HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

HEW Report Indicates Increase in Use Of Coal for Energy Relatively Safe

Intensified use of coal as an energy source as proposed in the President’s national energy plan would not lead to serious health or ecological consequences if certain precautions are taken, according to a study carried out by an HEW Advisory Committee and released by HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

The study—Report of the Committee on Health and Environmental Effects of Increased Coal Utilization—was published in the Jan. 16 Federal Register.

It was undertaken after President Carter announced last April that a central element of his energy plan would be to tap our vast domestic coal deposits to replace our dwindling supplies of oil and natural gas, and to reduce our reliance on imported oil.

Dr. Rall Heads Committee

In its report, the Committee, headed by Dr. David Rall, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, concluded that it would be relatively safe to increase the use of coal to produce energy, as proposed in the energy plan, provided that there was:
- compliance with Federal and State air, water, and solid waste regulations;
- adoption and successful operation of the best available control technology to reduce air and water pollution at new facilities;
- compliance with reclamation standards;
- compliance with mine health and safety standards;
- judicious siting of coal-fired facilities.

The Committee reported that even with the best safeguards, there would be some adverse health and environmental effects from a dramatic increase in coal use, but these impacts should not be of sufficient magnitude to require modification of the energy plan if the steps identified by the Committee are taken.

The adverse effects, to the extent they exist, would not impact all regions uniformly.

To overcome the lack of comprehensive data on many of those questions, the Committee recommended the establishment of an improved national system for environmental health and safety studies.

(See HEW REPORT, Page 6)

Clifton Sessions Named Deputy Ass’t Director For HEW Public Affairs

Clifton F. Sessions has been appointed deputy assistant secretary of HEW for public affairs. He will assist Eileen Shanahan, HEW Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Sessions was formerly public affairs chief of the Department of Justice, and most recently executive director of communications of the American Bankers Association.

Prior to his service with the ABA, Mr. Sessions was managing editor and then editor of the National Journal from 1969 to 1971. He helped to establish this weekly journal on Federal policy-making.

Leroy V. Goodman, who has been serving as acting deputy assistant secretary on detail from the U.S. Office of Education, will become deputy assistant secretary for special projects, a newly created post.

John Blamphin, who has served since July 1973 as director, Office of Public Affairs of the Public Health Service, will assume department-wide responsibilities as director of media operations in the Office of Public Affairs.

Dr. Stetten To Initiate New Biomedical Ethics Seminar Series Feb. 1

A new series of Biomedical Ethics Seminars sponsored by the Staff Training Extramural Program Committee will commence on Feb. 1, at 3 p.m., in the 14th floor auditorium of the Clinical Center.

Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Deputy Director for Science, NIH, will initiate the series with a lecture on Freedom of Inquiry.

Series Schedule Listed

The series will continue on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of each month through April. Other topics in the series are:

- Feb. 15—Ethical Issues in Genetic Research
- March 15—International Ethical Standards of Biomedical Research
- March 29—Technology Assessment and Impact
- April 12—A Perspective on 10 Years’ Development in Biomedical Ethics
- April 26—Compensation Issues Raised by the Swine Flu Program

The STEP Committee will soon announce names of the leaders of each of the seminars.

The Feb. 15 seminar will be held in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 9, and the remaining seminars are scheduled to be held in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4.

Staff members of NIH, other Federal agencies, nearby universities, and research institutions, and others interested may attend.

Those interested in attending or obtaining a complete schedule may call 496-5358.

Dr. Perry Becomes NIH Assoc. Director, Medical Applications of Research

Dr. Seymour Perry, Special Assistant to the NIH Director since 1974, has been appointed to the new post of NIH Associate Director for Medical Applications of Research.

Will Develop New Consensus

Dr. Perry will spearhead the NIH effort in technology transfer—the transfer to the practicing community of new research knowledge pertinent to health care. In particular he will be responsible for the process of building “technical consensus” on new diagnostic and treatment approaches.

