NIH, FDA Studies Show Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis Is Transmissible in Chronic Phase Plasma

Two teams of scientists have demonstrated for the first time that a transmissible agent is responsible for non-A, non-B (post-transfusion) hepatitis. They also proved that carriers of this disease can remain infectious over prolonged periods of time.

Only recently has this form of hepatitis been identified as a disease entity separate from the well-known forms of viral hepatitis, type A (infectious), and type B (serum).

The clinical and microscopic similarities of non-A, non-B hepatitis to the previously recognized forms of viral hepatitis and the new evidence of its transmissibility point strongly to a viral cause.

In independent studies headed by Dr. Harvey J. Alter, chief of the Immunology Section in the NIH Clinical Center Blood Bank, and Dr. Edward Tabor of the FDA's Bureau of Biologies, chimpanzees inoculated with plasma or serum from patients with either acute or chronic non-A, non-B hepatitis developed biochemical and biopsy evidence of the disease.

The investigators reported their findings in the March 4 issue of Lancet. Their ability to transmit hepatitis using chronic phase plasma indicated that there is a chronic asymptomatic carrier state for non-A, non-B hepatitis, just as there is for type B hepatitis.

The development in the early 1970's of sensitive immunologic tests to detect the hepatitis B surface (Australia) antigen has enabled scientists to identify most of the blood donors carrying the hepatitis B virus.

The application of these tests and (See HEPATITIS, Page 7)
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EEO Advisory Council Holds Open Meeting

The Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Council held an open meeting for NIH employees on Monday, March 20. Sylvia L. Stewart, of NLM, chairperson of the Council, introduced the Council members who were present. Sally Linn of NIAMDD, chairperson of the NIH Secretarial Task Force, discussed the status of the classification of secretaries and the results of the petition signed last year by over 6,000 NIH'ers.

Show CSC Filmstrip

Edward Nicholas, Jr., director of the Division of Personnel Management, introduced a filmstrip produced by the Civil Service Commission Commission on the Factor Evaluation. The content is a series of ready-made modules for training personnel in the fields of personnel management and personnel-related topics by the Division of Personnel Management. Telephone tapes may be heard 24 hours a day on the dates indicated:

- AWOL and LWOP—April 3-7
- Injured on the job—April 10-14

Those who mistake their good luck for their merit are inevitably bound for disaster.—J. Christopher Herold

Listen to Tape Recordings About Personnel Topics

NIH employees can dial 496-4606 to hear recordings on personnel-related topics by the Division of Personnel Management. Telephone tapes may be heard 24 hours a day on the dates indicated:

- AWOL and LWOP—April 3-7
- Injured on the job—April 10-14

Vasto Elected to ACS Post

Bruno M. Vasta, chief of the National Library of Medicine's Bibliographic Services Division, has been elected to a 2-year term as counselor of the American Chemical Society's Division of Chemical Information, in which he recently completed his term as chairman.

Health Insurance Reps. Aid In Filing Claims April 24

Representatives of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Aetna Life and Casualty Company will be at NIH to assist employees in filing claims for benefits provided under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

Upon request, assistance will also be available for claims submission under any of the other plans under FEHBP.

The representatives will be available on Monday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. They will be located in Bldg. 31, Room 2A-52.

Call for Appointment

Employees seeking assistance are asked to call the Employee Relations and Recognition Branch, DFM, 496-4975, for an appointment.

Smoking Digest—Report On Kicking the Habit—Now Available From NCI

The Smoking Digest—Progress Report on a Nation Kicking the Habit is available to health planners and health professionals at no cost. The 127-page booklet—the most up-to-date compiled report on smoking and health currently available—was produced by the NCI Office of Cancer Communications. Smoking constitutes the single greatest opportunity for major disease prevention in American life. The Smoking Digest was designed as a tool for health program planners, educators, and the news media to use in presenting risks and methods of cessation and reinforcement to the public.

