University of Colorado Team Improves Surgical Treatment of Biliary Atresia

Two young girls celebrated their third birthdays last Friday, July 21, thanks to the efforts of surgical teams at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver.

Linda Puentes and Paula Highstreet were feted at a party arranged by the staff of the Children's Clinical Research Center, where both were treated for a congenital condition called biliary atresia.

Children born with this condition have closed bile ducts, which means that bile cannot flow from their liver to their intestine. Bile aids the body in the digestion of fats and in the absorption of essential vitamins. Back up of bile produces liver cirrhosis.

Until recently, children born with this condition almost always died before they were 6 years old. About 10 years ago, a revolutionary surgical procedure was first attempted in Japan which used part of the child's intestine to replace the blocked bile duct. This operation, while often successful, resulted in frequent infections complications of the bile ducts leading to death for some of the treated children.

Since 1974, Dr. John Lilly and a research team from the University of Colorado Medical Center have been working to improve the surgical treatment of biliary atresia, a condition which affects one in 10,000 births.

Developed 4 Years Ago

Using the special facilities of the Children's Pediatric Research Center, Dr. Lilly and his colleagues have developed an operation that over the last 4 years has resulted in some bile flow for 60 percent of their patients. Thirty-three percent of the children now have normal bile drainage, representing a possible cure.

According to Dr. Lilly, the operation is done within several weeks of birth, and no child has died if there has been normal bile flow at 3 years of age. Thus, the birthday party celebration for Linda and Paula both of whom have normal bile flow and will turn 3 in the near future.

The Children's Clinical Research Center, where Dr. Lilly's biliary atresia patients are treated and studied, is a special patient-centered hospital research unit funded for the medical center by the Divi-

NIAID Plans for P3, P4 Level National Biomedical Containment Lab in Frederick

Construction of a National Biomedical Containment Laboratory (NBCL) for the safe conduct of ongoing scientific research requiring high-containment conditions is now in the planning and design stages, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced at a local press briefing in Frederick, Md., on July 6.

Upon completion, the NBCL— which will contain both P3 and P4 laboratories—will function as a permanent facility available to NIH researchers and to qualified investigators nationwide.

The current architectural and engineering studies—managed by Litton Biometrics Inc.—represent the first phase in the physical renovation of three preexisting, adjoining buildings on the grounds of the Frederick Cancer Research Center, Frederick, Md.

Covering an area of more than 30,000 square feet, the NBCL will house laboratories with safety specifications exceeding those in conventional laboratories available at NIH and in the scientific community.

These laboratories will be used primarily for health-related research on infectious diseases and for projects using recombinant DNA technology and other techniques that present real or potential risks to the investigators or to the environment.

Aids Disease Research

The bulk of the scientific work at the NBCL will be carried out in the Laboratory of Microbial Virulence—a new intramural laboratory of NIAID. NIAID staff will conduct experiments aimed at understanding disease-causing microorganisms and the basic mechanisms involved in the development of infections.

Infectious diseases remain a major cause of illness in the U.S., as well as posing significant public health problems for the developing countries of the world.

Experiments involving recombinant DNA technology, including risk assessment studies, are expected to serve as valuable tools in (See CONTAINMENT, Page 6)

Mouthrinising Is Found Effective in Reducing Tooth Decay in Children

Representatives from 17 communities participating in demonstrations in school-based fluoride mouthrinising programs met on July 10 in Bethesda, Md., to report and evaluate results after 2 years.

The demonstrations were designed and funded by the National Caries Program of the National Institute of Dental Research, and will continue until February 1979.

Data reported from the communities indicate that a reduction in dental decay as high as 46 percent can be achieved at a cost as low as $2.66 per child per year. School superintendents reported that the preventive program is easily accommodated into the school activities.

Researchers, dental public health workers, and school officials agree that weekly fluoride mouthrinising in schools is a feasible and highly effective method of preventing tooth decay in children and should be implemented nationwide in communities which do not have access to fluoridated drinking water.

