Professor Mary Leakey To Present NIH Lecture On Early Man March 2

Dr. Mary Leakey, who worked for many years with her husband, the late Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey, is a world authority on stone tools.

Professor Mary Leakey, Director of the Olduvai Gorge Research Project in Tanzania and internationally recognized as an anthropologist and prehistorian, will present an NIH Lecture on Early Man next Wednesday, March 2, at 8:15 p.m. in the CC Masur Auditorium.

Professor Leakey worked for many years with her husband, the late Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey, in Africa. Their findings dated man's origins millions of years earlier than had previously been recognized.

Famed for her unearthing of Zinjanthropus, she is a world authority on stone tools. Her discoveries of early hominids and their tools have provided the longest known record of early man and his activities.

NAS Forum on Research With Recombinant DNA

The Academy Forum of the National Academy of Sciences is convening a Forum on Research with Recombinant DNA on Monday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m., and on March 8 and 9, at 9 a.m., in the NAS Auditorium.

The NAS Auditorium is at 2100 C Street, N.W., in Washington. Among the speakers will be Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, NIH Director; Dr. Maxine Singer, head, Nucleic Acid Enzymology Section, Laboratory of Biochemistry, National Cancer Institute; and Dr. H. Bruce Dull, assistant director for program, Center for Disease Control.

The meeting is open. For further information, call the Forum office, (202) 339-6232.

NIOSH Will Investigate Chemicals in Workplace, Supported by NCI Funds

The National Cancer Institute recently transferred more than $3 million to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to support investigations into cancer-causing chemicals in the workplace.

Twenty-one NIOSH projects will be supported by the $3,057,000 transfer of funds, according to Dr. Guy R. Newell, Acting Director, National Cancer Program, NCI. This is in addition to $920,000 already committed by NCI to fund NIOSH research. The money will come from the budget of NCI's Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention.

One of the projects will be a survey of death rates (mortality) in the U.S. since 1970 by occupation and cause of death.

The NIOSH investigators will coordinate their data and methodology with other epidemiologists (See NIOSH, Page 6).

Hon. Julian Bond to Speak At CC on Friday, Feb. 25

Georgia State Senator Julian Bond will speak at NIH on Friday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the CC Masur Auditorium.

The 2-hour program is part of this year's Black History Observance.

Senator Bond, who served 4 terms in the Georgia House, was elected in 1974 to the State Senate where he now serves. Recently named to TIME Magazine's 200 Leaders' List, he has for many years played a prominent role in furthering civil rights.

The University of Maryland Gospel Choir, consisting of 100 voices under the direction of Dr. Richard Smallwood, will also participate in the program.

Ms. Corning Named Executive Fellow at Brookings Institution

Mary E. Corning, assistant director for International Programs, National Library of Medicine, has been appointed a Federal Executive Fellow by the Brookings Institution.

Beginning in January 1977, the 6-month fellowship will enable Ms. Corning to undertake a study of international cooperation in biomedicine.

The Brookings Institution, in Washington, D.C., is a private nonprofit organization devoted to research, education, and publication concerning government, foreign policy, and economics.

Secretary Califano Lauds NIH; Cites Dr. Fredrickson as ‘Best’

During a brief visit on Feb. 3, HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., spoke to a packed audience of NIH employees in the CC Masur Auditorium.

A partial text of his remarks follows:

... I recognize how important the work is that you've been doing at NIH for many years and I hope will continue to do. I recognize NIH as one of the greatest national treasures this country has; indeed it's one of the great treasures of the world. I will do what I can to help provide an environment in which you can pursue your work.

The work you do is of critical importance to our society. You seek cures for some of the most intractable diseases of mankind. You seek to discover preventive measures which can reduce not only misery but the expense of disease and illness. You provide the leadership this country needs.

You're looked to for that leadership in terms of grants and contracts and direction for much of our Nation's research in these areas.

I believe that the research you do here, and that basic research generally in health, is critical for our society and needs additional support and resources, and I'll do my best to try and get them for you.

Your skills are as scientists; your minds are brilliant in those areas; you have some of the finest people in the world here. My skills are as a lawyer. So if you give me the facts, I'll try to make the case for you in Congress and OMB.

