Dr. Stephen P. Hatchett, Director of DRG, Dies

Dr. Stephen P. Hatchett, Director of the Division of Research Grants, died suddenly on Aug. 22 in Slanesville, W. Va.

He came to NIH in 1955 as assistant chief of the Career Development Review Branch in DRG, and was appointed chief of that Branch in 1958. He became deputy director of DRG in 1964, a post he held until 1989 when he became Division Director.

A native of Mogollon, N. Mex., Dr. Hatchett received his B.A. degree from American University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in zoology from the University of Michigan.

In 1963 he received the DHEW Superior Service Award for “his major contributions to the mission of the Public Health Service through his personal achievement and exemplary direction of his Branch.”

Prior to his association with NIH, Dr. Hatchett held a series of academic positions.

A former professor of biology and department head at American University and Presbyterian College (Clinton, S.C.), he was an assistant sanitaryian in the PHS Commissioned Corps from 1943 to 1946.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; a son, Stephen P. Hatchett, II, Boulder, Colo.; a daughter, Mrs. Mark Owen, Davenport, Iowa; two grandchildren; and his father, Samuel Hatchett, Comanche, Tex.

Huntington's Disease Commission Begins;
NINICDS to Support Staff in Bethesda

Eight members have been appointed to the Commission for the Control of Huntington’s Disease and Its Consequences which was officially launched Aug. 31. Five members are non-Government health professionals, and three are from the consumer public. One additional health professional will be appointed later to complete the nine-member commission set forth by law.

The new Commission, established under the Health Revenue Sharing Act of 1975, is charged with developing a comprehensive national plan for the control of Huntington’s disease and its consequences.

Will Make Recommendations

Its recommendations are to be made to the President, to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare of the Senate, and to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives.

The National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, which conducts and supports the Government’s research program on Huntington’s disease, will provide financial support for the Commission and house the staff at NIH.

Huntington’s disease (HD), sometimes called Huntington’s chorea, is a hereditary, neurological disorder that gradually destroys the physical and mental well-being of its victims.

A progressive loss of brain cells produces difficulties in speech, loss of muscular control, bodily twitching and jerking, and, frequently, severe changes in personality and intellectual deterioration.

The tragedy of HD is multiplied by the fact that at present the disorder can be diagnosed only after symptoms begin to appear—usually between ages 35 and 40.

By then many of its victims have married and had children. The new generation inherits a legacy of torment and uncertainty, knowing that the chances of escape are no better than 50-50.

The recent discovery of a biochemical abnormality in the brains of HD patients has generated hope that the cause and cure for this disease are no better than 50-50.

(See COMMISSION, Page 2)

Unveiling of Drew Portrait
To Take Place Tomorrow

A portrait of Dr. Charles Richard Drew, an eminent scientist who pioneered in blood research, will be officially unveiled tomorrow, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m. in Masur Auditorium.

Dr. Donald L. Predickson, NIH Director, and Dr. Jack White, professor of surgery at Howard University, will participate in the ceremony, as well as the national champion Cardozo High School Band.

NIH employees are invited.
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Two outstanding Montana high school students recently completed fellowships sponsored by the Montana Division of the American Cancer Society at NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Mont. Mary Ann Aakre (second from left) worked on a cancer immunotherapy project, and Ruth Batts (second from r) identified blood meals of arthropods that transmit disease to man. Also pictured are Michael E. McKee (l), president, Ravalli County Chapter, Montana Division of ACS, and Dr. Herbert G. Stoecker, Director of RML, which has served as a host institution for student fellows since 1963.

Salk Wins Nehru Award

Dr. Jonas E. Salk, discoverer of the anti-polio vaccine, has been given the 1976 Nehru Award for International Understanding "in recognition of his outstanding services to the biological and health sciences and for the cause of humanity."

