Papers on Two Major Oral Diseases Read At Internat'l Meeting

Papers on dental caries and periodontal disease—two major oral diseases—were read by National Institute of Dental Research grant-supported scientists at the 51st annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research, which was held April 12-15 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ronald J. Gibbons and his associates at the Forsyth Dental Center, Boston, reported on a prime bacterial suspect for causing tooth decay—Streptococcus mutans. This organism inhabits specific locations, usually where teeth abut or in surface pits. It is very

(See ORAL DISEASES, Page 6)

Marston Leaves Federal Service; Tenure Lauded for 'Stability ... High Purpose'

Dr. Robert Q. Marston, ninth Director of NIH (1968-1973) will leave the Federal service at the end of this month. On his last day on campus, April 27, a farewell ceremony will be held at NIH (details are outlined in the adjacent box).

Earlier this year, then Secretary Elliot L. Richardson described NIH under Marston as follows: “Under your leadership, NIH has grown in scientific stature as well as in the range of program activities. “The highest honors in science, both nationally and internationally, that have been awarded to NIH personnel since you have been Director should be a tremendous source of satisfaction to you, and are indeed a tribute to the stability and sense of purpose which have characterized your administration.”

Richardson Continues

“The quality and ability of the senior program officers who have been recruited during your tenure speaks eloquently of the esteem in which you are held in the highest circles of science.

“On a personal note, I have appreciated your friendship, loyalty, and keen devotion to the best interests of the citizens of this Nation as well as the interests of NIH and the Department as a whole. I join your many friends and colleagues in HEW in wishing...

(Continued on Page 5)

Nuclear-Powered Pacemaker Developed In U.S. Is Implanted by NHLI Surgeons

The first nuclear-powered pacemaker developed completely in the United States was implanted in a patient April 9 during an operation at the Clinical Center by National Heart and Lung Institute surgeons. Along with the NHLI implant, 15 similar operations were completed at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center of New Jersey. A total of five are expected to be implanted by the Heart and Lung Institute.

The pacemakers were developed and manufactured by ARCO Nuclear Company of Leechburg, Pa., under contracts from the Atomic Energy Commission. Only the second such device to be licensed in America, they are being utilized in clinical trials for evaluation and study before mass production is started.

The pacemakers have been test-

(See PACEMAKER, Page 1)

Clinical testing of this nuclear-powered heart pacemaker is underway at several medical centers throughout the country.

Dr. Donald Tower Named NINDS Acting Director

Dr. Donald B. Tower has been appointed Acting Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke. Dr. Tower is chief of the NINDS Laboratory of Neurochemistry; he will assume his new post on May 1.

He succeeds Dr. Robert Q. Marston, who has been Acting Director of NINDS since January of this year.

Dr. Tower, who came to NINDS in 1963 as chief, Section of Chemical Neurochemistry, received his

(See DR. TOWER, Page 7)
Performance Ratings Explained, 2 Here Get Highest Evaluation

The determination of annual performance ratings is now underway at NIH and will last through June 15. Last year two NIH employees received Outstanding Performance Ratings.

Supervisors evaluate employees and discuss their assessments with individual staff members. There are three performance ratings—satisfactory, outstanding, and unsatisfactory.

The Employee Relations and Recognition Branch, OPM, evaluated the evaluation ratings: Satisfactory — overall performance meets position requirements; rating encompasses degrees of performance including that of above average.

Outstanding—an exacting criteria calling for each aspect of work performance to exceed normal requirements.

Unsatisfactory—no meeting requirements of job description during trial period, and after efforts to help the employee are ineffective.

The two NIHers who received outstanding ratings are Elizabeth W. Dunn, grants technical assistant, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and R. Jean Babb, program analyst, Division of Research Resources.

Shows Good Judgment

Miss Dunn received her outstanding rating for demonstrating . . . exceptionally good judgment in the application of policies established by both her supervisor and DHEW.

Her evaluation also included the mention of . . . her comprehensive understanding of the organization of NIH and by her working relationships with B/I/D's and other Government agencies in assembling information and maintaining communications in relevant program areas . . .

Mrs. Babb was cited for her . . . complete dedication to her work far beyond normal expectations . . . manages many on-going projects . . . follows through with continuous training programs for her staff . . . studies independently on her own time various aspects of the work assigned to her such as new computer languages . . .

