NIH Record Adopts New Look

Admit it, weren't you getting just a little tired of the look of the NIH Record? After all, it had appeared roughly the same since Sept. 10, 1985, when the last major design makeover debuted. For the next 11 years, the masthead didn't change. In the 47-year history of the publication, this is the longest it went without a facelift.

Today's issue presents the seventh major design change since the first issue rolled off the press on May 20, 1949. It is the fruit of 5 months of collaboration between our staff and designers at the Medical Arts and Photography Branch, NCRR. We hope you warm up quickly to our new face, and that it lasts a respectable number of years.

We have changed the content as well. Back in January, NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus challenged us to inject new life into the newsletter, calling for better photos and more overall usefulness to readers. He also approved a new feature the Record has never had—a Letters to the Editor column. We hereby invite your comments on any NIH-related topic of your choice; letters can be sent via email to either the editor or assistant editor (see addresses on p. 2), by fax to 2-1485, or by regular interoffice mail to Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03. As with all submissions, we reserve the right to edit letters, which must include the name and work number of the sender.

We hope you notice a new vibrance in the Record, and that you continue to look forward to receiving "the second best thing about payday."—Rich McManus

NIH Focuses on Employee Response to Reinvention

By Carla Garnett

(This is the fourth article in a summer-long series on reinventing government at NIH.)

On the wall behind her conference table, NHLBI Executive Officer Sheila Merritt has framed a telling quotation: "In a time of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists." As Merritt—a 22-year veteran in NHLBI administration, who also spent 9 years in its intramural science program—explains her institute's reinvention initiatives, it becomes apparent that the words of sociologist Eric Hoffer have true meaning in practice as well as theory.

Forest (and Field) Gumption

NIH'er Perseveres to Write Book on Family

The true stories of life shared between a mother who was born in 1899 and her daughter, Yvonne "Bonnie" Georg, an NIH employee, have been published in a 400-page hardback book to be shared by generations of family members and friends of the Middletown Valley in Frederick County. Georg works in the Office of Research Services as secretary to Executive Officer Joan Topalian. Often prompted by ORS Deputy Executive Officer Anne Marie Gillen to record her family stories, Georg in 1993 could no longer resist the prodding and began to write. Daughter of Letha Alice Grossnickle Wiles of Middletown and the late Russell Peter Wiles, she has written a book entitled So Many Mornings. She is the tenth of 11 children, nine of whom still live, ranging in age from 51 to 79. The stories are presented in the first person, as if Letha were paying you a visit and telling you about her long life and memories that happened from as far back as the 1700's when three Grossnickle brothers—ancestors of the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

July 30, 1996 Volume XLVIII, No. 16

SEE FAMILY BOOK, PAGE 2
Fellowship Offers Chance to Study in Japan

Through arrangements made with the Fogarty International Center, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science is offering 30 short-term fellowships for American researchers in the biomedical and behavioral sciences to pursue collaborative research visits to Japanese universities and other eligible institutions and laboratories.

Funding is available for stays ranging from 1 week to 2 months. Although intended primarily for senior researchers, doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers may also apply. Travel support is included in the fellowship award.

Deadline for receipt of applications is Oct. 1. Recipients must arrive in their host laboratories in Japan by Mar. 31, 1997.

Send email requests for application instructions to snyderm@nih.gov or call Michael Snyder, 6-4784.

Dr. Sheila A. Newton has been named director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, NIEHS. She joined the institute in 1992 as a health scientist administrator and was responsible for representing NIEHS on numerous NIH-wide and government-wide committees, especially relating to asthma, breast and other cancers, and disease prevention. For the past year and a half, she has been detailed to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, serving as senior advisor for environmental and occupational health to the deputy assistant secretary for health.

Director Gains New Advisors

The 15-member advisory committee to the NIH director recently gained 11 new members. The ACD meets twice yearly to advise the director on a wide variety of topics.