The digest summarizes current knowledge of cigarette smoking practice and smokers' attitudes toward smoking, the biomedical effects of smoking, public information and education programs, cessation programs, legal restraints on smoking, and the tobacco industry.

Copies of the Smoking Digest are available from the Office of Cancer Communications, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Amadeus String Quartet Plays FAES Anniv. Concert April 9

On the date marking the 10th anniversary of the initial FAES concert in 1968, the Amadeus String Quartet—with Raphael Hillyer as assisting artist—will perform an all Mozart program comprised of two viola quintets. The eighth and final concert of the 1977-78 Chamber Music Series, sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, will be held on Sunday, April 9, at 4 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium.

Admission is by ticket only.

Student recreation aide Marcia Fitting and her small friend model a winning bonnet and display a basket made by Clinical Center patients during the Patient Activity Section's annual Easter hat and basket contest.

Singles Meet April 18: Plan Pot Luck Social, TGIF Chats and Party

The NIH Singles Club is sponsoring several forthcoming events:

- Every Friday, after 5 p.m., informal coffee-tea chats are held on the left side of the Bldg. 10 cafeteria, B-1 level.
- April 18 is the date for a buy-your-own-drinks cocktail party starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Paradise Restaurant, Halpine Road and Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. Call Charis Aymer, 496-1000, for further information on the above two events.
- Monday night, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. a pot luck supper is scheduled at River Road Unitarian Church. Bring a favorite food or pay $2 toward general expenses. Contact Heather Banks, 496-2125, who is coordinating this activity, so that the meal won't consist entirely of macaroni and cheese!
- Activities planned for dates in May and June include cookouts and an evening of dancing.

- All members and interested persons are urged to attend the Singles Club business meeting, Tuesday, April 18, from noon to 1 p.m. in Conference Room 4, Bldg. 31. A Wing. Ideas for future activities, the inclusion of non-NIH'ers in club activities, and dues will be discussed. Without participation, the Club cannot continue functioning.

Get Set, Go! Interagency Meet, Relay, Mile Series

The Beginner's 1-Mile and 3-Mile Series Runs will commence Wednesday, April 12, at 5:30 p.m. in front of Bldg. 1. They will continue each Wednesday for four weeks. Participants in the fall series are encouraged to come out again as well as new runners. Awards will be presented to all who complete four of the eight scheduled runs.

Relay Is May 24

The Institute Relay, pitting 5-person teams representing B/1/D's, programs, labs, or offices against one another (each person running half a mile), will be held Wednesday, May 24, at 12:15 p.m. on the NIH campus. Volunteers will be needed to officiate.

Contact Dr. Peter Pentichev, Bldg. 10, Room 3D-14, regarding teams already formed or interest in officiating.

An Interagency Meet will be held on Wednesday, April 19, from noon at the Tidal Basin. Two events are planned: a 3,000 m and a 6,000 m run. If interested in participating, call Jay Miller, 496-0941, several days ahead of time to arrange transportation. A group will leave NIH at 11 a.m. and return at 1:15 p.m.
South Campus Lot 41-B Has Ample Spaces; Note Traffic, Parking Rules

Many NIH motorists seem to be unaware of parking and traffic regulations on the reservation, although copies are given to each employee at the time parking permits are issued and are posted in the lobbies of most NIH buildings. Only three persons have been given tickets for leaving their vehicles on campus while away on official business for more than 24 hours without prior approval and parking instructions from the captain of the NIH Special Police, 496-5685.

Employees who work off campus have been cited for parking in the visitor areas on the campus, while others have received tickets for failing to read and heed the standard parking signs throughout the reservation. Be sure to follow posted regulations, and park in properly designated areas only.

Do you find it difficult to park your car when you are necessarily late for work or return from off-campus business?