I am happy to announce that we have completed our search for a Director of NIH. We have looked—as I have for every position it has been my responsibility to fill or to recommend to the President that he fill—have looked only for the best—for excellence....

The President is announcing this morning and I am announcing to you that we found that person, and we found him right here at NIH in Dr. Fredrickson.

You know him better than I; he has spent most of his professional life here. I knew him not only from the several meetings I've had with him but also from calling scores of scientists around this country to find the best man for this job, and I'm delighted that he is willing to stay on.

I also hope that you understand the meaning, in the larger sense, of (Continued on Page 4)
Children's Summer Camp On NIH Grounds Planned; Reservations Open Apr. 1

NIH and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation will sponsor a summer camp for the children of NIH'ers and of Montgomery County residents.

Four 2-Week Sessions
The camp—to be held for four 2-week sessions, June 20 through Aug. 12—will be located on NIH grounds, behind the National Library of Medicine.

Camp Arrowhead is for children ages 6 to 7, and children ages 8 to 12 will attend Camp Breezyhollow. The camp hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Child care before and after the camp hours may be arranged if required.

Activities include archery, crafts, tennis, special trips and events, cookouts, and swimming.

Call Virginia Burke
Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis starting April 1.

For further information, contact Virginia Burke, NIH Child Care Coordinator, Bldg. 31, Room 2B-30, Ext. 61811.

New Bike Paths Planned; Cyclists Will Meet March 1

Chips Johnson, bikeways planner of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, met with 40 NIH employees on Jan. 18. Participants discussed the merits of proposed bicycle routes which are supposed to provide safe access to NIH for commuter cyclists from all directions.

Thomas Cook and Charles Pyles of the Division of Administrative Services described bicycle paths and bicycle parking facilities on the NIH campus.

Several persons expressed interest in further sessions to continue the dialogue.

The next meeting will be held in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 5, B1 Level, on Tuesday, March 1, at 1 p.m. All cyclists and would-be cyclists are invited.

2 Electron Microscopy Courses Taught in June
A series of practical courses in scanning and transmission electron microscopy are being offered this June by the George Washington University Medical Center.

The tuition for Transmission Electron Microscopy, June 6-17, is $500; for Scanning Electron Microscopy, June 20-24 and June 27-July 1, $425; and for the combined program, $850.

These classes are designed to introduce the participants to the theory and practical aspects of electron microscopy.

Contact G.W.U.
For information, write Fred Lightfoot, GWU Department of Anatomy, 2300 1 Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, or call (202) 676-2881 or 3511.

13.3 Million Patients Reported As Having Operations in 1973
An estimated 13.3 million patients underwent surgery during 1973, according to a recent National Center for Health Statistics report.

The figure represents 41.3 percent of the 32.1 million in patients discharged that year from non-Federal, short-stay hospitals.

Almost half the surgical operations performed were related to gynecological, abdominal, and orthopedic surgery specialties.

About 62.3 percent of the operations were for females, and 37.6 percent for males. Gynecological surgery accounted for a major portion of the difference between the sexes.

ADULT EDUCATION GRADUATES successfully pass the high school equivalency examination. L to r seated are: Thelma Williams, CC; Rose Douglas, DAS; Dorothy Ford, CC; and Bernice Lee, DAS. Standing are: Pat Sadler, Montgomery County public school's instructor; Robert Gray, FDA; Lorraine Hopkins and Thomas Caldwell, DAS; Milt Tipperman, NIH adult education coordinator; Frank McNey, NIAID; and D. E. Richards, supervisor for adult education, M.C. public schools. Another graduate, Elmina Brown, DRS, was not present for the photo. Employees interested in taking classes at NIH to study for the equivalency examination may call their personnel office or Milt Tipperman, Ext. 62146.

GPO Representatives To Discuss Printing $$ Savings Here March 2

How to Stretch Your Printing Dollar is the topic of a presentation to be given Wednesday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to noon in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

Special assistant to the Public Printer David H. Brown will moderate the program—an opportunity to see and hear the latest in publication technology and to open lines of communication among GPO leaders and NIH writers, artists, printing experts, and others in the NIH information community.

