Richardson Urges Better Administration; Asks 'Best Efforts' of HEW Employees

"We intend to maintain and strengthen the role of NIH in the conduct and support of basic research," declared HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson in response to a question posed by an NIH scientist.

The query followed a speech delivered by the Secretary to HEW employees last December.

He cited the international reputation of NIH for excellence and saluted both the intramural and extramural programs of NIH as "among the very best administered in Government."

Richardson said the need for such expert administration, as well as the need to make HEW more responsive, were major points of the Secretary's address.

Secy. Richardson saw a "sense of coherency ... in our actions" concerning the responsiveness of HEW to the people it serves.

"Institutions and their activities, after all, do not exist for their own sakes; they exist for people."

"The great needs and high expectations of those who use our human service institutions require that these institutions be made to work as efficiently and as effectively as possible," he said.

"But none of this ... amounts to a tinker's damn unless it is understood and supported by the people who have to make the whole system work."

"... the interrelationships among our programs and activities are much more significant than their divergences. The grouping of these functions and activities in a single Department is not haphazard or arbitrary. We are...

(See RICHARDSON, Page 5)

Conference Participants Discuss PCB Chemistry, Effect on Human Health

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences sponsored an international conference, Dec. 20-21, on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). It was held at the Quail Roost Conference Center, Rougemont, N.C., near NIEHS in Research Triangle Park.

Conference participants, who came from the U.S., Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, and Japan, discussed the chemistry of PCB's and their effect on human health.

The researchers also spoke on how these chemicals are disseminated in the environment, the results of contamination in wildlife and humans, and the substitution of possible alternatives in place of PCB's, which have been used for more than 40 years.

The PCB's are liquids that are resistant to heat, and for this reason are heavily utilized in industry. They are used as dielectric fluids for capacitors and transformers; industrial fluids for hydraulic, gas turbine and vacuum pump uses; heat transfer fluids, and plasticizers.

(See PCB CONFERENCE, Page 7)

Clinical Centers Asked to Join Program On Hypertension; Termed Top Priority

The National Heart and Lung Institute is inviting other clinical centers to join the nine already cooperating in the Hypertension Detection and Follow-up Program which it announced last August.

With the addition of from three to six more centers, the program will enter its second major phase—to determine the efficacy of antihypertensive therapy for 10,500 persons who are found to have hypertension in communities participating in this program.

This is one of three programs which Dr. Theodore Cooper, NHLI Director, singled out in December for "highest immediate priority," from the 44 programs recommended by the NHLI Task Force on Arteriosclerosis.

Most of the program's clinical centers will be working with a population in a geographically defined area.

Thus each center can screen 8,000 to 12,000 people, aged 30 to 69, to detect the estimated 800 to 1,000 who would be expected to have hypertension in each population group that is screened.

The first phase, still in progress, is concerned with determining methods for detecting the approximately 10,500 persons, from all areas, who are expected to have high blood pressure (averaging higher than 95 mm Hg, diastolic).

In phase II of the program, the centers will collaborate in de...

(See HYPERTENSION, Page 8)

Dr. Dennis Named Chief Of NHLI's Med. Devices Applications Program

Dr. Clarence Dennis, internationally known surgeon and pioneer in the development and clinical application of heart-lung machines and related techniques of cardiorespiratory assistance, has been named chief of the National Heart and Lung Institute's Medical Devices Applications Program.

Dr. Dennis will direct a program of contract-supported research and development activities concerned with the design, testing, and evaluation of circulatory-assist devices and techniques, including total heart replacements.

The program also sponsors devices to provide respiratory assistance to victims of acute or chronic lung disorders, and other instrumentation for diagnosis, monitoring, or relief of heart and lung diseases.

Dr. Dennis received his under...
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Health Careers in 70s
Discussed on Radio, TV

Representatives of NIH and the Washington Technical Institute recently discussed minority recruitment—"Health Careers in the 70's"—on a local television and radio program.

