Human Genome Office Attains Center Status

By Leslie Fink

NIH’s role in the human genome project, the worldwide effort to sort and characterize the body’s entire set of genetic instructions, took on new emphasis recently when a separate NIH center was established to fund and oversee the work. The new National Center for Human Genome Research (NCHGR), formerly the Office of Human Genome Research under the NIH director, will now be equivalent to other NIH institutes in its authority to award grants and plan and direct scientific research.

Directed by Dr. James D. Watson, the new center will distribute funds for research aimed at locating—and then analyzing the chemical structure of—all the genes on the 23 pairs of chromosomes contained in human cells. Scientists refer to the collection of all the genetic information in an organism as its genome.

Funds distributed by NCHGR will include grants for individual research projects as well as work in multidisciplinary centers, and support for graduate and postdoctoral training.

Before NCHGR was established, funds pegged for human genome research were administered by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

NCHGR became official on Oct. 1, 1989, when it was formally established by secretary of health and human services Dr. Louis Sullivan. As an independent center, NCHGR will receive directly from Congress monies earmarked for human genome research which, this year, will be about $60 million. The NCHGR is also equivalent to other NIH institutes in its role in advising the NIH director on matters relating to the center’s mission. In addition to being the focus within NIH for issues relating to human genome research, NCHGR works with other federal agencies to coordinate, plan and develop policy on this project.

NCHGR currently has a staff of about 30 employees and expects to raise that number eventually to about 40. As deputy director, Dr. Elke Jordan oversees the day-to-day business of NCHGR, which is housed in the Lister Hill Center (Bldg. 38A).

According to Watson, “Gene mapping and analysis will be the key tools of biology of the 21st century. When finally interpreted,” he says, “the genetic messages encoded within DNA molecules will provide the ultimate answers to the chemical underpinnings of...

‘Remember the Man … Remember the Dream’

Benjamin Hooks To Keynote King Commemorative Program

The NIH is sponsoring a program in commemoration of the birth, life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Friday, Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The theme of this year’s program is “Remember the Man … Remember the Dream.”

The program will feature Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he has served since 1977. He is a well-known and highly effective orator, a licensed minister, a businessman and a lawyer.

Prior to assuming directorship of the NAACP, Hooks was a commissioner with the Federal Communications Commission. He was cofounder and vice president of the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis for 15 years, from 1955 to 1969, a career he pursued while also working both in law and the ministry.

For several years, Hooks was an assistant public defender in Memphis, representing the legal interests of the poor and indigent. He practiced general law in Memphis and was later selected as the first black judge in Shelby County (Memphis) Criminal Court, where he served with distinction for several years.

Hooks has produced from Memphis and hosted his own television program, Conversations in Black and White, coproduced another, Forty Percent Speaks, and has been a panelist on What Is Your Faith. He attended LeMoyne College and Howard University, and received his J.D. degree from Depaul University College of Law in 1948.

Following the keynote address, the D.C.

January Is Designated Blood Donor Month

What do victims of a New Year’s Eve car accident, a mother giving birth, a teenager with leukemia and a patient undergoing heart surgery have in common? They are all potential blood recipients. The list of situations requiring blood seems to be growing every day, but one fact remains the same: there is still one source of blood—the volunteer donor.

With the manufacture of synthetic blood still in the future, voluntarily donated blood is still one of the best medicines available for the treatment of a wide range of illnesses.

January, National Blood Donor Month, has been set aside as the month to salute the volunteer blood donors who provide this resource and to draw attention to the constant need for new blood donors. Here at NIH there is a very strong reminder of the individuals who need our help. The Clinical Center supports many patients who require blood either one time or during an extended period of time. To meet these needs, the NIH blood bank (part of the hospital’s department of transfusion medicine) needs more than 40 volunteer blood donors every day.

Modern technology has increased medicine’s efficiency of blood usage. Whole blood can be

(See KING, Page 2)
DONOR MONTH

(Continued from Page 1)

divided into components and the patient can be given only the part he or she really needs. One blood donation could save three or four lives. However, this information should not leave the impression that the blood supply is overflowing. Just the opposite is true. Less than 5 percent of the eligible population of the United States donates blood. New donors are constantly being sought.

This month, the NIH blood bank honors the thousands of donors who have supported Clinical Center patients and NIH research needs. Everyone who has thought of giving blood is urged to start out the nineties by donating this month. For more information, or to make an appointment, please call 496-1048.

The NIH blood bank is currently located in temporary quarters on the fifth floor of Bldg. 10’s D wing. It will move to permanent quarters on the hospital’s new first floor wing soon; look for an announcement in the Record.

KING

(Continued from Page 1)

Youth Chorale Alumni Chorus will provide musical selections. Edward Jackson, currently director of the D.C. Youth Chorale at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., and a voice instructor, will direct the alumni chorus.

This program is sponsored by the NIH Division of Equal Opportunity and its 1990 MLK planning committee. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For further information or if accommodations for disabilities are needed, please contact Denise Banks or Irene Peyton in the Division of Equal Opportunity, 496-6301.

Clinic Needs Caregivers

The Whitman-Walker Clinic is a community-based organization that provides medical and social services to people living with AIDS and others who are HIV positive. The clinic relies on the generous support of volunteers who fill more than 30 volunteer positions. The clinic currently has a critical shortage of nurses, doctors and physician assistants. A couple of hours of volunteer work every week or month will assist greatly in serving a growing list of clients. Training and supervision is provided. Please call the Whitman-Walker Clinic, 797-3576.

History of Medicine Lectures

The Washington Society for the History of Medicine will meet Thursday, Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 38A, Rm. 1N30B, where two speakers will give talks. Dr. Martha Crawley of the National Archives will speak on ”Naval Hospital Corps 1898-1914,” and Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan will discuss ”Plagues and Politics.” Two hours of CME category 1 credit are offered.

Lecture Series on Taxes

Tax time is scary enough for Americans; it can be a nightmare for foreigners working in the United States.

The Fogarty International Center’s International Services and Communications Branch is hosting a free lecture series to help foreign scientists unravel the U.S. tax system.

The series of nine sessions will begin Jan. 12 and run through Apr. 6. The locations and time vary. The talks will cover federal and state annual returns, as well as such special issues as tax treaty benefits.

