Steven Bernard Named Chief of NHLI Branch

Steven C. Bernard has been appointed chief of the Operations Branch in the National Heart and Lung Institute's Extramural Programs.

The appointment was announced by Dr. Theodore Cooper, NHLI Director.

Mr. Bernard will be responsible for providing grants management services to the Institute's programs in support of cardiovascular and pulmonary-disease research and training at universities, hospitals, and other research institutions throughout the country.

Works With ORG

The Operations Branch works closely with the Division of Research Grants and other NIH components to develop and implement effective policies and procedures governing the managing and processing of grants.

Mr. Bernard, a native of Washington, D.C., received his B.A. from the University of Maryland. After a 6-month tour of active service, he returned to NIH.

Anesthetic Agents Found to Reduce Cell Damage Caused by Anti-Leukemic Drugs

Two common anesthetic agents have been found to reduce the damage done to healthy cells by anti-leukemic drugs, a team of United States and Canadian scientists recently reported.

If the results are confirmed in humans, a significant contribution will have been made to the treatment of leukemia by permitting more vigorous and successful therapy with arabinosyl cytosine (ara-C) and vinblastine.

These two potent anti-leukemic drugs which destroy malignant cells but, unfortunately, are often toxic to healthy ones.

Dr. David L. Bruce of the Northwestern Medical School and Hau-san Lin and W. R. Bruce of the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto, discovered that light anesthesia with either halothane or nitrous oxide reduced significantly the destruction of normal cells by ara-C or vinblastine.

Their experiments with some 5,000 laboratory mice showed no reduction in the ability of anti-cancer agents to kill malignant tumors.

Dr. Robert Cohen Given Area Alumnus Award

The 1970 Washington, D.C. Area Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Dr. Robert A. Cohen by the University of Chicago Club of Washington. Dr. Cohen is deputy director of the National Institute of Mental Health's Intramural Research Program.

The award was made at the Club's annual dinner on May 22, in the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Cohen received his B.S., M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago.

In 1952, he organized and developed the NIMH Clinical Research staff and activities at NIH. He was recently given the DHEW Distinguished Service Award for that achievement.

Scientists at Howard U. Investigate Possibility of Viruses Causing Cancer

Scientists at Howard University in Washington, D. C. are collaborating with the National Cancer Institute to investigate the possibility that viruses may cause some cases of breast cancer.

The study, financed under a $80,000 NCI contract, uses the University's clinical resources at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Michael V. Viola is project director. He is head of the Medical Oncology Section in Howard's College of Medicine.

Clinical observations suggest that immune factors may be involved in human breast cancer. Two types of virus-like particles have been observed in human breast tumors and in the milk of breast cancer patients.

One is virtually indistinguishable from agents that cause leukemia and sarcomas in chickens, rodents, and cats. The other is unlike any known cancer virus and its significance is undetermined.

No biological activity has been demonstrated by either particle, and their role is entirely speculative.
Retirement Annuities May Increase August 1
If Price Index Stays Up

The Civil Service Commission has requested that employees who are retiring or considering retiring be notified that there is the possibility of an annuity increase.

The Civil Service Retirement Law provides for this automatic increase according to a fixed formula. When the nationwide cost of living goes up by at least 3 percent over the Consumer Price Index for the month used as a base for the most recent cost-of-living annuity increase and remains up at least 3 percent for 3 consecutive months, then annuities automatically increase.

CPI Percentage Rises

In March the CPI percentage rise was 3.5 percent, in April 4.1 percent over the base month, August 1969.

If this rise stays up at least 3 percent for May, annuities will be increased by the highest percentage in the CPI during the 3-month period plus an additional one percent authorized by law.

To benefit from the increase, which would be effective August 1, an employee must be eligible for retirement and be separated from his position and have his pay cease on or before July 31.

The increase would be reflected in checks received in September.

The Civil Service Commission will announce the percentage of annuity increase in late June when information is available.

Employees should take up questions on the retirement system with their I/D personnel offices.

Margaret J. Perry Dies; Was Computer Analyst In Office of Personnel

Margaret Jane Perry, 44, an employee since 1957 in the Office of Personnel Management, died in the Clinical Center, Saturday, May 16.

She lived with her family at 2720 Lindell St., Wheaton, Md.

Mrs. Perry was a computer systems analyst for the Personnel Data System.

Among her contributions in that office was a skilled study of the salaries of scientific personnel on the reservation. This research was conducted jointly with the Butte Memorial Institute.

Her personnel work brought her in touch with many NIH employees; she was highly regarded by all.

Mrs. Perry leaves her husband, Robert; two sons, Robert L. and William H.; two daughters, Mary L. and Pamela J.; a brother, George D. Bragaw, Jr., who was formerly an information specialist with the National Heart Institute, and two sisters, Barbara B. Rogers and Josephine M. Mercier.

Her legion of friends at NIH and PBS turned out for Miss Secor's farewell party, and they were all enthralled with her travel plans.

