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GENERAL MEDICAL DIVISION ESTABLISHED; DRG REORGANIZED

Dr. Hunt Named Chief Of New NIH Division

A Division of General Medical Sciences has been created at NIH to strengthen support of the sciences basic to medicine. In addition, a new branch established in the Division of Research Grants provides for the continuing analysis of all NIH grant- and award-supported activities.

The new Division will assume program responsibility for research and training grants in the fields of general medicine, aging, and public health. Its three main functions will be: (1) support of research project grants in the basic sciences and other fields, (2) support of training in the medical sciences through fellowships and awards to individuals and universities, and (3) administration of the Center for Aging Research.

Six training committees representing basic science disciplines have been established to date to review research training applications submitted to the Division and to provide advice concerning the general fellowships.

Thirty Study Sections in DRG will continue to review grant and award applications for NIH Institutes and Divisions. Business operations for processing and paying grants will be centered in DRG, which will also retain operation of the Health Research Facilities Program.

Dr. G. Halsey Hunt, former Director of the NHI Center for Aging Research, has been named Chief of the new Division, which will be located in the Stone House. Assistant Chief is Frederick R. Stone, formerly an Assistant Chief of DRG. Calvin B. Baldwin, Jr., Administrative Officer, DRS, has been appointed Administrative Officer of the Division.



Administrators of the newly created Division of General Medical Sciences (l. to r.), Assistant Chief Frederick R. Stone and Chief G. Halsey Hunt, discuss plans for the new Division with DRG Chief Ernest M. Allen and Assistant Chief Dale R. Lindsay.

SOFTBALL TEAM WINS TWO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NIH softball team captured its second championship of the year when it defeated the Kanes-MSTS team 7-0 in the Rock Creek League playoff August 12. The day before, the NIH team outslugged Vitro, winning 9-6 to clinch the Montgomery County League championship.

A home run hit by George Duval in the fourth inning of the Vitro game gave NIH the victory margin. The timely hitting of Clarence Isreal, Sidney Murphy, Frank Silva, and James Summerour was also a factor, along with Thomas South's effective pitching.

Clarence Isreal starred in the Kanes-MSTS shutout game with a home run in the sixth inning. He shared honors with pitcher Elwood Lyles and hitters Sidney Murphy, Earl Banks, and Marshall Lyles.

By winning the trophy in the Rock Creek League, the NIH team moves into the finals of the city-wide D. C. Recreation Department League.

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NIH AWARDS BOARD

Three new members were appointed recently by Dr. James A. Shannon to serve on the seven-member NIH Board on Employee Awards. They attended their first meeting on August 21 to consider current awards recommendations.

New Board members are Dr. Elsa O. Keiles, Executive Secretary, Metabolism and Nutrition Study Branch, DRG; Dr. Luther L. Terry, Assistant Director, NHI; and Dr. Robert M. Farrier, Assistant Director, CC. They will serve for a three-year period.

Joseph H. Murtaugh, former Vice Chairman of the Awards Board, has been appointed Chairman, replacing Dr. Dale R. Lindsay. Other members are Dr. Harold P. Morris, NCI; Dr. Roscoe O. Brady, Jr.; and John M. Hannan.

The Board holds monthly meetings to review proposals for awards for suggestions, superior performance, and special acts and services.

New Techniques For Preserving Specimens

No. 212 in a Series

The medical museum, an increasingly important part of medical education, is receiving added incentive from improved mounting and preserving techniques developed at NIH.

Five years ago, Philip R. Joram of the Medical Arts Section, DRS, began experimenting with plastics and preserving solutions to develop more effective methods of preparing and displaying gross pathological specimens. After extensive trials, he succeeded in fabricating a plastic mount that is cheap and easy to construct, attractive, and adaptable to any size. These mounts, now used successfully in NIH's medical museum, have attracted the attention of many who are concerned with museum preparations.

