Greetings to All Readers!
Next Issue Will Be Jan. 13

As in past years, the NIH Record is combining its pre-Christmas and New Year's issues. The next Record will be off the press on Jan. 13.

The Record staff extends happy holiday wishes to all of its readers.

Vol. XXVII, No. 25
December 16, 1975

President's Biomedical Research Panel Hears Dr. Fredrickson's Views on NIH

During the recent 2-day meeting of the President's Biomedical Research and policy matters by officials from NIH and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration.

In addition to Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, NIH Director, all B/I/D Directors attended the NIH sessions, and several participated in the discussions.

Dr. Fredrickson opened his testimony with brief comments concerning the basic authorities of his post as NIH Director.

Later, in response to questions by Panel members, he expressed his views on such topics as the adequacy of biomedical research funds and the extension of the traditional role of NIH.

Dr. Fredrickson explained that the Director of NIH has a significant role in budget formulation and execution although that function is not specifically defined in appropriations legislation.

Each year the Director and his staff assemble budget proposals from the separate program elements and review them in the context of the total mission of NIH as a step in the formulation of the NIH budget before it is submitted to HEW and the OMB.

Currently, the NCI budget bypasses this process.

Director Influences Policy

In Dr. Fredrickson's view, the NIH Director is in a unique position to influence policy on the budget and priority-setting process.

He is situated at the intersection of most of the diverse interests of the constituencies seeking support for biomedical research.

His is the first level of review which considers individual proposals as parts of the whole NIH program and the last at which scientific considerations are the main determinants of program decisions.

The influence of the Director in this budget process is, of course, subject to the constraints of Executive Branch policies or Congress.

NINCDS Scientists Synthesize Compound Used for Detecting Niemann-Pick Disease

By Lanny Newman

Scientists at the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke have succeeded in synthesizing a compound which can be used for the rapid detection of carriers and patients with Niemann-Pick disease.

This hereditary disorder is one of a family of nine metabolic diseases in which a specific enzyme deficiency produces an accumulation of fatty substances called lipids in various parts of the body.

In Niemann-Pick disease a deficiency of the enzyme sphingomyelinase causes an accumulation of a lipid called sphingomyelin in the liver and brain, resulting in early death.

The compound—proposed by Dr. Roscoe O. Brady, chief of the NINCDS Developmental and Metabolic Neurology Branch, and recently synthesized by his associate, Dr. Andrew E. Gal—provides a sensitive and convenient test for detecting the specific enzymatic defect in Niemann-Pick disease.

Until now, detecting patients with this disease could be accomplished only with costly radio-

(Continued on Page 4)

(See SYNTHESIS, Page 4)
SPANISH HERITAGE DAYS at NIH were celebrated Dec. 3 and 4 with a program—La Fiesta—of ethnic dancing, singing and music, including flamenco. Dr. Isabel Caserta, executive secretary, Interamerican Commission on Women, OAS, discussed the role of Latin-American women. The court scene from Aida was performed by the Marionette Theatre Company of Bogota. The almost life-size marionettes also "did" dances from various parts of Colombia. The NIH Minority Cultural Committee presented the program to commemorate Spanish-Speaking Cultural Week at NIH.—Photos by Ed Hubbard.

Dr. Steinfeld Named Dean, Medical College of Virginia

Dr. Jesse L. Steinfeld has been named dean, Medical College of Virginia. Dr. Steinfeld, a former NCI scientist, was PHS Surgeon General from 1969 to 1973.

At NCI, Dr. Steinfeld was Associate Director for Program, and was then named NCI deputy director.

After leaving his post as Surgeon General, he became chairman of the department of oncology at Mayo Clinic. From there, Dr. Steinfeld, a cancer specialist, moved to the University of California at Irvine.

He will take over his new position as dean in the spring.

Christmas Concert, Sing-Along Will Be Held Dec. 22 in CC

The NIH Singers’ Christmas Concert and Carol Sing-Along will be held on Monday, Dec. 22, at noon in the 14th floor auditorium of the Clinical Center.

