Dr. A. M. Bruno Named NCI Assistant Director

Dr. Bruno was a postdoctoral fellow at the Cardiovascular Surgical Clinics, University of Rome, for 3 years.

Dr. Anthony M. Bruno has been appointed an assistant director of the National Cancer Institute. He came to NIH in 1967 as senior professional assistant to the chief, Training Grants and Awards Branch, National Heart and Lung Institute.

Prior to his NCI appointment, he was senior project scientist in NHLI's Collaborative Studies Program. In that office he had prime responsibility for the development of a total artificial heart.

Develops New Techniques

Under his guidance a method involving special diets and radiation was developed to rapidly induce coronary heart disease in a breed of miniature swine.

The technique permitted, for the first time, intensive investigation of heart disease, including myocardial infarction and sudden death.

Dr. Bruno headed another research experiment involving young calves who had received total artificial hearts and survived longer than 260 hours—an achievement that permitted a reassessment of artificial heart development.

Dr. Bruno received his B.S. degree from St. Joseph's College, and an M.D. degree from the University of California.

From 1959 to 1962 he was a postdoctoral surgical fellow, supported by NIH, in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery.

(U.S.-Japan Panel to Study Pollutants, Health Problems Discussed at Meeting)

By Krin Larson

"A healthy environment . . . is necessary not only for man's well-being but for his very existence," declared Dr. Merlin K. DuVal, Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, HEW, when he addressed the seventh meeting of the Joint Committee of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program held at NIH on July 29 and 30.

In response to the increasing concern over environmental problems, delegates recommended that an additional Joint Panel be established to study the relationship between environmental pollutants and health problems such as cancer and birth defects.

The organization and program objectives of this new Panel will be discussed at the next joint meeting to be held in 1972 in Japan.

The U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program was organized in 1965, following a meeting between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Japan.

The Joint Committee consists of a United States Delegation, chaired by Dr. Colin M. MacLeod of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City, and a Japanese delegation headed by Dr. Toshio Kurokawa of the Cancer Institute Hospital in Tokyo.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases manages the Program. The National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases is represented.

Nat'l Sickle Cell Anemia Committee Begins Plans To Accelerate Program

A National Advisory Committee appointed Aug. 4 to begin immediate planning on the President's accelerated program of research and treatment against sickle cell anemia held its first meeting at NIH on Aug. 13.

The National Heart and Lung Institute will coordinate the program.

Sickle cell anemia is a painful and life-shortening disease that is genetically transmitted from parents to offspring. In the United States, it is found almost exclusively among blacks.

The President, in his health message to Congress last February, identified sickle cell anemia, along with cancer, as "a targeted disease for concentrated research."

He said, "This Administration is increasing its budget for research and treatment of sickle cell disease fivefold, to a new total of $6 million."

Ruth Aikens, associate director for Health and Health Programs, National Urban League, New York, will be chairman of the committee.

Other committee members are: Arnita Boswell, Field Work associate.

(See SICKLE CELL, Page 8)

Television Spots Urge Viewers to Become Part of Nation's 'Life Corps'

At half-time, the score was Washington Redskins, 10-San Diego Chargers, 3. The D.C. area television audience happily sat back for the half-time festivities and watched the first showing of a 30-second television spot that encouraged people to learn more about becoming part of the Nation's "Life Corps."

The address for more information which flashed on the screen that Saturday was: Life Corps, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

By Monday morning, before there was time for any mail response, three enterprising career hunters had already called NIH to (See TELEVISION SPOTS, Page 6)
Computers to Forecast Health Manpower Needs

Computers will be used to give more precise forecasts about the Nation's future manpower needs.

Research contracts were awarded to the Research Triangle Institute, Durham, and the University of Southern California, by the Division of Manpower Intelligence, BHME. Both institutions have already completed pilot studies.

The university will implement a computer microsimulation model. The institute will project hospital manpower requirements.

Semi-Automated Blood Serum Analyzer Installed in CC Pathology Dept.