The series is open to NIH Visiting Program participants, nonimmigrant guest researchers and special volunteers, nonimmigrants on expert or expert consultant appointments, FIC scholars-in-residence, FIC international research fellows and other nonimmigrant scientists working officially at the NIH.

The ISCB also offers free, private tax consultations for NIH foreign scientists. The tax consultant will not prepare forms, but will advise scientists about problems and procedures.

Check with your intramural administrative office for a copy of the lecture schedule. For more details about the lectures, call 496-7357; to schedule a consultant appointment, phone 496-6166.
Michael Brown To Lecture on Genes and Cholesterol

Nobel laureate Dr. Michael S. Brown will be the featured speaker for the NIH Lecture, Jan. 17, at 3 p.m., in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. "Genes That Control Cholesterol" is the title of his talk, sponsored by NHLBI's Division of Intramural Research.

Director of the Center for Genetic Disease at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Brown is one of the seminal figures in cholesterol research. With his colleague Dr. Joseph Goldstein, he discovered the receptors that control the level of cholesterol in blood. For this fundamental advance, Brown and Goldstein shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985, as well as many more honors including the Lasker Award and the National Medal of Science.

A researcher and teacher at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas since 1971, Brown is now Paul J. Thomas professor of medicine and genetics, and holds the distinguished chair in biomedical sciences. Before starting his academic career in Texas, he spent 3 years as a researcher at NIH. One of his former institutes, NHLBI, has since supported much of the research that earned Brown and Goldstein high honors.

Brown received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and is now a trustee of that school. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, he holds honorary degrees from the University of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania, and L'Universite de Paris-Sud.

New Protein May Link Abnormal Development and Cancer Spread

Scientists at NCI have identified a novel protein, Nm23, which may be lost or reduced when cancer cells obtain the ability to spread to distant sites in the body. Mouse and human tumor cells with a high tendency to metastasize, or spread, have low levels of Nm23. In contrast, tumor cells that are less likely to spread have high levels of the protein. The scientists have also found that Nm23 is almost identical to a protein that plays a crucial role in fruit fly development.

Dr. Patricia S. Steeg of NCI's Laboratory of Pathology initially identified the nm23 gene, which produces the Nm23 protein. She and her coworkers reported their findings in a recent issue of Nature.

"Low levels of Nm23 protein correlated with an increased tendency for the tumor cell to spread," Steeg said. "Since it is tumor metastasis, or spread, that kills most cancer patients, Nm23 protein levels could be important tools for cancer prognosis and possibly treatment."

Dr. Ariella M. Rosengard, also of the Laboratory of Pathology, explained that "the Nm23 protein could aid in prognosis if its levels in patients' tumors prove to correlate with the development of recurrent cancer." She added that "predicting the course of an illness is important to physicians because it helps them to select appropriate treatment."

In some patients whose cancers are detected early, for example, the patients will be cured by surgery alone. But in a significant minority, the disease will recur because microscopic deposits have spread throughout the body. If doctors could identify patients at high risk of recurrence, they could offer those patients chemotherapy while sparing other patients the discomfort, risks and expense of additional treatment.

Genes furnish the blueprints for making specific proteins needed by a cell. From the DNA sequence of the nm23 gene, the researchers were able to predict the composition of its corresponding protein. This protein, they found, was 78 percent identical to the predicted protein product of a recently reported fruit fly gene called awd (abnormal wing discs).

"The extraordinary degree of conservation of nm23 during evolution from fruit fly to man suggests that this gene may play a central role in development," said Dr. Lance A. Liozta, chief of the Laboratory of Pathology. "There's reason to believe that the role of Nm23 protein in humans is similar to the role played by the Awd protein in fruit flies."

Dr. Allen Shearn of Johns Hopkins University, who studies the awd gene, noted, "Mutations in the awd gene, or decreased levels of its encoded protein, cause abnormalities in fruit fly development, leading to death at an early stage." The deformities include abnormal structure and differentiation of numerous body parts. They are similar to changes seen during tumor progression and spread—a process that the researchers have found to be associated with reduced levels of Nm23.

"This is one of the first examples that has been found of a developmental gene that is also associated with tumor metastasis," Liozta noted. "The fact that loss of the Nm23/Awd protein is associated both with metastasis and with developmental defects implies a molecular link between these two processes. Deeper insight into this connection could give us clues that will help us understand and deal with cancer."
GENOME
(Continued from Page 1)

human existence.”

The development of recombinant DNA
technology in the early seventies provided the
basis for the techniques that now allow scien-
tists to determine the order of the units,
called bases, that make up DNA. DNA is the
chemical substance genes are made of. Even
today, though, only the relatively small and
simple genomes of viruses have been fully
sequenced. The genome of the
cytomegalovirus, for example, considered one
of the largest virus genomes, contains about
240,000 bases organized into 22 genes.

By comparison, the large and complex
human genome is estimated to contain about
3 billion bases, organized into some 100,000
genes. So far, the largest human gene to be
sequenced directs the production of a protein
known as human growth hormone and con-
tains about 70,000 bases.

For several years, mapping and sequencing
human genes has been carried out as a funda-
mental scientific endeavor in laboratories
around the world. The aim of the human
genome project is to coordinate and focus
these individual efforts toward the common
goal of determining the exact structure of the
molecules of human heredity. Done randomly,
says Watson, the project would take far too
long and would cost many times more than
the $3 billion he estimates the unified project
will require.

Knowing what human genes look like will
open doors to understanding how they work.
Knowledge about gene function will, it is
hoped, lead to new ways to identify and treat
many of the thousands of known human dis-

cases caused by defective genes. The
information may also help researchers and doc-
tors understand and treat other conditions
such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes that
seem to run in families.

In the first phase of the project, scientists
will begin a coordinated task of mapping each
of the human chromosomes. This involves
breaking down the DNA in each chromosome
into manageable pieces and identifying the
proper position of each piece on the chromo-
some. In the process, many of the 100,000
human genes will be identified. This phase is
expected to take about 5 years.

During this time, biologists, computer scien-
tists, engineers and chemists will develop
new technologies that will enable them to
break down and analyze the order of the DNA
bases at a lower cost and greater speed than is
now possible. This process, called gene
sequencing, will make up the second phase of
the project and is expected to take about 15
years to complete.

