Nat'l HBP Education Program Cited for Excellence

The National High Blood Pressure Education Program recently received a Commendation for Excellence in Health Education Programming, the first such award given by the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).

The program, founded in 1972, is coordinated by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Over 40 health organizations—including the American Medical Association, American College of Physicians, American Heart Association, and other public health groups—are represented in the program.

It was recognized as "a model national health education program (which) has achieved substantial benefits in reduction of hypertension-related cardiovascular deaths in this decade through education for behavior change."

Graham Ward, NHBPPEP coordinator and a SOPHE fellow, was particularly cited for his leadership in the quality of the program and its day-to-day implementation.

Helen S. Ross, president of SOPHE, presented the award at the society's annual meeting in Los Angeles. As the national organization of professional health educators with over 1,200 members, SOPHE sets standards for professional preparation and practice of health education activities.

NIAID-Supported Scientists, Cooper and Richardson Win Lasker Awards

Dr. Heidelberger Dr. Austrian Dr. Gotschlich

Among eight winners of the 1978 Albert Lasker Awards were former HEW Secretary Elliott Richardson; Dr. Theodore Cooper, Dean of Cornell Medical College, former HEW Assistant Secretary for Health and Director of the then National Heart and Lung Institute; and three scientists who received support from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: Drs. Michael Heidelberger, Robert Austrian, and Emil C. Gotschlich.

Mr. Richardson and Dr. Cooper were the recipients of Special Public Service Awards for work on the National High Blood Pressure Education Program.

The three scientists are sharing the Lasker clinical medical research award for their contributions to vaccines that can prevent pneumococcal and meningococcal infections.

Dr. Heidelberger, a former NIAID grantee, is adjunct professor of medicine at New York University. He is responsible for much of the knowledge of the chemical and immunologic properties of the polysaccharide antigens of the pneumococcus.

His discovery, along with Dr. Oswald Avery, that the pneumococcal capsular antigens were carbohydrates led to the successful demonstration in 1945 that a vaccine containing purified polysaccharides of Streptococcus pneumoniae could prevent pneumonia in an epidemic situation.

Dr. Austrian, an NIAID contractor, is chair-

(See LASKER AWARDS, Page 6)
Melvin S. Day Will Direct National Technical Information Service

Mr. Smith (I) discusses with Mr. Day the duties of NLM acting deputy director.

Melvin S. Day has left the National Library of Medicine to become director of the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce. He has been NLM’s deputy director since 1972.

Kent Smith, the library’s assistant director for administration, has been appointed acting deputy director.

In his new position, Mr. Day will direct the programs of the NTIS—the central source for the sale of Government-sponsored research and development reports and other Government analyses prepared by Federal agencies, their contractors, or grantees.

Mr. Day was honored a number of times during his career at NLM. These honors included the NLM Director’s Award, 1975, and a PHS Superior Service Award, 1976. He has also been honored by the Venezuelan Academy of Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences.

In addition to his work at NLM, Mr. Day has been president of the American Society for Information Science, and in 1977, he was named president of the International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board.

Twice Held Captive During World War II

James Tilley Escapes Into Retirement

James R. (Dick) Tilley’s career with the Government started as a $21-a-month drifter before the U.S. entered World War II and led him through two escapes as a downed Army Air Corps bombardier (one from Swiss internment, another from the French military who were afraid he might be a German spy). After the war, the Granville County, N.C., native spent a number of years in the construction business in North Carolina, and 13 years ago, he returned to the Government in the Engineering Shop at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. He will retire from NIEHS and Federal service this month.

Mr. Tilley’s work with the Institute may have been safer than his military duty, but it has been no less busy, with the construction, partitioning, and outfitting of laboratory space for a full intramural research program.

With gravel-voiced amiability, he enjoys telling about various details of his work. “I was a licensed plumber before I came with the Institute,” he says. “I had never installed counter tops, but I had seen it done at various construction sites. When we started outfitting the labs, I knew we’d get burned up on the price if outsiders installed them, so I decided to try it. And we’ve been installing counter tops ourselves ever since.”

Since he started with the Institute, the crew in the Engineering Shop has grown from 6 to 14, and both the crew and the shop space will greatly expand when the Institute moves to its permanent facility in the fall of 1980.

Mr. Tilley’s retirement plans don’t include much rocking chair time. He has recently reactivated his state plumber’s license and has done a number of jobs for friends. He also teaches woodworking in the evening at a local junior high school, in affiliation with Durham Technical Institute. He also has a grandfather clock assembly business.

Some time will certainly be spared for good talk, as when he vividly recalls being shot down in World War II. “We were at 22,000 feet, and the antiaircraft fire was winking around us like fireflies. Two of our engines were out, and in those old B-24’s, you didn’t go far on two engines.... We ran over the end of the runway and started to reap some farmer’s wheat, and finally sank into some damp soil that brought the plane to a stop.”

Neither antiaircraft fire nor retirement appear likely to stop Dick Tilley.

Tickets to Tennis Tournament Available Through R&W

A new $2 million tennis circuit will be sponsored by Avon (formerly under Virginia Slims). The opening event will be the $125,000 Avon Championships of Washington, Jan. 1-7, 1979, at the Smith Center of George Washington University.

R&W will have a block of tickets for sale for Saturday, Jan. 6, 1979, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $6 (plus 25 cents service charge) and are available at the R&W activities desk, Bldg. 31, Rm. 1A-18.

Mr. Tilley (I) stands with Clayton Russ in the Engineering Shop. Dr. David P. Rall, NIEHS Director, stated that Mr. Tilley is “one of the early Institute employees who figuratively and literally helped us build from the ground up.”

Generous Support of Patient Welfare Fund Will Brighten Holiday Season

The Clinical Center Social Work Department is again asking for generous support of the Patient Emergency Fund.

Although there is no charge for medical care at the Clinical Center, patients or their families sometimes have personal emergency expenses connected with their illness. The PEF helps in these emergencies.

For 19 years through the “Davis Plan” NIH employees have donated money to the fund instead of exchanging Christmas or Chanukkah cards with fellow workers. Last year NIH’ers gave over $5,000 to the PEF holiday drive.

