Fifth Research Festival Fosters Reunions, Fresh Outlook

By Carla Garnett

Despite the first saturating rain all summer, NIH's 4-day, fifth annual Research Festival played to packed arenas—including Masur Auditorium, Lipsett Amphitheater, Wilson Hall, two tents and various meeting rooms—all over campus. Standing-room-only symposia and well-attended workshops combined to make the 1991 festival a fitting tribute to the 5-year tradition. Nearly 500 posters—a record—were submitted for presentation, necessitating for the first time a third poster session.

NEI director and acting NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Carl Kupfer opened this year's festival by reminiscing about the first Research Day, Sept. 25, 1986, when, he said, 'A tradition began. Amid a festival-like atmosphere, NIH's intramural research programs presented a small fraction of the outstanding research projects at a 1-day intellectual feast of symposia, posters and workshops.'

'We established NIH Research Day in 1986 in hopes of increasing contact and collaboration among scientists,' explained Dr. Abner L. Notkins, director of NIDR's intramural research program and founder of Research Day. 'The event has far exceeded our original expectations.'

Five years later, a lot has changed—most

Two NIH Grantees Win Lasker Awards

Two NIH grantees are 1991 recipients of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, the prize widely thought of as a precursor to the Nobel Prize. Dr. Yuet Wai Kan of the University of California, San Francisco, and Dr. Edward B. Lewis of the California Institute of Technology, both geneticists, were honored for their clinical and basic research at the Nobel Prize. Dr. Yuet Wai Kan of the University of California, San Francisco, was the second recipient of the Lasker Award. The first award was presented to Dr. Elvin Kabat, a distinguished immunochemist who, for the past 16 years, has split his professional time between NIH and Columbia University, where he is emeritus professor of microbiology.

A reason for the unusual pleasure he took in receiving a federal award, he said, stems from his having been blacklisted during the McCarthy era as a suspected communist sympathizer and his rejection, for a time, by the National Institutes of Health. He was also accused of undermining national security by publishing a paper on biological warfare after World War II. Second, although he had to sacrifice the monkey colony in order to obtain autopsy results, Kabat's research in infectious disease continues to flourish due to generous funding from the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation.

They supported me when PHS would not,’ he recalls. ‘I had the biggest grant in molecular biology for many years. For a while, I received 8.5 percent of all the federal money committed to molecular biology."

Ironically, another winner of this year's National Medal of Science, the late Dr. Salvador Luria, was also unfunded by PHS during a time when his political leanings were suspect. A further irony: one of Kabat's three sons obtained his Ph.D. with Luria.

‘Perhaps the friendship that has developed between Bush and Gorbachev explains this rebirth in terms of recognition,’ Kabat chuckles today.

If Kabat belongs on any list at all, it would

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tee and in 1975, he received an NIH Research Career Development Award.

Over a 21-year period, NIH has supported Kan's work in abnormal hemoglobin synthesis, mechanism and detection research as well as his basic research in hematology and oncology. Kan developed the first and best methods for detecting abnormal hemoglobin for Cooley's anemia and sickle cell anemia in the fetus and then in the umbilical cord.

The Louis K. Diamond professor of hematology at UCSF since 1983, Kan delivered the NIH Lecture in 1986 and was selected to receive an NIDDK MERIT (Method to Extend Research In Time) Award in 1987. He served on the advisory committee for the NIH hematology study section from 1980 to 1984 and on the NIH blood diseases and resources advisory committee from 1985 to 1989. Kan, whose work has implications for gene therapy for life-threatening diseases, has also received research support from NHLBI and NCI.

Lewis, who shares the 1991 Lasker basic research award with Dr. Christiane Nusslein-Volhard of Germany, is an NIGMS grantee. His work is involved in mapping a series of rearrangements (which he called the “bithorax complex”) in genes that control segmentation of the fruit fly (Drosophila) embryo. Gene complexes involved in genetic control, called homebox genes, in fruit flies can provide understanding of human health problems because the human genome is also known to contain similar gene clusters. This work should shed light on gene clusters that seem to operate in a coordinated manner in specific times and places during development.

The Thomas Hunt Morgan professor of biology, emeritus, at CalTech, Lewis was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1968. He also received research support from NICHD.

The 24-member 1991 Lasker Awards jury of distinguished scientists and physicians included two NIH researchers—Dr. Thomas Waldmann, chief of NCI’s Metabolism Branch, and Dr. James Watson, director of the National Center for Human Genome Research.

Technology Transfer Forum
To Be Held, Nov. 14-15

The NIH Office of Technology Transfer will sponsor the fourth annual PHS Technology Transfer Forum on Nov. 14-15 in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

The purpose of the forum is to promote and facilitate research collaborations between government scientists and industry pursuant to the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986. The forum will begin at 8:15 a.m. Nov. 14 and will focus on diagnostic and therapeutic applications of human genome research. On Nov. 15, the forum will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will focus on infectious diseases research (including vaccines). The program will present an overview of related research programs in the PHS and will include presentations by government scientists and industry representatives on their respective roles in transferring federal technology to private industry.

