Dr. Dorland J. Davis, NIAID Director, explained that "the data accumulated at Baylor should provide a better understanding of influenza and methods for protecting against or controlling outbreaks, such as the influenza pandemic (world-wide epidemic) forecast for the late 1970s."

The Baylor center, supported in the first year by a $465,102 contract, will be under the direction of Dr. Robert B. Couch.

Dr. Couch, assisted by a team of experienced investigators, will set up studies designed to clarify pathogenic, epidemiologic, and immunologic aspects of influenza.

(See INFLUENZA, Page 7)

1st Nat'l Sickle Cell Disease Symposium Covers Diagnosis, Treatment, Results

Late in June, more than 725 physicians and scientists gathered at the Washington Hilton Hotel to attend the First National Symposium on Sickle Cell Disease sponsored by the National Heart and Lung Institute. By far the largest symposium ever held on the subject, over 60 major medical centers from the United States, England, Israel, Italy, and Ghana were represented.

The opening plenary session was devoted to papers describing recent work on potential methods of therapy. The value of new drugs, such as sodium cyanate, was discussed as well as the possible side effects of these recently developed modes of treatment.

Other important clinical aspects of SCD, including diagnosis and treatment of complications, were reported on at subsequent plenary sessions.

The three plenary sessions were also concerned with recent discoveries concerning the molecular and cellular basis of medical problems associated with sickle hemoglobin.

These studies are opening up a new front in front of the NHLI educational exhibit before attending an afternoon clinical session.

(Continued on Page 5)
Two Centuries of Federal Service! Not in the Realm Of Possibility? Oh Yes It is—for 6 NIAID Employees

Imagine almost two centuries of Federal service! Impossible? Not for six National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' employees who had a combined service of 190 years when they retired on June 30.

The employees are: Dr. Noel H. Gross, scientist administrator with the Institute's Extramural Programs, retired after nearly 28 years of Federal service. As special assistant for training programs, he had been responsible for the formulation of policy in the review and analysis of research training grants and fellowships. Recently, he received a Superior Service Award for his efficient administration of the program.

Dr. Gross joined NIAID in 1959 as training officer. He also served as assistant to the chief, assistant chief, and chief of the Bacteriology and Mycology Branch, all in Extramural Programs.

Before coming to NIH, he had worked at Fort Detrick as chief of the agent control branch and the technical information division. Earlier, Dr. Gross had been on the faculties of Oregon State College and Iowa State College.

**Tell's Retirement Plans**

His retirement plans include expanding and cultivating his orchid collection and traveling to the West Coast and Australia.

Carmen G. Leonard, a biochemist in NIAID's Laboratory of Microbiology since 1965, retired after 27 years of service.

Before coming to the Institute, she did research on bacterial biochemistry and genetics at Fort Detrick for 18 years. Her work at NIAID focused on streptococcal genetics, and she recently received a Superior Service Award for her studies demonstrating the transduction of Group A streptococci which provided a genetic basis for streptococcal disease.

Mrs. Leonard, who had served on the NIAID-EEO Advisory Committee for the last year and a half, said that she felt she was a living example of the opportunity that exists in the Institute for women, both professional and nonprofessional.

**Will Continue Career**

She plans to continue her career in fields more directly related to people, perhaps in environmental or energy research.

William J. Moon, NIAID's personnel officer for 16 years, retired after more than 30 years of Federal service.

A native of the Hoosier State, Mr. Moon attended Butler University and Indiana University. Before coming to NIH in 1956 he had held administrative positions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is noted for his ability in training some of the top management people at NIH and his interest in fostering upward mobility opportunities for NIAID employees.

Mr. Moon was especially interested in furthering the educational training of animal caretakers so that they might qualify for positions as laboratory aids and laboratory technicians.

Now, he plans to devote a great deal of time on two of his hobbies —golfing and vegetable gardening. At his retirement luncheon, his gifts included mostly golfing equipment and a gift certificate for (See TWO CENTURIES, Page 5)
Dr. Jerome B. Block, associate director of the Clinical Center since 1970, has been appointed head of the division of otorhinolaryngology at Harper General Hospital in Los Angeles and professor of medicine at the University of California College of Medicine in Los Angeles. He will start his new assignments in August.