The newly developed acrylic plastic mount is constructed of plastic sections 1/4 inch thick. One section is grooved and bent to form the front and two sides of the mount--a technique that insures stability and easy visibility. Other sections are fitted to this basic part. Equipment for construction is available in most laboratories, and the method is easily adaptable to economical commercial fabrication.

While experimenting with plastics to develop the mount, Joram combed the literature in search of a preserving solution that could be used to prepare and preserve specimens without impairing color. He located a 1938 paper by Frederich Meiller, an NINDB histopathology technician, describing a fixing solution of 10 percent formalin, and a color-restorative solution of two percent ammonia. Experiments with the method, which does not require critical time limits, proved that it effectively restored the natural color of the specimen, and was faster-acting and less expensive than standard techniques.

After preparation, tissues are preserved in the mounts in a solution consisting of distilled water, antimony trioxide, potassium acetate, and chloral hydrate. Antimony trioxide, the basic component, prevents mold growth, which often occurs when other methods are used. Potassium acetate and chloral hydrate are added to fix pigments. Precise accuracy is not essential in

preparing the solution and it may be safely stored in unsealed containers.

All specimens preserved in this solution have retained their original color and texture. Joram reports that the only requirement for maintaining the specimen in fluid is that the solution be drained and replaced occasionally. A small plug is provided for this purpose on the top of the mount.

Other types of mounts, also fabricated by the Medical Arts Section, are used to preserve small specimens. These include a watch-glass mount--a domed plastic shell containing preserving fluid--and a solid plastic block mount. During the past year, some 30 specimens, ranging from human adrenal glands to an entire human stomach, have been mounted in plastic.

The improved plastic mounts are a major advance over the old method of preserving specimens in bulky, fragile glass containers. As these simplified methods of preserving specimens gain recognition, interest in medical museums may grow. The mounts are also finding wider uses in exhibits, lecture demonstrations, and other instances where gross specimens are to be displayed and kept.

OVIDE A. LUSSIER DIES

Ovide A. Lussier, clerk-typist in the Plant Engineering Branch, DRS, died of a liver ailment at the Washington Sanitarium on August 12.

An NIH employee since 1953, Mr. Lussier is survived by his wife, Stefania, of Silver Spring, Md., and by a sister, Mrs. Yvonne Fontaine.

CDC Offers Lab Courses

A series of laboratory refresher training courses will be offered at the PHS Communicable Disease Center, Chamblee, Ga., from September of this year until April 1959.

Courses include diagnostic and serologic methods, virus techniques, phage typing, and other laboratory techniques. Information may be obtained from the Laboratory Branch, CDC, U. S. Public Health Service, P.O. Box 185, Chamblee, Ga.

Publication Preview

The following manuscripts were received by the SRB Editorial Section between May 30 and June 6.

DBS

Eddy, B. E.; Stewart, S. E.; and Grubbs, G. E. Influence of tissue culture passage, storage, temperature and drying on the viability of the SE polyoma virus.

CC

Christie, R. W. Arctic anemia.
Federman, D. D. Studies in cretinism.
Frederickson, D. S. Current attitudes about atherosclerosis.
Frei, E. III. The treatment of leukemia.
McCullough, N. B. Respiratory viral diseases.
Utz, J. P. The laboratory diagnosis of respiratory viral disease.

NCI

Dalton, A. J. The Golgi component.
Engel, H. R.; Hallman, L.; Siegel, S.; and Bergenstal, D. M. The effect of growth hormone on plasma unesterified fatty acid levels of hypophysectomized rats.
Gilliam, A. G., and Walter, W. A. Trends of leukemia mortality in the United States, 1921-1955.
Peppers, E. V.; Fioramonti, M. C.; Westfall, B. B.; Evans, V. J.; and Earle, W. R. Effect of lack of glutamine on subline 2071 mouse cells.
Schneider, W. C., and Rotherham, J. Phosphorus compounds in animal tissues. VI. Deoxycytidine diphospho-choline and -ethanolamine in the Navikoff hepatoma.
Sievers, M. L. Some factors in occurrence and prognosis of gastric malignancy. I. Race, sex, age, and type of malignancy.
Sievers, M. L. Some factors in occurrence and prognosis of gastric malignancy. II. ABO blood groups.
Sober, H. A., and Peterson, E. A. Protein chromatography on ion exchange cellulose.
Stafford, M. W. Introduction to gynecologic cytology.
Woods, M. W., and Burk, D. On the biochemical site of insulin action.
Woodside, G. L., and Dalton, A. J. Ultrastructure of lung tissue from newborn and embryo mice.