Panelists were: Dr. Jerome B. Block, associate director, Clinical Center; Donald C. Parks, assistant director for Administration, Division of Physician and Health Professionals Education, BIHME; Dr. William Bennett, Program coordinator, DPHE, BIHME; and Dr. Annye C. Buck, chairman, Allied Health Science Department, WTI.

Needs for health manpower personnel, general educational requirements, opportunities at the Clinical Center, and programs for

Dr. Berv Featured as Soloist In Mozart Concerto on Jan. 21

The NIH Orchestra will present a concert on Friday, Jan. 21, at 8:30 p.m., in the Clinical Center's Jack Masur Auditorium. The orchestra, sponsored by the R & W Association, will be conducted by John Gerschefski.

Dr. Kenneth R. Berv, NIMH, will be featured as soloist in Mozart's Concerto No. 3 for French Horn and Orchestra. Other numbers include An Outdoor Overture, by Aaron Copland, Rumanian Folk Dances, by Bela Bartok, and a Bach Chorale Prelude.

study in WTI's Allied Health Department were discussed.

The program will be rebroadcast over WFAN-TV (Channel 14) sometime in February.

New Computer Courses Scheduled for Spring

Forty-two courses and seminars will be given this spring by the Division of Computer Research Training. The courses have been scheduled by Rita Minker, Training Unit, Computer Center Branch.

New courses for the spring session include Introduction to Optimal Control Theory, and Time-sharing for Programmers.

Two courses that may be of special interest to scientists are also on the agenda. They are: Applications of Computers in Chemistry, and Decision Theory in Medical Diagnosis: An Introduction.

The regular courses in programming languages, systems analysis and statistics are included for the coming semester.

Brochures with course descriptions and application procedures will be distributed through B/I/D Personnel Offices. The Computer Center Technical Information Office, Ext. 65431, also has them.

Health Benefits Open Season Extended by CSC to Jan. 31

The Health Benefits Program Open Season, previously scheduled to end Dec. 31, was extended by the Civil Service Commission to Jan. 31.

Eligible employees who wish to enroll or change enrollments may contact their registration assistants for instructions. The names and locations of assistants are listed on official NIH bulletin boards.

Steps Taken to Protect R&W Postal Service

Measures have been taken to prevent a recurrence of the armed robbery of the R & W Postal Service in the Clinical Center, which took place about 2:50 p.m. on Dec. 22.

The FBI is investigating the incident in which some $3,500 was stolen. The robber, who escaped, tried to prevent identification by pulling a turndown sweater over his face so that only his eyes could be seen.

When pursued by a female employee, he fired a warning shot into the ceiling of the stairwell raining from the B-3 level.

Anyone who has information as to the identity of the robber is requested to contact the office of Willard Vincent, assistant director for Protection and Safety Management, OAS, Ext. 64785.

Because of its early Dec. 20 deadline, due to the holidays, The NIH Record was unable to report this incident in its Jan. 4 issue.

Virginia Burke has been appointed consultant to the NIH Child Development Committee. Mrs. Burke, a graduate of Morgan State College with a degree in Sociology, has had extensive experience in directing day care center programs in Cambridge, Mass., and New York.

Meetings Held in Many Cities On Nurse Training Act of 1971

Regional meetings on the provisions of the Nurse Training Act of 1971 have been scheduled throughout the United States by the Division of Nursing.

The first of the meetings will take place tomorrow (Wednesday, Jan. 19), in Cambridge, Mass., Las Vegas, Nev. and Greensboro, N.C. Other meetings, scheduled through Jan. 28, will be held in locations that include San Francisco, Chicago, Cleveland, and Dallas.

Deans of nursing schools, and representatives of nursing organizations will be among conference participants.

NIH Television, Radio Program Schedule

Radio

DISCUSSION NIH
WGMS, AM—570—FM Stereo 103.5—Friday, about 9:15 p.m.