Dr. Salk, founding director and resident fellow of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, Calif., is program director of the Biomedical Research Program funded by the Division of Research Resources. Of the 11 Nehru laureates, he is the first American to receive the award. The other two American recipients were Dr. Martin Luther King and Yehudi Menuhin.

Med. Research Practice

Subject of Bicentennial Program on Sept. 16-18

On Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 16-18, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia and NIH will offer a 21/2-day Bicentennial Program on Research and the Practice of Medicine in 1776.

The Program has been approved by the American Academy of Family Physicians for 10 elective credit hours which can be applied to the Physicians Recognition Award of the American Medical Association.

Designed to provide physicians and other health professionals with information on the latest advances in biomedical research, NIH and its relation to the present and future practice of medicine, the Program will be chaired by Dr. John C. Rose of Georgetown University School of Medicine.

The Program will include:

Thursday, Sept. 16

(Sheraton-Park Hotel)

9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:15-10:30 Neurology

Dr. Gordon B. Avers, GWU School of Medicine

Dr. Philip M. Harn, NIMH

Coffee

10:45-11:30 Impact of Genetics on Clinical Practice

Dr. Robert F. Murray, Jr., Howard Univ.

School of Medicine

Dr. Elizabeth F. Neufeld, NIH

Lunch

12:45 p.m. Neuropsychopharmacology

Dr. Zdenek M. Lebovich, Georgetown Univ.

School of Medicine

Dr. William B. Hone, NIMH, ADAMHA

Coffee

1:45-2:30 Applying Modern Immunology to Clinical Practice

Dr. Joseph A. Bollanti, Georgetown Univ.

School of Medicine

7 p.m. Dinner—Cotillion Room.

($20 per person) Speaker to be announced.

Friday, Sept. 17 (At NIH, Buses provided between the Sheraton Park Hotel and NIH.)

9:00-10:30 Diabetes: Old Problem—New Insights

Dr. Lillian Revent, VA Hospital and Georgetown Univ.

School of Medicine

Dr. Jesse Roth, NIAIMDD

Coffee

10:45-11:30 Coronary Disease Prevention:

Dr. John D. LaRossa, GWU School of Medicine

Dr. Ronald F. Tisdale, Director, NIMH

Coffee

11:45-1:30 Recent Advances in Pediatrics

Dr. David H. Hoen, VA Medical Center

Dr. Robert E. Benjamin, NIMH

Lunch

1:45-3:30 New Concepts in Respiratory Disease

Dr. Sol Katz, Georgetown Univ.

School of Medicine

Dr. Ronald G. Cravat, NHLBI

Coffee

3:45-5:00 Recent Advances in Treating Cancer

Dr. Philip M. Cohen, Georgetown Univ.

School of Medicine

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita, Jr., NCI

Coffee

5:15-6:30 Four Saturday evening programs will take place Saturday morning in various locations:

Howard University Hospital

Medical School

Washington, D.C.

The George Washington University Medical Center

Research Resources.

For Details on Day Care Classes Call Ms. Burke

Parents interested in day care classes for kindergarten-aged children—operated by the Parents of Preschoolers, Inc.—should contact Virginia Burke, NIH Child Care Co-ordinator, for details.

Ms. Burke may be reached by phone: 406-1811.

Jane E. Shure was recently appointed information officer of the new National Institute on Aging. Ms. Shure has been with NIH since 1967, when she participated in the NIH Information Intern Program. A graduate of the American University, she is responsible for the dissemination of information concerning the Institute's programs and the needs and special problems of the aged to the general public, medical scientists, NIH staff, and others interested in the field of aging.

