Prince Hitachi of Japan
And His Wife Visit NIH

Friday, April 7, NIH had two very special visitors—Prince Masa­
hito Hitachi of Japan and his wife, Princess Hanako Hitachi.

His Imperial Highness was in
Washington to attend the 69th an­
nual meeting of the American As­
sociation for Cancer Research. Last
year he was made an honorary
member of that Association.

Prince Hitachi and his wife had
previously visited NIH in Septem­
ber 1971.

On their arrival at NIH, Their
Imperial Highnesses and members
of their party were greeted by NIH
Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrick­
son and Dr. Arthur C. Upton, Director
of the National Cancer Institute.

As the guests viewed the model
of the NIH campus in Bldg. 1, Dr. Fredrickson explains
various research programs and facili­
ties to Prince Hitachi, as well as
Princess Hitachi, Ambassador Togo,
and other members of the party of
visitors.

Special Citation Awarded to Mrs. Poms

Secretary Califano presented the Secretary’s
Special Citation for Ten Outstanding Em­
ployees of the Year Award to Marion F. Poms,
secretary in the Laboratory of Central Nervous
System Studies, National Institute of Neuro­
logical and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

(See AWARDS, Page 5)

Seven NIH’ers Recognized by Califano
In Department Honor Awards Ceremony

Seven NIH staff members were recognized by HEW Secretary Joseph
A. Califano, Jr., at the Department Honor Awards Ceremony held on
Tuesday, April 11, in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building Lobby.

The DHEW Distinguished Service Award, the highest Departmental
honorary recognition conferred on civilian employees, was presented to
Vernice D. Ferguson, chief of the Nursing Department at the Clinical
Center.

The Distinguished Service Medal, the Department’s highest award to
PHS Commissioned Officers, was presented to Dr. Robert H. Purcell, head
of the Hepatitis Virus Section, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National
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Jacob Seidenberg, chief of the Audit Resolution Section, Financial Ad­
visory Services Branch, Division of Contracts and Grants, OD, and Ruth
C. Smith, chief of the Library Branch, Division of Research Services,
were recipients of the Departmental Management
Award-Senior Management Citation.

This honor award recognizes individuals who
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(See AWARDS, Page 5)
Some of the NIH’ers on the Ski Club Trip included (left to right): Brian McLaughlin, Meredith Horan, Lynn Ann Gloeckler, Mitsuru Imura, Dr. Robert Scow, Dr. Evelyn Ralston, Dr. Heikki Hervonen, James Kiefer and Dr. Craig Edelbrock.

Ski Club Enjoys Visit To Quebec in March

Arriving at Mont Tremblant Lodge in Quebec, Canada, on March 5, the R&W-sponsored NIH Ski Club took to the slopes for a week of skiing. Excellent weather conditions allowed everyone to ski either downhill or cross-country all 7 days.

The NIH group also won the hearts of everyone at the Lodge with performances at the Thursday evening talent show.

A slalom race culminated the week’s parties and skiing. Dr. Heikki Hervonen received a silver medal for his time, and Dr. Craig Edelbrock, Dr. Evelyn Ralston, and Brian McLaughlin won bronze medals.

Mr. McLaughlin and Dr. Edelbrock organized the trip.

Dr. Walker, Well Known Author, Will Discuss His Sailing Experiences

On April 27 at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 30, Room 117, Dr. Stuart Walker of Annapolis, Md., will present a free lecture to the NIH Sailing Club.

Dr. Walker has written several books on techniques of sailing, including Advanced Racing Tactics and Wind and Strategy.

Known as Story Teller

Known as a fine story teller and rule book interpreter, and sought all over the world as a strategist for races, Dr. Walker was involved in racing International 14’s until 1960, when he became an active Soling sailor.

He will discuss his experience of the Chesapeake Bay weather system, how to make short-term weather predictions, and how to utilize wind shifts in sailing.

Visitors and guests are welcome to attend this free lecture and to join Dr. and Mrs. Walker beforehand for dinner at the San Francisco East Restaurant in Bethesda at 6 p.m.

NIH Ski Club Plans Party On April 22—Bring Slides

The NIH Ski Club will hold a party Saturday, April 22, at 8:30 p.m. at the Halpine View Party Lodge (Twinbrook Parkway). Refreshments, music, and dancing are planned. All ski enthusiasts are invited and encouraged to bring slides of their ski trips. Admission is $2.

Directions are available at the R&W Activities Desk, Bldg. 31.

Singles Cocktails Tonight, Other Parties Planned For Month of May

Singles! Tonight (April 18) is the night 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 Chris Aylmer, 496-1000, for further information.

Monday night, May 1, at 6:30 p.m., come to a pot luck supper at River Road Unitarian Church. A picnic is also planned for May 8 at the intersection of Center Road and West Drive. Bring your own food, and call Rose Staley, 946-1770, for information.

A picnic is also planned for May 23 and a dance on June 2. Call Pete Eddy, 496-2146, if you are interested in the dance party as a minimum of 40 reservations are necessary.

Is Your Family Situation Stressful?

Call 496-2738

Employee Assistance Program

NIH Record

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and circulated by request to interested writers and to investigators in the field of biomedical and related research. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures are available on request.

The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes, or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

NIH Record Office Bldg. 31, Room 28-03. Phone 496-2125

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June Arts and Crafts Festival—Sign Up Now For Exhibition Space

The R&W Association will sponsor an Arts and Crafts Festival during the month of June. To participate, reserve space now by sending your name, building/room and telephone numbers to the R&W Office, Bldg. 31, Room 1A17, describing your handiwork.

All types of crafts are eligible—pottery, macramé, woodwork, weaving, photography, art work, etc.

Watch for further information in the R&W newsletter.

Sales, Display Opportunity

YOU are necessary to make this venture a success. You have an opportunity to display and sell your own work as well as earning some money for the Patient Emergency Fund.

R&W Sponsors May 20 Trip to Kings Dominion

The Recreation & Welfare Association is sponsoring a day at Kings Dominion on Saturday, May 20. Buses will leave Bldg. 31C at 8 a.m.

Carouse among the many attractions, such as the Rebel Yell, the Kings of World, and 30 other rides.

Price Includes Shows, Lunch

The package price of $16.50 includes transportation, entrance to the park, and all the entertaining musicals and side shows. Watch Broadway musicals and travel through the Happy Land of Hanna-Barbera where Yogi-Bear leads children through a fantasy world.