The NIH Singers, under the direction of Dr. Lewis Norton, will perform music ranging from the 17th century to the present time. The Madrigal Singers, directed by Glenn Ricart, will perform two works from the 16th and 18th centuries. The Carol Sing-Along will be led by Dr. Ramon Tate. Everyone is invited to attend.

USDA Winter Course Listings Are Available

The winter schedule of classes at the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is now available. For a copy, see your training officer or call the Graduate School, 447-4419.

More than 500 courses are offered, including accounting, math, computer science, library techniques, foreign languages, management, and—for leisure enjoyment—pottery, antique furniture, yoga, photography, and many others.

Graduate School credits are recognized by the Civil Service Commission on the same basis as accredited colleges and universities.

Everyone is welcome to take courses—whether workshops, daytime, evening, or correspondence courses—regardless of educational background or place of employment. Career counseling services are also available.

Early registration will be held Dec. 17-18 in the USDA Patio, Independence Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Registration for evening classes will be held in the same place Jan. 3-9. Classes begin Jan. 10 and conclude March 13.
Eckart Wipf, at NINCDS For 20 Years, Retires

Mr. Wipf received a DHEW Superior Service Award for his managerial abilities in support of his Institute's program.

Eckart Wipf, executive officer of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, is retiring after 20 years with that Institute. He came there in 1955—5 years after it was established.

Mr. Wipf has been involved with the growth of the Institute, working closely with the four Directors who have served there during his tenure.

One of Mr. Wipf’s major tasks was the acquiring, planning, and assigning space in Bldg. 36 where that facility was ready for occupancy in 1968-69. He also helped obtain facilities for primate colonies in Puerto Rico, Patuxent, and Fort Detrick in Md., and at Gulf South, La.

Trained Other Employees

Mr. Wipf also assisted in training NIH employees in administrative jobs. He was on the Administrative Training Program for 3 terms where he served as chairman for 1 term.

He also helped the Iranian government to establish a personnel training program in its central public information.

In 1971, Mr. Wipf was awarded a DHEW Superior Service Award. He was cited for his “... managerial contributions in support of NINDS medical programs, and for participation in the development and improvement of NIH administration, practices and procedures.”

Mr. Wipf received his undergraduate degree at the University of South Dakota, and his M.A. in public administration from the University of Minnesota. He was also awarded a Rockefeller Scholarship to the National Institute of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

He came to NIH—in the Personnel Management Branch—in 1948, after serving as administrative assistant at the Veterans Administration in St. Paul. Mr. Wipf was a PMB position classifier and personnel assistant; 2 years later, he became a classification officer. He remained there until his NINCDS appointment.

At a farewell party given to him by co-workers and colleagues, Mr. Wipf said his retirement plans include traveling and visiting the family’s beachhouse on Chesapeake Bay.

AU Offers Courses Here For Graduate Credits

The American University College of Continuing Education will offer courses at NIH for graduate credit in public relations and government public information.

This coming semester, beginning the week of Jan. 19, two courses will be offered: Principles of Public Relations and Public Relations and Government. Each course will meet one night a week for 2½ hours.

Credits may be applied toward a master of science in public relations or a graduate certificate in public relations or in government public information.

The courses are open to all NIH employees who meet the University’s entrance requirements. Registration will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Bldg. 31, Rockville.

For additional information about the program and courses call the College of Continuing Education, 686-250. Further information on the role of NIH in this program can be obtained from R. Anne Ballard, Ext. 67526.

Italian Quartet Plays Jan. 11

The Quartetto Beethoven di Roma, an Italian group that has won wide acclaim in Europe and the U.S., consists of three well-known string players from the Virtuosi di Roma who were joined by pianist Carlo Bruno in 1973. They will appear Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

This is the third concert in the 1975-76 Chamber Music Series sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, for Advanced Education in the Sciences.

Admission is by ticket only.