Center

New Clinical Applications in Thoracic Surgery

Comprehensive Care of the Stroke Patient

Georgetown University Medical Center

Surgical Grand Rounds and Tour of Concentrated Care Center

Washington Hospital Center

Recent Advances in Ophthalmology

Dermatologic Applications of Phototherapy

Presbyterian Hospital

Abdominal Ultrasound: Anatomy and Pathology

Children's Hospital National Medical Center

Recent Advances in Pediatrics

National Naval Medical Center

New Aspects of Therapy of Gastrointestinal Reflux

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Medical Flea Circus—Case Presentations of Medical Curiosities

Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Bethesda

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Current Research at the AFIP, and Update on the New School of Medicine

National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke

Visits to Selected NIH Clinical Facilities

Two Saturday programs will be open to families of registrants:

General Tour of NIH Facilities, including the National Library of Medicine.

A Panel Discussion on Admission to Medical School, Gaston Hall, Georgetown University (Main Campus)

Registration materials may be obtained from and returned to: Miss Beth Custer, Medical Society of D.C., 2007 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, Tel. (202) 223-2230.
At Seminar on Oct. 6
Experts Will Explain
Statistical Services

A day-long seminar to explain three unique statistical services to which NIH subscribes is being held Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 8.

The three services are: the National Disease and Therapeutic Index, NDTI; National Prescription Audit, NPA; and Hospital Record Study, HRS.

Give Estimates

These services provide national estimates of diagnoses physicians make and drug prescriptions they write for patients visiting them (NDTI); prescription sales retail drug stores make (NPA); and the care short stay hospitals have given patients they discharge (HRS).

The statistical services may be used only in connection with work done by or through contractors for NIH units.

Subscribing to current issues carries the right of access to IMS files for earlier years. Back issues of NDTI are on file in the NIH Library, Reference and Bibliographic Services Section, Bldg. 10, Room 1L19, Constantine Gillette.

For current issues of the three services, contact Dr. Herbert B. Woolley in Bldg. 1, Room 228.

Questions Answered

At the seminar, staff experts from IMS America, Ltd. will explain the nature and content of the statistical services and answer questions about their use and limitations.

NDTI will be discussed from 9 a.m. to noon; NPA from 2 to 3 p.m., and HRS from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

NIH employees may attend one or more sessions of the seminar.

For preregistration, required by Sept. 29, call Ext. 65617.

Registration for FAES
Classes Begins Sept. 9;
Catalogs Now Available

Registration for evening classes sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences begins in Bldg. 10, Room B1-L-101, tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 9, and continues through Sept. 15, weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday (Sept. 11) from 10 a.m. to noon.

Courses will be given on the campus in behavioral and social sciences, chemistry, biology and microbiology, genetics, immunology, physics, physiology, mathematics, statistics, languages, and administration.

Medical subspecialty review courses include endocrinology and

Two NIH’ers Receive Patent Display Awards
For Controlled Environment Culture Chamber

Patent display awards were presented to Dr. James A. Dvorak and Woodrow F. Stotler by Dr. Richard Krause, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, on Aug. 17.

Dr. Dvorak is in NIAID’s Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, and Mr. Stotler, formerly of the Biomedical Engineering and Instrumentation Branch in the Division of Research Services, is now retired.

The two NIH’ers were jointly awarded patent number 3,726,597 in April 1973 for a Controlled Environment Culture Chamber, a patent which they subsequently assigned to the U.S. Government.

The culture system, designed to safely contain human pathogens, permits long term maintenance of steady-state physiologic conditions for living materials so that they can be observed and photographed under any light microscope.

The system is commercially available and is used for the investigation of many biomedically important problems.

In 1975, the use of this chamber with a high sensitivity TV camera permitted Dr. Dvorak and his associates, Dr. Louis H. Miller and Tsugiyi Shiroishi of the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, and Willard Whitehouse of the Clinical Center Television Engineering Section to observe and record, for the first time, the invasion of red blood cells by malaria parasites, thus clarifying a crucial sequence of events that occurs during a malaria infection in nature.

From left, Dr. Joe R. Held, DRS Director, and John Clark, the DRS machinist who built the Dvorak-Stotler Controlled Environment Culture Chamber, congratulate Mr. Stotler and Dr. Dvorak after they receive their patent display awards from Dr. Krause.