Information developed through the consensus process about the safety and effectiveness of these technological advances will be promptly disseminated to practicing professionals, standard-setting and regulatory agencies, third party groups such as insurers, and the public.

As Special Assistant to the NIH Director, Dr. Perry served as chief liaison for NIH to the President’s Biomedical Research Panel, chairman of the Clinical Trials Committee, and headed the Secretary’s Task Force on the Compendium.

(See DR. PERRY, Page 7)
DCRT Shifts to Year-Round Computer Training Program; Four Terms Planned

A major revision is being made to the Computer Center training program this spring. Beginning in April 1978, the training program will be presented on a year-round basis.

The new training schedule will consist of four 3-month terms as follows:

- **Spring** April-June
- **Summer** July-September
- **Fall** October-December
- **Winter** January-March

The brochure, *Computer Training Courses and Seminars*, which was published twice a year, will now be published once a year.

This annual brochure will contain descriptions, prerequisites, and nomination procedures for the full year. It will also indicate the term(s) during which each course will be offered, but not the exact date and time.

**Term Schedules Sent Separately**

Four schedules, one for each term, will supplement the brochure and contain precise information on course, date, time, and location. The schedule will be mailed approximately 1 month before the start of each term.

The annual brochure will help solve two very common user problems. First, it will supply needed information to users who must submit annual training plans to their agency.

Second, since the brochure will indicate the specific terms a course will be offered, users unable to take a course in one term will be able to plan for the next opportunity.

Course offerings will still include use of the IBM 370, use of the DECSYSTEM 10 and specialized seminars.

Due to lack of personnel, it will not be possible to offer each course more frequently. For example, courses such as JCL at NIH-CCB and ANS COBOL will continue to be offered only twice a year.

To apply for a course, the prospective student should complete one of the nomination forms which will be found in the annual brochure, have the form signed by the supervisor and personnel officer, and forward it to the DCRT Computer Center Branch Technical Information Office.

Applications for all courses offered in a particular term will be accepted 1 month prior to the beginning of the term.

For example, applications should be submitted in March for spring courses or by June for summer courses. A specific application deadline will be noted in each quarterly schedule.

The new procedure will begin with the spring 1978 term. All users on the current mailing list will receive the brochure and the first schedule by March 1. Subsequent schedules will be mailed by June 1, Sept. 1, and Dec. 1.

Any user's name may be added to the mailing list to receive the Training Brochure by contacting the DCRT Computer Center Technical Information Office, Bldg. 12A, Room 1017, telephone (301) 496-5431.

Questions concerning the new training schedule may be directed to the Computer Center Training Unit, Bldg. 12A, Room 1031, telephone (301) 406-2350.

Recreation and Welfare Assn. Aids PEF, Donates $7,500

Barbara Murphy, chief of the Clinical Center Social Work Department, which administers the fund, accepts the donation from Leon Schwartz, Associate Director for Administration (r), and R&W President Walter Chakwin (l).

The NIH R&W Association recently presented a check for $7,500 to the Clinical Center Patient Emergency Fund.

The R&W plans to donate a check for this amount every year to the fund, which gives emergency financial assistance to patients, provides funds for relatives who stay near the CC to visit patients, or furnishes funds for patients to buy small, everyday items that they might not otherwise afford.

Employees are encouraged to contribute to the PEF by sending a donation to the CC Social Work Department, Bldg. 10, Room 7D63.
### Dr. Mann Gives Lecture Series on Reproduction

Dr. Thaddeus Mann, an authority on reproductive biology and reproductive biochemistry, is presenting a six-lecture series related to these topics.

The series, which began Jan. 11 and ends Feb. 15, is being held consecutive Wednesdays at noon in the 8th floor solarium of the Clinical Center.

**Expert on Semen Biochemistry**

Dr. Mann is director of the Unit of Reproductive Physiology and Biochemistry, University of Cambridge, England. His more than 200 publications include *The Biochemistry of Semen*, the standard reference on this topic.

