1st Nat'l Sickle Cell Disease Symposium

Covers Diagnosis, Treatment, Results

Late in June, more than 725 physicians and scientists gathered at the Washington Hilton Hotel to attend the First National Symposium on Sickle Cell Disease sponsored by the National Heart and Lung Institute.

By far the largest symposium ever held on the subject, over 60 major medical centers from the United States, England, Israel, Italy, and Ghana were represented.

The opening plenary session was devoted to papers describing recent work on potential methods of therapy. The value of new drugs, such as sodium cyanate, was discussed as well as the possible side effects of these recently developed modes of treatment.

Other important clinical aspects of SCD, including diagnosis and treatment of complications, were reported on at subsequent plenary sessions.

The three plenary sessions were also concerned with recent discoveries concerning the molecular and cellular basis of medical problems associated with sickle hemoglobin.

These studies are opening up a new center plans to concentrate on such areas of research as normal processes in labor and the prevention of premature birth.

A major priority, he said, will be to improve the health status of young children and identify "ways to bring our children into the world with the best possible vision of Heart and Vascular Diseases."

Drs. Mitchell, Rifkind Named Branch Chiefs For Heart Institute

Dr. Sheila C. Mitchell and Basil M. Rifkind have been named branch chiefs in the National Heart and Lung Institute's Division of Heart and Vascular Diseases.

As Atherogenesis Branch chief, Dr. Mitchell will plan and administer NHLI support programs concerned with factors in people or in their environment that increase susceptibility to the premature development of arteriosclerosis.

This artery-clogging blood vessel disease, almost ubiquitous among American adults, is responsible for heart attacks, strokes, and other crippling or lethal manifestations of cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Mitchell has served as assistant to the NHLI Director since 1968 involved primarily with collaborative studies, targeted research, and training activities in congenital and rheumatic heart disease.

She received her M.D. degree from the University of Toronto.

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In dedicating the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's new Reproductive and Perinatal Biology Research Facility, Caspar W. Weinberger, HEW Secretary, termed the center a site for "incisive observation and scholarly study."

The dedication ceremony, which took place on Monday, July 1, in the Masur Auditorium, was attended by Dr. Charles Edwards, HEW Assistant Secretary for Health, and other HEW officials. Dr. Robert S. Stone, NIH Director, introduced Secretary Weinberger to the audience which also included NIH directors and their staff, and other NIH employees.

Future Studies Noted

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Two Centuries of Federal Service! Not in the Realm Of Possibility? Oh Yes It Is—for 6 NIAID Employees

Imagine almost two centuries of Federal service! Impossible? Not for six National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' employees who had a combined service of 190 years when they retired on June 30.

The employees are: Dr. Noel H. Gross, scientist administrator with the Institute's Extramural Programs, retired after nearly 28 years of Federal service. As special assistant for training programs, he had been responsible for the formulation of policy in the review and analysis of research training grants and fellowships.

Recently, he received a Superior Service Award for his efficient administration of the program. Dr. Gross joined NIAID in 1959 as training officer. He also served as assistant to the chief, assistant chief, and chief of the Bacteriology and Mycology Branch, all in Extramural Programs.

Before coming to NIH, he had worked at Fort Detrick as chief of the agent control branch and the technical information division. Earlier, Dr. Gross had been on the faculties of Oregon State College and Iowa State College.

THE WORLD IS THEIR OYSTER. Four of the retired employees pore over a world atlas and discuss plans where they're going and what they're going to do once they get there. Other plans include cultivating gardens and starting new careers. L to R: Mr. Moon, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Suddeth, and Dr. Gross.

Mr. William J. Moon, NIAID's personnel officer for 16 years, retired after more than 30 years of Federal service.

A native of the Hoosier State, Mr. Moon attended Butler University and Indiana University. Before coming to NIH in 1956 he had held administrative positions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is noted for his ability in "training some of the top management people at NIH" and his interest in fostering upward mobility opportunities for NIAID employees.