This year the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association will distribute holiday posters throughout NIH. Signatures on these posters will take the place of holiday cards. Decorate your office or lab.

Send your checks to “PEF” at the R&W office, Bldg. 31, Rm. 1A-18, to any R&W gift shop, to the CC Social Work Department, Bldg. 10, Rm. 7D-51, or to your administrative officer.

Your gift will help others in the holiday season and also during the coming year.

‘Use or Lose’ Your Annual Leave

Employees are reminded to schedule, in writing, “use or lose” annual leave by Dec. 2, for use during the remainder of the leave year which ends on Jan. 13, 1979.

Your biweekly Earnings and Leave Statement tells you how much annual leave you must use so that you will not lose it when the leave year ends.
Elaine Winters Receives College Chemistry Achievement Award

Elaine Winters, a Stride student at American University who is in the Laboratory of Biology of Viruses, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, on Nov. 9 was presented the College Chemistry Achievement Award for 1978.

The award is given annually to the outstanding chemistry student entering his/her senior year in each of the area 4-year colleges and universities by the Chemical Society of Washington.

In addition to a Certificate of Award, Ms. Winters becomes a student affiliate member of the American Chemical Society, and is eligible to receive subscriptions to Chemical and Engineering News and the Journal of Chemical Education.

Ms. Winters, who has maintained an exceptionally high grade point average, has been with NIAID since 1976. While with LBV, she has been working on purification enzymes that modify messenger RNA. After graduation, she plans to continue her studies in biochemistry either in graduate school or medical school.

Ms. Winters is congratulated by her supervisor, Dr. Bernard Moss, for receiving the College Chemistry Achievement Award for 1978.

Biomedical Ethics Seminars Feature Talks on IRB’s, Ethical and Policy Issues

Barbara Mishkin, deputy staff director of the HEW Secretary’s Ethics Advisory Board, will discuss Institutional Review Boards today (Wednesday, Nov. 29) from 3 to 5 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8.

This Biomedical Ethics Seminar, one in a series offered as part of the STEP Continuing Education Program, will be followed by another featuring a talk on Ethical and Policy Issues in Vitro Fertilization by Dr. Leon Kass.

Dr. Kass, Henry Luce Professor of the liberal arts of human biology at the University of Chicago, will be the speaker at the seminar to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 4.

NCI Chief Pathologist, Dr. Thomas, Retires; Also Headed CC Pathological Anatomy Dept.

Dr. Louis B. Thomas, chief of the NCI Laboratory of Pathology, has retired after 33 years of Federal service.

Dr. Thomas started his NIH career in 1953 with the opening of the Clinical Center, when he was named surgical pathologist under Dr. Harold L. Stewart, NCI’s first chief of pathology, whom he succeeded in 1969.

Concurrently, Dr. Thomas has also served as chief of the Clinical Center’s Pathological Anatomy Department, responsible for NIH-wide coordination of surgical pathology, autopsy and cytology services at the CC.

Among his activities as a pathologist and investigator, Dr. Thomas found greatest satisfaction in his association with the Clinical Center’s residency training program for pathologists. Accredited in 1956, the program has trained some 80 medical school graduates in the specialty of pathologic anatomy.

Early in his career, Dr. Thomas became interested in the study of leukemia. His research showed that the disease often involves parts of the brain where the leukemia cells escape drug effects and give rise to relapses.

As collaborating pathologist, Dr. Thomas assisted clinicians who introduced the use of the drug melphalan to treat choriocarcinoma, and combined radiation and drug therapy to treat Hodgkin’s disease and other lymphomas.

Dr. Thomas recognized the need for a uniform and widely acceptable way of naming and classifying the various kinds of cancers. In 1965, he collaborated in the College of American Pathologists’ Systematized Nomenclature of Pathology (SNOP), the first comprehensive, coded nomenclature specifically for pathological observations. In 1968, a task force headed by Dr. Thomas published the Manual of Tumor Nomenclature and Coding, combining SNOP’s historical classification of cancers with the World Health Organization’s statistical code structure.

“When you use only a statistical code, you lose data on the exact kinds of tumors,” Dr. Thomas explained. “Because much of epidemiology works at the 1 percent level, you need these more detailed codes to turn up significant incidence patterns of rare diseases.”

Maryland Youth Ballet Performs At Walter Johnson High School

R&W and the Maryland Youth Ballet are announcing the third annual production of the full length ballet, “The Enchanted Clock.”

Performances will be at Walter Johnson High School auditorium, Old Georgetown Road and Democracy Boulevard in Bethesda.

Dates and times are as follows:
- Friday, Dec. 29, 8 and 8:15 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 and 8:15 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 and 8:15 p.m.

Tickets are available at the R&W activities desk, Bldg. 31, Rm. TA-18, for all performances. Students and senior citizens, $2; the regular adult price is $3 (all prices include service charges).

The NIH Ski Club is having its first party of the season with dancing and refreshments on Friday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is $2 at the door, and everyone is welcome. Directions and further information are available from the R&W activities desk in Bldg. 31, 496-4600.
There May Be Smoke in ‘Them Thar Hills’
Butt NCI Aims To ‘Smoke’ It Out

A free stop-smoking clinic has been organized for NCI employees with plans to expand it to include other Institutes.

A questionnaire to determine interest in the clinic was sent to all NCI staff members. Of the 131 smokers responding, 110 indicated they wanted to quit. Sixty enrolled in the sessions, and the remainder requested free self-help kits.

The Montgomery County chapter of the American Cancer Society provided seven volunteers—called facilitators—to operate four separate eight-session clinics, the last of which ended before Thanksgiving. As a convenience to employees, sessions were located in three different buildings, and one was offered after regular work hours.

Facilitators, themselves all ex-smokers, developed group dynamics in the clinics, encouraging smokers to reinforce one another. They acted as participants rather than as lecturers, but ensured that specific points on stop-smoking techniques were raised.

Ex-smokers responding to the survey who said they wanted to help others quit will be trained as facilitators for future clinics.

A second clinic is planned for early 1979, with eventual inclusion of other Institutes. Plans also are being made to offer self-help kits to all NIH employees through the Occupational Medical Service.

Similar ACS clinics in other areas report that about one-third of the enrolled smokers succeed in quitting after a 1-year period.

