Environmental Health Hazards Reviewed At Soviet-American Meeting In Florida

A number of Soviet scientists, along with about 20 American scientists, attended the Second Soviet-American Symposium on Problems of Environmental Health, held Dec. 7-10 at the Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Marine Research Laboratory of the University of Florida at Marineland, St. Augustine, Fl.

The meeting is a result of an agreement signed in Moscow on May 23, 1972, between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on cooperation in the field of medical science and public health, and including plans for cooperative research efforts focusing on heart diseases, cancer, arthritis, influenza, acute respiratory disease, and the subject of this meeting—environmental health.

This symposium is to assess the potential hazards to man's health from environmental pollutants, review the results of their joint work during 1975 and 1976, and develop program plans for 1977 and 1978.

Dr. David P. Roll, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C., is the American Coordinator for this portion. Dr. Guennadiy I. Sidorenko, director of the A.N. Sysin Institute of General and Communal Hygiene in Moscow and Academician of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, is the General Secretary for the Soviet portion.

Dr. Cummings on AAAS Board

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Terms Begin Jan. 1

Dr. Cummings and Dr. Renée C. Fox, head of the department of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, were elected to 4-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 1977.

The AAAS, founded in 1848, has nearly 300 affiliated societies and more than 112,000 individual members.

Colorado Team Successfully Transplants Two Livers After Storage and Transport

University of Colorado Medical Center surgeons, using a special clinical research unit supported by the Division of Research Resources, have successfully transplanted two livers removed from donors in Los Angeles and flown to Denver. The two procedures mark the first time in the U.S. that livers have been stored for long periods of time and transplanted in a 7-year-old girl suffering from what would have been a fatal congenital liver disease.

Aids 7-Year Old

On Nov. 11, a liver was removed at Los Angeles Children's Hospital and later implanted in a 2½-year-old boy with biliary cirrhosis and a liver condition known as biliary atresia.

Earlier, on Sept. 1, a liver was removed at Los Angeles Children's Hospital and later implanted in a 7-year-old boy with biliary cirrhosis.

(See TRANSPLANTS, Page 6)

Dr. J. A. DiPaola Chief Of NCI Biology Branch

Dr. Joseph A. DiPaola has been appointed chief of the Biology Branch in the NCI Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention.

In addition, Dr. DiPaola will serve as head of the Somatic Cell Genetics Section. He is also an associate professorial lecturer at the Washington School of Medicine.

He came to NCI in 1963 as a research pharmacologist in the Carcinogenesis Studies Branch. After that he headed the Cyto genetics and Cytology Unit in the Office of the Associate Director for Field Studies, then became head of the Cyto genetics and Cytology Section in the Carcinogenesis Studies Branch and later in the Biology Branch.

After receiving a Ph.D. degree in genetics from Northwestern University in 1961, Dr. DiPaola taught at several institutions, including the University of Illinois, where he was a professor of zoology.

Inauguration Day Holiday

Inauguration Day, Thursday, Jan. 20, is a legal holiday for pay and leave purposes only for employees in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia whose work schedules include that day as a scheduled workday.

Friday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 31, will be official holidays for all Government employees.
Therapist Aids Patients With Speech Disorders

Gentle Persuasion Has Changed Sign Policy—More Names Allowed

Holiday Activities Program for Patients Gives Promise of Joyful Therapy at CC

Upward Mobility College Offers Over 60 Subjects For Its Spring Semester
CAREER DAY Assists NIAID Employees in Exploring Growth

On Dec. 1, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases sponsored NIH's first "Career Day" in Wilson Hall to acquaint employees with career opportunities. More than 100 NIAID employees attended the day-long program, which was designed to inform them of the potential for growth in their present positions as well as to make them fully aware of other employment possibilities throughout NIH.

Edna Miller, NIAID employee development specialist and the force behind Career Day, was assisted by NIAID personnel officer Marianne Bell and other staff members in planning the agenda and arranging for career specialists to attend.

Dr. Richard M. Krause, Director of NIAID, welcomed those attending the early morning session.

