May 23, 1995
Vol. XLVII No. 11

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

“Still The Second Best Thing About Payday”

Invest in Your Future

Annual U.S. Savings Bonds Drive Launched

The 1995 U.S. Savings Bonds drive kicked off at NIH on May 3 with a new attraction to add to its longstanding reputation of being a secure and easy way—especially via payroll deductions—to save money. As of May 1, the Department of the Treasury simplified its bond regulations, ensuring that Series EE bonds—the most widely held—will earn market-based rates from the date of purchase.

“For the first time, savings bond investors will get market-based rates right from the start,” said Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, in a statement released Mar. 20. “Whether interest rates are high or low, savings bond investors will always get a return linked to market rates, a fair return on their money. This is the latest in a series of changes Treasury has made over the years to keep savings bonds the safest and most convenient way for Americans to save.”

Two different market-based rates will be announced each May 1 and Nov. 1: a short-term rate for the first 5 years bonds are held, and a long-term rate, from 5 through 17 years. Harold Scott, a Treasury spokesman who addressed a modest crowd on the lawn behind Bldg. 10 on kickoff day, said the new short-term rate is 5.25 percent and the new long-term rate is 6.3 percent; neither figure, he cautioned, takes into account the value of tax exemptions/deferrals that accrue to bond holders.

Mary Dufour Named NIAAA Deputy Director

Dr. Mary C. Dufour has been named NIAAA deputy director, effective last month.

“Dr. Dufour’s background in anatomic and clinical pathology, epidemiology research, and preventive medicine will be tremendous assets to NIAAA,” said NIAAA director Dr. Enoch Gordis, who made the appointment. “In addition, Mary is well-known throughout the NIH community as both a talented scientist and an able administrator.”

A nationally recognized expert in alcohol epidemiology, Dufour served from 1987 to 1993 as chief of the Epidemiology Branch in NIAAA’s Division of Biometry and Epidemiology (DBE). In 1993, she became DBE deputy director. In her new post, she also will serve as acting director, DBE.

The only NIAAA division with both intramural and extramural research programs, DBE measures dimensions, monitors changes, and elucidates causal factors in multiple aspects of alcohol use and alcohol disorders. As division deputy, Dufour coordinated the design and implementation of major intramural projects, including a national research on Minority Health, the National Institutes of Health

NIH, Howard Host Forum on Heart Disease, Blacks

By Louise Williams

A bigger issue demands a bigger team,” said one speaker at the “Forum on the Status of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) in Blacks.”

He was referring to the health gap between African Americans and white Americans. African Americans have a higher death rate from CHD than whites. Their death rate from stroke is almost twice that of whites, and they get high blood pressure earlier and more severely than whites.

To help build that “bigger team,” NIH joined forces with Howard University in the first of a series of forums aimed at decreasing CHD among African Americans.

The forum’s sponsors were the NIH Office of Research on Minority Health, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Dr. John M. Flack responds to a question as Dr. Robert Taylor looks on.

Panel member Dr. John M. Flack responds to a question as Dr. Robert Taylor looks on.

Anderson Heads New NIH Social Sciences Office

Dr. Norman B. Anderson has been named to the newly established position of NIH associate director for behavioral and social sciences research. His appointment is effective on July 1.

Anderson is an associate professor in the departments of psychiatry and psychology: social and health sciences at Duke University. He is also founder and director of Duke’s Program on Health, Behavior, and Aging in Black Americans and director of Duke’s Exploratory Center for Research on Health Promotion in Older Minorities. In addition, he is a senior fellow at Duke’s Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, and is a research psychologist in the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

“The creation of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research is a recognition of the vital role of behavioral and social research,” said NIH director Dr. G. Alex Korn.

Nobel Laureate Eigen Gives Fogarty Lecture

Prof. Manfred Eigen, head of the department of biochemical kinetics at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen, Germany, will deliver the Third Annual Fogarty International Lecture on Wednesday, May 31 from 3 to 4 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The lecture was established to foster international exchange within the international biomedical community.

Annually, an eminent scientist from abroad is invited to lecture on a topic of current interest, and, while on the NIH campus, to engage in informal discussions with scientific staff. This year, the lecture, which is also part of the NIH Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series, is entitled “Sorting Single Molecules in Evolutionary Research.”

Eigen will describe a method, developed in conjunction with Dr. Rudolf Rigler of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, that uses computer analysis of molecules in solution at concentrations less than 10^-15 M. The method has great potential for application to molecular biology.

Dr. Norman B. Anderson

NIH, Howard Host Forum on Heart Disease, Blacks

Dr. Mary C. Dufour

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(See EIGEN, Page 2)
factors in health promotion and disease prevention," explained NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus, who made the appointment. "Dr. Anderson will be responsible for directing, planning, and coordinating trans-NIH efforts in behavioral and social sciences research. He is uniquely qualified to ensure the excellence of research in these areas across NIH institutes."

Anderson earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1983. He then completed a clinical psychology internship at Brown University School of Medicine and finished two postdoctoral fellowships (psychophysiology and aging) at Duke. He has published widely in basic and clinical research, primarily in the area of hypertension in African Americans, focusing on the interaction of psychosocial, behavioral, and physiological processes. His research has been funded by three NIH institutes.

He has received several honors and awards including the 1986 New Investigator Award from the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the 1991 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Health Psychology from the American Psychological Association (APA), and holds a Research Scientist Development Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. Most recently he was the recipient of the 1994 Julian Abele Award for Outstanding Scholarly Accomplishments from the Duke University Black Graduate and Professional Student Association. In addition, he is a fellow of the APA, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, and the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.