The Dvorak-Stotler Controlled Environment Culture Chamber.

‘You Will Stop Smoking
On October 29,’ Claim
Of SmokEnders Program

You will stop smoking on Oct. 29 . . . calmly and comfortably.

For cigarette smokers trying to kick the habit, the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association is repeating its sponsorship of a highly successful program previously held here.

Quitting Made Easy

Representatives from SmokEnders will be here to explain the easy way to quit smoking at a free introductory meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 11:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., or 1:15 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 10.

With SmokEnders, they say, “you smoke as much as you like until you have learned to quit with dignity . . . forever free of the desire to smoke.”

The representatives invite NIH’ers to come to the meeting with their cigarettes, and suggest that in a few weeks they won’t need them anymore.

Employees who have any questions may call the R&W office, Ext. 6061.

Dr. George Willis Dies;
Received Many Citations
For Superior Service

Dr. George M. Willis, who retired from the National Cancer Institute in February, died on Aug. 27 of the illness that caused his retirement.

Recently Dr. Willis had received an Equal Employment Opportunity Special Achievement Award from NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson (the NIH Record, Aug. 10, 1976).

Directed Program

Dr. Willis last served as program director of the Cancer Biology Program in NCI’s Division of Cancer Research Resources and Centers, and had received many commendations in the past for superior service.

He had been the prime mover in initiating the NIH Cooperative Agreements involving NCI with DRB and NIH in the minority Biomedical Support and Minority Access to Research Careers programs.

During the presentation of the Special Achievement Award at Dr. Willis’ home in early August, Dr. Fredrickson called the recipient “the one who truly conveyed the minority community the earnestness of NIH’s intent.”

Achievements Recognized

NCI Director Dr. Frank J. Rauscher, Jr., said that Dr. Willis had been “a guiding force in developing minority interest in biomedical research programs; an interest that should improve research throughout the NIH community.”

The NIH Special Achievement citation to Dr. Willis read, in part, “in recognition of his carrying out duties . . . at a level beyond that expected and sometimes under difficult conditions.”

Dr. Willis is survived by his wife, Edwinedene; two sons, Miles and Mirron; his mother, Mrs. Razzie Willis, and a brother, Everett Willis.

Mrs. Willis asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to the United Negro College Fund or the American Cancer Society.

EEO Council Meets Oct. 13

The NIH EEO Advisory Council is tentatively scheduling an open meeting on Monday, Oct. 12, from 3 to 4 p.m., in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall.

All NIH employees are invited to express their problems and concerns at this meeting.

Persons with a specific concern regarding the total NIH EEO program may contact their EEO counselor or the chairperson of the Communications Committee, Arthur Robinson, Ext. 66491.

The NIH Record, September 8, 1976
LABOR DAY WEEKEND...

Some NIH'ers work while most relax

While most Americans are having a holiday—relaxing, picnicking, enjoying a last swim for the season, catching up on home chores, visiting friends or relatives—some people must perform the jobs that enable essential services to be maintained. Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, seems an appropriate time to salute those whose duties often require working at odd times, over weekends, or on round-the-clock shifts.

In addition to the personnel who are on duty or on call to provide continuous medical scene supporting the medical delivery.

The NIH employees shown perform essential services round the clock, through weekends and holidays, and have performed the same.
L to r: Computers never get tired and seldom have a day off, so at least six people are on duty at the Division of Computer Research and Technology 24 hours a day. James Jacob, supervisory computer operator, notes that contract jobs are often done on holiday weekends when there is good "turnaround time" for catching up on big projects. Raymond Mullinix and Rudolfo Sikora, boiler plant operators in Bldg. 11, constantly watch myriad gauges. Air conditioning operator Richard Kirkpatrick keeps an eye on the vast machines in Bldg. 34. Some laboratory work must continue regardless of holidays. Biologist Floyd Price feeds mammalian cell cultures that must be nourished on alternate days. The Laboratory of Biochemistry, NCI, maintains some of the oldest continuous cell lines in the U.S., begun after the Hygiene Laboratory moved to Bethesda nearly 40 years ago.—Photos by Heather Banks.