Stocked Poolesville Lake Open Saturdays in R&W Fishing Contest Season

The Recreation & Welfare Association is going fishing . . . and you have an opportunity to become the R&W fisherman of the year!

Starting April 29, the Poolesville Animal Farm will be open on specified days for your fishing fun. Bring along the family for a lazy Saturday by a lake stocked with rainbow trout, blue gills, bass, and catfish, and take home your catch.

Fishing, supervised by an R&W guard, will be permitted on April 29, May 6, May 13, May 27, June 7, June 17, and July 15, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ID, But No License Needed

The farm, located near Poolesville, is approximately 30 miles from the NIH campus. A fishing license is not necessary, but NIH ID and an R&W membership card are required.

The person catching the largest fish during the season will receive a trophy. Weekly winners will receive an NIH T-shirt.

Stop by the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31 to pick up fishing rules and a map.

Also included in the package is an Old Fashioned Buffet with southern fried chicken, ham, baked beans, lemonade, and a keg of beer for NIH’ers.

Sign Up by May 12

Sign up by May 12 at the Activities Desk, Bldg. 31, Room 1A18, or at the R&W store in the Westwood Bldg.
NIH Photo Contest
Is May 8—Win Prizes
In B&W, Color, Slides

Calling all camera buffs! It’s time to dust off your best slides and negatives or get busy taking your best pictures ever.

The First Annual NIH Employees Photographic Competition, sponsored by the NIH Camera Club, will be held May 8.

As many as four entries in each of the three categories—slides, color prints, and black and white prints—may be submitted by each NIH employee, member of the NIH Camera Club or O&M, and their immediate families. There is an entry fee of $1.50 per category.

Entries should be submitted by the photographer/entrant between noon and 6 p.m. at any of three locations: Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4; Linda Robbins, Westwood Bldg., Room 205; John Horn, Landow Bldg., Room SA-04.

Prints may be commercially processed and must be mounted on a mat no larger than 16x20 inches. Slides must be in 2x2-inch mounts with an orientation mark in the lower lefthand corner when the slide is viewed correctly (hand held).

All entries must have the photographer’s name and photograph title on the back (side opposite orientation mark for slides).

Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third prize winners in each category. Honorable mentions will receive an award certificate.

A selection of the winning photographs will also be published in the NIH Record.

Judging—open to the public—will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4.

The highly qualified and experienced judges are Marshall H. Cohen, a prize-winning portrait and travel photographer; Ollie Fife, an award-winning photojournalist; and Silom Horwitz, author of over 200 articles on photography and an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society (Great Britain).

Photographs may be picked up immediately after judging or on May 9 from the location where they were turned in. Photos entered in Conference Room 4 may be picked up in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 6 (6th floor, C Wing) between 12:30 and 6 p.m.

Although due care will be taken in handling the entries, the NIH Camera Club will not be responsible for losses or damage.

For further details, contact the R&W Office, Bldg. 31, Room 1A18 (496-4600) and check the March Health’s Angels Run for Fun, Good Times

NOT FIRST, BUT NOT LAST EITHER! Betty Boone (I) of FDA was a happy finisher of the 2-mile run in the Cherry Blossom Classic. Ms. Boone, a victim of polio, is a dedicated runner with the NIH Health’s Angels. Dr. Marc Lippman of NCI (r) crosses the finish line in the 10-mile race. Dozens of NIH’ers competed with the more than 4000 runners in the two events.

It was a sunny but windy day (April 2) as more than 4,000 runners took their places for the start of the 2-mile and 10-mile runs in the Cherry Blossom Classic.

Dozens of NIH’ers were among the entrants in each event. The first NIH’er to reach the finish line in the 10-mile contest was Dr. Charles Schulz of NIMH (a member of the Washington Running Club) in 58:00 minutes. The second and third NIH’ers were Dr. James L. Reinertsen of NIAMDD in 57 minutes, and the third, third place winner of the two events.

One person, however, finished in third place. Ms. Boone, a victim of polio, is a dedicated runner with the NIH Health’s Angels. The only way to know you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked. You can feel and look fine and still have high blood pressure because it can strike anyone, regardless of age, sex, or race.

Fortunately, high blood pressure can be controlled in almost all cases to reduce your risk of heart attack, stroke, and kidney diseases. It’s an easy, painless, free health check, and it might save your life.

Between May and November 1978, the Occupational Medical Service will offer a blood pressure check to NIH employees on a building-by-building basis.

This voluntary screening is part of a comprehensive OMS blood pressure program to help hypertensive employees get their blood pressure under adequate control for a longer and healthier life.

Immunize Your Children

NIH does not administer these immunizations. For more information or to schedule your child’s immunization, contact the employee in charge of the NIH Children’s Immunization Program in the appropriate location. The program is free at all Occupational Medical Service Health Units and Information Desks in Bldgs. 10 and 31. Please contact your private doctor or health department if your child needs immunization.
Role of Pathogens in Diarrheal Diseases Of 'Young' Animals Aids Human Studies

Diarrheal diseases of the young whether ‘the young’ are calves, piglets, or human babies. A conference to exchange information about these organisms and the diseases they cause was held March 7-8 at Wilson Hall.

Participants included physicians, veterinarians, microbiologists, and pathologists from the United States and three foreign countries who have an active interest in the clinical and research aspects of diarrheal diseases.

Veterinarians’ Aid Noted

Dr. Milo D. Leavitt, Director of FIC, and Dr. Kenneth E. Sell, scientific director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, welcomed the participants. They noted the contributions of veterinarians in discovering and defining the role of various pathogens in diarrheal diseases of animals, providing a groundwork for similar studies in human beings.

NIAID intramural scientists, in particular, have been working closely with veterinarians in State and Federal agricultural organizations studying diarrhea in calves and piglets.

Calves’ Vaccine Licensed

One widespread cause of diarrhea in human infants and other young animals is the rotavirus. Scientists have already developed for calves a vaccine licensed by the USDA.

Lambs have been experimentally protected by feeding serum and colostrum-derived antibody—an example of passive, short-term immunity. The possibility of protecting human infants and young children can be explored using knowledge gained from these experiences with lambs.

Other common causes of diarrhea include parvoviruses (cat distemper), corona viruses, and a variety of bacteria including toxigenic and invasive Es. coli, Salmonella, and Cryptosporidium.