He spoke of the NIAID's mandate—"one that is vital to the health and general well-being of everyone—to search for ways to prevent or treat human diseases caused by infectious agents or by allergic responses," and confirmed the Institute's obligation to keep its employees informed of every opportunity for career development.

Program Described

The Stride and Nursing programs comprised the first segment of the agenda, followed by information on Upward Mobility College, Thompkins Weaver, Guadalupe Hernandez, and Betty Cook outlined the NIH and DHK Management Intern Program, then UMC professor Louis Perkins discussed the college program needed for some careers at NIH.

Dr. John R. Seal, deputy director of NIAID, concluded the formal program, providing details about laboratory careers.

Advisors Consulted

In the afternoon, career advisors staffed booths set up in Wilson Hall. Employees were invited to visit the booths for specific information and advice on job opportunities in personnel work, grants management, secretarial and office skills, computer sciences, and laboratory sciences such as biology, chemistry, microbiology, and electron microscopy.

Other Institutes at NIH may adopt the Career Day format to provide valuable job information to interested employees.

Guide to Standard MUMPS Computer Language Available

The MUMPS computer language is used widely for medical and business applications, and the number of institutions that use MUMPS is growing rapidly by about 80 percent per year.

A concise pocket guide to MUMPS has been written to facilitate use of this compact, text-handling language. The guide includes descriptions of all the commands, operators, functions, and all other capabilities of Standard MUMPS, and gives many examples of their use.

Developed From Dialects

The Standard was developed from a dozen MUMPS dialects, under the sponsorship of the National Bureau of Standards and DHEW.

Single copies of the guide are available at no charge from Dr. Joan Zimmerman, MUMPS Users' Group, 700 South Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63110.

During his 16 years with NIMH, Dr. Bunney has been honored many times for his achievements. Past awards include the American Psychiatric Association Hofheimer Research Prize and the International Anna-Monika Award.
Stanley Jablonski Leaves NLM Index Section Helm

Mr. Jablonski beams at the thought of more time for sailing now that he's leaving his NLM duties behind.

Stanley Jablonski, one of the most colorful employees in the National Library of Medicine, retired on Nov. 20. Mr. Jablonski came to the Army Medical Library in 1949 as an assistant cataloger. He left NLM as head of its Index Section, after establishing an international reputation as a leading bibliographer and indexer.

Mr. Jablonski compiled and edited a number of publications, including the Russian Drug Index, a Russian-English Medical Dictionary, the Illustrated Dictionary of Eponymic Syndromes and Diseases and Their Synonyms.

New Parking Rules Forbid All-Day Non-Resident Parking

Montgomery County has instituted a parking program for the residential area of east Bethesda, effective Dec. 6, that permits all-day parking only for residents who have permits.

In the area bounded by Wisconsin Avenue, Jones Bridge Road, and East-West Highway, cars parked for longer than 2 hours between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, will be ticketed and possibly towed away.

Surgical Procedure Developed at Duke U. To Treat Parathyroid Gland Overgrowth

Surgical research performed on four patients at the General Clinical Research Center at Duke University has resulted in a new technique for treatment of primary parathyroid hyperplasia (overgrowth of the glands).

The surgical procedure was developed from a study supported in part by the Division of Research Resources. Basically, the procedure consists of the complete removal of the four parathyroid glands from their usual position in the neck, and the implantation of 20 to 25 pieces of these parathyroid glands in the muscle tissue of the forearm. Located behind the thyroid, the parathyroid glands are part of the endocrine system, chiefly responsible for regulating calcium, phosphorus, and bone metabolism.

The abnormal increase in the number of normal cells of the parathyroid results in an increased secretion of parathyroid hormone. The overactive glands raise the serum and urine levels of calcium and lower the serum level of phosphorus, while increasing its excretion.

Although this disease is unusual, it has serious complications: kidney stone formation, kidney dysfunction, urinary tract infection, peptic ulcer, and cardiovascular disease.

In more serious cases, bone disease may develop, producing pain, cysts, deformities, and spontaneous fracture due to loss of calcium from the bone structure.