A new semi-automated blood serum analyzer—the AutoAnalyzer—was recently installed in the Clinical Center's Clinical Pathology Department, for better identification of patients at high risk of having future heart disease.

The AutoAnalyzer detects and measures triglycerides, lipids in the blood which, like cholesterol, sometimes accumulate (a condition called hyperlipidemia). This accumulation is believed to contribute to heart attacks.

Measures Made Automatically

Dr. Nathan Gochman, assistant chief of CFD's Clinical Chemistry Service, explained that with the analyzer simultaneous measurements of cholesterol and triglycerides can be made automatically from a single 0.5 milliliter sample of blood serum (whole blood minus red blood cells and coagulation factor).

Previously, only the cholesterol analysis had been automated. Now, whenever investigators request a cholesterol measurement a triglyceride determination will also be available on a routine basis.

The analyzer, commercially available to hospitals for about 2 years, permits testing of 50 blood serum samples in 2 hours. If the tests were not automated, a technician, analyzing that number, would require a whole day, Dr. Gochman said.

Blood Serum Diluted

To perform the test, blood serum is diluted and components, such as glucose, which would interfere with triglyceride and cholesterol measurements, are removed by centrifugation.

The remainder of the sample is put into analyzer cups and inserted into a sampler tray where the cups are covered to prevent evaporation.

The analyzer draws a sample of the serum extract through a needle into a tube where it is mixed with

NLM's Plan Encourages Scholars-in-Residence

A scholars-in-residence program has recently been established by the National Library of Medicine. It is designed to encourage research in the biosciences that requires using the Library's vast collection of medical literature.

Candidates must be committed to their chosen research projects full time for a minimum of 6 months.

A major portion of this time must be spent at the Library; scholars may hold no other active appointments.

Office facilities, typing services, and reference assistance—but no stipend—will be provided.

Candidacies' letters of application, accompanied by a description of the planned research project and a curriculum vitae, should be sent to the Director, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Appointments will be made by the Library's Board of Regents.

International Primatology Congress To Meet in Summer of 1972

The 4th International Congress of Primatology will convene at a 3-day symposium next summer, Aug. 15-18, 1972. The meeting will take place at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center in Beaverton, one of seven centers administered by the Animal Resources Branch, DRR.

Scientists from many parts of the world are expected to attend.

The entire procedure takes 2 minutes for the cholesterol analysis and 10 minutes for the triglycerides, resulting in substantial savings in cost compared with manual procedures.

Dr. Harry W. Bruce Promoted To Assistant Surgeon General

Dr. Harry W. Bruce, Jr. has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Dr. Bruce has been the Director of the Division of Physician and Health Professions Education, Bureau of Health Manpower Education, since its establishment in October 1970.

It just takes 2 to 10 minutes for the AutoAnalyzer to determine the triglyceride and cholesterol content of blood serum samples. As many as 80 test results an hour are automatically recorded.
Vida Jo Niebuhr Retires; Was First Head of CC's Physical Therapy Service

Vida Jo Niebuhr, the first chief of the Clinical Center Rehabilitation Department's Physical Therapy Service, has retired.

She joined the department in 1954, helping to organize its physical therapy functions.

A member of her staff, Mario L. Salvanelli, succeeds her as chief.

Miss Niebuhr, a PHS Commissioned Officer, began her career as a physical therapist in the Orthopedic School, West Allis, Wis., then joined the Navy.

While stationed at the Naval Medical Center, she was assigned to the White House as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal physical therapist.

The following year Miss Niebuhr was Officer in Charge at the Naval Convalescent Hospital in New Jersey.

Returned to D.C. in 1946

Miss Niebuhr came back to the D.C. area in 1946 as chief of Physical Therapy at Mt. Alto Veterans Administration Hospital. Two years later she became assistant chief physical therapist at VA headquarters.

After 6 years at VA, she came to the Clinical Center.

Miss Niebuhr, a graduate of LaCrosse State College in Wisconsin, and the D. T. Watson School in Physical Therapy, affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh, is the D. T. Watson School, West Allis, Wis., then joined the Navy.