His editorial positions include serving as associate editor of Ethnicity and Disease and as a member of the board of editors of Health Psychology, Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences, and Women's Health: Research on Gender, Behavior and Policy. He recently completed a term on the APA board of scientific affairs.

Race for the Cure, June 17

Sign up now for the sixth annual Race for the Cure, which includes a 5K run, 5K walk and 1-mile fun walk. The date is Saturday, June 17, 8:30 a.m. at the corner of 12th and Constitution Ave. N.W., in Washington, D.C. There will be refreshments, celebrity guests (including actresses Sharon Stone, Linda Carter [TV's "Wonder Woman"] and former Redskins kicker Mark Moseley), prizes and commemorative T-shirts. Race benefits breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment. Pick up registration ($17 before May 31) at the NIH Visitor Information Center (VIC), Bldg. 10, Rm. B12218, or the R & W Activities Desk, Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W 30. For more information, contact the NIH team coordinator, Peggy Brandenburg, 6-1776, at the VIC, which is also site of race packet pickup the week preceding the race.
The Record
NHLBI Launches Inner-City Advertising Campaign

NHLBI has launched its first-ever comprehensive outdoor public service advertising (PSA) campaign, attempting to reach African Americans with messages about asthma. The campaign is being run in eight cities with large numbers of asthma cases—Washington, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, St. Louis, Chicago, Phoenix and Sacramento. The death rate from asthma in most of these cities is also disproportionately high. Recent data show that more than 5,000 Americans die each year from asthma and that the death rate from asthma among African Americans is three times higher than it is among whites.

NHLBI partnered with several groups to secure placements of its PSA: the Outdoor Advertising Association of America (OAAA), through member companies, donated more than 150 8-sheet and computer-painted vinyl bulletins in Philadelphia, Baltimore and St. Louis; Transportation Displays Inc. secured more than 100 8-sheets in Chicago, Phoenix and Sacramento. The major symptoms of asthma include: a cough that won’t go away; wheezing, especially at night or after running; shortness of breath; and tightness in the chest.

The outdoor PSAs are part of an annual public service advertising campaign, developed by NHLBI’s National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, to increase public awareness of asthma’s warning signs and potential seriousness. This campaign, which runs throughout the spring allergy season, also includes nationally distributed radio public service announcements.

NIAID’s Kindt To Lecture

Dr. Thomas J. Kindt, chief of NIAID’s Laboratory of Immunogenetics (LIG), will present a seminar titled “Use of Molecular Clones to Investigate HTLV-I Infection and Diseases” at Stone House on Tuesday, May 30, at 2 p.m.

Kindt has long been recognized for his expertise in the field of immunology and recently has made contributions to the study of human T cell leukemia virus-I (HTLV-I). This virus infects an estimated 10 million to 20 million people worldwide and is spread through contact with infected blood, sexual activity, and from infected mothers to their infants. Although 90 percent of people infected with the virus have no apparent symptoms, researchers have found a linkage between HTLV-I and diseases such as cutaneous lymphoma, uveitis, and certain musculoskeletal disorders. HTLV-I is also known to cause adult T-cell leukemia or lymphoma (ATLL) and another disease, called HAM/TSP, which produces progressively debilitating neurologic symptoms.

The rabbit has proved to be a most useful model for studying HTLV-I infection because it is highly susceptible to the virus and, as in humans, infection in rabbits is generally benign. Kindt and his colleagues, however, found that certain groups of HTLV-I-infected T-cells cause a disease in rabbits that is similar to the human disease ATLL and that others are associated with asymptomatic infection. LIG scientists have isolated and characterized molecular clones of HTLV-I from these cell lines. These molecular clones are the tools that scientists have sought for years for the study of HTLV-I. They anticipate that the clones will shed light on the mechanisms by which HTLV-I causes disease and perhaps provide approaches to prevention of diseases caused by the virus.

Rockledge Credit Union Opens

The NIH Federal Credit Union is relocating its Westwood Branch to a new site at Two Rockledge Center, 6701 Rockledge Dr., 1st floor, Bethesda, MD 20817. Hours of operation are 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The move will accommodate the 2,500 employees that NIH has transferred to new office space. The Rockledge Branch’s grand opening is scheduled for June 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All NIH’ers are invited to stop by and enjoy a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony and cake. For more information, call the credit union’s telephone service center, (301) 718-0208.

Life Insurance Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management has announced a limited open season for the Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program. This open season began May 22 and continues through July 21. Only those employees who are eligible to enroll in FEGLI, but have a current waiver of life insurance on file, are eligible to enroll during this open season. Those employees may enroll in basic coverage only.

If you believe you are eligible to enroll, contact your personnel office for details. They will also provide you with the enrollment form and the FEGLI booklet.
“Teamwork will be our strength. Through it, we can achieve more than could any one member.”

And what better place to start,” he added, “than here at Howard University?”

The topic then turned to research findings about the causes of high blood pressure among African Americans.

Dr. John Flack, associate and medical director of the Hypertension Center at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N. C., noted that 32 percent of African Americans have high blood pressure, compared with 24 percent of the overall U.S. population.

Reasons for the disparity are not yet understood but include such factors as a greater sensitivity to sodium, genetics, microvascular differences, obesity, and socioeconomic status.

