Prince Hitachi of Japan
And His Wife Visit NIH

Friday, April 7, NIH had two very special visitors—Prince Masahito Hitachi of Japan and his wife, Princess Hanako Hitachi.

His Imperial Highness was in Washington to attend the 69th annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research. Last year he was made an honorary member of that Association.

Prince Hitachi and his wife had previously visited NIH in September 1971.

On their arrival at NIH, Their Imperial Highnesses and members of their party were greeted by NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson and Dr. Arthur C. Upton, Director of the National Cancer Institute.

As the guests viewed the model of the NIH campus, Dr. Fredrickson explained the growth of NIH and its facilities, plans for expansion of the Clinical Center and of the National Library of Medicine, the Metro facilities now under construction, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences now being built across Rockville Pike.

The second son of Emperor Hirohito, Prince Hitachi is the principal author of numerous papers, including two published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

(See Awards, Page 5)

Seven NIH’ers Recognized by Califano
In Department Honor Awards Ceremony

Seven NIH staff members were recognized by HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., at the Department Honor Awards Ceremony held on Tuesday, April 11, in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building Lobby.

The DHEW Distinguished Service Award, the highest departmental honorary recognition conferred on civilian employees, was presented to Vernice D. Ferguson, chief of the Nursing Department at the Clinical Center.

The Distinguished Service Medal, the Department’s highest award to PHS Commissioned Officers, was presented to Dr. Robert H. Purcell, head of the Hepatitis Virus Section, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Alan S. Rabson, director of the Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute.

Jacob Seidenberg, chief of the Audit Resolution Section, Financial Advisory Services Branch, Division of Contracts and Grants, OD, and Ruth C. Smith, chief of the Library Branch, Division of Research Services, were recipients of the Departmental Management Award-Senior Management Citation.

This honor award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary initiative while performing their duties in the field of management in an outstanding manner.

Special Citation Awarded to Mrs. Poms

Secretary Califano presented the Secretary’s Special Citation for Ten Outstanding Employees of the Year Award to Marion F. Poms, secretary in the Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies, National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

(Continued on Page 9)

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy
Talks on Goals, Funding
Of Biomedical Research

Senator Kennedy addressed problems of allocation of research resources, public expectations of research, and the exclusion of women from professional advancement.

On April 3 Senator Edward M. Kennedy presented a Special Lecture, sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, to an overflow audience in the Clinical Center’s Masur and 14th Floor Auditoriums. Senator Kennedy said, in part:

... Over the past 30 years, this country has poured tens of billions of dollars into biomedical and behavioral research and training. ... that investment has yielded incredible dividends that have far surpassed our expectations, therapeutic triumphs which would have been impossible, perhaps inconceivable 25 years ago... .

Appreciates Medical Miracles

"My family, more than most, understands the value of your work. If you had seen my son Teddy climbing the Great Wall in China earlier this year, you would know what I mean when I say a prayer of gratitude each day for the miracles of modern American medicine.

"It comes as no surprise that the American people would rather spend their science dollars on health than any other area, or that they continue... to regard NIH as the embodiment of scientific integrity and excellence...."

... Congress and the public have begun... asking complex questions about benefits received compared to costs of research... .

(See SEN. KENNEDY, Page 8)
Some of the NIHers on the Ski Club Trip included (l to r): Brian McLaughlin, Meredith Hozan, Lynn Ann Glocleker, Mitsuru Imuta, Dr. Robert Scow, Dr. Evelyn Ralston, Dr. Heikki HerVENon, James Kiefer, and Dr. Craig Edelbrock.

Ski Club enjoys visit to Quebec in March

Arriving at Mont Tremblant Lodge in Quebec, Canada, on March 5, the R&W-sponsored NIH Ski Club took to the slopes for a week of skiing. Excellent weather conditions allowed everyone to ski either downhill or cross-country all 7 days. The NIH group also won the hearts of everyone at the Lodge with performances at the Thursday evening talent show. A slalom race culminated the week's parties and skiing. Dr. Heikki Hervonen received a silver medal for his time, and Dr. Craig Edelbrock, Dr. Evelyn Ralston, and Brian McLaughlin won bronze medals.

Mr. McLaughlin and Dr. Edelbrock organized the trip.

Dr. Walker, Well Known Author, Will Discuss His Sailing Experiences

On April 27 at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 30, Room 117, Dr. Stuart Walker of Annapolis, Md., will present a free lecture to the NIH Sailing Club.

Dr. Walker has written several books on techniques of sailing, including Advanced Racing Tactics and Wind and Strategy. Known as a fine story teller and rule book interpreter, and sought after as a strategist for races, Dr. Walker was involved in racing International 14's until 1960, when he became an active Soling sailor.

He will discuss his experience of the Chesapeake Bay weather system, how to make short-term weather predictions, and how to utilize wind shifts in sailing. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend this free lecture and to join Dr. and Mrs. Walker before-hand for dinner at the San Francisco East Restaurant in Bethesda at 6 p.m.
NIH Photo Contest
Is May 8—Win Prizes
In B&W, Color, Slides

Calling all camera buffs! It's time to dust off your best slides and negatives or get busy taking your best pictures ever.

The First Annual NIH Employees Photographic Competition, sponsored by the NIH Camera Club, will be held May 8.

As many as four entries in each of the three categories—slides, color prints, and black and white prints—may be submitted by each NIH employee, member of the NIH Camera Club or R&W, and their immediate families. There is an entry fee of $1.00 per category.

Entries should be submitted by the photographer/entrant between noon and 6 p.m. at any of three locations: Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4; Linda Robbins, Westwood Bldg., Room 206; John Horm, Landow Bldg., Room 5A-04.

Prints may be commercially processed and must be mounted on a mat no larger than 16x20 inches. Slides must be in 2x2-inch mounts with an orientation mark in the lower left-hand corner when the slide is viewed correctly (hand held).

All entries must have the photographer's name and photograph title on the back (side opposite orientation mark for slides).

Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each category. Honorable mentions will receive an award certificate.

A selection of the winning photographs will also be published in the NIH Record.

Judging—open to the public—will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 4.

The highly qualified and experienced judges are Marshall H. Cohen, a prize-winning portrait and travel photographer; Ollie Fife, an award-winning photojournalist; and Silom Horwitz, author of over 200 articles on photography and an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society (Great Britain).