She is a past president of the D.C. Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, and served as a panel member of the Physical Therapists Civil Service Commission Examining Board.

For the past 7 years she had been the NIH representative on the PHS Therapist Career Development Committee.

At a retirement ceremony for Miss Niebuhr shows awards received at a recent retirement ceremony to Dr. David M. Fried (I), chief of the CC Rehabilitation Department, and Dr. Roger Black.

Ted Gray, a Talented 'Concerned' Artist, Receives Inspiration From His Age Group

Brotherhood—Love—Unity—Peace. These slogans may sound like cliches of the contemporary scene, but for one creative young man at NIH who is concerned with man's problems, the words represent themes of his work.

Ted Gray, an 18-year-old untrained but very talented artist, is working as a summer lab assistant in the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke. He is with the Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

Ted enjoys people and enjoys drawing them—humanity is a dominant theme in his art.

Many of his pictures deal with issues such as poverty, drugs, and malnutrition—equally as many depict love and happiness.

"We can't live in this world without one another," he believes. "We're too far gone the way it is now."

Ted came to NINDS 2 years ago as a summer aid and continued working parttime during school sessions.

"He was so good as a messenger and in the Xerox room that we decided to ask him back," explained Glenn Hammond, administrative officer of the Institute's Intramural Research program.

Traditional art, Ted feels, is relevant and important for some people—particularly older generations—but he prefers more contemporary themes and credits much of his inspiration to his own age group.

"I want my pictures to express something," he says. He is especially fond of sketching people with expressive faces. The old and wrinkled, the ugly, and children are his favorites.

Glen Hammond (I) selects several of his favorites among Ted's art work. The young artist sketches many of his friends, and often, his work portrays a contemporary theme.

While most of Ted's art work is done in pencil and charcoal, he also does pastels and some sculpturing.

In addition to his art, Ted writes poetry, tutors math, and reads. His favorite writers are contemporary and concerned with social problems.

This autumn Ted will be a freshman at Frostburg State College in Maryland. He has received an Educational Grant and Minority Scholarship from that school, and plans to major in art. He is also the recipient of the Maryland Delegate Scholarship which will provide his tuition for 4 years.

Book on Antibodies Tells Role in Fighting Disease

A new 544-page book, The Secretary Immunologic System, issued by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, gives the views of more than 40 scientists about disease fighters—antibodies—often found in the body's fluids.

They also play a role in allergic and in other defensive reactions by the body.

A bibliography lists more than 600 scientific papers on the subject of antibodies.


Single free copies are available from the NICHD Information Office, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Upward Mobility College Offers BA, AA Degrees At No Cost to Employee

NIH is establishing an Upward Mobility College on the reservation, in cooperation with Federal City College's Division of Community Education. Classes on the RCC satellite campus are scheduled to begin Sept. 13.

The school offers a full schedule of classes 12 months a year for participants to earn a Bachelor's degree or an A.A. degree. Emphasis will be placed on freshman classes the first year of the college.

Tuition, books, and fees will be financed entirely by NIH. In addition, tutorial and counseling services will be available.

Classes Held at NIH

Classes will be held at NIH before and after working hours, as well as during lunch periods and Saturday mornings. Some official duty time will be made available when classes are scheduled within an employee's tour of duty.

No employee enrolled as a student in the college will be required to work additional hours to make up for time spent in classroom training.

Any NIH employee in a job series that does not require at least a B.S. or B.A. or equivalent as an entrance requirement, has been a Federal employee for one year, and has either a high school diploma or equivalency certificate is eligible to apply.

For more information, contact Norma Greene, Federal City College Coordinator, Bldg. 35, Room 1B-14, Ext. 64130.

Dr. Isaac Berenblum, a Fogarty Scholar at Stone House, recently left here after a 6-month stay. The prestigious cancer researcher wrote, lectured, worked with scientists in other institutes, and conducted a seminar for NCI scientists. In the fall he will return to the Weizmann Institute, Rehovoth, Israel, where he heads the Experimental Biology Department.
Michael Amrine to Head NHLI Information Office

Michael Amrine has been appointed chief of the Office of Information, National Heart and Lung Institute.