Women Golfers Meet Jan. 13

The NIH Women’s Golf Association will hold an organizational meeting for the 1976 season from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13, in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4.

Individuals at all levels may join. R&W membership is required.

The new season starts in April and runs through September. Those who are interested in joining but cannot attend the meeting may contact Roberta Seward, Bldg. 10, Room 108-224, Ext. 63101.

For Happy Holidays—Be Careful, Lock Up!

It’s holiday time—time for employees to take special precautions to protect their property from the time they arrive on the reservation until they leave for the day. The Security Management Branch suggests:

- After parking your car, roll up the windows and lock it. Remove attractive items that might encourage thieves to break into the car.

Good Advice!

- Keep valuables out of sight or locked in the trunk, and make sure your car is locked before you leave it.
- Carry keys, wallets, and other small valuables with you, rather than leaving them in a coat on a rack.
- Women should carry their purses with them at all times and place them in a locked cabinet.
- Do not leave coffee funds or other money in locked or unlocked desk drawers. Lock money in a safe.
- Don’t be gullible. Check up on strangers and don’t leave them alone in an office or laboratory area. Every day several reports are received of suspicious strangers in hallways, offices, labs, and other areas.
- Sometimes they are carrying papers, envelopes, fluorescent light fixtures, or air vent covers, giving the appearance of messengers or repairmen. Others pretend to be looking for a person in the building.
- Often these incidents are reported too late or the descriptions are vague. Observe any strangers carefully in order to furnish a good description, and report the matter to the guard office without delay.

It Only Takes Seconds

- When leaving the work area during business hours or at the end of the day, see that everything is properly secured.

A purse, radio, or other attractive, moveable item could easily be snatched in a matter of a few seconds, as often happens when people leave their desks intending to return within a few minutes, believing that nothing can be stolen in the interim.

SMB hopes your holidays will be happy, but if a theft occurs, follow the procedures in item 40, page 247 in the yellow pages of the NIH Telephone and Service Directory.

New Health Plan Rates To Be Effective Jan. 4

The “Open Season” for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program will end on Dec. 31. Enrollments or changes in enrollment made during this “open” period, effective Jan. 4, will be reflected in checks on Jan. 27.

The Civil Service Commission has notified the Employee Relations and Recognition Branch, DI-M, that the 1976 biweekly rates employees will pay for enrollment in the major health plans are:

1976
GROUP HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Self
High option $7.00 $9.63
Low option 3.16 3.93

Family
High option 18.14 24.97
Low option 8.89 11.38

INDEMNITY BENEFIT PLAN (Aetna)

Self
High option 3.88 6.71
Low option 1.59 2.14

Family
High option 9.77 15.53
Low option 3.93 5.31

SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN (Blue Cross-Blue Shield)

Self
High option 5.40 8.77
Low option 1.92 1.02

Family
High option 12.88 20.01
Low option 2.50 2.95

UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED HEALTH PLANS, INC. OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

(plan has only one option)

Self
Low option 4.67 4.98

Family
17.82 17.97

As soon as the leaflets entitled 1976 Biweekly Health Benefits Rates becomes available, they will be distributed to all employees. Until then, employees should clip and attach this chart to their 1976 plan brochure.

To obtain rates on other health plans, employees may contact their personnel office.

NIH Symphony to Play in CC

The NIH Symphony will start its seventh season here with a concert on Jan. 21, at 8 p.m., in the Clinical Center’s 14th floor auditorium. Roger Oliver is the symphony’s conductor.

The orchestra will play Mozart’s Overture to Don Giovanni; Mendelssohn’s Scotch Symphony; the Gavotte and Musette from Bach’s Third English Suite, and The Frühlingstimmen W altz by Strauss.

Musicians interested in joining the symphony may contact Charles Shaw, manager, Ext. 63065.
FREDRICKSON'S NIH VIEWS EXPLAINED

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Fredrickson also noted that biomedical research is the main source for continuing reform of medical care. It is, therefore, still a major determinant of the ultimate cost of health care.