His current revision of this book will include his present studies on the biochemistry of semen including normal and disordered fertility in man.

Dr. Mann will be working with the staff of the Endocrinology and Reproduction Research Program, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, as a visiting scientist.

### C.O.'s: It's Open Season Now On Hospitalization Coverage

The Association of Visiting Fellows Group Hospitalization Program, sponsored by The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, will have open season for Commissioned Officers and/or their dependents from Jan. 24 through Feb. 7. Coverage will be effective Feb. 1 of this year.

Any Commissioned Officer located at an NIH facility who is an employee or member of the FAES is eligible for coverage. There will be a 10-month waiting period during which the benefits of the Basic Coverage are not available for maternity care, sterilization, tonsillectomies and adenoidectomies, and pregnancy-related conditions.

Applications and premiums are due in the FAES insurance office by Feb. 7.

For further information, call Nancy Cassity, 496-6272.

### Telephone Tapes Explain Personnel Topics

A series of short tapes to inform employees about personnel-related topics has been prepared by the Division of Personnel Management. This information is being transmitted via telephone tapes on a 24-hour basis.

Employees interested in any of the topics listed below may dial 496-4608.

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Privacy Act</td>
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<td>Within Grade Increases Based on Work</td>
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<td>Health and Life Insurance Benefits</td>
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### NEI Wins Golden Eagle Award for Short Film on Diabetic Retinopathy Treatment

In this scene from the NEI film, ophthalmologist Dr. Frank Myers, gives an eye exam to a patient to determine whether she is eligible to participate in the Diabetic Retinopathy Study. Dr. Myers, who is on the staff of the University of Wisconsin department of ophthalmology, also served as a technical advisor for the film.

A film produced by the National Eye Institute, the Diabetic Retinopathy Study—A Nationwide Clinical Trial, has won the Golden Eagle Award from the Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE).

Julian M. Morris, chief of NEI's Office of Program Planning and Scientific Reporting, accepted the award on behalf of NEI at CINE's 30th Annual Awards Luncheon held Dec. 29 in Washington, D.C.

The 13-minute film portrays the first 8 months of a patient's participation in a clinical trial of photocoagulation—a treatment for diabetic retinopathy, a leading cause of blindness in the U.S.

In 1976, the first report from this study showed that photocoagulation can significantly reduce the risk of blindness from this disease.

The film uses this study to illustrate how a multicenter, randomized clinical trial is conducted, with emphasis on procedures which assure both objective evaluation of treatment results and protection of the patient's rights and welfare.

Each year CINE selects the best new American nontheatrical films to represent the U.S. in international film competitions around the world.

The NEI film was shown at the VII International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films held in Varna, Bulgaria, and the VIII International Scientific Film Exhibition held in Rio de Janeiro.

The National Eye Institute film is available on a free loan basis to health professional groups and to general audiences interested in diabetic retinopathy and the conduct of multicenter clinical trials.

### Bladder Cancer Factors Will Be Assessed at NCI Forum on Wed., Jan. 25

The next NCI Fourth Wednesday Forum will be held Jan. 25. The meeting, open to all National Cancer Institute staff, will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

**Dr. Newell Is Speaker**

Bladder Cancer: A New Assessment of Baccharin and Other Factors will be the topic of Dr. Guy R. Newell, NCI Deputy Director.

He will explain the new nationwide study to be conducted by the Food and Drug Administration and NCI on the possible role of saccharin in causing bladder cancer in humans.

The study also will develop information on other factors that may play a role in bladder cancer including cyclamates, drinking water, cigarette smoking, and occupational exposures.

### Discussion Period Planned

After his presentation, Dr. Newell—as well as Drs. Richard A. Griesemer and Robert N. Hoover of NCI's Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention—will welcome questions and comments from the audience.