Dental Institute Issues Leaflet, ‘Tetracycline Stained Teeth’

The National Institute of Dental Research has just published a new leaflet entitled Tetracycline Stained Teeth, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 78-1679.

Tetracyclines—a group of infection-fighting antibiotics—produce staining of the teeth if they are given during the time the primary or permanent teeth are forming. For this reason, it is most important that the use of these tetracyclines for treating infections in pregnant women and young children be avoided.

This publication explains the cause and treatment of permanently discolored teeth in children, and lists the names of those drugs which contain tetracyclines.

Copies of this leaflet may be obtained free of charge from the Office of Scientific and Health Reports, NIDR.

No Trash, Please!
Save Those Soft Drink Cans

No trash, please! Those containers you see next to soft drink machines are not for trash. They are for recycling empty soda cans. R&W and Sanitation Services need your help to make the recycling program workable to eventually benefit the Patient Emergency Fund.

We need your cans. Here are a few hints for determining an aluminum can.

- Not magnetic
- Does not rust
- Seamless (canned goods, such as vegetable, soup, etc., are packed in galvanized steel cans. Aluminum cans are 99 percent beer and soft drink containers.)
- Pop-top (depending on the contents, steel cans may have a pop-top, but not usually.)
- Most aluminum cans are marked with an identification, while steel cans have labels that peel off.

Here at NIH, remember that Coke cans are aluminum; Pepsi cans are steel.

Medicine for Layman Series
Concludes with Lectures On Eyes, Joints

The Eye and Diseases will be the topic of the 11th Medicine for the Layman lecture on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium. Dr. Carl Kupfer, National Eye Institute Director, will describe how the visual system works. He will also discuss common eye disorders such as glaucoma and cataract.

The last lecture in the series, on Arthritis, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Dr. John Decker, NIAMDD acting clinical director and chief, Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch, will describe how the joints in our bodies function. He will also speak on joint disorders, including rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, and current treatments for them.

For further information, call the Clinical Center, Office of Clinical Reports and Inquiries, 496-2563.
Italian Scientist Discusses Environmental Disaster at Seveso

The environmental disaster at Seveso, Italy, in which hundreds of area inhabitants had to be evacuated from the path of toxic dioxin contamination when a chemical plant exploded was the subject of a recent scientific presentation at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The speaker was Professor Flaminio Cattabeni of the University of Milan Institute of Pharmacology and Pharmacy.

Dr. David P. Rall, NIEHS Director, noted that NIEHS scientists have followed the Seveso incident closely, several have taken an active, sometimes on-site role in sampling, analysis, and follow-up to the accident.

Reactor Overheats

The accident at Seveso took place in a chemical reactor at a plant of a Swiss-owned Italian company called ICHEMA on July 10, 1976. The plant was manufacturing one of the chemicals used in making the disinfectant hexachlorophene, but one portion of the reactor overheated and a safety valve opened spewing dioxin into the open air.

Professor Cattabeni's presentation focused on the sampling techniques developed for analyzing the contamination. The University of Milan Institute of Pharmacology and Pharmacy was one of the scientific centers contacted soon after the incident.

Early and alarming results of the accident included the death of many small animals—cats, chickens, rabbits, birds, and dogs—and the death of vegetation. Adults began to experience short-term complaints such as blurred vision and nausea, and several adults along with a number of children developed chloracne, a severe skin condition which resembles adolescent acne, but spreads to noncharacteristic parts of the body and is much more severe.

Professor Cattabeni described the urgent conditions under which the early lab work had to be done, the contamination spread being plotted on maps of the Seveso area. "The lab where we worked," he said, "looked like a battlefield headquarters." Between July 22 and Aug. 6, 1976, working 24 hours a day, his lab analyzed 1,000 samples of soil, vegetation, and cotton swab wipings.

Contaminates Soil

"One of the difficulties was the discontinuous nature of the contamination," Professor Cattabeni said. "We could take a sample one place that showed dangerously high levels of dioxin, and another sample no more than 2 meters away that showed very low levels."

Approximately 800,000 tons of soil were contaminated. In addition, large quantities of plastic bags containing contaminated vegetation along with tools and equipment such as clothing used by clean-up and research personnel has yet to be disposed of. Dr. Cattabeni showed slides of the 9-foot high plastic fence that surrounds the still-cloned portions of the most heavily contaminated "zone A."

Dr. Cattabeni said, "It is practically impossible to prevent some mechanical transport of the dioxin. There are holes in the fence where animals and children could pass through, and birds fly in and out of the area all the time, spreading the contamination."

NIEHS has hosted other Italian officials vitally concerned with events at Seveso. The Honorable Bruno Orsini, a member of the Italian Parliament and president of the Parliamentary Investigative Commission on the ICHEMA accident, visited Research Triangle Park, Sept. 22, and Professor Francesco Pochiari, director of the Institute of Health in Italy's Ministry of Health, visited June 22 and 23.

Proceedings Published On Diarrheal Diseases Of Young

The proceedings of a colloquium on the problems of diarrheal diseases common to young animals and children were published in a special supplement of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 173, Sept. 1, 1978.

Collaborative studies were undertaken by veterinary and medical research scientists in attempts to solve the problems. Scientists from Europe and North America met on March 7-9, 1978, at NIH for a colloquium on selected diarrheal diseases of the young.

They shared new information on viral etiological agents including rotaviruses, coronaviruses, parvoviruses (and morphologically similar viruses), as well as bacterial agents including Escherichia coli, Salmonella, and Shigella; information was presented also on immunology, physiology, and therapy of diarrheal diseases.

The colloquium was sponsored by the Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents, AVMA; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Bureau of Biologics, FDA; Science and Education Administration, USDA; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, USDA; and the Fogarty International Center.

Sickle Cell Disease Conferees Consider New Approaches to Therapy

A conference on the molecular and cellular bases of sickle cell disease and possible new approaches to its therapy was held recently in Paris, France.

It was sponsored by INSERM (L'Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medecale) and by NIH through the Fogarty International Center, National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The meeting was attended by over 200 leading scientists concerned with hemoglobin and red cell research from the U.S., South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East.