Photographs may be picked up immediately after judging or on May 9 from the location where they were turned in. Photos entered in Conference Room 4 may be picked up in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 6 (6th floor, C Wing) between 12:30 and 6 p.m.

Although due care will be taken in handling the entries, the NIH Camera Club will not be responsible for losses or damage.

For further details, contact the R&W Office, Bldg. 31, Room 1A18 (496-4600) and check the March 27 R&W Smoke Signals. Or call Ken Edwards (496-6750) or Gail Plancik (881-1378).

Health's Angels Run for Fun, Good Times

NOT FIRST, BUT NOT LAST EITHER! Betty Boone (1) of FDA was a happy finisher of the 2-mile run in the Cherry Blossom Classic. Ms. Boone, a victim of polio, is a dedicated runner with the NIH Health’s Angels. Dr. Marc Lippman of NCI (2) crosses the finish line in the 10-mile race. Dozens of NIHers competed with the more than 4000 runners in the two events.

It was a sunny but windy day (April 2) as more than 4000 runners took their places for the start of the 2-mile and 10-mile runs in the Cherry Blossom Classic. Dozens of NIHers were among the entrants in each event. The first NIH'er to reach the finish line in the 10-mile contest was Dr. Charles Schulz of NICHD (a member of the Washington Running Club) in 58:00 minutes. The second and third NIH’ers were Dr. James L. Reiner of NIAMD in 57 minutes, 35 seconds, and Dr. Richard Schwartz of NHLBI in 58:10. All three runners are among those training for the next big challenges: the marathons in Boston on April 17 and in Frederick, Md.

For occasional joggers and less ambitious runners, the Beginner's Mile and 3-Mile Series Runs began last week and are continuing each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., starting from Bldg. 1.

Contact Dr. Peter Pontchek, Bldg. 10, Room 3D-14, regarding teams already formed or interest in officiating.

OMS Urges Employees:
Immunize Your Children Against Seven Diseases

Complying with President Carter’s goal of having every preschool child in the country immunized against seven childhood diseases—polio, diphtheria, whooping-cough, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella—NIH is urging each employee to check his/her child's immunizations.

Since these often debilitating diseases have not been eliminated, it is essential and prudent to protect all children through safe and effective vaccination.

NIH does not administer these vaccinations to children, but pertinent information regarding immunizations has been provided on bulletin boards, posters, and table tent cards.

A Parents Guide to Childhood Immunizations is also available

Don’t Take Chances!
High Blood Pressure Can Be Controlled

The only way to know you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked. You can feel and look fine and still have high blood pressure because it can strike anyone, regardless of age, sex, or race.

Fortunately, high blood pressure can be controlled in almost all cases to reduce your risk of heart attack, stroke, and kidney diseases. It’s an easy, painless, free health check, and it might save your life.

Between May and November 1978, the Occupational Medical Service will offer a blood pressure check to NIH employees on a building-by-building basis.

This voluntary screening is part of a comprehensive OMS blood pressure program to help hypertensive employees get their blood pressure under adequate control for a longer and healthier life.

Any employee with consistently high blood pressure readings during screening will be offered referral services to his or her private physician.

If an employee does not have a private physician, OMS will provide a referral list to assist the employee in contacting physicians or facilities providing health care in the immediate area.

In cooperation with the employee and the private physician, OMS health units will also offer hypertensive employees free blood pressure checks and individualized counseling.

Watch the NIH Record for announcements on the screening schedule. For specific times and rooms, look for the smiling face on posters and flyers.

Get your blood pressure checked. Don’t take chances.

Don’t take chances.

free at all Occupational Medical Service Health Units and Information Desks in Bldgs. 10 and 31.

Please contact your private doctor or health department if your child needs immunization.
Role of Pathogens in Diarrheal Diseases Of 'Young' Animals Aids Human Studies

Diarrheal diseases of the young are caused by similar pathogens whether “the young” are calves, piglets, or human babies. A conference to exchange information about these organisms and the diseases they cause was held March 7-8 at Wilson Hall.

Participants included physicians, veterinarians, microbiologists, and pathologists from the United States and three foreign countries who have an active interest in the clinical and research aspects of diarrheal diseases.

Veterinarians' Aid Noted

Dr. Milo D. Leavitt, Director of FIC, and Dr. Kenneth E. Sell, scientific director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, welcomed the participants. They noted the contributions of veterinarians in discovering and defining the role of various pathogens in diarrheal diseases of animals, providing a groundwork for similar studies in human beings.

NIAID intramural scientists, in particular, have been working closely with veterinarians in State and Federal agricultural organizations studying diarrhea in calves and piglets.

Calves' Vaccine Licensed

One widespread cause of diarrhea in human infants and other young animals is the rotavirus. Scientists have already developed for calves a vaccine licensed by the USDA.

Lambs have been experimentally protected by feeding serum and colostrum-derived anti-body—an example of passive, short-term immunity. The possibility of protecting human infants and young children can be explored using knowledge gained from these experiences with animals.

Other common causes of diarrhea include parvoviruses (cat distemper), corona viruses, and a variety of bacteria including toxigenic and invasive E. coli, Salmonella, and Cryptosporidia.

Prevention Emphasized

Therefore, any program developed to control diarrheal diseases must emphasize preventive measures and supportive treatment.

This was one of a series of conferences sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and was jointly sponsored by FIC; NIAID; the Bureau of Biologies, EPA; Animal Disease Research Service, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA; and several commercial companies.

NIDR Plans Workshop On Feedback Control

The National Institute of Dental Research, in cooperation with the American Academy of Dental Radiology and the Bureau of Radiological Health, will sponsor an open workshop on Feedback Control of Exposure Geometry in Dental Radiography.

The principal objective of the 1-day conference/workshop, to be held May 16 at the School of Dentistry of the University of Connecticut, Farmington, Conn., is to exchange ideas on the use of an on-line feedback control system to establish reproducible bases for determining projection geometry.

The sessions are planned to encourage communication between technical experts and clinicians interested in dental radiology and are directed toward improving the diagnostic process from existing and new radiological resources.

Dr. Richard L. Webber (490-4994), Diagnostic Methodology Section, NIDR, is the conference coordinator.