The participants agreed that neonates succumb to diarrheal diseases, not because of the viral or bacterial agent, but more often because of the loss of electrolytes and water with consequential dehydration, acidosis, and shock.

Prevention Emphasized

Therefore, any program developed to control diarrheal diseases must emphasize preventive measures and supportive treatment.

This was one of a series of conferences sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and was jointly sponsored by FIC; NIAID; the Bureau of Biologics, FDA; Animal Research Service, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA; and several commercial companies.

NIDR Plans Workshop On Feedback Control

The National Institute of Dental Research, in cooperation with the American Academy of Dental Radiology and the Bureau of Radiological Health, will sponsor an open workshop on Feedback Control of Exposure Geometry in Dental Radiography.

The principal objective of the 1-day conference/workshop, to be held May 16 at the School of Dentistry of the University of Connecticut, Farmington, Conn., is to exchange ideas on the use of an on-line feedback control system to establish reproducible bases for determining projection geometry.

The sessions are planned to encourage communication between technical experts and clinicians interested in dental radiology and are directed toward improving the diagnostic process from existing and new radiological resources.

Dr. Richard L. Webber (496-4934), Diagnostic Methodology Section, NIDR, is the conference coordinator.

Apprenticeship Training Program Starts in Fall

Attending the signing of the National Apprenticeship Standards (1 to r) are: Edgar S. Barnett, National Apprenticeship representative, Department of Labor; Mr. Murphy; Mr. Schwartz; and W. Elbert Wilson, Jr., chief, Career Development Branch, DPM.

The recent signing of National Apprenticeship Standards signalled the end of the long planning period to coordinate a training program between the Department of Labor and NIH.

This new Apprenticeship Training Program, the first such program within HEW, covers the following eight trades: carpenter, electrician, plumber, painter, stationary engineer (boiler plant operator), refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, sheet metal worker, and welder (industrial).

In brief remarks during the signing, both Leon M. Schwartz, Associate Director for Administration, NIH, and Hugh C. Murphy, Administrator, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, Department of Labor, commented that NIH now has an opportunity to establish an exemplary program, creating effective opportunities for members of minority groups and for women.

An integral part of the program will be the training of apprentices in classroom training related to their particular trade. Successful finishing of related training as well as successful performance in on-the-job training is required for completion of the program.

Work is continuing on the development of selection criteria for each of the trades.

The selection of employees for the first apprenticeship class is scheduled for early fall 1978. Additional facts about the program will be published in coming months.

Lab Safety Courses On Biohazard Control Offered Tuition Free

Laboratory safety training courses for 1978 are being conducted by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health under contract with the National Cancer Institute Office of Research Safety.

Courses on Biohazard and Injury Control in the Biomedical Laboratory will be presented at NIH Dec. 12-13; at State University of New York, Stony Brook, June 13-15; and University of Washington, Seattle, Sept. 6-8.

Viral Oncology Stressed

Emphasis in these courses—aimed at senior scientists and technicians working in fields related to cancer virology—is on biohazards in viral oncology research.

Two courses on Biohazard Containment and Control for Recombinant DNA Molecules will also be held. They are set for Oct. 24-25 at the Frederick Cancer Research Center; and Sept. 19-20, University of California, San Diego.

These courses are directed at principal investigators, scientists, and senior technicians working with genetic recombinants.

Lectures and workshops emphasize interpretation of NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research. Support from NCI enables the University to offer both courses tuition free. Participants pay only for travel and living expenses. Enrollment is limited, and early application is recommended.

Information on the courses can be obtained from Dr. Donald Vesley, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, 1158 Mayo Memorial Bldg., 420 Delaware St. SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. 55455, or telephone (612) 373-5943.

21,000 Federal Workers Counseled; Many Helped

Almost 21,000 Federal workers were counseled last year for alcoholism, drug abuse, and emotional or similar problems.

Of these, 12,069 were for emotional or similar problems with 85 percent termed “helped.” Some 8,075 were counseled for alcoholism with 76 percent helped, and 747 for drug problems with 62 percent helped.

HEW Response Good

Since the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program’s inception 5 years ago, nearly 30,000 persons have received counseling under the Program.

The agencies in which the Program showed the best rates of response were the departments of State; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Navy.
Sixth Annual Minority Biomedical Support Symposium

The Sixth Annual Minority Biomedical Support Program Symposium, cosponsored by the Division of Research Resources and Atlanta University Center in Atlanta on March 27-29, featured some 400 scientific papers by student-researchers from 80 universities, colleges, and junior colleges (see the NIH Record, Mar. 21, p. 4) as well as presentations by several eminent scientists. L to r: Dr. Thomas C. Bowery, DRR Director, presents a special commendation to Dr. Joyce Corrington, MBS Director at Xavier University, for her role in beginning the MBS Symposium and serving as coordinator for the first five symposiums. Dr. Walter Sullivan, this year’s symposium coordinator, looks over the program with several MBS students. Dr. Benjamin Alexander, Chicago State University president, talks with Dr. Geraldine Woods, NIH consultant, before the Symposium banquet. This year, Dr. Woods, a biologist, was honored for helping to launch the MBS program, and Dr. Alexander paid her tribute during his speech at the banquet.

The Symposium attracted a wide variety of the news media. From left clockwise: NIH Deputy Director Dr. Thomas E. Malone (back to camera), Dr. Alexander, and Dr. Cirilac G. Gonzalez, director of DRR’s MBS Program, are interviewed by two newsmen during an Atlanta radio program. Dr. George Lythcott, administrator of the Health Services Administration, PHS, talks to a writer for Urban Health magazine. Drs. Alexander and Woods, appearing on a television program, are interviewed by Walter Elder (l). Dr. Sullivan (r) speaks with a medical writer of the Atlanta Journal. Three native Africans are now MBS Program directors. L to r are: Dr. Obi Emeh, Savannah State; Dr. Joseph C. Wutoh, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore; and Dr. Fred Christian, Southern University, being interviewed by Bill Glitz, DRR, for an article for Topic, an International Communication Agency (formerly USIA) magazine distributed in Africa.

AWARDS
(Continued from Page 1)

The award recognizes outstanding performance by employees in clerical, administrative, technical, professional, and general support positions.

