June 5 Consensus Workshop Will Assess Treatment For Breast Cancer

The NCI Division of Cancer Treatment will hold a consensus development workshop on breast cancer treatment on Tuesday, June 5. The meeting will convene in the Masur Auditorium at 8:30 a.m.

The consensus development conference series is sponsored by NIH to bring together research scientists, physicians, allied health care providers, and others to assess the safety, efficacy, ethics, and economic feasibility and economics of any medical technology in question.

Recent clinical trials in both the United States and Europe have examined alternatives to the radical mastectomy for the treatment of patients with cancer confined to the breast. These alternatives have been designed to preserve as much of the breast as possible without compromising the woman's chance for long survival.

The June workshop will consider preliminary results of trials that have used limited surgery, such as segmental mastectomy, or radiation therapy as the primary treatment for breast cancer.

Dr. John Moxley, vice chancellor of health sciences at the University of California, San Diego, will chair the meeting. NCI physicians plan to publish a synopsis of the workshop in a medical journal.

Dr. John Pritchard Will Direct NIEHS Florida Marine Research Facility

The importance of comparative approaches using aquatic animals in environmental health sciences research will be underscored with the permanent full-time assignment of NIEHS's Dr. John Pritchard from Research Triangle Park to head the Institute's Satellite Marine Facility at C.V. Whitney Laboratory in St. Augustine, Fla.

Dr. Pritchard, a physiologist in the Institute's Laboratory of Pharmacology, will move this summer, and join Dr. Margaret O. James, who is already assigned there.

Both researchers will work on the NIEHS Marine and Freshwater Biomedicine Research Program, which is designed to explore the transport and metabolism of pollutants in aquatic animals and to develop aquatic species as experimental research models for understanding human disease processes.

Prior to his assignment, Dr. Pritchard had worked at the Florida laboratory. He pointed out that the C.V. Whitney Laboratory and staff have provided an ideal research setting because of its flow-through seawater system and an extensive supply of aquatic species from off-shore waters.

Among the sea animals of special interest to researchers at the laboratory are blue crabs, flounder, sheepshead, and the spiny lobster.

Dr. Pritchard said that in previous studies there he has used the winter flounder to research distribution, metabolism, and excretion of DDT, Mirex, and PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls).

He said that some of these pollutants had entered the water from ground runoff, but the

NIH LECTURE

Prof. A. Elsen Discusses Rodin On June 13

At the turn of the century, the French sculptor Francois-Auguste-Rene Rodin (1840-1917) was hailed as the greatest living artist. In fact, Rodin was the first artist to experience worldwide acclaim in his lifetime.

NIH employees will have a unique opportunity to see for themselves Rodin's work in progress when Prof. Albert Elsen presents the NIH Lecture in the Masur Auditorium on Wednesday, June 13, at 8:15 p.m.

A leading scholar on Rodin's work and Walter A. Haas Professor of art history at Stanford University, he has entitled his lecture In Rodin's Studio: The Sculptor and Photographers.

Prof. Elsen will show a number of previously unpublished photographs made in the artist's studios. Although Rodin's involvement with...
Some Downgraded Employees May Be Entitled
To Retroactive Pay and Benefits

Some employees who were demoted between Jan. 1, 1977, and Jan. 13, 1979, may be entitled to retroactive pay and benefits according to the Grade and Pay Retention Title of the Civil Service Reform Act.

The Act enables employees who were reduced in grade as a result of a reclassification action or reduction-in-force procedures to keep the higher grade for 2 years before action is instituted to downgrade the position.

A retroactive payment is due to any such employee provided:

- In reclassification actions—the position was classified at the higher grade continuously for at least 1 year before reduction.
- In reduction-in-force procedures—the employee was in the higher grade for at least 1 year before the downgrading.

Entitled employees may not have a break in Federal service between the date of the demotion and Jan. 13, 1979.

Employees who are exempt from this continuous service requirement are:
- Those separated with a right to an immediate retirement annuity;
- Survivors of employees who died during the retroactive period;
- Those who received benefits under the Workman's Compensation Program;
- Those who entered the military service;
- Those who accepted placement into an intergovernmental personnel assignment.

Each personnel office will identify entitled annuitants and/or survivors of deceased employees.

Other employees must initiate the claim for retroactive benefits by obtaining a copy of OPM Form 1367 from their personnel office. When the completed form is returned to the personnel office, a determination will be made as to entitlement; and if entitled, the amount will be computed. B/X/D personnel offices will process claims made by NIH employees who also worked for other agencies outside HEW during the retroactive period.

HEW Establishes New Appraisal Procedures

Last year, only 4 percent of all HEW employees received cash awards and quality step increases, less than 1 percent of all new HEW employees were released for unsatisfactory performance during their probationary period, and less than 1 percent of employees had within-grade increases denied or delayed.

These unrealistically low figures were due in part to managers who chose expediency instead of dealing with the red tape and unnecessarily complex procedures associated with rewarding and disciplining employees.

Since December, HEW has modified its performance appraisal system, streamlined adverse action procedures, revised probationary evaluation procedures, and tightened up steps for granting within-grade increases.

HEW managers will be expected to use these new management tools to hold employees accountable for their performance by rewarding exemplary performance and disciplining unsatisfactory employees.

To assess the way in which managers are accepting their responsibilities for evaluating employee performance, there will be quarterly reports on the number of within-grade increases withheld and the number of employees released during their probationary year and, periodically, reports on the action taken to reward exemplary performance.

To Hear Personnel Tapes—
Telephone 496-4608

To hear recorded telephone tapes on personnel topics, call 496-4608 on the dates indicated:

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NCI’s Dr. Jane Taylor Named ‘Woman of the Year’

Dr. D. Jane Taylor, chief of NCI’s Breast Cancer Coordinating Branch, was chosen Woman of the Year by the Breast Diseases Association of America.

Her citation, presented during a recent luncheon in New York City by Dr. Philip Strax, of the department of community and prevention medicine at New York Medical College, read in part:

“In recognition of her extraordinary dedication, tireless efforts and outstanding contributions to the battle against cancer.”

Dr. Taylor was appointed branch chief in 1975, and was made executive secretary of the NCI Breast Cancer Task Force in the same year. Previously, she was assistant branch chief and head of the Experimental Biology Projects Section since 1973.

She came to NCI as a biologist in 1958 after working for 11 years as a parasitologist with NIAID’s Laboratory of Tropical Diseases. Among her prior commendations is an NCI Award for High Quality Performance in 1967.

