President Johnson Names February As Heart Month

President Lyndon B. Johnson's official proclamation of February as "American Heart Month," together with recent developments in heart research, has intensified the drive to make 1965 a year for concerted effort against the Nation's number one killer — heart disease.

In his proclamation the President noted that "in the year 1965 heart disease — ailments of the heart and blood vessels — is expected to take a toll of more than one million lives, and year by year continues to be responsible for over half of all the deaths in the United States." He said that "essential and forward-looking programs are in the main the result of a national partnership of the American Heart Association and its Federal allies, especially the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare."

As this week went to press the House Appropriations Subcommittee reported that it had rescheduled PHS and NIH budget hearings as follows:

PHS hearings to begin yesterday (Feb. 8) with opening statement by Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. They are Alice W. Fordyce, Vice President and Secretary of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation; Dr. Saul Krugman, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, New York University Bellevue Medical Center; and Dr. Francis C. Lowell, Chief of the Allergy Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital.

Russian Virologists Tour Viral Research Labs

Two Russian virologists — Drs. Marina K. Voroshilova and Lidia L. Fadeyeva — recently were conducted on a tour of several of the major viral research laboratories in this country by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to acquaint them with the status of experimental studies in virology. The tour was arranged under provisions of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. agreement on scientific exchanges.

Included in the itinerary were visits to the Wistar Institute and Merck, Sharp, and Dohme in Philadelphia; the Division of Biologies Standards; NIAID's Laboratories of Infectious Diseases, Biology of Viruses, and Tropical Virology; Pitman-Moore Co. in Indianapolis; Yale's School of Public Health in New Haven; the New York City Department of Health and the New York University School of Medicine in New York City.

Bruce N. Ames Receives Science Academy Award

Dr. Bruce N. Ames of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases was one of six scientists honored recently by the American Association for the Advancement of Science with the presentation of awards for outstanding contributions to the biological sciences.

The award was presented January 21 at the academy's annual dinner meeting, held in the John Wesley Powell Auditorium at the Cosmos Club. Dr. Ames was introduced by Dr. Marshall W. Nirenberg of the National Heart Institute.

Dr. Ames' previous honors include the Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry.

NIH scientists are leading figures in the study of microbial genetics at NIAID's Laboratory of Molecular Biology, where they have embarked on a detailed study of the dangerous venom secreted by the kokoi frog, found in the jungles of Colombia.

2 NIAID Scientists Partially Decipher Structure of Strongest Known Venom

The unique chemical structure of the strongest of all known venoms has been partially deciphered by two scientists of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases. The venom is extracted from the kokoi frog, found in the jungles of Colombia.

Dr. John W. Daly and Bernhard Witkop of NIAID's Laboratory of Molecular Biology reported that this venom is chemically related to the steroid hormones and appears to be structurally similar to the hormones secreted by the adrenal gland.

2 Members Named to NIAID Advisory Council

The appointment of three members of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council has been announced by Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. They are Alice W. Fordyce, Vice President and Secretary of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation; Dr. Saul Krugman, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, New York University Bellevue Medical Center; and Dr. Francis C. Lowell, Chief of the Allergy Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital.

NIH Orchestra Presents Concert Friday, Feb. 12

The NIH Orchestra, sponsored by the Recreation and Welfare Association, will present the first concert of the current season on Friday, February 12, at 8:30 p.m. in the Clinical Center auditorium.

Mark Ellsworth, director of the orchestra since it began six years ago, will again conduct.

The program will include works by Handel, Brahms, and J. Strauss. The featured work will be Mozart's Symphony No. 40, in G minor.

All NIH employees, members of their families and guests are cordially invited to attend. Admission is free.
Employees at Westwood Donate to Blood Bank

Some 65 NIH employees in the Westwood Building responded as blood donors on January 28 when the Westwood Central Blood Bank staff visited there.

A total of 50 units of blood was contributed by the group to meet the needs of CC patients, including heart surgery performed the following day.

Employees in the group who did not qualify as donors by reason of age, medical history, or temporary health condition such as slight fever or a recent medication, will receive NIH Blood Insurance protection.