NIAID has selected its first EEO Coordinator for the Spanish Speaking Program, as well as its first Federal Women's Program Coordinator. Jose Valdesuso (1) will act as liaison with the Spanish-speaking community, keeping them informed of developments of special interest and designing programs to meet their unique needs. Born in Cuba, where he studied medicine, Mr. Valdesuso became a U.S. citizen in 1970. A bio lab technician with the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, he has worked for NIAID for approximately 10 years. Weltha Logan—also a bio lab technician—is with the Laboratory of Microbial Immunity. She will develop special programs or guidelines to improve the status of women in the workforce. An NIAID employee for the past 11 years, she has a long-time interest and experience in sociology and psychology.

R&W Plans Excursions To Combat Spring Fever

This month, to cure the post-winter blues, the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association will offer many diverse activities, stressing recreational and travel opportunities.

• Been cooped up inside too long? Consider a quiet weekend April 14-16 at Coolfont Recreation Area near Berkeley Springs, W. Va. The reservation. And you'll save a minute walk or less to any building.

• Interested in thrills on Sunday, April 21? Try whitewater rafting on the Cheat River in West Virginia. The cost of $30 includes most equipment and lunch on the river.

Prices range from $279 and up, depending upon your choice of hotels, entertainment certificates, taxes, and service charges.

The Interassembly Council is composed of delegates chosen by the Assemblies of the various Institutes. Membership in these assemblies is generally drawn from the professional intramural research staff.

The organization seeks to function both as a forum for the bench scientists who may wish to pass along information to the administration and as a means for informing scientists of NIH and/or Federal rules, regulations, and policies.

Interassembly Science Council Holds Election of New Officers

New officers have been chosen in elections conducted by the Interassembly Council of the Assemblies of Scientists. Chairman for the coming term is Dr. Robert Friedman, NIAMD; chairman-elect is Dr. George W. A. Milne, NHLBI; and secretary-treasurer is Dr. Blair Bowers, NHLBI.

R&W Holds Disco Dance Clinic on Friday Evenings

A cure for “Saturday Night Fever” has now arrived. A Disco Dance Clinic will be taught by Vic Daumit and his dancers—already a very popular feature of the Open University of Washington. Hundreds of students have taken disco dancing with this fine instructor over the past 2 1/2 years.

R&W is also offering 4- to 5-day excursions to Las Vegas. The package tours include round trip charter jet transportation from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, transfers, baggage handling, accommodations at your choice of three hotels, entertainment certificates, taxes, and service charges.

The chances for a retiree to live to 95 or more are 12 in 10,000; for a survivor-annuitant, 31 in 10,000; and for disability-annuitants, 5 in 10,000.

NHLBI’s Jeanne Walton Retires; Recalls History Of 30 Years With NIH

Jeanne Walton, who retired in March after 30 years of service at NIH, recalls the NIH of 30 years ago—“We had no air conditioning, photocopiers, or computers, and everything was done manually. But NIH was also much smaller then and everyone knew each other.”

Mrs. Walton began her career at NIH in 1948 as a clerk-stenographer in the Experimental Biology and Medicine Institute, the forerunner of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, until 1949, when she moved to DRG to work as a secretary-editor.

In 1951 she joined the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s Division of Extramural Affairs (DEA) as a shorthand reporter, becoming a grants management specialist in 1966.

As DEA’s most senior employee, with 27 years of service, Mrs. Walton has seen growth not only in the campus itself, but in the number and scope of grants and the increase of appropriations for grant funds.

Participated in NIH Activities

In addition to her work at DEA, Mrs. Walton took an active role in the Recreation and Welfare Association and the Federal Credit Union Board. She particularly enjoyed participating in the plays and musicals of the popular NIH Hamster Productions—a 1950’s NIH employee theatrical group.

Plans Trip To Hawaii

After a party celebrating her retirement at the Kenwood Country Club, Mrs. Walton will be visiting her family and taking a trip to Hawaii. She also plans to continue pursuing her hobbies in bridge, gardening, bowling, and golf.
The proclamation of World Leprosy Day last month held particular significance for Dr. Yao Teh Chang of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases. A research pharmacologist in the Institute’s Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology, Dr. Chang was a pioneer contributor to major advances in the chemotherapy of leprosy.

