TOP POSITIONS TO NIH

There was no surer sign of the recognition of scientific research than the recent announcement by the Civil Service Commission that NIH had been granted ten new "super-grade" GS-16's. The salary, $11,200.

Said Dr. Dyer, NIH Director, "The allocation of these positions amounts to recognition of staff work already done and strengthens our future as a research institution of the highest caliber."

NIH is proud that it requested 10 of the "super-grades" and was granted all of them by the Civil Service Commission. Of 1,000 "super-grade" positions requested by all Government agencies, only 400 were granted.

Only one position at NIH has so

(See Top Positions, Page 3)

PLASTIC SURGEONS VISIT NIH

The face of NIH's broad campus was barely changed two weeks ago when approximately 85 prominent U.S. plastic surgeons visited the Institutes.

On pleasure, rather than business, the plastic surgeons had just wound up their annual meeting at the Shoreham Hotel (May 4-6), and had come to visit NIH under the guidance of Dr. Robert E. Moran of Washington, D. C.

In approximately half a day, they received full grand-tour courtesy. In Wilson Hall, they heard Dr. Jack Masur, Director of the Clinical Center, lecture on the Clinic's plans. At the National Cancer Institute, they listened to talks by Drs. Andervont, Algire, Barrett, and Dalton on their research work.

They also visited the laboratories of EBMI's Section on Endocrinology, where talks were given by Drs. Farrel, Sweat, Miss Dobell, and Mr. Loving on their research projects. A film was shown by Dr. E. Anderson, "Work on Decerebrated Animals."

"All in all, a busy day," commented one tired plastic surgeon.

PROGRESS REPORT - CLINICAL CENTER

You're wrong if you think the Clinical Center simply a matter of stone, mortar, and steel rising out of the good earth. As far as we've been able to find out, the 17 million square feet of Clinical Center carries with it just about 17 million different problems.

There are, of course, the major headaches; the recruitment of some 1200-plus personnel, the construc-
Testing Cancer Tests

Trial of the Penn test, most promising of the general tests for cancer, has been arranged by the National Cancer Institute.

The test will receive its first independent try-out under the direction of Dr. Stuart W. Lippincott in Seattle, where the University of Washington and PHS conduct a cooperative project for evaluating and developing diagnostic tests for cancer.

The test was worked out by Dr. H. S. Penn in association with Drs. George C. Hall, Albert W. Bellamy, and Andrew H. Dowdy, all of the University of California, Los Angeles.

In the procedure, an extract from human cancerous liver tissue is added to blood serum from the person to be tested. The serum is said to form particles in suspension if the person has cancer, but to remain cloudy if he is cancer-free.

It is reported that the Penn test was negative for 99.5 percent of normal persons and positive for 98.6 percent of cancer patients, among 4,500 persons tested. Arthritis, liver disease, active tuberculosis, syphilis, other diseases, and pregnancy gave approximately 13 percent false positive reactions.

Many similar projects in the field of cancer diagnostic tests are being aided through NCI research grants to the Universities of Washington, Tennessee, Kansas, Alabama, and Tufts College.

Laboratory investigators throughout NIH, with a mass of data accumulated during an experiment, often turn to the Research Studies Unit of NCI with this question: Could the differences between the experimental and the control groups have arisen by chance—-are they statistically "significant"?

On request, the unit helps the researcher evaluate his results. When consulted in advance of the experiment, it helps him set up a design that will provide quantitative answers in which he can place a predetermined degree of confidence.

The Research Studies Unit is in the Biometrics Section, which is headed by Dr. Harold Dorn. The unit is staffed by Jerome Cornfield, Jacob E. Lieberman, Nathan Mantel, Samuel W. Greenhouse, and Marvin Schneiderman.

An example of the application of statistics in research is the recent work of Cornfield in connection with an experiment by Mrs. J. W. Hollcroft and Dr. Egon Lorenz of NCI. The basic question was: How many radioactive disintegrations, on an average, occur in animals treated internally with radon, a radioactive gas? Since radon is continuously eliminated by the animals, it was necessary to combine known constants on the rate of radon disintegration with experimental data showing rate of elimination. Also needed were estimates of the error in the results so that animals could be allocated most effectively over the course of the study.

The experimental data and subsequent statistical analyses were published in Nucleonics, September and October 1949.

The collaborative work of Dr. J. E. Dunn and Samuel Greenhouse provides another illustration. In developing or selecting proposed tests for cancer, the question arises: How many persons must be tested to be reasonably sure that a good test is accepted and a poor test rejected? This, in turn, requires the establishment of criteria. How good must a test be for a given purpose, such as mass screening?

Using the Dunn-Greenhouse method, investigators at five universities are evaluating cancer tests reported in the literature.
TOP POSITIONS Cont'd

far been filled. Dr. Jesse P. Greenstein, now Chief of the Biochemistry Section, National Cancer Institute, has been appointed as Biochemist, NCI.

The other positions are: Scientific Director, NCI; Endocrinologist, EBMM; Biophysicist (Radiation Physics), EBMM; Director of Clinical Research, NIMH; Biochemist, NHI; Physiologist (Neurology), NIMH; Medical Officer (Immunology), MI; Medical Officer (Virology), MI; and Steroid Chemist, EBMM.