Mr. Amrine, who will advise Dr. Theodore Cooper, Institute Director, on information and educational matters, has been Director of Publications for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

He will also direct a program to increase public awareness of the health problems posed by cardiovascular and chronic lung disorders.

In addition, the NHLI office, under his direction, will inform public and professional audiences of the latest techniques of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment resulting from the work of the Institute's scientists and grantees.

Mr. Amrine attended Kansas State Teachers College and Columbia University.

He worked as a newspaperman for the Emporia Gazette, the New Orleans Item-Tribune, the Baltimore Sun, and the London Daily Herald, and for several years he was a science writer with the North American Newspaper Alliance.

Since 1945, Mr. Amrine has held numerous posts in science writing and public information, including 16 years as Public Information Officer for the American Psychological Association (1952-61).

From 1965 through 1968, he was a consultant to the Office of the Surgeon General.

Mr. Amrine is the author of several books. His most recent book, "The Great Decision: The Secret History of the Atomic Bomb," was distributed by the Book-of-the-Month Club this year.

As part of a scholarship program sponsored by the American Cancer Society, 10 outstanding science students spent the summer working with National Cancer Institute researchers. The students (l to r), Michael Ellis and Paul Gross, Archbishop Carroll High School, and Daniel Zaharievitz, Gonzaga H. S., scored in the high nineties in a science test, and were among the top 20 chosen by a panel of educators. Dr. Franklin Portugal, Viral Carcinogenesis Laboratory, Dr. Robert Hoye, Surgery Branch, and Dr. David Johns, Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, worked with the students.

Frank O. Barden Dies; Retired NINDS Writer

Frank O. Barden, Jr., 71, who retired from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke last year, died of a heart ailment, Aug. 2, in Arlington.

Mr. Barden served as a writer in the office of the chief, Perinatal Research Branch, prior to his retirement.

He studied music at conservatories in Oberlin, Ohio, and Berlin, Germany, and sang professionally during the 1930's.

Mr. Barden is survived by his wife, Gertrude, of the home, 3434 N. Edison St., Arlington; five daughters, a stepson, two sisters, a brother, 23 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Sylvan C. Martin Wins PHS Medal for Liaison Activities for NIEHS

Sylvan C. Martin, liaison officer of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, N. C., was recently presented the PHS Commendation Medal by R. Stedman Green, chief engineer officer of the PHS.

The award was given to Mr. Martin in recognition of his outstanding performance since his appointment to NIEHS in 1966.

Mr. Martin has coordinated the NIEHS program—concerned with basic research on the chemical, physical, and biological environ-
Asian Cholera Experience
Put to Use in Treating Acute Infant Diarrhea

Experience gathered from epidemics of Asiatic cholera, a form of diarrhea, is being applied to treatment and prevention of acute diarrheas found in certain American Indian infants, according to Dr. G. Donald Whedon, NIAMD Director.

National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases' scientists have begun the Indian study in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The researchers have established an outpost on an Apache Indian reservation, about 150 miles north-east of Phoenix, Ariz., at the Indian Health Service's Whiteriver Hospital.

Apache children suffer annual epidemics of diarrhea. The incidence has been over one case per child per year.

The death rate, formerly very high among children under 5 years, has dropped, but the disease hospitalizes infants for long periods and causes a great deal of suffering.

It is prevalent, though less serious, among many other Indian tribes of the Southwest, where NIAMD research on arthritis, diabetes, and gastrointestinal disorders is being conducted.

The Indian population offers the opportunity to use methods that were successful in checking the course of Asiatic cholera in Dacca, Pakistan.

Both Dr. Robert S. Gordon, Jr., NIAMD clinical director and project officer for the study, and Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn, assistant professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University and a leader of the research team at Fort Apache, acquired first-hand experience with cholera in Dacca.

During the studies in the White river area, the investigators, will attempt to learn what types of bacteria cause the illness and what biochemical features they have in common with V. cholerae, the organism that causes Asiatic cholera.