Dr. Taylor is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and the American Association for Cancer Research. She has published more than 40 papers in various scientific journals.

R&W Holds Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 12, at Noon

Free gifts and door prizes will be given to lucky winners attending the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association’s 31st annual meeting in the Masur Auditorium on Tuesday, June 12, from noon to 1 p.m.

The meeting will include a report of what the R&W is doing for the members and what is planned for the future. Brief reports by the president, treasurer, election committee, and general manager are included on the agenda.

Door prizes and gifts include: free dinners donated by several local restaurants, tickets to Wolf Trap and Charlestown Raceway, radios, cameras, cosmetics, hosiery, jewelry, candies, and T-shirts.

All members are urged to attend.
Five Grandparents Reach Their Goal—Graduate From Upward Mobility College

The goal for NIH employees who, for the last several years have given up weekend family outings, had to stay up late at night studying, and rarely indulged themselves with a free night’s entertainment of watching their favorite television show, has been realized.

Their persistent efforts to “finally get their education” by obtaining a 4-year college degree became a reality on Saturday, May 12, when they were awarded degrees from the University of the District of Columbia. Each of the NIH graduates contacted credited NIH’s Upward Mobility College as being the difference for them in starting and completing their education.

This year’s senior class dedication to learning was exemplified by those who graduated; half of whom were over 40 years of age, and included four grandmothers and one grandfather.

“These graduates are from every type of work,” said George Slate, supervisor of the Upward Mobility College, referring to the different nonprofessional positions these employees held while in the program. On Friday, June 8, Mr. Slate said, there will be an awards ceremony for the graduates marking the Fifth Annual Honors Convocation at the Masur Auditorium from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

This year’s activities will include Upward Mobility graduates from Parklawn and HEW downtown.

A total of 52 baccalaureate and 4 associate degrees were awarded this year, Mr. Slate said. Since 1971, he commented, the NIH Upward Mobility program alone has graduated 87 students with bachelor’s degrees and 47 with associates. The three Upward Mobility locations have graduated a total of 245 with full 4-year degrees. Presently, there are 370 NIH employees enrolled in the Upward Mobility Program.

Most students who enrolled in the program took daytime noncredit refresher courses in English and mathematics before taking more advanced work.

For the past 8 years, Elaine Shalowitz, the program’s reading and English specialist, has taught beginning Upward Mobility students. She has been impressed by the “seriousness of purpose” shown by the students that she has had in her classes and has gotten to know many of them personally.

Ms. Shalowitz points with pride that all of the graduating grandmothers majored in English and that “each of them worked not just for a grade; but because they wanted to learn.”

Among her students was Sarah S. Caplan, an NIAID technical reference assistant, who graduated magna cum laude. Also graduating were Margaret S. Owen, an NINCDS travel assistant; Rita Fleisher, who works in the budget section of DFM; and Elaine Rowe, a DRG grants assistant. Mrs. Fleisher and Mrs. Rowe graduated cum laude.

Mrs. Caplan and Mrs. Rowe

Most of the ladies expressed the same reasons as Mrs. Caplan as to why they got into the Upward Mobility Program and why they completed it. “I had to raise a family and maintain a home for years and now it was my chance,” she said.

She said some of her friends and co-workers asked her what she might get out of putting so much time into such a program. Mrs. Caplan told them “it all depends on what you expect to get out of life.”

“I’m an achiever!” Mrs. Caplan said about herself, and saw the college program as a “great challenge.”

Mrs. Caplan said that her family and grandchildren were impressed now that she has a college degree. She is thinking about taking an advance degree in library science.

“I’m celebrating!” remarked Elaine Rowe about her graduation. She said that she got into the college program because she saw it as a possible way of increasing her chances for promotion. She hopes to go onto graduate school and take some scientific and technical writing courses. Mrs. Rowe said that her daughter gave her a graduation charm that was inscribed “Granny 1979.”

“We had marvelous instructors,” said Rita Fleisher, who took several years to get her associates degree. Mrs. Fleisher, who has been in different area stage productions over the years, said she might become active in theater again, but that her real desire is to change jobs and “get into a public information or EEO work” now that she has her degree.

Margret Owen said she and her husband decided that it was her “turn” to finish school and that is why she enrolled in the Upward Mobility Program. She said her English studies have been a great “personal satisfaction” and have helped her in her job.

Her studies have aided her in acquiring additional organizational “discipline” and has helped her to more effectively communicate when preparing travel requests. Mrs. Owen said that she probably would not have gone on in her studies if it were not for the program. “I’m sold on it 100 percent,” she said.

Saturday’s graduation had particular significance for the senior class’s only grandfather, William E. Jones, who works in NLM’s Serial Record Section, and is associate minister to the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Jones said he hopes to go to Howard University this fall to take graduate theology classes with the aim of eventually ministering to his own church someday. “Even to get your own church it is important to have a college degree,” he says.

Rev. Jones noted that his youngest daughter graduates this fall from the University of the District of Columbia but that he could not wait until she finished so that they could graduate together.

Among the other graduates who will be honored on June 8 are: Walter P. Baliles, DES, Business Administration; Dorothy F. Boykin, OPPE, OD, Business Administration; Allen C. Graham, NIAMDD, Social Welfare; Loraine J. McDonnell, NIAMDD, Social Welfare; Barbara L. Shepler, NHLBI, Social Welfare; Linda Walsh, NHLBI, Procurement and Public Contracting; Wilma J. Johnson, formerly with Office of Grants Management, Business Administration; and Joan M. Crist, formerly with Administrative Services, Business Administration.

There also were two associate degrees awarded at graduation: Johnny E. Carter, CC, Social Welfare, and Ellen E. P. Gross, CC, Social Welfare.

Fall registration for the Upward Mobility College will begin on Aug. 27. Anyone wishing more information can call 496-5025.

Security Evaluation Branch Suggests Devices To Prevent Theft of Office, Lab Equipment

To eliminate the problem of office and laboratory equipment theft, the need for special security must be emphasized.

All office machines, medical and scientific equipment valued at $300 or more should be secured in place.

Equipment of lesser value should also be secured. Those items which cannot be secured in place—such as pocket calculators, cameras, tape recorders, slide projectors, etc.—should be protected at all times when not in use by storing them in locked containers or a room to which only authorized personnel have access.

Several types of securing devices, such as the “Anchor Pad” and “CL-6-1 Cable Device” are available to provide adequate protection. Such devices have proven to be a cost-effective theft deterrent.