An updated technology transfer directory, originally generated from past forum participants, will be distributed. The directory lists contact personnel within PHS and also includes information on the capabilities, resources, and collaborative interests of government laboratories.

Preregistration is requested. For more information, contact Carolyn Craig, NIH Office of Technology Transfer, 496-0750.

NIAMS Holds Workshop on Biology Of Connective Tissue Diseases

The National Advisory Board for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and NIAMS are cosponsoring a “Scientific Workshop on the Biology and Pathology of Acquired Connective Tissue Diseases.” It will be held in the Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A, on Monday, Oct. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The objectives of the workshop are to review the current state of knowledge of connective tissue biology as it relates to the etiopathogenesis of major connective tissue diseases and to formulate future directions for research in this area pertaining to rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, scleroderma and osteoporosis.

Investigators interested in cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, and immunology of the extracellular matrix, and clinical investigators interested in the pathogenesis of acquired disorders of connective tissue are invited to attend.

To request a copy of an information brochure with a registration form, contact Janine Joyce, (301) 468-6555.

The NIH Record

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Mom’s Drink Can Leave Baby Thirsty

A mother’s consumption of even small amounts of alcohol shortly before nursing changes the odor, and thus the taste, of breast milk and causes the feeding infant to consume less, according to a federally supported study reported in The New England Journal of Medicine, Thursday, Oct. 3.

The study refutes popular folklore that suggests drinking alcohol before nursing benefits the infant’s feeding. While these beliefs have encouraged nursing mothers to drink alcohol as an aid to lactation, this new study provides the first scientific evidence that infants actually drink less breast milk when alcohol is present.

The study’s authors, Drs. Julie A. Mennella and Gary K. Beauchamp at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, said, “It appears that alcohol adversely alters the odor of the lactating woman’s milk and, at least in the short-term, reduces the infant’s milk consumption.” Their research was funded by NICHD, which supports research that includes smell and taste, with additional support from NICHD.

Previous studies have shown that the amount of alcohol infants receive from their nursing mothers is small. To better understand the effects of even small amounts of alcohol on nursing infants, the current study tested the effects of alcohol on the sensory qualities (odor and flavor) of human milk and the nursing behavior of the infants.

The researchers compared the nursing habits of 12 infants whose mothers drank juice containing the alcoholic equivalent to a can of beer on one day and juice alone on a second day. On both days the scientists measured the amount of milk the infants consumed and recorded the length of time the infants spent nursing and sucking. Samples of breast milk were analyzed at various intervals to determine the alcohol content, and a group of adults was recruited to determine if alcohol altered the odor of human milk.

The researchers found that although the infants nursed for the same amount of time on both days, the infants consumed significantly less milk when the alcohol was present. The alcohol also changed the odor of the milk. This change was most noticeable between 30 minutes and 1 hour after the alcohol was consumed.

Although the underlying mechanism for the infants’ modified feeding behavior remains unknown, one possible cause is the change in the flavor of the milk, according to Mennella. Odor is the primary component of flavor, therefore, if the odor of the milk changes then the researchers can confidently predict that the flavor changes also. “The breast-fed infant may be receiving sensory information about the mother’s dietary intake, like alcohol and possibly other dietary components, which may alter the infant’s feeding behavior in the short term,” she said. How these early sensory experiences affect later flavor preferences is not known, she added.

Although this study did not address milk production, Mennella speculates that alcohol may be inhibiting hormones involved in the lactating process. The infants may be receiving less milk because of difficulty in obtaining milk from the breast, she said. Mennella is continuing her studies to further examine the physiological and behavioral factors that may cause these changes in infant feeding behavior.—Patricia Blessing

Van Slyke Apparatus Is Focus Of Stetten Museum Seminar

The DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Museum of Medical Research will hold a seminar to mark the opening of an exhibit on the Van Slyke manometric apparatus.

The speakers, Drs. Rollin D. Hotchkiss and Reginald Archibald of Rockefeller University, will discuss the laboratory and clinical uses of this historic instrument. The device played an important role in integrating analytical chemistry with clinical and basic biological research.

The exhibit is located in the lobby area adjacent to the conference rooms on the sixth floor of Bldg. 31C. The seminar will be held Friday, Oct. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31C, Conf. Rm. 8. For more information call Dennis Rodrigues, 496-6610.

Female Volunteers Sought

Women with regular menstrual cycles, ages 18-40, are needed to participate in a study of the effects of nutrition on the menstrual cycle. Volunteers must know the usual duration and frequency of their menstrual cycle, should not be on the birth control pill, should have stable weight and eating habits, and must be willing to spend 7 nights and 6 days as an inpatient at the Clinical Center. Some individuals will be randomized to a 3-day fast; volunteers must be willing to not have food by mouth for 3 days. Subjects will be paid those who fast will earn more. Call 496-4244 and leave message.
KABAT (Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Elvin Kabat, who recently won the National Medal of Science, thinks he is probably "the most intensely studied human with respect to antibody formation to a variety of things."

probably be for hard work and stamina, not to mention scientific rigor and excellence. "I'm a machine for work," he casually confesses.