Slides to Be Presented
A slide presentation on the U.S. Government Printing Office will be followed by presentations by:

• Robert J. McKendry, customer service manager
• Roman Goltz, superintendent, Central Office Printing Procurement Division
• James L. Payne, superintendent, Planning Service Division
• William J. Barrett, deputy assistant Public Printer (Superintendent of Documents)

A question and answer period will follow.

Everyone is invited to attend the session, sponsored by the NIH Information Training Committee.

Thomas Paul to Be Featured In FAES Concert March 6

The sixth concert sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences welcomes Thomas Paul in a recital of German and Russian lieder.

The concert will be held on Sunday, March 6, at 4 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium.

Admission is by ticket only.
Italian Patient Is No Longer a Stranger; Phone Book Introduces Many Abruzzians

Luigi Domizi, a cardiologist patient in the Clinical Center, has found an unusual way of making friends—the telephone book. Although he speaks no English, he has compiled a list of names familiar in Abruzzi, the area of Italy on the Adriatic coast which he left a month ago for cardiac treatment.

About a month ago, Mr. Domizi, who was familiar with the little towns of the region through his job with the area’s tobacco and alcohol control office—was told by his physician to go to Bologna for treatment, and the doctors there referred him to NIH.

At about the same time, his wife—a postal worker—had a conversation with an American woman who was sending a package to her brother, who lives in Bethesda, and gave Mrs. Domizi his address.

Mr. Domizi, his wife, and daughter arrived at NIH knowing no English, only the telephone number of the American woman’s brother, a wife in a similar plight.

After staying in a motel one night, they called and he invited them to stay with him as guests while Mr. Domizi receives treatment in the CC.

Interpreters Found

The CC staff had arranged for interpreters to help the Domizis communicate—Dr. Rosa Maria Gaion and Filippina Giacometti of NHLBI—but one Saturday night they began thinking that Washington might have other families from their home area.

They fished a long sheet of paper from a waste basket and wrote down phone numbers of Washingtonians with names common in Abruzzi.

From there they began making calls. “If you don’t understand English, do you understand Italian?” Few people hung up; some were children who called their parents or grandparents to the phone. Many were delighted to talk with someone recently arrived from their birthplace and have a chance to speak Italian.

So many people responded to Mr. Domizi’s self-introduction that he is now having to turn away some would-be visitors. One family named Marinucci sent flowers.

An 81-year-old man who has been here 50 years and still speaks little English couldn’t come to visit, so he sent his son instead.

The visitors are delighted to have the Domizis as “ambassadors” to their families when they return to Italy, and some want him to arrange for hometown newspapers to be sent here.

Best of all, the Domizis don’t feel alone in America any more, and Mr. Domizi says he “feels better already. They tell me I’m in the best place in the world.”

Mr. Domizi displays his list from the phone book, a book with maps of the Abruzzi region, and the telephone that has helped him find new friends in America.

DCRT Booklet Describes Services and Facilities Of Interest to NIH’ers

The Division of Computer Research and Technology has revised a description of its activities of interest to NIH staff in other Divisions and Institutes in a recently-issued booklet entitled Services and Facilities of DCRT.

In addition to sections on NIH Computer Center facilities and the analyses and programming services of the DCRT Data Management Branch, the booklet contains a new section covering consultation and collaborative projects of the four DCRT laboratories working in conjunction with other Institutes and Divisions.

This section covers small laboratory computer systems, statistical and mathematical analyses, and research in biophysics, biochemistry, and clinical medicine.

Two other new sections explain information bases for administrative policies and procedures that govern computing at NIH and discuss the DCRT library and other information sources about computing and its applications.

Copies of the booklet are available from the DCRT Information Office, Ext. 66203.

Ship’s Doctor Talks Tomorrow At NIH Sailing Club Meeting

The February meeting of the NIH Sailing Club will feature Dr. John Lossing, ship’s doctor on the Coast Guard’s three-masted training barque Eagle during part of Operation SAIL ‘76.

This program promises to be as exciting as his presentation last spring, with slides and movies of many ships’ maneuvers, including the collisions at the start of the Bermuda to Newport race.

The meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 30, Room 117. Everyone is welcome.

During his 34 years of Federal service, Mr. Campbell was very active in numerous NIH organizations.

Bob Campbell Retires But His Interests Leave Little ‘Spare Time’ for Boredom

“Considering the weather we’ve been having, I’ll just use my spare time standing on a corner whistling walruses for polar bears,” says Robert L. Campbell who retired from NIAID on Dec. 31.