Film on Booster Shots To Be Shown by EHS

"The Call of Duty," a dramatic color film portraying the importance of maintaining a regular schedule of repeat immunization against contagious diseases, will be presented by the Employee Health Service next week.

The introduction to the 29-minute color film will be given by Dr. Charles White, Associate Medical Officer, EHS.

The film schedule is as follows: Clinical Center auditorium, Monday, February 15 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; North Bethesda Office Center #2, conference room 113, Thursday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m.; North Bethesda Office Center #1, conference room 202, Thursday at 2:30 p.m.; and Westwood Building, conference room A, Friday, Feb. 19 at 1, 1:45, and 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Skipper Appointed

Dr. Howard E. Skipper, Vice President and Director of the Kettering-Meyer Laboratories of Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Ala., has been appointed to the National Advisory Cancer Council for a 4-year term ending September 30, 1968.
Villagers of Walajapet, India, Construct Orphanage Hall as Memorial to Kennedy

This honor accorded the late President Kennedy was witnessed by an official of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases. It points up the goodwill generated by U. S. research projects in developing countries.

One of the more poignant tributes to President Kennedy and U. S. aid reported during the past year is the construction by the people of Walajapet, India, of John F. Kennedy Hall, part of a facility for orphans there.

The villagers were formerly known as "Untouchables." This caste was renamed "Harijan" by Gandhi, meaning "Children of God." Their Gandhi Mission Orphanage was established to care for scores of children orphaned by a major famine in 1953. Maintained since then by the sale of crops of the region, it now benefits by a program of supervised institutional feeding that is part of a research project on the protein-deficiency disease, kwashiorkor, supported by the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases with $56 million. The research project is carried out by the Christian Missionary College in nearby Vellore.

Villagers Plan Dormitory

About a year ago the people of Walajapet (population 1,000), decided the orphanage needed an additional building—a dormitory with general purpose rooms—and proceeded to plan its construction.

It was agreed that each of the village families, as customary in projects of this kind, would assign as many members as possible to participate in the construction.

Because wood is virtually unknown in this part of India, the building had to be built entirely of brick and a native type of concrete. The brick was made from local clay deposits, the concrete from a mixture of burnt limestone and sand. The brick walls, when completed, were coated with a stucco made also from limestone and sand. This, in turn, was painted with a whitewash concocted from the burnt lime, meaning "Children of God." (See ORPHANAGE, Page 4)

Adolphe Menjou Movie Next in R&W Series

The next offering in the silent films classics series, sponsored by the Recreation and Welfare Association of NIH, will be the Marriage Circle, directed by Ernst Lubitsch and starring Florence Vidor with Adolphe Menjou.

The 1924 film will be shown on Saturday and Sunday, February 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. in the Clinical Center auditorium.

NIH Booklet Describes 19 Research Projects

A new publication—"Research Project Summaries"—describing selected research studies in the area of mental health, is issued by the Public Health Service.

The pamphlet, which contains descriptions of 19 projects sponsored through the research grants program of the National Institute of Mental Health, was prepared by the Program Analysis Section of NIH's Research Grants Branch.

Dr. John N. Ashworth, who has served as Assistant Chief of the Division of Biological Standards' Laboratory of Blood and Blood Products since 1958, has been appointed Chief of the laboratory.

In this position he will be responsible for the Division's control activities pertaining to biological products derived from human blood, and research carried out in support of these activities.

Before coming to NIH in 1959, he was the Assistant Director of the American Red Cross Blood Program for seven years.

Prior to his post with the Red Cross, he was Head of the Human Blood Products Processing Department of F. R. Squibb & Sons. His special interest has been the study of the physical chemistry of blood proteins.

Born in Springfield, Mass., Dr. Ashworth attended Brown University in Providence, R. I., where he received his B.A. in 1942. He received the Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1948.

He is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Chemical Society, and the New York Academy of Sciences.

NIH Researchers Edit, Contribute to Book on Membrane Transport

The new book, The Cellular Membrane: A Symposium, was published by Prentice-Hall, with support from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (See Record, Jan. 12) is edited by Dr. Joseph F. Hoffman, Head of the Section on Membrane Physiology in the National Heart Institute's Laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism.