NCI is sponsoring the monthly Forum to foster the exchange of information and ideas among its staff and others involved in the research and control of cancer.
World Leprosy Day Proclaimed Jan. 29; Annual Observance To Focus on Needs

A proclamation by President Jimmy Carter next Sunday, Jan. 29, will highlight the 25th annual observance of World Leprosy Day in the United States. World Leprosy Day is an attempt to focus international attention on this ancient scourge which still is a serious problem in many parts of the world.

In more than 100 countries observation of this special day reminds the public of the existence of the disease, creates a better awareness of the needs of leprosy, stimulates attention to leprosy research, and improves aid to leprosy patients.

NIAID Supports Research

Research on leprosy is actively supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Most recently, Drs. Robert Edelman and Earl Beck of the Institute went to India as part of a leprosy team at the invitation of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

The purpose of their trip, sponsored by NIAID and the Fogarty International Center, was to develop collaborative research projects in leprosy between Indian and American scientists.

NIAID also administers the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program which is involved in leprosy research. In addition, the Institute sponsors studies in other institutions and distributes a publication, Leprosy Scientific Memo, to more than 60 investigators.

The World Health Organization estimates that as many as 11 to 12 million persons suffer from leprosy today with little fluctuation over the past 10 to 15 years.

The disease is most prevalent in Africa and parts of Asia. In this country, leprosy is known to affect approximately 2,000 persons, usually in the Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and California areas.

Leprosy is primarily a disease of the skin and of the nerves near the skin. It is caused by Mycobacterium leprae, a bacterium which cannot yet be cultured in the laboratory.

There are two major types of leprosy—lepromatous and tuberculoid. Lepromatous leprosy is characterized by skin lesions which appear over most of the body. The skin on the forehead and face thickens with natural lines becoming exaggerated. Hair loss also results from spread of the disease around hair follicles.

In tuberculoid leprosy, loss of feeling in fingers or toes is a frequent early sign. Nerve involvement in this type of leprosy can lead to subsequent damage to skin, muscles, and bone.

Contrary to popular belief, leprosy is only mildly contagious. Although the mode of transmission is not definitely known, many experts believe the disease is transmitted to a susceptible individual by direct skin-to-skin contact with a person who has an untreated infection.

Can Now Test Drugs in Mice

In recent years, NIAID-supported researchers have shown that M. lepraemultiples when injected in the footpads of mice. This finding has permitted the testing of new drugs in animals.

One effective drug, DDS (dapsone), has been available for several decades, but treatment must be continued for many years to arrest the disease completely, especially in severe cases.

Although the ability to grow M. lepraemultiples in footpads of mice represents an advance, scientists still need a laboratory animal in which the disease itself can be induced.

In 1969, investigators discovered that the nine-banded armadillo, the only armadillo species native to the U.S., is susceptible to generalized infection after being inoculated with M. lepraefrom human tissue.

NIAID is supporting further studies on leprosy in armadillos with the hope that the large quantities of human M. lepraepathogens needed for leprosy research can be cultivated in this animal model system.

The U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science program also supports researchers carrying out studies on the chemistry and metabolism of the organism in the belief that this will be helpful in designing suitable methods for cultivation.

Scientists observed some time ago that response to infection varies among individuals. Studies of the immunologic aspects of leprosy offer unusual promise for understanding not only leprosy, but other diseases involving delayed hypersensitivity, such as tuberculosis.

L to r: this man has lepromatous leprosy. He shows thickening of the facial tissues and loss of eyebrows. He also has lesions of the whites of his eyes. An arm and hand show loss of nerve function due to leprosy. Next, a sulfone resistant leprosy case in Chingleput. The lesion on the croas of the back—a condition rarely seen in leprosy dermatitis—indicates an advanced stage of illness. At the women's leprosy ward in Chingleput the women have a variety of orthopedic problems secondary to their underlying illness due to loss of pain sensation and ulcerations in their feet and hands. These photographs were taken by Dr. Edelman while in India.
A capacity audience filled the Masur Auditorium on Friday, Jan. 13, to commemorate the birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who, if he were alive, would have been 49 years of age on Jan. 15. HEW Secretary Joseph Califano authorized liberal administrative leave so that employees could attend official programs, stating that... "In view of this Department's commitment toward improving the quality of life for all Americans, we at HEW have a special reason for commemorating Dr. King's life."

