHS in the selection of particular program areas for special effort and expansion" and that the "vision of the Task Force will be rewarded with results" in the research to be performed by NIEHS.

The first positive result of the recommendations was a planning conference on the monitoring of human mutagenesis. It was held under the sponsorship of NIEHS in Bethesda last November.

The meeting reviewed the current state-of-the-art and the feasibility of monitoring human populations for evidence of mutagenic effects.

The Task Force report is of importance because it is not limited to simply an identification of problems but also suggests means for their solutions.

Dean Couper Retires From Federal Service
Dean Couper, auditor in the Management Survey Review Branch, Office of Management Policy and Review, retired July 31 with more than 34 years of Federal service.

Mr. Couper had been with MSRB since 1964, the year he came to NIH. He began his Federal Government career in 1955 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. A graduate of USD, he was an acting program director with the U.S. Army Audit Agency. In 1960 Mr. Couper was given the Sustained Superior Performance Award.

He also served as a member of the Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners for Investigator-Auditor Examination while with the IDA.

Mr. Couper received an A.B. degree in Social Sciences and Mathematics from Dartmouth College, and a B.C.S. degree in Accounting from Benjamin Franklin University.

Mr. Couper was honored by friends and co-workers at a luncheon on Aug. 14.
Dr. L. R. Rose Appointed NIGMS Section Chief

Dr. Lawrence R. Rose has been named chief of the Clinical and Applied Sciences Section, Research Grants Branch, National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

In announcing the appointment, Dr. J. H. U. Brown, NIGMS Acting Director said that Dr. Rose would also be assistant branch chief for Clinical Programs.

Dr. Rose will be responsible for helping grantee institutions develop programs in trauma, anesthesiology, diagnostic radiology, and biomedical engineering.

Before joining NIGMS, Dr. Rose was Director of surgical research with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command in the Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Rose received his M.D. degree from the University of Tennessee School of Medicine, and interned at Los Angeles County General Hospital.

He was assistant chief of plastic surgery at Letterman General Hospital and at Brooke General Hospital, and also served in Korea as chief, Professional Services, 121st Evacuation Hospital.

Dr. STETTEN

(Continued from Page 1)

the training of young investigators. As an eminent bench scientist himself and as a medical school dean, Dr. Stetten understands the essential relationship between scientific excellence and first-class medical care.

Dr. Stetten received his B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1930 and his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in 1934 and 1940.

He took his internship and residency at Bellevue Hospital, New York, from 1934 to 1937. During the following years, he taught and did research in biochemistry at Columbia University.

In 1947, Dr. Stetten was appointed assistant professor in biological chemistry at Harvard Medical School.

A year later, he became chief of the Division of Nutrition and Physiology for the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York, a position he held until 1954.

Dr. Stetten has been on the editorial boards of Science, Physiological Reviews, the American Journal of Medicine, Metabolism, the Journal of Chronic Diseases, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, and Perspectives in Biology and Medicine.

He is the author of more than 100 original papers, and co-author of early editions of the text book, "Principles of Biochemistry."

NIH and NBS to Share Annual Instrument Symposium, Equipment Exhibit, Oct. 5-9

Plains have been completed for the 20th Annual Instrument Symposium and Research Equipment Exhibit to be held Oct. 5-9 at NIH and the National Bureau of Standards. This is the first time NIH is sharing the symposium with another Government agency.

The Bureau of Standards, located in Gaithersburg, Md., covers the entire spectrum of the physical sciences and engineering.

During symposium sessions more than 50 scientists of national and international repute will discuss recent developments in research methods and instrumentation.

71 To Exhibit

The exhibit will feature the latest products of 71 of the nation's leading manufacturers of research equipment.

Dr. Henry M. Fales, chief, Laboratory of Chemistry, National Heart and Lung Institute, will serve as chairman of the opening session. The topic at this meeting will be on large scale screening of biological fluids.

Several sessions at NIH will feature such topics as neurogenesis, chemical and automation aspects of microbiology, gel electrophoresis, and the relationship of enzyme structure to activity.

Dr. Robert Q. Marston, NIH Director, will welcome participants at the opening meeting on Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. in the Jack Masur Auditorium of the Clinical Center.

Other sessions at NIH are scheduled for 8 p.m. that day; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Oct. 6 and 7, and at 2 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m. on Oct. 8.

The final meeting of the symposium will be held on Oct. 9 at the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg.

Dr. John D. Hoffman, Director of the Institute of Materials Research, NBS, will greet participants at 9 a.m. in the Red Auditorium of the Administration Bldg.

Dr. Robert Schaffer, NBS, will chair the morning session on standardization for meaningful clinical analysis. At 1 p.m. a panel on standardization and instrumentation will be held, followed by a round table discussion.

Open Daily

The research equipment exhibit at NIH, Bldg. 22, will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 5-8.

Special instrumentation sessions will also be held during that period in Bldg. 1—Wilson Hall, at 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The symposium is open to all visitors interested in research instrumentation. They are invited to attend the symposium meetings, the instrumentation sessions, and the research equipment exhibit.

In addition to the 71 exhibitors, 100 visitors were registered from the medical and health-related professions, colleges and universities, and industry.

Dr. G. H. Gowen Retires, Was Program Director For Cancer Research

Dr. G. Howard Gowen, National Cancer Institute Special Programs Branch, Extramural Activities, retired July 31, after 16 years of Federal service.

Mr. Gowen came to NCI in 1962 as head of the Veterans Administration Groups Section, Clinical Branch, Collaborative Research. Since 1966 he has served as program director for Clinical Research Centers.

He began his Federal career in 1957 as chief of the Division of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, United States Operations Mission to Chile in Santiago.

Before joining NIH, he was medical officer in the Bureau of State Services, Cancer Control Branch in Washington, D.C.

Honored Three Times

Three times during his career Dr. Gowen received medals for his outstanding performance in the field of medicine.

A graduate of Northwestern University and Medical School, Dr. Gowen earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in bacteriology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

After several years in private practice, he joined the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Health in various administrative capacities.

He also served as an assistant professor in the department of pathology, bacteriology, and public health at the University of Illinois, and later, as professorial lecturer in epidemiology at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Gowen is the author of numerous publications, and a member and Fellow in several national health societies.