Histidine Reported Effective in Relieving Symptoms of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

Histidine—an amino acid found in most proteins—has been used successfully to relieve the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Dr. Harry V. Gerber, associate professor of Medicine at Downstate Medical Center and an NIAMD grantee, treated 70 RA patients for periods averaging 9 months with daily oral doses of L-histidine as large as six grams.

In reporting his findings to the recent American Rheumatism Association meeting, produced “significant improvement” in three standard measurements of the disease’s effect with no detectable side effects.

Stressing that the use of histidine in rheumatoid arthritis will require a long period of careful evaluation before its ultimate effectiveness is determined, Dr. Gerber expressed hope that the treatment will not only provide help for RA patients, but will also open new pathways for research into its cause.

Cause Unknown

That cause is presently unknown. For no obvious reason and at any time of life, rheumatoid arthritis may begin methodical and painful destruction of a patient’s joints.

One reason why evaluation of new therapies is difficult is the fact that remissions from the destructive process can occur unexpectedly for unpredictable periods.

The most physicians can do now is to treat the symptoms—pain and stiffness—with various drugs. Aspirin is the drug of choice, but other drugs, including gold compounds, may be used.

Dr. Gerber began his work with histidine on the basis of the discovery, made more than a decade ago and since confirmed in several laboratories, that the blood of persons with rheumatoid arthritis was unexpectedly deficient in histidine.

Local, Express Elevators Ease CC Traffic But Flow Still Has Its Ups and Downs

You’re in a Clinical Center elevator in the middle of a conversation with a friend who is getting off when suddenly the door shuts between you. Don’t get upset, you can phone later.

The elevator operator doesn’t want to be impolite, but is trying to give speedier service to patients and to the 4,000 employees in Bldg. 10 who commute between its 16 floors—as well as the 10,000 visitors who come to the Center each year.

Several changes in elevator procedures have been instituted by the CC Department of Environmental Sanitation Control to shorten waiting and travel time. Employees can help, too, by using the stairs for short trips.

Four elevators off the Center’s lobby provide special service Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

The two elevators to the right

Louis Leakey’s February 3 NIH Lecture Is Cancelled

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey, noted anthropologist, will not deliver the NIH Lecture originally scheduled for 8:15 p.m. tomorrow (Wed., Feb. 3), in the Jack Masur Auditorium.
Civil Service Retirement

Law Amended to Change Benefits for Survivors

The Civil Service Retirement Law has been amended in several significant respects, especially regarding survivor benefits, by Public Law 91-658, approved Jan. 8, 1971. These changes:

- Permit a retiree who was unmarried at the time of retirement to provide a survivor annuity for a spouse whom he married after retirement.
- Make requirements for survivor annuity to be met by a widower of an employee the same as for a widow.
- Permit a reemployed annuitant to use his supplemental annuity to increase his survivor's benefit.
- Provide service credit for certain periods of separation during which employees received Federal Employees' Compensation benefits.

The Office of Personnel Management will provide details of these changes through a Questions-and-Answers folder the week of February 20.

Volunteer instructors and clerical workers are needed for the educational program known as the Washington Saturday College.

This program is designed to provide supplemental instruction for students intending to attend college, to reduce basic education deficiencies through remedial training, and to increase proficiency in skills relating to job choice and mobility.

Enrollment currently is over 1,000 students, and almost 100 instructors are participating.

Registration will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, at the three locations where courses will be given: George Washington University, Tompkins Hall; D.C. Teachers College, Miner Hall; and Catholic University, McPherson Hall.

Persons interested in volunteering their services or in enrolling may obtain information by calling: on weekdays, 826-5192, 942-3424, and 933-4823, and on evenings and weekends, 933-4436 and 965-9370.
Patient Welfare Fund, CC Staffers Join In Making Family Xmas Reunion Possible

At a time when most people were last-minute Christmas shopping, several Clinical Center departments, state and local cancer societies, an oxygen supply company, and a family physician were making arrangements to give a patient with a terminal illness a chance to spend Christmas with her family.

Their efforts might have failed had not the Patient Welfare Fund met the emergency financial needs. Mrs. Hillerich (not by her real name), an attractive woman who looked even younger than her age of 22, was brought to the CC by her husband a little over a year ago. The Hillerichs had been married only two years and were the proud parents of a 2-month-old daughter.