Since 1975, he has been to a taxing schedule of teaching, research and writing, shuttling between New York City, where he has taught at Columbia since 1941, and NIH, where he has worked 2 days a week since a Fogarty scholarship year in 1974-75.

The Fogarty year was spent revising one of two "Bibles" Kabat has written. The first one was Experimental Immunochemistry, on which he collaborated with Manfred Mayer at Columbia. First published in 1948, it set forth the basic rules for measuring antibodies, antigens, and complement. Revised in 1958, it went through four large printings ending in 1968.

The second bible was Structural Concepts in Immunology and Immunochemistry, which was first published in 1968 and included the more sophisticated science and technology that had developed since his first book. It was the second edition of this opus that occupied Kabat during his Fogarty year; advice regarding the book came from NIH's Gilbert Ashwell, David Davies, William Raub, Henry Metzger, William Paul and Michael Porter.

During his Bethesda sojourns, Kabat resides on campus in Bldg. 20, across from the Clinical Center. Early on Monday and Tuesday mornings, he occupies an office on the first floor of Bldg. 8, where he is dwarfed by stacks of paper that will eventually compose the sixth edition of Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest.

"The fifth edition is more than 2,700 pages long," he notes, "and future volumes may be triple the size. It's a damn nuisance to carry even pieces of it from New York to Bethesda."

By about 9 a.m. he leaves for the National Center for Biotechnology Information in NLM's Bldg. 38A, where he works until early afternoon. NLM is the publisher of Sequences, a tome that is growing so fast that it must eventually be "published" on optical disk rather than paper.

"One is always behind," Kabat laments, searching through papers at his desk on a recent Monday.

At Columbia, the 77-year-old scientist supervises the Ph.D. work of two graduate students and holds what he believes is the only Saturday morning seminar in American academia.

"We meet from 8 to 11 a.m.," he said. "It's sort of a journal club type of thing. Each member has to report on three articles. I call attention to interesting things I've heard about, or things that are in press that the students wouldn't have seen."

On Sept. 24, Kabat left the United States for a 4-month sabbatical at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

"I'm going to study some interesting crossreactive antibodies, and to keep in touch with people," he said. "I like to talk to people."

Kabat spent two sabbatical years in France, first in 1959, then in 1966. Preparing for his first visit, he studied intermediate French at Columbia so that he could deliver lectures. He had trouble, however, keeping the gender of French nouns in mind.

"My principle was, if you used the masculine once and the feminine once, you were right once.

"I always speak extemporaneously—I never use notes," he continues. "However I once wrote some notes in French for my first lecture. The problem was, when the lights went down for my slide presentation, I couldn't see them. Afterwards I was told that I gave a very nice lecture, but that I referred to myself continually in the feminine."

Kabat was born in New York City and first was exposed to science at age 5 or 6.

"One of the boys in the house (apartment) got a chemical set," he recalls. "He invited me to see some experiments. I also had a cousin who was a physician. He was a role model for me."

Kabat had wanted to be a physician too, but the Depression put that choice out of reach.

"My father was trying to feed and house a family of four on $5 a week," he remembers. "I got a job in the laboratory of Michael Heidelberger at Columbia, paying $90 a month. I used part of my salary to help with the rent."

Kabat was Heidelberger's first graduate student and Ph.D. recipient, eventually becoming imbued with his mentor's brilliance and longevity.

"I have a good role model in Michael Heidelberger," he declares. "He was in the laboratory until a few weeks before his death at age 103."

Kabat asserts that he will work "until I drop." Asked whether he would pursue a research career again, he says, completely offhand, "Yeah, sure. I wouldn't think of doing anything else but what I did. I'm very satisfied with my career."

Years ago, Kabat was in the habit of making himself the normal volunteer for a wide variety of experiments, a practice that is now largely outlawed.

"I injected myself with a whole lot of polysaccharides," he recalls. "It's illegal now (as unauthorized human subject research). You couldn't do it at NIH today."

"If you want to be a good immunologist, you should be a good antibody-former," he says with another laugh. "I have used gallons of my serum in experiments. I gave my graduate students (of whom there have been about 20 over the years, and many postdocs including some now at NIH) several gallons of it. I don't do that now, though."

Kabat has personally traced the persistence of two antibodies in his blood for the past 25 years.

"I can trace them back to samples going back to the 1950's," he says. "I'm probably the most intensively studied human with respect to antibody formation to a variety of things."

Though he has lately noticed a cancer protein in his blood and is taking chemotherapy for it, Kabat says he's healthy.

"I feel great. I like to work. I don't do..."
much else. If I retire, what will I do until anybody wakes up?,” he asks, referring to his habits as an early-riser.

Considering biomedical science from his perch as expert in the office of the NIH director, Kabat sees a “very unfortunate” climate beclouded by accusations of wrongdoing.

“One doesn’t know how to handle these things,” he mused, then sharpened, “I think the universities have been lax in dealing with fraud and misconduct. Some of the early efforts were just whitewashes. There’s a lot to be done about arriving at a due process approach.”

He continued, “I’m worried about young people being discouraged from going into science by all this business of fraud—or alleged fraud. That’s a trend that has to be reversed.”