Mr. Moon was especially interested in furthering the educational training of animal caretakers so that they might qualify for positions as laboratory aids and laboratory technicians.

Now, he plans to devote a great deal of time on two of his hobbies — golfing and vegetable gardening. At his retirement luncheon, his gifts included mostly golfing equipment and a gift certificate for (See TWO CENTURIES, Page 5)
Rita Orr’s Door Is Wide Open; She Lends a Listening Ear to All Who Enter

Rita Orr has a penchant for making new employees at the National Library of Medicine feel welcome, especially summer employees and those in NIH’s stay-in-school program. Mrs. Orr is NLM’s senior personnel management specialist. She has been assisting Robert Cross who had been the personnel officer there. Mr. Cross recently left NLM for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Both are staunch advocates of EEO, NIH’s summer employment policy, and the stay-in-school program. Mrs. Orr explained the work of NLM’s personnel office by saying, “We do everything to bring people on board and then we do everything to provide the personnel services for the employees.

“Personnel is a two-pronged endeavor. You’re working for management and you’re working for the employees.”

Mrs. Orr handles both sides with the finesse of a diplomat plus an abundance of kindness and understanding. That’s one reason why she was the recent recipient of the NIH EEO award which she received from Dr. Robert S. Stone, NIH Director, at an Awards Assembly in the Masur Auditorium.

Explains Award

She explained the award was based on her work with supervisors and institutions in helping to foster employment for young people.

She also added, “that award was given to me, but in fact, it should have been given to many, many people. We have excellent supervisors here who are more than willing to hire and train young people.”

Mrs. Orr enumerated the work areas at NLM headed by understanding supervisors who are receptive to the idea of hiring qualified young people for summer or longer periods.

She mentioned office work, training as library aids, and operating photo duplication equipment.

“It’s a logical thing,” Mrs. Orr explained, “to place young people in support roles where they can be trained to acquire skills.”

We have a large number of young people in the stay-in-school program. They work 16 hours a week during the school year, and full-time during the vacation period.

“We have young people who come here when they first enter college and stay here the whole 4 years. Some young people who have been summer employees are now in graduate school studying to be librarians. I can think of at least six young people whose interest in library work was reinforced by working here.”

In 1972, Mrs. Orr won NLM’s EEO Award and she considers personnel work and EEO “very much of a meshed kind of thing.”

“Personnel, if it’s done properly, has EEO as a basic part of its concept. We do have an open door policy here. The students feel free to come here and talk about their problems. And we encourage them to also go to their supervisors and talk over their problems. As for our regular staff, they welcome an extra pair of hands, they welcome the young people.”

Mrs. Orr, originally from Kansas, talked about her own student days.

“I went to a small Catholic college called Mount Saint Scholastic—she was the sister of Saint Benedict who started the Benedictine Order. The brother school, Saint Benedict, was within a few blocks of my school.”

Her career in personnel work started soon after graduation. She became secretary to the personnel officer of the Civil Service Commission. Later, she was accepted in CSC’s intern training program.

From then on it was one step up after another. After completing

Applications Accepted for FAES Graduate Program Fall Semester

Catalogs for the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences’ Graduate Program fall semester are now available.

Seventy-four courses—both graduate and undergraduate—are offered on the NIH campus in evening sessions.

Classes begin Sept. 16. Register by mail through Aug. 25, or in person Sept. 5-11.

Tuition is $22 per semester hour—courses may be taken for credit or audit. Students seeking government assistance should apply immediately to their administrative office.

Catalogs may be obtained from FAES, CC, Room B1L-101, Ext. 55273.

Bond Drive Campaign Successful; Employees Increase Participation

At the conclusion of this year’s Savings Bond Campaign, NIH employees had increased their participation from 29.7 percent in 1973 to 31.9 percent for 1974. The increase represents an additional 252 new purchasers, bringing the total to 3,896 bond buyers.

That figure may be deceiving, according to Dr. Carl Kupfer, NEI Director, and NIH Bond Drive chairman.

