Antique Medical Instruments on Display In New ACRF Museum of Medical History

By Dr. Victoria Harden

"Antique Medical Instruments" is a new exhibit in the ACRF. Displayed are medical devices in use before and after the 1850s, dating back to when Dr. Joseph J. Kinyoun established his one-room bacteriological laboratory that eventually became NIH. Many of the instruments are prototypes of the ones used today.

Sponsored by the NIH Museum of Medical Research, the exhibit is on loan to the NIH from the personal collection of Dr. Terry Hambrecht of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

Even before the germ theory was introduced, physicians had begun to develop innovative means to diagnose their patients' complaints. One section of the exhibit on diagnostic instruments contains some of many "scopes" invented in the 19th century, including the stethoscope, the ophthalmoscope, and the auriscope. An early reflex hammer and clinical thermometer also reflect the increasing importance of clinical data.

Until the 1880s, a belief that disease resulted from an imbalance in body fluids or "humors" led physicians to employ heroic measures such as bleeding and purging in an attempt to restore the humoral balance. A variety of bloodletting instruments are exhibited, such as lancets and cupping glasses, which drew blood to the surface of the skin.

The one successful preventive therapy available to physicians in the 19th century was smallpox vaccination, introduced in 1798 by Edward Jenner. Several varieties of vaccinators are shown, revealing their inventors' ingenious approaches to this procedure.

A portion of the exhibit traces the impact of the germ theory on surgery. Mid-19th century scalpels display ivory and ebony handles—beautiful, but potential carriers of infection. By 1890, they were made entirely of steel that could be sterilized before reuse. The most recent scalpel in the collection is dated 1970. Like many other hospital items, it is disposable.

Trips to the dentist's office today might seem less fearful after viewing the 1830 "tooth key" used to extract teeth. The pressure applied by a dentist using this instrument often produced broken jaws. Extractions and other dental procedures in 1830 were, of course, performed without any anesthetic.

The exhibit also demonstrates the impact on medicine of the 19th century revolution in communications. Early hearing aids, such as Mr. Little (l) and Dr. Murray Eden, chief, BEIB, DRS, look over Mr. Little's collection of antique instrumentation before its transfer to the new NIH Museum of Medical Research. They are examining the binocular head of a 1920 Bausch and Lomb DDE microscope. To the right is a 100-year-old physiological data recorder.

Little Donates a Lot of Memories to NIH

Norman Little recently bid a fond farewell to the collection of antique biomedical research instruments that he donated to the new NIH Museum of Medical Research. Mr. Little is supervisor of the mechanical unit of the research instrumentation section, Biomedical Engineering and Instrumentation Branch, Division of Research Services.

The oldest instrument (shown in accompanying photo) is a "Smoked Drum Physiological Data Recorder," built around 1885. A scientist using this instrument would cover the drum with waxed paper, discolor the paper with candle smoke, wind up the drum with a key, and register physiological data such as muscle contractions by means of a sharpened straw drawing a white line on the smoked paper. The speed of the drum was regulated mechanically. To preserve data, the paper would be shellacked.

Other objects donated to the new museum are parts of classic microscopes of the past.

Don't Get Burned!

Carelessness regarding radioactive materials continues to cause problems for NIH. Employees are not following procedures required when disposing or surplussing equipment used in research involving radioactive materials.

Recently, Radiation Safety staff were called to the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station because scrap refrigerators bearing CAUTION—RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS labels had been taken there for disposal, along with normal solid waste from NIH.

It violates regulations to dispose of any radioactive materials or any trash, surplus equipment, or other items contaminated with radioactivity by means of the County Solid Waste Transfer Station.

The scrap refrigerators were found to be free of radioactive contamination. However, it is illegal to dispose of any box, container, equipment, or other item bearing a radioactivity warning sign, even if the item is free of radioactive contamination.
ANTIQUES  
(Continued from page 1)  
as the one on display, were based on the same  
principle as the telephone. Although large  
and bulky, they provided a significant advance  
over the older ear trumpet.  