NINDS Study Shows Parkinson’s Disease Slowed by Deprenyl

By Frances Taylor

The drug deprenyl delays the progression of
symptoms in patients with early Parkinson’s
disease, according to recent reports from a
major NINDS-supported clinical study.
Parkinson’s disease—a progressive, disabling
brain disorder—afflicts more than 500,000
Americans.

Study coordinator Dr. Ira Shoulson of the
University of Rochester believes deprenyl is
the first treatment to slow the progress of a
degenerative neurological disorder. “Our cur-
cent data suggest,” he and his colleagues
reported, “that deprenyl . . . may delay the
onset of severe disability by ameliorating an
underlying process of Parkinson’s disease.”

The clinical trial thus far has also demon-
strated that patients taking deprenyl are able
to continue working full-time longer because
deprenyl delays disability.

Parkinson’s patients experience tremor, stiff-
ness and loss of voluntary muscle control as
cells in the brain’s substantia nigra die.
Because these cells produce the chemical mes-
senger dopamine, their loss disrupts
movement-related communication in the brain.

The current therapy for Parkinson’s dis-
ease—levodopa—bolsters dopamine levels but
does not stop cell death. Because levodopa
alleviates Parkinson’s symptoms without slow-
ing the neuronal destruction that causes them,
its effectiveness in many patients declines with
time.

In the deprenyl study, which is the largest
clinical trial ever conducted for Parkinson’s
disease, 100 physicians and scientists studying
800 patients treated half the group with
deprenyl and the other half with another
experimental treatment or a placebo. During
the first year of treatment, 44 percent of the
patients not receiving deprenyl declined to the
point of needing levodopa to maintain their
normal daily activities. But over the same
period, only 24 percent of the patients given
deprenyl required levodopa.

“The results translate into a delay in the
development of disability of nearly one year,”
the scientists wrote, “and an extended capacity
for full-time employment.” In fact, the results
were so promising that the scientists modified
the study to place all 800 patients on deprenyl
therapy in order to investigate the long-term
beneﬁts of the treatment.

Normal Volunteers Needed

The Developmental Endocrinology Branch,
NICHD, is recruiting healthy women as well as
infertile women for clinical research studies.
Candidates must be 18-50 years old and have
regular menstrual cycles. They should not be
currently taking chronic medication, including
birth control pills.

Studies last for one menstrual cycle and
require frequent blood drawing and an endo-
metrial biopsy. Compensation is available. For
further information, call 496-4244.
Management Intern Program Offers Career Opportunities

Are you interested in management careers in administrative services, budget, grants and contracts, personnel, program planning or public information?

The NIH Management Intern Program (MIP) has trained individuals demonstrating high potential for these careers and others and is now accepting applications for the FY 90 program. Past interns have come from a variety of backgrounds such as nursing, support staff, biology and chemistry.

The program provides specialized training for selected individuals to prepare them for careers at NIH. The program permits 12 to 15 months of rotational job assignments, which introduce interns to a variety of careers in administrative management. Experience is supplemented by formal and informal training. Upon completion of the MIP, interns are qualified for positions such as administrative officer, budget analyst, grants management specialist and personnel management specialist. Graduates have been and continue to be a primary source of future senior managers at NIH.

Application forms are available now in the NIH Training Center, Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C29. Applications must be completed and received by Feb. 28.

To be eligible to apply, individuals must have a career or career conditional appointment; be a DHHS employee; be willing to work full time; and be at least a GS-5 level employee (positions are offered at the GS-5, 7, and 9 levels; employees above the GS-9 level may be eligible to take a down grade but retain their salary).

Information on the program, application and selection process is provided at the sessions listed below. All sessions are held from 11 a.m. to noon except where noted by the asterisk. Interested persons are encouraged to attend one of the information sessions listed below before completing the application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>10/11th fl. solarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>31/Conf. Rm. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>GRC/1-117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Federal/P1-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Parklawn/Conf. Rm. H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Jan. 23</td>
<td>10/95235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5-6 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>EPNI/AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>HHS Bldg./703A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>36/1B13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, call the NIH Training Center, 496-6211.

Science Teachers Needed

A few good instructors are needed to teach college level and graduate courses related to biology and genetics in the FAES Graduate School.

Course work is in biology, cell biology, botany, developmental biology, cellular physiology, neurobiology, microbiology, microbial genetics, microbial development, yeast genetics, drosophila genetics, human genetics, population genetics, biological signaling, molecular biology, genetic engineering, molecular evolution, etc.

Please contact Michael Cashel, 496-0619.

MARC Meeting Draws Scholars

The NIGMS Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program recently sponsored its eighth MARC scholars conference and program directors meeting at the Bethesda Hyatt Regency Hotel. More than 1,100 individuals attended, including 425 MARC students from colleges and universities with substantial minority enrollments.

The conference was used as a forum to enhance communications among MARC trainees, program directors and NIH staff.

Students supported by the NIGMS Minority Access to Research Careers Program listen to Dr. John Inman, chief of the bioorganic chemistry section of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunology, discuss his research.

During the 3-day meeting, minority students who plan careers in biomedical research heard presentations by leading scientists. The students also held poster sessions and gave oral presentations on their research in such areas as cell biology, immunology, physiology, microbiology, psychology, genetics and pharmacology.

One of the meeting's highlights came when HHS Secretary Dr. Louis W. Sullivan addressed the attendees during a seminar held at NIH. Following the seminar, the MARC students toured 43 NIH laboratories to learn about research in progress. Also participating in the events that day were a number of students from Washington area high schools.

The MARC program is administered by NIGMS in collaboration with other NIH institutes. One of the program's goals is to strengthen science curricula and research opportunities at institutions with substantial minority enrollment in order to prepare students for careers in biomedical research. Toward this end, the institute offers through MARC undergraduate research training grants for students in their third and fourth years of college to prepare them to compete successfully for entry into graduate programs leading to Ph.D. degrees in the biomedical sciences.
Fauci Receives 'Flame of Hope' Award from Lupus Institute

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was recently honored by the Terri Gotthelf Lupus Research Institute with the annual Flame of Hope Award for his "contributions to basic and clinical research on the immune system." The ceremony took place in the Capitol Hill office of Congressman Christopher Shays (R-Conn.).

