FOUR EMPLOYEES RECEIVE AWARDS

In ceremonies held August 18, Dr. John R. Heller, Jr., NCI Director, presented meritorious awards to four NCI employees. In recognition of their outstanding performance ratings, Dr. Harold P. Morris and James F. Williams, chemist and physical science aide respectively in the Laboratory of Biochemistry, were given a Ramspeck increase.

Mr. William W. Tullner, Jr., biologist in the Research Medicine Branch, received a Superior Accomplishment Award based on his outstanding laboratory work. His award also consisted of an in-grade promotion.

A former medical technician in the Cancer Investigations Unit at Memphis, Tenn., Pasco R. Del Vecchio, received a cash award of $50. He devised a new method that saves the pathologist's time in reviewing questionable cytologic slides under the microscope. Mr. Del Vecchio has since transferred to the staff of the Clinical Center.

NEUROLOGY STUDIES STARTED ON GUAM

A major study of the neurological disorder called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis has just been initiated on Guam. This investigation, in which the Public Health Service, the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and the Department of Interior are participating, will be headed by Dr. Leonard T. Kurland, Chief Epidemiologist of NINDB, who left for Guam this month.

Dr. Pearce Bailey, Director of NINDB, in commenting on why the Pacific island was chosen as a site for this study, said that information now available indicates that this crippling, fatal disease is highly prevalent on Guam. The chances for determining the possible roles of heredity and environment in the development of a.l.s. are especially good there because of the relatively fixed population.

Additional evidence from the literature, as reported by U.S. Navy physicians, indicates that a.l.s., or lytico (for paralytico), as it is known by the natives, has been prevalent in Guam for generations. The most recent report is by Dr. Donald R. Koerner of Rochester, New York, who collected data while serving on Guam as a Navy physician.

Dr. Kurland, Dr. Donald Mulder of the U. S. Navy, and Drs. K. K. Waering and S. Tillema of the Government of Guam will cooperate in the studies. It is expected that the present study will continue for approximately two months.

(See NINDB, Page 4)
In order to gain a better understanding of the nutritional and biochemical problems that occur in man both in health and disease, NIAMD's Nutrition Unit has been investigating the nutrition of chicks and guinea pigs. The group is headed by Dr. George M. Briggs, and includes Drs. Mary E. Reid, and Mattie Rae Spivey, with the technical assistance of Mrs. Ligia O. Ortiz and Mr. Gene Emery. They have conducted various studies in the development of synthetic diets. Such diets enable investigators to determine the effects of selected nutritional deficiencies and to search for dietary factors as yet unidentified.

The chick is well suited for nutrition studies because of its rapid growth rate and because it requires most of the newer members of the vitamin B complex. The guinea pig is also very useful in nutrition research. Like man, it has a high requirement for most members of the vitamin B complex and requires a dietary source of vitamin C.

Dietary studies with the chick, conducted by Drs. Briggs and Spivey, have shown that citrovorum factor (a naturally occurring form of folic acid) is not as active for growth as pteroylglutamic acid, when fed to chicks, but is as active when injected. The citrovorum factor was isolated by Drs. Keresztesy and Silverman, also of the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Nutrition.

The addition of small amounts of aureomycin to a synthetic diet containing no folic acid increased the severity of the folic acid deficiency. This is in contrast with the folic acid-sparing effect of dietary antibiotics under other circumstances.

Studies on vitamin B$_{12}$, the antipernicious anemia factor, have shown that a marked B$_{12}$ deficiency can be produced in chicks fed all-vegetable diets high in fat, protein, or fiber. A continuing search is being made for additional nutrients required by the chick. The presence of such substances in natural foods has been confirmed, and improved methods of assay have been developed.

For many years, Dr. Reid has been especially involved in guinea pig nutrition studies. She has recently developed a synthetic diet which will support normal growth, reproduction, and maintenance of health. When appropriate nutrients were omitted, clear-cut deficiencies of vitamin C, pantothenic acid, choline, folic acid, niacin, pyridoxine, thiamine, and riboflavin have been produced in the guinea pig, some for the first time.

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**Bloodmobile Visit**

The next visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled for Monday, September 21. Donor appointments will be scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Wilson Hall. Appointments will be made as usual through the Personnel Branch by filling out the forms distributed in the mail. If you did not receive one of these forms, contact your administrative office.

There is great need of the Armed Forces for blood and blood derivatives. Local needs are also increasing. Last June, NIH employees contributed a record 139 bottles. Let's double that this time!

**Appointment**

Dr. Kenneth S. Young was recently transferred to the Laboratory Aids Branch at NIH from the Communicable Disease Center in Austin, Texas. Dr. Young, a veterinarian, will be in charge of the animal hospital in Building 14-A.

**Graduate Course**

The Eighth Annual Postgraduate Course on Diseases of the Chest will be held at the Hotel Knickerbocker, in Chicago, from September 28 to October 2. The Course, which is sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians, is designed to bring physicians up to date on recent advances in the management and treatment of heart and lung diseases. Further information may be obtained by writing to the Association at 112 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois.