WEEKEND...

While most relax, those providing continuous medical care, many others labor behind the scenes supporting the research community and health care delivery.

The NH employees shown here represent some of those who perform essential services that must be carried on day in, day out, both weekends and holidays. In some cases, because work schedules were not set before press time, other individuals may have performed the same jobs during the Labor Day period.

Waste disposal must continue uninterrupted. Robert Dillow (top) of the Plant Engineering Branch checks the control panel of the biological waste disposal system in Bldg. 36. Chester Tolliver of DAS' Transportation Branch maneuvers a huge truck into position to empty a container into a Dempster Dumpmaster.

William Herndon (c. in white), wears a beeper when he is on call as a diener (assistant) for autopsies performed in the Laboratory of Pathology, NCI. Ravenel Cornish and John Coppack of the Transportation Branch, Division of Administrative Services, load, drive, and unload warehouse tractors that transport GI cans and supplies in the tunnels between Bldgs 10 and 13. Agness Corace and Martha Richardson dispense tender loving care as well as food and water to the guinea pigs in the Small Animal Section, Veterinary Resources Branch, DRS. Jastha Gleton and Theodore Barnes of the same section in the Division of Research Services keep 300 guinea pig breeders in a nucleus colony clean and well fed.
NHI'er Chairs New York Conference on Aquatic Pollutants, Carcinogens

Dr. Herman F. Kraybill, scientific coordinator for the Arthritis, Cancer, Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, National Cancer Institute, will chair a conference on Aquatic Pollutants and Biological Effects with Emphasis on Neoplasia.

Sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences, the conference will be held Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 27-29, at the Baronne Plaza Hotel, N.Y.C.

Observations that cancer is occurring in finish and shellfish have introduced a new concern regarding chemical pollution in the environment. Identification of bio-refractories and carcinogens in some municipal water supplies and wastes has stimulated research.

The conference will identify needed research in this important area of environmental health.

For information, contact the Conference Department, The New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. Tel. (212) 883-0230.

Upward Mobility Training Program graduates at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences were awarded certificates of achievement. Three Research Service Branch employees who completed training and their programs are (1 to r): Willie Catherine White, Biological Laboratory Technician; Willie R. Link, Jr., Carpenter Helper, and Carolyn Wadford, Clerical/Secretarial. Darien Mayers (r), Environmental Biology and Chemistry Branch, passed the Biological Laboratory Technician course.

Drs. Elliot, Coulter, and Henley Join DRR Staff

Three health scientist administrators have recently been added to the staff of the Division of Research Resources (DRR).

Dr. Eric C. Elliot, formerly a senior research medical officer at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, has joined the General Clinical Research Centers Program.

A senior cardiac physiologist at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center since 1964, he is the author or co-author of 19 scientific papers involving coronary flow and cardiac dynamics.

A native of Ontario, Canada, Dr. Elliot received his M.D. from the University of Toronto in 1947. He took his M.S. degree in surgery and his Ph.D. degree in physiology at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Elliot practiced medicine in the Province of Saskatchewan for 6 years. In 1956, as a research associate of the Canadian Heart Foundation, he helped develop the heart-lung machine for the open-heart surgery team at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Charles L. Coulter—program director of analytical biochemistry for the Division of Research Facilities and Resources in 1965—has returned to NIH as a health scientist administrator for the Biotechnology Resources Program.

For the past 10 years, he has been researching and teaching the structural biochemistry of protein and drug systems at the University of Chicago.

During his tenure as assistant professor and later associate professor with the department of chemistry, Dr. Coulter took a year's leave to join researchers engaged in insulin studies at Oxford University in England.