When the patient was seriously ill, the Social Work Department, and the Medical Clinic staff were contacted and Mrs. Hillerich was referred to the Patient Welfare Fund.

Mrs. Hillerich's condition permitted her to stay nearby while she came to the CC for radiotherapy. Eventually her condition stabilized and physical therapy. Later, however, gallbladder surgery, hepatitis, and severe radiation pneumonitis necessitated hospitalization.

In the meantime, Mr. Hillerich, a construction worker, arranged for a relative to care for the baby during the week. He and the baby were able to visit Mrs. Hillerich only once or twice a month.

Acute respiratory distress necessitated an emergency tracheostomy, and Mrs. Hillerich's husband and sister were summoned. The Patient Welfare Fund enabled them to stay several days until her condition improved.

Condition Stabilizes

Eventually her condition stabilized and physical therapy had helped her progress to the point where she was able to take short walks. At this stage Mrs. Hillerich expressed the desire to go home. She had been hospitalized almost the entire year, missed her family, and was grievous by the fact that her daughter was growing up without really knowing her.

Planning for her discharge began. Nurses and physical therapists trained Mrs. Hillerich and her sister in proper home care.

Public health nurses in her home town were contacted and Mrs. Hillerich's referring physician assumed responsibility for her care at home.

Mr. Hillerich arranged for oxygen to be delivered the day before Christmas. Then the company requested payment of $115 in advance. Mr. Hillerich's insurance did not cover the first $100, and he did not have the money.

Mrs. Hillerich was distraught. It appeared that she would not be home for the holiday and due to her poor prognosis the CO staff knew that she might not have another chance.

The Social Work Department provided the $100 from the Patient Welfare Fund. The local chapter of the American Cancer Society agreed to make an exception and promised to consider paying for future deliveries of oxygen in excess of the 80 percent covered by health insurance.

Expresses Joy

Mrs. Hillerich left the Clinical Center on schedule. During a telephone conversation with her social worker a few days later, Mrs. Hillerich said that she had a wonderful Christmas with her family.

Last year the Fund was a "bridge over troubled waters" to more than 300 patients like Mrs. Hillerich.

The Fund exists only because of the generosity of NIH employees—especially during Christmas season through the Davis Plan—the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association, and appreciative former patients and their families.

Information about the Patient Welfare Fund is given in a booklet "A Gift That Lasts Through the Year." Call the CC Social Work Department, Ext. 62381, for a copy.
NIMH Employees Invited To Sound Off to Their "Director's Open Line"

At strategic locations where National Institute of Mental Health people are employed, attractive blue and white posters invite employees to call Ext. 60371—the Director's Open Line.

Answers to questions of general interest are shared through an all-hands memorandum, while those of a personal nature are answered by direct correspondence.

In case the name of the caller is revealed, and the tape is erased to eliminate the possibility of later identification.

For the NIMH Director and his immediate staff, the "Open Line" often calls attention to little problems before they become big ones.

It may point out personnel practices that need to be modified.

But, best of all, it gives everyone at NIMH an opportunity to be heard, and to be well informed about their organization.

An answer is guaranteed when NIMH employees call the "Open Line."

NIH Toastmasters Club Elects Slate, Welcomes New Members

The NIH Toastmasters Club has elected a new slate of officers headed by John A. Smith, president of the organization.

The club, which meets every Thursday from 12 noon to 1 p.m., in reserved dining room 2, Clinical Center cafeteria, offers practice and training in both public speaking and presiding over meetings.

Prospective members are invited to attend the luncheon meetings.

For membership information call M. Kenneth Miller, Ext. 66077.

DR. SCHNEYER

(Continued from Page 1)

Grants and Fellowship Branch, Extramural Programs. Two years later Dr. Schneyer joined the NIGMS staff.

A Certified Psychologist in New York, Dr. Schneyer is a member of the American Psychological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Margaret Pittman, Famed Bacteriologist, Retires From DBS

Dr. Margaret Pittman, chief of the Laboratory of Bacterial Products, Division of Biologies Standards, retired Jan. 31. Her 34 years of Government service have been devoted to research and administration of research programs on bacterial and allergenic products.

An internationally known bacteriologist, Dr. Pittman has made numerous contributions to concepts and methodology in the field of biologies standardization.

Pioneers Vaccine Development

She is an authority on Haemophilus bacteria and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine and is credited with having pioneered in the development of sound principles for pertussis vaccine standardization.