Dr. Block came to NIH in 1966, and served with the National Cancer Institute, first as a clinical associate and then as senior investigator in the Medicine Branch.

In 1966, after spending a year studying membrane biophysics at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, Dr. Block was named chief of NCI's Cancer Research Center in Baltimore where he served until his CC appointment.

During his tenure at CC, Dr. Block has worked closely with the administrative staff of the Institutes in charting and developing clinical and research programs.

He has been coordinator of the Clinical Electives Program for Medical Students and Physicians' Assistants, served for several months as acting chief of the CC Clinical Pathology Department, and was president of the Clinical Center Alumni Association.

Dr. Block, a clinical associate professor of medicine at Georgetown University, also lectured on pharmacology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

He is the author and co-author of 60 scientific papers in the field of cancer research. In 1964 he was co-recipient of the Hans Karger Memorial International Prize for biochemistry research in leukemia.

Applications Accepted for FAES Graduate Program Fall Semester

Catalogs for the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences' Graduate Program fall semester are now available.

Seventy-four courses—both graduate and undergraduate—are offered on the NIH campus in evening sessions.

Classes begin Sept. 16. Register by mail through Aug. 23, or in person Sept. 5-11.

Tuition is $22 per semester hour—courses may be taken for credit or audit. Students seeking Government assistance should apply immediately to their administrative office.

Catalogs may be obtained from FAES, CC, Room BIL-101, Ext. 65273.
Ervin Liljegren Retires After 33 Years; NIAMDD's 'Master of the Three M's'

Ervin Liljegren, NIAMDD’s “master of the three m’s,” has retired after 33 years of service to NIH. As Administrative officer for Intramural Research of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, Mr. Liljegren has skillfully managed that program’s “manpower, money and materials” since it was established.

His multifaceted AO position, with each aspect demanding his undivided attention, provided the perfect match for this man for all seasons. Chemist, actor, administrator, community and church worker, all reflect Mr. Liljegren’s chief interest—people. It was this interest which brought him out of the laboratory after 15 years as a chemist and into administration. “I guess you could call the decision to leave the laboratory the turning point in my career,” he said. “I’m much more interested in being where the people are.”

Not only interested, but effective as well. Mr. Liljegren’s experience on the research side of the coin afforded him a first-hand understanding of the needs of NIAMDD’s scientific staff.

A former track star at the University of Minnesota, he has always managed to stay one step ahead of personnel position ceilings, pinched budgets, and the constant pleas for more space and equipment.

His background in research combined with a degree in business administration and excellent rapport with investigators have rendered Mr. Liljegren a highly effective and respected administrative officer.

These talents have not gone unrecognized. After a 2-week vacation in his home state of Minnesota, Mr. Liljegren will become the first administrative officer for the National Academy of Sciences’ newly formed Assembly of Life Sciences.

Mr. Liljegren came to NIH in 1941 as a laboratory assistant in the now defunct Division of Industrial Hygiene.

At that time, he recalls, NIH was comprised of 500 people in six buildings, a mimeographed telephone directory, and a softball field where the Clinical Center now stands.

The recollections have earned Mr. Liljegren a charter membership in the Old Timers Club, the minimum requirement of which is at least 15 years at NIH.

Life at NIH during the years of growth and expansion lent itself to one-act lampoons of the same name. Performed by the Hamsters—Bethesda’s answer to Broadway—the spoofs highlighted the humorous aspects of living and working in the Federal research community.

A former Hamsters president, Mr. Liljegren would like to see the “Life at NIH” scripts revitalized and performed again to provide comic relief from the often pressured present-day routine.

A native of Parkers Prairie, Minn., Mr. Liljegren received his B.A. degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota in 1940. He came to Washington as a statistician with the Bureau of the Census, and one year later transferred to NIH to the then Industrial Hygiene Laboratory.

In 1949 he completed the requirements for a B.S. degree in chemical engineering at George Washington University.

A man of diversified interests, Mr. Liljegren has participated in a variety of Recreation and Welfare Association activities ranging from dance committee chairman to president to management consultant. He is also a two-term past president of the Credit Union and served on its board for 6 years.

Involved for many years in civic affairs, Mr. Liljegren is a former officer of his community’s Citizens’ Association.

In addition to his civic interests, he is actively involved in a variety of church functions.