Statistics Quoted

Funds for biomedical research have fallen from $4.8 to $2.2 percent of the health dollar. He said society would resist a further decline below this figure because there appears to be no other way to change the substance of medical care.

In response to a question as to his views on Congressional mandates which appear to have extended the traditional role of NIH, Dr. Fredrickson likened NIH to a coin with a high—inner and outer membrane. The inner membrane defines functions to be supported out of funds for research, and the outer layer is the limit of NIH responsibilities.

Gap Widened

The gap between these two boundaries has shifted back and forth considerably in the history of the NIH, he noted, and at the present time there are great differences in this gap among the different Institutes. As an example he stated that the control and demonstration programs of NCI and NHLI reach to the outer boundary.

NIH will continue to have some role in certain activities that are not strictly research, such as control and demonstration, but to protect the primary mission of NIH, he emphasized that it is essential that these be conducted under separate funding and explicit limitations.

Involvement Necessary

NIH's involvement in the dissemination of new knowledge or techniques becomes necessary when there is no other agency for this purpose, and when there is expert agreement that extension or dissemination is worthwhile and is to be undertaken in a scientific manner, he said.

Dr. Fredrickson suggested that a strong commitment to clinical testing must be maintained, but that we must know when not to engage in these activities since they represent a great dilution of resources.

When asked what he would propose as a new disseminating body, Dr. Fredrickson said he felt that some way must be found to reorganize the medical system, perhaps to involve the universities and the medical schools in this effort.

SYNTHESIS

(Continued from Page 1)

actively-labeled compounds in laboratories equipped with radioactive-counting facilities.

The investigators have also shown that the new compound, which is an analogue of the accumulating sphingomyelin, is useful for prenatal diagnosis of Niemann-Pick disease.

It has also been used successfully to identify an unaffected carrier of the defective gene in utero. They reported their findings in the Sept. 25 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Since the middle 1960's Dr. Brady and his colleagues have made many important discoveries concerning the chemical nature of these lipid storage diseases.

Their findings have led not only to diagnostic tests for these diseases but also to an experimental enzyme replacement therapy which has shown promise in early tests on patients with two of these disorders.

Also associated with Dr. Brady in this study were Sue R. Hibbert and Dr. Peter G. Pentchev.

Health Statistics Center Gives Decennial Life Table Data

A 20-year-old American can expect to live another 53 years, and a 62-year-old white male can expect just under 17 years of life according to U.S. Life Tables recently published by the National Center for Health Statistics.

The figures for the period 1969-71 are the results of a decennial study calculated from 1970 Census data.

Black persons have shorter life expectancy than do whites; black males have the shortest expectations of all.

---

Dr. Carl Kupfer, NEI Director and Combined Federal Campaign vice-chairman for NIH (left), congratulates Dr. Wilford Nusser, NEI Scientific Programs Branch chief and CFC coordinator, on the progress of the CFC drive as Fran Cryon updates the CFC progress chart. As of Dec. 11, NIH had reached more than 90 percent of its quota with contributions totaling $179,319, an average of $34.76. The drive has been extended until Dec. 18—officials hope NIH will reach the CFC goal by that time and increase its present 53 percent participation rate.
Dr. Storrs Given Award for Developing Armadillo As Lespoy Study Model; Research Supported by DRR

Dr. Eleanor E. Storrs, director of comparative biochemistry and mammalogy at the Gulf South Research Institute, in New Iberia, La., was presented with the Griffin Award by the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science at their 26th annual meeting held a month ago in Boston.

Dr. Storrs received a bronze plaque and an honorarium of $500.

Dr. Storrs developed the armadillo as the first unaltered animal model for the study of lepromatous leprosy—an achievement considered by many researchers to be the most important development in leprosy research in the past 100 years.

Dr. Storrs' studies and colony development of the armadillo have been supported by the Division of Research Resources since 1969.

In developing the armadillo as a model for the study of human diseases, Dr. Storrs has investigated their cell-mediated immune system, hematology, enzyme and amino acid levels, and reproductive system. She has also demonstrated that the armadillo is a valuable animal for monitoring the environment for insecticides.