U.S.-JAPAN
(Continued from Page 1)

Diseases and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development also participate in its activities.

The Joint Committee meets annually, alternating meeting sites between the United States and Japan, as do each of the Joint Panels.

This past meeting, and the Joint Panel meetings on leprosy and parasitic diseases that immediately preceded it, were a first at NIH.

First to Use System

Held in the C wing in Bldg. 31, the meetings were the first to use the simultaneous translation system installed in the conference room.

Japanese and American scientists were able to hear concurrently the presentations of the Committee members and other investigators.

The new panel will join the existing six on research in cholera, tuberculosis, leprosy, parasitic diseases, viral diseases, and malnutrition.

Among the program accomplishments discussed at the joint meetings were an improved cholera vaccine that is almost ready for clinical field trials, a better understanding of the effects of malnutrition on the mental and physical development of children, and progress toward an improved human rabies vaccine, free of the contaminants that cause serious reactions.

Dr. Howard Minners, chief of NIAMD's Geographic Medicine Branch, pointed out another important achievement resulting from the joint venture—"the increased communication, understanding, and scientific cooperation that has taken place, and is continuing to expand, between the scientists of Japan and the United States.

NIH Credit Union Issues 6% Dividend for Third Consecutive Quarter

For the third consecutive quarter, the NIH Federal Credit Union has paid a 6 percent dividend—the highest percentage that is allowed under the Federal Credit Union Act. On July 1, dividends amounting to $173,899.62 have been paid to members on outstanding shares of $13,241,126.94. Credit Union assets, as of July 31, amount to $14,594,646.57.

The National Credit Union Administration recently gave the NIH Credit Union a Thrift Honor Award for its success in stimulating savings among small depositors.

"This will, hopefully, serve as an example to other nations as a way to improve not only world health, but also relations between various peoples," he added.

Many of the scientists used the simultaneous translation system that is a feature of Conference Room 10, Bldg. 31. This was the first time the system has been used. Within 5 minutes after the meeting adjourned, Japanese Embassy representatives received the set of magnetic tapes of recordings of conference proceedings.

TELEVISION SPOTS
(Continued from Page 1)

learn more about the "Life Corps." This spot and the program for providing information about careers in the Nation's health care delivery system were the result of a cooperative project between the Blue Cross-Blue Shield organizations in Washington; the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, and the Bureau of Health Manpower Education.

The announcement will be run between the halves at three more Washington Redskin games. Test spots will also be conducted in New York City and Durham, N. C.

Check Withholding Tax;
Some Employees Face Large End-of-Year Bill

Some HEW employees may face an unexpected, and large, Federal income tax bill at the year's end.

Most employees will find their Federal income tax withholding sufficient to cover actual tax liability in 1971, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

However, some persons will be affected by statutory changes in the withholding system.

These changes affect certain categories, especially working couples, for whom not enough money is withheld to cover the tax due.

There is still time to change withholding instructions. Employees at NIH may compute the cumulative amount withheld for the year from the Statement of Earnings furnished with each paycheck.

Timekeepers or payroll representatives can furnish a brief guide.

FY 1970 Edition Lists
PHS Grants, Awards

More than 12,000 grants and contracts funded by NIH during fiscal year 1970 are listed in a new edition of the Public Health Service Grants and Awards series of volumes, Part 1.

Three other volumes to be released will complete the series.


Single free copies are available from the Information Office, Division of Research Grants, Bethesda, Md. 20014.
Dr. Schwartz Named NEI Deputy Assoc. Director

Dr. Samuel Schwartz has been appointed deputy associate director for Extramural Programs, National Eye Institute.

Dr. Schwartz will also serve as chief, Scientific Programs Branch of the NEI Extramural Programs, succeeding Dr. Samuel Price.

In both capacities, he will assist Dr. George Brooks, associate director for Extramural Programs, in directing the scientific and administrative development of NEI's research and training programs.

Dr. Schwartz earned a B.S. degree from the University of Manitoba in 1952 and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1956, majoring in Medicinal Chemistry with a minor in Biochemistry.