Both Miss Dunn and Mrs. Babb received the highest rating for their initiative, ability to learn, and interest in work.
Hugh Lee Heads NHLI’s New Information Center On High Blood Pressure

Hugh J. Lee has been named chief of the new High Blood Pressure Information Center which has been established as a branch within the Office of Information, National Heart and Lung Institute.

The dissemination of information on this condition is part of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program headed by Dr. Theodore Cooper, NHLI Director.

This program was started last year at the suggestion of former HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson. Other Federal agencies taking part in the program include FDA, HSMHA, VA, and the Department of Defense.

Private organizations involved in the campaign to reduce the toll caused by the neglect of high blood pressure include the American Medical Association and the American Heart Association.

In discussing the Center, Dr. Cooper said, “More than 23 million Americans have high blood pressure, but at least half of them don’t even know it. Mr. Lee and his staff hope to reach “a majority of these 11½ million people” to inform them of the consequences of high blood pressure and that it can be controlled once it is identified.

Cooper Discusses Center

“If we can reach a majority of these...people...there can be a significant reduction in the number and severity of premature heart attacks, strokes and kidney disease, thus saving the Nation vast amounts of unnecessary personal and economic loss.”

The address of the NHBP Information Center is 120/80 NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014—the numerals relate to what is considered a normal blood pressure reading.

Mr. Lee, who has been at NIH since 1969, has been an NHBP information staff member for the past year. Previously, he had been with the NICHD Information Office. Between 1968 and 1972, he served there intermittently as acting printing officer for NIH.

He has also been with the Department of Commerce, the District of Columbia Government, and WMAL Radio-TV.

Mr. Lee will be assisted by Helen Neal, on loan from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and other members of the NHLI staff.

Annual Bond Campaign Begins on May 1; Use Payroll Deduction Plan and Save

The NIH annual U.S. Savings Bond Campaign will begin on May 1. Dr. John Sherman, Acting Director of NIH, is the chairman, and Dr. A. W. Pratt of the Division of Computer Research and Technology is vice chairman of this year’s drive.

According to a recent article in U.S. News and World Report, the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds is zooming. Similarly, the sale of bonds enjoyed a boom following World War II, when the U.S. population sought a safe investment against inflation.

Then, as now, bonds represent the safest securities, and are competitive in yield with many other investments. Held to maturity, E Bonds produce an average annual return of 5.5 percent.

Bonds Are Useful

Bonds provide a useful cash reserve. They can be cashed 2 months prior to the issue date. However, they should be held to maturity for maximum benefits.

A number of tax deferment advantages are offered to the investor who no other form of savings can provide.

Looking ahead to the cost of a college education, a few thousand dollars in E Bonds may be purchased in a child’s name.

Tax Return Explained

If the youngster files a tax return the first year and reports the interest annually, normally no tax will be paid because his income will be too low.

Then, when the money is needed, the E Bonds may be cashed—tax free. Note that savings bonds are exempt from state and local taxes.

Payroll deductions make a saving program easy. This offers a safe, convenient way to save for the average investor.

Bonds are replaced if lost, stolen, or destroyed.

Bear these extra benefits in mind when a canvasser visits during the upcoming campaign.

EDT Begins on April 29th; Set Clocks Forward 1 Hour

Eastern Daylight Time will begin this year on April 29—the last Sunday of the month—for the metropolitan Washington area.

Set your clocks ahead one hour to allow for the change, which will go into effect around 2 a.m.

Mr. Lee, on loan from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and other members of the NHLI staff. Mr. Lee, on loan from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and other members of the NHLI staff.
NEI Issues Publication

Focusing on Cataract

Nearly 5,000 people in the United States will lose their sight this year from cataract. However, permanent blindness caused by cataract is usually needless.

To explain the disease and its treatment, the National Eye Institute has issued a booklet called Cataract: NEI Focus on Research. A cataract is a cloudiness in the lens which interferes with vision. The lens helps focus images onto the retina, which transmits them to the brain.

Most Operations Successful

When a lens becomes clouded, it obstructs the passage of light, impairing vision.

While a cataract’s cause cannot usually be determined, cataract extraction is one of the most successful operations performed today.