Dr. Gerald Berenson, director of the Tulane Center for Cardiovascular Health, at the Tulane University School of Public Health in New Orleans, said fatty streaks have been found in the aortas of African American children. The finding comes from the NHLBI-supported Bogalusa Heart Study, which has been following a large group of Black and white children since 1972.

Other Bogalusa data show that by ages 14 for girls and 20 for boys, African American children have higher blood pressures than white children. And that, Berenson added, means efforts to prevent high blood pressure and CHD must start early.

Several speakers echoed his call for early intervention and advocated a community-based approach.

Dr. Noma Anderson, associate professor in the department of communication sciences and disorders at Howard’s School of Communications, said community involvement is needed to overcome distrust felt by many African Americans for government agencies and other organizations. Community members also can give key information about education levels and health practices of residents.

She also recommended using family-oriented health messages and slanting them toward the person “who cares most for those you want to reach.” For example, messages about seniors should be directed to their adult children and those for women to their husbands.

“Moms think about how many of their relatives have had hypertension and heart disease,” she advised.

Rev. Dr. Melvin B. Tuggle II said one of the best educators in Black communities is the church. Tuggle is pastor of the Garden of Prayer Baptist Church in Baltimore and president of the Clergy United for the Renewal of East Baltimore.

“This is the church of the African American community,” he noted. “Schools open and close; factories leave; but the church is always there, even for those who do not attend services.”

Dr. Keith Copelin Ferdinand, director of the Heartbeats Life Center in New Orleans, described his successful community project, called “Healthy Heart.” Funded by NHLBI, Healthy Heart reaches out with health messages to low-income African Americans through churches, barber shops, and beauty shops. The site also screen for high blood pressure.

At the close of the forum, Dr. Orlando Taylor, interim vice president for academic affairs at Howard University, reminded participants that “the mission to reduce CHD is one of urgency.”

He then told of a general who was being honored at a special dinner. Speaker after speaker praised his greatness in battle. But when the general was asked for a few remarks, he said only: “Generals don’t win wars.”

“We’re trying to win the war against CHD in African Americans,” said Taylor. “It can’t be won by NIH alone, or universities alone, or national organizations, or communities. It needs all of us.”
NIAID has launched three new research projects on topical microbicides to prevent and control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including AIDS, in women.

Topical microbicides are chemicals that a woman can use in her vagina before sexual intercourse to thwart infectious microbes that cause diseases such as gonorrhea, syphilis and genital herpes, as well as chlamydia, hepatitis B and HIV infections. An STD is acquired each year by an estimated 12 million Americans—a disproportionate number of whom are women. STDs contribute excessively to the illnesses, deaths and health care costs among women as well as among newborns, who can be infected before or during birth.

“The development of safe, effective, female-controlled topical microbicides that will block the transmission of HIV and other STD agents is a global priority and a central focus of NIAID’s STD research program,” said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID director.

The institute will award a first-year total of $1.5 million to research teams in Los Angeles, Chicago and Pittsburgh. These groups will conduct studies necessary to develop new topical microbicides.

“The goal of these projects is to develop safe antimicrobial products that effectively fight a combination of infectious agents, whether they are viral, bacterial or protozoan,” noted Dr. John R. LAMontagne, director of the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID), the NIAID division that oversees the new efforts. “The multidisciplinary projects will address basic and clinical research questions that need to be answered before such products can be produced.”

The principal investigators of the teams and their planned projects are as follows:

- Dr. Robert I. Lehrer of the University of California, Los Angeles, and his group will develop man-made versions of small proteins known as protegrins as possible microbicides to protect women from HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, genital herpes or trichomoniasis infections. Protegrins occur naturally and their planned projects are as follows:

1. **The research effort will greatly increase our knowledge of potential microbicides and will lead to model systems in which to evaluate future products,” explained Dr. Penny J. H.itchcock, chief of the Disease Sexually Transmitted Diseases Branch and coordinator of the NIAID projects.

2. “The currently available mechanical and chemical products thought to prevent STD and HIV transmission have limitations,” she added. “A major drawback of the male condom is that it cannot be used at the discretion of a woman without her partner’s knowledge or consent. Existing spermicides have not been clinically evaluated, and issues of safety and efficacy for STD/HIV prevention remain unresolved. Many situations exist in which personal, social or cultural barriers interfere with a woman’s ability to successfully negotiate and implement their use.”

3. According to Hitchcock, an ideal topical microbicide would not be inherently spermicidal, but could be formulated with or without spermicidal activity. For example, noncontraceptive microbicides would be useful for women who wish to become pregnant. “A person’s contraceptive choices may change over a lifetime, but no matter what a person’s contraceptive preference is, they need to be protected from HIV infection and STDs.”

- More than 20 major STD-causing organisms and syndromes are now recognized, many of which pose serious health problems for women and their children. HIV is now the fourth leading cause of death among women ages 25 to 44 in the United States, and a leading killer of women worldwide. Gonorrhea and chlamydial infections cause pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and ectopic pregnancy. Several common STDs adversely affect pregnancy, resulting in spontaneous abortion, stillbirth and preterm delivery. Moreover, genital infections due to human papillomavirus are associated with cervical cancer, one of the most common cancers in women throughout the world. Infections in newborns include syphilis, herpes, gonococcal conjunctivitis (an eye disease that can lead to blindness) and chlamydial pneumonia, an infection of the lungs that can develop into a chronic respiratory disease.