Mr. Liljegren was honored by friends and colleagues at a party June 26.

Mr. Liljegren has served as president of the Rockville Lions Club and now sits on several of the organization’s committees.

Agency Representatives Attend NICHD Meeting On Child Abuse, Neglect

A recent conference sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development brought together Government and non-Federal scientists and administrators to discuss topics on child abuse and neglect.

Federal agencies represented at the meeting included the Office of Child Development, Social and Rehabilitation Services, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Maternal and Child Health Services, and the Office of Education.

Subjects discussed at the 2-day conference included: a follow-up study of injured, neglected, and sexually molested children; early intervention programs in Boston for neglected and abused children; clinical research in psychosocial dwarfism at Johns Hopkins, and the Nova Scotia study of child abuse.

Conference proceedings will be published.

The Rockville Times Laboratory.

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Feeling Trapped?—Wanda Kollmorgen tempt s “The Trap,” her sculpture that won second prize at the 16th Annual Art Show now on display in the Clinical Center lobby through July 19th.
SCD SYMPOSIUM COVERS TREATMENT, RESULTS

(Continued from Page 1)

choosing additional golf accessories.

Joseph Schachter, statistician in the Office of the Director, NIAID, since 1970, retired after 35 years with the Federal Government. Mr. Schachter has covered many phases of statistical analysis and demography. For the past 4 years he had worked on the development and analysis of epidemiological data on allergic and infectious diseases.

Mr. Schachter began his career with the Federal Security Agency and in 1949, moved to the National Office of Vital Statistics where he later served as chief of the Natality Analysis Branch. In 1962 he came to NIH as chief statistician for the National Diet-Heart Study in the National Heart Institute.

Clinton S. Smith, biologist, retired after nearly 33 years of Federal service. Since 1961, Mr. Smith had been assigned to the primate malaria unit of the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases in Chamblee, Ga.

In 1954 Mr. Smith assisted in a schistosomiasis (bilharziasis) control project in Egypt and the U.S. to determine whether the snail that have, time to become more active and eventually infect humans with the parasite. The snail that drink the blood of infected humans and excrete certain antigens are susceptible to infection. If infected, the snail transfers the parasites to a new host, where they develop into adult worms. The adult worms lay eggs, which are excreted in the feces of infected humans and can contaminate fresh water bodies. The eggs then hatch and release larvae, which can penetrate human skin or mucous membranes. In the presence of certain antigens, these larvae develop into adult worms in the liver or intestines, where they cause disease.

The symposium was opened with short addresses by Caspar W. Weilinger, HEW Secretary; Dr. John J. Hercegus, symposium chairman; Dr. Rudolph E. Jackson, program coordinator, National Sickle Cell Disease Program; Dr. Robert S. Stone, NIH Director; and Dr. Robert L. Ringer, NIH Acting Director.

Dr. William B. Castle, professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School, delivered the keynote address entitled, "From Man to Mole- cule and Back to Mankind."

Symposium proceedings will be made available at a later date, according to the NHLI Public Inquiries and Reports Branch.

NIDR Awards Grant To Study Acupuncture

Acupuncture and its relation to pain control in dentistry will be evaluated by a group of scientists through a grant from the National Institute of Dental Research. Headed by Dr. Gene M. Smith, a psychologist at the Anesthesiology Laboratory at the Harvard Medical School at Massachusetts General Hospital, the investigators will receive $156,000 for the first 2 years of a 3-year study.

With the aid of volunteers, they will compare pain control from acupuncture with traditional analgesics and anesthesia during various dental procedures, and during experimentally induced pain.

The scientists will study how susceptible males or females and certain age or racial groups are to acupuncture, and whether success varies among the participating acupuncturists.

If some acupuncturists obtain better results than others, their techniques and approaches will be studied more closely.

Dental procedures offer an almost ideal situation for testing acupuncture. The amount of pain created varies with the method utilized.

Thus, patients can serve as their own controls— an important consideration since people differ greatly in the ability to tolerate pain. In this way, different pain relievers can be accurately compared.

A sensitive method for detecting keyhole limpet hemocyanin antigen for studies on immune responsiveness by employing bentonite-coated particles of KLH.