Ninety to 95 percent of patients undergoing cataract surgery enjoy restoration of sight.

Written for the general public, the publication discusses some causes of cataract, symptoms, treatment, current and experimental surgical methods, adjustments after surgery, and patient resistance to surgery.

Single free copies of the booklet are available from the NEI Office of Information, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

PACEMAKER

(Continued from Page 1)

weights approximately 4 ounces. It may be placed just under the skin in the chest or abdomen and is connected to the heart via an insulated, flexible wire electrode.

The pacemaker is powered by 400 milligrams of plutonium-238, a radioactive isotope which generates heat. The unit directly converts this heat into electric current to stimulate the heart.

Produce Fixed Signal

A fixed rate signal is produced by the pacemaker—that is, a constant number of impulses is sent to the heart to make it beat 72 times each minute.

Radioactivity from the nuclear pacemaker is not considered a hazard to the patient, nor to anyone around him.

The units have withstood tests of severe impact, crushing, and extreme heat without releasing any radioactivity from the capsule.

Extramural Programs

Of NIDR Reorganized

For Vital Support

The extramural programs of the National Institute of Dental Research have been reorganized. “To assure the greatest return from the Federal dollar,” said Dr. Seymour J. Kreshover, Institute Director, “it is vital that the programs we support are the most responsive to the Nation’s oral health needs.

“The new structure will permit not only a better assessment of problem areas but also a more effective followup through grant-supported projects.”

The five programs in the new extramural structure and their chiefs are:

Programs Listed

Periodontal and Soft Tissue Diseases, Dr. John P. Goggin;
Restorative Materials, Dr. Louis W. Wachtel, and Craniofacial Anomalies, Dr. Richard L. Christiansen.

Also, Mineralization, Salivary Secretions, and Nutrition, Dr. Paul D. Frazier, and Pain Control and Behavioral Studies, Dr. Aaron Ganz.

Three special assistants to Dr. Clair L. Gardner, director for Extramural Programs, have also been named: Dr. Anthony A. Rizzo, special assistant for Program Coordination; Dr. Robert J. Schuellein, special assistant for Research Manpower, and Dr. Emil L. Rigg, special assistant for Institutes and Centers.

Just think. If recycling really catches on, having garbage will be patriotic.—Changing Times.

Donald Watson Retires

After 19 Years at NIH

Donald R. Watson recently retired as assistant director for Materiel Management, Office of Administrative Services, after 19 years at NIH.

His retirement plans include serving as a consultant on contracts and related areas in which he has had extensive experience at NIH and other agencies.

Mr. Watson directed NIH procurement activities in the field as well as on the reservation from 1954 until 1969, when he became assistant director, responsible for all materiel management activities.

Mr. Watson initiated a number of unique programs and streamlined others. Chief among these was the Telephone Charge Order system which reduced red tape for small procurements.

Experience Noted

He began his Government career in 1937 with the Procurement Division, Federal Bureau of Supply (now the General Services Administration).

Prior to World War II, he transferred to the Office of Emergency Management as chief procurement officer responsible for contracting and purchasing supplies and equipment for most of the emergency war agencies.

Later he transferred to the Foreign Economic Administration as assistant branch chief for the procurement of strategic materials, and from 1945 to 1949 was with the Central Office of the War Assets Administration.

In 1950 Mr. Watson joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a procurement specialist concerned with procurement program-

As a result of Mr. Watson’s innovations, materiel management at NIH has been a subject of study by other Government agencies and industrial organizations.

He came to NIH’s Supply Management Branch as chief of the Procurement Section in 1954.

For his significant contributions in the field of viral carcinogenesis, Dr. Robert J. Huebner (r), NCI, receives from Rector P. De Somer a citation designating him an honorary doctor of the University of Leuven, Belgium. Previous recipients of the degree include President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Dr. Kenneth Galbraith, and Dr. James Shannon. Dr. Huebner, chief of the Viral Carcinogenesis Branch, Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, has also received honorary degrees from the University of Cincinnati, the University of Parma (Italy), and Edgecliff College.
Subcommittees Named To Review Research Under Cancer Program

Two ad hoc subcommittees have been appointed by the National Cancer Institute to review research programs conducted under the National Cancer Program.