DRR-Supported Group Cited

Another DRR-supported group from Kansas State University was presented with the 1975 AALAS Research Award for the best paper published in Laboratory Animal Science. Drs. James E. Woods and Emerson L. Besch are the authors of the paper—Influence of Group Size on Heat Dissipation from Dogs in a Controlled Environment.

Their study suggested that group size may affect the metabolic rate of dogs caged individually in a thermally neutral environment, independent of the effects of cage size and ventilation rate.

FAES Schedule Available

The schedule for spring courses of the Graduate Program at NIH is now available. The evening courses, sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc., are given on the campus.

Medical subspecialty review courses that are being offered include MEDI 604-medical oncology; MEDI 610-inner medicine, a continuation of the fall course; MEDI 612-infectious diseases, and MEDI 614-clinical hematology.

Tuition is $22 per semester hour; courses may be taken for credit or audit. Students enrolled in courses that continue through the spring semester must register. Students whose courses will be financed by the Government should apply immediately to their administrative offices for this assistance.

Classes will begin Feb. 9. Register by mail now through Jan. 16—or register in person from Jan. 29 through Feb. 4. Schedules may be picked up in the school office, Blg. 10, Room Bl-1-101, or call Ext. 65272 to have one sent.

In the near future, intramural programs will be included.

Data for CRISP, and copies of the Thesaurus and Index, may be requested from the Research Documentation Section, SAB, DRR, Westwood Bldg., Room 3A-03, Ext. 67543.
Am. Heart Assoc. Meets
In Anaheim; 10 Reports
Given by NHLI Staff

More than 10,000 physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals participated in the 48th Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association in Anaheim, Calif., Nov. 17-20.

The sessions, characterized by AHA President Dr. Elliot Rapaport as "the most comprehensive forum available in the world for the exchange of cardiovascular information," featured 576 reports of original research investigations presented during as many as eight simultaneous sessions on basic, experimental, and clinical research.

The various sessions covered such diverse cardiovascular fields as myocardial isotope imaging, echocardiography, angiography, angiography, cardiovascular surgery, cardiac pacing, exercise, and exercise testing.

Other topics included high blood pressure research, cardiovascular drugs, cholesterol metabolism, lipids, arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, electrophysiology, ventricular function and hemodynamics, myocardial contractility, peripheral circulation, cardiovascular nursing, stroke, shock, epidemiology, community programs, thrombosis, and hemostasis, among others.

NIH'ers Present

The scientific reports—selected from among 2191 abstracts submitted—included 10 presented by National Heart and Lung Institute scientists and program staff members, and many more by NIH grantees and research contractors.

Dr. Eugene M. Braunwald, Hershey Professor and head, department of medicine, Harvard Medical School, at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, delivered the Lewis A. Conner Memorial Lecture:

Speaking on Function and Protection of the Ischemic Myocardium, Dr. Braunwald described encouraging results of experimental efforts to limit the extent of heart-muscle injury and death following a heart attack.

Head of the NHLI Cardiology Branch from 1958 to 1968, Dr. Braunwald also served as the Institute's clinical director and is currently a member of the National Heart and Lung Advisory Council.

Reviews of various cardiovascular specialties were presented in clinical sessions concurrent with the research reports, and during the evening postgraduate seminars and "how to" sessions were given by invited lecturers and panelists.

Patients at CC Enjoy Wide Variety Of Activities During Holiday Month

For Clinical Center patients and their guests, the month of December is filled with an endless variety of activities to celebrate the holiday season.

This year, the younger children met on Dec. 4 with Santa and his helpers at the "North Pole" in Montgomery Mall to pose for pictures and whisper long lists of favorite toys for Christmas. In the evening, a variety show was presented by the Scottish Rite Masons.

Shopping sprees, Christmas bingo, and arts and crafts pursuits enabled many patients to make last minute purchases or add finishing touches to a special gift.