He has also worked on the NIAID study of "grey collies" afflicted with an inherited blood disorder similar to the cyclic ne- tropenia of humans. Now, he plans to complete studies in accounting which were interrupted when he began working for NIH.

During a plenary session break, Dr. Hercules (Il), Dr. Jackson, Secretary Weinberger, Dr. Stone, and Dr. Ringler find a few moments to evaluate the symposium's progress.

(Continued from Page 2)

new understanding of SCD and may provide the basis for other therapeutic approaches.

Two afternoons of the symposium were devoted to simultaneous keyhole limpet hemocyanin antigen for studies on immune responsiveness by employing bentonite-coated particles of KLH.

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Dr. J. H. Tjio, an NIAMD research biologist, was presented an honorary doctor of medicine degree by University Claude Bernard, Lyon, France, last month. He has done significant contributions in the field of cell genetics and is especially well known for his work on human chromosomes for which he was given the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation international award in 1963.

5 INSTITUTES TAKE PART IN INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDS PROG.

Five Institutes— the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart and Lung Institute, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Dental Research, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases—will participate in the Institutional Research Fellowship Awards program.

The awards will enable domestic, private or public, nonprofit organizations to develop research training opportunities for career individuals in specific shortage areas in the biomedical and health-related sciences.

Recipient institutions must have staff and facilities available for providing the proposed research training, and have a preceptor who will select and appoint fellows and direct their training.

Appointees must have a doctorate and must be United States citizens, noncitizens, or have been lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence at the time of appointment.

Noncitizens are persons born in lands which are not States, but are under U.S. sovereignty, jurisdiction, or administration of American Samoa. Individuals on temporary visas are not eligible.

Training support may not be used for clinical training.

Support is given for a maximum of 3 years. Award stipends range from $10,000 to $13,200, according to experience when accepted, increasing by annual increments of $400 through the third year of support.

Application deadline is Sept. 15, 1974—announcements will be made in March, 1975.

Application forms may be obtained from the Grants Inquiries Section, Division of Research Grants, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Dr. Louis Wasserman Appointed Chairman of Advisory Committee

Dr. Louis R. Wasserman, distinguished service professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, has been appointed chairman of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Treatment Advisory Committee.

The committee provides the NCI Director and the director, Division of Cancer Treatment, NCI, with scientific advice on the treatment program's progress and the directions it should follow, as well as on program areas proposed for contract support.

Dr. Wasserman succeeds Dr. Gertrude B. Elion, head of Experimental Therapy at the Wellcome Research Laboratories, who had completed her term.
NCI Awards Contract
To Monitor Employees
Of Tex. Asbestos Plant

A contract to monitor 878 former Tyler, Texas, asbestos workers who are at excess risk of developing lung cancer and other asbestos-related diseases has been awarded by the National Cancer Institute.

They are all former employees of an asbestos plant in Tyler which operated from 1954 to 1972.

The Texas Chest Foundation/East Texas Chest Hospital researchers will attempt to identify characteristics signalling the development of lung cancer which may lead to earlier disease detection in a population at high risk.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health estimates that asbestos workers have one of the highest identified risks of developing lung cancer of any U.S. occupational group.

Special staff of the East Texas Chest Hospital will contact former employees and their families 89 percent of whom still live within a 100-mile radius of Tyler.

Employees will be encouraged to come to the hospital every 6 months for a 2-hour battery of tests, including physical examination, chest X-ray, and sputum cytology.

Test Explained

The latter test is a microscopic examination of cells obtained from deep cough samples. Abnormal cells in the sputum can indicate a lung cancer too small to be detected by other methods.

The Tyler workers’ exposure to asbestos may be similar to that of employees of a predecessor asbestos plant in Paterson, N.J.

In 1954, the Paterson plant, including the equipment and processing procedures, was moved to Tyler.

Employees of the Paterson plant experience a mortality due to lung cancer six times higher than the national average. The rate is by far the highest in asbestos workers who smoke cigarettes.

These data suggest that the risk of lung cancer among Tyler workers may be as high as in Paterson.

Computers Used

Scientists predict that they may begin to detect abnormal numbers of lung cancers in Tyler’s employees within the next 2 to 5 years.

Data on the workers’ exposure to asbestos will be correlated with development of disease using the computer facilities and occupational disease expertise of NIOSH in Cincinnati.