Bob, an administrative officer in NIH for 34 years of service, retired after 28 years of work with both divisions of the Institute’s intramural program.

Spring Class Schedule For Hundreds of USDA Courses Now Available

Hundreds of daytime, evening, and correspondence courses are listed in the Spring Schedule of Classes of the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For a complete listing and the Trade Press contact their B/T/D personnel offices or the NIH Training and Education Branch, Ext. 62146.

Courses from beginning to advanced levels are offered in a variety of subjects such as accounting, editing, photography, graphic arts, foreign languages, library techniques, computer sciences, secretarial skills, human relations, nautical studies, economics, and more.

Graduate School credits are recognized by the Civil Service Commission for examination and job qualification purposes.

The USDA’s Spring Schedule also includes delivery of new courses open for enrollment. Introduction to Journalism, Principles of Public Relations, The Reporting of Public Affairs, Public Relations and Government, and The Specialization in Business Journalism. These last courses are a part of a series of new courses leading to a Certificate of Accomplishment in Journalism.

Other new courses include Career Planning Workshop, Paralegalism II, Biblical Literature, American Family Dreams, The Theatre in Metropolitan Washington, World Geography, and The Art and Skills of Clowning.

For those who would like to pursue a new hobby: Calligraphy, Pottery, Candid Photography, Sculpture, Jewelry Making, and Chinese Watercolor Painting are a few of the classes offered.

Registration will be held March 21-26 in the USDA Patio, North Bldg., 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C.

Classes meet one night a week for 10 weeks beginning March 28, unless otherwise noted in the schedule. Tuition is moderate, and classes are open to all adults.

Retirement Planning Program Is Offered to NIH Employees

A retirement planning program for NIH employees is being offered on Thursday, March 10, and Friday, March 11, by the Employee Relations and Recognition Branch, DPM.

A desk-to-desk Personnel Bulletin offering employees an opportunity to participate in the program has been distributed.

Employees who wish to attend should contact their supervisor.
SECRETARY CALIFANO LAUDS NIH
(Continued from page 1)

retaining Dr. Fredrickson and looking only for excellence.

Health care and biomedical research and the work you do here, as the work done everywhere else, will be subjected to a new level of scrutiny in the world in which we live and the Nation in which we live.

There will be pressures to find solutions faster, to make medical care less expensive, to make it more available, to conquer disease after disease, a what-disease-did-you-conquer-yesterday? attitude.

There Is No Insulation From Pressures

Those pressures exist. They're in the world in which you live and the world in which I live. There's no insulation from those pressures.

But as far as politics is concerned, it's out of NIH. If I have the power to do anything, as I told Dr. Fredrickson this morning, I will do my best to insulate these Institutes and this great institution from partisan politics.

The only thing and the central thing that I ask in response is that you provide us with excellence—excellent appointments to advisory committees, excellent Directors and staffs, and excellent work. . . .

I know that with Dr. Fredrickson staying on the elements of sound basic research that are critical will be followed here: that there will be a wise choice of problems targeted for research; that there will be a stable component of research initiated by investigators themselves; that there will be room here—the doors will always be open for new investigators with new ideas; and that you'll retain and enhance the capacity to attract intellectual leaders of graduating classes year after year. . . .

Explains Depoliticization

You should know that depoliticizing NIH does not mean certain things. It does not mean that scientists can be removed from human concerns. It does not mean that you will not be subjected to some of the immediate pressures that surround the entire health community.

It does not mean that you can avoid the incredibly difficult ethical questions that attend so much research as science moves to newer and newer frontiers and learns more and more about the secrets of life and our universe.

It does not mean that you are free from the pressure and encouragement that I would impose throughout this Department to deal with the problems of minorities—black, Chicano, Indian, other minorities, women, and the disadvantaged—and to provide them an equal chance with everyone else.

NIH Must Use Training Leverage

It is imperative—and I'm learning this first-hand as I seek people for the top hundred or so policy-making jobs in HEW—it is imperative that places like NIH use the leadership that they so richly have—and use the leverage that they have in the private sector with the universities who are training people—to enlarge that pool of blacks and women and Chicanos and minorities—and of handicapped people—that are available for the top jobs in this country.