Ruth Secor, assistant administrative officer, National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, has retired after an interesting Federal career and vacations filled with world-wide travel.

Miss Secor, who, in 1939, was with the PHS Public Health Methods when that office moved here, has watched the growth of the NIH campus. She reminisces about the long walks she used to take in woods that are now paved with office and lab buildings and parking lots.

And she can trace the original route of the stream which runs parallel to Rockville Pike and now runs underground for much of its route.

Miss Secor's first government job was with a field office of the Justice Department's Bureau of Prohibition. That office was in Harrisburg, and it was responsible for confiscating and storing moonshine liquor—the job was temporary.

From there she went to other temporary positions in Commerce, VA, GPO, and the Tariff Commission.

Miss Secor came to the NIH Laboratory of Tropical Diseases in 1946. She joined the NINDS staff as an administrative assistant 13 years later. In 1967, she was appointed assistant administrative officer.

Miss Secor saw much of the U.S. during the war years. Now she plans to see the rest of the world. She began with a Caribbean cruise in 1956, followed by a month-long trip to Europe in 1958.

In 1961, Miss Secor travelled around the world—from San Francisco to Hawaii, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, Bangkok, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Lebanon, Rome, and Lisbon.

Her special interests are archeology, history, and the ancient ruins of far-away places.

She leaves soon to visit the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, and California.

In the fall she will go to Rome, Turkey, and Greece. She is even planning to explore the Minoan ruins on Crete and Rhodes.

BERNARD

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cells when the cancer cells were given concurrently with anesthetics.

Dr. D. L. Bruce said the experiments demonstrate that halothane or nitrous oxide given concurrently with either of the chemotherapeutic agents will protect healthy cells from toxicity without reducing the effectiveness of the anti-cancer drugs on leukemic bone marrow cells.

The scientists vaporized the cages of leukemia mice with the anesthetic agents and later administered ara-C and vinblastine to the animals.

They later sacrificed the mice and found that the drug combination had no effect on normal bone marrow cells and that the effectiveness of the cancer drugs on malignant cells was unimpaired.

Effects Noted

By contrast, damage to healthy cells or the spread of malignant cells was observed in other groups of mice who had received the anesthetics alone, one cancer drug alone, or neither the anesthetics nor the cancer drugs.

They concluded that protection of normal cells by anesthetic-cancer drug combinations may indicate a general phenomenon whereby anesthetics increase the selectivity of cytotoxic drugs by protecting normal cells against them.

Research by Dr. Bruce at Northwestern is supported by a career development award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Drs. Lin and W. R. Bruce are supported by the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

The U.S.-Canadian findings will be published in the June issue of Cancer Research.

Mrs. Robert Q. Marston presented awards to the winners of the 12th Annual NIH Art Exhibit sponsored by R&W, which opened on Monday, June 1, in the Clinical Center lobby.

Prizes were awarded for five categories: Painting, Sculpture, Graphics, Watercolors, and Drawing.

The winners were: Mary S. Ames, Hon. Men.—P; Lea Feinestein, Hon. Men.—S; Gloria Kamen, First—D; Nancy Lauderbaugh, Hon. Men.—G; Sandra Levine, Second—P; and Kristen Moeller, Best in Show—P. Also, Patricia O’Connell, First—G; June Olson, Second and Hon. Men.—W; Virginia A. Sheard, Second—G; Cil Sirotkin, First—W; Audrie Starman, Second—S, and Marguerite Young, First—S.

Out of the 300 entries—the most submitted since the annual exhibit began—86 were chosen for display.

On opening day the NIH Jazz Combo, made up of scientists on the reservation, played during the early afternoon hours. The musicians were Drs. Robert Resnik, DRG; Robert Burton, NIMH, and Stephen Berens, NIMH.

The art work will be on exhibition for this entire month.

Dr. Kreshover Receives Award From Connecticut Dental Ass’n

Dr. Seymour K. Kreshover, Director, National Institute of Dental Research, has received the Alfred C. Fones Award from the Connecticut State Dental Association.

The award was established to honor “outstanding achievement in the interest of humanity.” It was presented at the association’s annual meeting in New Haven.

Past recipients of the Fones award include Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut.

Willie Huffman Retires; Came to NIH in 1953

Willie C. Huffman has quietly retired, after a series of farewell luncheons given her by her friends in several parts of NIH.

Among these occasions was a surprise party disguised as a small birthday celebration. Two of her three sons, their wives and children, and 30 associates attended.

Mrs. Huffman came to NIH in 1953, soon after her husband, an attorney, died.

She worked in both the Supply Management Branch and the National Heart Institute before going to the Office of Information, OD, as secretary to Jane Stafford, who is now Acting Director of that office.

Mrs. Huffman’s duties were varied and she carried them out with precision. Among her responsibilities was the processing of a weekly report to the Assistant Secretary of HEW for Health and Scientific Affairs, and assembling much of the written material prepared for Congressional hearings.