He was on the faculty of the George Washington University for 8 years, teaching, conducting research, and serving as an industrial consultant.

Dr. Schwartz's varied background in NIH extramural activities began in 1964 with the National Cancer Institute.

In January 1965 he was appointed executive secretary of the Medical Chemistry Study Section, Division of Research Grants. Later, he was named assistant chief for Referral Research Grants Review Branch, DRG.

Dr. Schwartz has received a number of academic awards, served on NIH committees, and belongs to several professional societies.

2 TV Announcements Released To Explain Periodontal Disease

The Division of Dental Health has prepared two television spot announcements in cooperation with the American Academy of Periodontology.

The Tenth American Conference Stresses Use of Multimedia To Improve Teaching of Health Sciences

A conference on biologic research of the blastocyst supplied material for a book titled *Biology of the Blastocyst*. Biologists, chemists and physicians attended the 1969 international symposium which was primarily sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Dr. Bruno has a varied background in NIH extramural activities.

Proposal to Permit Live Virus Vaccine in Human Cell Cultures Considered

A proposal to permit the preparation of live poliovirus vaccine in human cell cultures was published in the July 30th issue of the *Federal Register*.

The proposal would amend Part 73 of the Public Health Service Regulations which presently permit this vaccine to be prepared only in monkey kidney tissue.

However, data presented by manufacturers to the Division of Biologies Standards, and confirmed in DGS laboratories, indicate that the biological properties, including neurovirulence, of all three types of poliovirus currently approved for use are indistinguishable whether grown in human cell cultures (diploid strain) or in primary monkey kidney cells.

Interested persons have 30 days to comment on the proposed amendment. After comments are considered, final regulations will be published in the *Federal Register* to become effective 30 days after publication.

A Book Evolves From Conference on Biologic Studies of Blastocyst

A conference on biologic research of the blastocyst supplied material for a book titled *Biology of the Blastocyst*. Biologists, chemists and physicians attended the 1969 international symposium which was primarily sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The blastocyst represents the final stage of embryonic development before implantation in the uterine wall. Research on this subject is a vital part of NICHD's contraceptive development contract program in reproductive biology.

The book, edited by Richard J. Blundau, University of Washington, Seattle, summarizes the biology of the mammalian egg before and during early implantation. It is published by the University of Chicago Press.

An earlier NICHD conference was the source for a companion volume, *The Mammalian Ovudct*.

Both books aid in presenting a fuller understanding of reproductive processes and the development of modern contraceptive methods.

**DR. BRUNO**

(Continued from Page 1)
Dr. Omar Yoder Named DRG Grants Associate

Dr. Omar Christian Yoder recently joined the Grants Associate program for training in grants administration.

Dr. Yoder comes to NIH from Johns Hopkins University, Division of Medical Genetics.

Prior to 1968, he was assistant professor in the Department of Pathology at West Virginia University.

His work involved research in enzymology and a preliminary genetic survey.

Dr. Yoder received his M.S. degree (1964) and Ph.D. degree (1965) from West Virginia U. During 1967-68, he was an NIH Research Fellow at the Max-Planck Institute in Germany.

This research included cytology, tissue culture preparations, and biochemical genetics.

Dr. Yoder is the author and co-author of a number of biomedical genetics publications.

'Dr. Yoder was, for 3 months, visiting professor at the University of Geneva.

'To Seek' Wins Awards At Recent Film Festival

"To Seek, To Teach, To Heal," the prize-winning NIH film, has won three additional awards at the recent "Medikale Internationa Marburg 71," held in Germany.

The Gold Medal Award was given to the picture for being the most outstanding film in its category.

Special awards were won by Werner Schumann, selected as the best director, and Robert Pierce, selected as the best film editor.

"To Seek," has also been nominated and entered in the Edinburgh International Film Festival and the Third International Scientific Film Festival in Rio de Janeiro by the U.S. Information Agency.