Information concerning requisitioning anchoring devices may be obtained by calling the Security Evaluation Section, 496-3211.
**Dalton To Head NINCDS Extramural Activities**

Dr. John C. Dalton was recently named director of the NINCDS Extramural Activities Program. In this position, he will advise Dr. Donald B. Tower, NINCDS Director and the directors of the Institute's four extramural programs on grants, contract policy, and administration.

In 1977, the NINCDS Extramural Activities Program awarded 1,600 research grants, contracts, and training awards totaling $120 million.

Dr. Dalton came to NINCDS from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, where he was deputy associate director for program activities from 1976 to 1978.

**Was Research Associate**

He joined NIH in 1955 as a research associate in NINDB's Laboratory of Biophysics. From 1962 to 1970, Dr. Dalton worked in DRG and held a variety of positions that included executive secretary of the Metabolism Study Section.

Dr. Dalton's experience outside of NIH includes 5 years with the University of Buffalo where he served as instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor of biology. He also worked in various program administrative positions for 6 years with the Bureau of Health Manpower.

During his career, Dr. Dalton's research interests have centered on neurophysiology and comparative physiology.

He received his doctoral degree in biology and his A.M. from Harvard University. Dr. Dalton also served as a commissioned officer in the PHS from 1955 to 1957.

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**2-Day Workshop on Effects of Mineral Fibers, Particulates Scheduled for June 7-8**

A 2-day workshop on The Biological Effects of Mineral Fibers and Particulates will be held June 7-8 in Wilson Hall. The workshop is sponsored by the Subcommittee to Coordinate Asbestos/Asbestiform Research within PHS, of HEW's Committee to Coordinate Toxicology and Related Programs.

The workshop's purpose is to discuss the use of asbestos and its previous occupational effects on exposed shipyard workers, children who have over the years been exposed to it because of its release into the air from decaying school building ceilings, and the recent highly publicized asbestos exposure that occurred because of its use in home electric hair dryers.

Participants meeting on Thursday, June 7, at 8:30 a.m., will be addressed by Dr. David P. Rall, chairman of the CCTRP and NIEHS Director. Dr. Rall also serves as the director of the National Toxicology Program that coordinates HEW toxicology research and testing.

Also scheduled to speak is Dr. Raymond E. Shapiro, subcommittee chairman, and assistant director for Toxicology Coordination, NIEHS.

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**'Women in the Work Force' Topic of June 8 Seminar**

The Federal Women's subgroup of the NIAID/EOO Advisory Committee is sponsoring a seminar on Women in the Workforce on Friday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Masur Auditorium.

Dr. Richard M. Krause, NIAID Director, will introduce the speakers. They are:

- Dr. Ann Briscoe, president of the Association of Women in Science, Educational Foundation, who will speak on Problems Facing Scientists Who Lack A "Y" Chromosome; and
- Dr. Edith Fierst, of the White House Interdepartmental Task Force on Women, who will address problems facing all working women, such as child care and social security.

The seminar is open to all.

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**FAES-Sponsored Insurance Program Having 'Open Season' Until June 8**

The Association of Visiting Fellows Group Hospitalization Program, sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, is having an "Open Season"—which ends June 8—for new subscribers.

Coverage will be effective July 1. Current subscribers also may change their coverage to "Family" at this time.

NIH postdoctoral fellows, commissioned officers, visiting fellows, associates, scientists, and guest workers who have not yet enrolled in the program will be eligible for coverage with certain restrictions.

Applications and premiums are due in the FAES insurance office by June 8. For further information call Nancy Cassity, 496-5272.
Music, Dancing Mark Asian-American Celebration

Clockwise from left: India’s Kumud Mathur performed a traditional folk dance from Jaipur entitled “Suvito” or Parrot. Ms. Mathur, who is a mathematician, has performed for several dignitaries in her country and the U.S. at cultural functions. Jee Soo Yang, a 28-year-old ex-Korean soldier maimed while in Vietnam in 1969, played “Home Sweet Home” and “Softly and Tenderly” on his saw. The grace and the beauty of the ancient Japanese “Chidori” or marsh bird was preserved in music during a koto and flute duet performed by Miyuki Yoshikami and Leslie Ando. The Maharlike Dance Troupe demonstrated a traditional Filipino dance—“Tinikling.” The troupe is directed by Toni Mandarang, an employee of the World Health Organization. Pak Minamo (c), master puppeteer and musician, directs performers in a traditional Javanese Wayan Kulit or shadow dance, which is one of the earliest forms of theater. The shadows projected represent the spirits of tribal ancestors and through them the priest-puppeteer enables the living to communicate with their ancestors.

—Photos by Carl Guenveur.

Hatha Yoga Summer Classes To Begin June 4

This summer yoga classes will begin the week of June 4 with two free introductory sessions on Monday, June 4, and Thursday, June 7, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., in Rm. 2A-52 in Bldg. 31.

Each session will include yoga postures, breathing exercises, chanting, and a discussion of yoga principles. All participants are urged to wear comfortable clothing.

Other yoga classes are:

Beginner I Hatha Yoga—six Monday evenings beginning June 11, at 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., in Rm. 4A-04, in Bldg. 31.

Beginner II Hatha Yoga—six Wednesday evenings beginning June 13, at 6 to 7:30 p.m., in Rm. 4A-04, Bldg. 31.

Deep Relaxation—six Fridays beginning June 22, at noon to 12:30 p.m., in Rm. 4B-10, in Bldg. 31.

For more information, contact the R&W Desk, Bldg. 31, Rm. 1A-18.

Federal Professional Ass’n Chapter at NIH Reactivated

The NIH chapter of the Federal Professional Association, a government-wide organization devoted exclusively to problems and welfare of Federally employed executives, scientists, and professionals, is being reactivated.

Originally organized in 1971, the FPA chapter at NIH gradually became inactive “due to a national mood of complacency,” according to Dr. Helene Gutman, interim chairman. Currently, a group of NIH professionals are in the process of reviving the chapter and are inviting NIH employees from all grade levels to attend and participate at regular meetings to be held on campus.

The FPA was one of the prime motivators in bringing about the March 30, 1979 Forum on Your Retirement System at the Masur Auditorium. It involved 14 other professional societies and was well attended by NIH personnel.

The association plans on holding future forums which will involve the following subjects: merit principles, employee-management relations, pay comparability, dedicated dissent, career service for professionals, public image of the Federal employee, liberalization of the Hatch Act, and other subjects.