Kabat insists that senior scientists must be closer to the work they supervise.

“I look at all my students’ notebooks every week to see what they’ve done the previous week,” he said. “We also meet to discuss aspects of the work. That’s one advantage of not running a very big laboratory.”

At the peak of his investigations, Kabat had about 10 colleagues in his lab. Any more than that would be suboptimal, he suggests.

By and large, Kabat sees the scientific establishment flourishing, though “it could use more money. There’s a lot of economic competition in terms of what people go into. Of course science salaries are much more competitive than they were in my day.”

Kabat’s National Medal of Science is but one of the honors he has accumulated during a life in biomedicine. A member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1966, he has won the Eli Lilly Award in bacteriology and immunology, the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award, the City of Hope Annual Research Award, the R.E. Dyer lectureship, and the Dickson Prize in medicine from the University of Pittsburgh.

Two years ago, Kabat was made an honorary member of the Japanese Electrophoresis Society, the event marked both the 40th anniversary of the society and the 50th anniversary of a landmark paper Kabat published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine.

Perhaps more valuable than these awards is the fine reputation Kabat enjoys among those he has mentored.

“Working in Dr. Kabat’s laboratory provided the most comprehensive and rigorous type of research training possible in the area of immunology and as well as a unique opportunity for interactions with a truly outstanding scientist,” commented Dr. John O. Cisar, a research microbiologist in NIDR’s Laboratory of Microbial Ecology. “Dr. Kabat was always interested in looking at the latest experimental data and his perspective and insight on specific problems was nothing short of remarkable.”

“Although being a graduate student in Elvin Kabat’s laboratory was an extremely arduous experience, the training his laboratory provided was truly invaluable,” said Dr. Rose Mage, chief of the molecular immunogenetics section in NIAID’s Laboratory of Immunology. “Elvin Kabat and his wife Sally maintain close contact with many of the graduates of his laboratory and continue to be a positive factor in encouraging and fostering their careers. To this day, papers from my laboratory are written with the thought in the back of my mind that they must meet the exacting standards he expected from me when I was his student.”

“I’ve got many friends, considering how tough I am on scientists,” relates Kabat. “My associates used to joke that if you’ve been ‘Kabatized’ and survive, you can succeed anywhere.”

Science, if not language, is clearly the richer for such a verb.
FESTIVAL
(Continued from Page 1)

In 1986, more than 3,000 attended the Research Day poster session that was held in the Visitor Information Center in the Clinical Center. “The response by the intramural community to the first Research Day was overwhelming,” Kupfer said of the fledgling event. “An estimated 5,000 people participated in the events with two symposia, 20 workshops and 95 posters.”

This year the festival included four symposia, 33 workshops and an added poster session. For the second year in a row, two tents were needed to accommodate the largest number of presenters ever.

“The sheer size of the operation has made it difficult for investigators to know each other or the scope of the work of the intramural programs,” said Kupfer, comparing the single bacteriological laboratory in Staten Island, N.Y., that was NIH in 1887 to the 63-building, 503-acre Bethesda campus that is 1991’s NIH. “In fact, many investigators in the same institute, indeed within the same building, have never met.”

The annual Research Festival (the event achieved “festival” status last year with the addition of a 2-day “in-tent” technical equipment display sponsored by the Technical Sales Association) has become many things in its short life. For many NIH’ers and former NIH’ers, it is reunion time.

In another custom begun last year, the festival started with the NIH Alumni Symposium, a salute to selected former NIH researchers.

According to Kupfer, “NIH’s individual intramural programs have trained approximately 50,000 doctoral scientists who have since joined the staffs of virtually all the world’s medical research centers.”

As Dr. Steven Paul, director of NIMH’s intramural research program and chair of the 1991 festival organizing committee, observed, “The Alumni Day program was an impressive display of work from some of our most distinguished alumnus, exemplifying how important and instrumental NIH has been in training the premier scientists in the country.”

This year’s alumni symposium, “Cholesterol: A Mystery Unraveled,” and its accompanying Distinguished Alumnus Award, honored 1985 Nobel laureate Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. In 1968, Goldstein came to NHLBI’s Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics headed by Nobel laureate Dr. Marshall Nirenberg, who received the prize in physiology or medicine that year.

“Like most physicians in this stage in their career, I had very little previous research experience and my concept of what constitutes biological research was nebulous at best,” Goldstein said, accepting the award from NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant.

“Although I was scientifically wet behind the ears, I still had an appetite for research that was ready for stimulation.”

Goldstein said two crucial events shaped his 2-year stint at NIH: One was Nirenberg’s willingness to act as preceptor to a young physician/novice researcher in the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics. “That opportunity,” he recalled, “opened my eyes to the excitement of science and there I acquired scientific skills, learned the importance of originality and quality and style, experienced the thrill of discovery and first appreciated the power of the molecular approach to human disease.”

The second breakthrough in Goldstein’s NIH experience involved his clinical work here, in the course of treating a pediatric patient of Dr. Donald Fredrickson (then National Heart Institute director and chief of the Molecular Diseases Branch). The 6-year-old girl had been diagnosed with what is now known as homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (FH), a genetic lipid disorder that makes heart attacks in childhood common among its young patients.