Nobel Laureate Dr. Max Perutz of Cambridge University, England, gave the keynote address.

At the opening session, Dr. P. Lauden, scientific director of INSERM, reviewed that institute's programs.

Dr. John L. Hercules, project officer for research and development, Sickle Cell Disease Branch, NHLBI, discussed NIH's program for development of therapeutic agents for sickle cell disease, including a screening laboratory planned for evaluation of potential therapeutic agents.

Dr. William A. Eaton of the Laboratory of Chemical Physics, NIAMD, reported on studies of the kinetics of sickle hemoglobin gelation of various mixtures of hemoglobins which simulate the intracellular compositions of individuals with various more benign sickle hemoglobin conditions.

The data from these studies will allow precise estimates of the changes in the properties of the sickle hemoglobin that must be accomplished by therapy to ameliorate the condition.

Dr. Alan N. Schecter of the Laboratory of Chemical Biology, NIAMD, summarized studies on the search for stereospecific inhibitors of sickle hemoglobin gelation among peptides from the hemoglobin amino acid sequence that represent contact regions among hemoglobin tetramers.

The results indicate that aromatic amino acids and peptides containing aromatic amino acids significantly inhibit gelation.

Conference proceedings will be published in the spring of 1979.
Institutional Review Boards' Report, Recommendations Issued

The report and recommendations on "Institutional Review Boards" transmitted to HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research has now been published.

Previously the commission transmitted reports and recommendations on "Research With the Fetus," "Research Involving Prisoners," "Psychosurgery," "Research Involving Children," and "Research Involving Those Institutionalized as Mentally Infirm.

In its new report, the commission concludes that, to assure protection of the rights of human subjects, proposed research involving them should be reviewed by Institutional Review Boards operating pursuant to Federal regulation and located in institutions where the research is to be conducted.

The commission has identified problems and areas of uncertainty in the existing review system and has developed recommendations intended to simplify, clarify, and strengthen the review process.

The commission recommends enactment of Federal laws to authorize the Secretary to promulgate regulations requiring assurances and board review of research involving human subjects whenever such research is supported by any Federal department or whenever such research is sponsored or conducted by an institution that receives funds from any Federal department to provide health care or conduct health-related research.

The commission also recommends enactment of Federal laws to authorize and appropriate funds to support the operation of the IRB by direct cost funding.

Among the most significant recommendations is a provision that the HEW Secretary may specifically approve expedited review procedures adopted by an IRB for carefully defined categories of research that present no more than minimal risk. These categories should be subject to HEW approval before the expedited review can be used.

Once HEW approves, the expedited review should be carried out by the IRB chairman or by an experienced reviewer designated by the chairman. The commission also recommends that informed consent would include, among other requirements, information about any reasonably foreseeable risks to subjects, and whether treatment or compensation is available if harm occurs. Informed consent is to be appropriately documented, but certain exceptions are recommended where written consent is not necessary or, in instances of investigations where informed consent is unnecessary because the subject's interests are adequately protected and any risk is slight and remote.

In addition, the commission recommends that the IRB also determine that the research methods are appropriate to the objectives of the research and the field of study and that the selection of subjects is equitable.

The commission recommends also call for Secretary Califano to require by regulation that an IRB shall review proposed research at convened meetings at which a majority of the members are present and that approval shall be reached by a majority of members present, the exception being the Secretary's approval of expedited procedures.

The IRB should inform investigators of the basis of decisions to disapprove or require the modification of proposed research and give investigators an opportunity to respond in person or in writing.

The commission's recommendations appeared in the Federal Register of Nov. 13, 1978. Additional copies will be available within a few days from the Office for Protection from Research Risks, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014, (301) 496-7005.

LASKER AWARDS

(Continued from Page 1)

The man of the department of research medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He has been the leading advocate for a pneumococcal vaccine. His epidemiologic studies demonstrated that, despite the advent of the antibiotic era, a vaccine was still needed. He identified the 12 types of pneumococci responsible for 75% of human infections and helped develop procedures to isolate and purify their polysaccharides.

Dr. Austrian played a major role in the clinical trials which demonstrated the efficacy and safety of pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccines, culminating in the licensing by FDA in November 1977 of a 14-valent pneumococcal vaccine.

Dr. Gotschlich, an NIAID contractor and grantee, is a professor at Rockefeller University. He has been the leading supporter of a vaccine to conquer meningococci. Beginning with his collaboration with the late Dr. Malcolm Artenstein at the Walter Reed Army Institute for Research, he devised techniques to isolate and purify polysaccharides from Groups A, B, and C meningococci.

Dr. Gotschlich was instrumental in establishing trials which demonstrated the safety and efficacy of the groups A and C vaccines. A 1977 field trial of the Group A vaccine in Finland demonstrated, for the first time, the efficacy of a polysaccharide vaccine in children under the age of 2—those at highest risk for all types of bacterial meningitis.

Three researchers shared the Lasker basic medical research award for studies providing clues to the nature and control of pain and narcotic drug addiction.

They were: Dr. Hans W. Kosterlitz, director of the unit for research on addictive drugs, University of Aberdeen, Scotland; Dr. John Hughes, reader in pharmacological biochemistry, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; and Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, distinguished service professor of pharmacology and psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University.
4 New Centers To Spur Immunologic Research and Patient Care

Four Centers for Interdisciplinary Research on Immunologic Diseases have been established by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The work of the centers will be concerned with research, patient care, and postgraduate education. They are located at the University of Rochester Medical Center, N.Y.; Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C.; the University of California at Los Angeles; and Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis.

A total of $900,000 was set aside by Congress to establish a new program to encourage interdisciplinary research in immunologically-mediated and allergic diseases including asthma.

The centers seek to accelerate the clinical application of new knowledge on the immune system and its disorders deriving from studies in basic biomedical sciences and medical specialties. Investigations at Rochester will be headed by Dr. John P. Leddy, professor of medicine and microbiology.

Examines Complement

This center will examine the biologic and genetic aspects of human complement—a complex series of blood proteins involved in immune response—and will characterize the human autoimmune response in which antibodies are developed against the body's own antigens.

Research will also be aimed at studying asthma and rhinitis utilizing biochemical techniques. There also will be a prospective study of the relationship of recurrent lower respiratory tract disorders in infancy to the development of asthma in adults.