George E. Auman, FPA national president, was the featured speaker at the first meeting of the reactivated NIH chapter on April 23, 1979. “Scientists and other professionals in the Federal government must take a more active stand in improving the climate for professional accomplishments,” Auman said. He also noted that Federal employees have been receiving bad press and are concerned about the threatened loss of retirement benefits and the “diminution of earning power that has occurred with the imposition of arbitrary pay caps.”

Further information on the NIH chapter of the FPA is available from Dr. Suzanne Stimler, 496-5411.
Rochester Pollution Chamber Study Funded Through DRR

An airtight enclosed environmental chamber where volunteer live-in human subjects will be exposed to everyday atmospheric pollutants, including automobile exhaust fumes, was opened by University of Rochester Medical Center researchers last week.

The purpose of the chamber is to determine the effects of pollutants on both healthy subjects and volunteers with respiratory problems. The new 300-square-foot aerosol chamber, part of the medical center’s General Clinical Research Center, is devoted exclusively to human research. The center is one of 75 funded by the Division of Research Resources.

Normal physical activity will be simulated by volunteers while in the chamber. They will do intermittent light exercise on a bicycle ergometer and their pulmonary function parameters, as well as their oxygen consumption, will be measured, said Drs. Richard Hyde and Paul Morrow, research team leaders. In addition, participants’ physiological status will be monitored by equipment in the chamber and the center’s laboratory facilities.

The environmental chamber is set up like a regular hospital room and while testing is going on the pollutants will be released into it through a specially designed ventilation system.

During the initial research project, sub-microscopic particles of three sulfate chemicals normally associated with atmospheric pollution, such as automobile exhaust fumes, will be released into the chamber in aerosol form. Researchers said that sodium and ammonium sulfates, and sulfuric acid will be released into the chamber in quantities normally found in many American urban environments.

In early phases of the research, investigators will study the effects a series of 4- to 6-hour exposures over a 3-day period. If minimal effects are found during these short-term exposures, researchers then plan on extending the exposures to a 24-hour period.

A potential benefit to be derived from experiments being carried out in the environmental chamber is to find “the differences found in normal participants and those with lung diseases such as asthma and emphysema,” the investigators said. “This will provide a basis for estimating risks and establishing safety factors with any proposed pollution standard.”

Working with Drs. Hyde and Morrow are members of Rochester’s pulmonary disease unit of the department of medicine and the aerosol physiology team in the department of radiation biology and biophysics.

FAES Announces Schedule for 1979-80 Concerts

The FAES 1979-80 concert series will present eight concerts during its upcoming season. FAES is now offering season tickets for sale.

The concert dates and who will be performing are: Oct. 14, The Orpheus Ensemble; Nov. 11, Lili Kraus, piano; Dec. 2, Jean-Philippe Collard, piano; Jan. 13, Benita Valente, soprano, and Cynthia Raim, piano; Feb. 24, The Berg String Quartet; Mar. 9, Gold and Fizdale, piano duo; and Mar. 30, Salvatore Accardo, violin. There will be another performance—the date has not been announced. It will feature Dennis Brott, cellist.

Concerts will be held on Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium.

Last year’s FAES Chamber Music Series was sold out, and interested persons should subscribe as soon as possible. Tickets are sold by subscription only and cost $41 for the season.

For further information, contact the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Bldg. 10, Rm. 811-101, 496-5272.

USDA Graduate School Offers Course In Zero-Base Budgeting

Zero-Base Budgeting in the Public Sector is a new correspondence course offered by the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Correspondence Study Programs.

The 15-lesson course is being offered through the mail and is designed to develop skill in using the zero-base process in budget formulation and implementation and should be of interest to persons who are engaged in budget, program, and management analysis across the country.

Registration is open throughout the year and students have 1 year from their registration date to complete the course.

Tuition is $94, if paid by purchase order, or $88, if paid in cash, check, or charge.

For brochures, registration forms, and further information, call (202) 447-7123, or write: Graduate School, USDA, Correspondence Study Programs, Rm. 6847, South Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Junior Investigator Award Won By CC’s Dr. McCormick

Dr. Kathleen Ann McCormick, assistant for research to the chief, Clinical Center Nursing Department, recently received the J.D. Lane Junior Investigator Award at the 14th Annual Meeting of the U.S. Public Health Service in Phoenix during April.

Dr. McCormick was honored for her animal model for the adult respiratory distress syndrome (shock lung syndrome). Recently, her research findings were completed at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where she also received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physiology. She has a master’s in nursing from Boston University and received her B.S. degree in nursing from Barry College in Florida.

Was Clinical Specialist

Before coming to the Clinical Center in May 1978, she was a clinical nurse specialist and an instructor at the School of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin.

For the past 10 years, she has been a PHS officer. She was stationed at the PHS Hospital in Staten Island in 1968, and in 1970 she was stationed in Brighton, Mass., at the PHS Hospital.

Dr. McCormick is currently a member of the American Nurses Association, the Council of Nurse Researchers, the Mid-Maryland Lung Association, and Sigma Delta Epsilon, Graduate Women in Science.

Won By CC’s Dr. McCormick

Dr. McCormick accepts award from Dr. Julius B. Richmond, Assistant Secretary for Health, HEW.

For further information, contact the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Bldg. 10, Rm. 811-101, 496-5272.
Immunological Aspects of Aging
Topic of International Workshop

Over 60 prominent immunologists from the United States, Italy, and The Netherlands met at an international workshop on the Immunological Aspects of Aging, May 7-8, in Bldg. 31.

Papers presented covered a wide range of topics relevant to the immune system, from phylogeny and ontogeny of the immune response to clinical studies. A poorly functioning immune system is thought to be a major cause of disability, disease, and death among the elderly.

On the first day of the meeting, sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, speakers discussed dysfunctions in the immune system that appear to occur in all animals, beginning with single-cell organisms. One paper noted that the tropical sponge, *Callyspongia*—the simplest form of multicellular animal—is capable of rejecting grafts of tissue from another sponge of the same species, demonstrating a highly discriminating type of transplantation immunity.

The immunologic defense system sometimes becomes "perverted" and reacts against the body's own tissues, which may result in autoimmune disease such as rheumatoid arthritis, gleromerulonephritis, and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Several papers discussed the loss, with increasing age, of the ability to maintain normal immune function.

Other speakers discussed how restricted caloric intake and diets low in fat and high in protein and fiber may reduce the occurrence of autoimmune disease in mice.