Apprenticeship Training Program Starts in Fall

Attending the signing of the National Apprenticeship Standards (I to r) are: Edgar S. Barnett, National Apprenticeship representative, Department of Labor; Mr. Murphy; Mr. Schwartz; and W. Elbert Wilson, Jr., chief, Career Development Branch, DPM.

The recent signing of National Apprenticeship Standards signaled the end of the long planning period to coordinate a training program between the Department of Labor and NIH.

This new Apprenticeship Training Program, the first such program within HEW, covers the following eight trades: carpenter, electrician, plumber, painter, stationary engineer (boiler plant operator), refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, sheet metal worker, and welder (industrial).

In brief remarks during the signing, both Leon M. Schwartz, Associate Director for Administration, NIH, and Hugh C. Murphy, Administrator, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, Department of Labor, commented that NIH now has an opportunity to establish an exemplary program, creating effective opportunities for members of minority groups and for women.

An integral part of the program will be participation of apprentices in classroom training related to their particular trade. Successful finishing of related training as well as successful performance in on-the-job training is required for completion of the program.

Work is continuing on the development of selection criteria for each of the trades.

The selection of employees for the first apprenticeship class is scheduled for early fall 1978. Additional facts about the program will be published in coming months.

Lab Safety Courses On Biohazard Control Offered Tuition Free

Laboratory safety training courses for 1978 are being conducted by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health under contract with the National Cancer Institute Office of Research Safety.

Courses on Biohazard and Injury Control in the Biomedical Laboratory will be presented at NIH Dec. 12-13; at State University of New York, Stony Brook, June 13-15; and University of Washington, Seattle, Sept. 6-8.

Viral Oncology Stressed

Emphasis in these courses—aimed at senior scientists and technicians working in fields related to cancer virology—is on biohazards in viral oncology research.

Two courses on Biohazard Control and for Recombinant DNA Molecules will also be held. They are set for Oct. 24-25 at the Frederick Cancer Research Center; and Sept. 19-20, University of California, San Diego.

These courses are directed at principal investigators, scientists, and senior technicians working with genetic recombinants.

Lectures and workshops emphasize interpretation of NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research.

Support from NCI enables the University to offer both courses tuition free. Participants pay only for travel and living expenses. Enrollment is limited, and early application is recommended.

Information on the courses can be obtained from Dr. Donald Vessey, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, 1158 Mayo Memorial Bldg., 420 Delaware St. SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 55455, or telephone (612) 373-5943.

21,000 Federal Workers Counseled; Many Helped

Almost 21,000 Federal workers were counseled last year for alcoholism, drug abuse, and emotional or similar problems.

Of these, 12,069 were for emotional or similar problems with 85 percent termed “helped.” Some 5,073 were counseled for alcoholism with 76 percent helped, and 747 for drug problems with 62 percent helped.

HEW Response Good

Since the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program was established 5 years ago, nearly 30,000 persons have received counseling under the Program.

The agencies in which the Program showed the best rate of response were the departments of State; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Navy.
Sixth Annual Minority Biomedical Support Symposium

The Sixth Annual Minority Biomedical Support Program Symposium, cosponsored by the Division of Research Resources and Atlanta University Center in Atlanta on March 27-29, featured some 400 scientific papers by student-researchers from 80 universities, colleges, and junior colleges (see the NIH Record, Mar. 21, p. 4) as well as presentations by several eminent scientists. L to r: Dr. Thomas C. Bower, DRR Director, presents a special commendation to Dr. Joyce Corrington, MBS Director at Xavier University, for her role in beginning the MBS Symposium and serving as coordinator for the first five symposiums. Dr. Walter Sullivan, this year’s symposium coordinator, looks over the program with several MBS students. Dr. Benjamin Alexander, Chicago State University president, talks with Dr. Geraldine Woods, NIH consultant, before the Symposium banquet. This year, Dr. Woods, a biologist, was honored for helping to launch the MBS program, and Dr. Alexander paid her tribute during his speech at the banquet.

The Symposium attracted a wide variety of the news media. From left clockwise: NIH Deputy Director Dr. Thomas E. Malone (back to camera), Dr. Alexander, and Dr. Ciriaci Gonzalez, director of DRR’s MBS Program, are interviewed by two newsmen during an Atlanta radio program. Dr. George Lythcott, administrator of the Health Services Administration, PHS, talks to a writer for Urban Health magazine. Drs. Alexander and Woods, appearing on a television program, are interviewed by Walter Elder (r). Dr. Sullivan (l) speaks with a medical writer of the Atlanta Journal. Three native Africans are now MBS Program directors. L to r are: Dr. Obi Emeh, Savannah State; Dr. Joseph C. Wutoh, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore; and Dr. Fred Christian, Southern University, being interviewed by Bill Gritz, DRR, for an article for Topic, an International Communication Agency (formerly USIA) magazine distributed in Africa.

AWARDS

(Continued from Page 1)

The award recognizes outstanding performance by employees in clerical, administrative, technical, professional, and general support positions.

On behalf of the Department, Secretary Califano also recognized the accomplishments of Dr. David G. Hoel, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, who was the recipient of the Mortimer Spiegelman Gold Medal Award, a major non-HEW award. He was recognized “for being one of the first statisticians to realistically approach the development of practical analytical tools for treating the problem of human health risk assessment.”

Excellent Nursing Cited

Mrs. Ferguson was cited for “dynamic leadership which created a Nursing Department that is recognized for excellent nursing practice, educational programs and opportunities for professional growth.”

Dr. Purcell’s citation read “for distinguished leadership in the detection and prevention of viral hepatitis.”

Dr. Rabson received the Medal for “outstanding accomplishments as a diagnostic pathologist and as a senior executive and scientist” in the National Cancer Institute.”

Mr. Seidenberg’s citation was “for contributing to the accomplishment of Public Health Service programs through improving record keeping and management by grantees.”

Mrs. Smith’s Senior Management Citation was for “innovative management approaches in the library science field through application of new techniques in a biomedical research environment.”

Mrs. Pons’ citation was for “sustained outstanding levels of performance during the more than 19 years of secretarial, administrative, and editorial service to the NINCDS program in the Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies which is now a worldwide recognized branch of the NIH.”