- Normal Volunteers Wanted

Right-handed volunteers with no abnormal neurological history, ages 50 and older, are needed for an NINDS study involving magnetic resonance imaging. Subjects will be paid for participating. Contact Elizabeth Hoffmann, 2-1315.
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Richard Green, HHS bond campaign official, says he wishes he started saving back in 1970, when he began his career on 4 West.

from the date of issue. The new rate is likely to be of most benefit to people who cash in their bonds before 5 years, experts say.

Savings bonds will still be sold for half their face value, but because they earn market-based rates, it isn't certain when a bond will reach face value.

Outstanding Series E bonds and Savings Notes as well as Series EE bonds issued before May 1 are not affected by the changes and will continue to earn interest under the terms of the offering in effect before May 1. Similarly, Series H and HH bonds are also not affected by the new changes—they'll continue to pay interest semiannually at a fixed 4 percent.

Dr. Judith Valtukaitis, director of NCCR—the lead ICDC in this year's campaign—said, "The sad truth is that most Americans don't save enough." The Japanese lead the world in personal savings, setting aside an average 15 percent of earnings, she reported. Then come the Italians at 14 percent, French and Germans at around 12 percent. The U.S. languishes at 5.6 percent, she said.

"I buy bonds for two reasons," she stated. "First, as part of a balanced savings plan, bonds are the safest investment. Second, they provide capital to make America strong."

Richard Green, the HHS associate savings bond campaign manager, recalled the early days of his career, which began on 4 West in Bldg. 10. "I was pretty full of myself back then," he recounted. "I thought I knew a lot, but I was wrong. I knew nothing about mortgages, money management, child rearing, and other life skills. Graduate school had taught me nothing about these things."

Ruling his failure to save, he related, "If I knew then [about life] what I know now, I'd be a millionaire. I would have taken one of those early-outs."

Each person should have an emergency fund equal to 6 months' earnings, he said. "There is no better vehicle than bonds for accomplishing this. This is your own money we're talking about here, not some charity. Pay yourself first."

Free, more detailed information about bonds is available by sending a postcard to Harold Scott of the bond marketing office mimicked Ross Perot as he explained new rules simplifying bond purchase:

"It's simple, now pay attention!"

The Record

BOND DRIVE
(Continued from Page 1)

(EE bonds are exempt from state and local income taxes, and federal income tax reporting may be deferred until redemption or final maturity [30 years], whichever comes first).

"These rates compare quite favorably with 6-month CDs (certificates of deposit) right now," said Scott, who had prefaced his remarks with an impersonation of Ross Perot's nasal twang: "It's simple, now pay attention!"

Prior to the May 1 rule change, EE bonds had earned a return of 4 percent for 5 years

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NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein urged NIH'ers to start their investment in bonds as soon as the keyworkers assigned to their offices call. "If you don't see it, you can't spend it," she said, emphasizing the ease of bond purchase through payroll deduction.

"It's a great way to finance a college education, and it's a tax-free way to create a retirement nestegg."

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Federal ‘Webmasters’ To Meet, July 11-13 in Natcher

N I H’s Office of Information Resources Management, in conjunction with the National Science Foundation/National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) World Wide Web (WWW) Federal Consortium, is sponsoring a federal webmasters workshop on July 11-13 at the Natcher Conference Center. Consisting of 14 federal agencies, the WWW Federal Consortium was chartered to foster improved efficiency in the dissemination of internal and public information and to further research and education of WWW-related technology.

The 3-day workshop is open to all federal employees who now have, or expect to have, policy or technical responsibilities for supporting a federal government server on the World Wide Web. This workshop is not intended to serve end users who simply browse the net. The program will assist designers and operators of web sites and managers who want to enhance their agency’s web presence or production of material for federal web sites. Planned sessions on the first 2 days of the workshop incorporate a wide variety of topics including the latest developments in web software and servers, online security, integrating internal agency information systems, and future directions of the web. There will be expert and novice technical tracts. Informal discussion groups and poster sessions are scheduled for the final meeting day. Sessions will be conducted by speakers representing leaders in web research and development, including NCSA staff.

As the fastest-growing segment of the huge Internet computer network, the web was known to only a few specialists a year ago. Universities and government agencies were the first to operate web “sites” (computers in which web information resides). Now used by millions of people to share information, the approximate 16,000 current Web sites are growing at the rate of 10 percent per month. Unlike the all-text format employed by many earlier Internet technologies, the web uses hypermedia “home pages” in a graphics format to organize masses of electronic information. Home pages can contain text, graphics, voices, music and even video.

Information on this workshop, including a preliminary agenda, and registration instructions may be accessed through the World Wide Web at http://skydive.ncsa.uiuc.edu/webmaster/FedEdWebWorkshop.html. Registration is limited on a first-come, first-served basis and is restricted to 950 people. The deadline for receiving online registration is June 20. For more information, call Encore Management Corp., (202) 429-0001, or email: encore@cas.com.

DUFOUR, ALCOHOL EPIDEMIOLOGY EXPERT, APPOINTED NIAAA DEPUTY DIRECTOR (Continued from Page 1)


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In addition, she has worked to stimulate extramural applications in the multiple disciplines of alcohol research, focusing on such high priority areas as women, minorities, health services research, and medications development.

Among her special research interests are alcohol-related morbidity and mortality, specifically alcoholic liver disease, breast cancer, alcohol and women, alcohol and nutrition, and risks and benefits of moderate alcohol consumption. She has published widely in medical, alcohol research, and public health journals as well as science monographs and books.