**Annual Report**

The NIH Annual Report (long form) for the period July 1951 through December 1952 is now available. Copies may be borrowed from your administrative officer or the NIH Library.
C. Elwood Claggett

C. Elwood Claggett, a medical biology technician in the Section on Physiology of NMF's Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, has assisted with some research projects that have had far-reaching effects. The Section, headed by Dr. Theodor von Brand, is studying fundamental aspects of trypanosomiasis and schistosomiasis--parasitic diseases which affect many millions of the world's inhabitants. The latter disease alone affects more than a hundred million people in Asia and Africa.

The principal objective of the Section's research is to learn how drugs act on parasites and on intermediate hosts of parasites. From their studies on arsenic resistance in trypanosomes, Dr. von Brand and his colleagues have shown for the first time that metabolic changes are involved in the resistance to organic arsenicals.

Elwood has been working in the Section since April 1948, assisting Drs. von Brand and Eugene Weinbach with their experiments. He came to NIH in the fall of 1947, and for a few months worked in the Glass Room in Building 5.

Born in West Friendship, Howard County, Maryland, Elwood went to school near there. His father was a farmer, and seeking more interesting work, he applied for a position here.

Elwood is married now and has a son 14 months old. The Claggetts have a home in Beallsville, near Dickerson, and enough ground to raise a few vegetables for canning. When he isn't busy working around the house, Elwood indulges his interests in sports. He likes to listen to the Washington Senators' games, and enjoys playing softball and touch football. Noontime softball, no doubt, is one of the many reasons Elwood likes working at NIH.
A dietitian and head nurse confer on the day's menu in one of the Clinical Center's specially designed kitchens.

DRG AND NIDR LOSE TWO STAFF MEMBERS

NIH bid farewell August 28 to two popular staff members, who are going to new climes and interesting jobs. Mr. Francis L. Schmehl, who came here in 1947, is bound for Boston to become Executive Officer of the Children's Cancer Research Foundation. He was Executive Secretary of the Morphology and Genetics Study Section in the Division of Research Grants.

Mort S. Cox has left NIDR to become manager of the Chamber of Commerce of Hot Springs, Arkansas, his hometown. Since June 1952, Mort was Administrative Officer of the Dental Institute, transferring there from NCI's Research Branch. He was also active at NIH in the Recreation and Welfare Association and the Credit Union.

CLINICAL CENTER NEEDS CHILDREN'S PLAYTHINGS

The Children's Unit of the Psychiatric Nursing Service is looking for used materials which will serve as playthings for the young patients in the Clinical Center. Such items as old clocks, radios, records and record players, watches, magazines, catalogues, toys, and clothes for "dress-up" will be welcome. Take your contributions to Room 2-S-211 (Ext. 2152) in the Clinical Center.

JANE SUNDELORF CHOSEN FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Miss Jane Sundelof of the Personnel Branch will leave NIH for four and a half months, starting September 14th, to participate in the Civil Service Commission's 5th Junior Management Intern Program. The program is for the purpose of training employees who possess outstanding potentialities for development in the field of management.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON LEAVE ANSWERED

The NIH Record concludes in this issue the question-and-answer summary of the new amendment to the Federal Employees Leave Act.

Q. Will employees who transfer to the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service be paid a lump sum for annual leave?
A. No. The new leave amendment provides that if an employee transfers to a job under a different leave system, his annual leave will be transferred instead of being paid as heretofore. The Civil Service Commission will issue instructions.

Q. What change has been made in the coverage of the leave act?
A. The new amendment excludes from the leave system all Presidential appointees receiving a yearly salary of more than $114,800.

HAMSTERS

Relationship of the Hamsters to the Recreation and Welfare Association since the incorporation of the latter group was discussed at a recent meeting of the Executive Council of R & W. The Hamsters, by unanimous vote of their membership, had requested to become part of R & W as the Dramatics Committee.

As such, under the auspices of R & W, the Hamsters would continue to produce plays and other entertainment, affording wide scope, as in the past, for the exercise and development of dramatic and related talents. They also assume responsibility for visiting members of the theatrical world presenting programs at NIH. In this capacity, they would render whatever assistance may be needed by guest artists, actors, and entertainers.

A new Hamster constitution, prepared in response to the increasing needs of the growing Hamster group, is nearing completion and will soon be presented to the full membership for approval.

Information concerning membership in the Hamsters may be obtained from Rosalie Kasaba, Ext. 2018. Any NIH employee who wishes to lend a hand in the many activities involved in theatrical entertainment may apply.

NINDB Cont'd

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a degenerative disease of the nervous system. One of the most prominent victims was the late Lou Gehrig. Among its pathological characteristics is demyelination (breakdown of the fatty covering of nerve tissue) of the brain and spinal cord. A.I.S. is therefore frequently assigned to the large class of demyelinating diseases of which multiple sclerosis is the best known. The cause of this disorder is unknown, and there is no treatment.

The incidence of a.i.s. in the United States is also unknown. Most neurologists agree that approximately 1500 to 2500 cases occur yearly, with the average patient having approximately three years to live from the time the disease is incurred. It occurs most frequently between the ages of 30 and 55.