You begin to move into those jobs—in your specialties—in the great research universities of this country.

I want to do nothing to inhibit the excellence of those research universities, but I will not stand for what I consider to be a myth that excellence is inconsistent with opening those universities and their postgraduate schools to the blacks and women and other minorities of this country that for so long have had so much difficulty getting in those doors.

I say in a nonpolitical way that we've lost 8 years on this problem. I'm not naive enough to think that we can make up those years in 4, but we're going to try to make up for some of them.

There's no way to do it unless it is done at the top. The very gem—the cream of our research effort in the biomedical field for the world, probably—is right here on this campus and on your other campuses—at the Research Triangle and elsewhere. If it doesn't come from here, it's not going to happen.

Open Doors To Minorities, Handicapped

It's too easy for the great universities of this country to say, "Well, sure, we'd love to have a professor or researcher or an investigator in that area who's a woman or who's black, but there just aren't any." If that's true—and I doubt it—to the extent there aren't enough, it's because those same universities haven't opened those doors wide enough.

If you open the doors, they'll open the doors. And when you tell them how important you think that is, they'll recognize how important it is. If you can do it here, it can be done anywhere in the world, because you're the best—this is the best place of its kind in the world.

I believe that, President Carter believes that, and you've got to provide leadership in that difficult area.
Fredrickson Says NIH Has 'New Sense of... Purpose'

"Mr. Secretary, speaking for all of NIH, I think that it's not necessary to tell you more than this audience already has: that we have received from your visit a new sense of excitement and purpose.

"You have given us an enormous message—one of great hope and of determination. You can be assured we'll set in motion our march for further achievement of all the goals that you have described.

"Speaking only for myself, I am most pleased and grateful for the message that you brought from the President and from yourself, and I'm doubly honored that you brought it here personally today.

"Thank you again, Mr. Secretary, for all of us."
Dr. Anthony Bruno Joins HSA as Asso. Director, Commun. Health Services

Before his recent assignment at PAHO, Dr. Bruno coordinated USA-USSR cooperative programs in cancer research.

Dr. Anthony M. Bruno, assistant director, National Cancer Institute, has been appointed associate director of the Bureau of Community Health Services at the Health Services Administration.

His appointment to the PHS Commissioned Corps and assumption of his new duties took effect on Feb. 13.

He had joined NCI in August 1971 after working with the National Heart and Lung Institute since 1967.

Coordinates Activities

In his new position, Dr. Bruno will have responsibility for coordinating the health care service activities of the Bureau of Community Health Services with research findings and technology of NIH and other health research agencies.

His first task will be to examine the research developments that would be feasible to apply in the area of community health services.

Assigned to PAHO

Dr. Bruno's most recent assignment was as a special assistant to the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, where he was responsible for developing national and regional programs for prevention and control of diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and neurologic disorders.

Prior to that, he coordinated USA-USSR cooperative programs in cancer research.

Dr. Bruno received his M.D. degree from the University of California in 1956. He has done research on development of an artificial heart and on specialized techniques for organ perfusion in treating cancer.

Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.—Martin H. Fischer.

Essays Published on U.S. Bicentennial of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine has published three essays delivered at the special Colloquium on the Bicentennial of Medicine in the United States, May 6-7, 1976. Single copies of the monograph, titled Epilogue: Essays at the Bicentennial of Medicine in the United States, are available on request.

Dr. Blake Presented First

The first essay in the collection is by Dr. John B. Blake, chief of NLM's History of Medicine Division. It was presented as the historical synthesis of a series of papers given at the Colloquium and published in Advances in American Medicine: Essays at the Bicentennial by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation in cooperation with NLM.

The second essay, by Dr. William N. Hubbard, Jr., former chairman of the NLM Board of Regents, is titled The Utilization of Scientific Knowledge—the Role of a Medical Library.

The third essay, "Quo Vadis, U.S. Medicine?", was presented as the closing address of the colloquium by Dr. Philip Handler, President of the National Academy of Sciences.

Requests for copies of the Epilogue should be accompanied by a self-addressed mailing label and sent to: Office of Inquiries, Attn: Epilogue, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Medicine should be practiced as a form of friendship.—Leon Bernard.