On behalf of the Department, Secretary Califano also recognized the accomplishments of Dr. David G. Hoel, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, who was the recipient of the Mortimer Spiegelman Gold Medal Award, a major non-HEW award.

He was recognized “for being one of the first statisticians to realistically approach the development of practical analytical tools for treating the problem of human health risk assessment.”

Excellent Nursing Cited

Mrs. Ferguson was cited for “dynamic leadership which created a Nursing Department that is recognized for excellent nursing practice, educational programs and opportunities for professional growth.”

Dr. Purcell’s citation read “for distinguished leadership in the detection and prevention of viral hepatitis.”

Dr. Rabson received the Medal for “outstanding accomplishments as a diagnostic pathologist and as a senior executive and scientist-manager in the National Cancer Institute.”

Mr. Seidenberg’s citation was for “contribution to the accomplishment of Public Health Service programs through improving record keeping and management by grantees.”

Mrs. Smith’s Senior Management Citation was for “innovative management approaches in the library science field through application of new techniques in a biomedical research environment.”

Mrs. Poms’ citation was for “sustained outstanding levels of performance during the more than 19 years of secretarial, administrative, and editorial service to the NINCDS program in the Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies which is now a worldwide recognized branch of the NIH.”

Reception for Recipients

A reception for HEW, PHS, and NIH officials and award recipients and their family members followed the ceremony.
Clinical Trial To Examine Laser, Drug Treatment For Diabetic Retinopathy

A new nationwide clinical trial of early treatment for diabetic retinopathy, a common eye complication of diabetes and a leading cause of blindness in the United States, was announced yesterday (April 17) by the National Eye Institute.

The Early Treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS), involving 22 research centers, will examine the use of laser treatment and drug therapy for the disease.

Blood Vessels Change

Diabetic retinopathy is a progressive disorder which causes harmful changes in the blood vessels in the retina—the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. These vessels may become blocked or grow abnormally, a stage which is called proliferative retinopathy. Visual impairment may result when these abnormal vessels break and bleed into the vitreous, the clear gel that fills the center of the eye. This blood may clear, but scar tissue is frequently formed.

Scars Tissue Causes Blindness

In very severe cases, the scar tissue may cause the retina to become detached from underlying tissue layers, frequently causing blindness.

Data from a previous NEI-supported trial, the Diabetic Retinopathy Study (DRS), showed that laser treatment can reduce the risk of blindness in patients in the proliferative stage of this disease.

In the DRS, however, some patients’ eyes become blind in spite of treatment, and in some, harmful side effects of treatments were noted, such as mild blurring of vision and narrowing of side vision.

The new study seeks to determine whether treatment at an earlier stage of retinopathy may be of greater value in reducing the risk of blindness and, if so, whether this benefit outweighs the risk of adverse side effects.

Check Use of Laser

Investigators in the ETDRS also hope to find out whether laser treatment may be effective against macular edema, an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the retina. It frequently accompanies diabetic retinopathy and may cause blurred central vision.

A third objective of the study is to determine whether aspirin, either alone or in combination with another drug, may be useful in treating diabetic retinopathy.

In diabetes, there is an increased tendency for blood platelets to clump. This may affect the flow of blood through small vessels, such as those present in the retina, and

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Computer Is Being Developed To Help Physicians Diagnose Patient’s Disease

Sitting in front of a small computer terminal, a family physician in a remote Pennsylvania town provides information to a central computer in physical examination he has just refined, but the researchers hope to have it working in the clinical environment within 5 years.

The computer digests the information and questions the physician concerning the patient. In the course of asking questions, the computer tells the physician what diagnoses it is considering and how answers to the questions will help reach a final decision.

After several minutes, the computer gives the physician its diagnosis:

Not Just a Dream

If that sounds like something medicine is only dreaming about, guess again. Two University of Pittsburgh professors are well on the road to making it a reality.

Their system, called INTERNIST because it deals only with diseases pertaining to internal medicine—the broadest and largest medical specialty—is still being completed and refined, but the researchers hope to have it working in the clinical environment within 5 years.

The two Pittsburgh researchers, Dr. Jack Myers, a physician, and Dr. Harry Pople, who received his Ph.D. degree in the University’s Graduate School of Business, have developed their medical diagnostic system with the help of high technology equipment funded by the Biotechnology Resources Program of the Division of Research Resources.

The Program assures the availability of resources that apply the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering to biology and medicine.

Includes 350 Diseases

According to Drs. Myers and Pople, the knowledge base underlying INTERNIST is based on two types of information—disease entities and disease manifestations.

The system includes approximately 350 diseases and 2,800 manifestations.

“Each disease entity has an associated list of manifestations known to occur in that disease recorded along with an estimate on a scale of one to five of the frequency of occurrence,” Dr. Myers says.

“The inverse of this relation also contributes to the development of retinopathy.

Because aspirin interferes with clumping of blood platelets, it may be effective in preventing blockage of the retinal vessels in diabetic retinopathy.

Will Enroll 3,000 Patients

Patient enrollment in the new ETDRS will begin following a planning stage of about 1 year. Eventually, 3,000 patients are expected to participate.

It is expected that each will be followed for 5 years to provide long-term information on the risks and benefits of both kinds of treatment being examined. The average cost of the projected 7- to 8-year study is estimated $3 million per year.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., plans to provide, is recorded explicitly... thus, each manifestation is associated with a list of diseases in which that manifestation is known to occur with a weighing factor on a zero to five scale intended to reflect the strength of the association.

The system uses a hierarchy of disease categories, organized primarily around the concept of organ systems.

Categories at the top level include diseases such as “heart disease,” “lung disease,” and “liver disease.” Each of these areas is divided into more specific categories, which may be further divided until they reach the final level made up of specific disease entities.

Formulate Problems

The task of INTERNIST is one of problem formulation, not problem solving, according to Dr. Myers.

“INTERNIST is really a simulation of the mental processes of a physician in analyzing a complex case,” Dr. Pople says. “It generates and tests hypotheses, much as a clinician would formulate a model as a basis for clinical problem solving.”

The computer informs the physician what it is disregarding for the time being and on what it intends to focus.

Computer Questions Users

It questions the user about other observations and laboratory tests, with the computer retiring occasionally to briefly reflect on the additional information.

Each time it returns, the computer lets the user know the leading diagnostic contenders which it is considering. Eventually, it will inform the physician either that the considered disease has been confirmed or that it is now considering a new hypothesis.