In the early 1960’s, Dr. Chang played a vital role in the introduction of B663 (Clofazimine), one of the most effective anti-leprosy drugs still in use today. Originally developed in Ireland for the treatment of tuberculosis, B663 demonstrated marked antituberculous activity in test animals, but proved unsuccessful in clinical trials.

Because of the marked similarity in the tuberculosis and leprosy bacilli, Dr. Chang screened B663 in mouse leprosy. His research revealed that B663 was the only agent that held the bacilli in check for up to 816 days without apparent development of resistance to the drug.

When B663 was used in combination with isoniazid, a very real clinical possibility still exists with isoniazid, also known to suppress activity of B663 on leprosy, but also its beneficial effect on severe “lepra reactions” which frequently occur during treatment.

The advantage of Dr. Chang’s murine leprosy model as a research tool for screening potential anti-leprosy drugs was clearly established by the B663 experience.

Develops New Techniques

Dr. Chang’s commitment to leprosy research has continued with the same intensity he brought to his investigations of B663.

In 1963, he developed the first technique for the cultivation of the murine leprosy bacillus, Mycobacterium lepraemurium, which heretofore could not be grown in the laboratory.

The long-term cultivation of mouse peritoneal macrophages (special migrating cells that ingest microorganisms, foreign particles, and other foreign or damaged cells) has provided an important research tool for studies of various host-parasite relationships, the effect of chemotherapeutic agents, and other cellular activities.

Previous methods of macrophage cultivation were unsatisfactory because the cell population of cultures decreased rapidly within a few days.

Dr. Chang’s cell system permits growth and maintenance of macrophages in good condition for at least 200 days. Since the leprosy bacteria multiply very slowly, the slow growth of the host-cell macrophages greatly facilitates observation of bacterial changes.

Dr. Chang labored for 10 years to develop this research tool, and has since trained numerous investigators both in the U.S. and abroad in his technique.

He is now turning his talents to the cultivation of bone marrow cells (granulocytes and megakaryocytes) which may shed new light on abnormal cellular growth disorders such as leukemia.

Dr. Chang’s outside interests extend beyond the world of bacteria and macrophages. In addition to being an enthusiastic fisherman, he plays several instruments in a Chinese opera company that tours major cities in the United States.

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Rep. Rostenkowski 'Flies' Via Satellite, Keeps Cleveland Speaking Engagement

By Dr. Harold A. Wooster
Special Assistant for Program Development
Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, NLM

It started out to be just another teleconference—complicated, to be sure, but the complicated has become routine.

The Honorable Dan Rostenkowski (D., Ill.) chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the House Ways and Means Committee, was scheduled to speak in the Grand Ballroom of the Cleveland Plaza Hotel at 8:30 p.m. on March 16.

His audience, attending the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Greater Cleveland Hospital Association, waited eagerly to hear the Congressman discuss his proposed legislation on hospital cost containment.

The NASA Portable Earth Terminal, a modified interurban bus with an 8-foot satellite dish on top, was parked on the street outside the hotel with its motors running, ready to transmit the Congressman's speech via the Communications Technology Satellite to the Lister Hill Center studio in the National Library of Medicine.

Four people were waiting there to answer Mr. Rostenkowski: Dr. Lee Gehig, vice president for Federal Relations, American Hospital Association; Alexander McMahon, president, American Hospital Association; Dr. Robert B. Hunter, chairman of the board, American Medical Association; and Thomas H. Sherlock, president, Blue Cross of Maryland.

The TV stations of the Southern Educational Communications Association (SECA) were ready to receive: stations in Louisville, Ky.; Harrisonburg, Va.; Hampton-Norfolk, Va.; Birmingham, Ala.; Athens, Ga.; Jackson, Miss.; Austin, Tex; and Oklahoma City.