Theodore Gotthelf, chairman of the board of trustees for the Lupus Research Institute, said, "We honor Dr. Fauci for his ongoing leadership in immune research. His work in lupus research has been invaluable, not only in understanding lupus as it relates to the immune system, but also in laying the foundation for new treatments of these complicated diseases."

Gotthelf who went on to note that Fauci has become a national and international spokesman on AIDS research and potential treatments, continued, "Dr. Fauci's earlier work with lupus research and the regulation of the immune system prepared him for the enormous challenge he now faces."

In accepting the award, Fauci said, "I am honored to be selected for this award. The study of lupus has probably shed more light on the complexities of immune function and given us more insight into a vast array of diseases than any other single disease. Efforts of a number of investigators in lupus research have been beneficial not only for lupus patients, but also for all mankind in understanding one of the most important systems of the body—the immune system."

The Lupus Research Institute's mission is to increase public awareness and knowledge of lupus and its symptoms. The institute's major focus is sponsorship of the lupus scholar research program, which supports young scientists under the supervision of senior investigators for 3-year periods at research facilities throughout the country. The goal is to create a cadre of individuals who will pursue lupus research as a career.

The institute is named for the late Terri Gotthelf, who died of lupus at the age of 21 in 1981. She and her father, Theodore, decided to establish the Terri Gotthelf Lupus Research Institute to help others learn more about the disease and find its cause and cure.

Workshop on Monkey Behavior

A workshop on "Monkey Behavior and Laboratory Issues" will be held Friday, Jan. 26, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

Discussion will focus on behavioral and social needs of nonhuman primates in relation to their well-being, and optimal methods of conducting biomedical research with primates.

Workshop leaders will be Dr. Melinda Novak, University of Massachusetts and New England Regional Primate Research Center, and Dr. William Mason, University of California, Davis, and California Regional Primate Research Center. Faculty are primatologists from various research institutions.

The workshop is open to NIH intramural scientists, facility managers, veterinarians, technicians and animal care staff working with monkeys.

For more information, contact the Office of Animal Care and Use, 496-5424.

Fauci Receives 'Flame of Hope' Award from Lupus Institute

Mineo Named to NIEHS Grants Post

David L. Mineo has been named chief of the Grants Management Branch within the Division of Extramural Research and Training, NIEHS.

He will be responsible for administration of more than 300 active extramural grants to universities and other nonprofit research institutions throughout the United States. These include individual research grants, center grants to Environmental Health Sciences Centers and Marine and Freshwater Biomedical Research Centers, as well as training grants.

Mineo comes to NIEHS from its sister institute in NIH, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, where he was chief of the Grants Management Branch. He is a graduate of American University in business administration.

Banner Joins NIA Neurosciences

Dr. Carl Banner has joined the neuroscience and neuropsychology of aging program at the National Institute on Aging as a health scientist administrator. He was previously a senior staff fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at NINDBS.

At NIA, Banner will direct the extramural research program on the etiology of Alzheimer's disease. He said he considers this a particularly exciting time to be working in this field. Molecular biologists have made significant progress in characterizing the neuropathological markers that accompany this severe form of dementia. In addition, recent advances have been made in finding a genetic locus associated with a familial form of Alzheimer's disease.

Banner received his Ph.D. in cellular and developmental biology from Harvard University in 1983.

Furniture Donations Sought

Help give foreign scientists a leg up—a chair or table leg, that is. The Fogarty International Center needs furniture to loan to some of the 2,000 foreign scientists carrying out research on campus.

The loans are handled by the FIC's Foreign Scientist Furniture Loan Service (FSFLS), which relies solely on private donations. Currently, the service has a severe shortage of such items as beds and bedding, tables, chairs, kitchen supplies, sofas, dressers and bookcases.

Donations are tax-deductible. They pay another dividend, too—they give donors a jump on their spring cleaning. Anyone interested in donating usable goods should contact Helena Safarova, FSFLS manager, Bldg. 35, Rm. B301, 496-6318.

The NIH Toastmasters Club, now in its 20th year, recently elected new officers for the first 6 months of 1990. They are (from I) Louise McHugh, secretary; Janice Anderson, sergeant-at-arms; Jennie Hunt, president; Mary Graham, administrative vice president; Ann Russo, treasurer. All are welcome to attend club meetings held each Friday in Bldg. 10, Rm. 2C210.
Lockshin Named NIAMS Extramural Program Director

Dr. Michael D. Lockshin, an authority on systemic lupus erythematosus, was recently appointed director of the extramural program at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

As director of this program, he will oversee the development, review and funding of grants and contracts for NIAMS. Lockshin will be responsible for NIAMS's almost 800 active grants that support a full range of basic scientific and clinical research. Additionally, he will manage the institute's research centers in arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases and its research training program, which includes more than 200 fellowships, career awards and institutional training awards.

Lockshin will advise and participate with the institute's national advisory council in identifying and assessing the needs and requirements for research and manpower development. In addition, he will advise the institute director on all matters and policies pertaining to the extramural program.

Before coming to NIAMS, Lockshin was professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College; attending physician at the New York Hospital; attending physician and associate scientist at the Hospital for Special Surgery and a consultant in rheumatology at Memorial Hospital Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

A native of Ohio, Lockshin received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1959 and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1963. From 1963 to 1968, he served as an intern and then a resident at Bellevue Hospital and Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York City. During this period, he also served as an epidemic intelligence service officer at the Communicable Diseases Center in Atlanta and assistant professor of epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. From 1968 to 1970, he served as a fellow in rheumatology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

"As a former grantee of NIAMS, I have a strong feeling for the mission of the institute," Lockshin said. "My career to date has bridged both the clinical and the research worlds, and I look forward to a new and exciting challenge as director of the NIAMS extramural program."—Barbara A. Weldon

Lee Appointed Chief of NICHD's Biometry And Mathematical Statistics Branch

Dr. Young Jack Lee has been appointed chief of the Biometry and Mathematical Statistics Branch in the Prevention Research Program of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. He began his appointment as chief in October after 9 years as a mathematical statistician in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

"As a branch chief, I am responsible for setting the direction of the branch," Lee says. "My goals are statistical excellence and responsible collaboration with other members of the institute."

A native of Korea, Lee came to NIH in 1977 when he joined the National Cancer Institute as an IPA from the University of Maryland. From 1977 to 1979, he designed and reviewed clinical trial protocols, as well as analyzed data, for NCI. In 1979, Lee was appointed statistician in NCI’s Carcinogenesis Testing Program, where he remained until 1980.