The second day of the conference featured discussions of murine lupus, an autoimmune disease of mice that resembles SLE, and causes general inflammation of the blood vessels and kidney failure. The male sex hormone, androgen, suppresses murine lupus while the female sex hormone, estrogen, accelerates the progress of this disease. This may help explain why human females are the predominant victims of SLE, outnumbering men about 10 to 1.

Several papers surveyed research on diseases that offer special insights on the immunology of aging. For example, Down's syndrome or mongolism, is characterized by decreased life span, senile dementia, cataracts, premature gray hair, and other signs of early aging.

Dr. Krakauer Named NIAID Branch Chief

Dr. Henry Krakauer has recently been named chief of NIAID's Genetics and Transplantation Biology Branch.

Dr. Krakauer's initial association with this Institute's Immunology, Allergic, and Immunologic Diseases Program began in 1978 on an intergovernmental personnel agreement with Washington State University, where he was associate professor of chemistry and biophysics. While at NIAID he was involved with research activities in immunochemistry and immunogenetics.

 Came to U.S. in 1951

Dr. Krakauer's new responsibilities will include development and supervision of the grant and contract-supported program in immunogenetics and transplantation, NIAID's collaborative Kidney Transplantation Histo-compatibility Study and the Histocompatibility Typing Serum and Research Reagents Bank.

Born in Poland, Dr. Krakauer came to the U.S. in 1951 and acquired U.S. citizenship in 1958. In 1960, he received an A.B. degree from New York's Yeshiva University and also received a bachelor of Hebrew literature. In 1964, he received his medical degree from New York University's School of Medicine and following a USPHS postdoctoral fellowship from 1964 to 1968, he received a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Yale University in 1968.

Dr. Krakauer's recent research efforts have been in the fields of immunobiology and immunochrometry—specifically metabolic responses of lymphocytes to stimulation by specific antigens and mechanisms of immunogenility of synthetic antigens.

He is a member of the American Society of Biological Chemists, the Biophysical Society, the American Chemical Society, Calorimetry Society, and the Society of Sigma Xi.

H. Roy Routt, OD Budget Officer, Dies

H. Roy Routt, 52, budget officer with the Office of Administration, Office of the Director, and the Fogarty International Center, died from a heart attack on May 9.

Mr. Routt was appointed to his position in 1978 and during his career was a recipient of the HEW Superior Performance Award.

In 1968, Mr. Routt came to NIH as a budget analyst in the Office of Financial Management.

Prior to that he worked for 1 year as a financial management officer for the National Transportation Safety Board.

From 1959 to 1966, Mr. Routt was a budget officer with the Department of the Interior. Previously, he served from 1956 to 1959 as chief of the accounting section at the Civil Aeronautics Board.

For over 20 years Mr. Routt was active with the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department. He held a variety of posts with the department that included being its recording secretary, a member of its board of trustees, and at the time of his death was their financial secretary.

He is survived by his wife, Anna N. Routt, of Rockville, and his three children: Karen B. Carolan of Laurel, Md., Sally J., and Chip Routt. Family members have expressed the wish that memorial donations should be sent to the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Dept.
Drs. William Paul, Anthony Fauci Named Presidents-Elect of Two Research Groups

Two NIAID investigators recently were honored by being named presidents-elect of two prestigious scientific organizations. Dr. William Paul, chief of the Laboratory of Immunology, has been named to the American Society for Clinical Research and NIAID's deputy clinical director, will head the American Federation for Clinical Research.

In 1970, Paul was elected to membership in the ASCI, a society whose members are physicians under the age of 45 and who have accomplished meritorious original investigations in the clinical or allied sciences of medicine. For the past 3 years he has served as councilor to this organization. Dr. Paul's outstanding work in the field of immunology has been recognized by his receiving the HEW Superior Service Honor Award in 1974.

He is an internationally recognized research scientist in cellular immunology and immunogenetics, and in 1975 was named a Phillips distinguished visitor at Haverford College, Haverford, Pa.

Dr. Fauci became a member of the ACFR in 1971. This organization was founded to provide a forum for clinical scientists under the age of 40 to promote and encourage original research in clinical and laboratory medicine.

He is internationally known for his unique work on the delineation of the regulation of the immune response both in man and animals. Last month Dr. Fauci was presented the PHS Meritorious Service Medal and his citation read: “For his studies on the effects of immunosuppressive agents, particularly glucocorticoids, on immune and inflammatory processes.”

Drs. Paul and Fauci will each assume the presidency of their organizations at the next annual meetings in May 1980.

Dr. Hodgen Shares ‘Line Managers’ Award

Dr. Gary D. Hodgen, NICHD, was recently honored for outstanding management of employees in the Institute's Pregnancy Research Branch. The National Capital Area division of the International Personnel Management Association selected Dr. Hodgen to receive its Line Managers Award, which was presented to him during its annual conference held at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes a line manager outside the personnel field who has applied personnel techniques to improve a work situation. Generally, line managers are responsible for and make decisions about personnel and other administrative matters but are not necessarily specialists in those areas. Dr. Hodgen and Dr. James Probus, Navy Department, shared the award that was given for the first time to scientists.

In nominating Dr. Hodgen, NICHD personnel officials cited his resourcefulness in upgrading the work of animal caretakers under his management. Dr. Hodgen’s managerial abilities were used when he learned that caretaker positions were being reviewed by personnel employees and reclassification of these positions to a lower pay scale was likely.

He proposed that a team approach to animal care be adopted and originated the Animal Care Core concept, and worked with personnel managers to implement the idea. By using a team approach to do the more routine duties, animal caretakers were freed to learn new and more complex animal care duties that also included development of supervisory skills.

In addition, the Animal Care Core concept has been considered valuable to both NICHD personnel employees and Veterans Administration personnel managers. They will select and train a disabled veteran under the Unpaid Federal Job Training Program.

The NCA Executive Committee agreed with the nominating officials’ judgments that Dr. Hodgen’s “research has been recognized within the scientific community . . . it is time to recognize him as an outstanding manager.”

Dr. Hodgen explained a laboratory procedure to animal caretaker, Teri Jo Brown.

Dr. Robert W. Krauss Named FASEB Executive Director

Dr. Robert W. Krauss has been named executive director of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology as of July 1.

Dr. Krauss, Dean of the College of Science at Oregon State University in Corvallis and former president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, succeeds Dr. Eugene L. Hess, who is retiring after 8 years in the position.