**Dr. Richmond, Malone Speak**

Cornelius A. King served as host for the program, which included welcoming remarks by Dr. Thomas E. Malone, NIH Deputy Director, who noted that he had been a classmate of Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Julius B. Richmond, HEW Assistant Secretary for Health, also addressed the audience at the PHS-sponsored program, emphasizing the need to make health care equally available for all Americans.

Several musical selections were sung by members of the PHS Choir, Philip Brooks read an Ode to Martin Luther King, and the audience participated in a Litany of Commemoration.

**Award Recognizes Senator Humphrey**

Margaret I. Bell, general chairman of the Commemorative Committee, presented the Martin Luther King, Jr., Award to The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey. Ossie Dukes, a long-time associate of the Senator, accepted the award on behalf of the Senator, who died later that day.

The citation stated, in part, "As Mayor of Minneapolis, he initiated the first municipal fair employment practices ordinance in the nation and one of the first human rights councils... he led a successful fight to include a civil rights plank in the platform at the 1948 Democratic National Convention... As former Vice President, he helped coordinate and implement the Federal Government's responsibilities in the areas of civil rights and poverty. Senator Humphrey has introduced more social legislation on behalf of the poor than anyone else on Capitol Hill since the 1940's."

**Rev. Jackson Gives Keynote Address**

Matti K. Wright, Director of the PHS Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Office, introduced the keynote speaker, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, National President of Operation PUSH.

Rev. Jackson described Dr. King's initiative and unflagging energy in working to achieve equality for all and urged that people celebrate Dr. King's birthday in a way he would have wanted and an appropriate way—by dedicating themselves and their energy to achievement of his goals.

He described most people as being interested in other people's actions or in things and places. Rather, he said, are the people like Dr. King who are interested in ideas.

**Insight, Responsibility Needed**

Although insight is commendable, he said, one must then take on the responsibility and self-discipline of working to achieve the goals one has and the insight to see ahead.

**May Reach Goals, Challenges**

While moving up and moving to achieve these goals may be a long and challenging task because "we've got a lot to overcome and a lot of catching up to do," Rev. Jackson stated, with strategy, style, patience, and self-discipline of working to achieve the goals one has and the insight to see ahead.

**How Important Are YOU?**

Even though our typewriter is an old model, it works quit well for our kxys. It is trux that there are forty kxys that function will enough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxn. Sometimes it sxzmes to mx that some groups arx somewhat likx this typxwritxr. NOT ALL THX PXOPLX AXX DOING TXXHR PART.

You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxl, I am only onx pxrson, I won't makxs or brxak a program." But it deks malxs a diffxrxn becausx for a group to bx xxxtctivx rxqvix thx participation of xxvry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think you arx onx pxrson and that your xxforts arx not nxxxdxd, rxxmbxr our typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a KXY PXRSON in this group and I AM NXX XD XXY MUCH." - (Discovered in the files of the Lipid Research Clinic, The Johns Hopkins University.)

**Do You Think Nobody Listens?**

When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. —Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
CC's Medicine for Layman Series Ends; Series Will Be Offered Again Next Fall

Jerry Hecht (r) directs cameraman Richard Wray in videotaping the series.

The Clinical Center's health series, Medicine for the Layman, concluded its 12-week program Dec. 13 with a talk on Cancer Treatment by Dr. Vincent DeVita, director of the National Cancer Institute. The lecture series, which began as an experiment to inform the greater Washington community on health topics and body functions, was enthusiastically received by the lay audience.

Attendance for the entire series was high, and for several lectures capacity crowds filled the Masur Auditorium. The speakers' special efforts to tailor their presentations to a lay audience made the lectures entertaining as well as informative.