NIOSH

(Continued from page 1)

working on surveys of cancer mortality.

Another project will establish a Kepone registry to monitor the effects of the chemical on exposed workers and their families.

Survey PCB's

In addition, the effects of exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's)—a group of chemicals shown to cause cancer in animals—will be surveyed.

A mortality and industrial hygiene study of nitrosamines will be supported by NCI funds. The project will investigate these chemicals, suspected human cancer-causing agents (carcinogens), to see if they are formed spontaneously in specific factory environments.

Examines Processes

Some industrial processes to be examined include pesticide manufacture, petroleum refining, fat rendering, explosives manufacture, metal machining using cutting oils, and sewage treatment facilities.

Also, if a large enough group of exposed workers can be identified, a history of past deaths will be developed to determine the effects of long-term exposure.

Research on ways to motivate workers to use safety procedures when working with carcinogenic substances will be another project in the overall NIOSH program.

The project will attempt to enhance the effectiveness of training, hazard recognition, use of protective equipment, and personal hygiene.

An evaluation of personal protective equipment will be directed toward development of more efficient respirators to absorb known or suspected carcinogens such as arsenic, vinyl chloride, chloroform, and benzene.

The project will also explore ways to improve existing protective clothing and other equipment.

Studies to improve the safety of plants producing t alc, vinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, azo dyes, trichloroethylene, and perchloroethylene, chlorinated hydrocarbons, beryllium, chloroprene, phosphates, or asbestos, and copper and lead smelters also will be funded under the interagency agreement.

Other projects will study mortality and industrial hygiene practices of workers in the printing and painting trades.

Investigates Sources

NIOSH is mandated to determine hazards in the workplace, and has established an Occupational Carcinogenesis Program to investigate possible sources of cancer-causing substances.

If a substance in the workplace is found to be carcinogenic, NIOSH makes recommendations for eliminating exposure to the hazard to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, which is authorized to establish and enforce the standards.

Dr. Fred L. Soper Dies; NLM Scholar Gained World Fame

Dr. Fred L. Soper, Director Emeritus of the Pan American Health Organization, died Feb. 9. He had been a Scholar in Residence at the National Library of Medicine from 1972 until he moved to Wichita, Kans., last fall.

Dr. Soper had achieved international recognition for his contributions to public health and disease control, particularly yellow fever, malaria, and typhus.

Directed PAHO

Elected director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (which became the Pan American Health Organization) in 1947, he served in that position until his retirement in 1959.

In 1961-62 he established the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory.

Dr. Soper was the recipient of numerous awards, honorary degrees, and foreign decorations.

Selections from his papers were published in 1970 in the book, Building the Health Bridge.

Donates Papers

Dr. Soper's private papers have been donated to the National Library of Medicine and will be available for scholarly research.

Another project will establish a Kepone registry to monitor the effects of the chemical on exposed workers and their families.

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Pittsburgh Grantees Develop Screening Test for Infant Hypothyroidism (Cretinism)

University of Pittsburgh doctors working at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Magee Women's Hospital have developed a laboratory test which can accurately and economically screen for congenital hypothyroidism, a subtle and difficult-to-detect medical condition which can cause irreversible mental retardation in infants if not discovered and treated early.

According to Dr. Thomas P. Foley, Jr., who supervised the team that developed the new screening test, congenital hypothyroidism affects about one in every 5,000 newborns.

Hormone Is Insufficient

Termed “cretinism,” the problem involves insufficient synthesis of thyroid hormone. The symptoms are usually so obscure during infancy that the disease is not recognized and, therefore, early treatment is not started.

In 1974, the Pittsburgh doctors discovered that congenital hypothyroidism could be detected by measuring the level of serum thyrotropin (TSH), a pituitary hormone that stimulates the thyroid gland to produce thyroid hormone.

Originally, the doctors measured TSH levels in the serum of cord blood collected at birth. After additional research, they were able to modify the procedure so it could be incorporated into the existing phenylketonuria (PKU) screening program, which is mandated by legislation in most states.

Cord Serum First Used

“We were able to detect congenital hypothyroidism by determining the TSH in cord serum,” Dr. Foley reports. “The procedure provided us with a high index of discrimination and a low false positive rate, but it was very inconvenient to collect and process cord blood samples... and often they weren't collected at all in non-hospital births.