Reception for Recipients

A reception for HEW, PHS, and NIH officials and award recipients and their family members followed the ceremony.
Clinical Trial To Examine Laser, Drug Treatment For Diabetic Retinopathy

A new nationwide clinical trial of early treatment for diabetic retinopathy, a common eye complication of diabetes and a leading cause of blindness in the United States, was announced yesterday (April 17) by the National Eye Institute.

The Early Treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS), involving 22 research centers, will examine the use of laser treatment and drug therapy for the disease.

Blood Vessels Change

Diabetic retinopathy is a progressive disorder which causes harmful changes in the blood vessels in the retina—the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. These vessels may become blocked or grow abnormally, a stage which is called proliferative retinopathy. Visual impairment may result when these abnormal vessels break and bleed into the vitreous, the clear gel that fills the center of the eye. This blood may clear, but scar tissue is frequently formed.

Scar Tissue Causes Blindness

In very severe cases, the scar tissue may cause the retina to become detached from underlying tissue layers, frequently causing blindness.

Data from a previous NEI-supported trial, the Diabetic Retinopathy Study (DRS), showed that laser treatment can reduce the risk of blindness in patients in the proliferative stage of this disease.

In the DRS, however, some patients’ eyes become blind in spite of treatment, and in some, harmful side effects of treatment were noted, such as mild blurring of vision and narrowing of side vision.

The study seeks to determine whether treatment at an earlier stage of retinopathy may be of greater value in reducing the risk of blindness and, if so, whether this benefit outweighs the risk of adverse side effects.

Check Use of Laser

Investigators in the ETDRS also hope to find out whether laser treatment may be effective against macular edema, an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the retina. It frequently accompanies diabetic retinopathy and may cause blurred central vision.

A third objective of the study is to determine whether aspirin, either alone or in combination with another drug, may be useful in treating diabetic retinopathy.

In diabetics, there is an increased tendency for blood platelets to clump. This may affect the flow of blood through small vessels, such as those present in the retina, and

Drugs and Laser Treatment

The ETDRS will begin following a planning stage of about 1 year. Eventually, 3,000 patients are expected to participate.

It is expected that each will be followed for 5 years to provide long-term information on the risks and benefits of both kinds of treatment being examined. The average cost of the projected 7- to 8-year study is an estimated $3 million per year.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., plans to provide, is recorded explicitly... thus, each manifestation is associated with a list of diseases in which the manifestation is known to occur with a weighting factor on a zero to five scale intended to reflect the strength of the association.

The system uses a hierarchy of disease categories, organized primarily around the concept of organ systems.

Categories at the top level include diseases such as “heart disease,” “lung disease,” and “liver disease.” Each of these areas is divided into more specific categories, which may be further divided until they reach the final level made up of specific disease entities.

Formulate Problems

The task of INTERNIST is one of problem formulation, not problem solving, according to Dr. Myers of “INTERNIST is really a simulation of the mental processes of a physician in analyzing a complex case,” Dr. Pople says. “It generates and tests hypotheses, much as a clinician would formulate a model as a basis for clinical problem solving.”

The computer informs the physician what data it is disregarding for the time being and on what it intends to focus.

Computer Questions Users

It questions the user about other observations and laboratory tests, with the computer retrieving occasionally to briefly reflect on the additional information.

Each time it returns, the computer lets the user know the leading diagnostic contenders which it is currently considering. Eventually, it will inform the physician either that the considered disease has been confirmed or that it is now considering a new hypothesis.

“To me, one of the most important things we taught the machine is to deal with the least costly things first,” Dr. Myers says. Another benefit of the INTERNIST system is the development of a new medical textbook, according to its developers.

DDR Funds SUMEX System

The INTERNIST system utilizes the large SUMEX-AIM computer facility of Stanford University, Stanford, Calif., another DDR-funded project.

The SUMEX system has been developed to provide a national shared computer facility for medical research concentrating on the application of artificial intelligence to medicine.

The Bureau of Health Manpower also provided funding for the development of INTERNIST.

Tranquility is nothing else than the good ordering of the mind.—Marcus Aurelius
Director of NIA Dr. Butler Cites Myth Of Sexual Capacity Loss in the Elderly

According to Dr. Robert N. Butler, Director of the National Institute on Aging, elderly people have been victims of a wealth of myths surrounding their sexuality.

"Men and women do not lose the capacity for sexual fulfillment. The need for sex is basic to all human beings and desexualization is ageism in its most extreme form."

Speaking before the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists on March 31 in Washington, D.C., Dr. Butler emphasized that older people display—and are entitled to—an active interest in continuing their sex lives.

Dr. Butler explained that "psychologically, the sex act offers many older people affirmative evidence that the body is still reliable and functional. It is a means of self-assertion in a society where most traditional means of assertion are denied to older people."

Dr. Butler stressed that sex education should be readily available to the elderly. He told the audience of researchers and counselors in the field of sex education that normal physiological changes accompanying aging must be explained so that neither men nor women regard them as indicative of a loss of sexuality.

Dr. Butler went on to point out that older people themselves often accept society's negative sexual stereotypes. The distorted body images and self-hatred engendered in older people by these attitudes not only impair sexual functioning, but also further discourage sexual activity.

Tests conducted at NIA's Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore show that men who were sexually active throughout their lives tend to remain so in old age.

A study of 188 males aged 60 to 79 has identified some previously unrecognized factors which appear to influence sexual functioning.

Much sexual inactivity of the older male stems from apathy or indifference to stimuli which previously caused erotic reactions.

Sexually inactive subjects felt no pressure to perform, and the vast majority had never sought help for their condition.

One of the most distressing myths surrounding sex and the elderly is the belief that "sex is bad for your heart." Many heart patients, particularly older ones, are afraid that coitus is too strenuous and can provoke a heart attack.

Dr. Butler stressed that studies conducted on male cardiac patients show that they can enjoy coital activities several weeks after a heart attack and that moderate physical activities have been resumed. A cardiac patient should check with his doctor before resuming sexual activities.

Index to Health AV Serials Now Published

The Medical Library Association plans to publish in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine a new quarterly publication titled Index to Audiovisual Serials in the Health Sciences.