The new members are: Dr. Ezra C. Davidson, Jr., professor and chairman, department of obstetrics and gynecology, King/Drew Medical Center, Los Angeles; Rebecca S. Eisenberg, professor of law, University of Michigan; Dr. Ruby P. Hearn, senior vice president, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Dr. Jane E. Henney, vice president for health sciences, University of New Mexico; Dr. Susan B. Horwitz, professor, department of molecular pharmacology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Dr. Eric R. Kandel, professor, division of neurobiology and behavior, Columbia University; Dr. Marc W. Kirschner, professor and chair, department of cell biology, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Eric S. Lander, professor, department of biology, MIT; Dr. Jane A. Menken, UPS Foundation professor in the social sciences, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Baldomero M. Olivera, professor, department of biology, University of Utah College of Science; and Dr. Larry L. Smarr, director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois.

FAMILY BOOK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family — came to America from Germany. Georg has recorded never-before-published Civil War stories told to her by Letha's mother, Clara Rebecca Leatherman Grossnickel, who lived during the war with her family on a farm in the little village of Harmony, Md., and died at age 92. The book relates encounters with soldiers, battle accounts and hardships created by the war for the people living in this rural community. The reflections give readers an inside glimpse of life in Middletown Valley during the war between the states.

Letha vividly remembers the effects of World Wars I and II and natural disasters on her family and the community. She has lived under 17 Presidents. She recalls primitive farm life, home preservation of food, sickness and home remedies, and poverty. She also shares the satisfaction of reaping the rewards of hard work from sunup to sundown. Letha Wiles expects to celebrate her 97th birthday in September and enjoys good health while still living on the 132-acre Middletown farm she and her husband purchased during the Great Depression in 1932.

Georg says she learned a valuable lesson during the early stages of writing the book. With so much work and research facing her, she reminded herself many times that "success does not come by waiting and watching, but by putting your energy into the project with such perseverance that nothing can discourage you."

The first printing of So Many Mornings occurred at the end of January and sold out in 8 weeks. The book is available at Olsson's Books in Bethesda, and in other local stores where Georg is often asked to give previews and sign books on weekends.

Yvonne "Bonnie" Georg

This project with such time and effort that Georg says she learned the rewards of hard work and perseverance that many mornings...
Vice President Gore Salutes Smoke-Free Soccer Team

The final score was United States 1, China 0, but the real winner in the recent women's soccer exhibition game at RFK Stadium was the smoke-free message championed by the U.S. team. Vice President Al Gore lent his support to the Smoke-Free Kids and Soccer Campaign when he greeted the team and local players at the White House on the day before the game.

Smoke Free Kids and Soccer was started by the Clinton administration to address rising smoking rates among young girls. The U.S. Women's Soccer Team has been touring the country promoting a smoke-free lifestyle as part of the campaign, which advocates soccer as a healthy, positive alternative to cigarette use. The campaign is a collaboration between the Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Soccer, the governing body of American soccer. DHHS participating agencies include the National Cancer Institute, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DHHS Secretary Donna Shalala said the campaign, "challenges the tobacco industry for control over our playgrounds and soccer fields. The sport of soccer and the U.S. team are powerful allies in the fight to protect children from tobacco."

Posters featuring U.S. players and the smoke-free message were distributed to young soccer enthusiasts at the game. The posters show color photos of players in action, with the message, "Fast, Fearless, Strong, Smart—and Smoke-Free." The game and the smoke-free message were carried on ESPN, the first time a women's soccer game has been broadcast live in the U.S.

Youth soccer players representing a local American Stop Smoking Intervention Study, or ASSIST, coalition (a collaborative project of NCI and the American Cancer Society) participated in the half-time activities. Reducing teenage smoking is critical to the fight against cancer, since one in four female high school seniors smokes. The increasing probability of women's soccer provides an opportunity to deliver a positive, smoke-free and healthy message to youth.

Male Volunteers Needed at NIMH

The Biological Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, is seeking male volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in a 5-month study investigating the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must be free of medical illnesses and not taking any medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms and be asked to participate in one of several protocols. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Nazli Haq, 6-9675.

Postmenopausal Volunteers Needed

The NHLBI Cardiology Branch needs postmenopausal volunteers for an outpatient study comparing estrogen and lipid-lowering therapies.

Participants must not be taking any medications, hormone replacements or vitamins or be willing to stop medications for 2 months. Volunteers will be paid. Call Rita Mincemoyer, 6-3666.