"We intend to fill the new positions," said Dr. Dyer, "by securing the best people available. The staff of NIH will be given the fullest consideration, and where employees are as well qualified as those who can be found elsewhere, our employees will be given preference.... We will continue to do what we can to expand the current ceiling above 400 positions, and secure passage of pending legislation authorizing the payment of salaries up to $15,000 per year for 30 research and professional positions in the Public Health Service."

NEW APPARATUS DISPLAY

An elaborate display of some 37 items of laboratory equipment including 19 new instruments will be exhibited by the American Instrument Company of Silver Spring, Md., in Wilson Hall, June 1.

Some of the new instruments, which may be of special interest to biochemists, will include a portable electrophoresis apparatus, electronic power supply for Coleman spectrophotometers, Coleman model 9 control colorimeter and nephelometer, rotary Warburg apparatus with new rotating gassing manifold and arrangement for individually stopping the manometers, a new speedigram balance, a new portable temperature-humidity indicator with wide range, and a Simplex temperature Controller.

The exhibit will be open all day. All persons who are interested are invited to attend.

PHS WORKERS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General of the PHS, recently congratulated three employees of the PHS "for superior accomplishment." All three received salary increases.

Dr. Claude S. Hudson, Chief of the Laboratory of Chemistry and Chemotherapy, EBMM, an international authority in the field of carbohydrate chemistry and author of more than 70 scientific papers of the highest order, is also a member of numerous scientific societies and has already received many awards.

"Dr. Hudson's brilliant and original research in the field of carbohydrate chemistry has consistently reflected to the credit and prestige of the NIH and the PHS."

Mr. George W. Rusten, Biophysical Aid in the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, MI, who previously earned several grade promotions because of his ability and extreme interest in his work, was recommended for devising three pieces of equipment that facilitate laboratory work.

Mr. Leon M. Patterson, Medical Technical Assistant at U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, saved the Government large sums of money by his suggestion that certain drugs be purchased by their pharmaceutical rather than their proprietary names.

GOOD WORK, DOCTOR

Dr. John W. Hornibrook, Microbiological Institute, recently received a swell pat on the back from Mrs. Elizabeth F. Messer, Chief of the Training Branch, Division of Commissioned Officers.

Mrs. Messer had this to say about Dr. Hornibrook, "We have just received a report from the Naval Unit of the Army Chemical Center showing that you finished first, with a final average of 96, in the April 8-21 Indocination Course in Chemical Warfare and Radiological Defense. May I congratulate you on this excellent record."

DR. DEAN RECEIVES GOODELL PRIZE FOR 1949

Dr. H. Trendley Dean, Director of the National Institute of Dental Research, will receive the John M. Goodell prize for 1949, awarded by the American Water Works Association at its 70th Annual Convention, which is being held in Philadelphia on May 23.

While at the convention Dr. Dean will also participate in a panel discussion, "The Philosophy of Supplementary Treatment of Public Water Supplies in the Interest of Group Health."

Dr. Dean received the Gorgas Award in December 1949 in recognition of his work on the quantitative measurement of enamel fluorides and his study of the relation between the fluorin content of water supplies and the prevalence of dental caries.

NO ADVERTISEMENT

Want to thrill to the open road in a new car? Or do you simply need repairs on the old one?

New houseware? A new porch built? Perhaps you'd like a new television set?

Either way, you may need the cash to do it. If you do, the NIH Credit Union, your Credit Union, can lend you the money.

You don't have to leave your right arm for collateral, and the interest rate is one percent.

See Captain Johnson, Room 125, Building 1, from Tuesday to Friday, 1 to 4 P.M. Come one, come all.
HELP A GOOD CAUSE

The United Jewish Appeal has set for its 1950 goal $272,445,800.
The money contributed to the United Jewish Appeal last year helped 24,500 Jewish refugees reach the United States and become integrated into the life of our land. Built 31,078 housing units in the new Jewish state, and aided 30,066 European families toward achieving economic independence.

Funds are urgently required to carry forward this humanitarian job.

Last year the Federal Security Agency had the second largest number of contributors in the Government.

The National Institutes of Health has always been an important factor in this response. Make your contributions to Dr. Bernard L. Horecker, Room 121, Bldg. 3, or to Dr. Joseph Leiter, Room 113, Bldg. 8.

FANCY FREE

Start thinking about using that annual leave you might be losing.
The country is wide open. And if you take your pick of vacation folders and begin to dream.

NIH IN FILM

Don't miss it—a view of NIH to boot.
"Capital Story," a "This Is America" movie, will be shown in Wilson Hall, at 12 and 1 p.m., on May 26.

Calendar of Events

June 1-3 National Advisory Heart Council* 10:00 a.m. Rm. 1057, T-6, NIH
June 10 National Advisory Health Council* 9:30 a.m. Rm. 1057, T-6, NIH
June 11-13 National Advisory Cancer Council* 10:00 a.m. Rm. 2025, T-6, NIH
June 23 National Advisory Dental Research Council* 10:00 a.m. Rm. 1057, T-6, NIH

*Closed meeting.