Packaging of medical supplies also changed  
during this period. Quinine, one of the few  
medicines that actually helped patients, was  
commonly packaged in the 1860s in a tin-plated  
iron box. Manufacturers of medical supplies,  
however, were quick to respond to new knowl­  
dge about microbial infection. Much of their  
advertising soon focused on the sterility of their  
products. A jar of aseptic gauze included in  
the exhibit was marketed by the Bauer & Black  
Company and advertised as “Blisterilized under  
the most approved aseptic methods.”  

Laboratory instruments, the final category  
featured, became more numerous and more  
sophisticated after the germ theory stimulated  
interest in scientific research. One tool of the  
researcher was color comparisons. Fleischl’s  
hemometer provided a method for researchers  
to determine the amount of hemoglobin in the  
blood. The Baltimore firm of Hynson, West­  
cott and Dunning, moreover, produced a color­  
imeter that measured renal function.  

While working on devices to assist the  
neurologically handicapped, Dr. Hambrecht re­  
searched the history of ideas behind modern  
nervous stimulating devices and became inter­  
ested in collecting such historical medical  
instrument. A few of the exhibited items were  
featured in the Nov. 5, 1985 issue of the NIH  
Record. The NIH Museum of Medical Research  
is pleased to provide the NIH community  
with an opportunity to enjoy Dr. Hambrecht’s  
collection. The exhibit will be on display  
through October 1987.  

Anyone may donate to the collection. Dr.  
Victoria Harden, curator, NIHMuseum of  
Medical Research, says that they’re, “interested  
in any instruments that were developed here  
and are no longer useful. Please don’t throw  
them away.” For more information call Dr.  
Harden, 496-6610.  

RADIATION  
(Continued from page 1)  
The warning labels can be useful when used,  
but can prompt unnecessary concern and need­  
less response by emergency personnel if used  
improperly or not removed when a potential ra­  
diation hazard no longer exists.  

All NIH users of radioactive materials and  
other NIH staff must be especially vigilant  
in making sure such violations do not occur.  
The requirements are simple:  
• No items contaminated with radioactivity  
are to be disposed of in the regular trash, trans­  
ferred to surplus or to the scrap yard.  
• After monitoring to ensure that such items  
are free of radioactive contamination, any ra­  
dioactivity warning signs, labels, tape, or other  
indicators must be completely defaced or re­  
moved. If contamination is found, the item  
must be decontaminated before disposal or else  
handled as radioactive waste. This includes  
the many empty boxes and containers in which  
radioactive materials were received.  

Persons responsible for violating these re­  
quired procedures will be asked to assist in  
monitoring, decontaminating if required, and  
removing warning labels from such items at  
the County Solid Waste Transfer Station.  

For further information, contact Radiation  
Safety at 496-5574.  

Refrigerators were sent to the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station in violation of proper proce­  
dures.
'Celebrating the Mentors'—NIDDK's Centennial Observation Honors Those Who Paved the Way

A series of 4 symposia honoring mentors will be conducted during a month-long celebration of NIH's centennial by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). According to Dr. Phillip Gorden, Director, NIDDK, "the mentors being honored in these symposia are a very special group, not only for their contributions to biomedical science, but also because of their influence on the scientific process and on individual scientists."

The Division of Intramural Research is sponsoring the four symposia entitled "Celebrating The Mentors." Each symposium will feature current and former scientists affiliated with the institute's intramural research program who have had substantial influence on the careers of fellow scientists for more than 4 decades. The symposia will honor Dr. Christian B. Anfinsen, Dr. Gordon M. Tomkins, Dr. J. Edward Rall, the winners of the Hillebrand Prize from NIDDK, and Dr. Percy L. Julian. Said Dr. Jesse Roth, Scientific Director, NIDDK, "the presentations by outstanding investigators will reflect the enormous influence that the mentors have had on the careers of the speakers and others in the institute."

The symposia will be held in the ACRF Amphitheater in the Clinical Center. Poster displays will follow each of them in the Visitors Information Center in the CC.

The first symposium honors Dr. Anfinsen, a Nobel laureate, professor of biology at Johns Hopkins University, and former chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemical Biology. It will begin on Sunday, Mar. 1 at 1:30 p.m. and continue on Monday, Mar. 2 at 9 a.m. The theme of the symposium, chaired by Dr. Alan N. Schechter, chief, Laboratory of Chemical Biology, is "Proteins: 25 Years After The Anfinsen Experiment."