The research at Georgetown University will be directed by Dr. Joseph A. Bellanti, professor of pediatrics and microbiology.

Investigations will be grouped into four major areas: an Allergic Diseases and Respiratory Program includes a project focusing on regional socio-economic impact of immunologic diseases, particularly asthma; the Infectious Diseases Program is aimed at developing a live vaccine directed against Haemophilus Influenzae type b, a common bacterial agent of respiratory infections; an Immune Regulatory Program will concentrate on producing reagents for use in study of autoimmune diseases; and research in the Immunopharmacologic Program will study the role of certain skin cells in various skin diseases and skin graft rejection.

The UCLA center will be headed by Dr. John L. Fahey, professor and chairman of the department of microbiology and immunology.

Research here will include immune functions in various immunologic diseases and investigations on possible relationships of genetic markers to such abnormalities.

One project will explore developmental changes governing the onset of allergic reactions in young children. Another project will focus on a suspected defect in a regulatory mechanism that limits antibody production in such autoallergic diseases as rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus.

An educational program emphasizing self management of asthma will be initiated for children with this condition and their parents.

Dr. Charles W. Parker, professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology, will head the center at Washington University. Studies will focus on the control of immunologic inflammation through analyses of biochemical and cellular events.

This center will investigate the early biochemical events in white blood cell activation and the alteration of white blood cell function in human diseases, particularly in inflammatory bowel disease.

Research will also be conducted on the role of certain cells—mast cells—in the tissue destruction characteristic of some immunologic skin diseases.

In addition, efforts will be directed toward characterization of the receptor for IgE—the allergic antibody—located on the surface membrane of human and animal mast cells and basophils (white blood cells that contain histamine).

Peter Serkin Featured In FAES Concert Dec. 3

The third concert in the 1978-79 Chamber Music Series, sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, will feature Peter Serkin in a piano recital.

The concert will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium. Admission is by ticket only.
Studies Suggest Hypertension May Be Serious Health Problem Among Hispanics

High blood pressure (hypertension) may be a particularly serious health problem for the Nation's Hispanics, according to preliminary studies presented at a recent meeting of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Ad Hoc Committee on Hypertension in Minority Populations.

Dr. Richard Goldman, University of New Mexico assistant professor of internal medicine and pediatrics, and Dr. Larry Schriebert of the HEW-supported Questa Health Center, Questa, N. Mex., presented studies of high blood pressure among Hispanics which comprised 40 percent of the population in New Mexico.

Dr. Goldman's 10-month screening program in shopping centers, schools, and state fair revealed that many Hispanics are unable to get to health facilities or health screenings because of lack of transportation, inadequate day care services, or inability to get time off from work or school.

Dr. Goldman felt that these factors may have affected the screening results which showed an unexpectedly low number of Hispanic hypertensives. He added that treatment of Hispanics with high blood pressure is complicated because those Hispanics who do use health facilities tend to do so only when they have a serious problem, and as a last resort rather than as a preventive measure.

Results from Dr. Schriebert's review of patient charts indicated high blood pressure affected almost the same percentage of the Hispanics surveyed as Anglos in the general population. Evidence also showed an even higher percentage of Hispanic females 44 to 64 years of age who had high blood pressure. A subsequent screening program also revealed a particularly high percentage of hypertensive Hispanic males.

Frank Weaver of the National Research and Demonstration Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas, which receives NHLBI support, discussed a community survey indicating the need for increased awareness of hypertension and its relation to cardiovascular disease among the Hispanic population.

With the help of Hispanic groups, Mr. Weaver's group developed a 6-week bilingual mass media information campaign which included television announcements and a bilingual brochure. Mr. Weaver concluded that high blood pressure control in the community needs the involvement of Hispanic physicians and other health providers, as well as the cultivation of health care professionals who are aware of the cultural needs of the Hispanic community and how these differences affect the effectiveness of health care.

For additional information, contact Annie Collins, National High Blood Pressure Education Program, NHLBI, Bldg. 31, Rm. SA-10, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Atlas on Cranium of Newborn Available at GPO

A new publication, The Cranium of the Newborn Infant—An Atlas of Tomography and Anatomical Sections, recently issued by the National Institute of Dental Research, contains anatomical illustrations and descriptions. Compiled by Drs. Robert H. Pierce, Michael W. Mainen, and James F. Bosma, the NIH book serves as a basic reference for studies of clinical abnormalities.

Copies of the book, Stock No. 017-047-000124, may be purchased for $.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Women Golfers Hold Banquet, Install New Officers

The NIH R&W Women's Golf Association recently held an awards banquet and installed its new officers. Incoming board members are president, Connie Percy, NCI; treasurer, Anne Proctor, CC; secretary, Marie Nylen, NIDR; and scorer, Toni Dunlap, Bureau of Biologics, FDA.

Prizes and trophies were given to the following team winners:

A Flight: Betty Bolton (captain), Bibi Furburg, Sue Hamilton, Ken Jones, Anne Proctor, Chas Pruit, Eileen Trevisan

B Flight: Mary Sears (captain), Shirley Aud, Susan Dawson, Bernice Kraker, Bobbi Seward, Rose Shrubell

C Flight: Nancy Cahill (captain), Rita Dettmers, Melvin Hamilton, Millie Jennings, Crady Nordberg, Nancy Watson

Individual award winners were: low gross, A Flight, Ken Jones; low gross, B Flight, Bobbi Seward; low gross, C Flight, Hazel Hinds; low net, A Flight, Susa Hamilton; low net, B Flight, Mary Sears; and low net, C Flight, Nancy Cahill.

Laura Wright, file supervisor and Equal Employment Opportunity counselor with the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, receives the EEO Special Achievement Award from Institute Director Dr. Donald B. Tower. Mrs. Wright, who has worked with the program since its inception, was honored for exceptional "leadership, interest, and dedication to the implementation of EEO at the NIH and at the NINCDS." She is a member of the NIH EEO Advisory Council Executive Board, and represents the board on the NIH Upward Mobility Advisory Committee.