Dr. Kupfer pointed out, “In addition to the 252 new purchasers of bonds, we had over 130 people at NIH who increased their allotments for bonds during the recent campaign. That gives us a grand total of nearly 400 NIH participants in this year’s drive.”

He went on to explain that there are also a number of people who are still planning to purchase Savings Bonds, but want to do so in their children’s names.

“For the first time, these parents must have a Social Security number for their children before bonds can actually be issued in their names. Once these parents receive the Social Security cards, they are planning to purchase bonds,” Dr. Kupfer said.

He also mentioned that the late arrival of materials for the drive set NIH back in its campaign efforts.

“However,” Dr. Kupfer said, “I think it should be emphasized that overall, the NIH staff made a concerted effort to participate in the drive. The canvassers did an admirable job of contacting employees, and we should all be proud of them.”

The Bond drive, which began May 1, officially concluded June 14. The total Federal campaign was considered quite successful, with a 20 percent increase of sales over the previous year.
Ervin Liljegren Retires After 33 Years; NIAMDD’s ‘Master of the Three M’s’

Ervin Liljegren, NIAMDD’s “master of the three m’s,” has retired after 33 years of service to NIH.

Administrative officer for Intramural Research of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, Mr. Liljegren has skillfully managed that program’s “manpower, money and materials” since 1965.

His multifaceted AO position, with each aspect demanding his undivided attention, provided the perfect match for this man for all seasons.

Chemist, actor, administrator, community and church worker, all reflect Mr. Liljegren’s chief interest—people. It was this interest which brought him out of the laboratory after 15 years as a chemist and into administration.

“I guess you could call the decision to leave the laboratory the turning point in my career,” he said. “I’m much more interested in being where the people are.”

Not only interested, but effective as well. Mr. Liljegren’s experience on the research side of the coin afforded him a first-hand understanding of the needs of NIAMDD’s scientific staff.

A former track star at the University of Minnesota, he has always managed to stay one step ahead of personnel position ceilings, pinched budgets, and the constant pleas for more space and equipment.

His background in research combined with a degree in business administration and excellent rapport with investigators have rendered Mr. Liljegren a highly effective and respected administrative officer.

These talents have not gone unrecognized. After a 2-week vacation in his home state of Minnesota, Mr. Liljegren will become the first administrative officer for the National Academy of Sciences’ newly formed Assembly of Life Sciences.

A former Hamsters president, Mr. Liljegren would like to see the “Life at NIH” scripts revitalized and performed again to provide comic relief from the often pressured present-day routine.

A native of Parkers Prairie, Minn., Mr. Liljegren received his B.A. degree in chemistry in 1940 from the University of Minnesota. He came to Washington as a statistician with the Bureau of the Census, and one year later transferred to NIH to the then Industrial Hygiene Laboratory.

In 1949 he completed the requirements for a B.S. degree in chemical engineering at George Washington University.

A man of diversified interests, Mr. Liljegren has participated in a variety of Recreation and Welfare Association activities ranging from dance committee chairman to president to management consultant. He is also a two-term past president of the Credit Union and served on its board for 6 years.

Involved for many years in civic affairs, Mr. Liljegren is a former officer of his community’s Citizens’ Association.

In addition to his civic interests, he is actively involved in a variety of church functions.

Mr. Liljegren was honored by friends and colleagues at a party June 26.
SCD SYMPOSIUM COVERS TREATMENT, RESULTS

During a plenary session break, Dr. Hercules (l), Dr. Jackson, Secretary Weinberger, Dr. Stone, and Dr. Ringler find a few moments to evaluate the symposium’s progress.

(Continued from Page 1)

TWO CENTURIES

(Continued from Page 2)

Choosing additional golf accessories.

Joseph Schachter, statistician in the Office of the Director, NIAID, since 1970, retired after 35 years with the Federal Government. Mr. Schachter has covered many phases of statistical analysis and demography. For the past 4 years he had worked on the development and analysis of epidemiological data on allergic and infectious diseases.