NHI

Burns, J. J.; Yu, T. F.; Dayton, P.; Berger, L.; Gutman, A. B.; and Brodie, B. B. A relationship between pKa and uricosuric activity in the phenylbutazone series.
Harrington, W. F., and Sela, M. A comparison of the physical chemical properties of oxidized and reduced alkylated ribonuclease.
Hess, S.; Weissbach, H.; Redfield, B. G.; and Udenfriend, S. The relationship between iproniazid metabolism and the duration of its effect on monoamine oxidase.
Orloff, J.; Walser, M.; Kennedy, T. J., Jr.; and Barter, F. C. Hyponatremia.
Sjaerdsma, A.; Gillespie, L., Jr.; and Udenfriend, S. A simple method for the measurement of monoamine oxidase inhibition in man.
Sjaerdsma, A.; Leeper, L. C.; Terry, L. L.; and Udenfriend, S. Studies on the biogenesis and metabolism of norepinephrine in patients with pheochromocytoma.
Stokes, J., and Dawber, T. R. The 'silent coronary': The frequency and clinical characteristics of unrecognized myocardial infarction in the Framingham study.
Udenfriend, S. Serotonin metabolism and the central nervous system.
Wagner, H. N., Jr.; Biglieri, E. G.; Paton, R. R.; and Barter, F. C. Aldosterone excretion in persons with orthostatic hypotension.

NIAID

Bozicevich, J. The serology of amebiasis. Eklund, C. M.; Hadlow, W. J.; Pickens, E. G.; and Gerloff, R. K. Technics of value for detecting poliovirus in vaccine lots used in Idaho during 1955.

Kaufman, H. E.; Remington, J. S.; and Jacobs, L. Toxoplasmosis: The nature of virulence.

Luoto, L. The epidemiology of Q fever in the United States.

Philip, C. B. The faunal influence of "Wallacea" on the Tabanidae (Diptera) of the Philippine Archipelago.

Philip, C. B. Further records of neotropical Tabanidae (Diptera) mostly from Peru.

Rosen, L.; Bell, J. A.; and Huebner, R. J. Enterovirus infections of children in a Washington, D. C., welfare institution.

Stone, S. H. Acute and protracted anaphylaxis in passively sensitized guinea pigs after subcutaneous eliciting injection of antigen.

Wright, W. H. Progress in research and control of the helminthiasis other than schistosomiasis and filariasis.

Young, M. D. The treatment of symptomatic amebiasis with puromycin.

Young, M. D.; Jeffery, G. M.; Freed, J. E.; and Morehouse, W. G. A new drug active against human hookworm.

NIAMD

Brecher, G. A review of the conference on hematopoietic mechanisms.

Kalckar, H. M. The enzymatic deficiency in congenital galactosemia and its heterozygous carriers.

Maxwell, E. S.; de Robichon-Szulmajster, H.; and Kalckar, H. M. Yeast uridinediphospho galactose-4-epimerase, correlation between activity and fluorescence.

Pesch, L. A., and Topper, Y. J. *In vitro* effects of steroids upon galactose oxidation.

Rall, J. E. Therapy of hyperthyroidism.

Schwarz, K.; Foltz, C. M.; and Bergson, G. Factor 3 and 6-selenoctic acid.

Stetten, D., Jr. Symmetry, asymmetry and meso-symmetry.

Yamada, E. W., and Jakoby, W. B. Enzymatic utilization of acetylenic compounds. II. An enzyme converting acetylenedicarboxylic acid to pyruvate.