January 21
Dr. Gerald S. Johnston, Clinical Center Subject: Nuclear Medicine

January 28
Dr. George Kitzes, NIAMD Subject: Digestive Diseases

Interview is during intermission, Library of Congress concerts.

Television

PANORAMA
(Ask the Doctor)
WTTG-TV, Channel 5, 12:30 p.m.

February 1
Dr. Mortimer B. Lipsett, NICHD Subject: Contraceptive Science
Sickle Cell Anemia Program Initiated by CC; Researchers To Present Lecture Series

A voluntary program to detect sickle cell anemia among NIH employees in being initiated by the Clinical Center.

The program will include three important features: education about the disease and the fact that it is an hereditary trait, blood sample testing, and counseling.

A series of lectures and panel discussions will be given early in February in the CC Jack Masur Auditorium.

Researchers at NIH and authorities from other areas will present information on the prevalence and implications of the disease, testing procedures, treatment, and preventive measures. Employees will have an opportunity to attend the lectures.

Testing for the malady will begin about the middle of March.

A steering committee has been appointed for the program which is headed by Dr. George W. Shaffer, assistant chief of the Employee Health Service.

Details of further program developments will be kept informed of further program developments by EHS.

Martin Luther King’s Birthday Honored Here

Several commemorative activities in honor of the late Martin Luther King’s birthday, Jan. 15, were held last week at NIH. Events included the film, “I Have a Dream,” the life story of Dr. King, and a choral group, the Apostles of Praise, which presented a group of songs.

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The program will include three events in honor of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., including the film, “I Have a Dream,” a spoken word presentation by Leonard D. Weiford, Jr., R&W manager, and Joseph Milliard Brown, president of the organization.

Dr. Robert Q. Marston, NIH Director, receives the first R&W membership cord in his office. It was presented to him by Leonard D. Weiford, Jr., R&W manager, and Joseph Milliard Brown, president of the organization.

Rock, Natural Inventive Genius, Is Helping Scientists to Understand Human Behavior

Although he's only 6 years old, Rock is now giving evidence that he could possibly qualify as a methods engineer in any industrial plant. As a matter of fact, he could conceivably end up as a vice-president or even president of the firm in a very short time.

He has not only demonstrated superior ingenuity and drive as compared to his peers, but he is the undisputed leader of his group, devising and executing engineering feats which would challenge any other high IQ mentality.

Rock is a chimpanzee.

Together with seven other wild-born chimps at NIH’s Delta Regional Primate Research Center in Covington, La., he is helping medical researchers to better understand human behavior. In the process, he has turned out to be a natural inventive genius.

Rock—Exceptional Chimpanzee

Monkeys and apes can be trained to perform almost unbelievable tasks — but the high IQ of this exceptional chimp showed in his ability to utilize the principles of mechanical statics.

The researchers at Delta report that Rock and his friends virtually “pole vaulted” in their early years, using sticks and poles to get to higher vantage points.

The chimps were given a 3-foot broom for 15-minute periods during the day. Within a few days, they were standing the broom on its bristles, rapidly climbing it, never used the poles — a height of 8 feet. Then, under Rock’s instruction, they advanced to sticks and poles.

Until last year the chimps, confined in a 16 x 100 foot outdoor enclosure, never used the poles for anything other than vaulting. But an observation area installed leaves and shoots off the branches. Rock carefully engineered a pole arrangement that circumvented the wires and gave access to the greenery without any difficulty.

Rock had introduced ladder-matching to his group, giving clear evidence of the perceptibility of a nonhuman primate to solve a

(See ROCK, Page 6)

George S. Parish Named Chief, NEW NEI Branch

George S. Parish has been appointed chief of the newly established Contracts and Grants Branch of the National Eye Institute.

The branch will handle the managerial aspects of the Institute’s grants and contracts programs.

Its creation has been necessitated by the rapid expansion of NEI support of contracts for applied vision research.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Mr. Parish came to NIH in 1964 as a grants management assistant and in 1966 became grants management specialist.