One subcommittee, headed by Dr. Norton D. Zinder, Rockefeller University, will review overall research of the NCI Special Virus Cancer Program and make recommendations for future virus-cancer research.

The other subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Sidney Weinhouse, Fels Research Institute, will review a research program conducted by Litton Bionetics, Inc., at the Frederick Cancer Research Center at Fort Detrick, Md.

Litton's program performance will be examined and recommendations made for further development of an advanced systems laboratory at Frederick.

The facility will serve as a sophisticated resource for experiments by visiting U.S. and foreign scientists.

Dr. Paul A. di Sant'Agnese, chief of the Pediatric Metabolism Branch, NIAAM, was recently presented with an award for his "outstanding contribution" to the development of the International Cystic Fibrosis Association. This organization unites lay and medical leaders of 22 countries in a common fight against cystic fibrosis.

Exhibit at NLM Traces Medical Journal Origins


Included in the display are two reports from a European publication, the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, dated 1788.

Also on display are copies of the earliest American medical journals as well as various specialty publications.

Visitors may view the exhibit until July 1. Lobby hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DR. MARSTON IS LEAVING FEDERAL SERVICE

(Continued from Page 1)

you continuing opportunities for service and success.

Dr. John F. Sherman, Acting NIH Director, in commenting on Dr. Marston's resignation from the Acting Directorship of the NINDS expressed his appreciation "for the leadership which he has given NINDS during a transitional period. This recent service is only one small facet of the tremendous contribution he made to the progress of science and medicine from 1968 to 1973 as Director of NIH."

Marston Announces Plans

Dr. Marston announced some months ago his plans to take a "sabbatical" year.

He is leaving NIH to become a Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Virginia on May 1, where he will focus on the relation of medicine to the broader functions of a university. He will work not only with medical and nursing schools, but also with the schools of law, education, business administration and the college of arts and sciences.

Dr. Edgar F. Shannon, University of Virginia President, said the university's program allows distinguished individuals considerable flexibility in carrying out programs to suit their particular expertise and interests.

In announcing the appointment, Dr. Shannon also said that "Dr. Marston is not only a proven scientist and administrator, but a scholar and an educator of the highest caliber. "The university and the State are fortunate to be able to draw upon the knowledge and experience of one of the Nation's foremost leaders in the fields of health and science."

Dr. Marston has also been named the first Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences. There he will direct the establishment of a new program of Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships.

This program, conducted in cooperation with the American Political Science Association, will be funded by a 5-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Advices on Policy

In this capacity he will also advise Dr. John R. Hogness, President of Institute of Medicine, on biomedical research policy matters.

The period of Dr. Marston's tenure as Director under two Presidents and five Secretaries of HEW can be characterized as a continuation of the evolving role of NIH in biomedical research which started after World War II.

Program responsibilities were markedly expanded by the addition in 1968 of the Bureau of Health Manpower Education and the National Library of Medicine.

New research Institutes and programs were created, and existing research programs were expanded.

For instance, in 1969 NIH appropriations totaled $1.4 billion; in 1972 they were $2.2 billion, a 60 percent increase.

The continued growth and vigor of American biomedical research is documented by substantive progress in almost all of the areas of biomedical research covered by NIH and by the continued recognition through prizes and awards to American scientists supported by NIH funds.

This has been a period, too, in which an increasing number of intramural NIH scientists have been recognized for historic achievements in biomedicine.

Progress Made

Such progress in recent years has increased the hope that science can be even more effective in improving health and controlling age-old diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, as well as the newer or more recently recognized threats such as environmental or genetically determined illnesses.

In commenting on his total of nine and one-half years at NIH Dr. Marston called it "the dominant institution of my professional life, and my personal and professional ties with the wonderful people at NIH inevitably will remain very close."

"No other single factor will be more important in determining the nature of man's future in this world than the further development and transmission of biomedical knowledge," Dr. Marston added, "so that we can better understand ourselves in health and in disease in our relationship to the environment and in our relationship to others."

Study Shows Training Develops Altruistic Behavior in Children

Research on nursery school children between the ages of 3 and 6 and how they respond to concern for others has been undertaken by scientists at the National Institute of Mental Health.

The researchers, Dr. Marian Radke Yarrow, Dr. Carolyn Zahn Waxler, and Dr. Phyllis M. Scott, feel that too little is known about this type of social behavior.

