

# The NIH Record

U.S. Department  
of Health,  
Education, and  
Welfare

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National  
Institutes  
of  
Health

## Recombinant DNA Guidelines Revised To Simplify Experiment Requirements

Revised guidelines for research involving recombinant DNA molecules were published by NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson in the Jan. 29 issue of the *Federal Register*.

These guidelines lower the physical safety requirements for conducting most recombinant DNA experiments involving the bacterium *E. coli* K-12 to P1 + EK1. The experiments would not be exempt from the guidelines.

NIH is taking this action following a careful analysis of the precautionary steps necessary to assure the protection of the investigators doing this research and the general public. Scientists in the field generally believe that the use of this bacterium does not pose a significant hazard.

Recombinant DNA molecules result from recombination in the test tube of segments of deoxyribonucleic acid, the material which determines the hereditary characteristics of all living cells. The technology permits genetic information from very different organisms to be combined.

Now about 6 years old, the research has already led to great increases in basic scientific knowledge and has demonstrated the possibility of producing, outside the human body, such important biological products as insulin,

(See DNA GUIDELINES, Page 11)

## President's FY 1981 Budget Asks \$139 Million Increase for NIH

The President's fiscal year 1981 budget request for NIH is \$3,581.5 million, a net increase of \$138.9 million over the 1980 comparable budget of \$3,442.6 million.

The increase of nearly \$139 million for NIH includes:

- Sufficient funds to stabilize at 5,000 the

## Task Force Appointed To Evaluate Division of Equal Opportunity

An eight-member Evaluation Task Force has been appointed by NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson to assess the mission, function, and operation of the Division of Equal Opportunity.

The task force will be headed by Dr. Donald B. Tower, Director of the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, with James S. Alexander, EEO coordinator of the Clinical Center, as cochairman.

Membership of the task force includes Vivian A. Betton, chairperson of the NIH EEO Advisory Council, and J. Calvin Adams, EEO

(See DEO TASK FORCE, Page 6)

number of new and competing research grants awarded annually.

■ Expansion of the National Toxicology Program to protect the health of the American public from dangerous environmental chemicals, with NIH contributing an additional \$23 million in FY 1981 to the program, \$20 million from NCI and \$3 million from NIEHS.

### Nat'l Toxicology Program Goals

The goal of the NTP is to strengthen HEW's activities in the testing of chemicals of public health concern, as well as in the development and validation of improved test methods. In 1981, 100 new compounds will be tested.

■ In FY 1981, \$5 million is being requested to continue staffing and equipping the new environmental health sciences facility in North Carolina scheduled for completion in late 1981. It will be one of the most modern and innovative research facilities in the world.

■ In FY 1981, \$7 million is provided to continue renovations of the Clinical Center, which will also allow the center to be integrated with the Ambulatory Care Research Facility now under construction. There have been no major renovations of the center since its opening more than 25 years ago.

### Other Priorities Noted

Other priorities of NIH in FY 1981 include an additional \$5 million to improve regional instrumentation facilities for biomedical and behavioral scientists through the Biotechnology Research Support Program and an additional \$2 million for research on the biological effects of ionizing radiation.

Another priority is a \$1 million increase for the Research Apprenticeships for High School Students Program.

Since 1978, Federal support for biomedical research carried out by NIH has grown by \$739 million, an increase of about 25 percent. In 1981, this policy of growth will continue with a \$3.6 billion research program.

### Major Research Thrusts

Major thrusts in the research budget over the last 3 years have included:

• An increase of more than 100 percent for the National Institute on Aging, which has launched a vigorous research effort in neuro-

(See BUDGET, Page 12)



Dr. Paul Holland, chief of the CC Blood Bank, discusses the Rh system with Dallas Hickman, Redskin defensive lineman, during the new Pheresis Unit's Open House at the Clinical Center on Jan. 22. The outstanding 6-foot 7-inch special team player donated a pint of blood for the Blood Bank after seeing the Pheresis Unit in operation. Area residents and employees also began calling the Blood Bank to make appointments to donate neocytes following their visit to the unit. Several CC staff members explained the procedures and new techniques to the visitors.

(See other photos on Page 3.)

# The NIH Record

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## GWU Offers Practical Courses On Electron Microscopy

A series of practical courses on Scanning and Transmission Electron Microscopy will be offered at George Washington University during June 1980.

Transmission Electron Microscopy is scheduled for June 2-13; Scanning Electron Microscopy, June 16-20; and the combined courses, June 2-20.

The tuition is \$595 for TEM, \$520 for SEM, and \$1,010 for the combined program.

For information, write Fred Lightfoot, G.W.U., Department of Anatomy, 2300 I St., N.W., #406, Washington, D.C. 20037, or call (202) 676-2881 or 676-3511.

## February Is Black History Month

The NIH Black Cultural Committee has announced some of its programs for February, Black History Month. The theme of this year's program is Black Heritage for America. Among the programs to be presented are:

- Tuesday, Feb. 12—A Program Saluting Black Colleges and Universities will be presented by Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Executive Director, National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

- Tuesday, Feb. 19—Nikki Giovanni, "the princess of black poetry," will read excerpts from her works.

- Wednesday, Feb. 20—Night Program—Julian Bond, Georgia State Senator, will speak on politics in America at 7:45 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 21—Duke University scholar, Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, will speak on the history of Black churches.

The Morgan State University Choir and the Bowie State Players will also participate.

All activities will be held in the Masur Auditorium; daytime activities will begin at noon.

For further information call O.H. Laster, 496-6504.

## Combined Clinical Staff Conf. To Discuss Skin Disease

Four scientists from the National Cancer Institute will discuss Dermatitis Herpetiformis—The Skin and the Gut at a lecture in the Masur Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 3 p.m.