The author of some 70 scientific publications, she has also conducted extensive research on cholera and typhoid vaccines as well as tetanus and diphtheria toxoids.

Dr. Pittman received her A.B. degree, magna cum laude, from Hendrix College, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago.

Prior to joining NIH in 1936, she served a year as assistant bacteriologist, New York State Department of Health, and for 6 years as assistant scientist at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Dr. Pittman was selected to receive one of the 1970 Federal Woman's Awards in recognition of her studies on pertussis and other bacterial diseases, and in 1954 was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Hendrix College.

Dr. Pittman has participated in numerous World Health Organization Study Groups and served as WHO consultant for formulating international requirements for bacterial products.

ELEVATORS

(Continued from Page 1)

Their (west) have been designated "express"—they stop at B-1, 1, and 7 through 14 only.

The two "locals" to the left stop at all floors (although one of them will not go to B-2).

This redirection of elevator traffic should reduce the difficulties of passengers trying to get off at the 6th floor having to elbow their way through others destined for floors 7 to 14.

Signs are posted adjacent to the central elevators to enable passengers to understand the new system.

None of the Center's seven other passenger elevators are being changed, but their efficiency can be increased if employees will use the stairway when going only 1 or 2 floors, and will terminate conversations before the elevator reaches their friend's destination.

She has contributed significantly to a variety of field studies for testing of tetanus toxoids in New Guinea and Papua, and to trials of cholera vaccines in different populations among whom the disease is endemic.

Dr. Pittman has also been involved for a number of years in an international study of methods of assay of typhoid vaccine, the aim of which is the development of a laboratory assay that correlates with field evaluations.

She served on the NIH Cholera Advisory Committee since its beginning, and for 8 years was NIH project officer for the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory in Dacca.

She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Microbiology and a member of 12 professional organizations including the American Academy of Microbiology, American Association of Immunologists, and Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

Dr. Pittman plans to continue her studies at DBS as a Guest Worker, and will continue serving on the U.S. Pharmacopeia Panel on Biological Indicators.

A party given in her honor at the Bethesda Naval Officers Club was attended by many friends and colleagues from NIH and elsewhere.

Dr. Francis J. Mahoney Named Grants Associate

Dr. Francis J. Mahoney, a former Army research physicist, has joined the Grants Associates Program of the Division of Research Grants for a year of training in various phases of grants administration.

A former fellow of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Mahoney was a research and teaching assistant at Harvard University from 1958 to 1961 and from 1961 to 1964, a physicist with the Cambridge Nuclear Corporation.

In 1964, he became a research assistant at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working with low energy nuclear physics and direct energy conversion until 1967.

Dr. Mahoney received the B.S. degree in 1957 from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. He earned the M.S. degree in Radiation Biology in 1958 from Rochester University, and another M.S. degree in Applied Physics at Harvard University in 1960.

In 1968, Dr. Mahoney received the Ph.D. degree in Nuclear Engineering from MIT.

Dr. Mahoney is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Physical Society, the American Nuclear Society, and the Radiation Research Society.
Monkeys Jog 4 Miles Daily to Determine Exercise Effects On Coronary Arteries

Dr. Thomas B. Clarkson (right) and technician Michael Henry place a squirrel monkey in an exercise chamber for its 2-hour jogging stint.

Six monkeys are jogging 4 miles a day at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in a training program to determine the effects of exercise on the coronary arteries.

The six squirrel monkeys, each weighing less than 2 pounds, run for their health while six other squirrel monkeys, which make up a control group, watch from the sidelines.

Dr. Thomas B. Clarkson, Jr., professor and director of the Bowman Gray Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Winston-Salem, N.C., directs the coronary artery project which is supported by the Division of Research Resources' Animal Resources Branch.

The monkey jogging started 18 months ago when clinical and epidemiological evidence suggested increased physical activity might lower plasma cholesterol levels in man and lessen the amount of atherosclerosis which develops with increasing age.

Many American Men Jog

In recent years thousands of American men have started jogging programs in an effort to ward off heart attacks, increase circulatory and respiratory efficiency, and generally improve their physical condition.

"While the value of jogging as a conditioning exercise and a means of controlling weight is known," said Dr. Clarkson, "the few experimental studies conducted thus far on the long-term benefits of jogging to the cardiovascular system have produced more questions than answers."