Dr. Coulter holds a B.A. in mathematics and a M.A. in organic chemistry from Miami University. He took his doctorate in physical chemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles.

His NIH postdoctorate research fellowship at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, England (1960-62) was followed by a staff fellowship with the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases (1962-64).

A Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, Dr. Coulter has authored or co-authored over 30 papers in molecular chemistry.

CATHERINE HELEN, an NIH Grants Associate and former researcher at the University of North Carolina, has been selected as a health scientist administrator in the Biomedical Research Support Program, DRR.

Dr. Henley's major research activities have been in developmental cytology, cell biology, and electron microscopy. She has had a long association with the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., and presently serves on its Board of Trustees.

From 1951 to 1968, she had full responsibility for final editing, proof-reading and indexing the bi-monthly Journal, The Biological Bulletin.

After receiving both her B.A. and Ph.D. in zoology at the University of North Carolina, she attended Johns Hopkins University for her masters in biology. While at UNC, Dr. Henley conducted research in cytology and cell biology and taught classes in histology.
COMMISSION

(Continued from Page 1)
disease will be found, and that a predictive test—urgently needed to alert patients and affected families—will be developed.

The Commission will conduct a comprehensive study of the state-of-the-art of research needs and of the medical and social management of Huntington's disease in the U.S.

It will also investigate and make recommendations concerning the proper roles of Federal and State governments and public and private agencies in research, prevention, identification, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with Huntington's disease.

The Commission will hold public hearings in various parts of the country throughout the year to receive testimony from appropriate consumer and professional groups. The Commissioners also hope to serve as ambassadors to the lay and professional communities, increasing public awareness of Huntington's disease.

Mrs. Guthrie Is Leader

Mrs. Marjorie M. Guthrie of New York City has been named chairman of the Commission, and Dr. Milton Wexler, Beverly Hills, Calif., vice-chairman.

Other members are: Dr. Stanley Maynard Aronson, Providence, R.I.; Dr. Ching Chung Li, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. Guy Mead McKhan, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Lee E. Schacht, Minneapolis, Minn.; Dr. Stanley Steier, Livingston, N.J.; and Mrs. Alice Evans-Griff, Houston, Tex.

Dr. Wexler, Milton, N.Y., will serve as executive director, and Dr. Charles R. MacKay, D.C., deputy director.

Mrs. Guthrie is a prominent international lay leader in the fight against Huntington's disease. When her husband, folk balladeer Woody Guthrie, succumbed to HD in 1967, Mrs. Guthrie founded the Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease.

Through the CCHD Mrs. Guthrie has sought to educate the public about HD, assist patients and their families, and encourage and support research on this puzzling and disabling neurological disorder.

Other Groups Cited

Dr. Milton Wexler, a psycho-analyst practicing in Los Angeles, is the founder and president of the Hereditary Disease Foundation which began as the California Chapter of the Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease.

The Foundation has launched a major research effort utilizing Huntington's disease as a model genetic disorder and has helped generate interest in HD among scientists throughout the world.

Californians Develop Tantalum Technique

The California Record, September 8, 1976

To Photograph, Study Mucus Secretion

Scientists at the University of California, San Francisco, have developed a new technique which enables them to photograph secretions from individual submucosal glands. The photographs indicate that this mucus secretion comes under the reflex control of nerves.

Dr. Jay A. Nadel, professor of medicine, physiology, and radiology at UCSF, and his co-workers at the Cardiovascular Research Institute developed a technique for outlining lung mucus secretion by spraying powdered tantalum, an inert metal, into the trachea of laboratory animals.

Stimulate Nerves

Then they stimulated the parasympathetic nerves, causing mucus glands to form jelly-like bumps along the smooth epithelial lining of the trachea.

The powdered metal outlined the bumps, allowing them to be photographed—a procedure made possible in humans by using a fiber-optic bronchoscope.