“One of the most important things we’ve taught the machine is to deal with the least costly things first,” Dr. Myers says.

Another benefit of the INTERNIST system is the development of a new medical textbook, according to its developers.

DRR Funds SUMEX System

The INTERNIST system utilizes the large SUMEX-AIM computer facility of Stanford University, Stanford, Calif., another DRR-funded project.

The SUMEX system has been developed to provide a national shared computer facility for medical research concentrating on the application of artificial intelligence to medicine.

The Bureau of Health Manpower also provided funding for the development of INTERNIST.

Tranquility is nothing else than the good ordering of the mind.—Marcus Aurelius
The first volume will be an annual cumulation of 1977 available this spring for $6. Prepared, accompanying all orders, should be sent to the Medical Library Association, 919 North Michigan Ave., Suite 3208, Chicago, Ill. 60611.
Impact of Hypertension in Spanish-Speaking Community Is Explored

The impact of hypertension in the Spanish-speaking community was explored at a California Conference on High Blood Pressure held April 1-2 in Los Angeles.

The forum for health care providers was cosponsored by the California State Department of Health and the National Health, Lung, and Blood Institute.

More than 60 experts—representing state and local government, public and private health care providers, consumers, health and medical care services from the United States and Mexico—spoke and served as panelists during the 2-day conference.

California Most Affected

Conference workshops focused on the medical, social, educational, and legislative issues which are of particular concern to California since 16 percent of its population is Spanish-speaking, with Los Angeles having the largest concentration of Spanish-speaking people in the United States.

Hold Forums for Other Minorities

Because the impact of hypertension is of importance to other minority populations, NHLBI is supporting similar forums for other minority groups.

Conferences on hypertension in Native American, Asian/Pacific and Cuban populations have already been held, and future conferences will include Puerto Rican and Black American groups.

Further information on these conferences may be obtained by writing to the High Blood Pressure Information Center, 120/80, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

SEN. KENNEDY

(Continued from Page 1)

Some members of the research community have reacted with great alarm... I do not share that fear.

"But we cannot ignore the very real changes taking place... Biomedical research, once the orphaned child of Congress, has now become one of many favored children.

"To make this new and still evolving relationship work... will require changes in the role and attitudes of the research community and in the Federal Government and Congress... We must place greater emphasis on stable and continuing support for health research.

"We have seen too many confusion swings in research priorities and funding... It is no wonder that... Congress is now called the 'Disease of the Month Club.'

"But in the future, Congress must recognize that this disease-by-disease approach to Federal support for biomedical research is incapable of working adequately in a period of tight budgets.

"We need standards for deciding how to allocate scarce research dollars... We also need mechanisms to keep Congress and the public currently informed about both public policy needs and research opportunities.

"We have discussed these questions repeatedly in hearings before the Senate Health Subcommittee, starting 2 years ago when the President's Biomedical Research Panel reported on its review of the Nation's biomedical research program... and [9] additional days of hearings [which] we will continue this year.

"Over the past 6 years, Congress has invested heavily in programs to understand and control cancer... As one of the chief authors of the cancer legislation, I can assure you that we never intended to promote the cancer effort at the expense of the many other excellent research programs of NIH.

"One of our highest priorities must be to correct this imbalance without curtailing progress in the war on cancer.

An attentive audience listened to Senator Kennedy and later asked questions, including some which the senator referred to NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson (center).

Congress and the Administration must also reaffirm their commitment to the health and vitality of the peer review system at NIH... the foundation of modern biomedical science in this country.

"I am distressed over the escalating work load which NIH study sections have experienced in recent years. Despite large increases in the number of applications for grant support, the number of initial peer review groups has actually decreased since 1970.

"As a result, the average work load of the review committees has doubled. Some study sections now pass on as many as 120 applications during a single 3-day meeting.

"We cannot expect peer review groups to work at this pace, and still give each application the kind of careful scrutiny it deserves.

"Most important, the public must be accepted as an active partner in the development and evaluation of biomedical research policy in this country.

Taxpayers Are Concerned

"The bulk of health research dollars in this country now come from the pockets of American taxpayers, [who] have a legitimate interest in how their tax dollars are spent.

"For the most part, American taxpayers support biomedical research because they are concerned about finding cures for the diseases they fear.

"The public is becoming more sophisticated in understanding of biomedical research and its possibilities and limitations. Your responsibility is to enhance and solidify that understanding by educating the public on the importance of fundamental, non-targeted research.

"There is no better way to accomplish this goal than to include women, to the maximum extent possible, in the difficult decisions which determine how our research dollars are spent.

"You at NIH have led the way in some respects in this area. You have lay members on many of the advisory councils to your Institutes... Congress and the Administration must fulfill their own responsibility in making public participation work at NIH.

"Too often, politics and patronage have determined who is appointed to public openings on the various NIH advisory councils and committees...

"It is equally important for medical researchers to move initiatives themselves in identifying research areas and disciplines which have been neglected in the past.

"... Why, for example, does NIH spend only $20-$40 million a year on nutrition research out of a total of $2.8 billion?

"Why is so little attention paid to the serious result of the treatment and cure of disease? While infectious diseases used to be the most burdensome illnesses, we now see cardiovascular disease, cancer, lung diseases, accidents, homicide, and violence as the major threats to life and health. These affictions have strong behavioral components.

"The National High Blood Pressure Education Program is an example of what you can accomplish... when the physical and behavioral sciences work together. No NIH program in your history has done more to improve the health of Americans.

New Institute Proposed

"Recently I introduced the National Institutes of Health Care Research Act of 1978, S.2406. The intent of this legislation is to make certain that health services research, epidemiology, the health-related social sciences, and the assessment of new clinical technologies get the attention, the prestige, and the stable funding they deserve.

"I proposed a new Institution... because in some respects [these disciplines] lie outside the traditional mission of NIH.

"There must and will continue to be overlap between the mission of NIH and other agencies, and I would be disappointed and disappointed result of the legislation, NIH were to de-emphasize or discontinue its work in epidemiology, in the primary prevention of disease, in clinical trials, or in the behavioral sciences.

"There is one additional legislative issue I would like to mention... Last month I introduced the Women in Science and Technology Equal Opportunity Act, which establishes a 10-year, $500 million program to help eliminate the educational and institutional barriers which for 50 years have virtually excluded women from careers in science.

