DRG WILL RECEIVE LASKER AWARD

The Division of Research Grants has been selected to receive one of the two 1953 group Lasker Awards of the American Public Health Association. Announcement of the selections was made by Dr. Frank G. Boudreau, Chairman of the Lasker Awards Committee, on October 29.

Mr. Ernest M. Allen, Director of DRG, will accept the award on November 12 at the 81st annual meeting of the APHA at the Hotel Statler in New York City. The award will consist of a silver statuette symbolizing victory over death and disease.

DRG will receive the award for "outstanding administration of a research grants program enabling thousands of capable scientists in hundreds of institutions to contribute knowledge substantially advancing the nation's health."

In 1946, NIH as a whole was presented with a group award for "fundamental contributions to the prevention and control of disease."

DR. BUCHANAN TO LECTURE NOV. 19

Dr. Douglas N. Buchanan, one of the Nation's leading pediatric neurologists, will deliver the NINDB Lecture in Wilson Hall at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, November 19. Dr. Buchanan will discuss demyelinizing disorders in infancy and childhood.

Dr. Buchanan is Professor of Neurology at the University of Chicago. He graduated in 1925 from the University of Glasgow Medical Faculty in Scotland.

All NIH scientists are invited to the lecture, the seventh in a series of eight. The final lecture in December will be sponsored by the National Microbiological Institute, after which the entire series will be published in one volume.

NIH SEEKS COMMUNITY CHEST GOAL FOR 1953

As this issue of the Record goes to press, 40.9 percent of the NIH Community Chest quota has been reached. Employee participation was approximately 56 percent during this first week. The total collected to date is slightly ahead of last year's figures for the same reporting period.

Ken Brown, NIH Chairman, reports that NIMH has already reached 102 percent, and NIDR is in second place with 74 percent of its quota. The Clinical Center and Central Services have also been making excellent progress toward their goals.

Mr. Brown also mentioned that there has been a trend toward greater use of the pledge system, which allows the employee to donate through a deferred payment plan without making an immediate cash outlay. The drive will extend through several paydays, and every employee will have an opportunity to participate.

DR. DAFT NAMED NIAMD DIRECTOR

Dr. Floyd S. Daft was recently appointed Director of NIAMD by Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General of PHS. Dr. Daft has been Acting Director of the Institute since Dr. Russell M. Wilder's resignation last June.

Dr. Daft first joined the NIH staff in 1937. He has directed and conducted nutrition studies, particularly on the B vitamins, and his investigations have contributed importantly to the understanding of dietary deficiencies causing anemia and cirrhosis of the liver. He was a pioneer in the study of an unidentified substance later shown to be folic acid.

Before coming to NIH, Dr. Daft taught and engaged in research work at Harvard, Yale, the University of Rochester, and the Carlsberg Laboratories, Copenhagen, Denmark. In June 1952, he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1921. He attained his doctorate at Yale in 1926.
Studies in Transamination

No. 105 in a Series

Left: Mrs. Doris Combs and Mr. Henry Cooke are shown adjusting an apparatus used for evaporation of large volumes of solvent. Right: Miss Phyllis E. Fraser is shown preparing paper chromatograms.

One of the most important reactions involved in the intermediary metabolism of amino acids is that of transamination, a nonoxidative process which converts an amino acid into the corresponding keto acid. At the same time, the amino group of the amino acid is transferred to another keto acid to form a new amino acid.

Although transamination was first observed in 1937, the importance of this reaction in the metabolism of all the natural amino acids was not realized until recently. Dr. Alton Meister, Head of the Clinical Biochemical Research Section of the NCI Laboratory of Biochemistry, recently received the Paul-Lewis Laboratories Award for his work on this aspect of enzyme chemistry.

Members of this Section include Miss Phyllis Fraser, Miss Patricia Abendschein, Mrs. Doris Combs, Mr. Henry Cooke, and Mr. Leslie Hall.

Studies carried out by the investigators have led to the discovery of several new types of amino group transfer reactions. One of these involves glutamine, an important constituent of many animal and plant tissues. Glutamine reacts with a large number of keto acids to form amino acids and alphaketoglutaramic acid, a compound isolated for the first time. Other systems were discovered which involve asparagine and other amino acids.