"Inasmuch as increased physical activity is being recommended for patients with certain types of heart disease, it becomes essential that we obtain a better understanding of the effects of exercise on the atherosclerotic process," continued Dr. Clarkson.

For the project, 12 young adult male squirrel monkeys were selected from the primate colony at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Squirrel monkeys, like man, develop atherosclerosis naturally.

These 12 monkeys were divided into control and experimental groups, and placed on a moderately high cholesterol diet.

The six jogging monkeys run on an exercise wheel in a specially designed chamber. The wheel, with a 9.6-foot circumference, is driven by an electrical motor at 18.5 revolutions per minute, so that the monkeys move at a moderately fast pace. They are exercised 2 hours a day, 5 days a week.

The six control monkeys remain in their cages. For 2 hours a day they are placed in small holding pens and watch the other monkeys running. Since psychological stress is a factor in the development of atherosclerosis, the control monkeys are handled to this extent to duplicate the stress being placed on the exercise group.

To date the differences in levels of plasma cholesterol for the two groups have been slight, according to Dr. Clarkson. However, the jogging monkeys have maintained lower body weight, have higher packed cell volumes, and tend to have longer blood clotting times.

The relative development of atherosclerosis will be studied this summer after termination of the jogging program.

Useful Survey to Cover All NIH/NIMH Programs For Graduate Training

A comprehensive survey of their graduate research training programs is being undertaken by NIH and the National Institute of Mental Health, under a contract awarded to the Bureau of Social Science Research, Inc., of Washington, D.C.

The bureau will study departments and individuals supported by the NIH/NIMH training grants and fellowships.

For comparison, it will also examine "control" populations not supported by these programs.

Questionnaires will be mailed to departments in medical schools offering postdoctoral or pre-Ph.D. research training, plus biomedical, bioclinical, and behavioral science departments in graduate schools awarding the Ph.D. degree.

The survey will also cover undergraduate, predoctoral, and post-doctoral students and trainees preparing for research and academic careers.

Student Data Expected

It is expected to yield useful information concerning the quality and number of students entering training.

"Campus coordinators," responsible for rapid data collection, will be selected in consultation with NIH/NIMH and university officials at some 200 institutions.

The NIH project officer for this survey is Dr. Philip S. Chen, Jr., chief, Special Projects Branch, Office of Program Analysis.

The NIMH project officer is Roger Robertson, acting chief, Manpower and Analytic Studies Branch, Division of Manpower and Training Programs.

Colorcasts of Research At NIDR to Be Rerun

Five 30-minute colorcasts, describing National Institute of Dental Research studies, will be rebroadcast over WRC-TV, Channel 4, on successive Saturday afternoons at 1 o'clock starting Feb. 6.

The films were produced by the NIDR Information Office in cooperation with NBC-TV.

Kreshover Is Host

The series, "Portal of Life," with Dr. Seymour J. Kreshover, NIDR Director, serving as host, was filmed at NIDR and at grant-supported sites.

The programs were first broadcast over NBC-TV stations in five large cities last year.

WRC-TV is offering Mirror of Health, Feb. 6; Agent of Decay, Feb. 13; Cleft and Cancer, Feb. 20; Spare Parts, Feb. 27, and Protect Tomorrow, March 6.

Graduate Program at NIH Lists Available Courses

Evening courses in a wide range of scientific and related subjects will be offered by the Graduate Program at NIH beginning Feb. 8.

Courses scheduled include behavioral and social sciences, biochemistry and biophysics, chemistry and physics, genetics, languages and general studies, mathematics, medicine and physiology, microbiology and immunology, and statistics.

Natl' Educational Radio Selects 'This Drug Age' For Network Broadcast

A series of six programs entitled "This Drug Age" has been selected by National Educational Radio for network broadcast.

The programs were developed by the American University Broadcasting Center in collaboration with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

The institute's program on "Pain" has also been selected by NER to be heard as a "special."

The 208 NER affiliated stations will include broadcasts on the discovery and use of drugs by primitive cultures with Drs. George Cosmides and Raymond Bahor, NIGMS; and on "Drugs and Contemmporary Society" by Drs. Jerome Levine and Mitchell Balter, NIMH.

There will also be a discussion on "Pharmacology and the Federal Government."