From 1980 to the present, Lee served as a mathematical statistician in NINDS. In addition to performing statistical consultation and collaboration for the institute’s projects, he conducted research in statistical methodology and established and operated a statistical coordinating center. While at NINDS, Lee also worked on a project studying the long-term effects of the anticonvulsant phenobarbital on cognition in children.

Lee obtained his B.S.E.E. degree from Seoul National University’s College of Engineering. He has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in statistics from Ohio State University.

Lee is active in several professional societies, including the American Statistical Association, the Biometric Society and the Society for Clinical Trials. He has published numerous articles on both statistics and biostatistics, as well as other subjects. He is an editorial board member of the American Journal of Mathematical and Management Sciences and a reviewer for the Mathematical Review.—Anne Blank
Lecture/Film Series Focuses on Stress


A combination of seven lecture presentations and seven films will be presented on the NIH campus. Each lecture and film presentation will be offered in the same time period—noon to 1 p.m.—throughout the series. The purpose of the series is to provide information to the NIH community on the effects of rapid social change and transition on the individual, the family and the workplace.

Each month a presentation followed by a question and answer session will be led by an expert in the field focusing on various aspects of our lives in transition. On the week following the lecture, a film on the topic and a small group discussion will be offered. The schedule for the lectures and film presentations is listed below.

January
Beyond Grief: Renewal Strategies for Dealing With Loss
Elizabeth Kobren, R.N., M.A.
Tuesday, Jan. 16, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
Film: The Ameche Family
Wednesday, Jan. 24, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

February
Coping With Diversity: The Black Experience
Arthur Henderson, M.D.
Wednesday, Feb. 14, Lipots Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.
Film: Legacy of a Dream
Wednesday, Feb. 21, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

March
Joining Forces: Balancing Out Work and Family Demands
Michael Studier, Ph.D.
Monday, Mar. 19, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
Film: Achieving Balance: How to Handle the Stress of Work and Family Life
Wednesday, Mar. 28, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

April
The Wounded Family: Dealing With Family Violence
Nancy Penne, M.S.W.
Thursday, Apr. 12, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
Film: To A Safer Place
Wednesday, Apr. 18, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

May
When Food Is a Problem: Taking a Look at Eating Disorders
Sonja Lange
Wednesday, May 16, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
Film: The Slender Trap
Wednesday, May 23, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

June
Co-Dependency: When Helping You Is Hurting Me
Andrew Sparker, R.N.
Wednesday, June 20, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
Film: It's Your Problem
Wednesday, June 27, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

July
The Good News About Depression
Norman Wilson, M.D.
Wednesday, July 11, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
Film: Dating With Depression
Wednesday, July 18, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

NIH Communicators Collect Kudos from NAGC

NIH’s public information community collected colorful kudos recently; the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) recently announced the 1989 winners in the largest ever of its annual Gold Screen and Blue Pencil competition. More than 700 entries nationwide vied for the Blue Pencil honors that NAGC gives to outstanding publications. The promise of a Gold Screen prize, awarded for outstanding audiovisual materials, drew more than 150 competitors. NIH winners and titles of their work are listed below.

The National Cancer Institute captured nine Blue Pencil Awards:

"Chew or Snuff Is Real Bad Stuff," a brochure submitted by Paul Van Nevel, won honorable mention in the category for best four-color general brochure.
In the category for best two- or three-color publication for a general audience, NCI’s A Time of Change/De Nima a Mujer won second place; Chris Thomsen won honorable mention for his What You Need to Know About Cancer series.
In the category for best two- or three-color publication for a technical audience, NCI’s Advocacy Institute won first place for its Media Strategies for Smoking Control.
Two honorable mentions—Quit for Good Kit and Patients Helping Progress: Cancer Clinical Trials Press Kit—as well as second place How To Help Your Patients Stop Smoking were awarded to NCI in the category for best four-color publication for a technical audience.
"Bonanza Sweepstakes Bags Millions for Cancer Groups—How Much for Cancer?" a feature story submitted by Kate Ruddon, won third place in its category.

Nancy Brun collected third place for her "National Cancer Institute 1989 Nutrition Calendar/Poster Series" in the visual design category.
The Clinical Center claimed two Blue Pencils and a Gold Screen: Medicine for the Layman — Relieving Pain, Stroke Update, Alzheimer’s Disease, by Irene Haske, Mary Hepburn and Ellyn Pollack, won first place for best one-color general audience publication.
Wendy Schubert of the CC took second place for her one-color technical audience publication, Cultural Influences on Health Care.
"PORTACATH: Patient Information," a videotape by Harriet Bennett, formerly of the CC, received honorable mention in its category.
Other NIH awardees included Mary Sullivan of the Office of Communications, OD, whose News and Features from NIH—Special Issue—Women’s Health won third place in the category for one-color general audience publications.
The National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse won third place in the two- or three-color general audience publication category for The Diabetes Dictionary, submitted by Beatrice Jakubowski of NIDDK.
Editors Diane Striar of NHLBI and Louise Williams of FIC collaborated on the two- or three-color general audience honorable mention, Developmental Speech and Language Disorders.
Award winners received their honors at a banquet held recently at the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel in Arlington.—Carla Garnett
FIC Scholar Lauded for Scientific Achievements

By Louise Williams

Dr. Viswanathan Sasisekharan is having a good year. In fact, the Fogarty International Center scholar-in-residence is having several good years all at once.

The Indian biophysicist has won three prestigious awards—two given annually for scientific achievement and a third honoring 40 years of accomplishment.

He received the Shri Om Prakash Bhasin Award for Science and Technology in the field of biotechnology. Given by India's National Academy of Sciences, the award prompted an Indian newspaper to dub Sasisekharan and his coworkers “the country’s top 10 scientists.”

He also won the Jagdish Chandra Bose Award for research in the life sciences. The award commends achievement in such disciplines as the life, physical and chemical sciences. It is funded by a trust, run by the Indian government’s university grants commission, which oversees institutions’ funding and curricula.

Finally, Sasisekharan was chosen to exemplify 40 years of achievement in Indian science—an award honoring his country’s statehood. The special honor was created by the Watumull Foundation, an organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii, that funds such public service projects as a reforestation program in India. The awards were given to one individual each from such disparate fields as science, sports and the arts.