Under a special subcontract, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, will correlate finding of asbestos exposure and disease among the Tyler workers with his research on cancer among 1,560 asbestos workers in Paterson.

The monitoring contract is co-sponsored by the Cancer Control Program and the Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, NCI.

Dr. Mitchell will be concerned with information resources for scientists and clinicians particularly with risk factors and the development of atherosclerosis in the young.

BRANCH CHIEFS

(Continued from Page 1)

After several fellowships at Canadian institutions and research associate positions with the University of Michigan, Dr. Mitchell joined NHLI in 1963 as a medical officer in the Epidemiology and Biometrics Program.

Dr. Rifkind was named chief of the Lipid Research Program after serving as deputy chief since 1971.

He will plan and administer a research program for the prevention of premature atherosclerosis through identification and treatment of people highly susceptible to the disease by elevated levels of cholesterol and other fatty substances, collectively known as lipids.

Dr. Rifkind received M.B. and Ch.D. degrees in medicine and surgery (with commendation) from the University of Glasgow in 1957.

He was awarded the Brunton and Fullerton Awards “most distinguished graduate of the year,” and also collected the Gold Medal and Rankine Prize in Pathology and Bacteriology and the Ure Prizes in Pathology, Bacteriology, Midwifery, and Child Health.

Over the next 10 years—except for brief tours of duty at the County Hospital, Ormskirk, England, and Crumpsall Hospital in Manchester—Dr. Rifkind held various staff positions at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow.

He came to NHLI’s Lipid Research Branch in 1967 as a Brit.

Dr. Rifkind has been a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh since 1960 and of Glasgow since 1952, and was elected a fellow of the Glasgow College in 1973.

Mattie Goldberg Retires; In Fed’l Gov’t 19 Years

Mattie Goldberg, an administrative clerk at the Division of Computer Research and Technology, recently retired after 19 years with the Federal Government.

Her first position was at the Signal Corps; later, she transferred to the Office of the Surgeon General.

In 1962 Mrs. Goldberg came to NIH working in the Division of Research Service’s Data Processing Branch. Eventually, this branch provided the nucleus for the DCRP.

Processing invoices for computer and equipment rental and keeping time and leave records for computer personnel, Mrs. Goldberg saw the new Division through its initial growth.

Some 63 co-workers and friends attended a party to wish her well before her retirement to Florida.

Dr. S. Perry to Serve As Acting Director, NCI Treatment Div.

Dr. Seymour Perry has been appointed acting director of the Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute. Dr. C. Gordon Zubrod, who headed the program since 1975, will be retiring to assume a new position with the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Dr. Perry has served as the division’s deputy director since Nov. 13, 1973.

He received his B.A. with honors in 1943 from the University of California at Los Angeles and his M.D., also with honors, in 1947 from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles.

Affiliations Noted

Dr. Perry has served as president of the National Blood Bank; chairman of the American Cancer Society’s Advisory Committee on Epidemiology Diagnosis and Therapy, and chairman of the American Society of Hematology’s committee on Scientific Affairs as well as its leukocyte Subcommittee.

He is the author of 130 scientific papers in the field of hematological oncology.

NIH Visiting Scientists

Program Participants

6/18—Dr. Ken-ichi Yamamoto, Japan, Molecular Biology Section. Sponsor: Dr. Edgar Bibi, NIAID, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Mont.

6/23—Dr. Seetharama A. Acharya, India, Laboratory of Chemical Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Hiroshi Taniguchi, NIAID, Bldg. 10, Rm. 9N308.

6/23—Dr. Motomori Izumi, Japan, Clinical Endocrinology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. H. C. Champion, NIAID, Bldg. 10, Rm. 8N317.

6/23—Dr. Clark K. Lum, China, Division of Lung Diseases. Sponsor: Dr. Claude J. Lenfant, NHLI, Bldg. 31, Rm. 5A10.

6/25—Dr. Toshioke Kawasaki, Japan, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. G. Gilbert Aschwill, NIMDD, Bldg. 10, Rm. 9N10.

7/1—Dr. Marcello Barbieri, Italy, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. John Z. Heaton, NIMDD, Bldg. 31, Rm. 9A17A.