For these reasons, we decided to incorporate the test into the PKU screening program. To accomplish this, we measured TSH in material washed from a six millimeter disc punched from filter paper to which a drop of blood from a heelprick had been applied during the third day of life.

"Later, we thought we could make the test even more convenient and cost effective by making it compatible with the fully automated laboratory systems which screen for several metabolic disorders in newborns.

Tiny Discs Used

"To do this, we began to measure TSH in material washed from three millimeter discs, using an automated radioimmunoassay system which easily discriminates between affected and normal infants." With the various modifications that the procedure has undergone, Dr. Foley believes it meets accepted criteria which make it clinically appropriate and worthwhile, including the ability to screen for a disease considered to be serious and having some general importance to the community.

Also, the procedure can differentiate between affected and non-affected individuals with ease, diagnose a disease which can be detected by the test but is not apparent clinically, and conduct the test at a reasonable cost.

"We now carry routinely detect congenital hypothyroidism so that those affected can receive early treatment, thereby reducing mental retardation caused by this disease," Dr. Foley says.

At the end of February, Mr. Cornelius and his parents will be moving to Las Vegas, where he will work for the local office of the Social Security Administration.

Federal Employees' Ideas Result in Tangible Benefits to Gov't

During fiscal year 1976, 131,000 Federal employees were motivated to contribute ideas and actions that resulted in $333 million in tangible benefits to the Government. This equals the Federal income taxes of 182,000 average taxpayers, and has permitted the Government to make more effective use of funds.

For every $1 spent in awards with the various modifications that the procedure has undergone, Dr. Foley believes it meets accepted criteria which make it clinically appropriate and worthwhile, including the ability to screen for a disease considered to be serious and having some general importance to the community. The procedure can differentiate between affected and non-affected individuals with ease, diagnose a disease which can be detected by the test but is not apparent clinically, and conduct the test at a reasonable cost.

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For every $1 spent in awards with the various modifications that the procedure has undergone, Dr. Foley believes it meets accepted criteria which make it clinically appropriate and worthwhile, including the ability to screen for a disease considered to be serious and having some general importance to the community. The procedure can differentiate between affected and non-affected individuals with ease, diagnose a disease which can be detected by the test but is not apparent clinically, and conduct the test at a reasonable cost.

"We now carry routinely detect congenital hypothyroidism so that those affected can receive early treatment, thereby reducing mental retardation caused by this disease," Dr. Foley says.

At the end of February, Mr. Cornelius and his parents will be moving to Las Vegas, where he will work for the local office of the Social Security Administration.

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Thefts: Keys Implicated In Recent Incidents

In recent thefts, keys have been the main culprit, according to the Security Management Branch, Division of Administrative Services.

In one case, a secretary reported the loss of her wallet from a locked file cabinet. While questioning the woman, investigators looked in her unlocked desk drawer and removed a key which opened the file cabinet where she had left the wallet.

Key Too Accessible

When asked why the key was not kept on her person, she replied, "Other people have to have access to the cabinet."

When the woman asked the investigator how he knew where the key was, he replied, "The same way that a thief would know."

Numerous reports have been received of missing key rings. Loss of these keys—fitting corridor cylinders in these areas.

Security Suggestions

- Lock all in a secure place at the close of business. For large numbers of keys, obtain a key cabinet and lock it.
- Carry needed keys on your person. Don't "hide" keys in the office under desk blotters or appointment calendars.
- Don't loan keys to anyone. If they are supposed to have a key, have one issued.
- If a key is lost, report it immediately. Key losses may breach security in certain areas and necessitate the immediate changing of cylinders in these areas.

More knowledge may be gained of a man's real character by a short conversation with one of his servants than from a formal and studied narrative, begun with his pedigree and ended with his funeral.—Samuel Johnson.

5 New Tests for Bacterial Meningitis Permit Rapid and Accurate Diagnosis

Five new methods for rapid, accurate diagnosis of bacterial meningitis—including a latex agglutination test of cerebrospinal fluid that takes 3 minutes to administer and does not require sophisticated laboratory equipment—have been reported by Dr. Sydne Ross of the Research Foundation of the Children's Hospital National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

The tests use either latex agglutination, lactate dehydrogenase, limulus lysate, lactate acid gas chromatography, or counterimmunoelectrophoresis.