Symposium II is in memory of Dr. Gordon M. Tomkins, who was NIAMD's (now NIDDK's) chief of the Section on Metabolic Enzymes and chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology during the early 60s. Later, Dr. Tomkins was professor of biochemistry and vice-chairman of the department of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco. The theme for the symposium scheduled on Monday, Mar. 9 at 8:55 a.m. is "Molecular Aspects of Cell Biology." Dr. Robert G. Martin, chief of the Section on Microbial Genetics, is the chairman.

Symposium III honors Dr. J. Edward Rall, former chief of the Clinical Endocrinology Branch, NIAMD; former Director of Intramural Research, NIADDK; former Acting Director for Sciences, NIH; and Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH. It will begin on Sunday, Mar. 22 at 1 p.m. and continue on Monday, Mar. 23 at 8:30 a.m. The theme of the symposium, chaired by Dr. Jacob Robbins, chief of the Clinical Endocrinology Branch, is "From Clinics To Basics."

Symposium IV honors Hillebrand Prize winners and also is being held in memory of Dr. Percy Julian. A tribute to chemistry in the institute, the theme is "Chemistry in a Biomedical Institute." The symposium pays tribute to Hillebrand Prize winners dating back to 1930 and includes the 1986 winners. "The Humanist as a Chemist" pays tribute to the late Dr. Percy L. Julian, noted chemist and member of NIAMD's Board of Scientific Counselors. The symposium, chaired by Dr. John W. Daly, chief of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, begins on Sunday, Mar. 29 at 4 p.m. and continues on Mar. 30 at 9 a.m.

The symposia are open to all interested persons. Advance programs are available from the Office of Health Research Reports, NIDDK. Contact Clementine Sessoms, Bldg. 31, Rm. 9A04, or phone 496-3583 for additional information.

NEI Scientific Director Delivers Jackson Lecture

Dr. Jin H. Kinoshita, NEI scientific director, delivered the 43rd Edward Jackson Memorial Lecture at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

His presentation marks the first time in 25 years that a nonophthalmologist has given the prestigious Jackson Lecture. In his talk, Dr. Kinoshita described how he and coworkers at NEI developed the concept that the enzyme aldose reductase is involved in a number of diabetic complications affecting the eye.

He told how they discovered that some of these complications in animals can be prevented by a new class of drugs called aldose reductase inhibitors. Also, he discussed the mounting evidence that suggests these agents hold great clinical promise as a means of preventing diabetic retinopathy and diabetic neuropathy.
NIH Honors 56 Promising Science Students

Fifty-six promising young science students—one from each state and U.S. possession—have been named NIH Centennial Scholars and will gather in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Feb. 28, for a special 3-day educational program.

“As part of its 100th anniversary observance, NIH is sponsoring this program in the hope of encouraging high school students to consider preparing themselves for careers in biomedical research. America’s leadership in biomedical research will quickly diminish without the infusion of bright, curious young people,” said Dr. James B. Wyngaarden, NIH Director.

Each NIH Centennial Scholar was asked to select the teacher who most influenced him or her. The teachers will accompany the students to Washington and participate in the full program.

“NIH wants to salute teachers who have inspired the scholars and other students toward careers in science. Moreover, it is hoped that the teachers will relate their experiences at NIH to additional students in future classes,” Dr. Wyngaarden added.

This first-of-its-kind program will feature a luncheon meeting with some of the Nobel Prize winners who have been associated with NIH. It will also include guided visits to NIH research facilities and to museums in the Washington area, and to the U.S. Capitol, where scholars and teachers will meet with Congressmen and Senators. Each scholar will receive a special certificate and a $250 scholarship toward college tuition at an awards ceremony in the Great Hall of the National Academy of Sciences.

The scholars were selected by the governors of their states. For the District of Columbia, the choice was made by the mayor, while for the U.S. commonwealths and territories, the selection was made by the highest official. The selection process was conducted in collaboration with the National Governors’ Association, based in Washington, D.C.