According to the investigators, training is the key to developing a young child's concern for others. How the children responded to certain situations was noted by the observers. Pictures, dioramas, and —where possible—real life situations were used.

Situations included children eating ice cream cones in the presence of one who had none, a dog whose chain is wound too tightly around a tree, and an adult who bumps her head on a table while picking up a toy from the floor.

The evidence demonstrated that two children who showed the highest degree of concern for others are found where parents themselves show concern in their everyday living.

The NIH researchers explained that parents must also respond to their children's feelings and point out the best method for expressing altruistic feelings.

If these feelings are lacking in a parent, the lack is shown in the child.

The full report on this research is in the March issue of the Journal of Developmental Psychology.
Hospital-Associated Infections Not Decreasing Despite Use of Newer Antimicrobial Agents

Channing Laboratory, Boston City Hospital, and Dr. William Hewitt, School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles.

Sufficient knowledge now exists to recently take part in an NIAID-sponsored Workshop on Hospital-Associated Infections.

Their report also indicated that sufficient knowledge now exists to significantly reduce the number of such infections, if conscientiously applied.

Problems Discussed

During the workshop, participants discussed the magnitude of the problem, factors predisposing to infection, various control measures, preventive antimicrobial therapy, and the role of viral infections in the phenomenon.

Hospital-associated infections are still causes of morbidity and mortality among hospitalized patients. As such, they also contribute directly to spiraling increases in the costs of hospitalization.

The problem with infection is the patient's loss of resistance to microorganisms that are normally harmless to healthy people.

These organisms are easily identified although some of the reasons for the disturbances in human resistance to them are not.

Medical Devices Used

One factor contributing to the problem is the widespread use of medical devices, such as catheters and intravenous procedures, which provide entry portals for microorganisms.

Workshop participants urged that more research should be undertaken on such aspects as host resistance, other risk factors, more efficient diagnostic systems, and improved topical disinfectants.

Further study on the role of food and water as vehicles for infection, the value of air-flow techniques, transmission of hepatitis within dialysis units, measures to increase resistance to the herpesvirus group, and the training of all personnel to ensure implementation of available knowledge about infection control were also recommended.

ORAL DISEASES

(Continued from Page 1)

Slow to spread from tooth to tooth, and therefore may be susceptible to selective chemical control, such as a special iodine solution.

During preliminary tests on a group of children to remove this organism, the researchers found that the solution kept some of the children free of S. mutans in those areas for at least 18 weeks.

Dr. Cecil Taylor, Texas Medical Center at Houston, reported that the mast cell seems to hold a key to the rapid destruction of the protein, collagen, which occurs in periodontal—gum—disease.

Collagen Defined

Collagen is the chief protein in connective tissues such as skin and bone; and in periodontal disease, large amounts of it are rapidly destroyed so that sound teeth fall out of the jawbone.

Normally, the collagenase enzyme, which breaks down the long collagen molecule, is inactive in the presence of serum. However, Dr. Taylor found that a substance is released from granules in mast cells which enables the enzymes to digest collagen even when serum is present.

Dr. Jo Max Goodson, University of California School of Dentistry in San Francisco, reported that gum tissues affected by periodontal disease have 10 times the normal level of a prostaglandin. He believes his findings implicate prostaglandins in the bone loss associated with that disease.

Dr. Goodson also stated that daily doses of vitamin E reduced inflammation in patients with periodontal disease.

However, further studies are needed to find out if specific drugs can reduce prostaglandin levels in the gums and actually control loss.

NIH Visiting Scientists Program Participants

3/19—Dr. Nivedita Mitra, India, Matogenesis Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Heinrich V. Malling, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

3/19—Dr. Hrishikes Mondal, India, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Robert Gallo, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 6B15.

4/1—Dr. Richard Hansford, United Kingdom, Laboratory of Molecular Aging. Sponsor: Dr. Bertram Sacktor, NICHD, Gerontology Research Center, Baltimore, Md.

4/2—Dr. Arunendra Majumder, India, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. Frank Eisenberg, NIAMDD, Bldg. 10, Rm. 9B07.