NIDR

Folk, J. E. The properties of a new proteolytic enzyme - carboxypeptidase B.

McClure, F. J. The caries inhibiting effect of sodium acid phosphate (Na_2HPO_4) and calcium acid phosphate (CaH_2PO_4).

NIMH

Botwinick, J.; Brinley, J. F.; and Robbin, J. S. Task alternation time in relation to problem difficulty and age.

Botwinick, J.; Robbin, J. S.; and Brinley, J. F. Reorganization of perceptions with age.

NINDB

Kurland, L. T., and Myrianthopoulos, N. C. The association of skeletal abnormalities with motor system disease.

Tower, D. B. Glutamic acid metabolism in the mammalian central nervous system.

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NIH Spotlight



James E. Selmon

Like the man who put the overalls in Mrs. Murphy's chowder, James Selmon is responsible for a fairly conspicuous blunder. He's the man who put the broom in President Roosevelt's picture.

It was the day of NIH's dedication, and Secret Service men were investigating everywhere to ensure safety for the President. One of the agents was about to crawl under the speaker's platform, and James offered to sweep out the residue of wood shavings. Immediately afterward, President Roosevelt arrived, the ceremony started, and there was the broom -- propped carefully against the speaker's platform. And there it remains in all the pictures recording the event.

The broom incident, however, isn't typical of James' activities at NIH. His title is Labor Foreman of the Night Housekeeping Section, DBO, and he regularly sees the side of NIH that relatively few are around to observe. After most of NIH has gone home for dinner, his crew of 48 men and four women does the indoor cleaning in all the buildings but the CC. James oversees the work, and through the years has become protector of the privacy of the scientists and administrators who come back at night to continue experiments or catch up on paperwork.

James' acquaintance with NIH goes back to 1938. Employed as a laborer at the old NIH location at 25th and E Sts., he was detailed to work with a small crew at clearing underbrush and transplanting trees on the grounds bequeathed to PHS for the construction of the Institutes.

Jerome Cornfield Assumes Posts At Johns Hopkins

Jerome Cornfield, Assistant Chief of the Biometrics Branch, DRS, has been appointed to two professorships at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. He will leave NIH at the end of this month.

At Johns Hopkins, Mr. Cornfield will be professor and chairman of the Department of Biostatistics in the School of Hygiene and Public Health, and will fill the newly created post of professor of Biomathematics in the School of Medicine.

NIH Photographer Wins Award In Competition

Sam W. Lindberg, DRS photographer, was awarded a first prize for his entry in the Clinical Division of the Biological Photographers Association's nationwide photographic competition. The black and white print is an extreme close-up of an eye lesion.

Entries submitted by other NIH photographers were included in the photographic exhibit, a feature of the national Association's annual meeting held August 18-21 at the Shoreham Hotel.

When buildings 1, 2, and 3 were finished, James was part of the moving gang that transported furniture and equipment to the new site. His activities broadened geographically soon afterwards, when, as a carpenter, he traveled around the country setting up and re-crating NIH's large traveling exhibits.

Then, in 1942, James started his present job of night foreman, and his adventures began to resemble late-show TV, with floods, fires, thieves, and animal escapes. One freak, hour-long hail and rainstorm flooded several buildings to the point where he had to swim through a room to open a cesspool drain. He was part of the pre-Fire Department volunteer crew that fought the blaze that spread through the first floor of Bg. 8 when a refrigerator exploded. He's caught a few thieves, and chased more than his share of monkeys looking for gaiety and the free life.

At home, James' wife and their three children have fitted their lives smoothly into his night schedule. And his 22-year-old hobby, golf, fits in as well -- he's adjusted his score to two above par for the course.

TOP JOURNALS LISTED FOR '56 PUBLICATIONS

Scientists at NIH published more than 1,000 scientific papers during 1956, according to records kept by the Scientific Reports Branch, DRS.