In 1969, he transferred to the Health Services and Mental Health Administration as acting chief, Grants Management Section, Grants Administration Branch, Community Health Service.

Mr. Parish became a grants management officer in the HSMHA Regional Medical Programs Service later that year, and in 1970 was appointed a public health advisor in the HSMHA National Center for Health Services Research and Development.

Last June, he joined HEW’s Social and Rehabilitation Service as chief of its Research Demonstration Project Grants Branch.
New Process of Photographic Image Transformation May Improve Ability to Explain Diagnostic X-rays

A photographic image transformation process which may considerably improve the radiologist's ability to interpret diagnostic radiographs has been developed by Rand Corporation with NIGMS support; these are also in the possibility of using less skilled personnel for preliminary screening of X-rays.

The pseudocolor transformation processes use relatively straightforward photographic techniques also the possibility of using less skilled personnel for preliminary screening of X-rays.

The pseudocolor transformation process may considerably improve the radiologist's ability to interpret diagnostic radiographs. The process should lead to improved interpretations of radiographs.
Workshop on Toxemia
Defines Warning Signals
To Prevent Eclampsia

Scientists from the U.S. and abroad attended a recent workshop on toxemia—a complication that may cause death in expectant mothers and their infants, or neurological damage in the infants.

The meeting—"The First International Workshop on Clinical Diagnostic Criteria of Toxemia of Pregnancy"—was jointly sponsored by the Perinatal Research Branch, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, and the Fogarty International Center. It was held at the Center.

Dr. Edward F. MacNichol, Jr., NINDS Director; Dr. Milo D. Leavitt, Jr., FIC Director, and Dr. R. Gordon Douglas, Chairman of the Task Force on Toxemia, delivered opening remarks.

Researchers discussed the various symptoms that might serve as warning signals to prevent toxemic convulsions—eclampsia. Symptoms include a rise in the mother's blood pressure, detection of protein in the urine (proteinuria), and edema—fluid accumulation in the face and hands.

Studies Presented

Dr. Rudolf F. Vollman, Perinatal Research Branch, presented a study on racial discrepancies in toxemia and related disorders. Dr. Vollman is head of the Section on Obstetrics.

Two researchers, Drs. Emanuel A. Friedman and Bernard H. Fox, discussed the significance of blood pressure as a possible factor for diagnosing treatment of eclampsia.

Dr. Friedman is a professor at Harvard University Medical School, and Dr. Fox is assistant to the PRB chief.

Others attending the workshop included Dr. Warren V. Bever, associate director, NINDS' Collaborative and Field Research Section, and Dr. Robert H. Buerkli, a visiting scientist from Switzerland who is now with the PRB.

Patient Emergency Fund
Donations Increase by 40%

NIH employees and friends contributed nearly $7,000 to the Patient Emergency Fund through the Davis Plan during the holiday season—a 40 percent increase over last year’s $5,000.

Once again, the plan’s first unit gift came from ODA’s Plant Engineering Branch in the amount of $266.50.

Contributions also continue to come from friends outside the NIH community.

Several donations were received when area newspapers praised the Davis Plan in which money saved from sending greeting cards to co-workers is donated instead to the Patient Emergency Fund.

RICHARDSON

(Continued from Page 1)

not a 'conglomerate.' We are a 'coalition.'"

The Secretary further stated:

"If we are to make this Department what it can be, and what any honest recognition of our responsibilities to the American people requires that it be, then we shall need the best efforts of everyone within the Department, civil servants, Presidential appointees, officers in the Commissioned Corps, employees of all grades, women and men of all races and backgrounds.

"I believe we are already gathering momentum, and that, with the help of each person in this Department, that momentum will deepen and broaden, to the ultimate benefit of those whom we all seek to serve."

In conclusion, Secy. Richardson noted: "We in HEW are charged with a fourfold task—

"To identify the problems of the people and of the institutions with which we are concerned;"

"To eliminate the gaps between promise and performance by setting and meeting attainable goals;"

"To make the best possible use of the resources we have; and"

"To fight for the additional resources we know how to use well."