This bibliography, derived from the Library's MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) will contain microfilm, magnetic tape and videotape serials selected from peer review criteria established by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Initially 31 serials will be indexed by NLM to produce three quarterly issues and one annual cumulation. Additions are planned for subsequent volumes.

The first volume will be an annual cumulation for 1977 available this spring for $6. Prepayment, accompanying all orders, will end to remain so in old age.

The signs used in picketing both at Westwood and at GSA decorated the walls along with balloons and streamers. Long tables were laden with food contributed by employees, and punch was ladled out to the hundreds of employees who had joined in the effort to negate the parking charges to individuals.

Donna Huber Honored

Especially happy—and honored—were Donna Huber and Christine Davenport, who were presented with orchids by their fellow employees grateful for their investment of time and energy in organizing the Westwood Employees Committee on the Parking Situation.

Ms. Huber also received a special inscribed certificate for her dedication to the cause—and a parking lot sign: RESERVED, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WECOPS.

Even Dr. Laslo Tauber, one of the co-owners of the building, was on hand and joined in the festivities, amusingly describing in how many ways the building's condition and the parking charges had been brought to his attention.

White House Challenges NIH Gashouse Gang—PEF Softball Benefit May 7

The third annual Patient Emergency Fund softball game between the White House team and the NIH Gashouse Gang will be played Sunday, May 7, at 2 p.m. at the Georgetown Prep School field, Rockville Pike (about 3 miles from NIH).

For the first time, three women will be playing on each team.

It's a family outing—free admission, with food and drink available. All donations and proceeds go directly to the Patient Emergency Fund.

Door prizes include: tickets to a Washington Capitals game and a team autographed hockey stick; tickets to a Washington Bullets game and a team autographed basketball; tickets to a Washington Diplomats game and a team autographed soccer ball.

Also, two free dinners at Bish Thompson's Steak and Restaurant, five pairs of tickets to Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus, and a ride on a hot air balloon. There will also be special prizes for children.

Dr. Mortimer Lipsett, Clinical Center Director, will throw out the first ball, and the game will be MC'd by Sonny Jurgenson and Frank Herzog of WTOP-TV. Everyone is invited—bring friends and family, too.

Westwood Employees Celebrate Success, Express Thanks to WECOPS Organizers

"Free Parking!" said the picket sign carried by a panda cake baked and decorated by Lois Valeo for the WECOPS victory celebration. NCI's Division of Cancer Research Resources and Centers, housed in the Westwood Bldg., presented congratulations in the form of a cake decorated with a mini-parking lot and cars. More than 1,000 employees at Westwood attended the celebration.

Many also contributed food and baked goods...a joyous afternoon for all.

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Dr. Mortimer Lipsett, Clinical Center Director, will throw out the first ball, and the game will be MC'd by Sonny Jurgenson and Frank Herzog of WTOP-TV. Everyone is invited—bring friends and family, too.

Westwood Employees Celebrate Success, Express Thanks to WECOPS Organizers

"Free Parking!" said the picket sign carried by a panda cake baked and decorated by Lois Valeo for the WECOPS victory celebration. NCI's Division of Cancer Research Resources and Centers, housed in the Westwood Bldg., presented congratulations in the form of a cake decorated with a mini-parking lot and cars. More than 1,000 employees at Westwood attended the celebration.

Many also contributed food and baked goods...a joyous afternoon for all.

Index to Health AV Serials Now Published

The Medical Library Association plans to publish in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine a new quarterly publication titled Index to Audiovisual Serials in the Health Sciences.

This bibliography, derived from the Library's MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System) will contain microfilm, magnetic tape and videotape serials selected from peer review criteria established by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Initially 31 serials will be indexed by NLM to produce three quarterly issues and one annual cumulation. Additions are planned for subsequent volumes.

The first volume will be an annual cumulation for 1977 available this spring for $6. Prepayment, accompanying all orders, will end to remain so in old age.

The signs used in picketing both at Westwood and at GSA decorated the walls along with balloons and streamers. Long tables were laden with food contributed by employees, and punch was ladled out to the hundreds of employees who had joined in the effort to negate the parking charges to individuals.

Donna Huber Honored

Especially happy—and honored—were Donna Huber and Christine Davenport, who were presented with orchids by their fellow employees grateful for their investment of time and energy in organizing the Westwood Employees Committee on the Parking Situation.

Ms. Huber also received a special inscribed certificate for her dedication to the cause—and a parking lot sign: RESERVED, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WECOPS.

Even Dr. Laslo Tauber, one of the co-owners of the building, was on hand and joined in the festivities, amusingly describing in how many ways the building's condition and the parking charges had been brought to his attention.
Impact of Hypertension in Spanish-Speaking Community Is Explored

The impact of hypertension in the Spanish-speaking community was explored at a California Conference on High Blood Pressure held April 1-2 in Los Angeles. The forum for health care providers was cosponsored by the California State Department of Health and the National HBP Education Program, coordinated by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

More than 60 experts—representing state and local government, public and private health care providers, consumers, health and medical care services from the United States and Mexico—spoke and served as panelists during the 2-day conference.

**California Most Affected**

Conference workshops focused on the medical, social, educational, and legislative issues which are of particular concern to California since 16 percent of its population is Spanish-speaking, with Los Angeles having the largest concentration of Spanish-speaking people in the United States.

**Hold Forums for Other Minorities**

Because the impact of hypertension is of importance to other minority populations, NHLBI is supporting similar forums for other minority groups.

Conferences on hypertension in Native American, Asian/Pacific and Cuban populations have already been held, and future conferences will include Puerto Rican and Black American groups.

Further information on these conferences may be obtained by writing to the High Blood Pressure Information Center, 120/80, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20201.

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**SEN. KENNEDY**

(Continued from Page 1)

Some members of the research community have reacted with great alarm. I do not share that fear. "... But we cannot ignore the very real changes taking place. Biomedical research, once the most favored child of Congress, has now become one of many favored children.

"... To make this new and still evolving relationship work... will require changes in the roles and attitudes of the research community and in the Federal Government and Congress... We must place greater emphasis on stable and continuing support for health research.

"We have seen too many confusing swings in research priorities and funding... It is no wonder that... Congress is now called the 'Disease of the Month Club.'