During this time, Goldstein began to work with an arthritis institute clinical associate, Dr. Michael Brown, to search for the genetic defect in FH. In 1985, Goldstein and Brown, an original NIH collaboration, shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their research on reduction of blood cholesterol, work Goldstein said was financially supported mainly by NHLBI.

“Believe it or not,” Goldstein said, “after 23 years, we’re still working together and we’re having just as much fun in research now as we did in the early days. When I look back in my scientific development at NIH, it’s the jewel in the crown of all the institutions that shaped my research career.”

Featuring medical doctors from UCLA to Harvard to Washington University who had once done postdoctoral training in basic science at NIH, the alumni symposium filled the 500-seat Masur Auditorium.

“I am extremely pleased to be here,” said Dr. Alfred Gilman of the University of Texas Health Science Center, a 7-year NIGMS grantee who trained at NIH from 1969 to 1971 and gave the first lecture of the symposium. “I’m particularly glad to have the opportunity to acknowledge my great debt to the heart institute, to the [NIGMS] pharmacology research associate program and particularly to Dr. Nirenberg in whose lab I worked.”

Notkins emphasized that besides the enjoy-
Dr. John Dickson of DCRT's systems research and development section discusses one of his division's 20 poster presentations with Dr. Connie Noguchi of NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemical Biology.

ment of gathering with former associates, the addition of the alumni events has added an important new dimension to the festival. "It links those of us who are here now with colleagues who were at NIH in the past," he said. "It provides a sense of history and continuity."

NIH'ers also see the festival as a sort of "premiere night" for science. Paul explains, "The research festival embodies the scientific vigor of NIH. The whole purpose is to have some very famous scientists interacting with our younger scientists and to establish many mutually beneficial collaborations."

The Division of Computer Research and Technology took full advantage of the forum presented by the festival. "The research festival gave us a wonderful opportunity to alert the NIH community to the new hardware, software and networking technologies that can contribute so much to the research enterprise," said DCRT director Dr. David Rodbard, whose division presented more than 20 posters.

"The poster session is a very important part of NIH Research Day," agreed Dr. Alan Schechter, chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemical Biology and chair of Research Day '89. "It's where the most exciting collaborative science begins and where crucial one-on-one contacts are made."

One notable improvement in the way the festival was organized this year, Paul noted, was the emphasis placed on encouraging and showcasing NIH's women scientists. "We tried to get a broader representation across campus," he said. "There are not that many senior women scientists at NIH. We tried to include more women in the sessions this year."

Dr. Monique Dubois-Dalcq, chief of NINDS's Laboratory of Viral and Molecular Pathogenesis and member of the festival organizing committee, applauded the decision to encourage NIH's women scientists to participate and suggests that yearly reminders of the decision be handed down to posterity's festival planners.

"I think we're going to have to repeatedly reinforce it every year," she said, noting that the new planning strategy was the brainchild of a group of 20-25 senior women scientists at NIH who had observed past festivals and found too few women researchers represented in symposia and workshops. The group then wrote a letter to the next year's festival organizing committee, asking that an effort be made to increase participation by women scientists of renown. The 1991 festival signaled NIH's response to the letter.

Dubois-Dalcq said the idea was a necessary first attempt at solving the problem and that it was met with an enthusiastic response by the committee. Although there are plenty of women who hold postdoctoral and staff fellow positions at NIH, she continued, there are far fewer in the section chief category and only a handful who are laboratory chiefs.

"I see the yearly NIH festival as an opportunity to increase the visibility of women who are independent investigators and often leading scientists in a particular field," Dubois-Dalcq said. "This year's organizing committee made an effort to have such women scientists—indeed, of their tenure status—organize or speak in workshops, which turned out to be very successful. There is still room for NIH to improve in this area, but this year's festival shows that we are indeed trying."

Dr. Ofelia Olivero, who has presented a poster every year since she came to NCI's Division of Cancer Etiology from Argentina in 1987, said the poster session has a unique function for NIH newcomers and veterans alike. "What it does is improve interaction among scientists," she said. "It is very hard to know what everyone is doing in a place this large."

Dr. Grace Ault, a staff fellow since June in NINDS's Laboratory of Experimental Neuropathy, concurred. "The poster sessions are the most helpful part of the festival. I've been (Continued on Page 8)
able to meet a lot of people and really just explore."  

Likewise, Bob Bare of the Laboratory of Comparative Carcinogenesis at NCI's Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center and a 24-year NIH veteran, was enjoying his first research festival. "You really get an idea of what projects other people are working on," he said, adding that, but for such an annual activity, some NIH'ers in Frederick and other remote NIH facilities could be completely isolated from the rest of the agency.

Another change that has been considered by festival planning officials is having the event every other year instead of annually. "Certainly there's a lot of repetition," acknowledged Paul, "but I like the idea of doing it every year."

Schechter agreed, "There's enough good science here to have something every year. It is a great deal of work, but the final product is worth every effort."