Robert Mehner Named
NLM Special Assistant,
Communications Media

Robert B. Mehner has been named Special Assistant, Communications Media, at the National Library of Medicine.

Mr. Mehner comes to the Library from the National Institute of Mental Health, where he served as public information officer for various programs, including community mental health centers, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

Most recently he was detailed to

Prior to rejoining NLM, Mr. Mehner was on detail to the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention.

Dr. Dennis

(Continued from Page 1)

1951 in the Department of Surgery. He also served as professor and administrative head of Surgery at the Minneapolis General Hospital from 1944 until 1951.

Dr. Dennis then joined the Department of Surgery as a professor at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center.

Prior to joining the NHLI staff, he served as chairman of the department since 1952; director of Surgery and Surgical Specialties at Kings County Hospital, University Division, since 1956, and surgeon-in-chief there, and at the State University Hospital.

Between 1958 and 1959, Dr. Dennis was also director of Surgery at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Brooklyn, and served as a consultant to numerous hospitals in the New York area.

Scientists attending this first international meeting, a joint undertaking of NINDS and FIC, discussed all phases of research data and their significance in preventing fetal and maternal deaths.
Special Programs Office
In BHME to Improve
Patterns of Training

An Office of Special Programs has been established in the Bureau of Health Manpower Education to administer new grant and contract programs authorized by the recently enacted Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act of 1971.

The new Office will develop educational and training programs to improve the distribution of health personnel by geographic area and specialty.

Scope Broadened
It will also initiate or improve patterns of training.

The scope of the new unit includes training for physicians’ assistants, team training, continuing education, and advanced training of health personnel.

An important part of the Office’s activity will be the establishment of cooperative arrangements among educational institutions and health service facilities to provide clinical training in medically underserved areas.

The new Office will also administer a computer research program to determine which functions now performed by physicians can be carried out by other personnel.

ROCK
(Continue from Page 3)

given problem.

Rock had to coordinate his eyes, hands, the pole, the ground, or runway, and his vertical support (the tree or wall), in order to circumvent the shock wire.

This development at Delta grew out of a 2-year study of group organization and communication among chimps.

It is only one of hundreds of some 500 studies presently being conducted at the seven regional primate research centers that are administered by the Division of Research Resources through its Animal Resources Branch.

Biomedical researchers are placing more important emphasis on monkeys and apes as ideal laboratory models to aid in finding a solution to human illness.

Primates Aid Research
Primates have already made many decisive contributions to health. The discovery of poliomyelitis vaccines and investigations of the Rh factor in human blood would not have been possible without the use of monkeys as laboratory models.

They have also been used in research for such diseases as malaria and measles; congenital malformations; fat in the blood and its relationship to hardening of the arteries; brain damage, and the influence of pre-birth factors on subsequent deformities.

Of the almost 7,700 nonhuman primates at the centers, Rhesus monkeys (macaques) predominated. They make up nearly half of the entire colony population, and are especially suitable for many biological studies.

Further understanding of diabetes was achieved this year when a group of scientists at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center perfected a new technique in developing the pig-tail macaque as a perfect laboratory model for this disease.

New Treatment Developed
Another research team at the Oregon Center using Rhesus monkeys, has developed a new treatment that may help hay fever sufferers. It involves trapping one half of monkeys in a special cage.

In the West, this pollen is a major cause of hay fever mucous build-up in throat and nasal passages.

In clinical trials with allergic patients, the new compound decisively reduced the number of harmful hay fever producing antibodies.

Researchers at the New England Center successfully developed a method for producing lymphocytic leukemia in the owl monkey.

2 Appointed to National Allergy Advisory Council
Dr. Philip S. Norman and Marian W. Bell have been appointed to the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council. The appointments will be effective until September 1975.