4/2—Dr. John R. Rhodes, United Kingdom, Clinical Allergy and Hypersensitivity Section. Sponsor: Dr. Charles H. Kirkpatrick, NIAID, Bldg. 10, Rm. 11N117.

4/10—Dr. He Duck Mah, Korea, Laboratory of Chemistry. Sponsor: Dr. John Daly, NIAMDD, Bldg. 4, Rm. 210.

AMUS Accepts Nominations For Annual Awards Programs

The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States is accepting nominations for its 1973 Awards Program in preparation for November's annual convention.

The 16 competitive awards consist of a plaque or scroll and an honorarium. There are also four noncompetitive awards.

Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Veterans Administration, and Public Health Service are honored for outstanding performance and significant contributions to research or education.

Nominations for the competitive awards should be submitted prior to June 15. Further information may be obtained by calling AMUS at 657-1980.
NIAID allergy research programs are carried out in labs on the campus, in industrial laboratories, and in ten asthma and allergic disease centers. The goal of these studies is aimed at better diagnosis and the prevention and treatment of allergic disorders. The knowledge gained through these programs may "result in better care for those who suffer the debilitating effects of asthma and other allergies." (L) Dr. Allen P. Kaplan, director, NIAID's Asthma and Allergic Disease Center in the CC, is conducting a bioassay on specialized equipment, using guinea pig intestine. With his lab assistant Charles Tolbert, Dr. Kaplan is assaying clotting enzymes.

Dr. Kaplan is a council member of both professional societies, including the International Society for Microbiology and the American Society of Neurochemistry. He is currently a member of several other councils member of both professional societies.

In 1969 he was head of the Neurochemistry Exchange Program to the Soviet Union under the U.S.-Soviet Exchange Program. In 1972 he was a guest of the Armenian and Uzbek Academies of Science, USSR.

Dr. Y. Kikkawa, C. Lewis
Named to NHLI Council

Two new members, Dr. Yutaka Kikkawa and Charlotte Lewis, have been appointed to NHLI’s National Heart and Lung Advisory Council.

Dr. Kikkawa, associate professor of pathology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, is also an attending pathologist, Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, and director of pathology in Van Etten Hospital, Bronx, N.Y.

Miss Lewis, a 1969 graduate of Union College in Barbourville, Ky., is particularly interested in politics. She has served as public relations chairwoman for the Kentucky Young Republican Federation and as a publicity specialist for the Kentucky State Department of Information.

The council, which meets 3 times a year at NIH, evaluates NHLI research and training programs. The next meeting will be held in June.

Photography Contest Deadline Draws Near

The April 30 deadline for the Camera Club and Record's photography contest is drawing near.

Three prizes of $15, $10, and $5 will be awarded in each category—landscape, human interest, and scientific activity.

On the back of the pictures, don’t forget to put your name, extension, a title for the content, a brief description of what is happening in the scene, and the category entered.

Judges for the contest will be Dr. David Small, president of the Camera Club, Ron Winterrowd, chief, General Illustrations Section, MAPD, and Jerry Hecht, Audiovisuals Branch, OD.

Study of Tissue Matching in Kidney Transplants Receives NIAID Support: 7 Groups Participating

The usefulness of tissue matching in kidney transplants between unrelated donors and recipients will be evaluated by scientists working under a 2-year contract with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The nationwide study will be carried out by six cooperative clinical groups and a seventh group providing statistical services.

Intensive research has established that substances (HL-A antigens) in an individual’s white blood cells determine the compatibility of his tissues with those of another person.

Since these substances are inherited, a close relative (preferably a brother or sister) makes the best donor for a transplant. The closer the match in HL-A antigens among brothers and sisters, the more successful the operation.

Transplants Increase

As the number of kidney transplants in the U.S. has risen from 200 in 1964 to 2,900 in 1972, the number of organs obtained from unrelated (usually cadaver) donors has also increased.

The new NIAID study will rely on the cooperation of clinicians and laboratory scientists who will collect data on approximately 800 kidney transplants annually. They will use standardized NIH typing materials and methods to type donors and recipients on a regional basis.

Contractors Named

The six regional contractors for this study are: the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio; the University of Utah Medical Center, Salt Lake City; the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago; the University of Rochester in New York; the University of Texas Medical School, Dallas, and the University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis.

The University of North Carolina School of Public Health will serve as a statistics and data management center, analyzing the information coming out of the regional centers.