Paul said NIH'ers who have suggestions or comments about the festival should send them to him; he will see that the remarks get into the minutes. "If there are comments about the festival, they might not meet and to establish new collaborations to interact with each other to discuss science with investigators they otherwise might not meet and to establish new collaborations."

"There is perhaps no other research institution or university in the world—indeed there are few national or international scientific meetings—that can present the breadth and depth of science we enjoy at the NIH Research Festival."

"It's a spiritual kind of thing," Paul concluded. "Besides being very stimulating scientifically, it's a fun way of celebrating science."  

Volunteers Needed for Study

NIMH sponsors hormonal and nutritional evaluations and treatment programs for women with regular menstrual cycles between ages 18 and 45 who are medication-free (including oral contraceptives and vitamins) and experiencing mood changes in relationship to menses. Study protocols include an evaluation of the effects on the symptoms of PMS of temporarily stopping the menstrual cycle. For information, call 496-9675.  

DCRT Seminar Offers Help For Juggling Bibliographies

Preparing a reference list for a scientific publication is, at best, a time-consuming project. When the same citations must be reworked to dovetail with the style requirements of different journals, the task can take on nightmarish proportions.

According to scientists at the Division of Computer Research and Technology, a number of computer programs are available to simplify this process. Such software, a form of specialized database for journal references, not only eliminates many of the unnecessary steps in creating a bibliography, but also can be used to format entire manuscripts. Updating a curriculum vitae is a cinch: A researcher needs only to import his or her most recent references from Medline, tell the bibliographic manager to translate them to the appropriate format, and insert them into the CV. Versatile is the software that DCRT is developing procedures by which these packages may someday be used to help generate the NIH Scientific Directory and Annual Bibliography.

DCRT's Computer Center Training Unit is offering a free course to any NIH employee interested in learning more. "Manuscript Preparation Using Bibliographic Manager Programs" will outline what these programs are and how they can be used. The seminar will be raffled to NIH employees to meet a VIP at an event of their choosing, for example a staff meeting, coffee, public function, rehearsal, or photo opportunity.

Participating VIPS include Marilyn Quayle, Sen. Ted Kennedy, newswoman Susan King, Reps. Connie Morella and Pat Schroeder, the Today show's Willard Scott, and noted journalists Helen Thomas (unofficial dean of the White House press corps) and Juan Williams of the Washington Post. The Washington Bullets and Washington Capitals are also contributing game tickets and autographed balls and hockey stick.

Raffle tickets will be sold through Oct. 29 for $1 each or 6 for $5 in all the R&W gift shops (Bldgs. 31, 10, 38 and Westwood) and the cafeterias. The drawing will be held Oct. 30. Winners will meet their VIP during November.

This is a great chance to meet someone who makes the news or the winning ticket could be an exciting gift for someone special. The raffle benefits the FOCC in its continuing efforts to provide emergency financial assistance to NIH patients and their families. For more information contact Linda Nee, 496-3559, or Joan Clower, 402-0193.
Kirschner To Deliver 1991 Stetten Lecture

For more than a hundred years, scientists have been captivated by the microscopic spectacle of one cell becoming two. By 1900, they had identified the major structural events of the cell cycle—alternating periods of growth and division, accompanied by the orderly distribution of chromosomes from the original cell to its"daughters." But what regulates these events? Dr. Marc W. Kirschner, professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco, will describe what scientists have recently learned about the molecular mechanisms of cell cycle control at this year's Stetten Lecture.

The lecture, entitled "The Biochemical Machinery Regulating the Cell Division Cycle" will be given on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 3:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Kirschner and his colleagues have played an instrumental role in identifying the components of a biochemical complex called maturation promoting factor, or MPF. MPF regulates entry into the final stage of the cell cycle, which culminates in division. This work led to a major conceptual advance, the discovery of a "master switch" for cell division that operates in organisms ranging from yeast to humans.

Kirschner says that more detailed knowledge of cell cycle control might lead to improved understanding of the finely controlled cell divisions of embryonic development, as well as to new ways to promote cell division—desirable in such processes as wound repair and nerve regeneration—and also to ways to prevent the runaway proliferation of cancer cells.

The Stetten Lecture, which is sponsored by NIGMS, honors Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., the third director of the institute. Stetten who died in 1990, had a strong commitment to basic research, especially in the areas of genetics, cellular and molecular biology, and chemistry. NIGMS has supported Kirschner's work for the past 20 years.

Representing ChildKind Inc., NIH's infant care center on campus, at the recent NIH Family Care Fair were (above) Anne Schmitz (c) and Lee Ettman (r). Below, employees enter a door-prize contest at the fair; the desk was staffed by (from l) Andrea Rander, Diane Naughton, and Paul Horton. The fair, arranged to enhance on-campus day care services, featured information on various community services for child and elderly care.

Minority Institution Students, Faculty To Meet

Almost 1,500 science students and faculty members from more than 120 colleges and universities with substantial minority enrollments will gather for the second annual NIGMS Minority Programs Symposium, beginning on Nov. 3 at the Washington Convention Center and Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. The meeting includes participants in the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program and the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program, both of which are administered by NIGMS.