An estimated 25 million American children could benefit from such programs.
Caribbean Trips: Enjoy Sailing, Time on Shore

Enjoy 5 full days of sailing aboard a large sloop or ketch in the Virgin Islands, then 2 days of pampered luxury at the new Sugar Bird Hotel on Water Island, all for $580 per person, including airfare.

This Caribbean Holiday also includes: all food, liquor, and provisions while aboard the yacht, MAP at Sugar Bird Hotel, sailing, swimming, snorkeling, tennis, and sightseeing.

Licensed Captain Aboard

A licensed captain will be aboard each vessel. Tours leave Washington on Sept. 15, Oct. 16, and Nov. 6.

R&W is happy to assist in making travel arrangements, so don't delay—a limited number of berths are available. Contact June Jontiff, 699-6061, for further information.

Music of Outer Space, Laser Light Show: Tickets Available

R&W invites you to join us for a unique celestial happening: Music From Outer Space and Laser Light Show—a spectacular summer concert at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Md., on Friday, Aug. 11, at 8 p.m.

Don't miss this marvelous program offering selections from 2001: A Space Odyssey, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, and Star Wars, all in a beautiful setting.

Hurry and sign up for reservations at the Activities Desk in Bldg. 31. Pavilion and lawn seats will be available at a considerable discount. Children under 12 admitted free with an adult when purchasing lawn seats.

May the “force” be with you!

Visit Greece, Its Islands, Istanbul on Air/Sea Tour

Join R&W for an unforgettable holiday to Greece and its islands and Istanbul. Leave Dulles International airport Oct. 27 and arriving in Athens board the luxury liner, TTS Atlas, and begin an adventure by sea.

After a week in the Aegean—touring the Greek islands of Delos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini—return to Athens and explore its ancient classical sites in the beautiful city, with shopping in the famous flea market.

This air/land/sea all inclusive package offers the finest accommodations, meals, and tours for $1,289 per person, Oct. 27 through Nov. 11.

For further information on this and other R&W tours, contact June Jontiff, 699-6061, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.}

Greece, Islands Subject Of Free Film on Aug. 1

Join R&W and Golden Holiday Travel Ltd. for a film journey to Greece and Its Islands—legendary places and mythical shores alive with history and romance. This information presentation will take place in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1, from noon to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 1.

A must for those who plan to embark on the Holiday in Greece, Oct. 27-Nov. 11.

Admission is free. All NIHers are invited to attend.

‘After-Hours’ Program Offers College Courses in Downtown Buildings

More than 60 college-level courses will be offered after working hours to civilian, military personnel, and the general public in 31 downtown Federal buildings in the District of Columbia this fall through the Federal After-Hours Education Program.

The College of General Studies, George Washington University, offers undergraduate and graduate courses leading to the associate in arts, the bachelor of science, and the master of science degrees.

Those seeking self-improvement courses may enroll as non-degree students.

‘After-hours’ courses include accounting, anthropology, art, business administration, economics, English, foreign language, geography, history, humanities, international affairs, management, mathematics, oceanography, political science, psychology, public administration, sociological theory, speech and drama, and statistics.

Also available are courses leading to a master of science in administration with areas of concentration in such courses as automatic data processing, business financial management, governmental administration, public personnel management, systems management, and research and development.

Registration for the fall semester will be held in Conference Rooms A, B, and D, just off the lobby, Department of Commerce Bldg. 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 30, and Thursday, Aug. 31.

Tuition is $82 per semester hour, and all courses are 3 semester hours.

The Government Employees Training Act of 1958 gives Federal agencies broad authority to pay all tuition costs and other fees if courses to be taken are related to present or anticipated job requirements.

Fall semester classes will begin Sept. 14, continuing through Dec. 22.

For further information, contact Robert W. Stewart, Jr., field representative, College of General Studies, G.W.U., 699-7016.

FAES Registration: Correction

The FAES Graduate School at NIH is conducting registration for the fall semester by mail through Aug. 15.