7/1—Dr. Atsushi Ito, Japan, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism. Sponsor: Dr. Thomas Waldmann, NCI, Bldg. 10, Rm. 4N110.
**RITA ORR**

(Continued from Page 3)

the program, she was named classification specialist assigned to the State Department and to the White House. After 5 years in that post, she transferred to the Department of the Army doing the same work.

"Then I stayed at home and had my first child. As a matter of fact, I had five children, I stayed out 15 years. I returned to work for NLM."

It wasn't too long after her return when she was named personnel management specialist for the Library.

A many-shelved bookcase partly divided Mrs. Orr's office from that of Mr. Cross.

Peering around the divider, Mr. Cross said, "May I say something? I don't think the office could run as effectively without Rita. And I'll say something else Rita wouldn't say—she has had numerous opportunities to become personnel officer here and elsewhere, and she has declined all these offers."

His praise reflects the confidence NLM employees—no matter what echelon—have in Mrs. Orr.

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**NIEHS Advisory Council Gets 3 New Members**

Drs. Helen G. Edmonds, Paul E. Lacy, and Norton Nelson have been appointed to terms on the advisory council of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Dr. Edmonds is dean of the Graduate School and professor of history at North Carolina Central University in Durham.

A clinical pathologist, Dr. Lacy serves as Mallinckrodt Professor and chairman of the department of pathology at Washington University Medical School.

Dr. Nelson, an authority in environmental health sciences, is director of the Institute of Environmental Medicine at New York University Medical Center.

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James Alexander has been appointed Equal Employment Opportunity coordinator for the Clinical Center. He will coordinate CC EEO activities and advise the CC Director on EEO affairs. Formally a member of the D.C. public school system, he taught health and physical education, special education, and was a guidance counselor.

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**An Illustrated History Being Compiled for NCI**

Dr. Michael B. Shimkin is compiling an illustrated history of cancer research for the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Shimkin, who held several positions at NCI from 1938 to 1963, is the author of the book, *Science and Cancer*, and has contributed more than 200 papers on cancer to technical journals.

He expects the work to be completed in approximately 2 years.

Currently Dr. Shimkin is professor of community medicine and oncology, University of California—San Diego.

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**INFLUENZA**

(Continued from Page 1)

evaluate licensed and experimental vaccines, and explore the potential of antiviral substances in preventing or treating the disease.

In carrying out these studies, the Baylor investigators will have different population groups—preschool and school-age children, college students, family units, and the elderly—under observation for extended periods.

Although basic research on the influenza virus (first identified in the 1930s) has recently yielded valuable information on the organism's chemical and molecular structure, many practical questions remain unanswered regarding the behavior of the disease in man.

Some of the questions Dr. Couch and his associates will be researching are:

- What is the earliest signal of influenza virus activity in a community?
- What factors influence spread of influenza?
- What is the disease process in members of different population groups?
- What is the duration of protection resulting from natural infection or vaccine administration?

Studies involving population surveillance are targeted for initiation before the winter of 1974-75 and for full implementation by the end of the first contract year.

**Research Plans Told**

On the basis of the first year's findings, the research plan will be re-evaluated and new scientific leads followed where indicated. It is estimated that as many as 10 years may be required for completing the studies.

The NIAID project officer for the contract is Dr. Franklin J. Tyer of the Infectious Diseases Branch.

Dr. Robert M. Friedman, Na-...
Scientists Say Better Perinatal Care Facilities Have Led To Less Neonatal Deaths; Hospital Priorities Suggested

Scientists at an interdisciplinary research conference at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development reported that the recent improvement of perinatal intensive care facilities has led to a steady decline in neonatal deaths.

The conference, organized by NICHD's Perinatal Biology and Infant Mortality Branch, was co-chaired by Drs. L. Stanley James, Columbia - Presbyterian Medical Center, and Eileen G. Hasselmeier, program director of the NICHD Branch.

The researchers pointed out that, generally, problem pregnancies yield high-risk infants who usually weigh less than 5½ pounds. These underweight babies comprise only about 8 percent of all live births, but account for 70 percent of deaths within 1 month of birth.

They also stressed that a significant decline in prenatal and neonatal mortality during the past decade is due, in part, to research conducted prior to birth and in the newborn.