‘Big Apple’ Tour Planned For June 8-10 Weekend

A weekend excursion to the “Big Apple”—New York City—is being planned for June 8-10 by the R&W Association. The round-trip rail tour will include accommodations at the New York Sheraton, daily continental breakfast, Saturday evening tickets to the off-Broadway musical, “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” and tickets to the “New York Experience,” a multidimensional sight and sound show.

Fun seekers will also have the choice of either taking a sightseeing tour of lower New York City and Chinatown or a helicopter tour of New York. There will be an additional $2.50 surcharge for this flight, according to trip organizers. The trip also includes entertainment and dancing in Manhattan’s Sally’s Pub.

Trips organizers said that there will be time for visitors to shop and sample any of the many different exotic New York restaurants during the weekend.

The weekend cost, which includes an 8 percent sales tax, baggage and handling fees and New York’s $1 per night occupancy tax per person, is $128.

Persons who sign up for the tour will depart from the Capital Beltway Station on Friday, June 8, at 6:23 p.m. They will leave New York’s Penn Station on Sunday, June 10, at 5 p.m. For further information call the R&W Activities Desk, 496-4600.

Former NIAMDD Scientist, Dr. R. L. Vought, Dies

Dr. Robert L. Vought, 70, former chief of NIAMDD’s metabolic diseases unit, who retired in 1978, died May 11, in Sarasota, Fla., hospital, after suffering a heart attack.

Dr. Vought was an authority in epidemiology, metabolic diseases, and iodine metabolism and led his unit’s research effort for 17 years prior to his retirement.

He was the author of more than 40 technical works on iodine metabolism and diseases of the goiter.

In 1961, Dr. Vought joined NIH after spending 6 years as medical coordination director of Bristol Labs in New York City. Before that, he practiced medicine and worked as a public health officer in New York State. He also taught at Columbia University’s School of Public Health from 1951 to 1955.

During World War II, he helped direct Army typhus control programs in Guatemala and Ecuador. He was discharged from active duty in 1947 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dr. Vought was a fellow of the American Public Health Association and a member of both the American Thyroid Association and the Society of Epidemiological Research.

He is survived by his wife, Florence, in Sarasota; three daughters, Linda Taylor of Richmond, Va., Martha Richcreek of New Carrollton, and Helen Zunt of Nokomis, Fla., and nine grandchildren.

The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the American Heart Association.
NIH Challenge Relay Record Set By Women's Team

With a starting pistol poised over his head, NIA Director Dr. Robert M. Butler fired a single shot that began the first heat of the 2nd Annual NIH Institute Challenge Relay, held on Thursday, May 17, in front of Bldg. 1.

Sixty-four teams gathered to run in the half-mile race. Most of the teams had prepared themselves mentally for the race; if not physically. Teams were composed of veteran joggers, who had been tested in the Boston Marathon, and jogging neophytes, who wondered if they would complete the much shorter course.

Both sides of the street next to the finish line were filled with lunchtime well wishers who shouted cheers to the different Institute teams.

A bizarre array of names were called out during the 2-hour race. The team names included the “Geronauts” from the National Institute of Aging, NEI’s “Wurtz Possible Runners,” NINCDS’ Di Chiro’s Heroes, and another team calling themselves the “Lepers” who were from NIAMDD.

The second heat got off with a false start because the starting pistol used by Capt. Floyd Rush, NIH Special Police, failed to fire. After the heat got under way, Capt. Rush vowed that next time he would use his revolver.

As runners from the last heat sprinted up the grassy knoll in front of Bldg. 1 for the finish line; their times were recorded.

Finishing first in the women’s team category was the Eye Teeth, a combined team from NIDR and NEI. They set a new women’s record of 16 minutes and 10 seconds. “May Not Win”—the winning men’s team finished with the time of 11 minutes and 58 seconds.

After the race, team captains Catherine Bushnell and Jim Sylvester accepted the Challenge Relay plaque which will be on display in Bldg. 1 until next year. Already plans are under way for next year’s relay race, according to Al Lewis. He says that anyone who has a suggestion about the race or would like more information about the NIH Jogging Club or its T-shirts should contact him at the Parklawn Bldg., Rm. 8-81, or contact the R&W Activities Desk, Bldg. 31, Rm. 1A-18, or write Jim Sylvester, Bldg. 6, Rm. 335.

Two NIMH Scientists Honored for Research

Two National Institute of Mental Health scientists recently were honored for their scientific achievements.

Dr. Robert A. Cohen, director of the Division of Clinical and Behavioral Research, was the recipient of the Frieda-Fromm Reichmann Award for 1979 by the American Academy of Psychoanalysis.

Named as co-winner of Honored Alumnus Award for Professional Excellence by the University of Chicago Club of Washington, D.C., was Dr. Michael Brownstein, chief of the unit on neuroendocrinology, Laboratory of Clinical Science.

Dr. Cohen's award, established in honor of one of the founders of the academy, was given in recognition of his contributions toward the better understanding of schizophrenia and its implications. The award and an honorarium was presented to Dr. Cohen on May 12 during the academy’s annual meeting in New York City.

Dr. Brownstein, a leading figure in the field of neuroendocrinology, is a pioneer in the study of how nerve cell systems make and use their chemicals and how those chemicals communicate with other neurons in other parts of the brain.

His contributions and experiments have been important in advancing understanding of how the brain controls the endocrine system, and have earned him international recognition as a neuroscientist.

Tenpin Bowlers Set Season

The NIH R&W Tenpin Bowling League is now planning its 18th season which is due to start next fall on Sept. 4. The league consists of 26 teams, two women and two men per team, and bowls every Wednesday night for 35 weeks. The league is in need of new members and substitutes.

For further information please call Rick Wiener at 649-2135 or 496-7075.
Beginning Karate Classes To Start in June

The second, 12-session beginners course in Tae Kwon Do (Karate) is being organized by the NIH Judo Club, under the auspices of the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association. Classes will meet on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. in the old gymnasium of Stone Ridge School, at the corner of Cedar Lane and Wisconsin Ave., beginning June 11. An organizational meeting and demonstrations will be given today (Wednesday, May 30) at 6 p.m. at the same location.

Students will learn traditional Tai Kwon Do under Dr. W. French Anderson, first-degree Black Belt. The 12-week beginners class leads to a Gold Belt and includes front and back stances, rising and side blocks, hand techniques (reverse punch), and one-step sparring (formalized attack and counterattack moves with a partner).

Gold Belt Is Necessary

Students awarded their Gold Belt following the first beginners course will demonstrate at today’s organizational meeting. The Gold Belt is necessary before entering the advanced class (Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m.) where more advanced stances such as blocks, punches, and kicks, self-defense and unarmed combat, sparring drills, advanced kata, and controlled free sparring, are taught.