She also served as NIAAA representative to the NIH nutrition coordinating committee and currently serves as representative to the NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health, as well as the DHHS-Degree of Agriculture interagency board for nutrition monitoring and related research, which produces Dietary Guidelines for Americans at 5-year intervals.

“This is the best of times to be part of the alcohol research endeavor,” said Dufour. “The field is maturing and important advances are being made at a rapid rate. As part of N H I, N I A A A is ideally positioned to guide this blossoming field into the next century.”

Dufour earned an M.D. degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, completed a residency at Washington Hospital Center in combined clinical and anatomic pathology, and was board certified in 1980. In 1983, she was awarded the M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and is board eligible in preventive medicine.

From 1982 to 1985, she was a fellow in the highly competitive PH S Epidemiology Training Program, specializing in alcohol epidemiology at N I A A A. She is a captain in the commissioned corps.

Dufour holds the PHS Outstanding Service Medal for outstanding service to DBE, NIAAA, and PH S and the PHS Commendation Medal for establishing and directing NIAAA’s epidemiology grant portfolio. She also has been nominated for the PHS M eritorious Service Medal for service as NIAAA acting deputy director.

Chamber Concert Set, June 4

The Rock Creek Chamber Players will give a concert in the 14th-floor assembly hall, Bldg. 10, on Sunday, June 4 at 3 p.m. The program will include Mozart’s Piano Quartet in E flat major, K. 493; a work for bass viol and piano; and Mendelssohn’s Quintet in A minor for two violins, two violas and violoncello. The concert, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Clinical Center recreation therapy section. For more information, call (202) 357-8710.

Concert To Benefit Inn, Camp

The R & W will present the M ontgomery Symphony Orchestra in a concert to benefit the Children’s Inn at NIH and Camp Fantastic on Sunday, June 4 at 3 p.m in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Suggested donation is $2 for adults, $1 for children.
NLM Bids Farewell to Long-Time Staff Members

Within the last few months, staff at the National Library of Medicine have bid farewell to several long-time staff members and to a wealth of experience and knowledge about the library. Of the five retirees from key positions at NLM, four have been with the library since the early 1970's, one of them since 1968.

The retirees are:

Harry D. Bennett, deputy director for operations at NLM's Office of Computer and Communications Systems (OCCS), has had 40 years' experience in the field of data processing and information systems as a mathematician, marketing representative, scientific specialist, entrepreneur, and manager. This includes over 4 years as a corporate executive and technical director, and 21 years as a government executive at NLM.

He previously worked for IBM, VIP Systems, and Deltek, Inc., before joining the staff of NLM in 1973. Since that time, he has held the position of either deputy director or director of OCCS. In these positions he was responsible for managing all aspects of the MEDLARS and database management systems and for the online MEDLINE and TOXLINE services.

His first position at NLM was as deputy director, OCCS, where from 1973 to 1977 he managed all operational aspects of the NLM computer center during the transition of services to MEDLARS II and a production online interactive retrieval system. In 1977, he became director, OCCS, and was responsible for development, planning, implementation, programming, monitoring, operation, and management of all production data processing services. In addition he managed the design and construction of a new computer facility for NLM, coordinated the procurement of a new computer system, and coordinated the transfer operation without interruption of NLM services. In 1983, he became deputy director for operations, a position he held until his retirement.

Kenneth G. Carney has been NLM's executive officer since 1981, and has been with the library since 1968. His career spanned almost 42 years of federal service, 37 of those years at NIH, and 27 at the library.

At age 17, he began working at the Army Map Service as a map maker. While attending American University he returned to the federal government as an illustrator in the Medical Arts Division of NIH and, after receiving his degree, he was selected for an administrative assistant position, later becoming a senior administrative officer.

His first position at NLM was deputy grants and contracts management officer in extramural programs; he later served as grants management officer. In 1971, he became staff assistant to the executive officer, then senior management analyst, and in 1979, deputy executive officer.

In 1981, Carney was named the library's top administrator—executive officer. The 14 years since that appointment were ones of great expansion of the library's programs and services—new components such as the National Center for Biotechnology Information were added, new databases developed, and a new director brought his own vision of NLM's future. Carney helped implement much of this progress.

Dr. Richard K.C. Hsieh was appointed director for International Programs in 1986. He brought to NLM some 30 years of experience in health services research, computer applications in medicine, and research grants management.

In 1966, he joined the federal government to develop a "Medical Care Administration" research program in the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital and Clinic System. Medical care administration research was relatively new when the Surgeon General called upon PHS to engage in "research in ways of providing health services," in addition to more traditional clinical and basic medical research. In the relatively short time of 6 years, a health services program was established in five PHS hospitals with an annual budget of $2 million.

From 1981 to 1986, he served as the health scientist administrator for managing operations of the chartered cancer clinical investigation review committee, which reviews and recommends group clinical trial grant applications in NCI.

Dr. Richard K.C. Hsieh

Peri Schuyler, head of NLM's medical subject headings section since 1981, retired in March. She began her federal career as a chemist with the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C., then joined the staff of the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia as an indexer. In 1971, she became a part of NLM's index section, and in 1978 was named head of its unit A. There she developed requirements for the online indexing system, helped develop an automated system for input and maintenance of chemical records, and was an instructor in MEDLARS online and indexing training.

In 1981, she accepted the position of deputy chief of the Bibliographic Services Division, where she developed and implemented an online indexing system, served as project officer for database-related agreements, and served on numerous committees associated with database design and development.