One of the experimental systems used in this work involved experiments on bacteria and rats, in which amino acids or keto acids were made growth-limiting factors. For this work a large number of keto acids were required, many of which had not previously been prepared. One of the methods devised for the preparation of keto acids involves an enzymatic step employing snake venom. Snake venom, especially that of the rattle snake, possesses an enzyme capable of oxidizing amino acids to keto acids, provided another enzyme, catalase, is present.

In performing research on the biochemistry of amino acids, the use of a battery of experimental procedures is frequently necessary. For example, these studies have involved microbiological procedures, paper chromatography, enzymatic assays, chemical assays, ion-exchange chromatography, and studies with isotopic nitrogen (N\textsuperscript{15}) and radioactive carbon (C\textsuperscript{14}). The work also requires the use of enzyme derived from a wide variety of living tissues, such as animal tissues, tumors, plants, yeast, and bacteria.

Here and There

Long-distance Calls

Even though the much advertised Telephone Company "wider-range dialing" goes into effect November 8, all long-distance or other toll calls from NIH will be made through the NIH operator as before.

Diabetes Detection

November 15-21 is designated as Diabetes Detection Week. This year, employees are asked to take urine specimens to the office of their personal physician, who is offering to do the tests without charge.

A collection station will be set up in the lobby of the Farragut Medical Building, 900 17th Street, N.W., for District residents who do not have a personal physician. In Montgomery County the collection stations will be announced in the local papers. Watch the NIH bulletin boards for further information.

Dyer Lecture

Approximately 500 invited guests attended the third annual R. E. Dyer Lecture in the Clinical Center auditorium October 22. This year's lecturer was Dr. Rene J. Dubos of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dr. Dubos' lecture, "The Gold-Headed Cane in the Laboratory," will be published at a later date.

Bond Drive Results

During the recent drive, 465 NIH employees signed up for the Savings Bond Plan, and 22 former subscribers increased their allotments. This more than doubles the NIH quota: before the drive, only 402 employees were subscribing to the Plan. Anyone desiring to sign up for the Savings Bond Plan may still do so by contacting the Payroll Section, ext. 2361.

Reminder

There is still a great demand for phonograph records for the Clinical Center patients. All types of records will be welcome. Take your contributions to Miss Joan Doniger, Room 5D-43, Building 10.

N. I. H. RECORD

Published by
Scientific Reports Branch
National Institutes of Health
Room 21-G, Building 1
Bethesda 14, Maryland
Oliver 4-1400 Ext. 2125
The Clinical Center Chapel was officially opened on Sunday, October 4. Formal dedication of the chapel to the memory of those members of the Public Health Service who have given their lives in line of duty will be held at a later date.

Employees, patients, and friends are invited to attend the regular Sunday morning services. Catholic Mass is scheduled at 8:00 a.m. and the Protestant service at 9:30. Until there is sufficient demand, the Jewish services will not be started. Members of this faith interested in attending services in the chapel are asked to call or leave their names in the Chaplain’s Office, Room 1-N-226, Bldg. 10.

Choirs, quartets, soloists, and organists are needed for the Protestant services. Anyone interested should call the Chaplain’s Office, ext. 2750.

**FIRST SERVICES HELD IN CLINICAL CENTER CHAPEL**

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**DR. BERNICE EDDY GIVEN AWARD OCT. 27**

Dr. Bernice Eddy Wooley of NMI’s Laboratory of Biologies Control received a Superior Accomplishment Award for the valuable and outstanding part she played in recent developments related to the use of poliomyelitis immune globulin, frequently called “gamma” globulin. Dr. Eddy is head of the influenza unit of the Section on Virus Vaccines and Basic Studies. The award was presented by Dr. Victor H. Haas, Director of NMI.

Exercising initiative and scientific ability, Dr. Eddy anticipated in June 1952 the introduction of a poliomyelitis vaccine and began developing serum neutralization tests for the testing of these vaccines prior to their release for public use. When the work of Dr. Hammon and his associates with immune globulin as a preventive of polio became known in November 1952, Dr. Eddy proceeded to standardize a neutralization test against the Lansing strain of virus in mice, a test which permits the rapid and reliable assay of globulin potency.

Despite the short working time before the 1953 polio season, no product was delayed pending tests by the Biologies Control Laboratory, and in some instances the laboratory was ready to release products even before the manufacturer had completed his tests.