Other programs in the series are: "The Physician and the Prescription of Drugs" and "Drug Abuse." The program "Pain" is based on NIGMS' brochure of the same title. It will feature Dr. Lawrence LeShan, chief psychologist, Institute of Applied Biology, New York, and Chaplain LEROY K. Kerney, Clinical Center.

Also Dr. Thomas McPherson Brown, professor of Medicine at George Washington University; and Dr. L. Edgar Lee, former associate chief, Research Grants Branch, NIGMS, now the associate dean for Administration at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.

What Have You Done For Your Smile lately?

More than one-fourth of the adults in this country wear dentures. Many teeth are lost through dental neglect. The National Institute of Dental Health urges that simple rules be followed: cut down on sweets, brush regularly, use dental floss daily to remove food debris, and get self-care advice from a dentist.

Lists Available Courses

A complete schedule of courses is available in the Graduate Program Office, Room 2B-23, Bldg. 31, or by calling Ext. 66371.

Registration forms are attached to the Spring Schedule of Classes.

General registration in the Graduate Program Office ends Feb. 4. There will be a late fee of $5 for those registering after this date.
Mr. SMALLBERG

(Continued from Page 1)

le, Mr. Smallberg received his M.B.A. degree in 1940 from the College of the City of New York. The Office of Contracts and Grants which Mr. Smallberg will head was established as a result of conclusions reached in a study made by a joint Federal funds board—NIH team:

"in the light of substantial growth of the research contracting activity at NIH and the strong possibility that the growth will continue," the report reasoned, "the team recommends a reorganization at NIH placing the research contracting function in a newly-created Office..."


Under Mr. Smallberg's direction, the new Office will develop NIH-wide negotiated contracting and grants policies and implement procedures.

The Office will also review contract management operations in various components and serve as the NIH focal point for liaison with the Department's Audit Agency.

Further, the Office of Contracts and Grants will provide guidance and furnish financial advice to NIH contracting and grants management officers.

Rules to Implement Aid For Medical Libraries Issued in Fed'1 Register

For the first time, support will be available to aid institutions in establishing as well as expanding and improving medical libraries.

Proposed regulations to cover the award of grants for basic medical library resources was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 30, 1971.

This is one of seven grant programs authorized under the Medical Library Assistance Extension Act of 1970, designed to improve medical communications throughout the country.

The proposed rules will implement the new programs. They will eliminate the previous formula basis of determining grant awards, replacing it with the requirement that grantees provide adequate continuing support for their libraries from non-Federal funds both during and after the period of the award.

Public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions, as well as individuals, are invited to participate in the formulation of these regulations.

Mr. CROSS

Serves in Coast Guard

Mr. Cross received a B.S. degree in 1962 and his M.S. degree in 1964, both from Bridgewater State College. Between degrees he was on active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 1965 Mr. Cross became a personnel management specialist in NCI, joining DRFR in 1967 until it was absorbed by BHME in 1969.

He is a member of the Society for Personnel Administration and the Montgomery County Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The total number of medical schools in the United States climbed from 66 in 1960 to 103 in 1970, with the addition of two new schools in the fall of 1970.—JAMA.

Mr. LEON

To New Posts Here

Two personnel officers—Fernando Leon and Robert Cross—were recently appointed to new positions.

Mr. Leon has been named personnel officer of the Clinical Center, and Mr. Cross will hold this post for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Eye Institute, and the Division of Research Resources.

Background Cited

Mr. Leon received his A.B. degree from the University of Puerto Rico in 1938. Later he served as an Army personnel officer.

In 1952 he completed 6 years of service with the Veterans Administration Center in San Juan as assistant personnel officer. For the next 4 years he was Executive Secretary of the Civil Service Commission Board of Examiners, also in San Juan.

Mr. Leon joined a San Juan consulting firm as a management analyst in 1957, and a year later came to Washington, serving as a position classification specialist, first with the Smithsonian Institution and then with the Department of the Army.

In 1962 Mr. Leon joined the Clinical Center as a personnel management specialist, and was personnel officer of NINDS prior to his present appointment. His affiliations include the American Management Association and the Society for International Development.

Mr. Cross was awarded the Claude Bernard Medal, named for a pioneer in physiology and experimental medicine, at the conclusion of his honorary professorship.

Dr. Gelboin presented the New Horizons lecture at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America held recently in Chicago.

Chosen from among a group of distinguished young scientists, Dr. Gelboin spoke on "Carcinogenesis, the Environment, and Gene Action."