In 1988, she was selected to head the medical subject headings section, which is responsible for development and maintenance of the vocabulary used in indexing and cataloging, and for implementing the recommendations of the literature selection technical review committee with respect to Index Medicus journal selection.

Bruno M. Vasta, chief of the Biomedical Files Implementations Branch of Specialized Information Services, and TOXNET administrator since 1983, retired from NLM after nearly 35 years of federal service. He has been involved in the information science field for over 25 years, served on numerous national and international committees, and has been involved in several professional societies, serving as chairman of both the American Chemical Society's division of chemical information and of the American Society for Information Sciences.

He joined NLM in the early 1970's and spent nearly 9 years serving first as chief of Toxicology Information Services, where he was instrumental in building TOXLINE and CHEMLINE, and later as chief of the Bibliographic Services Division. He then accepted the position of director of the EPA's chemical information division, where he was responsible for providing information support systems and for building the Toxic Substances Control Inventory.

In 1983, he returned to NLM to head SIS's Biomedical Files Implementation Branch. In addition he had overall responsibility for NLM's Toxicology Data Network (TOXNET) system. One of the most significant achievements was the redesign of TOXNET into a client/server microprocessor cluster that has resulted in significant savings each year for the library.
Lipid Congress Held Here

The Second Congress of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids on “Fatty Acids and Lipids: From Cell Biology to Human Disease,” will be held at the Natcher Conference Center, Bldg. 45, June 7-10.

Symposia for the conference, which will bring together many of the world’s leading authorities on lipid research, will include plenary sessions on the role of fatty acids in gene expression, in vivo assessment of fatty acid status, antioxidant status and peroxida- tion and the cardiovascular system. Symposia will also include membrane functions of the polyunsaturates, inborn errors of metabolism, fats in the food supply and the role of fatty acids in brain function and in insulin resistance, obesity and chronic diseases. There will also be poster sessions.

There are a limited number of free registrations available for NIH employees, with ID card, on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration materials may be obtained by calling 3-2393 (Corinne Stein), by fax: 4-0035, or email: NZZ@cu.nih.gov. After June 6, registration will be performed at the Natcher Bldg.

NIDR Establishes Oral Gene Resource

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vestigators at NIDR’s Laboratory of Developmental Biology have established a “library” of more than 1,000 partially sequenced DNA clones isolated from developing rodent tooth and maxillofacial tissues. The DNA clones represent genes that are expressed, or active, in the tissues examined. The institute is encouraging research collaborations by making the sequence information and clones available to investigators at universities and other institutions in the United States and abroad.

NIDR hopes this genome project will promote studies to identify new genes that are necessary for craniofacial and tooth development, or are markers for oral cancer. Of 400 genes expressed in developing rat incisors, 60 percent were found to be new genes, 30 percent represented previously identified genes, and 10 percent had partial homology to known genes. A similar analysis will soon be completed for genes from maxillofacial tissues.

“We expect to discover new genes from this library that encode novel proteins that are essential constituents of the tooth and its supporting tissues,” said Dr. Yoshi Yamada, director of the project. The array of gene products could include unique regulatory factors, growth factors, proteins involved in signal transduction pathways, and extracellular matrix proteins and their receptors.

The next phase of the project involves selecting genes with interesting patterns of expression during development of tooth, bone, and craniofacial tissues; expressing the genes in a bacterial system; and producing antibodies to the gene products. This phase will provide additional information for choosing genes to characterize in greatest depth, and to screen as markers for oral cancer.

“The scope of this research, whether determining full-length DNA gene sequences, identifying gene functions, or mapping homologous human genes, will require the capabilities of many research laboratories,” said Dr. Kenneth Yamada, codirector of the project. To stimulate this research, NIDR registered the partial DNA sequences of 400 clones in GenBank, a database accessible through the Internet. Sequencing of additional clones will continue and the new information will be added to the GenBank database.

The characterization of oral and maxillofacial genes represented by these clones could ultimately benefit the public as well as the scientific community. The discovery of new genes involved in the development of these tissues is critical to the understanding of craniofacial anomalies and cancers of the mouth, head, and neck. This research lays the groundwork that could lead to the development of diagnostic reagents and gene therapies, as well as dietary and drug strategies for prevention.

The initial phase of this project was published in the January 1995 issue of the Journal of Dental Research. Further information on acquiring gene clones or participating in collaborative studies can be obtained from Y. Yamada, Bldg. 30, Rm. 405, fax 2-0897, email yamada@yoda.nidr.nih.gov.

NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden (top, l) recently hosted a visit by Dr. Benjamin Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins, who delivered a motivational talk for minority students at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Below, Carson gets a standing ovation from the students, whom he urged to excel academically and to consider health careers. Carson said his mother made him turn off TV and read books as a child. She made him do book reports, even though, unbeknownst to Carson, she couldn’t read. She later graduated from college and has won an honorary doctorate.

About 200 students and their teachers from 21 area high schools converged on the NIEHS campus recently to get a taste of a wide variety of environmental careers and associated 21st-century technology. Co-sponsored by NIEHS and North Carolina State University College of Forest Resources, the symposium offered a selection of 18 speakers from the environmental sciences—including genetics, marine biology, and medicine—and such diverse fields as environmental law, television environmental reporting, and wood and paper science. This was the third such annual symposium, planned to coincide with the 25th annual national and international Earth Day observances. Winners of the symposium essay contest, coordinated by NIEHS senior scientist Dr. Joseph K. Haasen (c), were from l Christine Fischer (first place) and John Templeton (second), both of Durham’s Jordan High School, and C. Destine Couch of Hillside High in Durham, and Ashley Edwards of Wake Forest Roleville High, who shared third place.
NCI’s Constance Matthews Retires After 31 Years

Constance A. Matthews, a computer specialist for the National Cancer Institute’s Research Analysis and Evaluation Branch (RAEB), part of the Division of Extramural Activities, retired April 14 after 31 years of service.