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**DR. SHIELDS WARREN TO LECTURE HERE NOV. 19**

Dr. Shields Warren has accepted the National Advisory Heart Council’s invitation to speak on "Radioactive Isotopes in Research and Treatment." All interested NIH personnel are invited to attend the talk, which is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., November 19, in Wilson Hall. There will be an opportunity for questions following the talk.

Dr. Warren has been Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School since 1946, and was formerly Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission.
**NMI INVESTIGATES AN UNDIAGNOSED ILLNESS**

The last of the study patients from Chestnut Lodge Sanitarium in Rockville, Md., were released from the Clinical Center October 20. Clinical and laboratory studies were undertaken by NMI following the September outbreak of undiagnosed illness among the staff of the sanitarium.

In a similar outbreak last July, the sanitarium reported 13 cases of illness, initially diagnosed as polio, to the county health officer. In each case the symptoms—which included muscle weakness, mainly in the extremities—were indistinguishable from those of polio. Later, as the pattern of the outbreak unfolded, other factors such as a high attack rate, short interval between cases, and rapid recoveries suggested the presence of some other disease.

Inspections of Chestnut Lodge by sanitary engineers have revealed no environmental factor which might explain the origin of the outbreaks. At no time in the past three months has any illness of this nature occurred among the sanitarium’s patients.

The patients admitted to the Clinical Center late in September included four student nurses and an orderly. There was no evidence of muscle weakness upon their release. Specimens taken from cases since the first outbreak are still under study by NMI investigators. No definite conclusions concerning the exact nature of the outbreaks have yet been drawn.

**ALBERT KESSEL OF NCI DIES IN PLANE CRASH**

Albert M. Kessel of NCI’s Laboratory of Pathology was killed in an airplane crash near Frankfurt, Germany, October 14. Forty-three persons, including Mr. Kessel’s wife, Gertrude, and their daughter, Ruth, perished in the crash, the second worst in German civil aviation history.

The family had been in Europe visiting Mrs. Kessel’s parents, who live in the Soviet Zone of Germany. It was Mr. Kessel’s first visit to his native land in 25 years.

Mr. Kessel came to NCI in 1940, as a medical technician. At the time of his death, he was head of the Pathological Technology Section. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kessel, and a brother, Eric, of Smithtown, N. Y.

**NIH SPOTLIGHT**

**Betty Ann Gantz**

Attractive, brunette Betty Ann Gantz of NCI brings an unusual bounce and enthusiasm to her work. As secretary to Dr. Jesse P. Greenstein, Chief of the Laboratory of Biochemistry, her office is a meeting ground for many noted scientists and technicians, and she finds their discussions stimulating. She is a "maid-of-all-work" for a laboratory staff of 57, concerned not only with stenography, but budget, purchase, and leave records as well. During her four years there, Betty has induced some of her former schoolmates and fellow workers to take jobs in the office, and she has the added pleasure of sharing her work with people she knows well.

Betty was born in New Zealand, where her father was engaged in the export business for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. She was brought to Washington when she was 17 months old, because her father wanted her to be raised in the United States. She remained a local resident except for a three-year interlude in Baltimore. Betty likes living in Washington, but complains that people move away so frequently. "But it’s a wonderful way to have friends all over the country," says Betty, "and some day I plan to visit all of them."

Betty attended Bethesda Elementary School and graduated from B-CC High School. She entered the University of Maryland, but left when her father died in the middle of her freshman year. In February 1949 she came to NIH seeking a job because it was so close to home. Betty worked in the Division of Research Grants for about nine months before transferring to NCI.

Prominent among Betty’s hobbies is dancing. She is a member of the ballroom dance classes at NIH this year. She is an enthusiastic swimmer and says she spends nearly every weekend this summer at Ocean City, Md. She has been going there since she was two years old.

Betty also enjoys sailing, which she learned on Long Island Sound some years ago. But she finds few opportunities for sailing now, since none of her friends here has a boat. Horseback riding is another of her favorite sports.

In the fall and winter evenings Betty finds her reading historical novels or knitting argyle socks and other appropriate items for Christmas giving. Sometimes she even finds herself day-dreaming of the long voyage to South America or the plane trip to Mexico she hopes to take some day.