The standard surgical treatment for parathyroid hyperplasia is the removal of three and one-half of the four glands. All too often, however, either repeat surgery is necessary to correct continued high serum level of calcium (hypercalcemia), or the patient must be permanently maintained on vitamin D and calcium supplements.

Dr. Samuel A. Wells, Jr., Director of the General Clinical Research Center of the Duke University Medical Center, and his co-investigators at Duke, Michael Reese Hospital, and Medica Genitols in Chicago, and the University of Chicago's Fritz School of Medicine, have departed from this approach in treating four patients with primary parathyroid hyperplasia.

Instead of leaving half of a gland remaining in the neck, all the parathyroid glands are removed. Two of the glands are diced into 40 to 50 pieces, each approximately 1 mm by 2 mm; 20 to 25 of these pieces are then implanted into separate beds of muscle tissue in the inner forearm.

The total surface area of the parathyroid transplant, done usually on the left arm, measures approximately 5 cm by 5 cm (2" x 2"). The remaining pieces are viable frozen in liquid nitrogen for possible future use if hypocalcemia should become chronic.

If hypercalcemia should recur, several of the implanted pieces can be removed from the forearm under local anesthesia rather than having to repeat neck surgery under total anesthesia.

Ring-Tailed Lemur Is Prime Animal Model

Scientists at the Oregon Primate Research Center are finding the ring-tailed lemur (L. catta) to be a prime laboratory animal model for genetic studies, especially in the area of twinning. One of these tests determines the effect of a chemical on the embryos of pregnant hamsters given the compound. This test responds both to the added chemical and to any carcinogenic products generated from the test chemical by the animals' metabolism.

According to Dr. DiPaolo, the Biology Branch has two immediate goals: development of a system to measure transformation and mutation frequencies within the same cell; and development of a reproducible, quantitative test for carcinogenesis using human cells grown in the laboratory.

Advanced studies may include the treatment of a variety of other disease states that result in hyperparathyroidism.

Other investigators conducting this research were Drs. George J. Ellis, Caulie Gunnells, Arthur B. Schneider, and Louis M. Sherwood. Their findings were published in a recent issue of The New England Journal of Medicine.
Patients With Severe Acne Needed for Clinical Study

Patients with severe acne are needed for a clinical study testing the effectiveness of a derivative of vitamin A. Those who enter the study will be referred by their own physicians.

For further information, call Dr. Gary Peck or Dr. Frank Yoder, NCI Dermatology Branch, at 496-2481.

Dr. Salans Joins NIH; Will Implement Plan To Combat Diabetes

Dr. Lester B. Salans, a noted diabetologist and authority on obesity, has been appointed to serve as associate director for NIAID's Diabetes, Endocrine, and Metabolic Diseases Program. Dr. Salans comes to the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases from the Darmouth Medical School, where since 1971 he was associate professor of medicine and head of the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

As associate director, he will implement the long-range plan to combat diabetes recommended by the National Commission on Diabetes and plan future Institute-supported research and training in this area.

Background Given

Dr. Salans was an assistant professor and associate physician at the Rockefeller University, 1967-68, and invited professor at the Institut de Biochimie Cline, University of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1974-75.

He was a member of the NIH Nutrition Study Section, and has served on various ad hoc review groups in NIH in the areas of diabetes, atherosclerosis, and aging.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Salans earned his B.S. degree at the University of Michigan, and in 1961 received his M.D. degree with honors at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Honors Noted

The author of more than 50 scientific papers on diabetes, metabolism, and obesity, he has received several honors including an NIH Research Career Development Award and election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 1975.

Dr. Salans serves on the editorial board of the American Journal of Physiology and is a scientific reviewer for the Journal of Clinical Investigation, Metabolism, and the Journal of Lipid Research.

Dennis Doris Travels Around the World, Discovers NIH Is Held in High Regard

Taking a 6-week holiday trip around the world, NCI employee Dennis B. Doris, Jr., went about as far as anyone can go.