Dr. Norman—one of the country’s foremost authorities on allergies—is associate professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

He heads the school’s Division of Clinical Immunology and is associate physician-in-charge of the Allergy Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mrs. Bell is an active volunteer in numerous health-related civic organizations nationally and in Pennsylvania.

She is a board member of Community Services of Pennsylvania, the Health and Research Services Foundation of Allegheny County, the Women’s Committee of West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh, and the Board of Governors of the Holmes House (Home for Incurables) in Pittsburgh.

Yale University Meeting
Discusses Issues Relating To Renal Micropuncture

A Renal Micropuncture Workshop, partially supported by a contract from the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, was held recently at Yale University.

The 2-day meeting was chaired by Dr. Gerhard Giebisch, Department of Physiology, Yale University School of Medicine, who is president of the American Nephrology Society.

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In clinical trials with allergic patients, the new compound decisively reduced the number of harmful hay fever producing antibodies.

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Before presenting the recent annual Jules Freund Seminar, Dr. Herman N. Eisen (r) receives a commemorative scroll from Dr. Sanford H. Stone, NIAMD Laboratory of Microbiology. Dr. Eisen, who heads the Department of Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, spoke on Myeloma Proteins as Antibodies and Tumor-Specific Antigens.

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She is a board member of Community Services of Pennsylvania, the Health and Research Services Foundation of Allegheny County, the Women’s Committee of West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh, and the Board of Governors of the Holmes House (Home for Incurables) in Pittsburgh.

Two Publications Describe Clinical Training Programs

The 1972 catalog of the Associate Training Programs in the Medical and Biological Sciences at the National Institutes of Health and the 1972-73 edition of Clinical Electives for Medical Students are now available.

The 100-page Associate Training Programs catalog describes the 2-year program for clinical associates, research associates, and staff associates, including details on the Commissioned Officer Residency Defereement Program and the Early Commissioning Program (PHS Senior CO-STEP Program).

The Clinical Electives publication is directed to senior medical students who wish to acquire clinical experience in Endocrinology, Hematology, Immunology, or an understanding of the use of Computers in Clinical Medicine.

Both publications may be obtained from the Clinical Center’s Clinical and Professional Services Section, Bldg. 10, Room 18-229, Ext. 62427.

This type accounts for 80 percent of all childhood leukemia.

The leukemia was induced by injection of Herpesvirus simiae, a virus found in latent form in squirrel monkeys.

Projects relating to recent findings will include research on cancer-causing viruses, organ rejection, nutrition, food additives, and the effects of drugs on the developing embryo.

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Dr. Keatha K. Krueger, scientific communications officer, NIAMD, represented the Institute at the meeting.

The agenda included discussions of micropuncture fluid collection techniques, nephron populations, stationary perfusion methods, continuous perfusion, single nephron preparations, cation-selective electrodes, and new developments.

A number of controversial issues have developed in the rapidly-growing area of micropuncture. This technique allows for the opportunity to examine and study kidney function directly at the basic anatomical level, the single nephron.

Renal micropuncture is now widely used and has provided significant new information. However, discrepancies in the results and problems of interpretation have arisen, which the meeting helped partially to resolve.

Dr. Giebisch is preparing a summary of the workshop. It will be published by the Government Printing Office within a few months.

Show me a seismologist, says a wise-cracking scientist, and I’ll show you a fault-finder.—Medical World News.
PCB CONFERENCE
(Continued from Page 1)
Monsanto, the sole U.S. producer of the industrial chemical, has restricted its role for use in closed systems only, because of possible food contamination or possible environmental contamination.

Dr. Norton Nelson, Director of the Institute of Environmental Medicine, New York University Medical Center, discussed the complex nature of the industrial chemical, and the need for further research, stressing effects on the environment, and the toxic effects on human health.

He also suggested that possible alternatives should be considered and investigated for toxic effects before being introduced into the environment.

The conference was recommended by an Interdepartmental Task Force established last September to define and deal with problems, and to exchange information on PCB's.

Agencies on the Task Force include the FDA, USDA, EPA, Departments of Commerce and Justice, the Office of Science and Technology, the Council on Environmental Quality, and NIEHS.