"... But in the future, Congress must recognize that this disease-by-disease approach to Federal support for biomedical research is incapable of working adequately in a period of tight budgets.

"We need standards for deciding how to allocate scarce research dollars... We also need mechanisms to keep Congress and the public currently informed about both public needs and research opportunities.

"We have discussed these questions repeatedly in hearings before the Senate Health Subcommittee, starting 2 years ago when the President's Biomedical Research Panel reported on its review of the Nation's biomedical research programs... and 9 additional days of hearings which we will continue this year.

"... Over the past 6 years, Congress has invested heavily in programs to understand and control cancer... As one of the chief authors of the cancer legislation, I can assure you that we never intended to promote the cancer effort at the expense of the many other excellent research programs of NIH.

"One of our highest priorities must be to correct this imbalance without curtailing progress in the war on cancer.

An attentive audience listened to Senator Kennedy and later asked questions, including some which the senator referred to NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson (center).

"Congress and the Administration must also reaffirm their commitment to the health and vitality of the peer review system at NIH... the foundation of modern biomedical science in this country.

"... I am distressed over the escalating work load which NIH study sections have experienced in recent years. Despite large increases in the number of applications for grant support, the number of initial peer review groups has actually decreased since 1975.

"As a result, the average work load of the review committees has doubled. Some study sections now pass on as many as 120 applications during a single 3-day meeting.

"We cannot expect peer review groups to work at this pace, and still give each application the kind of careful scrutiny it deserves.

"Most important, the public must be accepted as an active partner in the development and evaluation of biomedical research policy in this country.

**Taxpayers Are Concerned**

"The bulk of health research dollars in this country now come from the pockets of American taxpayers, who have a legitimate interest in how their tax dollars are spent.

"For the most part, American taxpayers support biomedical research because they are concerned about finding cures for the diseases they fear.

"The public is becoming more sophisticated in its understanding of biomedical research and its possibilities and limitations. Your responsibility is to enhance and publicize the public in the importance of fundamental, non-targeted research.

"There is no better way to accomplish this goal than to include laymen, to the maximum extent possible, in the difficult decisions which determine how our research dollars are spent.

"... You at NIH have led the way in some respects in this area. You have lay members on many of the advisory councils to your Institutes... Congress and the Administration must fulfill their own responsibilities in making public participation work at NIH.

"Too often in the past, politicians and bureaucrats determined who is appointed to public openings on the various NIH advisory councils and committees...

"It is equally important for medical research to be more innovative in identifying research areas and disciplines which have been neglected in the past.

"Why, for example, does NIH spend only $20-$40 million a year on nutrition research out of a total of $2.8 billion?

"What is so little attention paid to heart disease, the leading cause of death, and how is the nation going to identify and cure this disease? While infectious diseases used to be the most burdensome illnesses, we now see cardiovascular disease, cancer, lung disease, accidents, homicide, and violence as the major threats to life and health. These affictions have strong behavioral components.

"The National High Blood Pressure Education Program is an example of what you can accomplish here when the physical and behavioral sciences work together. No NIH program in your history has done more to improve the health of Americans.

**New Institute Proposed**

"Recently I introduced the National Institutes of Health Care Research Act of 1978, S.2466. The intent of this legislation is to make certain that health services research, epidemiology, the health related social sciences, and the assessment of new technologies get the attention, the prestige, and the stable funding they deserve.

"I proposed a new Institution... because in some respects these disciplines lie outside the traditional mission of NIH.

"There must and will continue to be overlap between the mission of NIH and other agencies, and I would be disappointed and disturbed if new as a result of the new legislation, NIH were to deemphasize or discontinue its work in epidemiology, in the primary prevention of disease, in clinical trials, or in the behavioral sciences.

"There is one additional legislative issue I would like to mention... Last month I introduced the Women in Science and Technology Equal Opportunity Act, which establishes a 10-year, $250 million program to help eliminate the educational and institutional barriers which for 50 years have virtually excluded women from careers in science.

"Nationwide, only 25 per cent of our biomedical scientists are women. Here at NIH, women professionals and scientists earn only 9 per cent of what men do, and have only 1/7 the chance of receiving a promotion. We must do better than that in the future..."
Hormone Receptors in Breast Cancer Tissue May Indicate Effective Therapy

The presence of hormone receptor proteins in breast cancer tissue may be a useful indicator of the kind of therapy that would be most effective in treating the disease, according to Drs. Joseph C. Allegra and Marc E. Lippman and their co-workers in the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Treatment and Howard University's Cancer Research Center.

They presented their findings of a study with breast cancer patients on April 4 at the 14th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Washington, D.C.

Hormone receptors, which selectively bind specific hormones, are being studied in an attempt to discover which breast cancers are hormone dependent and, therefore, might be controlled by hormonal therapy.

Used After Surgery

Hormone therapy is often used when breast cancer recurs some time after surgery.

The estrogen receptor protein was the first of the hormone receptors found in breast cancer tissue. Since then several other hormone receptors have been discovered.

Drs. Allegra and Lippman and colleagues analyzed the breast tissue of 329 breast cancer patients for four hormone receptors: estrogen and progesterone, female hormones; androgen, a male hormone that is present in minute amounts in females; and glucocorticoid.

Check for Receptors

Estrogen receptors were found in 53 percent of the patients, most of whom were postmenopausal. Of these estrogen receptor-positive patients, 65 percent responded to hormone therapy.

Only nine percent of patients without the estrogen receptor responded to hormone therapy.

Patients with both the estrogen and glucocorticoid receptors had a higher response rate of 83 percent.

With estrogen and progesterone receptors showed a trend toward an increased response rate, but the comparison was not statistically significant.

The presence of androgen receptor with the estrogen receptor was of no significance.

Surprisingly, the presence or absence of hormone receptors correlated with patients' response rates to chemotherapy as well as to hormone therapy.

Measure Responses

Seventy of the patients who were tested for hormone receptors underwent chemotherapy. Of 45 patients who were estrogen receptor negative, 34 (76 percent) responded to anticancer drugs.

Of the 25 estrogen receptor positive patients, only 3 (12 percent) responded to chemotherapy.