During the symposium, MARC and MBRS students will hold poster sessions and give oral presentations on their research in the fields of cell and molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, chemistry, physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, behavioral sciences, and related areas. This year, a new poster session format will be initiated. During each 4-hour poster session, the student presenters will explain their posters for 2 hours and then be free to review the posters of others or to attend workshops.

Highlights of the meeting include a keynote address by NIAID director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci and a banquet address by Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH). Leading research scientists will present lectures on recent advances in cell biology, gene therapy, biochemistry and biophysics, plant and microbe systems, and drug development.

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in four different workshops; visit NIH laboratories; talk in a special "students only" session; meet with high school students from the Washington, D.C., area; and interact with exhibitors from graduate programs, industry, and funding agencies.

For more information or to register, call Mark Brown at TASCON, 907-3844.
**Getaways Are Therapeutic**

**Teen Group Helps Cancer Patients Cope, Provides Seasonal Outings**

By Rich McManus

Sometimes, the best medicine in the world is to get as far away from a hospital as you possibly can.

Recognizing that truth, a group of Clinical Center caregivers has arranged for teenage cancer patients from both NIH and surrounding hospitals to escape several times a year to bucolic surroundings.

It's not Camp Fantastic, though many of the youngsters who participate have either been to camp or to other social functions sponsored by Special Love, Inc., which runs the summer camp.

"It's basically a time to deal with teen issues above and beyond the fact of having cancer," says Holly Parker, a Clinical Center therapeutic recreation specialist for the past 5 years.

Parker, together with social worker Donna Wilson, and fellow recreation specialist Charles Butler, has, for the past 4 years, seen to it that adolescent cancer patients get a chance to fish a mountain lake, raft some whitewater rapids, and chill out on the boardwalk at Ocean City—in short, do all of the cool things other teenagers do in America.

Though good times are at the heart of every activity, a much-prized side benefit is group discussion where teens, unbridled by medical or parental authority, can say what's on their minds.

"The group, which is mainly kids ages 13-17, has a psychosocial emphasis," Parker discloses. "It's a time to be able to talk openly. They might discuss body image, or hair loss (due to chemotherapy). One of the recurring themes is death. We find that it's best just to listen."

"It's not unusual for us to lose one or two kids between outings," adds Wilson, who has spent 7 years on NCI's Pediatric Branch. "Members range anywhere from kids in remission to those still on chemotherapy."

"One benefit is that kids who've been through treatment can help those who are just starting," said Parker. "The teens learn from each other much more than they learn from us."

Parker said group discussions are often similar to group therapy—the youngsters occasionally confront one another during these sessions.

"The kids will let each other know when they get tired of hearing about one thing or another," said Wilson. "We find that they help one another with fears," added Wilson, "and to get past the things they may be stuck on."

"The benefits of just talking are enormous," said Wilson. "With a parent, discussions can sometimes be closed. For example, parents often tell a kid he isn't going to die. Well, what if the child wants to talk about dying?"

The trips, which usually include a nurse, are a combination of structure and anarchy. Some things are absolutely dependable. Charles Butler drives the van. Always. On Saturday mornings, he rolls up his sleeves and cooks a big breakfast. Saturday nights are reserved for psychosocial hour, which usually lasts at least 2 hours.

"We try to present a theme," said Parker, who is known for her skill at breaking the ice among strangers. "On our last trip (Sept. 13–15 to Deep Creek Lake in western Maryland), we tried to focus on the future—what the kids are hoping, dreaming and working toward. Last April in Ocean City we had a session on wishes, and whether they were realistic or not."

Each of the three trips in the teen group's year has a special character. The Deep Creek Lake trip is more of a retreat, says Wilson, a quiet time of reflection.

"You can enjoy the simple things like watching the deer or rabbits, that's what I like about Deep Creek," she said. "We go boating and fishing on the lake. A former patient's dad arranges for the boat and has a friend who handles fishing. Unfortunately, we never catch any fish."

The vacation home used by the group has been donated each of the past 3 years by NIH'er Carol Kirby, who read about the outings in the NIH Record.

"It's no big deal, I'm happy to do it," says Kirby, a technology development coordinator for NINDS. "They've invited me to come..."
along, and that probably would be very enriching and interesting, but I don’t go. It’s their time to interact and discuss their ordeals among themselves.

“It’s nice to get some R and R away from the maddening crowd,” agreed Kirby, mentioning that the five-bedroom home offers excellent views of the lake. “What I like is that they always sign my guest book. It’s such a pleasure to read their comments. Others who rent the house like to read their notes, also. It’s heartwarming.”

Located some 3 hours from Bethesda, Deep Creek Lake might seem remote from NIH. But word of the work that goes on here has penetrated the community. Explains Wilson, “An Amish family invited the kids to their home during a trip to the lake. They said they wanted to offer horse-and-buggy rides. It turns out the family had a son treated at NIH and two children from the community had been patients in the Pediatric Branch. One of these two children died of cancer on the pediatric unit and the other child is doing well. A fourth child from their community had just been diagnosed with AIDS and the family was deciding if they should come to NIH.

“Anyway, when we got to their farm, the buggies were all lined up and the women were hovering over tables full of homemade food...”