For three decades, she analyzed and indexed NCI’s scientific grants, tracked the published results through literature searches, maintained the office’s GENIUS computer system, developed computer programs and flow charts, corrected computer malfunctions, and designed modifications to make the computer run smoother.

“Working for NCI has been a wonderful experience for me,” said Matthews. “I not only learned something about research, but I got a chance to meet the researchers as well. It’s been very fulfilling.”

When Matthews graduated from Richard Montgomery High School in the summer of 1964, she never expected to work for RAEB, telling her mother after her initial job interview with supervisor Rosemary Cuddy, “Ma, I’m just not going to work for those old folks!”

Years later, when Matthews told Cuddy she had once made such a remark and “now sort of regretted saying it,” Cuddy replied: “Gee, which one of us did you think was old? I was only 23 years old when I interviewed you.”

In 1973, Matthews received an NCI Award for Special Achievement as a computer specialist, and again was recognized in 1979.

On Oct. 26, 1985, Matthews also earned the distinction of being the first and only DEA employee to deliver a baby while on the job. She was attending a scientific conference in Las Vegas with supervisor Dianne Ostraw when she suddenly burst out to Ostraw: “I’m feeling too well.” Matthews, who was 34 weeks pregnant, started to go into labor just as the conference was about to begin. She was rushed by ambulance to South Nevada Hospital. Matthews and Ostraw survived the ordeal despite medical complications, which kept Matthews in Nevada for more than a month.

Her son, now 9 years old, is one of the “great joys of my life,” she said. She also has a daughter, Tiffany, 18, who is a high school cheerleader.

“Constance is liked by everybody and you will never find a more compassionate and caring person,” said Ostraw.

Born 49 years ago in the once-farming community of Rockville, Matthews is active in Round Oak Missionary Baptist Church in Silver Spring. She currently resides with her children in Sandy Spring.

“Retirement will give me more time to spend with my children and my church, and maybe get some swimming in on the side.”

Matthews concluded.—Francis X. Mahaney, Jr.

ORWH Talk Highlights Fitness

The fourth program of the Women’s Health Seminar Series will focus on “Physical Fitness” at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30 in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The program will open with introductory remarks by Dr. Thomas M. alone, former NIH deputy director.

The first lecture, “Heredity and Health-Related Fitness,” will be presented by Dr. Claude Bouchard, professor of exercise physiology at University Laval. His research deals with the role of genes in adaptation to exercise training, and in obesity and various nutritional stresses.

Dr. William Evans, director of the Noll Physiological Research Center, will follow with a discussion on “Physical Fitness, Physical Activity and Reduction of Health Risks in Different Age Populations.”

According to studies, much of what we call ‘aging’ may be nothing more than the lifetime accumulation of inactivity and poor nutrition. Through physical exercise and training, it may be possible to prevent conditions such as diabetes, coronary artery disease, hypertension, osteoporosis, and obesity.

The final lecture, “Physical Activities Related to Major Health Problems of Women” will be presented by Dr. Barbara Drinker, researcher in the department of medicine at the Pacific Medical Center in Seattle. Low bone density observed in young amenorrheic athletes and anorexics suggests an important interaction between estrogen and exercise. Pressure to meet unrealistic weight or percent body fat goals can cause many young women to go to extremes to lose weight. Some slip into a pattern of poor nutrition and inadequate caloric intake, which too frequently leads to serious eating disorders, menstrual irregularities, and bone loss.

Following the lectures, M alone will moderate a question-and-answer period.

The seminar series is sponsored by the Office of Research on Women’s Health. The next session will focus on “Hormone Replacement Therapy” at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 11. For information, call 2-1770.
Dr. Bruce Baum, NIDR clinical director, is the first recipient of a new award for research in geriatric dentistry. The award was presented recently by the geriatric oral research group of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), during its annual meeting in San Antonio.

Baum was selected for the honor because of his "outstanding research accomplishments in the field of geriatric oral research." Throughout his career, he has conducted research on oral physiology and aging, with a particular focus on the effects of aging on salivary gland function.

He was responsible for adding an oral physiology component to the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging while he was a senior investigator at NIA’s Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore, between 1978-1982. Started by NIA in 1958, the study examines normal aging in adults. With the addition of an oral physiology component, the study began gathering information on many aspects of oral and dental health. Major accomplishments included describing "normal" salivary gland secretion, chemosensory (taste) function, and oral motor performance across the adult lifespan.

As a result of the Baltimore study, Baum showed that salivary gland dysfunction was not due to aging per se in essentially healthy individuals. Rather, it was a result of circumstances more commonly experienced by older people. Most often, decreased saliva secretion or altered composition of saliva results as a side effect from medications commonly used by older people such as antihypertensives and antidepressants. Salivary hypofunction also results from destruction of secretory tissues by autoimmune diseases like Sjogren’s syndrome, or it may be secondary to radiation therapy for head and neck cancer. Both are most commonly experienced by middle-aged and older people.