Down in South Carolina, the 32 hospitals of the Health Communications Network were ready to rebroadcast from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Legislation Causes Delays

Everything was ready for Congressman Rostenkowski's broadcast from Cleveland, but the Congressman wasn't in Cleveland. That afternoon the Humphrey-Hawkins bill came before the House of Representatives and Congressman Rostenkowski had to be there.

The Democratic leadership had made passage of the bill a party issue, and Mr. Rostenkowski was whip on that bill and could not leave the floor. As the afternoon wore on, his staff fidgeted nervously with copies of the Airline Guide; reservations were made and cancelled. The time passed when even a hop jet flight from Cleveland-Hopkins airport to downtown Cleveland could have kept the appointment.

NLM Has Solution

The final vote (257 to 152) was completed at 7 p.m. Congressman Rostenkowski was now free to keep his speaking engagement, 351 miles and 90 minutes away!

What to do? The Lister Hill Center suggested the solution.
The Congressman and his aide drove to Bethesda, and broadcast via satellite to Cleveland.
The Cleveland audience saw him on monitors, rather than in person; the Bethesda discussants saw him in person, rather than over monitors.

Tense Turns Tranquil

Questions came in from the Cleveland audience and over long-distance lines from viewers of the SECA stations. A tense evening concluded in relative tranquility.

In 1974 the Lister Hill Center Report to Congress concluded with the sentence: "Whenever and wherever possible, within the limitations of available technologies... the Center hopes to substitute swift and certain transmission of electrical messages for the slow and expensive movement of people." Apparently it works.
Discovery of CF in a Rhesus Monkey May End Search for Lab Animal Model

The possibility of the development of a suitable laboratory animal model for the study of the yet unconquered disease, cystic fibrosis (CF), was announced recently at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Atlanta, Ga.

Scientists at the Division of Research Resources-supported center have discovered what appears to be CF in a young rhesus monkey at autopsy—the first nonhuman case of this disease known to medical science.

Found in Autopsy

The discovery—reported by veterinary pathologists Drs. Joel Wallach and Harold McClure at a primary pathology workshop on March 4—came as Dr. Wallach, assistant pathologist at Yerkes, was performing a routine autopsy on a 6-month male rhesus monkey that had died of unknown causes. He noticed pancreatic disease and bronchial mucus production.

Evaluation of the tissue under microscope revealed CF-like abnormalities. Studies of other organ tissues confirmed that the monkey was apparently a victim of CF.

Diagnosis Confirmed

The diagnosis was later confirmed by an Emory University pediatric pathologist, and a Chicago pediatric pathologist who is considered a national authority on CF.

CF is a disease of children, adolescents, and young adults characterized by abnormal mucus secretion and fibrous scarring in various organs, such as the pancreas, liver, lungs, and reproductive and digestive systems. Many victims die in infancy of complications, such as malabsorption and pneumonia.

More than 25,000 Caucasians in the U.S. have the disease, but a much larger number are thought to be carriers of the recessive gene of cystic fibrosis. It is rarely seen in Blacks or people of Asiatic origin.

Since the 1958 medical recognition of CF as an inherited disorder, scientists have searched for an animal which could have the same type of complications found in children and adults.

The development of such an animal model could be invaluable in attempting to pinpoint the underlying biomedical defect of CF and in synthesizing drugs and other therapies for CF patients.

Must Find Carriers

Future possibilities for production of additional monkeys with cystic fibrosis are dependent upon identification and breeding of animals which are carriers of the disease.

The scientists at Yerkes are now in the process of constructing a lineage chart in an attempt to trace the ancestry of the affected animal.

“We have identified the mother and the father,” Dr. McClure said. “They are now living happily together. They, of course, have been examined and really don’t show anything. If they’re just carriers, they wouldn’t. We also have a number of half-siblings—from other fathers—but they’re all males.”