Mr. Schachter began his career with the Federal Security Agency and in 1949, moved to the National Office of Vital Statistics where he later served as chief of the Natality Analysis Branch. In 1962 he came to NIH as chief statistician for the National Diet-Heart Study in the National Heart Institute.

Clinton S. Smith, biologist, retired after nearly 35 years of Federal service. Since 1961, Mr. Smith had been assigned to the primate malaria unit of the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases in Chamblee, Ga.

In 1964 Mr. Smith assisted in a schistosomiasis (bilharziasis) control project in Cairo sponsored jointly by Egypt and the U.S. to determine whether the snail that is the intermediate host in this disease could be controlled by chemical means.

Mary I. Suddeth has completed 30 years of service with NIH, 14 of them as a biological laboratory technician for the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases.

Mrs. Suddeth is looking forward to doing some gardening near her home near Olney, and expects to have time to become more active in the lodge activities she enjoys.

Stanley B. Ward, biological laboratory technician with the Laboratory of Clinical Investigations, retired after 35 years at NIH.

Mr. Ward has devised several laboratory techniques, among them new understanding of SCD and may provide the basis for other therapeutic approaches.

Two afternoons of the symposium were devoted to simultaneous technical sessions covering the molecular, cellular, and clinical aspects of the disorder.

In all, more than 100 papers were presented, representing the research of several hundred physicians and scientists throughout the world on the disease’s physiological, biological, and even psychological effects.

Some important results which were reported included a new understanding of the gel structure of sickle hemoglobin, changes in the structure of the red blood cell which cause tissue injury, and the supportive treatment of the individual patient in sickle cell crisis.

The symposium was opened with short addresses by Caspar W. Weinberger, HEW Secretary; Dr. John L. Hercules, symposium chairman; Dr. Rudolph E. Jackson, program coordinator, National Sickle Cell Disease Program; Dr. Robert S. Stone, NIH Director, and Dr. Robert L. Ringler, NHLI Acting Director.

Dr. William B. Castle, professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School, delivered the keynote address entitled, From Man to Molecule and Back to Mankind.

Symposium proceedings will be made available at a later date, according to the NHLI Public Inquiries and Reports Branch.

A sensitive method for detecting keyhold limpet hemocyanine antigen for studies on immune responsiveness by employing bentonite-coated particles of KLH.

He has also worked on the NIAID study of “gray” collies afflicted with an inherited blood disorder similar to the cyclic neutropenia of humans. Now, he plans to complete studies in accounting which were interrupted when he began working for NIH.

NIDR Awards Grant To Study Acupuncture

Acupuncture and its relation to pain control in dentistry will be evaluated by a team of scientists through a grant from the National Institute of Dental Research.

Headed by Dr. Gene M. Smith, a psychologist at the Anesthesia Laboratory of the Harvard Medical School at Massachusetts General Hospital, the investigators will receive $158,000 for the first 2 years of a 3-year study.

With the aid of volunteers, they will compare pain control from acupuncture with traditional analgesics and anesthetics during various dental procedures, and during experimentally induced pain.

The scientists will study how susceptible males or females and certain age or racial groups are to acupuncture, and whether success varies among the participating acupuncturists.

If some acupuncturists obtain better results than others, their techniques and approaches will be studied more closely.

Dental procedures offer an almost ideal situation for testing acupuncture. The amount of pain created varies with the method utilized.

Also, they have an advantage in study design because a different procedure can be performed on each side of the mouth.

Thus, patients can serve as their own controls—an important consideration since people differ greatly in the ability to tolerate pain.

In this way, different pain relievers can be accurately compared.

5 Institutes Take Part In Institutional Research Fellowship Awards Prog.

Five Institutes—the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart and Lung Institute, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Dental Research, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases—will participate in the Institutional Research Fellowship Awards program.

The awards will enable domestic, private or public, nonprofit organizations to develop research training opportunities for career individuals in specific shortage areas in the biomedical and health-related sciences.