“Outsiders are almost never invited into an Amish home for dinner,” said Butler. “But these kids were.”

“It’s really touching how much people want to help,” says Wilson, offering as evidence a thank-you card that, though written in fractured English, displayed heartfelt emotion.

“We send our volunteers thank-you notes, then they turn around and send us notes and thank us for letting them do it,” she comments.

The group’s two other trips have a different character. In June, they go whitewater rafting on the Shenandoah River near Harper’s Ferry, W.Va., with the Blue Ridge Outfitters. The biggest trip, however, is to Ocean City, Md.

“That’s the hardest one because the boardwalk is a major attraction—managing 17 teens on the boardwalk at Ocean City requires lots of skills,” smiles Wilson. “The Grant-A-Wish Foundation of Baltimore donates space in four condominiums at the beach. They also provide our food and other needs.”

Other benefactors include a group at General Electric called ELFUN. “They just gave us $500, which will cover most of next year’s program,” Parker reported.

Come January, the teen group organizers will hold their annual meeting to plan the 1992 schedule of outings. If the adage, “What goes around, comes around,” holds true, they are likely to enjoy yet another worthwhile year of reaping the benefits of the good NIH can accomplish.

“It’s the happy side of what we do,” concludes Wilson.

### TRAINING TIPS

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

#### Courses and Programs

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#### Office Operations and Administrative Systems Training

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#### Personnel Management Courses

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

### Outlet Shopping Trip Planned

The R&W outlet shopping trip to Reading, Pa., is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 1. The motorcoach leaves NIH Bldg. 31C at 7 a.m. bound for the Vanity Fair Factory Outlet with more than 40 manufacturers represented. Cost for the trip is $24, which includes transportation and snack. Bus returns to NIH at 7 p.m. For information or to reserve seats, call 496-4600.
**NIH'ers Offered Free Protection From Influenza**

The flu season is on its way to our area, but each of us can minimize the risk for infection by receiving the influenza vaccine. Now is the time to consider vaccination to protect yourself from influenza, because the vaccine takes a few weeks to produce immunity. Vaccination may prevent or reduce the severity of infection with influenza and also decreases the opportunities for spread of this virus among patients, visitors and colleagues. The noninfectious vaccine is no longer produced from live viruses; therefore, immunization will not cause influenza.

The Occupational Medical Service (OMS) will provide free vaccine shots to NIH employees between Oct. 15 and Nov. 8. Even if you have been vaccinated in the past, previous influenza vaccination does not provide protection against this year’s influenza strains. Annual vaccinations are needed. The Clinical Center administration strongly encourages all NIH workers to obtain the vaccine.

Immunization is even a higher priority for some individuals:
- Health care workers and support staff, especially those who have contact with patients and other employees who routinely visit the Clinical Center;
- Persons age 65 or older;
- Persons with chronic cardiovascular, pulmonary or metabolic disorders, kidney disease, anemia;
- Persons who are immunocompromised.

In addition, employees embarking on international travel may wish to consider immunization. Individuals who are allergic to eggs and egg products should not receive the vaccine. The vaccine is considered safe for pregnant women, but pregnant women in their first trimester may wish to consult their physician before immunization.

The vaccine will be available at a variety of NIH locations and at various times. In order to accommodate NIH workers’ schedules, OMS has increased the number of ‘walk-in’ clinics from last year. See the schedule below for a convenient time and place; no appointments are needed for these clinics. Additional information can be obtained from OMS, 496-4411, or the hospital epidemiology service, 496-2209.

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<td>Rm. 10B08</td>
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<td>WW Bldg.</td>
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<td>Rm. 11</td>
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**Theatre Group Presents Fall Show**

During the first three weekends in November, the NIH R&W Theatre Group will present a musical tribute Another Op'nin', Another Show, honoring Cole Porter’s 100th birthday. Some of the musical favorites featured will be “So in Love,” “True Love,” “Love for Sale,” “Anything Goes,” “Wunderbar,” and “Night and Day,” along with many other selections from his music and the well-loved Broadway show Kiss Me Kate.

Performances are Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. and two matinee performances Nov. 3 and 10 at 3 p.m. All performances are in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

The theatre group is a nonprofit organization consisting of NIH employees and volunteers who donate their time and talent for a charitable cause. The proceeds will be divided among the NIH Patient Emergency Fund.

The revue will be directed by Ron Squeri and produced by Millie Fenton. For more information call Paul Weiss, (202) 667-7921.

**Dr. Judith L. Rapaport, chief of NIMH’s Child Psychiatry Branch, has been selected by the NIH Toastmasters Club to receive its Communication Achievement Award on Nov. 1 at noon in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. The annual award recognizes outstanding communicators in the NIH community. Guest speaker Nat Mathis will give a talk on “The Dynamics of Feeling Good About Yourself.” Refreshments will be served and all are invited to attend.**

**Genome Lecture Cancelled**

The second presentation in the Human Genome Lecture Series, scheduled for Oct. 17, has been cancelled. Dr. Nancy S. Wexler was scheduled to speak on “The Human Genome Project and Its Social Impact,” in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, at 11:30 a.m. The lecture has not been rescheduled.