Conferences proceedings will be published this coming spring. It will be the first issue of an NIEHS journal, "Environmetal Health in Perspective."

Missing Your Salary Check? Use 'Emergency Pay Plan'

Employees who do not receive a salary check on pay day or who receive an underpayment of 25 percent or more may take advantage of the NIH "Emergency Pay Plan."

If for any reason no check, or an underpayment, is received, a check may be issued from NIH emergency funds not to exceed 75 percent of gross pay.

The employee's timekeeper or payroll representative should be contacted for instructions and necessary forms.

The request must be submitted to the Disbursing Services Section, Operations Accounting Branch, OFM, Bldg. 31, Room B12-34, no later than 3 p.m. on pay day to assure receipt of an emergency check by the following Thursday.

Must Reimburse Quickly

When the regular or supplemental check arrives from HEW, the employee is asked to reimburse the NIH emergency fund by personal check at the cashier's office in Bldg. 31 no later than the next workday.

Commissioned officer personnel have separate procedures and should contact their administrative officer.

Computer Monitors Drugs for Patients; Margin for Medication Errors Lessened

Dr. Cohen (r) and Hiram Sera, Director of Pharmacy, are responding to a series of question prompts at a computer video unit in the Stanford U. Hospital pharmacy. Eventually, the system will produce an "alert" when a new drug is prescribed that may interact with medication the patient is taking.

The first stage of a computer-based system for the prevention of undesirable drug interactions in hospitalized patients went into operation recently at Stanford University Medical Center.

The system, developed by scientists in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, utilizes Stanford's Advanced Computer for Medical Research (ACMR) to automatically monitor all drugs dispensed to patients at the University Hospital.

Ultimately, it will produce a computer-generated "alert" each time a newly prescribed drug has the potential of interacting with a drug the patient is already receiving.

The program is under the direction of Dr. Stanley N. Cohen, who holds an NIH Career Development Award.

System Alerts Doctor

After the pharmacist responds to a series of question prompts at the video terminal, the computer automatically prints out a medication label and simultaneously stores appropriate information about the drug and patient in its computer.

When the completed system is put into operation, a "drug interaction report" will be generated by the computer. It will be sent along with the medication to the patient so that any newly prescribed drug may interact with one a patient is already receiving.

This report will contain information about the pharmacist's basis for the interaction, potential clinical effects, clinical significance of the interaction, and documentation from medical literature.

The system will also provide safeguards against certain types of medication errors by automatically verifying patient identification numbers and bed locations. In addition it will print out patient medication profiles for use by the hospital nursing staff.

DDH Holds 2 Seminars; Discusses New Zealand's Dental Nurse Education

The New Zealand dental nurse, a unique figure in the international dental picture, was the subject of two seminars held in December to the staff of the Division of Dental Health, BHME, and guests from NIH.

Dr. Ronald Nevin, Principal of the School for Dental Nurses, Christ Church, N.Z., visited DDH to discuss the nurses' training.

He explained the qualifications for becoming a dental nurse, the school's training program, and what the corps of nurses has accomplished during its 50-year history.

Training Described

Dr. Jay Friedman, School of Public Health, University of California at Los Angeles, presented his view of the New Zealand system, based on a month's visit there.

The New Zealand government has been hiring and training women to supervise and improve the oral health of the country's children, ages 2½ to 15.

The corps numbers about 1,300 with some 200 women entering its ranks yearly after a rigid 2-year program in operative dentistry and health education.

According to Dr. Nevin, the school for dental nurses has been a great success.

Achievements Noted

In 1921, when the program began, nurses were performing some 115 extractions per 100 fillings. In 1970, the average number had dropped to 2.9 extractions per 100 fillings.

Dr. Nevin pointed out that the dental nurse not only maintains the oral health of school children under her care, but her presence in the community also draws attention to oral hygiene.

Since the inception of the program, fewer children enter school with extensive dental problems.