Recipient institutions must have staff and facilities suitable for providing the proposed research training, and have a preceptor who will select and appoint fellows and direct their training.

Appointees must have a doctorate and must be United States citizens, noncitizen nationals, or have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence at the time of appointment.

(Noncitizen nationals are persons born in lands which are not States, but are under U.S. sovereignty, jurisdiction, or administration, e.g., American Samoa.) Individuals on temporary visas are not eligible.

Training support may not be used for clinical training.

Support is given for a maximum of 3 years. Award stipends range from $10,000 to $15,200, according to experience when accepted, increasing by annual increments of $400 through the third year of support.

Application deadline is Sept. 15, 1974—announcements will be made in March 1975.

Application forms may be obtained from the Grants Inquiries Section, Division of Research Grants, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Dr. Louis Wasserman Appointed Chairman of Advisory Committee

Dr. Louis R. Wasserman, distinguished service professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, has been appointed chairman of the National Cancer Institute’s Cancer Treatment Advisory Committee.

The committee provides the NCI Director and the director, Division of Cancer Treatment, NCI, with scientific advice on the treatment program’s progress and the directions it should follow, as well as on program areas proposed for contract support.

Dr. Wasserman succeeds Dr. Gertrude B. Elion, head of Experimental Therapy at the Wellcome Research Laboratories, who had completed her term.
NCI Awards Contract To Monitor Employees Of Tex. Asbestos Plant

A contract to monitor 878 former Tyler, Texas, asbestos workers who are at excess risk of developing lung cancer and other asbestos-related diseases has been awarded by the National Cancer Institute.

They are all former employees of an asbestos plant in Tyler which operated from 1954 to 1972. The Texas Chest Foundation/East Texas Chest Hospital researchers will attempt to identify characteristics signalling the development of lung cancer which may lead to earlier disease detection in a population at high risk.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates that asbestos workers have one of the highest identified risks of developing lung cancer of any U.S. occupational group.

Special staff of the East Texas Chest Hospital will contact former employees and their families—20 percent of whom still live within a 100-mile radius of Tyler.

Employees will be encouraged to come to the hospital every 6 months for a 2-hour battery of tests, including physical examination, chest x-ray, and sputum cytology.

Test Explained

The latter test is a microscopic examination of cells obtained from deep cough samples. Abnormal cells in the sputum can indicate a lung cancer too small to be detected by other methods.

The Tyler workers' exposure to asbestos may be similar to that of employees of a predecessor asbestos plant in Paterson, N.J.

In 1964, the Paterson plant, including the equipment and processing procedures, was moved to Tyler.

Employees of the Paterson plant experience a mortality due to lung cancer six times higher than the national average. The rate is by far the highest in asbestos workers who smoke cigarettes.

These data suggest that the risk of lung cancer among Tyler workers may be as high as in Paterson.

Computers Used

Scientists predict that they may begin to detect abnormal numbers of lung cancers in Tyler's employees within the next 2 to 5 years.

Data on the workers' exposure to asbestos will be correlated with development of disease using the computer facilities and occupational disease expertise of NIOSH in Cincinnati.

Under a special subcontract, Dr. Irving J. Selloff, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, will correlate finding of asbestos exposure and disease among the Tyler workers with his research on cancer among 1,500 asbestos workers in Paterson.

The monitoring contract is sponsored by the Cancer Control Program and the Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, NCI.

Dr. Mitchell will be concerned with information resources for scientists and clinicians particularly with risk factors and the development of atherosclerosis in the young.

BRANCH CHIEFS

(Continued from Page 1)

After several fellowships at Canadian institutions and research associate positions with the University of Michigan, Dr. Mitchell joined NHLI in 1963 as a medical officer in the Epidemiology and Biometrics Program.

Dr. Rifkind was named chief of the Lipid Metabolism Branch after serving as deputy chief since 1971.