All three awards pay tribute to Sasisekharan’s investigations of the structure-function relationship in macromolecules. Perhaps most significant has been his work on the conformations of proteins, the structure of nucleic acid and drug-deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) interactions.

For example, he and colleagues have been looking at antitumor and anticancer drugs that bind to DNA. They have synthesized analogs of naturally occurring molecules that apparently derive their biological activity from their geometrical shapes, which curve to permit DNA bonding. The investigators have synthesized analogs of distamycin and netropsin, changing the curvature of the naturally occurring molecules’ backbones. The synthesized analogs are as toxic as their natural counterparts and may ultimately prove therapeutically effective against some cancers. However, Sasisekharan stresses that much more work lies ahead and that his investigations have dealt only with the drugs’ physical chemistry—he has not performed biological tests with them.

Sasisekharan refers to these investigations as his “bread and butter” work, and they have brought him more than accolades. They also helped propel him to a high academic standing. Prior to taking up his scholar's residency last April, the 56-year-old Sasisekharan served as dean of the science faculty, chairman of the division of biological sciences, and professor of biophysics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore in southern India.

Still, scientists do not live by bread and butter alone, and Sasisekharan found his many administrative duties left too little time for research. So, he accepted an invitation to become a Fogarty scholar.

He was nominated for the award by Drs. H. Todd Miles and David R. Davies, chiefs of the sections of organic chemistry and molecular structure, respectively, of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Sasisekharan is the fourth Fogarty scholar from India, and he is finding the NIH “an ideal place” for getting back to full-time research. Lately, his interests have drawn him into mathematical realms, specifically irrational numbers and geometrical methods for generating aperiodic lattices, as he ponders nature’s seeming preference for certain symmetries and whether or not noncrystallographic symmetries can develop.

“The NIH has afforded me the opportunity and freedom to do what I want, and I don’t think I could enjoy it more,” he says.

He plans to continue these studies on returning to Bangalore next spring, when he resumes his professorship at the Indian Institute of Sciences.

NCNR Funds Centers For Nursing Research

NCNR grants totaling more than $1.3 million have been awarded to schools of nursing at four universities to develop exploratory or specialized centers for nursing research. The schools are: University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania and University of Washington.

A specialized research center grant was awarded to Dr. Nancy F. Woods at the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle to develop a Center for Women's Health Research. The 5-year grant will support studies focusing on midlife issues: symptoms that may be associated with stress or reproductive hormone transition; the waning of fertility; recovery from alcohol and drug abuse; the effects of ovarian hormones on intestine function and sleep patterns with aging.

Dr. Ruth McCorkle of the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, has received a specialized research center grant for advancing care in serious illness. The 5-year award will concern improving recovery from surgery, facilitating adaptation to cancer diagnosis, and studying the health effects of bereavement.

A 3-year grant has been awarded to Dr. Sue K. Donaldson at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing to establish an exploratory center focusing on long-term care of the elderly. Feasibility studies will concern alcohol treatment for older persons, prevention of falls, methods of discharge planning and issues in family caregiving.

Dr. Jacqueline M. Dunbar of the University of Pittsburgh has received a 3-year award to establish a Center for Research in Critical Care Nursing. The exploratory center grant will concern such issues as improved patient safety during mechanical breathing, social support and recovery, and causes of injury in children.

For further information, contact the NCNR Division of Extramural Programs, 496-0523.

Salute to Youth Dinner

Members of the NIH community are cordially invited to the 1990 Salute to Youth Dinner. This year’s honorees are the Honorable Constance A. and Mr. Anthony Morella. The event will take place on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, with dancing to Richard Bray’s Orchestra and dinner. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are $150 each; proceeds benefit Bethesda Youth Services programs for the prevention of substance abuse. Call Randy Schools, 496-6061, or Bob Caldwell, 530-3725, if you would like to have a formal invitation.
Marvin Cassman Named NIGMS Deputy Director

Dr. Marvin Cassman was recently appointed deputy director of NIGMS. Prior to this assignment, he served as director of NIGMS' Biophysics and Physiological Sciences Program.

"Biomedical research is one of my top priorities and Dr. Cassman's broad expertise in such rapidly advancing areas as structural biology, biophysics and instrumentation development make him eminently qualified for his new position," said Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, HHS secretary. "In addition to his scientific proficiency, Dr. Cassman possesses the administrative skills needed to manage research programs not only in such established fields as genetics and cellular biology, but also in biotechnology, structural biology and other areas that will continue to grow in importance in the 21st century."

As deputy director, Cassman will aid the NIGMS director in executing policies, coordinating activities and allocating the resources of NIGMS. In addition, he will represent NIGMS at NIH forums and in dealings with other agencies, outside scientific organizations and international scientific groups.

Cassman joined NIGMS as a health scientist administrator in 1975 and was appointed chief of the molecular basis of disease section in 1978. One of his accomplishments during this period was the launching of a program to fund the purchase of scientific instruments that are shared among researchers at a grantee institu-

Harald Løe Honored by Norwegian Government

Dr. Harald Løe, director of the National Institute of Dental Research for the past 7 years, was recently appointed Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit by King Olav V of Norway.

The Order of Merit is presented to those whose accomplishments further Norwegian interests and international relations between Norway and other countries. Løe was recognized for his extensive contributions to his field of dental research both in the United States and his native country.

The title of Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was conferred upon Løe at a ceremony in the Embassy of Norway in Washington, D.C. The Norwegian ambassador, Kjeld Vibe, presented him with a gold cross and a diploma citing the appreciation of King Olav. In his speech, Ambassador Vibe complimented Løe on his contributions to research and said, "Throughout his work, Dr. Løe has also contributed towards bringing our two nations closer together."

Løe is an internationally renowned expert on periodontal disease. He was the first to prove that bacteria in plaque cause gingivitis. Further research led him to the development of an experimental mouth rinse that can reduce gingivitis—the first stage of gum disease. The mouth rinse is now used widely in Europe and the U.S.

NIGMS Director Kirschstein Honored

Dr. Ruth L. Kirschstein, NIGMS director, was recently selected by the Office of Personnel Management for its 1989 "Profiles in Excellence," a part of OPM's organizational excellence project that was launched last year to identify, document and disseminate information on outstanding leadership and organization practices in the federal government.