Medical researchers have been trying to discover what mechanisms cause mucus glands to over-secrete and clog the airways of patients who have chronic bronchitis, asthma, or cystic fibrosis.

Although mucus, along with the beating of hair-like structures called cilia, provides a necessary defense mechanism to expel foreign particles from the lungs, a malfunctioning of this system causes mucus to clog the airways, shutting off air from the lungs.

Previously, the most common way to characterize mucus output was to analyze it as spittle, a less than precise method because the mucus had mingled with saliva, says Dr. Brian Davis, a CVRI fellow, who presented the team's findings at a meeting of the American Thoracic Society in New Orleans in May.

The powdered metal enabled the researchers to observe the action of acetylcholine, a substance which transmits impulses across the nerve network.

The scientists' previous work showed that acetylcholine increases ion transport across the tracheal membrane, which may in turn generate more water flow into the airways.

A defect in the system linking the parasympathetic nerves (which release acetylcholine) to iron transport may cause less water to move into the airways, resulting in stickier secretion.

These findings coincide with studies in cystic fibrosis which indicate the possibility of an abnormality in the system linking the parasympathetic nerves with cellular functions.

The UCSF team, which is supported by a grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, expects this new photographic technique will allow them to look at other possible causes of mucus increase in the lungs, such as allergic reactions in asthma and chronic bronchitis.

Combine Techniques

They have combined this with a micropuncture and micromanipulating technique to study the regulation of secretion from individual glands.

Co-authors of the paper are: Dr. Matthew Martin, Stephen Fischer, Paul Graf, and Dr. Nadel—all of UCSF—and Dr. John Widdicombe, professor of physiology at St. George's Hospital Medical School, London.

Conference Will Discuss Breast Cancer Problems

A Conference on Breast Cancer: A Report to the Profession, 1976 will be held on Nov. 22-23, at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The conference is sponsored by the White House, the National Cancer Institute, and the American Cancer Society, and supported with funds resulting from the sale of President Ford's Inaugural Medals and Plates.

Advance registration is requested. There is no registration fee. For further information write to Dr. D. Jane Taylor, chief, Breast Cancer Program Coordinating Branch, Landow Blvd., Room A222, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Above: a piece of control tracheal tissue sprayed with tantalum powder, with both vagus nerves cut but unstimulated. Below: a photograph of the same tissue after 15 seconds of stimulation of both vagus nerves. The small bluffs have been formed by secretion of the mucus glands through duct openings, as proved by subsequent anatomic studies.

Dr. William F. Raub, associate director of the National Eye Institute Extramural and Collaborative Programs, recently received a certificate of meritorious achievement for outstanding public service from the William A. Jump Memorial Foundation. The certificate cited Dr. Raub's leadership in the planning, development, direction, and administration of national biomedical resource programs and his contributions to the advancement of scientific investigations.
Biomed. Ethics Seminar Series Starts Sept. 15, Other Lectures Planned

Last year's series of Biomedical Ethics Seminars sponsored by the STEP (Staff Training Extramural Program) Committee proved to be so successful that a new series is being offered.

The first lecture, Ethical Issues in Research Involving Human Subjects, will be presented on Wednesday, Sept. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 5.

The second lecture on Allocation of Scarce Resources will be given on Sept. 29, in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4, at the same time.

Schedule Noted

Thereafter, the series will continue on Oct. 20, and will then be held on the first and third Wednesday of each month through Dec. 15.

Other suggested topics include: Embryo Implant/Transplant, Ethical Considerations in Using Animals in Research, Conflicts between Ethics in Design of Clinical Trials (Blind, Double Blind, etc.) and Ethical Issues in Clinical Dental Research.

Staff from the NIH, other Federal agencies, nearby universities, research institutes, and other interested persons are urged to attend.

Individuals who wish to attend the series or obtain a schedule, may call Dr. Wilford Nusser, National Eye Institute, Ext. 65303.