Contributors to the book include six NIH members: Drs. Ichijii Tasaki and Toshifumi Takenaka, National Institute of Mental Health; Dr. Karl Frank, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness; Dr. Jack Orloff and Joseph S. Handler, NIH; and Dr. David P. Rall, National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Gordon M. Tomkins of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases and Dr. Walter H. Freygang, NIH, also were chairmen of various sessions at the symposium.

The scientific papers presented in the book were written mainly by the participants at the 1963 Symposium of the Society of General Physiologists.
Villagers from the region around Walajapet visited the Gandhi Mission Orphanage to witness dedication ceremonies of the new John F. Kennedy Hall, in background. Seated on the ground are present members of the orphanage, boys left, girls center. Former members are seated on chairs at right. The latter are among the original group of children for whom the orphanage was established in 1952.—Photos from color slides by Dr. Burton.
Heart surgery performed inside a hyperbaric chamber has been successfully used to correct congenital defects causing "blue babies." The chamber's high-pressure oxygen atmosphere steps up oxygenation of the patient's body tissues, providing temporary improvement of the child's condition to enhance his chances of surviving the operation.

'Cancer of the Stomach' Is Sixth in Series of 10

"Cancer of the Stomach," a pamphlet prepared by the National Cancer Institute to give the public a clearer understanding of the disease, was issued recently by the Public Health Service.

The 8-page pamphlet, sixth in a revised series of 10 dealing with cancer of different body sites, discusses the incidence of stomach cancer—its symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment—and current research.

Unlike many other forms, stomach cancer has occurred less frequently in the United States in the last several decades. It causes only about six percent of all cancer deaths, compared with 20 percent 20 years ago. Nevertheless, an estimated 13,000 American die from it each year.

Single copies of "Cancer of the Stomach," PHS Publication No. 1237, are available without charge from the Public Health Service, Washington, D.C. 20201. The pamphlet may be purchased in quantity from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at 5 cents a copy or at $3.50 per 100 copies.

NIAID Awards Contract For Typing Center to Catalogue Rhinoviruses

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has awarded two large training grants, amounting to $121,736 for the first year of a 5-year program, to the University of Chicago to support graduate training of research investigators in the areas of adult development and aging.

At present, the University of Chicago has the only major training center in this country in the social and behavioral sciences of gerontology.

The NICHD grants will support an expanded multidisciplinary, interdepartmental program involving the Departments of Psychology, Sociology, Psychiatry, Hospital Administration, and Social Service Administration.

The bulk of the funds will be used by the university to train research investigators in fields where there is an acute shortage of trained personnel.

Program Continued

The remainder will be used to supplement an ongoing program, started seven years ago, to train graduate students enrolled under the university's Committee on Human Development. The students pursue research training programs leading to the Ph.D. degree.

Ten graduate student trainees now enrolled with the committee are specializing in social and psychological problems of middle age and old age. The grants will make possible admission of six new students to this program each year for the next five years.

Trainees may elect to work in the fields of education, hospital administration, psychology, social service, or sociology. In addition, trained psychiatrists will be accepted for postdoctoral research in geriatric psychiatry.

Dr. Bernice L. Neugarten, Professor of Human Development, will administer the program, assisted by an interdepartmental committee.

Dr. Fred Alt Transfers To Oceanographic Office

Dr. Fred Alt, former Chief of the Instrument Engineering and Development Branch of the Division of Research Services, recently transferred to the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office.

Dr. Alt is now Director of the Testing Division of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Instrumentation Center. The Division is responsible for the testing, evaluation, and standardization of instruments used in oceanography and marine science research.
NIMH Sleep Study Indicates Dreaming May Be Unique, Basic Biological State

By Mildred Lehman

Exploring the realm of sleep, National Institute of Mental Health scientists are uncovering physical evidence that the body's periods of dreaming represent a unique and basic biological state.

Far from being a calm stretch of quiescence, normal sleep is studded with activity that can be measured. "Sleep with rapid eye movement," or "rapid sleep," is marked by a distinctive constellation of physical events, according to Dr. Frederick Snyder, Chief of the Section on Psychophysiology of Sleep, Adult Psychiatry Branch, NIMH.

These include low-voltage, fast activity on the electroencephalograph, irregular cardiovrespiratory function, bursts of rapid eye movement, and muscle twitching.