Use Graphic Illustrations

The presenters worked closely with local artists to develop clear graphic interpretations of their ideas or used film segments to illustrate, often dramatically, body functions or research advances. Topics covered included fertility, aging, the brain, the heart, the lungs, obesity, cancer, and immunity. Literature on each subject was collected from Institute infor-

Margaret B. Hamlin Dies; Worked at NIH for 17 Years

Margaret Bartlett Hamlin, an employee with the Division of Research Grants, died of circulatory problems on Dec. 30 at Suburban Hospital.

A native of Kentucky, she attended schools in Connecticut before coming to the Washington area 35 years ago. She had worked at NIH for the past 17 years.

She leaves her sister, Katherine Bartlett of Silver Spring; two sons, Frederie Jr., of Santa Barbara, Calif., and David Meriweather of Evanston, Ill.; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on Jan. 10 at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church.

NIH Visiting Scientists Program Participants

12/27—Dr. Alessandra Varesio, Italy, Division of Virology. Sponsor: Dr. Elaine Eber, Bureau of Biologies, Bg. 29A, Rm. 2A21.
12/27—Dr. Hiroshi Yoshida, Japan, Division of Bacterial Products. Sponsor: Dr. Michael Barile, Bureau of Biologies, Bg. 29, Rm. 454.
1/1—Dr. Hans G. Capraro, Germany, Laboratory of Chemistry. Sponsor: Dr. Arnold Brocchi, NIAMDD, Bg. 4, Rm. 150.
1/1—Dr. Edmund Lui, Canada, Laboratory of Environmental Toxicology. Sponsor: Dr. George Lucier, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Comes From Italy

1/1—Dr. Fausta Omodeo Sale, Italy, Developmental and Metabolic Neurology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Peter Fishman, NINCDS, Bg. 10, Rm. 2D03.
1/1—Dr. Michael Parniak, Canada, Laboratory of Neurochemistry. Sponsor: Dr. Seymour Kaufman, NIMH, Bg. 36, Rm. 3D30.
1/3—Dr. Robert U. Bennett, United States, Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Paul H. Plotz, NIAID, Bg. 10, Rm. 9N210.
1/3—Dr. Howard J. Goren, Canada, Diabetes Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Josee Roth, NIAID, Bg. 10, Rm. 8N238.
Dr. Axalfred Is Sponsor
1/3—Dr. Fusao Hirata, Japan, Laboratory of Clinical Science. Sponsor: Dr. Julius Axalfred, NIMH, Bg. 10, Rm. 2D42.
1/3—Dr. Lutza Yanki, Israel, Office of Biometry and Epidemiology. Sponsor: Fred Edeler, NEI, Bg. 51, Rm. 8A10.

1/4—Dr. Vittorio Avvedimento, Italy, Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Benoist de Crombrugghe, NCI, Bg. 57, Rm. 2D25.
1/4—Dr. James T. Russell, India, Behavioral Biology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Harold Gainer, NIEHS, Bg. 36, Rm. 3B05.

Visits From Japan

1/5—Dr. Masahide Munemura, Japan, Experimental Therapeutics Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Donald B. Calne, NINCDS, Bg. 10, Rm. 6D16.
1/5—Dr. Yasaka, Brazil, Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology. Sponsor: Dr. Harriet Maling, NCI, Bg. 10, Rm. 8N11S.
1/10—Dr. Nesko Neskovic, Yugoslavia, Laboratory of Experimental Toxicology. Sponsor: Dr. Robert Dixon, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

HEW REPORT

(Continued from Page 1)

environmental data collection, for establishing models of potential environmental impact, and for monitoring effects.

The Committee's report also identified six major areas requiring further investigation in order for the Nation to minimize undesirable consequences of increased coal use now and in the future.