Benno Schmidt to Speak On Nat'l Cancer Program

Benno C. Schmidt, chairman of the President's Cancer Panel, will speak on The National Cancer Program at the first fall meeting of NCI's Fourth Wednesday Forum.

The meeting, open to NIH staff, will be held in Wilson Hall from noon to 1 p.m., on Sept. 15, the third Wednesday of the month.

Will Discuss Criticisms

Mr. Schmidt will discuss a number of the National Cancer Program areas in which there has been criticism, and will analyze the merits of those criticisms.

After his presentation, Mr. Schmidt will respond to questions from the audience.

The three-member President's Cancer Panel, chaired by Mr. Schmidt, was established by the National Cancer Act of 1971 to monitor the National Cancer Program and to report directly to the President on its progress.

The Act requires that any delays or blockages in the Program be brought to the President's attention immediately.

Scientists Prove That One Form of MD Is an Intrinsic Disease of Muscle Cells

By Carolyn Holstein

The first proof that one form of muscular dystrophy (MD) is an intrinsic disease of the muscle cell has been discovered by a National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke grantee in collaboration with an Institute scientist.

Their findings are based on tissue culture studies of small fragments of biopsied muscle tissue from patients with this form of MD, called acid-maltase deficiency.

Other Factors Ruled Out

Muscle cells grown from these cultured fibers developed characteristics of the disease, in the absence of all other bodily influences. Therefore, the studies have ruled out the possibility of involvement of circulating factors or the central nervous system.

According to Drs. Valerie Askanas of New York University, who is also a grantee of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and W. King Engel, chief of the NINCDS Medical Neurology Branch, their findings may lead to new approaches to treatment of acid-maltase deficiency.

It may also provide important clues to the cause of other forms of MD which together affect an estimated 200,000 Americans.

Acid-maltase deficiency is an inherited disorder which in the adult form causes progressive muscular weakness similar to that caused by limb-girdle MD. The inherited infantile form causes severe muscular weakness and an enlarged heart which usually leads to heart disease.

Drs. Askanas and Engel term a number of adults now diagnosed as having limb-girdle MD, may in fact have this biochemically distinct form.

Acid-maltase is an enzyme which normally breaks down glycogen (animal starch) within tiny bodies called lysosomes residing in muscle cells.

In the absence of this enzyme, glycogen accumulates until, at some point, it is thought to burst through the thin walls of the lysosomes and harm the muscle fiber itself.

The scientists' ability to demonstrate that acid-maltase deficiency is a primary muscle disease is attributed to improvements in techniques for culturing adult human muscle.

Scientists now are able to study muscle cells of tissue which has been newly grown in culture from the original muscle biopsy.

Drs. Askanas and Engel term their results a "reincarnation in vitro of the disease," since the cultured muscle cells, grown free of all other bodily influences, still developed the biochemical and ultrastructural abnormalities of the patient's original muscle biopsy.

Risks Minimized

The Guidelines—issued by NIH on June 23 after extensive discussion of this subject with the scientific community and the public—are designed to minimize risks in the conduct of recombinant DNA research by establishing physical and biological containment procedures within the laboratory.

The possibility that organisms containing recombinant DNA might escape and affect the environment led to suggestions that NIH also prepare an environmental impact statement on such research. The Draft Statement, in response to these concerns, is issued in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Dr. Fredrickson invites public consideration of and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Copies are available from Dr. Rudolf Wanner, Associate Director for Environmental Health and Safety, Division of Research Services, Bldg. 12A, Room 401C, NIH 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Comments should be submitted to the NIH Director by Oct. 18.

The three-member President's Cancer Panel, chaired by Mr. Schmidt, was established by the National Cancer Act of 1971 to monitor the National Cancer Program and to report directly to the President on its progress.

The Act requires that any delays or blockages in the Program be brought to the President's attention immediately.