Registration may be made in person from Thursday, Sept. 7, through Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration on Saturday, Sept. 9, is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Catalogs are available in the FAES office in the Clinical Center, Bldg. 10, Room H1-L-101. To have one sent, call 498-6272.
Foul Weather Foils Not Intrepid NIH’ers
In Sailing Club’s Second Chance Regatta

Tired but happy, the winners of the Second Chance Regatta are (1 to r): Dick Grann; Keith Gorlen, skipper; and Wayne Rashband.

Neither foul weather, nor equipment failures, nor long delays kept the NIH sailors from their intended rounds.

The Second Chance Regatta got underway in a driving rain on Saturday, June 17. Enthusiastic racers completed a long course in the Sailing Association’s 19-foot Flying Scots.

Keith Gorlen captured the skipper’s trophy with help from his crew, Wayne Rashband, and Dick Grann.

Club Meets July 27

The Sailing Association meets on the last Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 27, in Bldg. 30, Room 117, at 8 p.m.

Those wishing to have dinner before the meeting will get together at the San Francisco East Restaurant in Bethesda at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Singles Plan Club Picnic,
Meeting, Fall Activities

The NIH Singles Club is planning a picnic in Virginia—at the home of a member and at an adjacent park—on Saturday, July 29, beginning at 1 p.m. Contact Russ Ulshaefer, Westwood Bldg., Room 154, 496-7337, for details. The charge of $3 will include food and drink.

Meet August 3 at Noon

A business meeting will be held at noon on Aug. 3, in Bldg. 31, Conference Room 10 (11th floor, A wing).

Informal get-togethers continue from 5 to 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Rec Room, Bldg. 29. Music and refreshments are provided. Visitors are welcome.

Annual dues of $12 ($9 renewal if you joined since April 1) entitle members to attend one party a month free from July to December. Contact Susan Skuntz, Bldg. 37, Room 1A09, for further details.

Sailing Club To Picnic
In Annapolis on August 5

The NIH Sailing Association will hold its annual picnic in Annapolis at Thomas Point Park on Saturday, Aug. 5, from noon until dusk.

Everyone interested in sailing the club’s boats and socializing is invited to attend and participate in sailing the club’s boats and socializing. Boat owners are encouraged to bring their own boats as well.

The park overlooks the bay, and there is a shelter with tables and grills. Please bring your own food.

Directions are available at the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31. If the 9 o’clock C&P weather forecast indicates a 40 percent or more chance of rain the picnic will be cancelled.

R&W Offers Special Advance
Tickets for Alvin Alley Dancers

Once again R&W offers tickets for the Alvin Alley Dance Theater. This electrifying group will be performing at the Merriweather Post Pavilion on Sunday, Sept. 3, at 8 p.m. Don’t hesitate to seize this opportunity to see this remarkable company.

Sign up for your reservations at the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31. Pavilion seats will be available for $10. Hope to see you there!
UP AND UP THEY GO!

Clinical Center Construction
Radiation Oncology Department

Old entrances close while new ones are constructed.

On the north side of the CC, deep excavations proceed for the underground facility.

While bulldozers dig, steel reinforcement rods are stockpiled, and wood bracing and plastic sheeting anchored by tires prevent erosion.

Ambulatory Care Research Facility

First, men and machines dig the foundations.

Demolition makes way for the addition.

Some equipment is "airlifted" by cranes.

The ACRF parking garage takes form, with the Naval Medical Center visible in the background.

Construction continues above the parking garage level of the ACRF as seen from the east side (r) and including an elevator shaft on the CC's west side.
The first forms for the concrete foundation are readied in August 1977.

Steel workers walk the girders, as seen through the windows of NLM.

A worker perches precariously on a support and concrete ledge.

New signs point to new buildings underway.

After the foundation is laid, the steel framework rises.