The Committee recommended that increased research efforts should be directed at:

- understanding the transport, transformation, and health effects of air pollutants;
- evaluating health and safety standards for coal mine workers;
- studying the global effects of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;
- verifying the cause and effect of pollution which falls to earth (acid rain) and affects wildlife and agriculture;
- studying the run-off of toxic trace elements from coal ash residuals;
- determining the feasibility of reclaiming acid land.

Califano Invites Comments

Secretary Califano invited the public to consider and comment on the Committee's report.

Copies can be obtained by contacting: Alan Fry, Energy Resources Company, 1701 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, (202) 462-0529. Mr. Fry served as executive secretary to the Committee under a contract from NIEHS.

All comments should be submitted to the Executive Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 200 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, by April 17.

Every man's affairs, however little, are important to himself.—Samuel Johnson
Researchers To Analyze Role of Papovaviruses At International Symposium

Research scientists from nine countries will participate in an International Symposium on Papovaviruses and Their Role in Cell Transformation and Oncogenesis on Feb. 1-3 in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall.

The family Papovaviridae constitutes a group of viruses important not only as highly manageable models of viral oncogenesis, but also as pathogenic agents.

At this Symposium the scientists will analyze the large body of new information on these viruses gathered in many laboratories in this country and abroad over the last few years.

Sponsoring the Symposium are the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and the Fogarty International Center.

Dr. Norman P. Salzman, chief of the Laboratory of Viruses, NIAID, and Dr. Roger Monier, Fogarty Scholar-in-Residence, are organizing the Symposium.

Present Molecular Studies

Dr. Salzman’s laboratory has carried out molecular studies with cultured animal cells and viruses. His past studies dealt with polyvinyl replication and the purification and fractionation of metaphase chromosomes. More recently, he has studied SV40 DNA replication and regulation of SV40 transcription.

Dr. Monier comes from Paris, where he is Director of the Institute for Scientific Studies on Cancer of the French National Scientific Research Center. He is also professor of biochemistry in the University of Paris.

Prior to assuming his present post, Dr. Monier was professor of biochemistry at the University of Aix-Marseilles, and Associate Director of the Center for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the CNRS in Marseilles.

For 2 years he was a Rockefeller Fellow at Harvard where he worked with Dr. Paul Zamecnik on the purification of transfer RNA.

Subsequently, he has made significant contributions to knowledge of ribosomal assembly and genetic translation.

Professor Monier is currently interested in the structure of viral DNA and in particular, the structure of Simian Virus 40 DNA.

He was appointed a Fogarty Scholar in 1976 and returned in 1977.

For further information, call Toby Levin, FIC, 496-2616.

RPB Awardee Dr. Varma Finds Enzyme Inhibitor Slows Diabetic Cataract Growth

Dr. Shambhu D. Varma, a former visiting scientist at the National Eye Institute, has received the $25,000 Research to Prevent Blindness-William Friedkin Scholars Award for discovering that the formation of diabetic cataracts in animals can be effectively delayed by compounds that inhibit the enzyme aldose reductase.

Dr. Varma—currently director of ophthalmic research at the University of Maryland School of medicine in Baltimore—conducted the research that led to this award at NEI’s Laboratory of Vision Research during 1973-76.

His studies demonstrated that flavonoids delay the formation of “sugar” cataracts in rodents by inhibiting the activity of aldose reductase, the enzyme which triggers the development of these cataracts.

This was the first time experimentally-induced diabetic cataract had been delayed in animals without reducing the level of blood sugar.

Because diabetes may increase the risk of human cataract, NEI is now planning preliminary clinical tests to determine whether inhibitors of aldose reductase have any potential in delaying cataracts in people with diabetes.

Flavonoids, found in citrus rind and certain flower pigments, are one of several types of compounds which are known to inhibit aldose reductase.

Using the molecular structure of flavonoids as a model, Dr. Varma and his associates are continuing to screen compounds for more potent, nontoxic, easily absorbable, and clinically effective inhibitors of aldose reductase. They have already identified inhibitors which are even more potent than flavonoids.