Television Show on Feb. 5

Features Research on Aging

"You and Everyone's Future" may be seen on Channel 4 (WRC-TV), Feb. 5, early Friday morning following the Thursday evening "Johnny Carson Show."

The HEW-sponsored television show will feature aging research and action programs for older people.

Guests will be Drs. Nathan W. Shock and Reubin Andres, NICHD Gerontology Research Center, and Commissioner John B. Martin, Administration on Aging, who is Special Assistant to the President for the Aging.

Comments should be forwarded in triplicate, within 30 days of publication in the Federal Register, to the Director, NIH, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md., 20014, for consideration before the regulations are approved in final form for publication.

Dr. Kendrick Hare Heads Pakistan-SEATO Lab For Cholera Research

Dr. Kendrick W. Hare has been named Director of the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory in East Pakistan.

Dr. Hare succeeds Dr. Robert A. Phillips, who has returned to Taiwan. Dr. Phillips was commanding officer of the U.S. Navy's Medical Research Unit No. 2 in Taiwan from 1955 to 1965.

Since the creation of the laboratory in 1960, the U.S. has cooperated in a cholera research program carried out, through NIH, by American, Asian, and other appropriate institutions.

The laboratory draws on the resources of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the NIH, and the Governments of Pakistan, Great Britain, and Australia.

Current activities include the development of oral therapy for cholera patients and epidemiologic studies in preparation for trials of a new cholera toxoid which are planned within the next 2 years.

Dr. Hare received an A.B. degree from the University of Alabama and the Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University.

Combines Teaching, Research

He also received his M.D. degree from Cornell University Medical College where he later taught.

In addition, he taught at the State University of Iowa and the University of Buffalo. While at the latter university, he was also director of the research laboratory at the Buffalo Children's Hospital.

Dr. Hare served as professor of Pharmacology and professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of the University of Alabama from 1951 until 1966, when he obtained a leave of absence to become head of the Physiology Division and deputy director of the Cholera Research Laboratory in Dacca.

FAES Concert Features Flute, Keyboard Music

The third concert in the 1970-1971 Chamber Music Series, presented by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc., will be held Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. in the Jack Masur Auditorium, Clinical Center.

Jean Pierre Rampal and Robert Veyron Lacroix will offer a program of flute and keyboard music ranging from Handel to Bartok.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Mr. Rampal will present a Flute Master Class in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Admission for both events is by ticket only.
John P. Daly Concludes 26-Year Fed’l Career

After 17 years at the Clinical Center, the familiar face of John P. Daly will no longer calm those requiring his talents in the Diagnostic Radiology Department.

Mr. Daly, a diagnostic radiology technologist, retired recently after a 26-year career with the Public Health Service.

After joining the Service in 1945, Mr. Daly was assigned to the survey team of the Division of TB Control and spent the next 7 years traveling throughout the U.S. following up on “suspicious” chest X-rays.

He then served for 2 years with the Bureau of State Services as a laboratory technician, after which he joined NIH in 1953 as darkroom and supervisory technician.

Although expert in all phases of radiology, Mr. Daly specialized in animal research and special procedures. In 1960 he was certified a Registered Technologist by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.

During his long career, Mr. Daly was the recipient of numerous cash awards and commendatory letters for superior performance.

More than 80 friends and co-workers attended a retirement ceremony at which Dr. Betty E. Hathaway, DDR chief, presented Mr. Daly with a plaque.

Loaded by Dr. Hathaway

“The duties of a diagnostic radiology technologist require a special personality which includes a genuine fondness for people, as well as the ability to display a sympathetic attitude to the multitude of problems which beset the seriously ill patient,” Dr. Hathaway said in her presentation.

“Mr. Daly has provided effective counsel for many of these people so that they remember him long after they have left the Clinical Center.”

As if to prove her point, a young man (the husband of a former patient) approached Mr. Daly as he discussed retirement plans and medical matters.

1970 Edition of Catalog Lists Reagents Available To Interested Scientists

A second Catalog of Research Reagents has been published by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The 1970 edition describes reagents available to researchers from NIAID’s Research Resources Branch.

The 848-page document is distributed to NIH scientists and to NIAID contractors and grantees.

At present, reference reagents are available for almost all of the human enteroviruses, adenoviruses, and myxoviruses. In addition, reagents have been prepared for a number of herpesviruses, simian viruses, and mycoplasma.