On two occasions, Mr. Doris—who is in the Office of Cancer Communications—discovered that NIH is known throughout the world.

While wearing an NIH tee-shirt, he boarded a bus from New Delhi to the Taj Mahal in Agra and when walking in London’s Hyde Park, he was asked if he worked at NIH.

The Indian pharmacologist and the British doctor who spoke to him expressed their high regard for research at NIH.

The trip included visits to Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Bangladesh, Calcutta, Delhi, Tehran, Istanbul, Frankfurt, Berlin, Hamburg, London, Glasgow, and cities in Ireland.

Mr. Doris also revisited the Cholera Research Laboratories in Dacca, Bangladesh—supported in part by NIAID—where he once worked while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in that country.

He feels that the trip he had always wanted to take was well worth the expense, but next summer he will probably be closer to home, playing softball and canoeing on the Potomac.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS ARE REVIEWED

(Continued from Page 1)

USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, is the Soviet Coordinator.

The discussions will cover biological effects in four problem areas:

- inhaled chemicals;
- orally-ingested chemicals;
- inhaled and orally-ingested chemicals; and
- physical factors in the environment.

These four general areas currently consist of nine specific topics for cooperation.

During the first 2 years of the cooperative program in environmental health, working relationships were established between sides, and joint research was initiated. In December 1974, results of this work were presented at a week-long joint symposium in Riga, Latvia.

Meeting Successful

That joint meeting was so successful that the Soviet and American delegations agreed to hold this second joint symposium in the U.S., and its proceedings will be published in both countries.

During the 3-day symposium, the Soviet and American scientists will meet with members of the press as well as visit historic St. Augustine, Kennedy Space Center, Disney World, and Marineland.

C. V. Whitney—chairman of the Board of Marineland—for whom the laboratory was named, donated funds to the University of Florida for the construction of the facility, and Marineland of Florida donated the adjacent property.

Of interest to the Soviet visitors is the fact that Illya Tolstoy, grandson of the author of War and Peace, was one of the founders of Marineland in 1938.

As part of the total cooperative program of environmental health, the symposium has practical impli-cations for the rest of the world, because it underlines the significance the two major powers place on environmental health issues, and may well lead to other agreements between countries that share similar problems.

Bernard Burr to Retire; Served as NCI Scientist, Later Evaluated Grants

A career of more than 29 years at the National Cancer Institute will come to a close when Bernard E. Burr of NCI's Research Analysis and Evaluation Branch retires on Dec. 31.

Dr. Burr came to NIH in 1947 to take charge of mass spectrometry in the Biophysics Section.

As a scientist he was involved in physiological and biological measurements in the Laboratory of Physiology until he moved from the lab to the Office of the Associate Director for Extramural Programs in 1961.

Scien-tist-Administrators Needed

That year, said Mr. Burr, "there arose a need for knowledgeable scientists to help with the rapidly expanding research programs from the administrative end."

He became involved in administrative and financial review of all grant applications, and later joined the Branch from which he is now retiring.

Mr. Burr was born in Odessa, Russia, in 1907 while his father was working there. He also lived in Budapest, Hungary, before his parents came back to their home near Carlisle, Pa., in 1915.

He graduated from Dickinson College in 1928 with a degree in education and science, teaching high school science and working as a chemist for a paper company and a petroleum company before starting at NCI.

A retirement party for Mr. Burr is planned for Tuesday, Jan. 4, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the Westwood Bldg., Room 825.

Mr. Burr's retirement plans include touring the country with his wife, Edna, continuing his "ham radio" activities, and enjoying time with friends and family.
On Germfree Animals
Pioneered in Research

When Mr. Phillips received the 40-year service award 2 years ago, Mrs. Phillips was on hand to congratulate him.

Bruce Phillips, the first NIH scientist to utilize germfree experimental animals, will retire Dec. 81 after 42 years of outstanding Federal service.