"Nationwide, only 25 per cent of our biomedical scientists are women. Here at NIH, women professionals and scientists earn only 62 per cent of what men do, and have only 1/7 the chance of receiving a promotion. We must do better than that in the future..."
PRINCE, PRINCESS HITACHI VISIT NIH

NCI Director Dr. Upton (l, foreground) and NIH Director Dr. Fredrickson welcome Prince and Princess Hitachi to NIH as Dr. Takayama, scientific collaborator with Prince Hitachi, and Ambassador of Japan Fumihiko Togo look on. (Continued from Page 1) 

At lunch in Stone House, Dr. Clyde J. Dawe (head of the Comparative Oncology Section, Laboratory of Pathology, Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis, NCI, chats with Prince Hitachi (r) and Dr. Shozo Takayama. Dr. Dawe previously visited Prince Hitachi in Japan. Dr. Takayama, former Visiting Scientist in Dr. Dawe's laboratory and a co-author with Prince Hitachi on several papers, is chief of the department of experimental pathology, Cancer Institute, Tokyo.

Dr. Fredrickson describes some of the scientific programs at NIH to Their Imperial Highnesses. Later Prince Hitachi presented a copy of a recent study on pigment tumors in goldfish.

With CC Rehabilitation Department chief Dr. Gerber, Princess Hitachi visited several areas and talked with patients, such as Tim Martin of Reading, Pa., who recently had his left leg amputated. Itaru Umesu, second secretary in the Embassy of Japan (l) accompanied Princess Hitachi.

Hormone Receptors in Breast Cancer Tissue May Indicate Effective Therapy

The presence of hormone receptor proteins in breast cancer tissue may be a useful indicator of the kind of therapy that would be most effective in treating the disease, according to Drs. Joseph C. Allegra and Marc E. Lippman, and their co-workers in the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Treatment and Howard University's Cancer Research Center.

They presented their findings of a study with breast cancer patients on April 4 at the 14th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Washington, D.C.

Hormone receptors, which selectively bind specific hormones, are being studied in an attempt to discover which breast cancers are hormone dependent and, therefore, might be controlled by hormonal therapy.

**Used After Surgery**

Hormone therapy often is used when breast cancer recurs some time after surgery.

The estrogen receptor protein was the first of the hormone receptors found in breast cancer tissue. Since then several other hormone receptors have been discovered.

Drs. Allegra and Lippman and colleagues analyzed the breast tissue of 329 breast cancer patients for four hormone receptors: estrogen and progesterone, female hormones; androgen, a male hormone that is present in minute amounts in females; and glucocorticoid.

**Check for Receptors**

Estrogen receptors were found in 53 percent of the patients, most of whom were postmenopausal. Of these estrogen receptor-positive patients, 65 percent responded to hormone therapy.

Only nine percent of patients without the estrogen receptor responded to hormone therapy.

Patients with both the estrogen and glucocorticoid receptors had a higher response rate of 83 percent.

Patients with estrogen and progesterone receptors showed a trend toward an increased response rate, but the comparison was not statistically significant.

The presence of androgen receptor with the estrogen receptor was of no significance.

Surprisingly, the presence or absence of hormone receptors correlated with patients' response rates to chemotherapy as well as to hormone therapy.

**Measure Responses**

Seventy of the patients who were tested for hormone receptors underwent chemotherapy. Of 45 patients who were estrogen receptor negative, 34 (76 percent) responded to anticancer drugs.

Of the 25 estrogen receptor positive patients, only 3 (12 percent) responded to chemotherapy.

Director of NCI Discusses Viewpoints at Wed. Forum

Dr. Arthur C. Upton, who was appointed Director of the National Cancer Institute on July 29, 1977, will discuss his Perspectives After the First Nine Months at the next meeting of the NCI Fourth Wednesday Forum. The meeting will be held April 26 from noon to 1 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

Since his appointment, Dr. Upton has conducted a broad review of NCI activities in order to familiarize himself with the structure and programs of the Institute.

He will report on the perspectives gained through this review, discuss the rationale for changes that have been made, and outline plans for future directions of the Institute.

After his presentation, Dr. Upton will welcome questions and comments from the audience.

With CC Rehabilitation Department chief Dr. Gerber, Princess Hitachi visited several areas and talked with patients, such as Tim Martin of Reading, Pa., who recently had his left leg amputated. Itaru Umesu, second secretary in the Embassy of Japan (l) accompanied Princess Hitachi.
Current Fogarty Scholars-in-Residence Meet With Members of Advisory Panel

All eight Scholars-in-Residence currently at NIH gathered for afternoon tea April 3 with members of the Scholars-in-Residence Advisory Panel.

Since the Fogarty Scholars are from many different countries, visit the campus for varying lengths of time, are sponsored by various institutions, and must— but not all— reside in Stone House, such a meeting of the entire group is actually a rather rare occasion.

Sir George Pickering, a specialist in internal medicine, hypertension, and cerebrovascular diseases who has been visiting NIH since January, planned to fly back to Oxford the following day. However, he will return to NIH in October and remain on campus through December of this year.

Dr. Roger Stanier of Canada, visiting from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, was featured in the April 4 issue of the NIH Record (page 8).

Dr. Paul Zamecnik of Colis P. Huntington Laboratories, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass., known for pioneering studies in vitro protein synthesis, is visiting NIH from March to June. While at NIH he is working with Dr. Peter J. Fischinger of the National Cancer Institute, in Bldg. 41, Room 400 (496-1200).

Other current Scholars-in-Residence and their affiliations are:

Dr. G. N. Ramachandran, Institute professor of biophysics of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, has been at NIH since August 1977 and will remain through June of this year. He is internationally known for his work in crystallography, especially in the areas of proteins and polypeptides. He can be reached at Stone House, 496-2087.

Dr. Michael Schramm of the biological chemistry department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, is visiting NIH for 1 year, beginning in September 1977. He is particularly interested in gland functions, hormone receptors, and metabolic diseases. He is sponsored by Dr. Martin Rodbell of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, Bldg. 6-B, Room 26.

Dr. Jan G. Waldenstrom of the department of medicine, Malmö General Hospital, Malmö, Sweden, came to NIH in February and will remain through April. He is chief editor of the Acta Medica Scandinavica and consulting physician at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm. Three syndromes bear his name, including Waldenstrom's globulinemia. He has made key contributions to understanding myeloma and related diseases. Dr. Waldenstrom may be contacted at Stone House, 496-2027.