Rapid Sleep Record

It is believed that dreaming occurs in rapid sleep, which occupies about 20 percent of the human adult's sleeping time. Rapid sleep recurs regularly during sustained sleeping, at 90-minute intervals, generally in four episodes, lasting from a few minutes to an hour.

Studies indicate that the dreaming stage of sleep may be a different body condition from waking and sleeping. If dreaming is a fundamental biological state, the possible implications for medicine and psychiatry have hardly begun to be tapped.

However, electrophysiological measurements of individual neurons and neuronal populations in the brain suggest that at least some forms of dreaming, hallucination, psychosis, and epilepsy have some relation to rapid sleep.

Electrode Used in Tests

He has been able to tap individual pyramidal tract neurons by sinking an electrode 1 to 1.5 mm into the animal's brain. Penetrating to within 30 or 40 microns of the neuron, the electrode is sensitive to tiny currents which flow when the cell discharges.

Dr. Evarts has shown that phases of sleep involve reorganizations of neuronal discharge in the brain. In rapid sleep, some neurons may be more active and much less inhibited than in waking.

Besides rapid sleep, Dr. Evarts has identified placid sleep, active waking with gross movements, and placid waking without movement.

In his laboratory, Dr. Snyder has explored the possibility that primitive parts of the brain are responsive for rapid sleep. In observing the primitive oppossum, he found the same constellation of physical events in rapid sleep that is found in humans.

While the biological function of rapid sleep is yet to be ascertained, Dr. Snyder cited a number of important leads as to its clinical implications. The most intriguing and most speculative, he said, is its relation to psychosis.

Depressed Patients Studied

Dr. Snyder is studying the sleeping patterns of severely depressed patients as well as those of animals and normal human adults. During acute phases of illness, mentally disturbed patients have anomalous rapid sleep patterns, as indicated by rapid transitions between waking and dreaming and unusually high percentages of rapid sleep.

The sleep patterns of epileptics and patients with heart disease are also being studied at NIMH, in collaboration with Dr. David Horwitz of the National Heart Institute and Dr. Kristof Abraham of the NINDB. The research promises new perspective on the nature of brain disturbance in epilepsy, and the frequent occurrence of hemorraghes and coronary occlusion during sleep.

Metabolic Errors Listed

The six errors are: histidinemia, homocystinuria, phenylketonuria (PKU), maple syrup urine disease, hyperglycinemia, and galactosemia.

A consensus of the participants was that both blood and urine should be studied, that the best periods for testing for inborn errors of metabolism and dreaming would be during the four days of life after birth.

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Jonathan Cole Reviews Antidepressant Drugs, Suggests Limited Use

Antidepressant drugs, the subject of a current debate by many doctors, were reviewed by Dr. Jonathan Cole, Chief of the NIH Psychopharmacology Service Center, in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In the article, Dr. Cole discussed the "current concern" about these potent agents. Because of possible side effects and questions of efficacy of some of the dozen or so drugs now on the market, many experts believe they should be used with caution.

Because of their potency and possible side effects, Dr. Cole feels that neither the antidepressant drugs should be the initial treatment for mild depressions. He suggests instead that treatment be limited to a sedative or tranquilizer, with antidepressant drugs used only if symptoms persist.

2 Drugs Most Effective

In a review of 72 studies of the drugs, Dr. Cole concluded that imipramine and a chemically similar drug, amitriptyline, are the most effective of the antidepressants.

Several studies show, however, that they are only moderately effective, and occasionally no better than placebo treatment and supportive care.

The imipramine types produce some side effects including dryness of the mouth and excessive perspiration, but many of these are "annoying rather than serious," he wrote.

The evidence for the efficacy of the other major group of antidepressants, the monoamine oxidase inhibitors, is less convincing, Dr. Cole noted. Some depressed patients will respond specifically to them after other drugs have failed, but he emphasized that the issue with the inhibitors is whether their therapeutic efficacy is sufficient to offset the potential risk.

Response Difficult to Predict

Dr. Cole emphasized that with both the imipramine-like drugs and the inhibitors, it is extremely difficult to predict which patients will respond successfully.