Funds for the entire program were donated by 14 major pharmaceutical companies, the National Council on Drugs, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Participation by these nongovernment organizations recognizes the fact that the past century of achievement in American biomedical research is the result of the combined efforts of the government, industry, and academia.

One goal of the NIH Centennial celebration, “A Century of Science for Health” is to educate the public about the health benefits resulting from biomedical research accomplishments during the past 100 years, and about the role NIH, academia, the private sector, and voluntary and professional organizations have played in these accomplishments. A second goal is to stimulate the interest of young people in biomedical research careers.

Later this year, there will be a major public television series about the accomplishments in medicine; an educational module keyed to the content of the series will be sent to the nation’s high schools.

PRAT Seminar Planned

Dr. Richard Weinshilboum will present “Pharmacogenetics of Thiol Methylation” as part of an NIGMS seminar on Wednesday, Mar. 11, at 2 p.m. in the ACRF Amphitheater, Clinical Center. The seminar is sponsored by the Pharmacology Research Associate (PRAT) Program—a 2-year postdoctoral training program.

Dr. Weinshilboum, chief of the clinical pharmacology unit and director of research at the Mayo Foundation and a professor at Mayo Medical School, Rochester, Minn., obtained his B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Kansas. He completed his internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

From 1969 to 1971, he was a PRAT fellow under Dr. Julius Axelrod in the Laboratory of Clinical Science, National Institute of Mental Health. He then returned to Massachusetts General Hospital as a senior resident, after which he went to the Mayo Foundation.

Dr. Weinshilboum is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Burroughs-Wellcome Scholar in Clinical Pharmacology in 1981.

Following the lecture, PRAT fellows will present informal poster sessions on the research they are conducting in the intramural laboratories of the NIH and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration.

Mystery Photograph Identified

A person identified only as an “Anonymous Old Fart” guessed the origin of last issue’s mystery photo.

Sneered the nameless sleuth, “If this feature is intended to stump the old timers, make it tougher.”

The picture showed six hostesses—selected to register and guide visitors at the National Equipment Exhibit, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, 1959—for an informal picture in George Hoff’s 1958 Ford Fairlane 500 convertible.

Seated (1 to r) are: Pat Bolton, Charlotte Schlosser, and Peggy Becker. Standing (1 to r): Becky Ann Gehart, Linda Weeden, and Babette Pickler. The picture originally ran in the Sept. 14, 1959, issue of this paper.

FAES Sponsors English Course

Registration is now open for an intensive course in Conversational English called ILPAN. The course begins Mar. 9 and ends Apr. 3. It will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and is designed for speakers of languages other than English.

Visiting fellows may be eligible for their institutes to pay for tuition. Interested persons should contact their administrative offices to request a training form. Spouses of registered participants are eligible to enroll in the class free of charge but must come to the FAES to register. The tuition is $80.

For further information, call 496-7976.
Training Expanded At Computer Center

NIH Computer Center's online training program has been expanded to include Introduction to WYLBUR, Document Formatting with WYLBUR, WYLBUR SET Commands and PROFILE, WYLBUR Multiple Active Files, Introduction to Program Logic, and Introduction to Job Control Language.

A new course, "Document Formatting with WYLBUR," teaches the student how to create indexes, tables of contents, heading, footing, and other features useful in generation of longer documents. These documents can be printed on high-speed laser printers at the Computer Center or at a remote printer convenient to the user's office. Scientific papers requiring multiple type faces can be formatted with this facility and then printed at the Computer Center on the 6670 scientific printing facility.

Online courses are popular with students and their supervisors because they are convenient and flexible. Students can take a lesson whenever workload permits, with no need for prior registration or travel from the office. Courses can be accessed at any time from any terminal or modem-equipped personal computer.

Most labs and offices at NIH already have the registered Computer Center accounts and initials needed to sign on.

To access the services, a user signs on to WYLBUR (by dialing 492-2221), typing a terminal access code and responding to the sign-on dialog. In most offices someone is familiar with the sign-on procedure; anyone who would like help can call the Computer Center's Training Unit for assistance, 496-2339.