Mr. Phillips has earned an international reputation for his studies on Entamoeba histolytica and many facets of intestinal amebic disease as well as his pioneering investigations of germfree life. When he began his research in 1851, he was the first in the world to employ these germfree animals in a detailed systematic study of an infectious disease. The career Mr. Phillips began in 1894 at the Government Printing Office will be completed at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases where he has been employed as a research biologist.

In 1940 he came to NIH where he has served continuously except for a tour of duty in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Phillips was awarded the DHW Superior Service Award in 1955 for his investigations of the parasitic disease, amebiasis.

The author of 40 scientific papers, he is a member of a number of professional societies. Upon his retirement, Mr. Phillips will enjoy his hobbies of golf, gardening, and fishing, and will avoid any further laboratory activities for at least a year. He also plans to work as a licensed realtor for the same company in which his wife is a sales representative.

TRAINS TIPS

The 1977 NIH Training and Career Development Catalog will be available by Jan. 28 in B/D personnel offices.

The catalog contains information about the many training and career development programs offered at NIH.

NIH Visiting Scientists Program Participants

11/19—Dr. Yoshiasa Sekihara, Japan, Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry and Biology, Sponsor: Dr. Marco Rabinovitz, NCI, Bg. 37, Rm. 6B05.
11/22—Dr. Ching Ho, Taiwan, Cell Biology Laboratory, Sponsor: Dr. Hayden Coon, NCI, Bg. 8, Rm. 105.
11/22—Dr. Masood N. Khan, India, Section of Pulmonary Biochemistry, Sponsor: Dr. R. F. DeAugustine, NICHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C.
11/29—Dr. Shaike Abdul Gaffar, India, Laboratory of Immunodiagnosis, Sponsor: Dr. K. Robert McIntire, NCI, Bg. 8, Rm. 204.
11/30—Dr. John Ashworth Hodgson, United Kingdom, Laboratory of Neural Control, Sponsor: Dr. Robert E. Burke, NICNIDS, Bg. 36, Rm. 5A29.
11/30—Dr. Graciela Beatriz Sala, Argentina, Reproduction Research Branch, Sponsor: Dr. Kevin J. Catt, NICHD, Bg. 10, Rm. 12N218.

matched with the Colorado recipients through the efforts of professional director coordinators in Denver and Los Angeles.

The University of Colorado surgeons have performed 116 liver transplants, more than any other medical group in the world. According to the Colorado doctors, the procedure is still experimental because the results are not yet predictable.

"This is one reason why we hospitalized all liver transplant recipients in the DRR-funded clinical research center...so we can learn as much as possible from each patient," Dr. Putnam says.

The facilities of the center and the personnel working on the unit are best suited to manage patients who require unusual care and who, at the same time, are used to working under strict research protocols.

"The clinical research center gives us access to highly reliable and sophisticated laboratories which are critical for liver transplant cases. The unit also allows us to work with nurses who provide extremely competent care and, at the same time, are used to working under strict research protocols."

Fourteen Are Alive

Of the 116 liver recipients, 30 lived at least 1 year post-operatively, 14 are still alive, and the longest survivor is approaching 7 years.

"The survival rate is not good enough yet to make the procedure a standard clinical tool," Dr. Putnam says. "The results must improve to take it out of the experimental stage."

Dr. Starzl says even though the procedure makes it necessary to expand organ availability.

"The success of organ storage and shipment that we have been able to accomplish overcomes a tremendous logistic barrier to increased liver transplantation," he says.

"Many patients have benefited from the procedure. There is little reason to doubt that liver replacement will be a more common operation in the years to come."

"A shortage of organs may then present an obstacle, as it has with kidney transplants. The ability to store and ship organs is a large step in overcoming this potential problem."
Stanford Researchers Study Waterbeds' Beneficial Effects for Premature Infants

Researchers at Stanford University Medical Center have found that placing premature infants on waterbeds significantly reduces temporary breathing cessations, a problem common in premature babies.

The waterbed research has been conducted in the Stanford General Clinical Research Center since 1972 by Dr. Anneliese F. Korner, adjunct professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences. The General Clinical Research Center is supported by the Division of Research Resources.