Traditional and seasonal songs were presented by the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants in a holiday concert Dec. 11. A real treat for everyone was the visit to the Poinsettia Show at the U.S. Botanical Gardens on Dec. 13.

On the same day, the children also enjoyed a Christmas party sponsored by the Clifton Park Citizens Association, and this past Sunday, Dec. 14, a Protestant carol service was held in the Clinical Center's 14th floor chapel.

Last evening, Dec. 15, the younger children heard their favorite Christmas stories in the CC Patient Library.

Coming later this week are a trip to Washington to see the national Christmas tree and city decorations, a holiday dance with music provided by the U.S. Marine Band, and—the highlight of the week on Dec. 17—the Annual Patient Open House when hospital staff members extend holiday greetings to CC patients and their guests at a party from 2 to 4 p.m. in the 14th floor assembly hall.

Carolers will visit the nursing units Christmas Eve, and to welcome in the new year, a party on Jan. 6 will feature noise makers, games, favors, and music.

Amy Cox Dies; Prog. Analyst Retired From DRG in 1971

Amy P. Cox, who retired from NIH in 1971, died at her home in Fairfax County, Va. Mrs. Cox had been a program analyst at DRG; she came there in 1963.

She is survived by her husband, Shelby S. Cox; a daughter, Judith C. Stroud, and a son, Edward F. Cox.

Training is a very important aspect of safe performance in the laboratory.

Group training and discussion sessions can instill in laboratory personnel the attitudes necessary for achieving safe and reliable research by preventing cross-contamination and human infection or injury.

The NIH Biohazards Safety Guide provides the necessary background information for developing a biohazards control program. In addition, audiovisual training packages are available for laboratory use.

Titles Available Are:
- Effective Use of the Laminar Flow Biological Safety Cabinet—54 slides, 10-minute recording
- Hazard Control in the Animal Laboratory—60 slides, 14½-minute recording
- Risk Assessment in Cancer-Virus Research—42 slides, 14-minute recording

Supplement your laboratory's safety program by borrowing these training packages from the NIH Environmental Services Branch, Ext. 66034, or the NCI Office of Research Safety, Ext. 63647.

Am. Heart Assoc. Meets In Anaheim; 10 Reports Given by NHLI Staff

The NHLI-sponsored National High Blood Pressure Education Program exhibit, one of 55 scientific exhibits, displayed information and materials for the professional concerning guidelines for screening, evaluation, drug therapy, and patient education.

In addition, 195 industrial exhibits comprised a "smorgasbord" of equipment, products, procedures, and publications pertaining to cardiovascular disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Dr. Arthur C. Guyton (I) receives the American Heart Association's Research Achievement Award for 1975 from AHA President Rapaport. Dr. Guyton, professor and chairman of the department of physiology and biophysics, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, is a former member of the National Heart and Lung Advisory Council.
THE NIH RECORD

December 16, 1975  Page 7

NCI Sponsors Seminar on Anticancer Nitrosoureas

NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment sponsored a seminar this week on the nitrosoureas, a new chemical class of anticancer drugs. Two of these drugs—BCNU and CCNU—may soon be commercially available. They were developed in an NCI-sponsored program at the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Ala.

Designed for Physicians

The seminar, held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, was the seventh in a series designed to acquaint practicing physicians with the uses and side effects of anticancer drugs as they become candidates for use in standard medical practice.

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., director, and Dr. Stephen K. Carter, deputy director of the Division of Cancer Treatment, moderated the 2 days of scientific sessions.

BCNU and CCNU will be marketed under the trade names of BiCNU and CeeNU, respectively, by Bristol Laboratories, Syracuse, N.Y. BCNU is given intravenously; CCNU is taken orally.

Brain Tumors Treated

In NCI-supported clinical studies, the drugs have been found useful for treating brain tumors—both primary and metastatic—and for treating Hodgkin's disease and other lymphomas. BCNU in combination with Prednisone, an established anticancer drug, is active against multiple myeloma.