Designed for general audiences, the film is available on free loan to medical schools, educational institutions, and civic groups by writing to Association-Sterling Films, 866 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

DR. DEWITT

(Continued from Page 1)

Miniature Heat Engine Tested in Calves; Flawless Performance—Over 2,000 Hours

The Stirling cycle engine of this prototype heart-assist system has performed flawlessly for over 2,000 hours in a continuing bench test. It employs a blood pump next to the heart, and a unit in the abdomen that combines the flashlight-sized nuclear powered engine with an hydraulic actuator component for driving the blood pump.

An experimental miniature heat engine, tested in calves as a power source for an implantable heart assist system, has performed flawlessly for over 2,000 continuous hours of operation.

A description of the Stirling cycle engine and results of the continuing bench test were presented to the 1971 Intersociety Energy Conversion Engineering Conference in Boston early this month.

The Medical Devices Application Program, National Heart and Lung Institute, and the Donald W. Douglas Laboratories under the guidance of NHLI's program.

The system has been successfully tested in calves and can operate on 50 watts of heat from an electrical source, or from the heat of nuclear decay of a radioisotope (plutonium-238) when this becomes available.

Unit Self-Contained

As a self-contained unit, such a power system can furnish all the energy needed to take over the work of the heart.

Whether the primary energy source is electrical or nuclear, this energy is used to melt a mixture of lithium salts in an insulated container where the heat is stored and doled out to the heat engine.

When operating with a radioisotope heat source, the completely implantable system will free patients from the daily support that would be involved with other power sources which require periodic recharging.

The current model engine and auxiliary equipment—except the blood pump—occupy a space roughly equivalent to a quart and weigh about 6 pounds.

The engineers are attempting to devise an advanced system whose weight, volume, and energy input requirements can be cut in half.
New Technique Offers View of Blood Flow
In Inner Ear, Records on High Speed Film

A new technique has been developed for directly viewing and photographing blood cells passing through the capillaries of the basilar membrane, which supply the spiral organ and contains the special sensory receptors for hearing.

The technique—in observing the blood flow microscopically and recording it on high-speed motion picture film—promises to be of value in experiments to relate inadequate blood flow in the inner ear directly to sensorineural hearing loss.

Scientists, supported by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, are using this method both in normal animals and in animals treated with quinine.

They are conducting their studies at the Kresge Hearing Research Institute and the Department of Otolaryngology, University of Michigan.

The researchers opened the ears of anesthetized 450-gram guinea pigs, removing the ear drum, annulus, and osicular chain.

A small wedge of bone was taken from the edge of the round window, and the round window removed in order to expose the basilar membrane.

A camera running at 128 frames per second was placed over the microscope, and synchronized with a strobe light source which produced flashes at the exposure of each frame, thus avoiding overheating of the tissue.

This arrangement permits clear viewing of both the blood flow through the capillaries, and many of the structures comprising the organ of Corti.

The scientists determined that the rate of blood flow through these capillaries in normal animals is about 620 microns per second. Their films clearly demonstrate, they report, the cessation of blood flow following injection of quinine dihydrochloride.

With perfection of the technique, including faster photography, they anticipate that much new information will be forthcoming about the relationship between occlusion of these blood vessels and various drugs, oxygen distribution in the organ of Corti, and other factors affecting hearing.

A report of this study, by M. Lawrence, appeared in a recent issue of Acta Otolaryngologica.

21st Century Oral Health System to Be Visualized

Visualization of how an oral health system should exist in the 21st century will be attempted by seven scientists at the University of Oklahoma.

The year-long project is supported by the Division of Dental Health, BHME.

Each specialist will center attention on one aspect of the research program.

The National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke's Information Office invites all NIH employees to see "The Mind of Man," a motion picture about the brain.

The British Broadcasting Company's 2-hour film will be shown in the Jack Masur Auditorium, Clinical Center, for one week, Aug. 16-20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

It is suggested that employees watch the first hour of the movie during lunch time, and the other half on another lunch hour later in the week.

Filmed in research laboratories throughout the world, it offers evidence that brain exploration holds significant implications for Man's future.

Because of tremendous interest in brain research revealed in recent publications and other media, the film is being presented to alert NIH'ers to important achievements in the "Brain Age."