The first three methods can be performed at the patient's bedside. None of the methods take more than an hour.

Test Is Simple

The latex agglutination test "has the virtue of simplicity and rapidity," said Dr. Ross, "and can be adapted at hospitals without sophisticated labs."

Dr. Ross, a grantee of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, described the methods at a recent pediatric symposium sponsored by Children's Hospital and the George Washington University Medical Center.

Previous methods for diagnosing bacterial meningitis tested spinal fluid for cell count, gram stain, and growth of disease organisms in culture.

The culture took 1 to 2 days—a delay in diagnosis which often led to unnecessary hospitalization and antibiotic treatment.

"The latex agglutination test is potentially the best," said Dr. Ross, "if cross-reactions can be eliminated."

The test does not always differentiate between the types of bacterial meningitis caused by Hemophilus influenzae and Pneumococcus.

Latex agglutination was 90 percent accurate in identifying 12 patients with H. influenzae meningitis (including 5 who had received prior antibiotic therapy), while negative results were obtained for 9 patients with aseptic meningitis, 2 with herpes simplex, and 18 non-meningitis patients.

The other four methods varied from 90 to 100 percent accuracy. Lactic acid gas chromatography was 100 percent accurate, as was lactate dehydrogenase for patients who had not been previously treated with antibiotics. Limulus lysate was 98 percent accurate, and counterimmunoelectrophoresis accurately diagnosed 93 percent of the patients who had not received previous antibiotic therapy.

Dr. Ross' associates were Dr. William Rodriguez, Dr. Waheed Khan, Dr. Alan Coit, Dr. Robin Goldenberg, and Guido Controni.

Seminar Held Today Is First in STEP Series

On Biomedical Ethics

Future Issues in Biomedical Ethics will be the topic of a Biomedical Ethics Seminar held today, Wednesday, Feb. 23, in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, NIH Director, will be the speaker, and Dr. Charles McCarthy of the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation will be the moderator.

Later topics and participants in the series, sponsored by the Staff Training Extramural Program (STEP) Continuing Education Program, will be:

March 9: Institutional Review Board: Unresolved Issues; Ms. Barbara Mishkin and Dr. Bradford Gray, speakers; Dr. Donald Chalkley, moderator.

March 23: Problems of Informed Consent in Research Involving Children; Kenneth Casebeer, speaker; Dr. LeRoy Walters, moderator.

April 13: Taskforce on Compensation of Injured Research Subjects; Drs. Philippe Cardon and Charles McCarthy, speakers; Dr. Wilford Nusser, moderator.

April 23: Ethical Problems Associated with Development of Vaccines—Immunization Programs; Dr. Bruce Dull, speaker; Dr. Charles McCarthy, moderator.

May 11: Problems of Obtaining Informed Consent in Conducting Research in Senile Dementia; Dr. Robert Butler, speaker; Dr. Wilford Nusser, moderator.

All interested persons are invited to attend. All seminars will be held on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Check the Calendar of Events for the location of subsequent seminars.

New Planning Office At NLM Is Directed By Davis B. McCarn

Mr. McCarn, who has been at NLM for nearly 10 years, was previously deputy director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, and since 1972, has directed the Office of Computer and Communications Systems.

Davis B. McCarn will head a new office to direct planning activities of the National Library of Medicine.

The new office will establish and maintain liaison with NIH and other Federal agencies, with scientific organizations, professional groups, and others in the private sector, as well as with the senior staff of NLM.

The purpose will be to promote the exchange of information and ideas which will benefit NLM planning activity.

Anne Ballard was recently appointed chief of the Office of Research Reporting, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She returns to NICHD after serving as public information officer with the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. Prior to joining the Commission, she was at NICHD from 1972 to 1974. Ms. Ballard came to NIH in 1967 as a public information trainer. She recently completed graduate work in public affairs at the American University.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY was the message brought across campus by the children of Classroom 3 of the Preschool Developmental Program to surprise NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson. The early morning interruption was a pleasant one for Dr. Fredrickson, who welcomed the group of 3-year-olds into his office and accepted the large white paper heart-shaped valentine covered with smaller red hearts made by the children to decorate his office door.