He added that there is little evidence to support the efficacy of a third group of so-called antidepressants, including such stimulants as the amphetamines, in the treatment of depression.

Dr. Cole concluded that there is some encouraging preliminary evidence that the so-called antidepresants may serve as valuable preventive drugs.

"It may well be in the long run that their importance will rest as much or more in their ability to avert relapses than in their efficacy as initial therapy," he wrote. "In contrast to electro-convulsive therapy, these drugs provide a convenient means for continued treatment."

In one controlled study, a 6-month followup showed that patients maintained on imipramine had a much lower relapse rate than those taking a placebo. About 20 percent of the patients taking the drug relapsed, in contrast to 80 percent on the placebo.

The NIH European Office was established in Paris, France, in December 1961.

Dr. Campbell Lectures At Immunology Seminar

Dr. Charlotte Campbell, Associate Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health, guest lecturer at the January 27 Immunology Seminar held in the Clinical Center, stressed the marked differences among histoplasma strains and the concomitant variations in the antigenic structures of these organisms.

In her presentation, titled "Studies on Histoplasma Capsulatum Antigens," she cautioned that standardization of histoplasma antigens will require standardization at every step in the process of the development of the graded antigen.

Participants in Staff Meeting

On the following day, Dr. Campbell also participated in a Combined Clinical Staff Meeting devoted to chemotherapy of the systemic mycoses.

There she discussed the therapeutic effect of orally administered Amphotericin B on various experimentally induced mycotic infections of mice.

Treatment with this drug through oral administration proved so successful in the experimental situation, she felt, that efforts to administer the drug orally in humans should be pursued. At present the drug, while quite acceptable to mice, is bitter to the human tongue and is poorly tolerated.

Formerly With Walter Reed

As former Chief Mycologist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Dr. Campbell is well known and highly esteemed in the area. Her seminars, sponsored by the Division of Biologic Standards, were of particular interest to the Medical Mycology Section of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where projects related to Dr. Campbell's have been under way for many years under the direction of Dr. Chester W. Emmons.

May 14 Deadline Set for Applicants for Clinical, Research, Staff Associateships

This year physicians and dentists may apply for Clinical, Research, and Staff Associateships at NIH no later than May 14—until previous years when deadlines were set for September.

Successful applicants will enter duty as Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service on July 1, 1967. Until that time their Selective Service obligations may be put off under the Commissioned Officer Residency Deferment Program (CORD).

The three similar, though operatively different, kinds of associateships offer training concomitant with the provision of clinical and/or research services.

Each associate is assigned to a preceptor under whose direction he participates in a research program.

This represents the largest and most important part of his training experience; and the levels of research responsibility and latitude given to him depend upon his training and experience as well as his interests and initiative.

Separate didactic exercises complement Clinical and Research Associateships, and associates in all three categories are welcome to attend any of the exercises which can accommodate them if their schedules permit.

Career Opportunities Noted

In effect, these positions include broad opportunities for career development in most of the medical specialties and basic science disciplines.

Appointments as associates are for two years except in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where Clinical Associates are appointed for three years; and in certain program areas appointments may be extended for an additional year.

Service as a PHS Officer satisfies military obligation.

Unless he seeks transfer to another area of the PHS an associate may expect to be inactivated as an Office at the completion of his NIH appointment.

In addition to requirements for commission in the Public Health Service and for participation in the CORD Program, applicants shall—at the time they enter duty in 1967—have completed internship and, in most cases, a year or more of assistant residency.

Applications Available Mar. 1

The 44-week training required beyond internship is determined by the specific program areas to which applicants may seek appointment.

Aspirants must apply directly to the National Institutes of Health in order to be considered. Application forms and informational materials—including notes on the program areas to which applicants may seek appointment—will be obtainable March 1 through May 7 from the Clinical and Professional Education Branch, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Rev. Henle Appointed to Dental Advisory Council

The Rev. Robert J. Henle, S.J., Vice-President in charge of Academic Administration, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Mo., has been appointed by Surgeon General Luther L. Terry of the Public Health Service to a 4-year term on the National Advisory Dental Research Council.

