NIH COs Eligible To Win Awards For Achievement

Dr. Shannon has announced that NIH Commissioned Officers will receive official recognition for outstanding service under a program of honor awards established earlier this year by the Public Health Service.

At Dr. Shannon's direction, quarterly reminders are being sent to all Institute Directors and Division Chiefs regarding nominations for the awards. The first of these notices was distributed June 14.

Medals Awarded

According to the guidelines of the PHS program, Commissioned Officers who are cited for superior performance and achievement may be awarded one or more of three medals—the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Commendation Medal.

Previously, such awards were made only to the Civil Service staff by authority of the Government Employees Incentive Awards Act of 1954.

In making the announcement Dr. Shannon said, "The members of the Commissioned Officers Corps at NIH now enjoy for the first time in the history of this institution an opportunity to receive the sort of recognition which has long been available to their Civil Service counterparts.

Recognition Overdue

"It seems to me highly desirable that the superb accomplishments of this professional element of our staff be given...well-deserved and long overdue acclaim."

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded annually by the Secretary, DHHS, to candidates selected by the Surgeon General. Recipients of this medal become eligible for the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service.

The Meritorious Service Medal and the Commendation Medal may be awarded by the Surgeon General at any time throughout the year.

35 Receive $3,400 at NIH in Annual Awards Ceremony

Thirty-five employees received cash awards totaling more than $3,400 for superior performances and suggestions at the Tenth Annual NIH Awards Ceremony, held June 14 in the Clinical Center auditorium.

In addition, 123 employees received length-of-service pins—15 for 30 years' service and 110 for 20 years' service.

Dr. Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., Assistant to the Director of Laboratories and Chairman of the NIH Board on Employee Awards, welcomed the approximately 700 guests attending the ceremony, and Dr. G. Burroughs Mider, Director of Laboratories and Clinics, presented the length-of-service awards in place of Dr. David E. Price, NIH Deputy Director, who was unable to be present.

The incentive awards were presented by Dr. Jack Masur, Director of the Clinical Center.

Develops Potential

In paying tribute to the performance award winners, Dr. Kennedy noted that the occasion was "a fitting ceremonial climax (to) the continuous day in, day out processes whereby an attempt is made to encourage the people at NIH to realize more fully their potential capacity.

"This whole program," he said, "is designed to constitute an incentive to the staff to do just a little bit better job than outlined by the people who write job descriptions—to use their fertile imaginations, to generate ideas that will make things run more smoothly and less expensively."

Progress Matches Growth

Dr. Mider told the longevity award winners that no one in the audience could "...fail to be impressed by the tangible, concrete evidence of growth that surrounds us on all sides. All are equally aware that this is matched by steady and inexorable progress toward our grand humanitarian goal of ameliorating the impact of dread disease through research."

"This progress," he added, "would have been impossible without the enthusiastic participation..." (See AWARDS, Page 4)

Smiling Andy Is Handy With Brush and Polish

There's a new sound in the Clinical Center barbershop. Above the usual hum of electric clippers and the staccato clip of scissors, customers now hear the swish of the brush and the rhythmic slap of the polishing rag on shoes in need of shining.

The source of these sounds is Andy Carter, sole owner and smiling operator of the barbershop's new shoe shine stand.

Andy, now 24 but a veteran of seven years' experience in the shoe shining field, is from Siler City, N.C. He has been in Washington at NIH for about a month.

Head barber Simon Tovera calls Andy "a sincere and ambitious young man—the best we've ever had. I hope he'll have enough business to stay permanently," Mr. Tovera said.

The barbershop has tried to maintain shoe shine facilities in the past, each time without success. "If enough people want their shoes shined, I'll be here forever," said Andy.

Smiling Andy Carter, sole owner and smiling operator of the barbershop's new shoe shine stand.

Andy shines reporter's shoes for candid photo by Jerry Hecht.

Dr. C. C. Powell Is Named NIAID Asst. Director

Appointment of Dr. Clinton C. Powell, Deputy Chief of the Division of Research Grants, as Assistant Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases was announced June 29 by Dr. Justin M. Andrews, NIAID Director. The appointment became effective July 1.

In his new position Dr. Powell will assist Dr. Andrews in the conduct of Institute business and will act as his administrative representative for NIAID research grant activities.

Radiology Experience Cited

From 1948 until 1951 he served as Radiation Safety Officer at NIH. In 1952 he became a Fellow in radiology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he remained until his certification in 1954 by the American Board of Radiology.

He then returned to NIH where he has served in various capacities in connection with radiological health and research grants, including Assistant Grants Branch Chief for Clinical Research and Executive Secretary of the Radiation and Surgery Study Sections, DRG.

Serves With Navy

Dr. Powell received a B.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1940 and a M.D. degree from Boston University in 1944. After his internship at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Boston, he served with the U.S. Navy as a Medical Officer until his appointment to the PHS Commissioned Corps.