Climacteric Research Recruits

The behavioral endocrinology section, NIMH, is seeking men and women over age 45 who are medication-free and experiencing such symptoms as: feeling sad or "flat," sustained lack of enjoyment and motivation, loss of energy, and decreased sexual interest. Eligible subjects will be recruited for a treatment study that augments age-related decline in the hormone dehydroepiandrosterone. For information call Jean Murphy, 6-9675.
The following Federal Employees Health Benefits Program carriers will be on the NIH campus to assist their enrollees who have claims or enrollment problems, or questions for the plan representative:

M.D. IPA—Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6.

George Washington University Plan—Wednesday, Aug. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8.

Blue Cross—Tuesday, Aug. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9.

You do not need to sign up for these service days. Assistance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

REINVENTING NHLBI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As early as 1989, NHLBI began streamlining its review processes by reducing the amount of material sent to advisory council members and changing how and when unapproved applicants were informed about the status of their applications.

Attending to Detail

About 4 years ago, NHLBI policymakers stepped up their streamlining efforts when they saw the reinventing government (REGO) handwriting on the wall: Federal agencies were being asked to get smaller at about the same time that a push to “improve customer service” was emerging. In essence, government was being required to do more work with fewer staff and resources. Although NHLBI had been engaged in innovation and streamlining of review and grants management processes since the late 1980’s, Merritt recalls, REGO prompted the institute to look at a number of other processes. “We began changing the way we do peer review,” she says, explaining the adoption of “triage” (prioritizing applications according to their probability of receiving funding).

As is normal when processes undergo thorough reexamination, nothing was overlooked. Everything from large scale revamping to what could be seen simply as detail was opened for review. As a result, NHLBI also began requesting that reviewers type their comments about the applications they read. In early 1993 NHLBI began to use typed but unedited reviewers’ comments to communicate review results to applicants, eliminating the need for staff to revise and retype reviewers’ notes. That change alone has freed up untold hours spent deciphering and, in some cases, decoding handwritten critiques. Between late 1993 and early 1994 the institute eliminated the use of site visits and reverse site visits as part of its initial program project reviews. This change has saved NHLBI more than $100,000 in administrative costs each year since then.

Forethought and Feedback

If efficiency has been the cornerstone of NHLBI’s reinvention efforts, then forethought and feedback have been the bricks and cement holding it in place. “Technology has made a lot of things possible,” Merritt comments. In another nod to technology’s ever-increasing importance in the workplace, computer specialists at the institute put NHLBI’s system on the fast track several years ago. That kind of planning has made all the difference, according to Merritt. “We are very much up to date in terms of hardware and software,” she says, “because a few years ago we were given good long-range advice about our computer infrastructure. We have a 4-year turnover plan for computers and upgrades, which has worked pretty well for us.”

Procedures polished and resources renovated, NHLBI then addressed the hardest part of any reinvention effort—restructuring and acclimating employees. “In mid-1994 we began restructuring to meet NIH and DHHS streamlining targets for reducing supervisor-to-employee ratios,” she remembers. “We were, in effect, flattening the organization by consolidating a number of branches and sections. This process reduced supervisory responsibilities for some and increased them for others. Change is often difficult, but NHLBI staff have pulled together to make the new organization work. We are still making adjustments and will continue do so as new challenges emerge.”

To ease the transition, NHLBI continues its institute-wide effort to sharpen leadership and workforce skills. “Like other government organizations we had been doing things one way for quite a number of years,” Merritt explains. “Then all of a sudden, reinvention introduces a new paradigm of management and communication to the workplace, challenging us to address human resource issues in a different way. We realized that everyone—senior management included—needed support to adapt to these changes. We began—and are still involved in—efforts to provide this support to our workforce. We have used outside consultants to update leadership skills and to instruct employees in teambuilding and improved communications. So far, this approach has worked pretty well as a cost-effective way to train a number of employees.

“Besides saving money,” Merritt continues, “we found that people were getting more out of sitting in some sessions with their colleagues than they would have by attending courses held off campus.”

‘BOLD’ Faced Changes, Challenges

A major highlight of the NHLBI REGO effort, says Merritt, was the chartering of the BOLD committee by institute director Dr. Claude Lenfant. BOLD is made up of NHLBI’s top scientific, program, and administrative directors who come together as a team to solve problems and discuss major issues and challenges confronting the institute.