Her chief outside-of-work activity has centered for years around the huge garden at her Bethesda home. There she raises plants from seedlings, as well as seeds, specializing in magnolias, five kinds of holly, azaleas and English boxwood.

Recently Mrs. Huffman donated many of her plants to the National Cathedral in Washington. A member of the Bethesda Garden Club, she is often chosen to help arrange flowers for embassies.

The sons attending her surprise party were William, a Government lawyer, and Walter, a minister in Richmond, Va. Another son, Randolph, an electronics engineer, was unable to attend. Five of her six grandchildren were present: Mark, Timmy, Karen, Kristin and Kurt.

There was just one speech, a short and merry one, was given by Miss Stafford, who observed: “Some people retire to sit back and rock, but not our Willie.”
Trauma Experts Cite Need to Improve Quality of Care for Accident Victims

The “need to narrow the gap between current knowledge and the quality of care actually being delivered to accident victims” was stressed at the International Trauma Symposium in Washington May 18-20.

Dr. Dunphy, professor of Surgery at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco, was chairman of the 3-day symposium sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Scientists from Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, and Austria were invited to the symposium to determine whether some techniques and services in these nations might be utilized in this country.

Congressman Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland, a member of the House District of Columbia Committee, addressed the delegates on the first day of the symposium. He called for a greater public awareness of the trauma problem.

Sen. Ralph T. Yarborough of Texas, chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, told the experts that few U.S. hospitals have intensive care units sufficiently staffed or equipped to cope with accident victims.

He called for further research to save lives and speed the recovery of accident victims.

Papers presented included those by Dr. Bertil Aldman, Stockholm, who reported on methods for assisting traffic victims in Sweden, and by Dr. Carl Hirsch, of Sweden's Karolinska Institutes, who described the mechanical forces involved in injury.

Also, Dr. Oscar P. Hampton, Jr., assistant director of the American College of Surgeons, described the challenge of the trauma problem to organized medicine.

Fourteen symposium workshops held discussions on the state of trauma research, the etiology of trauma, and the deep psychological, as well as physical, damage to

Hospital Center Again A Blue Cross Participant

The NIH Personnel Office has issued a reminder that effective May 1, the Washington Hospital Center, 110 Irving St., N.W., Washington, D.C., is again participating in Blue Cross.

Employees and their families with Government-wide Service Benefit Plan of the Health Benefits Program, and who are Blue Cross—Blue Shield participants are now eligible for full hospital service benefits as of May 1.

Subscribers admitted to the Hospital Center before May 1, but who were in the hospital on that date or after, will receive full benefits for the portion of their stay which began May 1.

From March 15 to May 1 the Center was considered a non-participating hospital, and only limited Blue Cross benefits were available.

CONCEPTS

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The concept was endorsed by Institute management.

The class meets four hours a week, during working hours, in the Institute's Bunim Room in Building 10.

Although there are scheduled examinations and daily homework assignments, Dr. Bloom conducts the classes in an informal manner and encourages class discussion.

The work covers basic biology of the cell, the nature of matter, bacteria, viruses, heredity, and the body's systems.

Special topics and laboratory demonstrations are chosen on the basis of medical research actually being conducted in the laboratories. Several of the 19 NIAMD students now enrolled in the first course intend to apply for college level courses in biology.

June Ardizzone, NIAMD Personnel Officer, and her assistant, Jean Cohen, are interested in helping other NIH components who may wish to join in the program, and they will advise on the mechanism of setting up this type of training.

Two NIGMS staff members accompany Dr. Lars-Erik Celin, University of Gotenburg, Sweden (center), to one of the 14 trauma symposium workshops. Dr. William I. Gay (left) is acting associate director for Operations, and Dr. L. Edgar Lee is associate chief in the Research Grants Branch.

Ethish Stang Retires; Headed Central Files Of NIDR for 17 Years

Dr. Kreshover (left) and Richard C. Arnold, NLM, extend their best wishes to Ethel Stang at her retirement party.

"NIDR will not be the same without her," was the most frequent comment at the retirement party for Ethel Stang on May 27.

Mrs. Stang had been in charge of the central files of the National Institute of Dental Research for the past 17 years.

Dr. Seymour Kreshover, Institute Director, presented a color television set to her as a parting gift from her friends.

Dental Institute employees reminisce about the late Dr. Francis A. Arnold's regard for Mrs. Stang. The former NIDR Director used to call her "boss," and every morning he "checked in with the boss."

She continues a warm friendship with Dr. Arnold's sons.

Dr. Carl Baker Speaks At Cancer Congress

Thirty-four National Cancer Institute scientists took part in the Tenth International Cancer Congress held the latter part of May, in Houston, Tex.

The program covered such topics on cancer as research, control, and education.

Dr. Carl G. Baker, Acting Director of NCI, spoke at a panel discussion on Cooperation Between Voluntary Agencies and Government.

His subject was the Role of International and National Organizations in Cancer Control.