Two DMI Publications
List Training Programs
For Support Personnel

Two publications listing programs for training physician’s assistants and other physician support personnel have been issued by the Division of Manpower Intelligence, BHME.


Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., for $1 per copy.

The second booklet, Summary of Training Programs: Physician Support Personnel, was prepared jointly by DMI and the American Medical Association. It lists 88 courses by state within five categories.

Copies of this 46-page booklet, DHEW No. (NIH) 78-318, are available free from DMI, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014, and the AMA, Division of Medical Practice, Department of Health Manpower, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. 60610.
Scientists Report Interferon—Naturally Occurring Antiviral Protein Effective Against Common Cold

An NIAID-supported scientist and a British medical research team have reported that interferon—a naturally occurring antiviral substance—is an effective preventive against the common cold. However, the scientists stressed that practical application must await further research.

Dr. Thomas C. Merigan, on an NIAID fellowship from Stanford University, joined with investigators at the Medical Research Council's Common Cold Unit in Salisbury, England, in both laboratory and human studies of exogenous interferon (that prepared outside the body).

Interferon is a protein produced by the body in response to a viral infection. Scientists have long hoped to make interferon available as an antiviral drug since it is active against most viruses and has no significant toxicity. Recently methods have been developed whereby explanted human cells can be stimulated to produce large amounts of interferon.

After performing interferon susceptibility studies of certain respiratory viruses, the scientists selected rhinovirus 4 and influenza B virus for use in 54 human volunteers.

Study Explained

In experiments with rhinovirus 4, large doses of interferon were given by nasal spray both before and for 3 days following challenge with the common cold virus. Only one of the interferon-treated volunteers showed any cold symptoms.

By applying the interferon locally, the scientists took advantage of the barrier in the nasal skin which inhibits absorption into the entire system.

Smaller amounts of interferon given similarly during the day before challenge with the influenza B virus did not alter the frequency or severity of infection in volunteers.

It did, however, cause a delay in the clinical course of disease in 8 of 11 interferon-treated volunteers. Dr. Merigan and his co-workers suggested that in future studies interferon administered in larger doses and continued virus challenge could possibly be more effective against influenza infection.

No side effects or late compli-

Attending the Secretary's reception following the Department Annual Honor Awards Ceremony April 11 are (1 to r): Dr. Manning Feinleib, NHLI, recipient of the 1972 Mortimer Spiegelman Gold Medal Award; Elizabeth Chase, BHME, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award; Jesse M. Scott, BHME, recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal; Dr. John F. Sherman, Acting NIH Director; Caspar W. Weinberger, H E W Secretary; Dr. Robert L. Berman, NIH, recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, and Dr. Wallace P. Rowe, recipient of one of five Rockefeller Public Service Awards.

Three Doctors Appointed To Dental Council Posts

Drs. Jewel Plummer Cobb, Jose E. Medina, and Hamilton B. G. Robinson have been named to the National Advisory Dental Research Council. Their terms will run through September 1976.

Dr. Cobb, a prominent educator and cell physiologist from New York University, served as chairman of the D.C. Council. In 1952, Dr. Cobb joined the faculty of the Medical College of Illinois as an instructor in anatomy and subsequently taught at the University of Michigan, Sarah Lawrence College, and Connecticut College.

She received an honorary L.L.D. degree from Wheaton College in 1971 and an honorary D.Sc. degree from Lowell Technological Institute in 1972.

Taught at Maryland

Dr. Medina of Gainesville, Fla., is Dean of the College of Dentistry of the University of Florida. Dr. Medina taught at the Dental School of the University of Maryland, serving as assistant dean from 1958 to 1964.

He has been a consultant to the U.S. Navy, the PHS and the Naval Dental School.

Dr. Robinson of Kansas City, Mo., began his career as an educator at the Washington University of St. Louis. Following an assignment at Ohio State University, Dr. Robinson joined the staff of the University of Missouri, becoming Dean of the Dental School in 1968. The author of many books in the field of oral pathology, Dr. Robinson has received such awards as the Tufts University award for leadership in oral pathology, the Callahan medal, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy medal.

He has served as president of the International Association of Dental Research, the American Board of Oral Pathology, and the American Association of Dental Schools.