Dr. Powell is the author or co-author of many publications, most of them concerned with radiological health.
Dr. Kelly West Named OIR Special Assistant For Scientific Affairs

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Chief of the Office of International Research, NIH, has announced the appointment of Dr. Kelly M. West to the post of Special Assistant for Scientific Affairs.

Dr. West was formerly Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine.

In his new position, Dr. West will act as principal adviser to Dr. Cummings in the planning and development of NIH's overseas research programs and their coordination with the activities of other international research and scientific organizations.

Dr. West received his M.D. degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1948. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and an Associate and Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

NHI Scientists Change Ribonuclease Molecule By 'Uncoiling' Chain

The enzyme ribonuclease consists of a single chain of 124 amino acids coiled into a roughly spherical shape. It is held in this configuration by disulfide bridges connecting portions of the chain at four points.

Dr. Fred H. White, all of the NHI National Heart Institute scientists have "uncoiled" this chain, using reducing agents that selectively break these disulfide bridges but not the chain itself.

'Reorganizes Spontaneously'

The resulting molecule exhibited none of the enzymatic activity of the native ribonuclease. However, in the presence of molecular oxygen and suitable conditions of alkalinity, the uncoiled chain was able to reorganize spontaneously, regaining both its original configuration and its lost activity.

These studies are reported in two articles in the Journal of Biological Chemistry by Drs. Edgar Haber and Christian B. Anfinsen and by Dr. Fred H. White, all of the NHI Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Metabolism.

Acid Carries Directions

Enzymes, the protein catalysts of nearly all the body's biochemical reactions, are probably made in the cells under the control of RNA. This nucleic acid carries the directions for stringing together the proper number of the proper amino acids into the proper sequence to form the protein chain or chains of the enzyme. The steps of this assembly process proceeded according to a genetic blueprint built into RNA during its formation.

However, the activity of enzymes depends not only upon the basic structure of their protein chains, but also upon the manner in which these chains are coiled or folded.

The spontaneous reorganization of ribonuclease indicates that the amino acid sequence alone may often be enough to determine the secondary or tertiary structure of an enzyme.
Dr. Eagle Leaves PHS for Post At Yeshiva Univ.

Dr. Harry Eagle, Chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Cell Biology, has retired from the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service after 25 years' service to become Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York.

Dr. Eagle left Bethesda on July 1 to assume his new position, in which he will continue his research on the nutritional requirements and metabolic activities of mammalian cells.

His studies are the foundation of much of the progress in this relatively new field of inquiry. The Eagle medium for cell propagation in tissue culture is used throughout the world.

Gives NIH Lecture

Dr. Eagle came to NIH in 1947 when he was appointed the first Scientific Director of the NCI. After two years, he returned to full-time research in NIAID. In 1959 when the NIAID laboratories were reorganized, the Laboratory of Cell Biology was created with Dr. Eagle as its Chief.

Last year Dr. Eagle was the first NIH staff member chosen to deliver the National Institutes of Health lecture.

Also in 1960 he participated in a unique experiment, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, to stimulate interest among college students in advanced work in the medical, biological and related physical sciences.

Counsels Students

Dr. Eagle, with professors from Harvard, Columbia and Yale universities, gave lectures at four universities and counseled students interested in careers in research.

Before coming to NIH, Dr. Eagle spent an 11-year period in Baltimore, first as Director of the FHS Vascular Disease Research Laboratory at Johns Hopkins Hospital and as head of the same group when it was renamed the Laboratory of Experimental Therapeutics to reflect change in research emphasis.

During that time he was Adjunct Professor of Bacteriology at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

His early work in sphyllology produced many contributions to the scientific literature as well as the

Dr. Anderson Receives Honorary D.Sc Degree

Dr. Evelyn Anderson, Chief of the Section on Endocrinology in NIAID's Laboratory of Nutrition and Endocrinology, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on June 13.

In presenting the honorary degree, Dr. Marion Fay, President and Dean of the Woman's Medical College, commended Dr. Anderson for her many contributions to the field of endocrinology. "We are especially proud," she said, "of the fine combination of clinical and fundamental research which has made Dr. Anderson's work so vital, so distinguished, and so valuable."

Dr. Anderson, who joined the NIAID staff in October 1947, has combined her official duties with that of visiting professor of physiology at Howard University since 1955.

She has written approximately 100 articles on the results of her studies in endocrinology and is an active member of the Endocrine Society. She has served that organization as Vice-President, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and as a member of the editorial board of their official journal, Endocrinology.

Breakdown of Atrium's 'Booster Pump' May Lead to Congestive Heart Failure

National Heart Institute studies indicate that the function of the atrium as a "booster pump" for ventricular filling importantly affects ventricular performance and heart output. They also suggest that atrial failure may be a more important factor in congestive heart failure than previously supposed.