Cranes assist in the construction of the 10-story tower.
DCRT Worker Stays Home on the Job: Quadriplegic Voice-Operates Computer

Rick Pilgrim, 23-year-old quadriplegic, gets instructions for logging-on to communicate with the NIH Central Computer Utility from his supervisor, William Vincent, head of the Clinical Support Section, Data Management Branch, DCRT. Special software being developed by DMB will soon enable him to use his own voice-operated minicomputer to interface with DCRT's computers. Now, his mother types in what he dictates on this NIH terminal.

By Mary Hodges

Richard Pilgrim, of Fairfax, Va., was a computer programmer looking for a job. When he offered his services to the Data Management Branch of the Division of Computer Research and Technology last June, he included a few stipulations: that he be allowed to stay in bed and that he be given a private telephone. DCRT agreed.

Rick is not receiving red carpet treatment. He has, on the contrary, earned this unique bargaining position through determination, hard work, and modern technology.

A quadriplegic since 1973, Rick works at computer programming with his eyes and his voice while lying flat on his bed at home.

For the past 2 years, he has studied FORTRAN, COBOL, and computer operations and has amassed the equivalent of more than 500 hours of computer training with “hands-on” experience.

Modern technology, in the form of a voice-operated computer terminal at his bedside, has enabled this 23-year-old to compete in today's job market with a salable skill.

He comes to DMB with practical experience, having already designed, programmed, debugged, and documented COBOL programs, one of which currently serves as an inventory control system for an electronics laboratory.

At DMB, he has been assigned to the Clinical Support Section which is developing the Clinical Information Utility (CIU) system, a clinical data management system that receives, organizes, archives, and retrieves clinical data for research analysis at the Clinical Center.

During these initial months, while special software is being prepared by DMB's Clinical Support Section to enable Rick's own computer terminal to interface with NIH's Central Computer Utility, he is familiarizing himself with DCRT's programs and facilities via a keyboard-type terminal which his mother operates.

Once her son starts using the new voice-controlled software program in the fall, Mrs. Pilgrim's role as “programmer's assistant” will be reduced to telephone dialer and general clerk.

She hardly views this as a demotion, however, because she is delighted to let her son manage “his first paying job” since his paralyzing accident 5 years ago.

Rick's career in computer programming began in the summer of 1975 when his sponsor, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation of Virginia, worked with George Washington University Medical Center's Rehabilitation, Research, and Training Center to arrange for him to study with Scope Electronics Inc. of Reston, Va.

During 1976, Rick studied Introduction to FORTRAN and COBOL with Scope, which had developed a word recognition system for severely handicapped programmers.

This system, which is a multiuser, programmable system, is called Voice Data Entry Terminal System (VDETS), stores its vocabulary of reference patterns in a Data General Nova minicomputer capable of handling some 50 state-
Surgery

(Continued from Page 1)

Aspects of the operation include the abdominal wall and then doubled back.

This drawing shows the surgical procedure developed by the University of Colorado Medical Center team for the treatment of biliary atresia. Important aspects of the operation include the double barreled enterostomy on the abdominal wall (A) to a regular enterostomy (B) and the eventual closure of the opening. Once the wound is closed, bile flows through the constructed duct directly from the liver to the intestine as seen in (C).

The other drawing shows the conversion of the double barreled enterostomy (two openings in the abdominal wall) (A) to a regular enterostomy (B) and the eventual closure of the opening. The other drawing shows the conversion of the double barreled enterostomy (two openings in the abdominal wall) (A) to a regular enterostomy (B) and the eventual closure of the opening. The opening, once the wound is closed, bile flows through the constructed duct directly from the liver to the intestine as seen in (C).

So far, the University of Colorado team has operated on 42 infants suffering from biliary atresia, more than any other research center in the United States. Of the 42 patients, 25 have drained bile and 14 are now having normal bile drainage. Twenty-four of the patients are still alive, with the longest survivor being almost 4 years old.

Linda and Paula are the eighth and ninth patients to reach their third birthdays.

Dr. Lilly’s work also was supported by the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases and the VA.