Kirschstein was cited for leadership that "established an international reputation for the institute and built consensus and support in the scientific community and Congress."

Prior to becoming NIGMS director in 1974, Kirschstein was an intramural scientist who developed a test to ensure the safety of viral vaccines such as those used for polio, measles and rubella. As a result of her work and that of her staff, the 'Sabin strains' were selected as the safest for the oral polio vaccine, which virtually eliminated the incidence of polio in the United States.

"Profile" honorees may be federal executives as well as organizations. Nine other 1989 winners include the Centers for Disease Control, the Social Security Administration and secretary of energy James D. Watkins.

Tickets on Sale at R&W

R&W has discount tickets on sale now for the following upcoming Kennedy Center events:

Feb. 17 - Beaux Arts Trio, $20
Mar. 17 - Dance Theatre of Harlem, $29
Mar. 31 - American Ballet 50th Anniversary Celebration, $32
Apr. 27 - National Symphony Orchestra, $22.50
May 4 - Tokyo String Quartet/WPAS, $25.50
May 25 - Pearl Bailey with Louis Bellson, $27

Order your tickets at any R&W. For more information call 496-4600.
**TRAINING TIPS**

The NIH Training Center of the Division of Personnel Management offers the following:

**Courses and Programs**

- Management and Supervisory 496-6371
- Using Animals in Intramural Research:
  - Guidelines for Investigators
  - Federal Budget Process
  - How to Write and Publish Scientific Papers
  - Creative Basics for Changing Workplaces
  - Good Starts: Transition Planning
  - Working With Personal Differences MBTI II
- Office Operations Training 496-6211
  - Introduction to Working at NIH for New Support Staff
  - Office Management for Secretaries
  - Delegated Acquisition
- Training and Development Services 496-6211
  - Personal Computer training is available through User Resources Center (URC) self study courses. There is no cost to NIH employees for these hands-on sessions.

The URC hours are:
- Monday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Training Center, DCRT, and other training information is available on WYLBUR. Logon to WYLBUR and type ENTER TRAINING.

---

**Arthur Hand Retires from PHS Dental Career**

Dr. Arthur R. Hand, a senior research investigator with the National Institute of Dental Research, retired from the Public Health Service Dec. 1 to become director of the central electron microscope facility at the University of Connecticut Health Center at Farmington. He will also hold a faculty appointment in the university’s department of pediatric dentistry. Hand currently conducts research on salivary gland structure and function in NIDR’s Clinical Investigations and Patient Care Branch. He has been with PHS and NIDR for more than 20 years.

“I think of the move as more of a career change than a retirement,” said Hand. “When this opportunity came up I decided it would be a good time to retire from the PHS and take on a new challenge.”

Part of his responsibility at the university will be to design and teach a graduate course on electron microscopy. “I especially am looking forward to teaching. What little teaching I’ve done in the last 20 years I’ve really enjoyed,” he said.

Hand joined NIDR in 1968 as a research investigator in the Laboratory of Biological Structure (LBS). He worked in that capacity until 1976, when he traveled to McGill University in Montreal to serve as a visiting investigator with the National Institute of Dental Research. In 1977 he returned to NIDR and was named chief of the experimental morphology section and acting chief of LBS; he became chief of LBS in 1978. From 1982 to 1983 he served as acting chief of the Mineralized Tissue Research Branch, and in 1982 he was also named chief, Laboratory of Oral Biology and Physiology. He joined the Clinical Investigations and Patient Care Branch in 1986.

“I think what I’ll miss most are my colleagues at NIDR. It is very apparent here that you can ask for help and get it,” said Hand.

Hand attended the school of dentistry at the University of California at Los Angeles on a regents scholarship and graduated summa cum laude. He received a PHS Commendation Medal in 1975 and the Basic Research in Oral Science Award from the International Association for Dental Research in 1978.

Hand hopes to continue his research on salivary glands at the University of Connecticut.—Mary Daum

---

**Healing Human Hearts**

Dr. Susan R. Gortner, professor of nursing and director of the cardiac recovery laboratory at the School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco, will address recovery from heart surgery in the third CNCR distinguished scholar seminar on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. The seminar will take place in the Mary Woodard Lasker Center for Health Research and Education (the Cloister).

In her presentation, entitled “Healing Human Hearts,” Gortner will discuss the social, emotional, educational and family issues relating to recovery from heart surgery. The event is cosponsored by NHLBI.

Gortner will also discuss her research on the reasons people elect heart surgery; whether or not expected benefits result; how patients and families manage the recovery period; how age, gender, activity patterns and expectations may relate to recovery patterns; and the efficacy of telephone contact with a nurse specialist during patient and family recovery at home. —

---

**Arthur Hand**

Dr. Samuel Broder (l) accepts the Toastmasters International Communication Achievement and Leadership award from Dr. Padman Sarma of the NIH Toastmasters Club. The annual award honors NIHers who don’t belong to the club but who demonstrate outstanding ability to communicate and to lead others. “Your organization values communication skill and leadership,” Broder said. “I hope that, in accepting this award, some of those virtues will be bestowed on me.”

**Dr. Susan R. Gortner**

The NIH Training Center of the Division of Personnel Management offers the following:

**Courses and Programs**

- Management and Supervisory 496-6371
- Using Animals in Intramural Research:
  - Guidelines for Investigators
  - Federal Budget Process
  - How to Write and Publish Scientific Papers
  - Creative Basics for Changing Workplaces
  - Good Starts: Transition Planning
  - Working With Personal Differences MBTI II
- Office Operations Training 496-6211
  - Introduction to Working at NIH for New Support Staff
  - Office Management for Secretaries
  - Delegated Acquisition
- Training and Development Services 496-6211
  - Personal Computer training is available through User Resources Center (URC) self study courses. There is no cost to NIH employees for these hands-on sessions.

The URC hours are:
- Monday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Training Center, DCRT, and other training information is available on WYLBUR. Logon to WYLBUR and type ENTER TRAINING.

---

**Arthur Hand Retires from PHS Dental Career**

Dr. Arthur R. Hand, a senior research investigator with the National Institute of Dental Research, retired from the Public Health Service Dec. 1 to become director of the central electron microscope facility at the University of Connecticut Health Center at Farmington. He will also hold a faculty appointment in the university’s department of pediatric dentistry. Hand currently conducts research on salivary gland structure and function in NIDR’s Clinical Investigations and Patient Care Branch. He has been with PHS and NIDR for more than 20 years.