The Stanford research demonstrates that premature infants placed in incubators equipped with waterbeds had fewer stop-breathing episodes, called apneic spells, than premature infants placed in standard incubators.

A decade of research by Dr. Korner and her collaborators has shown that movement stimulation is such a major point in bringing about behavioral and developmental changes in newborns than is touch and body contact, long considered the most important form of stimulation for very young infants.

Premature infants are deprived of the movement stimulation normally brought about by their flotation in the uterus during a full-term pregnancy. The waterbeds are designed to make up for the movement stimulation missed by the prematurely born infant.

Dr. Korner observes as an infant sleeps on an oscillating waterbed in the Stanford Intensive Care Nurseries.

“Out research showed that significantly fewer breathing cessations occurred in the babies on the waterbeds than among babies in a control group placed on the waterbeds,” Dr. Korner said. “We have since begun another study which reinforces our previous findings.”

In collaboration with Dr. Christian Guilleminault from the Stanford Sleep Disorder Clinic, the respiratory and sleep patterns are polygraphically recorded during periods while the same babies are on and off the oscillating waterbeds. The preliminary results of this study show that the infants have fewer breathing cessations on the waterbeds.

Upcoming studies are being planned by Dr. Korner to determine the difference, if any, in benefits between the mechanically oscillating and non-oscillating waterbed.

“The non-oscillating waterbed has already been used extensively for a number of clinical purposes, mainly at the request of the nursing and medical staff,” Dr. Korner said. "These beds have been found useful in monitoring the fragile skin of very small premature babies, and in the care of infants who are emaciated or recovering from abdominal surgery. Clinically, waterbed flotation seems beneficial in any condition in which pressure points to the skin or the skeletal structure are to be avoided.”

Dr. Korner, Rh Pioneer, Dies

Dr. Sarah Stewart, noted as co-discoverer of polyoma tumor virus, died of cancer on November 27 at her home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

When Dr. Stewart retired in August 1976 as head of the National Cancer Institute's Virus Studies Section, she became a professor in the department of pathology, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and continued research on the virus etiology of human tumors under an NCI contract.

She remained at Georgetown University until her retirement 2 years ago, when she moved to Florida.

Dr. Stewart was the first woman to receive a medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School. Previously she had earned a B.S. from New Mexico State University, an M.S. from the University of Massachusetts, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago.

She worked for the Division of Biological Standards (then part of NIH) from 1935 to 1944 as a microbiologist, and later in 1951—after graduating from medical school, internship, and practice as a gynecologist—went to work for the NCI at the Baltimore hospital.

There she and Dr. Eddy became the first to grow isolated animal cancer viruses in tissue culture in the laboratory. In 1956 she returned to the NIH campus in Bethesda, remaining until 1970.

Dr. Stewart's work received worldwide acclaim. Honors included the G. Lenghi Prize from the National Academy of Lincolne of Rome, the Federal Women's Association, and the Women of Georgetown's "Medical Men of Georgetown" honor roll, and a tribute by the journal Cancer Research, which commemorated the medical milestone of their discovery by dedicating an issue to her and Dr. Eddy.

Dr. Stewart was the author or co-author of over 100 papers.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Arthur J. Stewart, and two sisters, Mrs. Vera Sticker, and Mrs. J. Lee Brown, all of New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

NIH Toastmasters Club Moves To Bldg. 31 for Its Meetings

The NIH Toastmasters Club has moved to Bldg. 31 in the training area of the B wing.
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS provide a cheery note at NIH from Dec. 13 to 31—the period they are allowed according to regulations issued by Fire Chief Milton R. Mullican. While safety considerations prohibit flammable tree ornaments, trees in laboratories, decorative lights in Bldg. 10, lights on aluminum trees, and candles in any building—and the energy crisis curtails decorative lighting—workers in offices and labs find many ingenious ways to express season’s greetings. Doorways add a festive note in many halls, inviting passersby to share the joy of the holiday spirit.

Dr. Melvin Josephs Joins NLM; Will Head Branch In Special Info. Services

Dr. Melvin Jay Josephs, has been appointed to head the Technical Files Implementation Branch of the Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine.