Director of NCI Discusses Viewpoints at Wed. Forum

Dr. Arthur C. Upton, who was appointed Director of the National Cancer Institute on July 29, 1977, will discuss his Perspectives After the First Nine Months at the next meeting of the NCI Fourth Wednesday Forum. The meeting will be held April 26 from noon to 1 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

Since his appointment, Dr. Upton has conducted a broad review of NCI activities in order to familiarize himself with the structure and programs of the Institute. He will report on the perspectives gained through this review, discuss the rationale for changes that have been made, and outline plans for future directions of the Institute.

After his presentation, Dr. Upton will welcome questions and comments from the audience.
Current Fogarty Scholars-in-Residence Meet With Members of Advisory Panel

All eight Scholars-in-Residence currently at NIH gathered for afternoon tea Friday 3 with members of the Scholars-in-Residence Advisory Panel.

Since the Fogarty Scholars are from many different countries, visit the campus for varying lengths of time, are sponsored by various Institutes, and not—well not all—reside in Stone House, such a meeting of the entire group is actually a rather rare occasion.

Sir George Pickering, a specialist in internal medicine, hypertension, and cerebrovascular diseases who has been visiting NIH since January, planned to fly back to Oxford the following day. However, he will return to NIH in October and remain on campus through December of this year.

Dr. Roger Stanier of Canada, visiting from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, was featured in the April 4 issue of the NIH Record (page 8).

Dr. Paul Zamecnik of Colis P. Huntington Laboratories, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass., known for pioneering studies of in vitro protein synthesis, is visiting NIH from March to June. While at NIH he is working with Dr. Peter J. Fischinger of the National Cancer Institute, in Bldg. 41, Room 400 (496-1200).

Other current Scholars-in-Residence and their affiliations are:

- Dr. G. N. Ramachandran, Institute professor of biophysics of the Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, has been at NIH since August 1977 and will remain through June of this year. He is internationally known for his work in crystallography, especially in the areas of proteins and polypeptides. He can be reached at Stone House, 496-2087.
- Dr. Michael Schramm of the biological chemistry department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, is visiting NIH for 1 year, beginning in September 1977. He is particularly interested in gland functions, hormone receptors, and metabolic diseases. He is sponsored by Dr. Martin Rodbell of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, Bldg. 5-B, Room 26.

Dr. Jan G. Waldenstrom of the department of medicine, Malmö, General Hospital, Malmö, Sweden, came to NIH in February and will remain through April. He is chief editor of the Acta Medica Scandinavica and consulting physician at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm. Three syndromes bear his name, including Waldenström’s globulinemia. He has made key contributions to understanding myeloma and related diseases. Dr. Waldenström may be contacted at Stone House, 496-2027.

Organize Conference This Week

Dr. Helmut Holzer and Georges N. Cohen also visited NIH last year (see the NIH Record, March 8, 1977) and have returned this year.

Members of the Advisory Panel attending the tea included: Dr. Mortimer E. Lipsett, Director of the Clinical Center; Dr. Elizabeth Neufeld, NHLBI; Dr. Jack Orloff, NIHBLI; Dr. Ira Pastan, NCI; and Dr. Joseph E. Rain, NIAMDD.

Dr. Milo D. Leavitt, Jr., Director of the Fogarty International Center, Dr. Peter Condliffe, chief of the Scholars and Fellowships Branch, FIC, and several FIC staff members were also present.

Other members of the Advisory Panel not able to attend are: Dr. Donald B. Calne, NINCDS; Dr. Edward V. Evarts, NMH; Dr. Jerome Green, NHLBI; Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Director of NIGMS; Dr. Melvin L. Kohn, NIMH; Dr. Richard M. Krause, Director of NIAID; Dr. Clare H. Winestock, DRG; and Dr. Sheldon Wolff, New England Medical Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.

NIH Visiting Scientists

Program Participants

- 3/26—Dr. Katsuhisa Tawada, Japan, Laboratory of Physical Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Richard Podolsky, NIAMDD, Bldg. 6, Rm. 106.
- 3/26—Dr. Atsushi Togawa, Japan, Laboratory of Microbiology and Immunology. Sponsor: Dr. Joost Oppenheim, NIDR, Bldg. 30, Rm. 327.
- 3/27—Dr. Andrei Rotter, United Kingdom, Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics. Sponsor: Dr. Marshall Nirenberg, NHLBI, Bldg. 36, Rm. 1C96.

NCI Hosts Visitors

- 4/1—Dr. Riccardo Dalla Fava, Italy, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Prem Sarin, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 6B04.
- 4/1—Dr. Jorma Koski-Oja, Finland, Laboratory of Viral Carcinogenesis. Sponsor: Dr. George Tadaro, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 1C22.

Visits Dr. Korn

- 4/1—Dr. Sueo Matsumura, Japan, Laboratory of Cell Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Edward Korn, NHLBI, Bldg. 3, Rm. 1B20.
- 4/1—Dr. Sandip Saha, India, Laboratory of Immunobiology. Sponsor: Dr. Sarkis Ohanian, NCI, Bldg. 37, Rm. 2B23.

Fogarty Scholars now on campus include (I to r): Dr. Schramm and Dr. Waldenstrom; Dr. Ramachandran, talking with Dr. Neufeld (r) and Dr. Condiffe (back to camera); Dr. Cohen (Dr. Orloff, r); and Drs. Zamecnik and Holser. Dr. Stanier (not in photo) also recently came to NIH.
NICHD Sponsors Science Writers’ Seminar, Press Room at NYC Meetings

A science writers’ seminar, Advances In Child Health Research, will be held Tuesday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Madison Suite of the New York Hilton.

Organized by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the seminar is sponsored jointly by the NICHD with the Society for Pediatric Research and the American Pediatric Society.

Speakers, all experts in pediatric research, will outline new development in three major research areas:

- Nutrition in the Newborn—Breastmilk: Its Role in Immunity; Is Human Milk Best for All Babies?
- Fetal Medicine—New Method for Fetal Evaluation; Advances in Prenatal Diagnosis
- Environmental Insults Before Birth—Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Effects on Learning and Behavior; Maternal Smoking and Fetal Deaths.

Provides News, Feature Material

The purpose of the seminar is to provide news and feature material for writers who report on child health issues as media staff members or freelancers.