NIH Visiting Scientists Program Participants

3/7—Dr. Bengt Goran Hansso, Sweden, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases. Sponsor: Dr. Robert Purcell, NIAID, Bg. 7, Rm. 202.
3/10—Dr. Elena Barraquer, Spain, Laboratory of Vision Research. Sponsor: Dr. Carl Kupfer, NEI, Bg. 31, Rm. 6A08B.
3/10—Dr. Wei-Mei Ching, Taiwan, Experimental Pathology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Jerry Rice, NCI, NIH, Rm. 3A09.
3/12—Dr. Giacomo Nunez, France, Clinical Endocrinology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Jacob Robbins, NIMDD, Bg. 10, Rm. 8N15.
3/14—Dr. Seiko Nagafuchi, Japan, Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies. Sponsor: Dr. Clarence Gibbs, NINCDS, Bg. 36, Rm. 4A15.
3/15—Dr. Mitsuyo Yamaguchi, Japan, Carecinogen Metabolism and Toxicology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Elizabeth Welsbarger, NCI, Bg. 37, Rm. 4D12.

DR. RAUB

(Continued from Page 1)

he had been a health science administrator, chief of the Special Resources Branch, and later chief of the Biotechnology Resources Branch.

Dr. Raub came to NIH in 1966 as a health science administrator in the Special Research Resources Branch, Division of Research Facilities and Resources.

After receiving his B.A. degree from Wilkes College, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a Ph.D. degree in physiology.

During his undergraduate and postgraduate years, Dr. Raub received numerous fellowships, scholarships, and awards for outstanding achievement and leadership qualities.

He has continued to be the recipient of awards at NIH—an NIH Superior Work Performance Award, 1967; an NIH Superior Service Honor Award, 1972; and a Meritorious Award for Exemplary Achievement in Public Administration, William A. Jump Memorial Foundation, 1976.

The infant rhesus monkey was bred in a colony supported by NASA for studies pertaining to the space program.

“It was fortunate that this discovery surfaced in a colony where we have kept extensive records for the past 10 years,” Dr. McClure said. “The infant was born at Yerkes—so were the father and mother—so were the grandparents, and maybe the great grandparents. So, we can go back three or four generations in putting together a genetic chart.”

Dr. Wallach will participate in a May 25-26 workshop at NIH on Model Systems for the Study of Cystic Fibrosis. The workshop is sponsored by NIMDD and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
HEPATITIS

(Continued from Page 1)

the exclusion of paid blood donors have led to a dramatic reduction in the incidence of post-transfusion hepatitis, especially due to the hepatitis B virus. However, contrary to physicians' hopes and expectations, some post-transfusion hepatitis has continued to appear.

Viral hepatitis is one of the major infectious diseases yet to be controlled. It ranks fourth among the 30 communicable diseases reported annually to the Public Health Service's Center for Disease Control.

Because the disease is difficult to diagnose, the actual number of cases is probably at least ten times the 60,000 reported each year. Viral hepatitis kills an estimated 3,000 persons annually.

Hepatitis means "inflammation of the liver" and the term viral hepatitis refers to at least three distinct forms of the disease.

VIRUSES NOT YET ISOLATED

These diseases have somewhat similar serologic characteristics, but are caused by different viruses and can be differentiated serologically. So far, none of the hepatitis viruses have been isolated or grown in vitro.

Hepatitis A, known as serum hepatitis, is the most serious form. Formerly thought to be transmitted only by contaminated blood or blood products from infected persons, hepatitis A is now believed to be spread also through the oral route and through sexual contact.

With the widespread use of sensitive methods for detecting carriers and eliminating these as blood donors, a decrease has been noted in post-transfusion hepatitis B.

It is found, however, with increasing frequency among the users of illicit drugs and among the staff and patients of hemodialysis units and blood banks.

Hepatitis B also remains endemic among institutionalized populations and in some segments of the military.