Organize Conference This Week

Dr. Helmut Holzer and Georges N. Cohen also visited NIH last year (see the NIH Record, March 8, 1977) and have returned this year from Paris, France, will stay through May 30. His sponsor at NIH is Dr. Earl R. Stadtman of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Bldg. 31, Room 122 (496-3078).

Panel Members Listed

Members of the Advisory Panel attending the tea included: Dr. Mortimer B. Lipsett, Director of the Clinical Center; Dr. Elizabeth Neufeld, NIAMDD; Dr. Jack Orloff, NHLBI; Dr. Ira Pastan, NCI; and Dr. Joseph E. Bail, NIAMDD.

Dr. Otto D. Leavitt, Jr., Director of the Fogarty International Center, Dr. Peter Condiffe, chief of the Scholars and Fellowships Branch, FIC, and several FIC staff members were also present.

Other members of the Advisory Panel not able to attend are: Dr. Donald B. Calne, NINCDS; Dr. Edward V. Evaris, NIMH; Dr. Jerome Green, NHLBI; Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Director of NIGMS; Dr. Melvin L. Kohn, NIMH; Dr. Richard M. Krause, Director of NIAID; Dr. Clare H. Winestock, DBG; and Dr. Sheldon Wolff, New England Medical Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Fogarty Scholars now on campus include (1 to r): Dr. Schramm and Dr. Waldenstrom; Dr. Ramachandran, talking with Dr. Neufeld (r) and Dr. Condiffe (back to camera); Dr. Cohen (Dr. Orloff, r); and Drs. Zamecnik and Holzer. Dr. Stanier (not in photo) also recently came to NIH.

NIH Visiting Scientists Program Participants

3/26—Dr. Katsuhisa Tawada, Japan, Laboratory of Physical Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Richard Podolsky, NIAMDD, Bldg. 6, Rm. 106.

3/28—Dr. Atsushi Togawa, Japan, Laboratory of Microbiology and Immunology. Sponsor: Dr. Joost Oppenheim, NIDR, Bldg. 30, Rm. 327.

3/27—Dr. Andrej Rotter, United Kingdom, Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics. Sponsor: Dr. Marshall Nirenberg, NHLBI, Bldg. 36, Rm. 1C06.

NCl Hosts Visitors

4/1—Dr. Ricardo Dalla Fava, Italy, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Prem Sarin, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 6B04.

4/1—Dr. Jorma Keski-Oja, Finland, Laboratory of Viral Carcinogenesis. Sponsor: Dr. George Todaro, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 1B22.

Visits Dr. Korn

4/1—Dr. Sueo Mateumura, Japan, Laboratory of Cell Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Edward Korn, NHLBI, Bldg. 3, Rm. B1-20.

4/1—Dr. Sandip Saha, India, Laboratory of Immunobiology. Sponsor: Dr. Sarkis Ohanian, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 2B23.
NICHDI Sponsors Science Writers' Seminar, Press Room at NYC Meetings

A science writers' seminar, Advances In Child Health Research, will be held Tuesday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Madison Suite of the New York Hilton.

Organized by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the seminar is sponsored jointly by the NICHDI with the Society for Pediatric Research and the American Pediatric Society.

Speakers, all experts in pediatric research, will outline new development in three major research areas:

- Nutrition in the Newborn—Breastmilk: Its Role in Immunity; Is Human Milk Best for All Babies?
- Fetal Medicine—New Method for Fetal Evaluation; Advances in Prenatal Diagnosis;
- Environmental Injuries Before Birth—Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Effects on Learning and Behavior; Maternal Smoking and Fetal Deaths.

Provides News, Feature Material

The purpose of the seminar is to provide news and feature material for writers who report on child health issues as media staff members or freelancers.

The seminar will be held during the annual meetings of the Society for Pediatric Research, American Pediatric Society, and Ambulatory Pediatric Association. Throughout those meetings, from April 24 through April 28, a press room will be open in the Morgan Suite of the New York Hilton.

For details on the seminar, contact the Office of Research Reporting, NICHDI, at (301) 496-5133.

Dr. De Luca Receives Mead Johnson Award

Dr. Luigi M. De Luca, head of the Differentiation Control Section, Experimental Pathology Branch, National Cancer Institute, was given the Mead Johnson Award for Research in Nutrition of the American Institute of Nutrition for his work on the mechanism of action of vitamin A.

The award of $1,000 and an inscribed scroll is given to an investigator who has not yet reached his 40th birthday.

Dr. De Luca received the award April 12 at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Nutrition in Atlantic City.

He obtained a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Pavia in Italy in 1964, and joined Dr. George Wolf's laboratory at NIH to work on the metabolic action of vitamin A in maintaining epithelial differentiation.

Dr. De Luca, who joined NCI in 1971, is the author of approximately 40 scientific publications.

His main contribution has been the finding that vitamin A is directly involved in controlling biosynthesis of specific glycoproteins.

Such involvement occurs via the formation of a phosphorylated derivative of vitamin A, retinyl phosphate, found in mammalian cell membranes in the free form and as its mannose derivative.

Recent work in Dr. De Luca's laboratory has shown that spontaneously or chemically transformed cells regain some of the characteristics of normal cells after culturing in the presence of vitamin A. Their saturation density decreases to that of their normal counterparts, and they become much more adhesive.

Dr. De Luca and his co-workers have found that these transformed cells synthesize phosphorylated derivatives of vitamin A. Retinyl phosphate itself increases the adhesion of these cells.

Thus, it appears that some of the effects of vitamin A on cancerous tissues may occur through glycosylation reactions of membranes.

8 Young Science Award Winners Visit NIH

At the NIH Visitors Center, the award winners are: (1 to r, front) Robin Eng; Edward Chen, Mary Boylan, Bradley Teague; (1 to r, rear) Marilyn Mayer, Stephen Cornab, Deborah Bentley, and David Lobach.

From all over the U.S. they came—from Utah, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Florida—eight teenagers who received the 1978 National Exploration Award sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America.

The winners' science projects were selected from more than 2,500 entries.

Their scientific interests range from the growth of fungi, to phototaxis in tropical fish, mathematics, conditioning an orphan raccoon to successfully hunt in the wild!