Dr. Robert Usher, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, presented data indicating that in the Province of Quebec the perinatal mortality rate in infants weighing more than 2 pounds and 3 ounces, dropped from 22.1 per thousand live births in 1967 to 16.0 in 1972—a 28 percent decrease.

Improvements Noted

The incidence of low birth weight infants did not change and so the drop was related to improvements in health care rather than to fewer high-risk patients.

Further improvement is possible if high-risk pregnancies and women in premature labor can be delivered in hospitals with both fetal and neonatal intensive care services.

In one such Perinatal Intensive Care Unit at the hospital, perinatal mortality is approaching only 0.8 per 1000 live births, the point at which the only deaths that occur are from lethal malformations and unpredictable deaths of fetuses during pregnancy before the mother is admitted to the hospital.

A similar trend in neonatal survival in Wisconsin was reported by Dr. Stanley Graven, University of Wisconsin Perinatal Center. There, a statewide system for high risk patient referral was developed, making it possible for high-risk mothers and babies to be treated at more sophisticated centers.

Dr. Marshall Klaus, Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Louis Gluck, University of California, San Diego, and Dr. Philip Sunshine, Stanford University, stated that improvements in neonatal mortality have been significant. However, the three researchers added, there is an urgent need in the field of perinatal medicine for tools to assess the infant in the first minutes of life. During the NICHD seminar, new concepts in hospital design were recommended by an international group of scientists who specialize in the problems of childbirth and in the care of sick newborn infants.

They emphasized the priority of providing the companionship of the husband when a woman is in labor, and the need for facilities to permit both labor and obstetric delivery in the same room.

Even when electronic monitoring of the fetus is needed during labor, delivery on the same bed should make it possible to leave all the equipment undisturbed and should also avoid any interruption of the husband's participation in the childbirth experience.

By establishing close proximity of the special care nursery, a sick baby's immediate needs can be guaranteed from his first minutes after birth.

By placing the obstetric patients' rooms in the vicinity, even in a state-wide system of perinatal care, the nursing staff will still allow frequent visiting and handling by the mother.

Although a family-centered policy has long been established as desirable for its possible long-term benefit, the majority of normal pregnancies, this is the first time that the intensive care techniques of obstetric and newborn care have been declared compulsory with both the importance of uninterrupted family relationships and the architectural design of the hospital.

Postnatal period. Studies of infant visual perception, auditory responses, and other developmental tests are especially important.

Dr. James stated that new findings represent a dramatic reduction in the neonatal death rate, lending additional justification for expanding these programs.

He explained that an essential part of these services relies on continuing basic and applied research, training of physicians and nurses in perinatal medicine, and funding of programs for the necessary assessment and followup of newborn infants.

Dr. William Tooley, University of California, San Francisco, reported that during the period from 1965 to 1972 there has been a steady increase in neonatal survival.

During the period 1968 to 1972 improvement in survival was even more marked. Assessing the development of infants with a birth weight of about 3½ pounds or less shows that greater than 90 percent of those born from 1969 to 1972 are functioning within a normal range at 1 year. This is significantly better than infants of the same weight born from 1965 to 1968.

Alex Smallberg Retires; Received Many Awards For His Contributions

Alex Smallberg, director of the Office of Contracts and Grants, OD, since 1971, retired June 30 after 35 years of Federal service.

Mr. Smallberg—who implemented the decentralization of research contracting activities to the bureaus and institutes—received a DHEW Superior Service Award in May for his contributions.

Prior to coming to NIH, Mr. Smallberg was a contract specialist with the U.S. Army from 1947 to 1971. During that time, he received two Meritorious Civilian Service Awards and the Army's Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Mr. Smallberg received his B.A. degree from Brooklyn College in 1935, and his masters degree in accounting in 1940.

A certificate of appreciation signed by Caspar W. Weinberger, HEW Secretary, was presented to Mr. Smallberg at his retirement party on June 28 at Wilson Hall.

Foreign Visitors May Call Hospitality Service Contacts

Foreign visitors at NIH who want to obtain or return furnishings from the Hospitality Service may call Mrs. Hans J. Cahman, 530-2821, or Mrs. Seymour Wollman, 949-9593.

Mrs. Elliot Charney, previously listed as a Hospitality Service contact, will be out of town until the end of October.

For His Contributions