Hepatitis A, once known as infectious hepatitis, is more frequently detected in the feces of the infected person. It is usually spread by direct contact or by contaminated drinking water or food.

Present evidence suggests that hepatitis A is not transmitted by blood transfusions. Efforts to control this type of hepatitis are not as far along, since until recently it was not even possible to diagnose the disease serologically.

With the discovery of a third type of hepatitis—presently designated "non-A, non-B"—investigators have begun searching for one or more additional hepatitis viruses.

Little is known about these agents, but researchers believe that still undiscovered viruses may be

April Symposium Planned

On Autosomal Dominant Neurological Disorders

Research scientists from Canada, England, and the U.S. will be attending a Symposium on Autosomal Dominant Neurological Disorders, April 5-7, in Conference Room 10, Bldg. 31.

The Symposium, organized by Dr. Roscoe O. Brady, National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, and Dr. Roger Rosenberg, Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, is sponsored by NINCDS, the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, and the National Institute of Mental Health, and will be managed by the Fogarty International Center.

The goal of the Symposium is to bring together acknowledged experts in the area and potential contributors to the field. This international exchange is expected to accelerate research into dominant genetic diseases, an area attracting increased research attention. Among the speakers is Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek, NINCDS, recent Nobel prize winner.

For further information regarding the Symposium, please call Toby Levin, FIC, 496-2516.

Robert LeBleu Retires

As Printing Specialist

Mr. LeBleu first joined the Federal Government on Nov. 22, 1944.

Printing specialist Robert J. LeBleu retired in March after 33 years and 3 months in Government service.

In May 1963 he came to NIH as an offset press operator, having previously worked in the Department of Commerce as an offset printing and binding technician.

At NIH he held several pressroom foreman positions in the Printing and Reproduction Branch, Division of Administrative Services, becoming a printing specialist in 1976. Now he is looking forward to working on remodelling a home in Pennsylvania.

Research on Humans Discussed at Meeting

Issues in Research With Human Subjects was the topic of an Anglo-American Symposium held March 20-21 in the Masur Auditorium.

Dr. Milo D. Leavitt, Jr., Director of the Fogarty International Center, and Sir Gordon Wolstenholme, acting president of The Royal Society of Medicine, presented introductory remarks, and Dr. Thomas E. Maloney, Fogarty Director, gave the keynote address.

Share Mutual Interests

This meeting is one of a series designed to exchange information or experiences in areas of biomedicine of mutual interest to health scientists of the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Subjects of the sessions included: the Basis for Initiating Clinical Trials; Problems of Organizing Large Clinical Trials; Problems of Long-Term Record Keeping; and Compensation of Research Subjects for Adverse Effects.

Also, Clinical Research in Children; the Role of the Public in Monitoring Research With Human Subjects; Relationship Between Government and Industry in Clinical Trials; and International Standards for Clinical Research.

Thirty-nine participants in the symposium represented many points of view on research with human subjects. Sponsors of the symposium included: The Royal Society of Medicine, FDA, CDC, NCI, NEI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAID, NICHD, NIMH, FIC, and VA.

Limited Proteolysis: Fogarty Scholars Plan Internat'l Conference

Scientists from eight countries will be meeting April 17-19 in Conference Room 6, Bldg. 31, to take part in an International Conference on Limited Proteolysis in Microorganisms.

The conference has been organized by two Fogarty Scholars-in-Residence, Dr. George N. Cohen of the Pasteur Institute and Dr. Helmut Holder of the University of Freiburg, and is sponsored by NIAID, NIAMDD, and the Fogarty Center.

Examine Metabolic Regulation

The aim of the conference is to bring together scientists who have contributed to our knowledge of the role of limited proteolysis in post-translational modification of gene products, and to examine closely the importance of limited proteolysis in the study of the regulation of metabolic activity in microorganisms.