Since aldose reductase is present in cells of the retina, kidney, and peripheral nerves, and they are also adversely affected by diabetes, Dr. Varma plans to study the effects of aldose reductase inhibitors on these tissues from animals and humans.

In the late stages of diabetes there is a breakdown in the tiny blood vessels in various parts of the body.

Although the cause of these changes is unknown, laboratory studies are in progress to determine if aldose reductase, activated by high blood sugar, may be involved in the degeneration of the blood vessel walls.

When this condition affects the blood vessels of the retina, it is known as diabetic retinopathy—a leading cause of blindness in the U.S.

However, only extensive laboratory and clinical tests will enable scientists to determine whether aldose reductase inhibitors have a potential role in the treatment of such disorders.

The $25,000 Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc. Award was presented to Dr. Varma by Dr. Jules Stein, founder and chairman of the organization, and film director William Friedkin at RPB’s offices in New York City.

RPB is a leading source of private support for vision research. During the past 18 years, it has provided more than $30 million for eye research to 60 medical institutions throughout the U.S.
Stanley Oliver Retires; Took Role in Developing Procedures as NIH Grew

Stanley W. Oliver, chief of the Plant Engineering Branch, Division of Engineering Services, retired last month after completing 37 years of Federal service, 20 of them at NIH.

First Worked for Navy

In 1958, Mr. Oliver came to PEB from the Naval Ordnance Laboratory at White Oak, Md. Prior to coming to the east coast, he had served for many years as a general engineer at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash.

During his early career with the Division of Engineering Services, Mr. Oliver played a major role in developing Division policies and procedures at a time when NIH was experiencing growing pains.

He was concerned with implementation of Executive Order 11491, dealing with Labor-Management Relations in Federal Service, and was a member of the first NIH Labor-Management Advisory Committee.

Mr. Oliver participated in early training sessions to implement the

Soviet Visitors at GRC Discuss Health, Activity, Adaptability of the Long-Lived

Five USSR anthropologists/gerontologists recently got a first hand look at aging research in the U.S. when they spent a day at the National Institute on Aging’s Gerontology Research Center.

In the morning they heard GRC scientists describe NIA objectives and current projects of the Baltimore center. The group was particularly interested in the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging. Briefing the Soviet group were: Dr. Richard C. Greulich, NIA scientific director and GRC director; Dr. Nathan W. Shock, NIH scientist emeritus; Dr. Reuben Andres, NIA clinical director; and Arthur Norris, head of the Human Performance Section, Clinical Physiology Branch, NIA.

In the afternoon the Soviet scientists discussed their research.

Emphasize Variables

Delegation leader, Dr. Alexandr Zubov of the Institute of Ethnography, USSR Academy of Sciences, discussed the Soviet Union’s interest in longevity studies, which, he said, was stimulated by Dr. Sula Benet of the Research Institute for the Study of Man, sponsor of the USSR scientists’ tour.

Their research includes the study of biological and physiological factors of the aging process and adds emphasis on the socioeconomic and demographic variables that may contribute to people being long-lived.

Dr. Zubov expects that their expanding studies eventually will involve collaboration with the NIA, one of the best produced anywhere in the world.

Past and present fellow employees from NIH and HHS recently attended a farewell reception in his honor. Asked about his retirement, Mr. Oliver indicated that, having spent 20 years taking care of maintenance at NIH, he now plans to spend his time taking care of maintenance at home.

Mr. Oliver took a leading part in establishing the National Association of Supervisors at NIH.

Executive Order, and was chief negotiator for several of the original union contracts here at NIH. He also served as management’s representative in many grievance and adverse action hearings.

Active in supporting NIH Upward Mobility Programs, Mr. Oliver served on the Upward Mobility Advisory Committee since its inception.

In addition, he was the DES suggestion coordinator for many years, contributing to the success of the suggestion Program.

Raised Distilled Water Quality

Mr. Oliver was instrumental in raising the quality of centrally distributed single-effect distilled water from a marginally acceptable product to a superior product that probably is...