The *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* accepted the most NIH papers in 1956. The next eight journals in the order of numbers of NIH papers published were as follows: *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Federation Proceedings*, *Science*, *Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics*, *Organic Chemistry*, *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine*, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, and *Parasitology*. NIAMD, NIAID, and NCI led in the number of published papers.

A 1957 bibliography of more than 1,100 NIH published papers will be available in book form sometime in September.

Dr. Jay Joins CCNSC

Dr. George E. Jay, until recently Chief of the Animal Production Section, Laboratory Aids Branch, DRS, has joined the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center as a senior scientist in the Screening Section. In his new post, he will deal with animal procurement problems and genetic aspects of screening.

Samuel M. Poiley has been appointed Chief of the Animal Production Section to succeed Dr. Jay. Mr. Poiley has been concerned with animal production since he came to NIH 23 years ago. He joined the Laboratory Aids Branch when it was set up in 1948.

DRG Study Sections Added

Two new study sections have replaced the former Microbiology Study Section in the Division of Research Grants as a result of a sharp increase in the number of research grant applications received in this field.

Division of the Microbiology Study Section has created the Bacteriology and Mycology Study Section, of which Dr. Samuel Abramson is executive secretary, and the Virology and Rickettsiology Study Section, with Dr. Harvey I. Scudder as executive secretary. This brings the total number of study sections to 29.

MAINTAINING NIH GROUNDS IS MAJOR TASK



Working in the nursery back of the Stone House are Thomas E. Shanahan and Harlow A. Rice, foreman gardener. Samples of each type of plant found on NIH grounds are grown here. The nursery plants are used to replace others on the reservation, if necessary.

If crab grass has you worried this year and if mowing gets you down, consider the spreading green lawns of NIH and the men who wield the lawn mowers thereon. Any gardening problem you may have will seem minute in comparison.

NIH covers 306 acres, 270 of which are in lawns. Within the year, another 50 acres will probably be added. Twenty-five hundred trees grace the central part of the reservation, while several thousand more grow in the surrounding wooded areas. Approximately 40,000 shrubs are maintained, many of them flowering. Close to 165 tons of fertilizer are applied in a year's time.

The 42 men of the Grounds Maintenance and Landscaping Section, under their chief, Milford D. Myers, have the job of caring for the reservation. In the summer season, 10 men devote full time to lawnmowing, using anything from a small hand trimmer to a golf-course size mower. These men form the turf unit. Other units are concerned with equipment, flowers and shrubs, and roads. A tree-culture unit is planned.

Cooperation between the units is essential because of the seasonal workload variations. Each man must have knowledge of all phases of the Section's work, for at certain times he may be called upon to lend a hand with snow clearing, lawnmowing, or cleaning the reservation's grounds and roads.

New problems arise with every change in Washington's variable

weather. This summer's heavy rainfall, for instance, has meant three times as much mowing as usual--a fact that NIH homeowners will doubtless not dispute. But they may be surprised to learn from Mr. Myers that as a result of the heavy rains, many lawns are going to develop brown patches after the first frost this fall. He points out that excessive rainfall is also hard on flowers and shrubs.

Many of the flowers grown at NIH are used to decorate the Clinical Center, mainly in the patient areas; and boxes of green plants in the lobbies and cafeteria are cared for by the Section. NIH shrubbery is placed not only for landscaping purposes but to cover up eyesores and to cut down sound.

Landscaping of the NIH grounds is a service which Section designers perform. In the future, the Section hopes to do more landscaping. Immediate plans center on entrances to the reservation, new quarters, and new buildings (currently the DBS building).

Mr. Myers' group also provides numerous other services. Employees chip up branches of dead trees to use as a mulch for the soil, seal roads with asphalt material to prolong life, rake leaves, and maintain a large compost pile near building T-4.

To lighten his major task of keeping NIH clean, Mr. Myers is looking for a slogan as effective as "your feet are killing me"--his own for lawns--to reprove the litterbugs of NIH. Anyone have any ideas?