Production efforts are concentrated on reference reagents for the first 55 rhinovirus prototypes and on both specific arbovirus reagents and arbovirus grouping antigens.

Interim reagents for the Australia (hepatitis-associated) antigen have also been prepared.

Other materials listed include reagents for mouse and rabbit interferon and reference serum for assays of antibody to the cholera vibrio.

Precipitin antisera useful for the identification of mosquito blood meals are also available.

Interested investigators who do not receive the catalog should contact Dr. Robert J. Byrne, chief, Research Resources Branch, NIAID.

HISTIDINE

(Continued from Page 1)

Histidine levels in those with rheumatoid arthritis have been found to be 28 percent less than in healthy persons. Dr. Gerber set out to remedy the deficiency by giving patients large doses of oral L-histidine.

When he administered the amino acid to RA patients, improvement was noted in three standard measures of therapy: strength of hand grip, walking speed, and sedimentation rate.

Changes produced in all three by the histidine therapy were statistically significant, Dr. Gerber said.

Nevertheless, he noted, full evaluation of the therapy will require large-scale double-blind experiments, and he already has begun such a study in cooperation with physicians at another institution.

Doses Vary

In some patients, Dr. Gerber said, improvement is produced by doses as small as one gram of histidine a day. In other cases, six grams a day are needed—while some patients do not improve even when the high dose is given.

The reason for the differing effects in different patients is not known, and a major aim of Dr. Gerber’s research effort is to determine why the amino acid dosage produces such varying results.

Another aim is to verify his theory that rheumatoid arthritis is at least in part a metabolic disease.

This theory is not popular among rheumatoid arthritis experts. Most of them lean to the theory that the disease is an autoimmune process, in which the body’s defense system turns against the body’s own tissues.

More recently, some researchers have produced results indicating that infection by microorganisms may be a causal factor.
Dr. Irving Simos Returns
In Grants Review Post

Dr. Irving Simos has been appointed deputy chief of the Research Grants Review Branch, Division of Research Grants. He returns to DRG after 4 years with the National Institute of Mental Health, where he was grants referral and review officer.

Dr. Simos came to NIH in 1957 as executive secretary of the Mental Health Small Grant Committee. In 1959, he joined DRG as executive secretary of the Psychopharmacology Study Section, serving in that capacity until 1967, when the section was transferred to NIMH following a PHS reorganization.

A clinical psychologist, Dr. Simos taught in that field as assistant professor at the University of Nebraska from 1949 to 1955 and as visiting professor at Indiana University in 1950. He then became staff clinical psychologist at the Perry Point Veterans Hospital from 1955 to 1957.

Dr. Simos attended the University of Minnesota where he received the B.A. degree in 1943, M.A. degree in 1944, and his Ph.D. degree in 1950.

Dr. Simos is a diplomate of the American Board of Examiners in Professional Psychology, a fellow of the American Psychological Association, and a member of Sigma XI, and several regional psychological associations.

Seminars on Employee Behavioral Problems
Sponsored by OPM

A series of seminars on behavioral problems of employees recently began for 25 supervisors.

Sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management, the seminars are designed to assist them in understanding and dealing with common employee behavioral problems.

Supervisors interested in attending should contact their B/I/D personnel officer.

The seminars are conducted by Dr. Leonard S. Jacobs, Psychiatric Consultant to the NIH Employee Health Service.

Open to all NIH supervisors, the series consists of six sessions, one per week for 1 1/2 hours, and will be repeated on a continuing basis with about a 3-week break between sessions.

Among the topics covered in the series are: morale, absenteeism and tardiness, problem drinking, the emotionally dependent employee, and destructive and threatening behavior.

Dr. Simos

Dr. George-J. Todaro, Honored by Jaycees, Lauds Cancer Studies on 'Today' Show

By Libby Price

Dr. George J. Todaro of the National Cancer Institute made his first public speech Jan. 16, just before receiving one of the 10 annual awards to "Outstanding Young Men of America" given by the U.S. Jaycees in Memphis, Tenn.

It was on the "Today" show with NBC-TV's Hugh Downs as master of ceremonies. Rather than the usual conversation common to large panels, the seven men under 35, representing the complement of 10, got the discussion to an immediate level of seriousness after Dr. Todaro led off with the importance of basic research in the health field.