The fee for the beginners course is $20, and for advanced students, $15 per course or $5 a month. For those also taking judo, $35 combined judo/karate beginners, and $12-a-month combined judo/karate advanced.

Application forms may be obtained from the R&W Activities Desk, Rm. 1A-18, Bldg. 31.

For further information call Randy Schools, R&W general manager, 496-6061, Dr. W. French Anderson, 496-5844 (Karate), or Dr. Thomas E. Malone, 496-2121 (Judo).

MARINE FACILITY

(Continued from Page 1)

air also carried significant quantities. "You hear a great deal about radioactive fallout," said Dr. Pritchard, "at the same time, we're also concerned about chemical fallout. Many pollutants enter the ocean from the air."

Different animals handle pollutants in unique ways, Dr. Pritchard said, citing two fish as examples. The dogfish, with its large liver, tends to accumulate and retain contaminants, he said, while lobsters tend to collect at least one pollutant, mercury, in its tail meat.

Presently, NIEHS operates two off-site marine biomedical laboratories to conduct intramural research, one in Florida, and the other, a seasonal operation in Maine’s Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory.

In addition, through extramural grants, NIEHS also funds four marine and freshwater biomedical centers that are involved in environmental health research.

These centers are located at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; the University of Southern California, Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies, Los Angeles; the Duke University Marine Science Center, Beaufort, N.C.; and the Oregon State University Marine Science Center, Newport.

Children of NIH Employees Enjoy Benefits Of Three Day Care Programs

Parents of Preschoolers, Inc., a nonprofit parent-run corporation, offers three day care programs for children of NIH employees.

This includes the Preschool Developmental Program for 3- to 5-year-old children. Also, at the nearby Ayrlawn Elementary School, P.O.P.I. operates a kindergarten program in conjunction with the Montgomery County public schools, as well as a Before-and-After School Program for 5- to 12-year-old children.

The Preschool Developmental Program, located in Bldg. 35, is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Children receive breakfast, a nutritious hot lunch, and an afternoon snack. Teachers have had training and experience in early childhood education, and the staff/child ratio is approximately 1:6.

Further information and applications may be obtained at the Preschool or by calling Sherrie Rudick, 496-5144.

The Before-and-After School Program, providing group care for children ages 5 to 12, operates at the Ayrlawn Elementary School near NIH. It is open 5 days a week, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The program provides care in the mornings before school, at noontime for kindergarten only (at which time a hot lunch is served), and after school hours. There is a full day program during school holidays and Christmas and Easter vacations.

The Ayrlawn program has a diversified staff of teachers and teacher aides. Staff/child ratio is 1:13. Further questions may be directed to Sandra Brooks, 530-3550.

Parents of Preschoolers, Inc., provides summer care in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. This department operates two camps, Arrowhead (ages 5-8) and Breezyhollow (ages 9-12), in the Bethesda area from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

P.O.P.I. provides day care before camp, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., and after camp from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at a local school in the Bethesda area near NIH.

The programs are operated separately, so arrangements must be made with each. There are four 2-week sessions during the summer period. Contact the Montgomery County Department of Recreation or Sandra Brooks, Director, Parents of Preschoolers, Inc., 530-5550.

Animal Research Aids In Understanding Adhesions

Laboratory experiments with monkeys may have led to a surgical procedure that might eliminate postsurgical adhesions in humans. Recognition of this procedure occurred recently in San Francisco when the American Fertility Society presented an award to Dr. Gere S. di Zerega of NICHD’s Pregnancy Research Branch.

Dr. di Zerega, who in collaboration with Dr. Gary D. Hodgson, PRS’s laboratory chief, demonstrated that when 32 percent dextron 70 is placed into the pelvic cavity of rhesus monkeys after abrasions were induced to their fallopian tubes, post surgical adhesions were prevented. This procedure preserved the animals tubal function and egg transport from its ovaries to the uterus.

This adjunct to surgery is now being used in clinical gynecologic trials, says Dr. di Zerega. His paper on the topic will appear in an upcoming issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Hilda Hintze, DLA, Retires After 26 Years’ Service

Hilda M. Hintze, who has been in the Division of Legislative Analysis, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, OD, since 1963, retired recently after 26 years in the Federal Government.

Her government career began in 1937 when she came from western New York to a position in the Department of Agriculture. After raising three children, she came to NIH in 1961 to serve with the National Institute of Mental Health and the Division of Biologics Standards before joining DLA.

Mr. and Mrs. Hintze plan to spend summers in Avon, N.Y., and winters in their home in Daytona Beach. Mrs. Hintze’s retirement plans also include renewing performances on the pipe organ and doing volunteer work with retarded children.
NIA's Dan Rogers Named Co-Winner of 1979 Handicapped Marylander of the Year Award

Daniel S. Rogers, a public information specialist in the National Institute on Aging's Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore, has been named co-winner of the 1979 Handicapped Marylander of the Year Award.

Mr. Rogers received the award from the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped at a recent awards luncheon.

He was cited for his outstanding accomplishments despite his handicap. Mr. Rogers also was nominated for the President's Trophy for the Handicapped American of the Year for 1979.

Mr. Rogers has been with the Gerontology Research Center since 1968. In 1977, he was awarded the NIH Merit Award for the development and implementation of scientific information programs at the NIA Baltimore Center.

NIA's Dan Rogers shows Baltimore Mayor William D. Schaefer (l) and NIA Director, Dr. Robert N. Butler, around the Gerontology Research Center on a recent tour.

R&W June-July Activities Include Farmers' Market, Kayaking, Baseball

The Recreation & Welfare Association is sponsoring a wide variety of activities and services for NIH'ers in the coming months.

Beginning Tuesday, June 5, employees will be able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables produced and supplied by farmers in Montgomery County. Every Tuesday thereafter, through mid-October, employees will be able to purchase fresh produce in season.

Arrangements have been made for the use of parking lot 41B, from 4 to 6 p.m., for these weekly sales.

On June 21 and 28, R&W is joining with Washington Whitewater to offer kayak lessons. The cost is $16 per person, limited to six persons per class. All equipment will be provided, including kayak, paddle, helmet, PFD, and sprayskirt. Participants will be shown the basic strokes and when to apply them.

An introduction to flow dynamics will be given with emphasis on eddies and their uses. Whitewater techniques come next with the basics of peels, eddy turns and ferries. River safety is emphasized. Interested employees will meet at the Anglers Inn at 6 p.m.