Personnel Recordings Continue, Telephone 496-4608

Telephone tapes are presented for employees on the following personnel topics:

Leave Without Pay and Absence Without Leave
The Civil Service Reform Act Evaluation of the Telephone
Tape Series
Call 496-4608 on the dates indicated.

5 Members Named to NIEHS Advisory Council

Five new appointments have been made to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council: two members from the law profession, one from the arts, and two from the medical community:

Marsha N. Cohen, assistant professor of law at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, has been a research attorney for Justice Raymond L. Sullivan of the California Supreme Court and an attorney for Consumers' Union U.S., Inc. and a member of Common Cause, a consumer advocacy group.

Thomas W. Latham, of Evans and Latham Law Corporation, San Francisco, has educational background in law, government, economics, and science, with experience in air pollution control programs and scientific research projects.

He has served as the Staff Director, Subcommittee on Accounts for the Committee on House Administration in the U.S. House of Representatives, and on the staff of former Senator Vance Hartke (D-Ind.).

Dr. Daniel S. Longnecker is professor in the department of pathology at Dartmouth Medical School, specializing in biochemical mechanisms of cell injury, experimental pancreatitis, and carcinogenesis.

He has held an NIH Special Fellowship in the department of pathology at the University of Pittsburgh and PHS research grants at the University of Iowa, St. Louis University, and Dartmouth College.

Mary Rodgers (Mrs. Henry Guettel), is a composer and writer, with many productions staged on Broadway, and a monthly column in McCall's Magazine entitled "Of Two Minds."

She is an active participant in public relations with special interest in the welfare and education of children and young adults.

Dr. Stewart G. Wolf, Jr., is vice president for medical affairs at St. Lukes Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa., a researcher and doctor of internal medicine, specializing in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, sensory, and neural physiology.

He has previously served on the Board of Regents and for the National Library of Medicine, the NAHC, and DKR Study Sections.

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Filing Cabinets Can Tip Over!
Consider the Hazards—Learn Safety Rules

Filing cabinets can tip over on you. That's what an employee in a Washington office recently found out. He was attempting to close the stickily lower drawer of a five-tier lateral file when it fell over on him and injured his back.

Several versions of what happened and why have been related, but one or more of safety rules probably were violated. Do you know what they are?

To avoid hazardous accidents:
- Make sure that only one drawer is opened at a time. Most lateral files have a safety feature which allows only one drawer to be out, but this has been known to fail.
- Keep most of the loaded weight of the cabinet in the lower drawers.
- Load material so that it is toward the back of a partially loaded drawer. Loading only the front of the drawer can throw the cabinet out of balance.
- If you have any questions, call the NIH Safety Office, Division of Research Services, 496-5323.

TUBE TIPS

If you use the mail tube system, your help is needed to improve it.

The system may sometimes be disrupted by construction or repair activities. However, the Division of Engineering Services reports that most outages are caused by improper use. Such objects as newspapers and soft drink containers inserted into the system have been troublesome.

Improper dialing of the tube carrier will send your message astray.

In following issues of The NIH Record, instructions for proper operation of the system and to speed messages to their proper destination will be given.

DES will also provide a training session for employees who use the tube system. If interested, contact your administrative officer to make arrangements.

EMIC Data System Demonstration Given To NIEHS Employees

Representatives of the Environmental Mutagenesis Information Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, recently visited the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to demonstrate the EMIC data system to NIEHS staff.

John S. Wassom, EMIC director, assisted by Beth Owens, Rosewhita Haas, and Bill Tye, were invited by Dr. Heinrich V. Malling, chief, Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics, NIEHS, and Dr. Robertson, NIEHS librarian. Dr. Malling, also EMIC project officer, was one of the concept’s originators.

Sponsored by NIEHS and NCI, the EMIC collects, organizes, and disseminates chemical mutagenesis information. The system currently contains over 20,000 records from articles published since 1969 from 1,900 sources. Each record contains bibliographic details and key words of chemicals tested and organisms studied.
Pre-register To Attend Conference On Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity

Intestinal bypass surgery, an often controversial treatment for massive obesity, and related techniques will be discussed and evaluated by experts at a meeting Dec. 4-5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

The Consensus Development Conference on Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity is sponsored by the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases in cooperation with the NIH Office of Medical Applications of Research and the Fogarty International Center.

This conference is one of a series of consensus development exercises initiated by NIH to make evaluation of new medical technology more quickly available to practicing physicians. The process brings together authorities in many specialized areas to review recent findings and to reach expert agreement "consensus" on the efficacy, safety, and desirability of new diagnostic and treatment approaches.

Pre-registration may be requested by calling (301) 496-4955 or writing to the coordinator, Dr. Benjamin T. Burton, associate director, NIAMDD, Bldg. 31, Rm. 9A-03, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Tibetan Medical Director Speaks Today At Wilson Hall

Jigme Tsarong, director of the Tibetan Medical Center in Dharamsala, India, will speak today (Wednesday, Nov. 29) at 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall.

He will discuss the traditional forms of medicine still practiced in Tibet today, highlighting an ancient medical tradition to effect an understanding and appreciation of this system among the international community.

This lecture is sponsored by the Asian-American Cultural Group of the NIH Minority Cultural Committee.

Brain Chemistry in Mental, Nervous Diseases Topic of Science Writers Seminar Dec. 7

Research on Brain Chemistry in Mental and Nervous Diseases, will be the topic of the next Science Writers Seminar to be held Thursday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 31C, Conf. Rm. 9.

Dr. William E. Bunney, Jr., chief, Biological Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, will be moderator.

Speakers are Dr. John F. Tallman, acting chief, Section on Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Biological Psychiatry Branch, and Dr. Frederick K. Goodwin, chief, Clinical Psychobiology Branch, both of NIMH, and Dr. Donald B. Calne, clinical director and chief, Experimental Therapeutics Branch, NINCDS.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

NIH Fall Tennis Tournament Results Announced

In one of the closest matches of the 1978 NIH Fall Tennis Tournament, Brad Lindgren defeated Bruce Trapp 7-6, 7-6 to take the men's "A" singles title. Women's singles was captured by Debra Rysdyk in three sets over Betsy Baker. In the men's "B" singles Rob Koven was victorious in straight sets over Ted Breitman, 6-2, 6-0.