He will plan and administer a research program for the prevention of premature atherosclerosis through identification and treatment of people highly susceptible to the disease by elevated blood levels of cholesterol and other fatty substances, collectively known as lipids.

Dr. Rifkind received M.B. and Ch.D. degrees in medicine and surgery (with commendation) from the University of Glasgow in 1957.

He was awarded the Brunton and Fullerton Awards as "most distinguished graduate of the year," and he also collected the Gold Medal and Rankine Prize in Pathology and Bacteriology and the Ure Prize in Pathology, Bacteriology, Midwifery, and Child Health.

Over the next 10 years—except for brief tours of duty at the County Hospital, Ormskirk, England, and Crumpsall Hospital in Manchester—Dr. Rifkind held various staff positions at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow.

He came to NHLI's Molecular Disease Branch in 1967 as a Brit.

Mattie Goldberg Retires; In Fed'l Gov't 19 Years

Mattie Goldberg, an administrative clerk at the Division of Computer Research and Technology, recently retired after 19 years with the Federal Government.

Her first position was at the Signal Corps; later, she transferred to the Office of the Surgeon General.

In 1962 Mrs. Goldberg came to NIH working in the Division of Research Service's Computation and Data Processing Branch. Eventually this branch provided the nucleus for the DCBT.

Processing invoices for computer and equipment rental and keeping time and leave records for computer personnel, Mrs. Goldberg saw the new Division through its initial growth.

Some 63 co-workers and friends attended a party to wish her well before her retirement to Florida.

Dr. Mitchell has been a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh since 1960 and of Glasgow since 1962, and was elected a fellow of the Glasgow College in 1973.

Dr. Rifkind has been a member of the British Heart Foundation and American Heart Association Exchange Fellow.

One year later, he returned to the Royal Infirmary, until 1971, when he rejoined NHLI.

Maggie Goldberg enjoys her retirement party with her daughter, Fredda (r), and Betty Kuster (l), DCRT administrative officer.

Dr. S. Perry to Serve As Acting Director, NCI Treatment Div.

Dr. Seymour Perry has been appointed acting director of the Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute. Dr. C. Gordon Zubrod, who headed the program since 1972, will be retiring to assume a new position with the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Dr. Perry has served as the division's deputy director since Nov. 13, 1973.

He received his B.A. with honors in 1943 from the University of California at Los Angeles and his M.D., also with honors, in 1947 from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles.

Affiliations Noted

Dr. Perry has served as president of the National Blood Club; chairman of the American Cancer Society's Advisory Committee on Epidemiology Diagnosis and Therapy; and chairman of the American Society of Hematology's committee on Scientific Affairs as well as its Leukocyte Subcommittee.

He is the author of 130 scientific papers in the field of hematological oncology.

NIH Visiting Scientists Program Participants

6/18—Dr. Ken-ichi Yamamoto, Japan, Molecular Biology Section. Sponsor: Dr. Edgar Ribi, NIAID, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Mont.

6/23—Dr. Seethrama A. Acharya, India, Laboratory of Chemical Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Hiroshi Taniuchi, NIAMDD, Bg. 10, Rm. 9N308.

6/23—Dr. Motomori Izumi, Japan, Clinical Endocrinology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Hans Cahnmann, NIAMDD, Bg. 10, Rm. 8N-517.

6/23—Dr. Clark K. Lum, China, Division of Lung Diseases. Sponsor: Dr. Claude J. Lenfant, NHLI, Bg. 31, Rm. 5A10.

6/25—Dr. Toshisuke Kawasaki, Japan, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. G. Gilbert Ashwell, NIAMDD, Bg. 10, Rm. 9N105.

7/1—Dr. Marcello Barbieri, Italy, Mathematical Research Branch. Sponsor: Dr. John E. Hareon, NIAMDD, Bg. 31, Rm. 9A17A.

7/1—Dr. Atsushi Iio, Japan, Metabolism Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Thomas Waldmann, NCI, Bg. 10, Rm. 4N110.
Evaluation of Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness: A Randomized Trial in Essential Workers

Influenza (Continued from Page 1)

evaluate licensed and experimental vaccines, and explore the potential of antiviral substances in preventing or treating the disease.