Dr. Josephs will be responsible for developing and maintaining computer-based files for toxicology data and information.

Comes From NTIS

He comes to the Library from the National Technical Information Service (Department of Commerce) where he was the Technical Journals Program Manager.

Dr. Josephs has long experience in the literature of chemistry and toxicology: he has been managing editor of both Environmental Science and Technology and Chemical and Engineering News, and he is the co-author of the book Chemistry and the Environment.

US-USSR to Cooperate In Studies on Drug Use For Rheumatoid Arthritis

The United States and the Soviet Union began their first cooperative trial in the field of arthritis early this month.

Physicians in both countries will carry out identical studies on the use of the drug D-penicillamine in rheumatoid arthritis. The U.S. program, under NIH auspices, involves four New York City medical schools.

Penicillamine was first used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in this country over 10 years ago by Dr. Israel Jaffe of the New York Medical College. In the past 5 years, careful trials in Great Britain have supported its efficacy in treating serious forms of rheumatoid arthritis.

In the present US-USSR cooperative study, lower doses of the drug will be compared with the more usual doses to see if they are effective. The participating scientists hope that some of the unwanted side-effects may be less common at lower doses.

There has been extensive experience on the use of the drug in the United States and Great Britain but not yet in the Soviet Union.

Also Treats Wilson’s Disease

The drug, a natural breakdown product of penicillin, has been successful in treating a rare illness of the liver and nervous system called Wilson’s disease in which excessive copper accumulates in the body. D-penicillamine helps remove the copper.

Its action in arthritis, however, does not seem related to this property.

The U.S. cooperative trial will be coordinated by Dr. Jaffe at the New York Medical College and Drs. John Decker and Paul Plots at the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases.

The arthritis clinics at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, The Hospital for Special Surgery of New York Hospital, and New York University Bellevue Medical Center will also participate in the trial.

In the Soviet Union, the trial will be coordinated by the Institute for Rheumatism of the Academy of Medical Sciences in Moscow under the direction of Professors M. G. Astapenko and E. Agababova.

Supplies of the drug were shipped early this month from NIH to the Institute for Rheumatism. At the end of the trial, data from both countries will be compared.

This joint study is the fourth major collaborative undertaking in the health sciences between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Earlier agreements include vascular diseases, cancer, and environmental health.

Multiple Types of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Noted in New NIAID Booklet

Everything you want to know about sexually-transmitted diseases is contained in a 24-page pamphlet recently published by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The new publication explains the causes, symptoms, diagnostic tests, complications, and treatments of several types of venereal or sexually-transmitted diseases that plague as many as 8 to 10 million Americans each year. Even with increased efforts in VD control, the two most well-known forms—syphilis and gonorrhea—still exist as significant health threats.

As the pamphlet stresses, VD is more than syphilis and gonorrhea. This term covers a wide range of diseases with different symptoms and treatments, but all believed to be transmitted, at least sometimes, through intimate sexual contact.

For example, VD includes genital herpes, non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU), chancroid, trichomoniasis (a cause of vaginitis), granuloma inguinale, crabs, sebaceous, and cytomegalovirus infection (CMV).

The last-named is an important cause of mental retardation in infants infected before birth. Even hepatitis B, or serum hepatitis, is now recognized as being contracted sexually on occasion.

Despite progress made in combating VD with the use of antibiotics, some organisms causing these diseases have become drug-resistant, and others have long defied investigation.

The pamphlet touches on recent research approaches to these elusive organisms, and contains an easy-to-follow, two-page chart summarizing currently known or suspected VD agents and the diseases they may cause.

Present research efforts may someday lead to improved diagnostic tests, better therapy, and perhaps even vaccines against some of man’s most persistent diseases.

Single complimentary copies of Sexually-Transmitted Diseases may be obtained from the Office of Research Reporting and Public Response, NIAID, Rm. 7A-32, Bldg. 31, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 40 cents each, with a 25 percent discount for 100 or more copies.