Employees With Ragweed Allergy Needed for Study

The National Heart and Lung Institute's Experimental Therapeutics Branch is seeking NIH employees with ragweed allergy (hay fever or asthma) to aid a research study on histamine release.

Volunteers will receive a simple skin test. If the test is positive, two blood samples will be taken at separate times.

Subjects will receive $2 for the skin test and each blood sample.

For appointments call Dr. Floyd Atkins, Ext. 66375.
CC Blood Bank Invites NIH Employees to Open House for View of Latest Procedures

Employees will see firsthand on Jan 31 how donated blood is processed for patient use—including some of the areas where it is typed and tested.

HYPERTENSION
(Continued from Page 1)
terminig the effectiveness of the therapy to control the blood pressure, and the extent to which disability and death are thereby reduced.

To accomplish this requires several years of time (e.g., the time-lag from onset of damaging pressure elevation to heart, brain or kidney damage) and enough cooperating members for a statistical demonstration of the benefits.

Committee Drafts Plans

Phase II plans have now been drafted by a Steering Committee, made up of the principal investigators from each of the nine clinical centers, together with the program's statistical Coordinating Center.

The Coordinating Center, at the University of Texas, is responsible for the analysis, storage and retrieval of all data relating to the program.

NHHLI is requesting contract proposals from clinical centers which may have the capabilities and interests to participate in the cooperative Hypertension Detection and Follow-up Program.

Chamber Music Concert to Give Program of Brahms Waltzes

The fourth concert in the 1971-72 Chamber Music series of the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences will be presented Sunday, Jan. 30, at 4 p.m. in the Clinical Center's Jack Masur Auditorium.

Lillian Kallir and Claude Frank, piano duo, will present a program of Brahms liebeslieder waltzes, and other music by Dvorak and Mozart. A vocal quartet will also be featured.

The group performed previously at NIH in the 1969-70 season. Admission is by ticket only.

Received Any Transfusions?

Blood Bank Test Needs You

Blood from healthy people who have received at least one transfusion during their lifetime is needed for a test being conducted by the Clinical Center Blood Bank.

Donors will be paid $2 for the 25 ml. sample which will be used as part of an NIH research program to determine the persistence of various antigens and antibodies among individuals who received transfusions.

Blood will be taken in CC Room 4D-51, Mondays through Fridays, between 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Call Bonnie Freeman, Ext. 62248 or 66339, for an appointment.

Drivers' Night Vision Needs Time to Adapt to Darkness

A driver's vision at night will improve dramatically if he waits a few minutes before driving off into the dark, according to the British Association of Optical Practitioners.

It takes about 15 minutes for a driver's eyes to become completely accustomed to the dark, the Association claims, but few motorists wait even 15 seconds.

They come out of a lighted building, jump into a car and drive off. They are, in fact, partially blind.

The Association's findings, covered in the D.C. Traffic Safety Reporter, conclude that 17-year-old drivers should wait at least 2 or 3 minutes, and 60-year-old drivers at least 5 minutes for dark adaptation. However, it takes 15 minutes for a driver to gain his best dark vision.

During the Open House, an Au antigen test will be demonstrated.

The Clinical Center Blood Bank Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All High point of the day's events

High point of the day's events

A preliminary draft of an Executive Summary of the National Cancer Plan will be ready in March for examination by the biomedical scientists who participated in four planning sessions.

The National Cancer Institute will integrate into the draft recommendations from the planning meetings and from the scientific community.

The 41 chairmen of the planning panels (held in October, November, December, and early January) will meet in March and offer their comments, and those of their panel members, on the draft.

On the basis of their suggestions, the Executive Summary will be presented to Congress by Dr. Carl G. Baker, NCI Director, when he testifies before the Subcommittee of the House of Representatives' Committee on Appropriations.

After the Congressional hearings, the National Cancer Plan will be completed some time in June.

Cancer Panelists, Other Scientists to Comment On Preliminary Plan