The seminar will be held during the annual meetings of the Society for Pediatric Research, American Pediatric Society, and Ambulatory Pediatric Association. Throughout those meetings, from April 24 through April 28, a press room will be open in the Morgan Suite of the New York Hilton.

For details on the seminar, contact the Office of Research Reporting, NICHD, at (301) 496-5133.

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.—Shakespeare

Norman L. Osinski has been appointed contract officer for the National Library of Medicine. He succeeds Kenneth C. Sterry, who has been named assistant director for administration and operations at the Library's Atlantean National Medical Audiovisual Center. Mr. Osinski was previously a procurement analyst with the HEEW Management and Budget Office.

8 Young Science Award Winners Visit NIH

At the NIH Visitors Center, the award winners are: (1 to r, front) Robin Eng, Edward Chen, Mary Boylan, Bradley Teague; (1 to r, rear) Marilyn Mayer, Stephen Cornaby, Deborah Bentley, and David Loba.

Dr. De Luca Receives Mead Johnson Award

Dr. Luigi M. De Luca, head of the Differentiation Control Section, Experimental Pathology Branch, National Cancer Institute, was given the Mead Johnson Award for Research in Nutrition of the American Institute of Nutrition for his work on the mechanism of action of vitamin A.

The award of $1,000 and an inscribed scroll is given to an investigator who has not yet reached his 40th birthday.

Dr. De Luca received the award April 12 at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Nutrition in Atlantic City.

He obtained a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in Italy in 1964, and joined Dr. George Wolf's laboratory at MIT to work on the metabolic action of vitamin A in maintaining epithelial differentiation.

Dr. De Luca, who joined NCI in 1971, is the author of approximately 40 scientific publications.

His main contribution has been the finding that vitamin A is directly involved in controlling biosynthesis of specific glycoproteins.

Such involvement occurs via the formation of a phosphorylated derivative of vitamin A, retinyl phosphate, found in mammalian cell membranes in the free form and as its mannosyl derivative.

Recent work in Dr. De Luca's laboratory has shown that spontaneously or chemically transformed cells regain some of the characteristics of normal cells after culturing in the presence of vitamin A. Their saturation density decreases to that of their normal counterparts, and they become much more adhesive.

Dr. De Luca and his co-workers have found that the transformed cells synthesize phosphorylated derivatives of vitamin A. Retinyl phosphate itself increases the adhesion of these cells.

Thus, it appears that some of the effects of vitamin A on cancerous tissues may occur through glycoprotein reactions of membranes.
Ten Nations Participate in Workshop, Evaluate Different Types of Interferon

Interferon workshop participants Drs. Pieter DeSommer (far left), Rega Institute, Belgium, and Fakhry Assad (second from right), World Health Organization, Switzerland, discuss session reports with workshop organizers Drs. June K. Dunnick and George J. Galasso (far right), Development and Applications Branch, NIAID.

Research clinicians from nine foreign Nations and the U.S. participated in a workshop here, on March 21-26, on Clinical Trials with Exogenous Interferon.

Jointly sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization, the meeting was designed to bring together investigators actively using interferon to treat patients with a variety of infectious and metastatic diseases. Interferon is a naturally occurring substance that has long been recognized as playing an important role in the body's defenses against disease. Scientists have now developed methods to produce it outside the body, but this exogenous interferon is costly and difficult to produce.

Despite these limitations, exogenous interferon—usually produced by either human leukocyte or fibroblast cells—appears promising in the treatment and prevention of several major illnesses, many of which are caused by viruses.

At the recent workshop, more than 25 speakers presented their findings to evaluate the therapeutic effectiveness of the different types of interferon.

Preliminary studies suggest that interferon can be used to treat a variety of infectious diseases including hepatitis B and herpes infections.

Studies are now under way in England, Belgium, The Netherlands, and the United States to determine the usefulness of interferon for hepatitis B. These studies are designed to determine the most effective dose and type of interferon.

In addition, interferon is currently under investigation for the prevention of viral infections following renal and bone marrow transplants.

According to preliminary findings, patients with certain types of cancer may benefit from interferon therapy.

Swedish Study Cited

In one study, conducted by Swedish investigators, patients with osteogenic sarcoma who received interferon appeared to do as well, and, in some cases better than those who would have done receiving high dose chemotherapy (methotrexate or adriamycin) for treating this type of cancer.

At the M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston and at Stanford University in California controlled clinical trials are in progress to assess the use of interferon in several forms of metastatic disease.

During the 3-day meeting, five workshop sessions allowed small groups of investigators to review and discuss patient data and draw up recommendations for future research.

In view of the limited supply of exogenous interferon, the partici-

NLM Board of Regents Has Seven New Members

On March 20, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of seven members to the NLM Board of Regents. The Library had been without appointed Regents since last August, when the term of Dr. Joseph P. Volker expired. Board meetings scheduled for September 1977 and January 1978 were cancelled.

The new Regents are:

- Dr. Thomas Chalmers, president and dean, Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York;
- Dr. Nicholas E. Davies, attending physician, Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.;
- Dr. S. Richardson Hill, Jr., president, University of Alabama in Birmingham;
- Dr. Doris H. Merritt, dean, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Indiana-Purdue University;
- Dr. Cecil G. Sheps, professor of social medicine, University of North Carolina;
- Dr. Kelly M. West, professor of medicine and of continuing education, University of Oklahoma;
- James F. Williams II, medical librarian, Shiffman Medical Library, Wayne State University.

The Regents, established by the National Library of Medicine Act of 1956, advises the Director and staff of the Library and makes recommendations to the Secretary of HEW on matters of policy affecting the Library.

Review Grant Applications

The Regents also review applications for grants. The Act stipulates that 10 appointed Regents shall be selected from among leaders in the fundamental and medical sciences, scientific or medical library work, public affairs, public health, and hospital administration. The Board meets 3 times a year.

In addition to the 10 appointed members, there are 7 ex officio Regents: the Surgeons General of the PHS, Army, Navy, and Air Force; the chief medical director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery, VA; the assistant director for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences of the National Science Foundation; and the Librarian of Congress.

The Regents have suggested that its use be limited to controlled clinical trials, preferably through multicenter studies, and only for diseases where data exists to justify its use.

In addition, they called for increased use of interferon from all available sources, as well as additional studies to delineate differences in the various preparations.