For further information regarding the conference, please call Toby Levin, FIC, 496-2516.
Conference on Aging Discloses Confusion On Reports of Centenarians in Ecuador

Scientists from several countries met in Stone House for the conference, sponsored by FIC and NIA, during which time Drs. Mazess and Forman presented their recent findings.

Did Methuselah lie about his age? Since the beginning of time, man has searched for the answers to perpetual life. Reports of centenarians, groups of people living past 100 in certain parts of the world, have sparked the imagination and conjured up dreams of Shangri-La. According to representatives of the section on Biochemical Regulation, Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology, at the then National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases. Dr. Schimke has received many awards of distinction, including election to the National Academy of Sciences. Mr. Takamura contributes a blend of direct political experience and education in political science to the Council on Aging. As an Hawaiian state representative, he has sponsored legislation relating to health delivery services for the elderly and has served as a link between the elderly community and university research programs. Mr. Takamura received a B.A. degree with honors in political science from the University of Hawaii and an M.A. in student personnel administration from Cornell University. In 1975, Mr. Takamura was named one of the outstanding men and one of the outstanding legislators of Hawaii.

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Responds to Concerns

Over the years, Ms. Van Buren has responded to thousands of letters that are of great concern to older people and their families. Dr. Schimke has achieved distinction in the field of experimental pharmacology as well as in biochemistry. An honors graduate of Stanford University undergraduate and medical schools, he served as an intern and assistant resident at Massachusetts General Hospital and as a Clinical Associate at NIH. Within 5 years he became head of the section on Biochemical Regulation, Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology, at the then National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases. Dr. Schimke has received many awards of distinction, including election to the National Academy of Sciences. Mr. Takamura contributes a blend of direct political experience and education in political science to the Council on Aging. As an Hawaiian state representative, he has sponsored legislation relating to health delivery services for the elderly and has served as a link between the elderly community and university research programs. Mr. Takamura received a B.A. degree with honors in political science from the University of Hawaii and an M.A. in student personnel administration from Cornell University. In 1975, Mr. Takamura was named one of the outstanding men and one of the outstanding legislators of Hawaii.

Substantiate Skepticism

Speaking before a group of international scientists from six foreign countries, Drs. Mazess and Forman presented the data which substantiated earlier skepticism. They were joined by Dr. Alexander Leaf of Harvard Medical School who first brought public attention to the long-living Ecuadorians. Many of those present have travelled to Vilcabamba and met to share their findings for the first time. In cooperation with Ecuadorian scientists, Drs. Mazess and Forman investigated civil and church records. Based on these findings, the oldest person was 96.

According to the investigators, much of the confusion stems from the custom of passing a family name from one generation to the next. Because of this, the actual recorded birth dates of those persons living in Vilcabamba are frequently confused with those of their parents and grandparents.

In addition, Dr. Mazess' work shows that there are fewer bone fractures in elderly Vilcabambans despite the loss of bone density that is common in old age. In order to allow scientific investigations to continue without further disrupting the habitat or introducing the stress of new disease, the Ecuadorian government has established a Commission for Preservation of the Valley of Vilcabamba. According to representatives present at the conference, this Commission will coordinate the number of investigators studying populations in the vicinity of Vilcabamba and reduce unnecessary duplication of effort.

While Vilcabamba may not be Shangri-la, the unique physical characteristics of the villagers pose interesting questions for future research investigations.

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Three new members were recently appointed to the National Advisory Council on Aging: Abigail Van Buren, syndicated columnist; Dr. Robert T. Schimke, professor of biological sciences, Stanford University; and Carl Takeshi Takamura, Hawaiian state representative.

Ms. Van Buren ("Dear Abby") is a housewife and mother who writes one of the most widely read human relations newspaper columns in the world. She has worked for the American Red Cross, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Easter Seals, and the promotion of mental health. Last year she was the recipient of an award from the American Psychiatric Association for being a public opinion maker who contributed greatly to mental health.

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