In seconds you will be in WYLBUR. At this point all you have to do is type ENTER ABC for access to the menu of training courses. Printed lessons are available for those who would prefer them; call the Technical Information Office, 496-5431, to obtain a copy.

NIAAA Seeks Volunteers

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism is seeking normal volunteers between the ages of 8 and 17 to participate in a study designed to explore possible neuroendocrine abnormalities that may be genetically transmitted as a result of family alcoholism.

Volunteers must be free of medical illness, currently taking no medication and have no family history of alcoholism. Participants will be paid.

For further information, call Dr. Ted George, 496-0983.

Patient Emergency Fund Auction Set, April 8

The NIH Patient Emergency Fund (PEF) is running low. It needs your help. NIH employees are asked to donate their skills, interests, expertise, time, and new or unused items to the PEF auction.

The PEF auction will be held Apr. 8, in the Visitor Information Center (VIC) in Bldg. 10. A silent auction will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a live auction from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be available for purchase.

What is PEF?

Travel, food, and lodging expenses are often financial burdens to Clinical Center patients with marginal resources. The PEF assists these patients and their families when financial problems interfere with their participation in NIH studies at the Clinical Center.

Most CC patients travel from outside the Washington, D.C., area. Many of these patients such as children and the disabled must be accompanied by a family member or friend. The PEF helps defray local transportation costs, meals, and some lodging expenses. It also provides some necessities such as seasonal clothing, small appliance repair or replacement, or replacement of broken eyeglasses. It also provides funds for comfort items such as barber and beauty shop services, stamps, magazines, and newspapers.

How Can I Help?

PEF's not asking for money. Only your time, talents, and unused or new items. Donations might include: a gourmet meal for two; gardening services; a vacation home for a weekend; sailing, skiing, or tennis lessons; a car tuneup; a photo portrait; or cooking lessons. Other donations could include baked goods, craft items, artwork, or tickets to the theater or a sporting event. In addition, unused items in working condition may be donated. Members of departments or divisions may decide to join together to purchase an item or provide a service to donate.

Use your imagination. Be creative. Share something of yourself and help the PEF.

Contact the R&W Association, Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W30 or any R&W Gift Shop.

For further information, call 496-4600.

Taekwondo Club Offers Classes

The NIH R&W Taekwondo Club is offering instruction in self-defense and introductory karate on Mondays from 7:30 to 9 p.m., beginning Mar. 2. The $40 course is offered for adults and teenagers, women and men. Registration forms and information are available from Shelley Harlow, Bldg. 10, 496-4371, and Pam Settle, Westwood Bldg., 496-7826.
Blood Cholesterol Screening To Be Offered Tuesdays

A blood cholesterol screening program for NIH employees will be offered on Tuesday mornings beginning Feb. 24 and continuing throughout the month of March in the Bldg. 10 health unit. The Occupational Medical Service (OMS) and the Recreation and Welfare Association (R&W) are again pleased to sponsor this popular program.

Registration is as follows:
1. Pay $3 at one of the R&W stores: Bldg. 10, B1C06; Bldg. 38A, B1N07; Westwood Bldg., Rm. 10; the R&W Activities Desk, Bldg. 31, B1W30, or the NIH Fitness Center, Bldg. T39. An R&W representative will be present to collect money during Blair, Landow and Federal sessions.
2. Receive a lab form and envelope at time of payment.
3. Complete the following information on lab form: Name, age, sex and date blood is drawn.
4. Write your name and NIH mailing address on the front of the envelope.
5. You do not need to fast for this test. Simply go to one of the OMS Health Units to have sample drawn at the times listed below. Your blood sample will be sent to a local laboratory that has met the criteria of the CDC-NHLBI Lipid Standardization Program for cholesterol measurement. A total blood cholesterol level will be determined and the results, along with a letter of explanation, will be mailed to you within 2 weeks. This letter will explain the blood cholesterol value and, if necessary, refer you to your personal physician for further evaluation.

This blood cholesterol screening program was developed in collaboration with experts from the NHLBI National Cholesterol Education Program. A major emphasis of the program is to encourage all Americans to know their blood cholesterol number. Take advantage of this opportunity and have your level checked. Take a step to reduce your risk of heart attack by knowing your cholesterol number.