“I think of the move as more of a career change than a retirement,” said Hand. “When this opportunity came up I decided it would be a good time to retire from the PHS and take on a new challenge.”

Part of his responsibility at the university will be to design and teach a graduate course on electron microscopy. “I especially am looking forward to teaching. What little teaching I’ve done in the last 20 years I’ve really enjoyed,” he said.

Hand joined NIDR in 1968 as a research investigator in the Laboratory of Biological Structure (LBS). He worked in that capacity until 1976, when he traveled to McGill University in Montreal to serve as a visiting investigator with the National Institute of Dental Research. In 1977 he returned to NIDR and was named chief of the experimental morphology section and acting chief of LBS; he became chief of LBS in 1978. From 1982 to 1983 he served as acting chief of the Mineralized Tissue Research Branch, and in 1982 he was also named chief, Laboratory of Oral Biology and Physiology. He joined the Clinical Investigations and Patient Care Branch in 1986.

“I think what I’ll miss most are my colleagues at NIDR. It is very apparent here that you can ask for help and get it,” said Hand.

Hand attended the school of dentistry at the University of California at Los Angeles on a regents scholarship and graduated summa cum laude. He received a PHS Commendation Medal in 1975 and the Basic Research in Oral Science Award from the International Association for Dental Research in 1978.

Hand hopes to continue his research on salivary glands at the University of Connecticut.—Mary Daum

---

**Healing Human Hearts**

Dr. Susan R. Gortner, professor of nursing and director of the cardiac recovery laboratory at the School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco, will address recovery from heart surgery in the third CNCR distinguished scholar seminar on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. The seminar will take place in the Mary Woodard Lasker Center for Health Research and Education (the Cloister).

In her presentation, entitled “Healing Human Hearts,” Gortner will discuss the social, emotional, educational and family issues relating to recovery from heart surgery. The event is cosponsored by NHLBI.

Gortner will also discuss her research on the reasons people elect heart surgery; whether or not expected benefits result; how patients and families manage the recovery period; how age, gender, activity patterns and expectations may relate to recovery patterns; and the efficacy of telephone contact with a nurse specialist during patient and family recovery at home. —
Diane Armstrong Named Director, Division of Equal Opportunity

By Anne Barber

Diane E. Armstrong, newly appointed director of NIH’s Division of Equal Opportunity, has worked for the federal government for 30 years. Most recently she served as chief of the Equal Employment Opportunity Division for the Office of Personnel Management.

Dr. William F. Raub, NIH acting director, said in announcing the appointment, “In addition to her outstanding record in EEO management at OPM, Ms. Armstrong has established and nurtured several very successful career support programs for OPM employees.”

“I was their first full-time Federal Women’s Program manager,” Armstrong says. “I also established the first OPM FWP advisory committee.”

Serving as chairperson for that committee, she planned and sponsored many workshops and seminars for OPM employees. For her accomplishments in this area, Armstrong received an outstanding achievement award from the Federal Women’s Interagency Board.

As FWP manager, she planned OPM’s annual observation of Black History Month. “In fact,” she says, “I planned the first observance the agency held in 1981.”

In 1986, Armstrong became chief of EEOD. As chief, she initiated development of the Communications Skills Improvement Program, an internal OPM literacy improvement program designed to help employees improve their reading comprehension skills. Tutors were sought out and trained by a literacy council and students were given administrative time to meet with tutors.

“The program began in October 1988 with 16 tutors and 16 students,” she said. “Thus far, three people have received promotions as a result of improving their skills.”

Architect of the government’s first literacy program, Armstrong developed the initiatives and hired a contractor to conduct the student-to-tutor matches. “It was all very confidential,” she continued. “Only the student, student’s supervisor and the tutor knew the circumstances.

“After the first year—no leakages,” she says proudly. “The program has worked so well that the Department of Education has expressed an interest in possibly establishing it government-wide. But it takes a lot of dedication from both the tutor and student to make this work.”

At OPM for 12 years, Armstrong initiated an interagency child care center and created a community services brochure for the Washington metropolitan area to assist employees with personal needs in addition to establishing the literacy improvement program.

She also developed briefings for managers and supervisors on EEO programs. She held her first briefing for headquarters staff in 1988 and completed the first regional briefing in Chicago just days before joining NIH.

In a letter to Armstrong on her departure from OPM, director Constance Berry Newman said, “...you have continued to provide the agency with an exemplary EEO/Affirmative Action Program which has been recognized not only by my office, but also by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, for its responsiveness, timeliness, and effectiveness.”

Before joining OPM, Armstrong worked for the Military Traffic Command, Department of Army, for 18 years.

“I joined the government in 1959 as a clerk-typist and entered the EEO field as a counselor, part-time, while working as a printing specialist. In 1972, I became an EEO specialist with major responsibility in the FWP and then became EEO officer for the command headquarters.” Both positions she held until July 1977.

While at the command, she developed an EEO training program for EEO counselors that was later implemented throughout the command. She also served as a facilitator for the Department of Army Command Support and Relationships Workshop at the Worldwide Civilian EEO Conference held in 1975.

A native of Washington, D.C., Armstrong has been the recipient of many awards including Outstanding Performance Awards in 1971, 1973 and 1976; the PMRS Performance Award in 1987 and 1988 and the Volunteer Service Award in 1988 and 1989.

A member of many organizations, including the Business and Professional Women’s Club, she also serves as a volunteer at Martha’s Table, a nonprofit organization that prepares and delivers food to D.C. street people and prepares meals for children from needy families.

Visitor Center Offers Tours

The NIH Visitor Information Center (VIC) in Bldg. 10 is now offering a guided tour of the NIH campus at 11 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The tour begins at the VIC reception desk in the lower lobby of the Clinical Center.

For further information, call 496-1776.

Ubell To Speak, Jan. 18

How does a journalist go about explaining complicated medical research to the lay person? Earl Ubell, health editor for Parade magazine and health and science editor for WCBS-TV, New York, will talk about “Explaining the Unexplainable” at an NIH Public Affairs Forum, Thursday, Jan. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The event is sponsored by the information officer’s training committee and everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call 496-5895.