In carrying out these studies, the Baylor investigators will have different population groups—primary-school and school-age children, college students, family units, and the elderly—under observation for extended periods.

Although basic research on the influenza virus (first identified in the 1930s) has recently yielded valuable information on the organism’s chemical and molecular structure, many practical questions remain unanswered regarding the behavior of the disease in man.

Some of the questions Dr. Couch and his associates will be researching are:

- What is the earliest signal of influenza virus activity in a community?
- What factors influence spread of influenza?
- What is the disease process in members of different population groups?
- What is the duration of protection resulting from natural infection or vaccine administration?

Studies involving population surveillance are targeted for initiation before the winter of 1974-75 and for full implementation by the end of the first contract year.

Research Plans Told

On the basis of the first year’s findings, the research plan will be re-evaluated and new scientific leads followed where indicated. It is estimated that as many as 10 years may be required for completing the studies.

The NIAID project officer for the contract is Dr. Franklin J. Tyer of the Infectious Diseases Branch.

Dr. Robert M. Friedman, National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, will serve as co-project officer. Dr. Friedman is a member of NIAID’s Infectious Diseases Committee.

James Alexander has been appointed Equal Employment Opportunity coordinator for the Clinical Center. He will coordinate CC EEO activities and advise the CC Director on EEO affairs. Formerly a member of the D.C. public school system, he taught health and physical education, special education, and was a guidance counselor.

An Illustrated History Being Compiled for NCI

Dr. Michael B. Shimkin is compiling an illustrated history of cancer research for the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Shimkin, who held several positions at NCI from 1939 to 1965, is the author of the book, Science and Cancer, and has contributed more than 200 papers on cancer to technical journals.

He expects the work to be completed in approximately 2 years.

Currently Dr. Shimkin is professor of community medicine and oncology, University of California-San Diego.

NIEHS Advisory Council Gets 3 New Members

Drs. Helen G. Edmonds, Paul E. Lacy, and Norton Nelson have been appointed to terms on the advisory council of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Dr. Edmonds is dean of the Graduate School and professor of history at North Carolina Central University in Durham.

A clinical pathologist, Dr. Lacy serves as Mallinckrodt Professor and chairman of the department of pathology at Washington University Medical School.

Dr. Nelson, an authority in environmental health sciences, is director of the Institute of Environmental Medicine at New York University Medical Center.

personnel officer here and elsewhere, and she has declined all offers.”

His praise reflects the confidence NLM employees—no matter what echelon—have in Mrs. Orr.

Former chairman of the Board of Regents gathered at the Board’s 48th meeting last month, during which Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, was lauded for his 10 years of service to the Library. Left to right are: Dr. Barnes Woodhall, Alfred R. Zipf, Dr. John P. McGovern, Dr. Cummings, Dr. Worth B. Daniels, Dr. W. N. Hubbard, Dr. Stewart G. Wolf, Dr. William G. Anlyan, and Dr. Jack M. Layton.

Former chairman of the National Library of Medicine’s Board of Regents gathered at the Board’s 48th meeting last month, during which Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, was lauded for his 10 years of service to the Library. Left to right are: Dr. Barnes Woodhall, Alfred R. Zipf, Dr. John P. McGovern, Dr. Cummings, Dr. Worth B. Daniels, Dr. W. N. Hubbard, Dr. Stewart G. Wolf, Dr. William G. Anlyan, and Dr. Jack M. Layton.

the program, she was named classification specialist assigned to the State Department and to the White House. After 5 years in that post, she transferred to the Department of the Army doing the same work.

“Then I stayed at home and had my first child. As a matter of fact I had five children; I stayed out of the Army doing the same work.

It wasn’t too long after her return when she was named personnel management specialist for the Library.

A many-shelved bookcase partly divided Mrs. Orr’s office from that of Mr. Cross.