After an introduction to NIH at the Visitors Center in Bldg. 31, the young scientists met with Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., NIH Deputy Director for Science, and visited the laboratory of Dr. Ronald Crystal, chief of the Pulmonary Branch, Division of Intramural Research, in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Sciences, NIH.

Also, ability of women scientists to compete for NIH grants, Anne Merritt, dean of Research and Sponsored Programs, Indiana-Purdue Universities; flexible time training, Dr. Sharon H. Penney, associate provost, Yale University; and issues associated with re-entry or reorientation in biomedical programs, Dr. Alice S. Huang, associate professor, Harvard Medical School.

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Thus, it appears that some of the effects of vitamin A on cancerous tissues may occur through glycosylation reactions of membranes.
Three Scientists Give Administration's View At FASEB Symposium

NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson was one of three top science figures who presented "The Administration View of Basic Research and the Life Sciences" at FASEB's Public Affairs Symposium on April 10.

Meeting Held April 9-14

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology—attended by some 1,000 members—was held in Atlantic City April 9-14.

Other participants in the Symposium were Dr. Gilbert S. Omenn, Assistant Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Dr. Donald Kennedy, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Lipsett Chairman of 1978 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign

NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson has appointed Dr. Mortimer Lipsett, Director of the Clinical Center, as chairman of the 1978 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign at NIH.

Kick-Off Is April 25

This year's campaign will begin with the kick-off meeting of coordinators and canvassers on April 25, at 1:30 p.m., in the Masur Auditorium.

Blood Donors Are Allowed 4 Hours 'Special' Leave

Did you know that every time you donate blood at the Clinical Center Blood Bank you are permitted 4 hours administrative leave?

This leave covers the time it takes to donate blood, travel time to and from the Blood Bank, as well as the time to recover following the donation.

Supervisors may request that their employees' blood donations be postponed during busy workloads; however, the supervisor should check with the Blood Bank on the urgency of the donation. Also, at the supervisor's request, the Blood Bank will give an employee a record of his or her donation.

For further information on this policy, see the NIH Manual, Issuance 3010, listed as Compensation to NIH Employees for Donating Blood.

What science has to teach us is not its techniques but its spirit: the irresistible need to explore.—Jacob Bronowski

Ten Nations Participate in Workshop, Evaluate Different Types of Interferon

Interferon workshop participants Drs. Pieter DeSommer (far left), Rega Institute, Belgium, and Fakhey Assad (second from right), World Health Organization, Switzerland, discuss session reports with workshop organizers Drs. June K. Dunnick and George J. Galasso (far right), Development and Applications Branch, NIAID.

Research clinicians from nine foreign Nations and the U.S. participated in a workshop here, on March 21-23, on Clinical Trials with Exogenous Interferon.

Jointly sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute, the meeting was designed to bring together investigators actively using interferon to treat patients with a variety of infectious and metastatic diseases.

Interferon is a naturally occurring substance that has long been recognized as playing an important role in the body's defenses against disease. Scientists have now developed methods to produce it outside the body, but this exogenous interferon is costly and difficult to produce.

Despite these limitations, exogenous interferon—usually produced from either human leukocyte or fibroblast cells—appears promising in the treatment and prevention of several major illnesses, many of which are caused by viruses.

At the recent workshop, more than 25 speakers presented their findings to evaluate the therapeutic effectiveness of the different types of interferon.

Preliminary studies suggest that interferon can be used to treat a variety of infectious diseases including hepatitis B and herpes infections.

Studies are now under way in England, Belgium, The Netherlands, and the United States to determine the usefulness of interferon for hepatitis B. These studies are designed to determine the most effective dose and type of interferon.

In addition, interferon is currently under investigation for the prevention of viral infections following renal and bone marrow transplants.

According to preliminary findings, patients with certain types of cancer may benefit from interferon therapy.

Swedish Study Cited

Interferon workshop participants Drs. Pieter DeSommer (far left), Rega Institute, Belgium, and Fakhey Assad (second from right), World Health Organization, Switzerland, discuss session reports with workshop organizers Drs. June K. Dunnick and George J. Galasso (far right), Development and Applications Branch, NIAID.

In one study, conducted by Swedish investigators, patients with osteogenic sarcoma who received interferon appeared to do as well, and, in some cases better than they would have done receiving high dose chemotherapy (methotrexate or adriamycin) for treating this type of cancer.

At the M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston and at Stanford University in California controlled clinical trials are in progress to assess the use of interferon in several forms of metastatic disease.

During the 3-day meeting, five workshop sessions allowed small groups of investigators to review and discuss patient data and draw up recommendations for future research.

In view of the limited supply of exogenous interferon, the participants suggested that its use be limited to controlled clinical trials preferably through multicenter studies, and only for diseases where data exists to justify its use.

In addition, they called for increased production of interferon from all available sources, as well as additional studies to delineate differences in the various preparations.

NLM Board of Regents Has Seven New Members

On March 20, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of seven members to the NLM Board of Regents. The Library had been without appointed Regents since last August, when the term of Dr. Joseph F. Volker expired. Board meetings scheduled for September 1977 and January 1978 were cancelled.

The new Regents are:
- Dr. Thomas C. Chalmers, president and dean, Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York;
- Dr. Nicholas E. Davies, attending physician, Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.;
- Dr. S. Richardson Hill Jr., president, University of Alabama in Birmingham;
- Dr. Doris H. Merritt, dean, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Indiana-Purdue University;
- Dr. Cecil G. Sheph, professor of social medicine, University of North Carolina;
- Dr. Kelly M. West, professor of medicine and of continuing education, University of Oklahoma;
- James F. Williams II, medical librarian, Shiffman Medical Library, Wayne State University.

The Board of Regents, established by the National Library of Medicine Act of 1966, advises the Director and staff of the Library and makes recommendations to the Secretary of HEW on matters of policy affecting the Library.

Review Grant Applications

The Regents also review applications for grants. The Act stipulates that 10 appointed Regents shall be selected from among leaders in the fundamental and medical sciences, scientific or medical libraries, work, public affairs, public health, and hospital administration. The Board meets 3 times a year.

In addition to the 10 appointed members, there are 7 ex officio Regents: the Surgeons General of the PHS, Army, Navy, and Air Force; the chief medical director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery, VA; the assistant director for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences of the National Science Foundation; and the Librarian of Congress.