The activity against brain tumors is unique for anticancer drugs. The brain has long been considered a hideaway for cancer cells because drugs were unable to penetrate the so-called "blood-brain barrier," layers of lipid-rich protective membranes surrounding the brain. The nitrosoureas are lipid soluble and thus slide through the barrier.

An afternoon session of the seminar was devoted to a workshop on malignant gliomas, a particularly virulent form of brain cancer. Dr. Michael Walker, director of NCI's Baltimore Cancer Research Center, discussed a study by the Brain Tumor Study Group. Glioma patients treated with BCNU and/or radiation therapy following surgery lived longer than patients who had surgery alone.

Effective in Bowel Cancer

Another workshop focused on advanced large bowel cancer. Methyl-CCNU, a chemical relative of CCNU, has been found active against colon cancer. Dr. Charles Moertel, who conducted an NCI-supported clinical study at the Mayo Clinic, reported that Methyl-CCNU, in combination with 5-fluorouracil—the standard drug used in treating advanced large bowel cancer—and vincristine, is superior to any drug regimen tested so far.

The total dose of BCNU or CCNU that a cancer patient can receive is limited by a suppression of white blood cell and platelet precursors in the bone marrow—the major side effect of the anti-cancer drugs, according to NCI physicians. Patients receiving the drugs also occasionally complain of nausea and vomiting.

BCNU and CCNU are representative of more than 250 nitrosoureas and related N-nitroso compounds that have been synthesized since NCI initiated this drug development program at the Southern Research Institute in 1959.

Stockholm Workshop on Pike Lymphomas Nets New Information on Fish Epidemics

Four scientists from NCI recently went to Stockholm, Sweden, to take part in an unusual mission that might literally be called a "fishing expedition."

The mission was a workshop designed to accelerate investigations of a little-known type of malignant tumor that occurs in epidermis in a family of fishes (Esocidae) that includes two well-known sport fishes—the northern pike and the muskellunge.

Drs. Clyde J. Dawe and William G. Banfield, Laboratory of Pathology; Jacqueline Peng, Medical Oncology Section; and Takis S. Papas, Viral Biology Branch, attended the meeting at the National Veterinary Medical Institute. It was jointly sponsored by the Swedish Cancer Society and the International Union Against Cancer.

Scientists have been aware of the existence of these malignant lymphomas for more than 75 years. Only in the past decade, however, have biologists and cancer researchers learned through field studies that the cancers occur at high frequencies—in as many as 20 percent of pike at reproduction age—in North America, Ireland, and Sweden.

At the Stockholm workshop, scientists presented evidence that the tumors of pike in all three countries are readily transplantable to previously unaffected pike.

Spread During Spawning

Dr. Ron Sonstegard, University of Guelph, Ontario, postulated that the disease is sometimes spread by transfer of malignant cells from fish to fish during spawning.

The pike lymphomas would thus be comparable to the transmissible venereal tumor of dogs, well known to cancer researchers for years.

Dr. John C. Harshbarger, pathologist, reported to the Registry of Tumors at the Smithsonian Institution, observed that there is no comparable lymphoma epizootic found among species of fish outside the pike family. An epizootic is an epidemic among animals.

Chromosome Markers Reported

Support of the cell transmission theory was given by Dr. Peng, who reported that lymphoma cells in all the tumor-bearing pike have characteristic chromosome markers.

Cell-free transmission of the tumor to new carriers by brown bullheads has been successful, but in these fish no chromosome markers were found.

That a virus may be the cause of the disease was supported by the discovery in the lymphoma cells of a reverse transcriptase, an enzyme typically associated with RNA animal tumor viruses. Dr. Papas reported a unique temperature sensitivity of the pike lymphoma reverse transcriptase, causing it to become inactive at 30°C.

If a tumor virus is involved, it would thus be much like a built-in temperature-sensitive mutant, and may prove useful to virologists investigating the way tumors-inducing properties of viruses are turned on or off.