Currently, NHLBI is putting in place a new performance and recognition program that more directly links performance plans to position descriptions. Many aspects of the new program are based on input from employee human resource management groups convened to advise management. The
new program also seeks to streamline the recruitment process by standardizing basic position descriptions for similar jobs. For example, grade-7 secretaries will use the same basic PD across NHLBI. There will be flexibility to add a significantly specialized duty to the standard PD in the rare instances when necessary. In addition, NHLBI built into the new program a requirement for supervisors to recognize and award deserving employees across all occupations at all levels. As part of their performance evaluation, Merritt says, supervisors will need to show an active and balanced awards process.

“Overall, the NHLBI record on reinvention is very good,” she concludes. “We have streamlined many processes, redelegated a number of authorities downward, restructured to reduce layering, and become a major player in the area of sharing resources and providing service center support to other NIH organizations. Although the jury is still out, I think we may regard the successful implementation of our new performance and recognition program as our most gratifying achievement because of the institute-wide teamwork involved in the process.”

Do you believe everything you see in the movies? Now is your chance to see whether or not you should. The ever-popular NIH Science in the Cinema film festival begins its third season Aug. 8. The film series features six movies, each depicting a science or medical theme. After the screening of the film, a guest speaker will comment on the scientific issues raised in the movie and answer questions from the audience.

Opening night, Aug. 8, will feature The Madness of King George, based on the true story of King George III of England, whose “mad” behavior was likely caused by porphyria, a metabolic imbalance.

Nell, starring Jodie Foster as a “wild child,” who developed unusual speech and movement patterns from her mother, who had suffered a stroke, will be shown Aug. 15.

A 1931 Academy Award nominated movie, Arrowsmith, based on the Sinclair Lewis novel about an idealistic doctor who faces moral dilemmas in his search for a cure for bubonic plague, is the feature Aug. 22.

Mental health and psychiatry are explored Aug. 29 in Don Juan DeMarco, starring Johnny Depp as the title character, who is convinced he is the world’s greatest lover, and Marlon Brando as the psychiatrist called on to cure him.

A popular dramatic tool, amnesia, is highlighted in the 1991 film, Regarding Henry, starring Harrison Ford as a victim of a shooting, which will be featured Sept. 5.

You won’t want to miss closing night, Sept. 12, when the 1994 blockbuster hit, Apollo 13, about the near-disastrous mission to the moon, will be screened.

Science in the Cinema, sponsored by the Office of Science Education, is a free program open to the public. Each film begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a discussion with the guest speaker. The program will be held in the main auditorium of the Natcher Bldg. Come to the film festival and discover that going to the movies can be not only fun, but also educational. For more information, contact the Office of Science Education, 2-2469.

Sailing Lessons Offered

Join the fun with the R&W NIH Sailing Association. Basic training classes start Wednesday evening, Aug. 21. Cost is $110 plus $35 club membership dues. Course includes 6 evening classroom sessions, a Saturday morning orientation at the marina and 3 or 4 weekday afternoons on South River near Annapolis in the club’s Flying Scots (19-foot sloop-rigged centerboard daysailers). Students completing basic training qualify to sail these boats for very low charter fees.

Students must be NIH/NOAA employees, patients or onsite contractors, as well as R&W members. Application forms and more information on the sailing club are available at the Bldg. 31 R&W activities desk.

Students participating in the NIGMS Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program recently gathered in the Natcher Conference Center for a reception in their honor. The students, who are doing summer research at NIH, were able to meet each other as well as NIGMS and NIH staff involved in biomedical research and training programs. Pictured with the students are Dr. Clifton Poodry (standing, l), director of the NIGMS Division of Minority Opportunities in Research; Dr. Adolphus Toliver (standing, second from r), director of the MARC Program; and Donna Shaw (standing, r), MARC Program secretary and organizer of the event.
BIG Session Scheduled

The NIH chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) will hold an information session for employees attending the BIG National Training Conference in Atlanta. The session will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 6 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 10. Attendees will obtain up-to-date training and logistical information as well as tips on parliamentary procedure from a certified trainer. Reserve your seat today. Call Joy Pinkney, 5-1229, by Friday, Aug. 2. All are invited to attend.

Volunteers Wanted

NIMH seeks female volunteers ages 18-45 for a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles with no changes in mood in relationship to menses, be free of illness and not taking any hormones or medication on a regular basis. Payment will be provided. For more information, call Dr. Catherine Roca, 6-9675.