In addition, a kayaking class will be held all day on July 4 for $31. This class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Potomac, leaving from the Anglers Inn to lock 10.

Finally, R&W is sponsoring an all-day outing to Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia on Saturday, July 14, to see the Philadelphia Phillies play the Los Angeles Dodgers, two top National League baseball teams.

The cost is $13.75 and includes tickets, transportation and refreshments on the bus, which leaves at 10 a.m. from Bldg. 31C.

Interested employees may sign up for the kayak lessons or baseball game at the R&W activities desk, Rm. 1A-18, Bldg. 31.

Islamic Prayer Group Meets At CC on Fridays

Islamic Friday prayers are being held for Muslim patients and employees at the Clinical Center's chapel on the 14th floor, every Friday at 1:30 p.m. All Muslim patients and employees are encouraged to participate and non-Muslims also are welcome.

Think About Quitting?

The Occupational Medical Service is now offering employees of NIH options on how to stop smoking.

Individual assistance will be available in the Health Unit (Building 31, Room 2B47) between the hours of 9:00am and 4:30pm.
NCI Scientists Participate in Meeting Of 2 Cancer Research Groups

For his research and medical leadership, Dr. DeVita has received a number of awards including the 1972 Albert and Mary Lasker Medical Research Award.

A number of NIH scientists presented papers and participated in the annual meetings of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Association for Cancer Research held in New Orleans in mid-May.

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, director of the National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Treatment and outgoing president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, presented that organization’s 10th annual David Award. Dr. DeVita, who received a medal and cash for his research and medical leadership, has earned an international reputation for his achievements in developing combination drug treatment for Hodgkin’s disease and other forms of lymph cancer, and for his research on the pharmacology of antitumor drugs and biology of tumor growth (cell kinetics).

Also described at the oncology meeting was an international registry for long-term survivors with small cell lung cancer which has so far identified 97 patients who were alive more than 2½ years after diagnosis. Factors associated with the unusually good prognosis of these patients were discussed by Dr. Mary J. Matthews, NCI.

Small cell is one of four different types of lung cancer. It is characterized by rapid growth and early spread (metastasis) to distant organs. Up to 80 percent of patients are found to have widespread disease at the time of diagnosis, and few patients live longer than 2 years.

However, small cell lung cancer has been the most responsive of the four cell types to treatment with radiation and anticancer drugs. A determined search for improved therapies has increased median survival from a dismal 2 months to more than 1 year in a number of clinical studies.

NCI scientists also reported to the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology that of 141 Ugandan children treated for Burkitt’s lymphoma between 1967 and 1972, 50 percent have survived up to 10 years after treatment and are considered cured of their disease.

Burkitt’s lymphoma is an unusual form of cancer affecting the abdomen and jaw that primarily afflicts children in tropical areas. It is also one of the few kinds of cancer where there is strong, but not yet conclusive, evidence that a virus plays a role in causation.

Scientists from NCI and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. have found an association between a hereditary tendency to cancer and the sensitivity to radiation of cells from a family with a history of leukemia.

Dr. N. T. Bech-Hansen of Atomic Energy of Canada reported to the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research that skin fibroblasts (connective tissue cells) from four members of a family with a history of acute myelogenous leukemia and reticulendotheliosis, a form of leukemia, showed increased sensitivity to doses of gamma radiation.

Experiments are now in progress to define the relation between in-vitro transformation and the development of leukemia, and to determine whether enhanced sensitivity to radiation at the cellular level can be attributed to a defective capacity to repair damaged DNA, the hereditary molecule in the genes of every cell.

Retinoids Discussed

Use of retinoids to prevent cancers was among the topics discussed at a symposium on Prevention of Cancers—Some Recent Strategies at the annual Cancer Research meeting.

Dr. Michael B. Sporn, chief of the Laboratory of Chemoprevention in NCI’s Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, has been one of the innovators in the development of retinoids—chemical relatives of vitamin A that prevent malignant change in tissue culture and in animals exposed to carcinogens.

Retinoids that occur naturally have been shown in the past to exert control over the differentiation of epithelial tissues. One difficulty with these natural analogs was that they were toxic in both animals and man. Dr. Sporn has been involved in the development of less-toxic synthetic retinoid analogs and in testing them for effectiveness and safety.

Investigators at NCI and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons reported on the development of an immuno-logic technique that detects chemical bonding of a specific cancer-causing chemical to DNA.

Bonding of a carcinogen, or cancer-causing chemical, to DNA is believed critical to the carcinogenic activity of a chemical. However, the process by which a carcinogen transforms a normal cell into a cancer is not well understood.

The new immunologic technique, which uses a tool called a radioimmunoassay to detect very small quantities of a specific carcinogen-DNA bond, will be used initially to measure the amount of carcinogen bonded to DNA in animal or human tissues growing in laboratory cultures. The technique can be used both to measure how quickly the bonds disappear in cell culture, as well as to determine the relative abundance of various chemical-DNA bonds.

Separate teams of NCI researchers have reported findings suggesting that cells may be able to repair some damage to DNA caused by benzo(a)pyrene, a well-known cancer-causing chemical.

Both studies are based on analyses of DNA replication following treatment of DNA with diol epoxide I, a highly mutagenic and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) metabolite of benzo(a)pyrene and its less mutagenic sister molecule, diol epoxide II. Both metabolites can form chemical bonds with DNA.

Mental Health Study Needs 20 Volunteer Insomniacs

Twenty volunteer insomniacs are needed to participate in a 40-night study of insomnia. The 2-year research project is designed to study the mechanisms of the hypnotic effects of the drug flurazepam, a short-acting hypnotic, and its effects on insomnia. The study is being conducted by Dr. Wallace Mendelson of the Biological Psychiatry Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health.

Male and female insomniacs between the ages of 18 and 45 who are free from major medical illnesses and are not presently under psychiatric care are needed for the study. All volunteers will be given a complete physical before being admitted to the program. Participants will be required to spend 12 out of the 40 nights sleeping in the laboratory while sleep recordings and other tests are performed. During their stay, sleep patterns will be monitored and the drug flurazepam will be administered to the volunteers for part of the study. Study organizers also say that volunteer blood samples will also be taken and studied.

The research will be done in the Sleep Research Laboratory located in the Clinical Center. The study will begin as soon as volunteers are available and each volunteer will be paid for participating.

For further information call Cindy Gruenau, 496-6884.