Changes Made in Tax Assistance

Effective immediately, Milton Hauft, income tax consultant, will be available to NIH'ers for income tax assistance on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and not on Fridays as before. He will be providing his service until Apr. 15.

A sign-up sheet is posted outside of Rm. B1W12 in Bldg. 31 for 15-minute appointments. Employees who need more time should indicate their preference. For more information, call 496-1355.

Yo! Commissioned Officers

Experts have planned a discussion of CHAMPUS and Survivor Benefits for commissioned officers. Representatives from the Office of Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Uniformed Services (OCHAMPUS), Navy Mutual Aid Association, and the Wisconsin Physicians Service will speak on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the ACRE Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, 7:30 p.m.

For further information, call Diane Rose, 496-4214.

R&W Offers Backpacking Classes

Beginners hiking and backpacking classes are being offered through R&W by Al Schneider of Wilderness Walks. The 5-hour class—Thursdays, Mar. 26 and Apr. 2, 7-9:30 p.m., Bldg. 31A, Conference Rm. A—is $26 ($20 for NIH employees and family).

For information on leisurely paced trips, call Al at 972-1582.
Centennial Committee Presents Concert in Masur

Miha Pogacnik, violinist, and Diedre Irons, pianist, will help NIH celebrate its centennial with a concert on Wednesday, Mar. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m., in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Dr. Albert Sabin, Nobel laureate, will be master of ceremonies for the evening. Admission is free to NIH employees, families and Clinical Center patients.

Pogacnik is recognized as one of the outstanding violin virtuosos of his generation. He was born in Yugoslavia in 1949 where he studied with Igor Ozim, Max Rostal, Henryk Szeryng and Josef Gingold. He is now a U.S. citizen. As soloist, he has played with orchestras on five continents, appearing in New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Budapest, Sydney, and in China, where he performed a violin concerto to an audience of over 1,200, including party and government officials who were spellbound by his rich, free individuality.

Canadian-born Diedre Irons began piano lessons at the age of 4, and at 10 made her solo debut with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. She has made solo appearances with orchestras under the batons of such conductors as Sir Ernest MacMillan, Boris Brott, and Arthur Fiedler. Her studies continued at the University of Manitoba, and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where she gained music degrees.

Two New Members Named To FIC Advisory Board

Two internationally known scientists, Dr. Maureen McGrath Henderson and Dr. Gaspar Garcia de Paredes, have been appointed to the Fogarty International Center Advisory Board.

Dr. Henderson is professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Washington in Seattle, where she also serves as director of the cancer control research program of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. She has done extensive research in cancer epidemiology and has served on numerous scientific committees.

Dr. Garcia de Paredes is an eminent surgeon and dean of the faculty of medicine at the University of Panama. He is currently a member of the board of Gorgas Memorial Institute and is on its executive committee. A former minister of health for the Republic of Panama, he also has served as president of the Pan American Health Organization. As a current member of its board, he is especially well versed in international affairs regarding third-world nations.

Grants Management Aided With Use of DB2 System

A DCRT branch collaborated with two institutes to demonstrate how the DB2 database management system could be used to manage grants (IMPAC) data. DB2 is an IBM database system with full operational support from the Computer Center Branch.

The general purpose capabilities of DB2 were used to design a system to manage the National Institute on Aging's Fiscal Year Ledger System (FYLS) that helps users enter and update grants data. It has an easy-to-follow online full-screen system and extensive data validation. FYLS takes advantage of DB2's concurrent update, data integrity, and backup/recovery facilities.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' DESKTOP system is designed to help persons with little or no computer experience access IMPAC by using a couple of simple prompts. DESKTOP formats the data into a customized report and displays it at the user's terminal.

Because of the success of these two collaborations, the branch has developed a joint presentation about the FYLS and DESKTOP systems. The first session, oriented from the grants management perspective, will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 4, at 2 p.m. in Bldg. 12A, Rm. B51.