Treatable Brain Diseases in the Elderly: Consensus Conf. To Publish Conclusions

Few physicians would turn a patient away with a diagnosis of “middle age chest pain”; many more are likely to do so with a diagnosis of “old age vulnerability.”

While more than three million symptoms of brain failure, it is estimated that as many as 50 percent of these could be retrieved from the diagnostic wastebasket of “senility.”

On July 10 and 11, the National Institute on Aging and the Fogarty International Center brought together experts in the fields of internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry, radiology, and general medicine for a consensus development conference on treatable brain diseases in the elderly.

With this meeting, NIAID began work towards the development of a document that will encourage primary care physicians to take a closer look at symptoms of cognitive dysfunction in their elderly patients rather than dismiss these symptoms as inevitable consequences of old age.

During the 2-day conference, the participants arrived at several important conclusions.

- Despite growing evidence that depression is a common response to crises occurring late in life, this disorder is one of the most frequently overlooked reversible causes of cognitive impairment in the elderly.

- This may be because physicians do not look for depression in their elderly patients; it may also be because stereotyped images of age-related mental decline cloud their perception.

- Drug toxicity is another preventable reversible cause of brain failure in the elderly. While the elderly constitute 11 percent of the U.S. population, it is currently estimated that they consume 25 percent of all drugs sold in the U.S.

- Because of the frequency of multiple disease states in old age, it is not uncommon to find one patient simultaneously taking five or six different drugs.

- Drugs should be administered to elderly patients with extreme caution and only after the physician has established what and how much medication the patient is currently taking.

- Physicians should be aware that psychosocial factors may cause or complicate cognitive dysfunction in old age.

- Persons in nursing homes and other institutions with diagnoses of brain in old age are likely to be poor, isolated, widowed, and suffering from some sensory deprivation.

- A patient with intellectual impairment is as deserving as a patient with any other complaint of a comprehensive workup including a thorough history to determine the extent and tempo of the decline as well as a thorough physical examination to detect treatable causes of that impairment.

- The mental status examination may be the most useful instrument for taking a patient’s history, but none of the standardized tests currently being used in this way provide an adequate measure of all signs of brain failure.

At this time, psychological testing can be valuable in suggesting treatments and in assessing impact of treatment, but not in establishing a differential diagnosis.

- The CAT scan (computerized axial tomography) may be valuable in ruling out certain treatable causes of cognitive impairment but cannot be used to diagnose senile dementia or cerebral atrophy.

- The so-called irreversible disorders—most notably senile dementia of the Alzheimer’s type and multi-infarct dementia—are by no means hopeless ones.

- Much can be done in terms of general care for the patient to lessen discomfort, to slow, and sometimes to arrest deterioration, and to help the patient make use of residual strengths.

It may be several months before final consensus is reached on all of the issues discussed during the conference.

A final document clarifying the issues presented at the conference will then be prepared and circulated through a number of professional medical organizations.

On Saturday, June 3, NIAID participated in a Career Fair held at St. Paul Christian Community Church in Washington, D.C. Youths interested in careers available in the metropolitan area talked with representatives from Government agencies as well as public and private firms. Edna Miller, employee development specialist for NIAID, coordinated the Fair and was assisted by the NIAID Personnel Office. Speakers included several D.C. officials. At the NIAID booth at the Fair were (1 to r): a visitor, Robert Chames and Lelia Hooton of the NIAID Personnel Office, NIAID deputy director Dr. John Seal, NIH deputy director Dr. Thomas J. Malone, another visitor, and NIAID director Dr. Richard M. Krause. Right photo: I to r: Lewis Anthony, special assistant to D.C. Mayor Walter Washington, and the Reverend Earl S. Luckett, pastor of the church where the Fair was held, talk with Dr. Krause.
1978 Instrumentation Symposium and Exhibit Will Be Held Aug. 7-9

The NIH Instrumentation Symposium, sponsored by the Biomedical Engineering and Instrumentation Branch, Division of Research Services, will be held at the Masur Auditorium, Monday through Wednesday, Aug. 7-9, with sessions from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Topics will be: Modern Detection Techniques in Liquid Chromatography, Novel Chemical Sensors, Biomedical Applications of Fluorescence, Biological Applications of Instrumental Microanalysis, New Approaches in Application of NMR to Biology, and Newer Methods of Ionization in Organic Mass Spectrometry.