ORDA's Wivel Leaves for Penn Post

By Bobbi Bennett

Dr. Nelson Wivel, director of NIH's Office of Recombinant DNA Activities (ORDA), may have retired from the Commissioned Corps on June 30 but he is not retiring from the field of human gene therapy. He immediately started the next phase of his career as deputy director of the Institute of Human Gene Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Having completed 30 years of service in the corps, Wivel was at a decision point in his career. "I wasn't committed to leave at this time. I was planning to transfer to Civil Service and continue here until I was really ready to retire. But this is such an excellent professional opportunity that I could not pass it up," he said. "I began discussions about this new job far in advance of any of NIH's decision-making about the future of the RAC (the recombinant DNA advisory committee)."

On July 8, NIH filed a notice in the Federal Register of its intent to "enhance the mechanisms for NIH oversight of recombinant DNA activity." NIH is proposing to discontinue the RAC and relinquish all approval responsibilities for recombinant DNA experiments to FDA, which retains statutory authority for such approval.

As the second director of ORDA and executive secretary of the RAC for the past 7 years, Wivel was fortunate enough to be in on the threshold of gene therapy. "It was one of the things that made the ORDA job very attractive back then. It seemed to be an area of research that was going to come to fruition shortly and it certainly did. I was lucky enough to see the very first protocol that was reviewed and what may have been the last [by the RAC]."

Dr. Harold Varmus, NIH director, stated that "Nelson has played a valuable role in guiding the RAC and NIH through the earliest human trials of gene therapy and the initial era of this fledgling technology. I will miss his advice, diplomacy, and good humor."

Wivel's diplomatic skills were especially needed during the three long years from the first submission of huge volumes of information and preclinical data to ultimate RAC approval of the first gene therapy protocol in 1990. The first two patients were then treated at NIH by Drs. Michael Blaese and Kenneth Culver, then of NCI; French Anderson, then of NHLBI; and their colleagues. Blaese, now chief of NCHGR's Clinical Gene Therapy Branch, feels Wivel "will truly be missed by everyone who has worked in the field of clinical gene therapy over the past few years. He was an invaluable source of information and encouragement for neophyte investigators trying to negotiate what seemed an impenetrable morass of regulations. From time to time, when everything seemed to be going nuts, Nelson had a way of calming the situation and keeping everyone focused. And he could always be counted on as a great source for good stories!"

In his new position at the largest entity in this country devoted to gene therapy, Wivel co-chairs—with Dr. James Wilson, director of the institute—the research and development committee, which manages everything from the bench to clinical trials. He is also responsible for the clinical pathology labs that support many of the basic science studies.

The institute runs one of the three laboratories recently funded by NCRR and other ICs to develop new vectors to carry genes into whatever cells are targeted in a study. Wivel will represent his new employer at NCRR's advisory group that reviews and ranks projects, deciding which gene therapy researchers can use the vector facilities. He is also in charge of overseeing toxicology studies of any newly developed vectors.

Wivel plans to stay abreast of the international scene as far as standards and activities in gene therapy are concerned, particularly in Europe, Taiwan and Japan. He expects to work 12-hour days, which are the norm at the institute from the director on down. "There's a real commitment by people there to get things done so I anticipate a pace of work similar to that of ORDA," said Wivel.

Prior to his stewardship of ORDA, Wivel was the chief medical officer for AIDS research in the General Clinical Research Centers program of what was then the Division of Research Resources. Before that, he was an intramural scientist doing research on retroviruses and headed up the ultrastructural studies sections in NCI's Viral Leukemia and Lymphoma Branch and then in the Laboratory of Cell Biology.

In thinking about RAC's history, Wivel feels that the public forum it provided for the open review of human gene therapy protocols, and the concomitant review of science, safety, and ethics, are some of RAC's greatest achievements. Anyone who attended a RAC meeting had to be overwhelmed by the volume of xeroxed materials—protocols, correspondence, and other documents—available to everyone. Wivel quipped about the number of
forests that had to be denuded in order to accomplish this. He credits his "incredibly hardworking staff at ORDA for meeting all the deadlines and taking care of all the necessary tasks, especially their reliability and promptness in providing information to investigators, the press and the public. Theirs is not a small task."