The second more technical session, on Thursday, Mar. 5, at 2 p.m. in Bldg. 12A, Rm. B51, will present additional information on the application development involved in the FYLS and DESKTOP systems. Each session will probably run about 1½ hours, including live demonstrations and a question and answer period.

Grants management personnel throughout NIH, computer users and nonusers alike, are invited to attend. Seating is somewhat limited, so please contact the Computer Center, 496-9158, if you are interested.
Dr. Howard Eisen, Respected NICHD Scientist, Dies

Dr. Howard Eisen, 44, a physician and basic research scientist in the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, died at his home on Feb. 7.

A resident of Bethesda, Dr. Eisen was born in Newark, N.J., grew up in Newton, Mass. and went to high school in Hollywood, Fla. He graduated from Harvard College in 1964 and Harvard Medical School in 1969, cum laude.

Dr. Eisen came to NIH in 1972 to start his research career after an internship and residency in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital. His work at NIH was interrupted by a one-year gastroenterology fellowship at George Washington University Medical Center in 1974–1975. At his death, Dr. Eisen directed the Section on Regulation of Gene Expression, Laboratory of Developmental Pharmacology, NICHD.

Dr. Howard Eisen

Dr. Eisen's most important work was on elements in the nucleus to control the flow of genetic information from the nucleus to the cytoplasm. When he started in this area, it had not been possible to purify the glucocorticoid receptors. This roadblock frustrated research groups throughout the world because of the importance of these hormones in normal physiology and their wide use as therapeutic agents. He devised a novel procedure to purify the glucocorticoid receptor, based on his awareness of the interaction of the receptor with DNA. Using this procedure, Dr. Eisen obtained large amounts of the receptor protein and then characterized it. This procedure opened the door to an enormous amount of research and to great advances made within the past six years.

He extended this work by preparing the first useful antibodies against this receptor, and used these antibodies to visualize receptors and their movement within the cell. Dr. Eisen also worked with collaborators at NIH to develop highly selective steroid-like molecules to tag the receptor. These molecules, termed affinity-labelling steroids, were highly useful in studying the receptor, especially in identifying the precise portion of the molecule involved in steroid binding. This work is expected to lead to the synthesis of new and improved drugs either to mimic or block the effects of naturally occurring glucocorticoids.

Recently, working with colleagues at NIH, the University of Texas and Vanderbilt University, Dr. Eisen participated in the development of highly selective monoclonal antibodies that were then used by others to isolate the gene for the glucocorticoid receptor. These advances, and the indirect results of Dr. Eisen's work, have placed research on the glucocorticoid receptor well ahead of similar research on other steroid-binding molecules.

Dr. Eisen's career grew out of his boyhood fascination with the world around him. As a scientist, he worked productively and unselfishly in pursuit of truths about the fundamental nature of life.

Survivors include his wife, Laura; two sons, Michael and Jonathan, both students at Harvard College; a daughter, Lisa; a sister, Arlene Rosenthal of Coral Gables; a brother, Robert, of Boca Raton; and his parents, Ruth and Arnold Eisen of Miami.

Those who wish to honor Dr. Eisen may do so by contributing to a Howard J. Eisen Scholarship Fund (% office of the Scientific Director, NICHD, Bldg. 31, Rm. 2A50), which will be used to help support NIH guest researchers.

Batten's Disease Discussed In NINCDS Fact Sheet

Batten's disease is an inherited disorder of the nervous system that appears in infancy and childhood. A new fact sheet published by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke describes research to identify the as yet unknown causes of the untreatable brain disease. Also discussed are patterns of inheritance, symptoms at early and advanced stages, and information sources for patients and their families.

Although relatively rare, Batten's disease often strikes more than one person in families that carry the defective gene. Affected children gradually lose their mental abilities and motor skills, eventually becoming blind, bedridden, and demented. These changes are associated with a buildup of fatty pigments in cells of the brain, the eye, and other body tissues. Scientists are working to understand the causes of this abnormal storage and the nature of the genetic defect so that effective treatments can be devised.

Single copies of the Batten's disease fact sheet are available without charge from the Office of Scientific and Health Reports, NINCDS, Bldg. 31, Rm. 8A16, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892; telephone: (301) 496-5751.