Photo by Leo Bragg.
4 NHI Nurses Honored For Dedicated Service

Gold heart-shaped pins were presented recently to four National Heart Institute nurses with the longest service at a surprise ceremony honoring the entire NHI Clinical Center nursing staff. The pins, each set with a small ruby and engraved with the initials "NHI," were a gift from NHI staff physicians.

The recipients were Nina Ramacciotti, Assistant Chief of the Heart Nursing Service; Annie Dawkins, Assistant Head Nurse, Nursing Unit 8E; Isabelle Ambrose, Head of the NHI Patients' Observation Room; and Jean Brotslau, Head Nurse, Nursing Unit 7E. All have been at the Heart Institute since 1953.

Fredrickson Praises Staff

At the ceremony, Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, NHI Clinical Director, told the assembled nursing staff, "There is a real danger that in trying to make history so fast we may seem to forget those who are never authors of papers, nor earn even a footnote, and yet without whose help there would be nothing at all accomplished." 

"For this reason we have staged this ceremony to honor among us that group of our staff whose record of faithfulness and excellence is recognized by any of the rest, and which receives such muted recognition."

Dr. Fredrickson told the nurses that the physicians of the Institute have long wished to show their gratitude in some way "for all that you have done for us, for more than a decade—not only from duty, but from comradeship."

"We felt that perhaps this could be done best," he added, "by bringing special honor to these four nurses who have continuously served the Institute from the first year the clinical studies program opened its doors."

CC Booklet Tells How to Be Healthy Patients

People With a Purpose, a new NIH Clinical Center publication, explains what is involved in being a healthy research patient at the CC and what its rewards are.

The new booklet tells its story by citing specific examples of the research projects in which Normal Volunteer Patients are now, or were recently, taking part.

It underscores the many safeguards that surround a volunteer's participation in research, the constant concern for his well-being, the fact that he is fully informed about the projects in which he participates, and his absolute prerogative to decline participation in, or to terminate, his participation in any specific study.

In just five years' time the annual number of Normal Volunteer Patients studied at the CC has increased about 60 percent. Hopefully, this new publication will serve to encourage more and more people to help meet this constantly increasing need.

The CC is now recruiting volunteers through civic organizations in Appalachia where people are temporarily out of work and have time that they can give to this kind of humanitarian effort.

Religious groups also sponsor a good number of volunteers, and some colleges sponsor students who not only participate as research patients but also are afforded opportunities to gain experience that will complement their formal curricula of studies.

As the booklet points out, "Medical research is rapidly expanding, multiplying many times over the number of research projects, both long- and short-term, which need the services of normal control patients. Yet, the supply of people who are capable and willing to render this kind of service to their fellowmen does not always meet the need. Some research studies must wait; some conquests over disease must be delayed."

Copies of People With a Purpose—PHS Publication No. 1271—are available on request from the CC Information Office (NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014).

Robert Fisher Receives Wagner Award in N.Y.

Dr. Robert L. Fisher, formerly a Clinical Associate in the Section on Neuroradiology, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, has received the Lewis Clark Wagner Award at the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, for outstanding Resident's Paper of the Year.

The award was given for his study, "Contrast Radiography of the Spinal Cord," carried out at NIH with Dr. Giovanni Di Chiro, Head of the Section on Neuroradiology, Medical Neurology Branch, NINDS. A report of their work appeared in the August 1964 issue of the Archives of Neurology.

Robert Fisher receives Wagner Award in N.Y.

Marté Latham, a professional collector of rare animals, who captured 2,400 kokoi frogs in the rain forests of Western Colombia.

Skin extracts from these animals yielded a total of 30 milligrams of the crystalline major active principle—an amount equal to about 1/80 of a cube of sugar. The principle was named Batrachotoxin, from the Greek word for frog—bavataroches.

Batrachotoxin has been found to have a very strong effect on the heart, which is interesting since the chemically related strophanthus glycosides are heart stimulants and are used as arrow poisons in Africa.

Drs. P. Bonner and K. Biemann of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology utilized a mass spectrometer to crack the molecule of the venom into charged fragments. By measuring the "masses" of these molecular fragments, this instrument reveals what atoms, elements, and isotopes are present and, in addition, can determine in what quantities they exist relative to each other.

A report of what is known thus far of batrachotoxin's chemical nature appears in a forthcoming article in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.