Brad Lindgren teamed up with Richard Broadwell to win the men's doubles over Peter Kreichmer and Bill Merrick. The women's doubles title went to Pat Thomas and Janet Harland, who defeated Patricia Wolkee and Sue Hockfield, 6-2, 6-2.

Janet Harland also won mixed doubles with Neal McKinney over Sue Hockfield and Al Guiffrida in three sets 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Hannah M. Shields, a biological laboratory technician, NCI, has retired after 30 years with the Institute. Prior to the formation in 1973 of the Laboratory of Pathophysiology from which she retired, she worked in the Laboratories of Biochemistry and of Pathology. At her farewell party in the CC's 14th floor auditorium, Miss Shields was presented with an orchid corsage, a cash gift, and a set of luggage that will come in handy because she is an avid traveler and plans frequent visits to her friends across the country.

TRAINING TIPS

The supervisory courses listed below are being sponsored by the Executive and Management Development Branch at NIH in December and January:

- Introduction to Supervision
- Federal Budget Process
- Adverse Actions and Grievances
- Supervisory and Managerial Effectiveness

A management course, Management of Organization Change, will be offered Jan. 16-19, 1979, with a follow-up day on Feb. 23.

For further information concerning these courses, call Sacelia Damuth, 496-6371.

NIH scientific directors who recently met at the NIH Animal Center tour the Farm Animal Building. L to r are: Dr. David Hoel, NIEHS scientific director; Dr. Joe Held, DRS Director, who served as host; Dr. Arnold W. Pratt, DCRT Director; Dr. Thomas Chase, NINCDS scientific director; Edward E. Nicholas, Jr., DPM director; and Dr. Robert S. Gordon, Special Assistant to the Director, NIH.
Two New NLM Online Data Bases Now Operational

The National Library of Medicine has introduced two new data bases. Available at present to U.S. centers only, the new data bases are the “Health Planning and Administration Data Base” and the “Toxicology Data Bank.”

The Health Planning and Administration Data Base, or “File Health,” is an online citation data base devoted to literature about health care planning, organization, financing, management, manpower, and related subjects.

Initially, the file will contain relevant citations from MEDLINE journals, citations from supplementary journals selected for their emphasis on health care matters, and citations from journals selected for their value for the Hospital Literature Index.

The starting data base contains about 95,000 citations indexed since January 1975 and will grow at a rate of about 25,000 per year. As early as possible, citations will be added from two additional sources. The first of these will be citations to nonserial items—books, technical reports, etc., from the Library’s own CATLINE file of NLM acquisitions.

The second step will include citations from the National Health Planning Information Center (NHPIC) of the Health Resources Administration. This literature is now cited in the Health Planning Series of the Weekly Government Abstracts published by the National Technical Information Service. The NHPIC component will include serial articles, books, and technical reports, some of which are available only through NTIS.

Users of this new data base will encounter many unfamiliar serial titles, but there is a SERLINE record for each of them.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the nearest online center or Regional Medical Library.

The Toxicology Data Bank provides users with evaluated data or “facts” about known or potentially toxic chemicals. TDB joins RTECS (Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances), another interactive data retrieval system, in providing additional toxicological information for chemical compounds.

The TDB is arranged by compound records that contain data fields describing chemical, physical, toxicological, and usage properties. The 60 data fields are described fully in the TDB User Manual recently sent to all U.S. online centers.

About 2,500 compounds originally selected for the TDB, some 1,000 are represented in the present version of the TDB with complete records. The other 1,500 are in various stages of extraction and evaluation process and are represented in the data bank by an “initial” record showing only the name, TDB number, Chemical Abstracts Service registry number, and a statement that data extraction is in process. These substance records will be incorporated in quarterly TDB updates.

Data items for TDB records are extracted as text segments with references to the sources. The TDB, like TOXLINE, is basically a free text system. Extracts in four data fields (human toxicity, animal toxicity, laboratory methods, and interactants) also are “indexed” with main headings taken from NLM’s Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) vocabulary.

Initially, the TDB will be available only from the NLM computer. During a 2-month familiarization period (November and December), no charge will be made to NLM’s online users for online access to the TDB. The normal NLM rates will apply for off-line printouts.

To facilitate use of the file, special TDB training sessions have been planned. For further information, contact NLM’s Toxicology Information Program (301) 496-1131.

The NIH Tennis Club “D” team finished their 1978 season in second place in their division with a 6-1 record. Team members are (l to r): seated, Peter Kretschmer, Neal McKinney, and George Schwartz; standing, Dan Simos, Dave Miller, Stu Selonick, David Anderson, and Helikki Hervonen. Not shown are Jim Stickland, captain, Hugh Mahanes, Dan Rubin, Steve Padgett, Herb Dorsey, Dennis Murphy, Ernest Simon, Bud Stockman, Al Giuffrida, Darlisch Arasteh, Dale Bullemeier, Stan Slater, Roswell Bride, and Tom Becker.

VISITING SCIENTIST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

11/1—Dr. Nicolletta Brunello, Italy, Laboratory of Preclinical Pharmacology. Sponsor: Dr. Erminio Costa, NIMH, WAW Bldg., St. Elizabeths.

11/7—Dr. Istvan Schon, Hungary, Endocrinology and Reproduction Research Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Erhard Gross, NICHD, Park Bg. 5, Rm. 405.

11/5—Dr. Pradip K. Nandi, India, Clinical Endocrinology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Jacob Robbins, NIAMDD, Bg. 10, Rm. 8N310.

11/5—Dr. Tapas Som, India, Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Jun-ichi Tomizawa, NIAMDD, Bg. 2, Rm. 304.

11/5—Dr. Lubomir Turek, Czechoslovakia, Laboratory of Viral Carcinogenesis. Sponsor: Dr. George Todaro, NCI, Bg. 37, Rm. 1B22.

11/6—Dr. Sai-Ho Paul Liu, Hong Kong, Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry and Biology. Sponsor: Dr. John Driscoll, NCI, Bg. 37, Rm. 6D24.

11/7—Dr. Alessandro Tagliamonte, Italy, Laboratory of Preclinical Pharmacology. Sponsor: Dr. Erminio Costa, NIMH, WAW Bldg., St. Elizabeths.