"I just said what I felt," Dr. Todaro said, implying he had not planned to "make a speech." But he made a timely statement, specifically about the importance of cancer research, which is more likely to lead in the direction of prevention of cancers, rather than a one-shot cure, he told Mr. Downs.

Dr. Todaro, at 33, was cited for the award because of his "12-year career in cancer research which began while he was still a medical student at New York University School of Medicine."

Develops Cell Lines

There he developed normal and cancerous cell lines which are used extensively in laboratories throughout the world. Later, as assistant professor of Pathology at New York University, he and his co-workers developed an efficient system for SV40 that may provide the basis for a "cancer risk" test.

More recently, with Dr. Robert J. Huebner, NCI, he developed the theory that at least some form of RNA tumor viruses is universally present in embryo cells in a masked form.

Later that weekend in January, Dr. Todaro joined the nine other winners in brief speeches at the awards dinner and expanded on the importance of research.

Recalls 'Polio Season'

"Most of us," he said, "had talked among ourselves remembering the fear our parents had when we were children of the 'polio season,' before the Salk vaccine.

"As we looked back, we could see how much better it was that some of the money from annual polio drives was spent on basic research rather than just on more respirators and more physical therapy centers."

He had looked into the audience of 5,000 at the Memphis Municipal Auditorium and reminded them of statistics that at the present rate over 1,000 of them will develop cancer. Despite the progress in cures for certain kinds and stages of cancer, he continued, would it not be better to hope to avert this high incidence by getting at the causes of cancers and preventing them?

Now that he is chief of the NCI's Viral Leukemia and Lymphoma Branch, Dr. Todaro is pursuing a line of research which is directed toward understanding the possible viral causes of cancers.

At present he is spending more time planning team efforts rather than working on his individual research. The research team includes Drs. Stuart A. Aaronson, Edward M. Scolnick, Wade P. Parks, and several other outstanding young scientists at NCI.

"We are trying to optimize the system," he explained, "make it sensitive to other research of past and present, find out how it relates to other diseases. I think we, and others, have a good chance to begin really to understand not only cancer but also the nature of life itself."

Dental Division Publishes Brochure on Oral Care

"How can you keep your teeth for life?" This question is answered in a new brochure entitled Save Your Teeth, published by the Division of Dental Health, BPHM.

Save Your Teeth explains how you can prevent periodontal disease, the major cause of tooth loss among adults, by following a simple daily routine of tooth and gum care. Cartoon characters illustrate the proper cleaning methods.

Latest Participants in NIH Visiting Scientists Program Listed Here

1/4—Dr. Meera S. Paranjpe, India, Cell Biology Section. Sponsor: Dr. Charles W. Boone, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 1C08.

1/4—Dr. Humberto Rosselli, Colombia, Mental Health Service Programs. Sponsor: Dr. Claudewell S. Thomas, NIMH, Barlow Bldg., Rm. 8D07.

1/5—Dr. Tikvah Vogel, Israel, Laboratory of Chemical Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Robert F. Goldberger, NIMAD, Bldg. 10, Rm. 5N317.

1/5—Dr. Massimino D'Armento, Italy, Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Ira Pastan, NCI, Bldg. 10, Rm. 10B09.

1/5—Dr. B. E. C. Nordin, United Kingdom, Section on Mineral Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. Gerald D. Aurbach, NIAMID, Bldg. 10, Rm. 9D16.

1/5—Dr. Sam J. Bhatthena, India, Section on Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. Joel Avigan, NHLI, Bldg. 10, Rm. 5N313.

1/5—Dr. Alberto Chersi, Italy, Laboratory of Immunology. Sponsor: Dr. Rose G. Mage, NIAID, Bldg. 10, Rm. 11D10.

1/5—Dr. Christiaan van der Drift, The Netherlands, Laboratory of Biochemistry. Sponsor: Dr. Theresa C. Stadtmann, NHLI, Bldg. 3, Rm. 105.

Professor E. Torsten Toecoll, Chairman of the Institute of Physiology and Medical Biophysics at the University of Upsala, Sweden, returned to the Fogarty International Center Jan. 25 to resume activities as a Fogarty Scholar.

During the coming 4 months, he will continue a study of cardiac rhythmics and participate in seminars on cell membrane permeability. Professor and Mrs. Toecoll will reside in Stone House.

Single copies are available free from the Office of Information, Division of Dental Health, Wison Building, Bethesda, Md. 20014.