The booster pump action of the atrium serves to fill the atrium adequately without the necessity of unduly high venous blood pressure. When the atrium contracts vigorously and efficiently it propels a larger volume of blood into the ventricle.

During presentation with more blood, the ventricle operates more blood. Its stroke work also increases because the increased volume elongates its muscle fibers and causes them to contract more forcefully. Moreover, the vigorous atrial contraction, by emptying the atrium more completely, leaves in its wake a lower pressure to be overcome by the venous blood that fills the atrium during its relaxation phase.

NIH scientists have studied how such factors as heart rate and autonomic nerve stimulation, by altering the activity of this booster pump, also affect ventricular performance and heart output.

The studies were carried out by Drs. J. S. Samoff, J. P. Gilmore, and Jere H. Mitchell, of the NIH Laboratory of Cardiovascular Physiology. Their findings were reported by Dr. Bronson, atrial pumping efficiency.

Dr. Bronson Becomes Chief of Blood Bank

Dr. William R. Bronson was named Chief of the Clinical Center Blood Bank, Laboratory of Blood and Blood Products, DHB, effective July 1.

He succeeded Dr. Allan Kliman, who has returned to Harvard Medical School as Instructor in Medicine following a two year's service with the PHS in the Division of Biologic Standards, NIH.

These findings suggest that failure of the atrium, as well as the ventricles, may be an important factor in congestive heart failure.

Heart volume increases with the amount of blood in the heart. Ventricular stroke work also increases because the increased volume elongates its muscle fibers and causes them to contract more forcefully. Moreover, the vigorous atrial contraction, by emptying the atrium more completely, leaves in its wake a lower pressure to be overcome by the venous blood that fills the atrium during its relaxation phase.

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Dr. Bronson explains how the atrium's booster pump action may lead to congestive heart failure.

AFGE Local Meets July 10

Plans for a campaign to increase membership and a discussion of amendments to its constitution will feature the next monthly meeting of Lodge 1600, American Federation of Government Employees, according to the union's announcement.

The meeting will be held next Monday, at 8 p.m., in Wilson Hall.

Dr. Evelyn Anderson, NIAID (left), receives honorary D.Sc. degree from Dr. Marion Fay, President and Dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bronson, formerly associated with the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N. Y., joined the DSH staff in July 1960. Since there he has served as supervisor of the CC Blood Bank.

In his new position, Dr. Bronson is responsible for the operation of the CCBB. Besides providing blood for patient care, this operation includes various research activities within the division and the coordination of the blood services which this DSH section provides for NIH scientists engaged in clinical and laboratory studies.

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AWARDS

The recipients of superior performance awards presented at the Tenth Annual NIH Awards Ceremony in the CC auditorium, June 14, are pictured here with a few of those who participated in the presentations. All identifications are left to right. Top row: Donald C. Earp, Melvin R. Tonkins, Ruth C. Hill, Charles H. Williams, Sgt. John F. Miller and Dr. Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., Chairman of the NIH Board on Employee Awards; William H. Mitchell, and Jimmie C. Skinner who is being congratulated by Dr. Justin M. Andrews, Director of NIAID. Bottom row: members of the Radiation Safety Office, Plant Safety Branch, recipients of a group award, are James H. Austin, Donald W. Driver, Richard Dorman, Mardalee B. Dickinson, John C. Dewey, Yvonne E. McIntosh, and Joseph M. Brown, Jr. NIH fire-fighters, with their group award checks, are Charles O. Poole, Joseph E. Mercer, Sheldon J. Jenkins, John B. Debnam, Jr., William F. Coleman, Milton R. Mulder, Vincent B. Napoli, Charles K. Keys, and Chief Norman C. Andrews. Group award winners from the Research Facilities Planning Branch are Donna M. Leach, Barbara R. Hetherington, Constance M. O'Mara, and Dorothy E. White. Dr. Jack Masur, CC Director, congratulates Nettie G. Burdette on her incentive award.—Photos by Bob Pumphrey. Pictures of additional award winners will be published in the next issue of the Record.

NIH Credit Union Pays

Semi-Annual Dividend

The Board of Directors of the NIH Federal Credit Union has declared the current year's first semi-annual dividend at the rate of 4½ percent per year. The dividend will be posted to members' ledger accounts as of July 5, 1961.

Credit Union members are invited to bring or send their passbooks to the Credit Union office during the week of July 10 for posting of the dividend.

The Board of Directors also reported that as of May 31, 1961, Credit Union memberships totaled 2,800 and assets $1,800,000; loans amounted to $1,507,000, and shares totaled $1,765,000.

As part of its regular annual audit, the Credit Union has mailed verification forms to all its members. Members who have not received the form are advised to communicate directly with James J. Sanders, Certified Public Accountant, 8007 Norfolk Ave., Bethesda 14, Md. Mr. Sanders' telephone number is OL. 6-1118.