11/8—Dr. Catherine Legerverend, France, Developmental Pharmacology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Ida Owens, NICHD, Bg. 16, Rm. 5B05.

DR. MINTZ

(Continued from Page 1)

influenced by the environment and became normal, losing their potential to give rise to tumors.

The NIH Lecture is the latest in a long series of honors for Dr. Mintz, including her election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1973. She also has served on many advisory panels, including the Developmental Biology Group of the President’s Biomedical Research Panel and the National Research Council’s Assembly of Life Sciences.

Dr. Mintz will be introduced by NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, and remarks by a former colleague at the Institute for Cancer Research, Dr. Thomas J. King, now director of NCI’s Division of Cancer Research Resources and Centers, will follow her talk. Dr. King was chairman of the department of embryology when she joined the Philadelphia institute in 1960.

The program is open to all NIH employees and the public.
Major Program Will Combat Threat of Chemical Hazards In Environment

A major Federal program has been established to help combat the growing public health threat of chemical hazards in the environment.

HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr., announced on Nov. 13 the formation of the National Toxicology Program, which will draw resources from four Federal agencies now engaged in testing, research, or regulation of toxic chemicals. The program will centralize HEW responsibility for coordinating research and testing that concerns hazardous substances.

The four HEW agencies involved are the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Secretary Califano has “directed this program to develop a long-range, comprehensive plan to protect Americans from the premature death, disease, and long-term illness so frequently associated with toxic substances in the environment.”

He said, “The phenomenal technological advances in this country have brought with them unfortunate and unforeseen by-products creating serious health hazards, as in the case of asbestos. We must act quickly and with all available resources to identify and control the many toxic substances to which our citizens are exposed.”

Secretary Califano noted that “a relatively few of the more than seven million chemicals have been tested for carcinogenicity. There have been published reports of various animal testing of only about 15,000 chemicals.”

Production and use of chemicals in the U.S. have increased dramatically since World War II. As many as 60,000 are now believed to be in or had commercial use. An estimated 600 to 700 new chemicals are introduced into commerce each year.

Laboratory Facilities Limited

Limits in laboratory facilities and trained testing personnel restrict the Nation’s capacity for testing. Present resources for carcinogenicity testing in the United States by government and industry combined will permit testing no more than 500 chemicals per year. It is estimated that each animal experiment takes 3 to 6 years and costs at least $300,000.

Secretary Califano said, “The limited resources and high costs point up the need for this program to establish priorities in chemical testing and using government resources as efficiently as possible.”

The program will be directed by Dr. David P. Rall, who will retain his current position as NIH Director. He will report to Dr. Julius B. Richmond, Assistant Secretary for Health, HEW, and Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service.

The budget for the program, in excess of $40 million for the first year, will be drawn from member agencies.

“Carlas have various goals in common,” said Califano. “They are all concerned with the threat of hazardous chemicals to human health.”

“Carlas are all interested in the development of better methods of determining the health effects of chemicals,” Califano said. “The program is intended to accomplish four objectives: to establish a better sense of priorities; to increase the number of chemicals that HEW tests; to expand the scope of current testing not only to determine if chemicals cause cancer but also to determine if they have other toxic effects as well; and to improve the validity and accuracy of testing procedures.”

“An important element of the program will be an annual plan that will set priorities and assign responsibilities for detecting, analyzing, and developing better methods for determining health effects of chemicals,” Califano noted.

An executive committee will be established to monitor the new program. It will be composed of the heads of the four agencies involved as well as the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor; the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission; the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; Director, NIH; and Assistant Secretary for Health, HEW.

Scientists Cite Need for More Rapid, Accurate Diagnosis of Legionnaires’ Disease

A more rapid and accurate method of diagnosing Legionnaires’ disease is vitally needed, according to scientists who attended the International Symposium on Legionnaires’ Disease in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 13-15. Diagnostic methods now in use are cumbersome and often inaccurate, and investigators should continue to seek a direct means of diagnosis, probably by a method of antigen detection. Once this is done, the clinical spectrum of Legionnaires’ disease can be better defined, and a true picture of prevalence can be developed.

The symposium was sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Center for Disease Control, and the World Health Organization. Dr. Richard M. Krause, NIAID Director, welcomed the 500 scientists from 34 countries who gathered to learn more about the Legionnaires’ disease bacterium (LDB) and the pneumonia-like illness it causes.

The organism that causes Legionnaires’ disease is a gram negative bacillus that has not yet been related genetically to any other organism at either the species or genus level. However, it is not a “new” organism. One study reported at the meeting demonstrated that LDB and an unclassified agent isolated in 1947 are the same species. This study also demonstrated the importance of serum banks and storing organisms for future investigation.

Twelve outbreaks of Legionnaires’ disease have been identified, including the first one, at the time unrecognized, in 1955 at St. Elizabeths Hospital in D.C., and the second, well-publicized outbreak in 1976 in Philadelphia. Sporadic cases have also been reported.

Legionnaires’ disease generally has the same clinical signs as most pneumonias—chills, high fever, lung involvement, and sometimes extrapulmonary involvement such as diarrhea, muscle aches, kidney and liver dysfunction, and mental confusion. Prompt treatment with erythromycin helps many patients. In general, use of this drug reduces mortality from 15 percent to 5 percent.

Epidemiology studies showed that Legionnaires’ disease occurs more often in men, usually middle-aged, and in those with a history of cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption. Scientists suspect that the disease is spread by the airborne route, although no instance of person-to-person spread has been documented. The attack rate of the disease is quite low; about 2 per cent of those exposed become ill.

The reservoir of LDB is unknown, but there is some indication that the organism lives in soil. It can also survive in water for relatively long periods. Four strains of LDB survived 2 to 4 months in distilled water, and two strains lived in unchlorinated tap water for more than 1 year. LDB has been recovered from air conditioning systems on four occasions, but these systems may only be incidental distributors and not primary producers of the organism.

Dr. Milton Puziss, chief of the NIAID Bacteriology and Virology Branch and one of the organizers of the symposium, summed up the meeting by saying it offered an unusual opportunity for scientists to exchange information and to speed up research on this disease by at least a year.

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