Registration is not required. For programs or further information, call 496-6771.

The 1978 Washington-National Instrumentation Exposition is being held concurrently at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Over 100 exhibits featuring the latest in research and medical instruments will be on display.

Free bus service will be provided between NIH and the hotel as follows:

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Admission to the exhibits is free.

On July 14, as a highlight of her experience in Girls Nation, Jennifer Meyer of Bridgeport, W. Va., met with NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson to discuss the administration of NIH. Jenny is an active member of a Medical Explorers Post and Medical Careers Club. She also plays several musical instruments and participates in a choir, handbell choir, ensemble, and youth orchestra.

Avital Shcharansky—wife of Anatoly Shcharansky, a Soviet scientist recently convicted of treason in Moscow—spoke to an overflow audience in the Masur Auditorium on July 18. Speaking with the aid of an interpreter, Mrs. Shcharansky presented her views on ways that the American scientific community can aid their Soviet counterparts. Her visit to NIH was sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences.

Avital Shcharansky

Does Your Paycheck Come to Your Office? There is a Better Way

Have you ever been inconvenienced or annoyed trying to catch up with your paycheck after returning from leave or travel?

Have you ever experienced waiting your turn in long lines at the Agent Cashiers' windows?

Have you ever requested that your check be held for pickup only to find that it had been ordered mailed, and that the address used was the one you moved from 3 months ago?

Have you ever experienced frustrating delays while you waited for the Post Office to deliver your pay check?

THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

The U.S. Treasury is encouraging all employees to request delivery of their salary checks directly to a financial institution or a Credit Union.

The plan is simple, safe, theft-proof, efficient, and fast.

Contact your Payroll Representative and request Standard Form 1189, or for more information about how the plan works, contact Disbursing Services Section, 496-1298.

PBB Subject of Special Issue of NIEHS Journal

The controversial 1973 Michigan incident in which a flame retardant chemical was accidentally distributed as a cattle feed additive has resulted in substantial scientific research to study the incident and the chemical involved, polybrominated biphenyl, better known as PBB.

The next issue of the NIEHS journal, Environmental Health Perspectives, to be published in August, will be devoted to scientific papers presented at an October 1977 conference on PBB.

This conference, held at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., was partially funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and sponsored by the Michigan State Agricultural Experiment Station.

The accidental contamination of cattle feed with the chemical flame retardant caused abnormal hoof growth, skin lesions, and other pronounced health problems in exposed cattle. Before the problem was pinpointed, some of the less conspicuous diseased cattle were used in dairy production or butchered for meat, leading to human exposure. PBB was also detected in swine and poultry.

Effects Reported

Health complaints reported in exposed people included extreme fatigue, disorientation, loss of memory, as well as skin lesions, and immune alterations.

In the preface to this special issue of Environmental Health Perspectives, Drs. Steven D. Aust and Lee R. Shull, co-chairmen of the PBB conference, state: "The objectives set for the conference were to provide a forum for the discussion of what is known about PBB and to delineate what is now known. Another objective was to facilitate publication of the knowledge. This issue of Environmental Health Perspectives represents attainment of this objective." Copies of the PBB issue may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The cost of a single issue of Environmental Health Perspectives is $5.10 within the U.S. The domestic annual subscription rate is $30.15 for six issues.

PHS Commissioned Corps Orientation Is on July 26

You and the Commissioned Corps, an orientation program for Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service—especially those newly called to active duty—will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, July 26, at 9 a.m. in the Masur Auditorium.

THE NIH RECORD

July 25, 1978

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