When Baum joined NIDR in 1982, he began to focus on these disorders in older people that affect salivary glands. Together with Dr. Philip Fox, he established the NIDR Dry Mouth Clinic and began to develop novel diagnostic and therapeutic tools for managing the exocrinopathies associated with Sjogren’s syndrome and radiation therapy.

He has also continued to collaborate with NIA through an agreement whereby NIDR now operates the oral physiology component of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging.

The IADR Award in Geriatric Dentistry is sponsored by the Biotene/Laclede Professional Products Co.

Dr. Lewis Joseph Sargent Dies

Dr. Lewis Joseph Sargent, a scientist who retired from NIH in 1973, died on Apr. 27. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Oct. 27, 1909, of Russian immigrant parents. He received a bachelor’s degree in organic chemistry from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1932 and an M.S. in 1935. He traveled to the British Isles for further graduate study, attaining a Ph.D., again in organic chemistry, from the University of Edinburgh in 1938 under the mentorship of Prof. George Barger.

Returning to the States, he was awarded a National Research Council fellowship to do postdoctoral research at the University of Virginia with Dr. Lyndon Small, chief of the Drug Addiction Laboratory, sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. He was then research associate at Johns Hopkins University (1939-1941) after which he again joined the team of Small and Erich M. Ossettig (M. arch 1941) whose research endeavors had been acquired by the National Institute (later Institutes) of Health.

Sargent, familiarly known as Lew, was promoted from associate chemist to research chemist (Civil Service) in 1945. He became a member of the Commissioned Corps with the rank of scientist in 1948, was promoted to senior scientist in 1953 and to scientist director in 1958, retiring with that rank in 1973. He was appointed assistant chief of the Laboratory of Chemistry in 1958 and was a visiting research fellow at Kings College, Durham, England, 1960-1961.

Sargent’s research during the World War II years was on the synthesis of new antimalarial drugs with emphasis on acridine, fluorene and nucleoside chemistry. In 1946, he returned to his first love in science, research on the structure of alkaloids including morphine derivatives (metapagon, e.g., the efficacious analgesic developed by Small, et al.) and rearrangement products.

Sargent’s main exercise was walking, often to the various libraries, of which he was an avid patron, in the Bethesda area. He was also an enthusiastic patron of the arts, and with his wife Eleanor, to whom he was married in 1947, attended many concerts, classical music being his principal passion. He was an interesting raconteur and liked to give accounts of his early morning deliveries of milk to households in New York City with a horse-drawn vehicle during his high school and early college years.

In addition to his wife Eleanor, he is survived by a son, Robert.—Dr. Everett L. May
NCI High School Intern Wins Frederick County Science Fair

The reason for the smile on Edward H. Rau’s face these days is simple—his daughter Laura, 18, just won, for the second time, the grand prize in the Frederick County Science and Engineering Fair. A senior at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, she went on to compete May 6-13 in the 46th annual International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Toronto, earning a Second Place Grand Award in biochemistry (and an invitation to spend 2 weeks this summer at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California) for her research project “The Effects of Human Plasma on HIV-1 Viral Envelope Shedding.”

Laura D. Rau, daughter of DS’s Ed Rau, recently won her second grand prize in the Frederick County Science and Engineering Fair. She learned much of her science in an NCI-sponsored internship program at the Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center.

Laura Rau’s project won her a slew of other honors, in addition to the county grand prize. These include the American Society for Microbiology Commendation, the American Society for Microbiology Undergraduate Research Award, a U.S. Army Certificate of Achievement and the First Place U.S. Navy/Marine Corps Distinguished Achievement Award.

She won her first county-wide science fair grand prize as a sophomore in 1993 for an epidemiology study entitled, “Does Failure to Adjust for Age Distribution Account for the Lack of Association Between Regionally High Radon Levels and Pulmonary Neoplasm Mortality Rates in Maryland?”

She then competed in the International Science Fair in Mississippi Beach, Miss., and won an American Medical Association Certificate of Excellence in Science Achievement. Laura also presented the findings of her radon study in a seminar at the Radiation Safety Branch, NIH, in the summer of 1993. — Rich McManus

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture

On June 7, Dr. Larry R. Squire, professor of psychiatry and neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine and research career scientist at the VA Medical Center, will continue the Wednesday Afternoon Lectures series with a discussion of “Memory and Brain Systems.” He will be hosted by the N eurobiology Interest Group.

The talk will be held at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. For more information, call Hilda Madine, 4-5595.

Solowey Lecture Cancelled

The annual Mathilde Solowey Lecture in the Neurosciences scheduled for May 25 has been cancelled. The speaker, Dr. William Masur, has been injured in an accident. The FAES, sponsor of the award lecture, hopes to reschedule the talk in the fall.

The faculty and students at Herbert Hoover Middle School in Rockville recently held an all-day faculty/students basketball game and raised $4,362.70 for cancer research. This is the second year of this event—organized originally to honor a schoolmate who died of cancer—and the students pledge to make it an annual affair. On hand for the check presentation to Dr. Philip Pizzo (standing, second from left), chief of NCI’s Pediatric Branch, were (front, from left) Adam Perlman, Corey Wright, David Sandler, Josh Helayo and Rod Roud. At rear are (from l) Hoover Principal Carole Goodman, Sonia M unoz, Rachael Rose, Veronica M unoz, Michelle Sushner, Chip M aus, Cheryl Pokorny, Marge Kenemuth and James Koutsos.