Peering around the divider, Mr. Cross said, “May I say something? I don’t think the office could run as effectively without Rita. And I’ll say something else where, and she has declined all offers.”

His praise reflects the confidence NLM employees—no matter what echelon—have in Mrs. Orr.

RITA ORR

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Walls of the recently renovated Clinical Center outpatient area are being accented by displays of original artwork contributed by members of area school art classes under a program arranged by Red Cross volunteer Kristina Zubrod. Left: Mrs. Zubrod (l) discusses the art exhibit with CC nurse Claudia Seipp and Holton Arms school representative Elizabeth Parker. Center: Mrs. Zubrod (l) and CC nurses, Freddie Grice (c) and Ms. Seipp await the verdict from a young patient examining the art exhibit. Jacqueline Yokley presents her original oil painting to Mrs. Zubrod and outpatient nurse Shirley Shanks. An NCI employee, Ms. Yokley designed the painting to complement the North Clinic’s color scheme where she periodically returns for outpatient visits.
Scientists Say Better Perinatal Care Facilities Have Led To Less Neonatal Deaths; Hospital Priorities Suggested

Scientists at an interdisciplinary research conference at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development reported that the recent improvement of perinatal intensive care facilities has led to a steady decline in neonatal deaths. The conference, organized by NICHD's Perinatal Biology and Infant Mortality Branch, was co-chaired by Drs. L. Stanley James, Columbia - Presbyterian Medical Center, and Eileen G. Hasselmeyer, program director of the NICHD Branch.

The researchers pointed out that, generally, problem pregnancies yield high-risk infants who usually weigh less than 5½ pounds. These underweight babies comprise only about 8 percent of all live births, but account for 70 percent of deaths within 1 month of birth.

They also stressed that a significant decline in perinatal and neonatal mortality during the past decade is due, in part, to research conducted prior to birth and in the newborn.

Dr. Robert Usher, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, presented data indicating that in the Province of Quebec the perinatal mortality rate in infants weighing more than 2 pounds and 3 ounces, dropped from 22.1 per thousand live births in 1967 to 16.0 in 1972—a 28 percent decrease.

Improvements Noted

The incidence of low birth weight infants did not change and so the drop was related to improvements in health care rather than to fewer high-risk patients. Further improvement is possible if high-risk pregnancies and women in premature labor can be delivered in hospitals with both fetal and neonatal intensive care services.

In one such Perinatal Intensive Care Unit at the hospital, perinatal mortality is approaching only eight per 1000 live births, the point at which the only deaths that occur are from lethal malformations and unpredictable deaths of fetuses during pregnancy before the mother is admitted to the hospital. A similar trend in neonatal survival in Wisconsin was reported by Dr. Stanley Graven, University of Wisconsin Perinatal Center. There, a statewide system for high risk patient referral was developed, making it possible for high-risk mothers and babies to be treated at sophisticated centers.

Dr. Marshall Klaus, Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Louis Gluck, University of California, San Diego, and Dr. Phillip Sunshine, Stanford University, stated that improvements in neonatal mortality have been significant.

However, the three researchers added, there is an urgent need in the field of perinatal medicine for tools to assess the infant in the postnatal period. Studies of infant visual perception, auditory responses, and other developmental tests are very important.

Dr. James stated that new findings represent a dramatic reduction in the neonatal death rate, lending additional justification for expanding these programs.

He explained that an essential part of these services relies on continuing basic and applied research, training of physicians and nurses in perinatal medicine, and funding of programs for the necessary assessment and followup of newborn infants.

Dr. William Tooley, University of California, San Francisco, reported that during the period from 1965 to 1972 there has been a steady increase in neonatal survival.

During the period 1968 to 1972 improvement in survival was even more marked. Assessing the development of infants with a birth weight of about 3½ pounds or less shows that greater than 90 percent of those born from 1969 to 1972 are functioning within a normal range at 1 year. This is significantly better than infants of the same weight born from 1965 to 1968.