As for the status of RAC, Wivel pointed out that, since consolidated review with FDA began in July 1995, "there were few protocols that represented significant departures from familiar practices and that therefore required full RAC review. In essence, RAC had already reached a point where the number of protocols for it to review were so diminished that the March and June 1996 RAC meetings were cancelled."

Wivel feels that people may have misunderstood the nature of NIH's mandate. NIH is thought by some to be a regulatory agency rather than a research one. "NIH supported RAC for one fundamental reason: to facilitate its research mission and support the safe development of recombinant DNA experiments. I think RAC's contemplated retirement is a measure of its success in reaching these goals." \textbf{6}

Apply for Grants with Former Soviet Scientists

Through a program made possible by an award from NIH, the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) for the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union (FSU) has announced a new competition for grants to support research projects between American scientists and their counterparts in the FSU on topics related to human health.

CRDF invites proposals from NIH grantees and intramural scientists who have current or prospective collaborations with scientists in the FSU. Two-year cooperative grants of up to $80,000 will be awarded. At least 80 percent of the support awarded for each project is to be used for project-related expenses in the FSU. All proposals will be evaluated through competitive peer review.

Deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 15, 1997. Awards will be announced on or about July 1, 1997.

Interested individuals should email CRDF at: information@crdf.org, or through the World Wide Web at: http://www.crdf.inter.net; or call CRDF at (703) 526-9720 or fax (703) 526-9721. Information also is available from Karen Peterson, 6-4784; fax 0-3414; email p9k@cu.nih.gov.
Public Hearing
Set for NIHAC
NIH will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 31, at 7:30 p.m. at Poolesville High School to consider the proposed draft Master Plan and associated draft Environmental Impact Statement for the NIH Animal Center (NIHAC) in Poolesville.

The proposed Master Plan assumes very limited growth in the number of staff at the site over the 20-year planning period. The primary uses on site will continue to be animal production and holding, outdoor habitat research, and ancillary laboratory research.

Those wishing to speak at the hearing may register in advance by calling the NIH Office of Community Liaison, 6-3931.

Kids Enjoy Their Parents’ Workplace
NIH’s recent observance of “Take Your Children to Work Day” was a success—more than 1,300 slots were available for different activities, in addition to many other attractions that required no tickets (exhibits, videos, etc). All preregistered slots were filled quickly. The day’s events varied from Clinical Center surgical suite tours to fire extinguisher training to DNA extraction—in other words a reflection of the wide range of activities at NIH.

Evaluations from parents and children were overwhelmingly positive. The success was made possible by the institutes and divisions that sponsored special events, including the CC, Office of Research Services; NIDR, NICHD and NIAAA. Additional support was provided by NLM, NCI and the Children’s Inn. Planning for the 1997 Take Your Child to Work Day will begin early in the fall.

Socially Anxious Vols Needed
Men and women who experience anxiety in social and performance situations (e.g., parties, dates, work, public speaking) are needed for a 4-hour study on psychological and behavioral aspects of social anxiety and alcohol use. Eligible participants will receive a $40 payment. For more information, call Giao Tran at American University’s Agoraphobia and Anxiety Program, (202) 885-1743.

Gordis Keynotes Addiction Meeting
NIAAA director Dr. Enoch Gordis recently delivered the keynote address at a meeting entitled, “Through 2000 and Beyond: The Future Ministry of Faith Congregations in the Field of Addictions.” The meeting, sponsored by the North Conway Institute, a Boston-based interfaith association for education on alcohol and other drug-related problems and Boston University School of Theology, included participants from a variety of religious organizations with programs involving alcohol and drug addiction.

“Issues with alcohol use in this country involve much more than alcoholism,” said Gordis, who presented a number of areas where scientific progress has raised important societal issues, and the need for reconciliation between legal, social, and moral systems and bioscience. These include the issue of volition and responsibility for crimes committed while drinking, the promise and problems associated with genetics, and the risks and benefits of moderate drinking and social and regulatory controls and tradeoffs.

“The role of the clergy in intervening with troubled families is very important,” he said, and welcomed their embrace of “the science of alcohol problems,” as they seek to define their mission.

A “hands-on” opportunity to learn how to use a fire extinguisher on a real fire

Kids try out respirator safety equipment displayed by the Occupational Safety and Health Branch, DS, ORS.

The children enjoyed exploring the world of clinical pathology at the Clinical Center.