In light and electron microscopic studies, structures previously known to occur in several types of human leukemia and lymphoma were also found by Drs. Banfield and Dawe in North American pike lymphomas.

These structures, called cylindrical lamella-particle complexes, have not previously been found in any animal lymphoma. Pike lymphoma thus represents the only presently available experimental system for study of the function and nature of the still mysterious cylindrical bodies.

Also Found in Ireland

Similar structures were found in pike lymphomas from Ireland, as reported by Dr. Leon Dmochowski of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, and Dr. Maire F. Mulcahy, University College, Cork, Ireland.

As a result of the workshop, collaborative studies by NCI, Canadian, and Irish scientists will be extended to include Swedish investigators headed by Dr. Olle Ljungberg of the National Veterinary Medical Institute.
There Are a Number of Reasons Why NIH'ers Should Donate to PEF—and They're All Good

During surgery or other critical periods of hospitalization for Clinical Center patients, NIH physicians often request a relative to remain nearby. For the patient's family, the expense of staying in Bethesda overnight may be prohibitive.

The Federal Government provides medical and hospital care at NIH without charge, but funds appropriated for this care may not be used for other expenditures.

To assist patients in financial difficulties, the Social Work Department—headed by Barbara A. Murphy—administers the NIH Patient Emergency Fund—that fund is supported by voluntary contributions.

Last year, $45,000 was needed to help CC patients in non-medical financial emergencies. This year, $55,000 has already been spent.

Because of the serious shortage of emergency funds, CC social workers are forced to limit several forms of aid—such as weekly allowances to some patients.

Ms. Murphy has asked NIH employees to donate to the Patient Emergency Fund. Contributions may be sent to the CC Social Work Dept., Bldg. 10, Room IN-254.

Labor-HEW Appropriation Bill Goes to White House

As the Record went to press, the Senate and House approved the conference report on the Labor-HEW appropriation bill for $36.1 billion and sent it to the White House for the President's signature.

The appropriation for NIH is $2.178 billion.

Blood Bank, Red Cross Join Forces, Seek Donors At Westwood on Jan. 9

The Clinical Center Blood Bank and the Montgomery County Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a joint blood drive at the Westwood Bldg. to recruit as many new donors as possible, and to make it convenient for regular NIH donors there to donate during the holiday season.

NIH Receives Credit

The NIH Blood Bank will receive full credit for all units of blood collected. New donors recruited during this drive will be integrated in the regular donor system at the CC.

To become a volunteer blood donor at the Westwood Bldg., Conference Room D, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, please contact Jimmie L. Driscoll, Bldg. 10A, Room 1E-33, Ext. 61048, or Kirk Weaver, Westwood Bldg., Room 509, Ext. 67085.

DHEW Management Intern Applications Now Being Accepted

Applications are now being accepted from qualified employees of the Department for the DHEW Management Intern Program. Deadline for applications is Feb. 14, 1976.

This 3-year internship consists of four 9-month rotational assignments in different management areas within at least three HEW agencies.

Interns enter the program at the GS-5 or GS-7 levels, and upon successful completion can qualify for positions at the GS-11 or GS-12 levels.

Employees are eligible to apply if:

- By Feb. 14 they have served continuously for 1 year in a career or career-conditional appointment.
- They are a GS-4 or higher.
- They will be eligible for GS-5 or GS-7 when the program begins in July 1976.

Other requirements considered are:

- Successful completion of a 4-year course in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree by Feb. 14; or
- Three years of experience in administrative, professional, investigative or other responsible work, or
- Any combination of such education and experience, and
- Ability to demonstrate potential for management achievement and development.

For information on what materials are needed to apply, see announcements on bulletin boards and B/I/D personnel offices.

For additional information, contact Rosario Cirrincione, DHEW management intern coordinator, (202-245-2065) or code 169-52065.

The University of Massachusetts has established the Gilbert L. Woodside Professorship of Zoology in honor of Dr. Woodside's academic contributions; he headed that department on the university's Amherst campus from 1948 to 1961.