The lecture, which is part of the 1979-80 Combined Clinical Staff Conferences series, will be moderated by Dr. Stephen Katz, Dermatology Branch.

Dr. Katz will speak on the Clinical Spectrum and Immunopathology, and will also discuss diet and drug therapy for dermatitis herpetiformis.

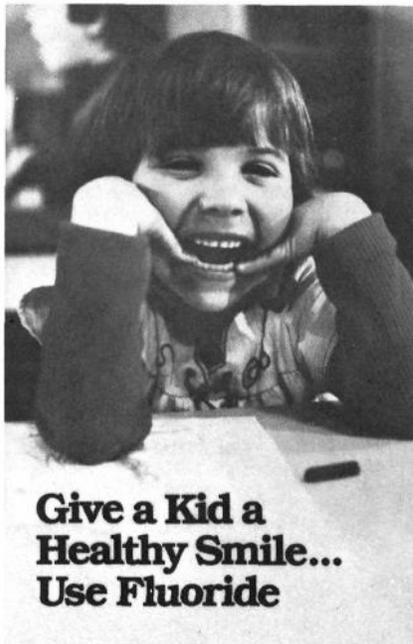
Speaking with Dr. Katz will be Dr. Warren Strober, chief of the Immunophysiology Section, Metabolism Branch, who will discuss Intestinal Findings and Immunogenetic Considerations, and Dr. Russell Hall, a Clinical Associate in the Dermatology Branch, who will talk on Immune Complexes and Other Serum Abnormalities. Dr. Thomas Lawley, Dermatology Branch, will speak on Reticuloendothelial System Function and on findings in patients with linear IgA skin deposits.

Proceedings of the conferences will be published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*; reprints can be obtained from the CC Office of Clinical Reports and Inquiries, 496-2563. All lectures in the series are approved for category 1 credit.

## Diabetes Ass'n To Hold Symposium For Clinicians

The American Diabetes Association, Washington, D.C. Area Affiliate, is holding a spring symposium for members of the medical profession on Management of Diabetes for Clinicians—1980. It will be held Mar. 14 at the Holiday Inn of Bethesda.

For more information, call the American Diabetes Association, 588-7755 or -7756.



**National Children's Dental Health Week**  
February 3-9, 1980

## 'Bethesda Chase' Road Race Will Be Held Mar. 2

Runners of all ages are invited to participate in the "Bethesda Chase" road race being sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation Mar. 2.

Several teams from the NIH Health's Angels Jogging Club will be represented in the 12.4-mile race, which winds through the NIH campus, Rock Creek Park, the Naval Medical Center, and the streets of Bethesda.

Nonmembers interested in running with the teams should call the team coordinator, James Sylvester, 496-2991, in Bldg. 6, Rm. 335.

The race course will be open from 10 a.m. until noon. Beginning immediately after the start of the road race will be a 10-kilometer race walk, which follows a different course. A 2-mile fitness run will start right after the race walk begins.

Last year, 1,100 people ran in the race. The recreation department expects between 1,500 and 2,000 participants this year.

Registration is required for the 12.4-mile race and the race walk; the deadline for registering is Feb. 20. Forms are available at the R&W Activities Desk, Bldg. 31, Rm. 1A-18, or by writing to "Bethesda Chase," 1401 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring, Md. 20902.

For further information about the race, call Ted Wroth, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, 593-9670.

## Office Skills Program Open House Will Be Held Feb. 13

An open house for all employees interested in the Office Skills Career Development Program will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C-39.

Interested employees are encouraged to pick up copies of the program handbook and Clerk-Typist Exam Sample.

OSCDP provides training for NIH employees who would like careers in a clerical area, but are currently in jobs limiting the use of skills. Trainees receive instruction in typing, use of dictating equipment and Mag-Card II typewriters, WYLBUR, interpersonal skills, filing, and selected NIH office procedures.

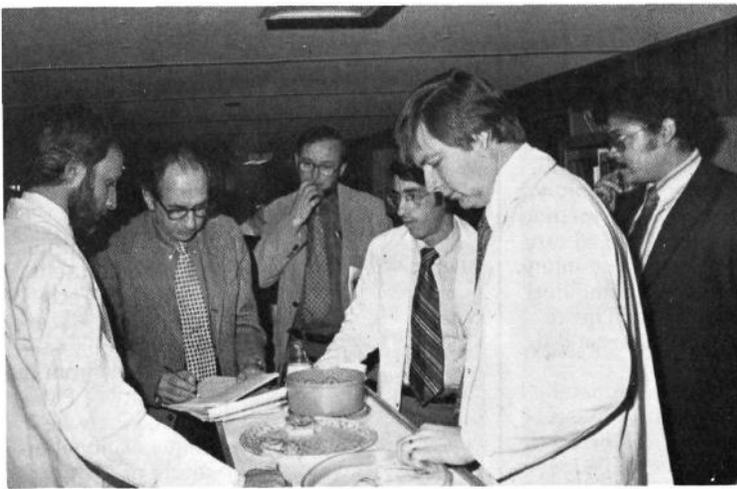
Applicants need not have clerk-typist experience, but they must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be employed by NIH for at least 1 year immediately prior to the application date
- Have a career or career-conditional appointment
- Work full-time or be willing to change to full-time
- Be a GS 1 through GS 3 or wage-grade equivalent (Any employee above GS 3 or wage-grade equivalent must request a downgrade to GS 3 if selected. These employees may be eligible for salary retention benefits.)

A maximum of 10 trainees may be accommodated in the program at any one time.

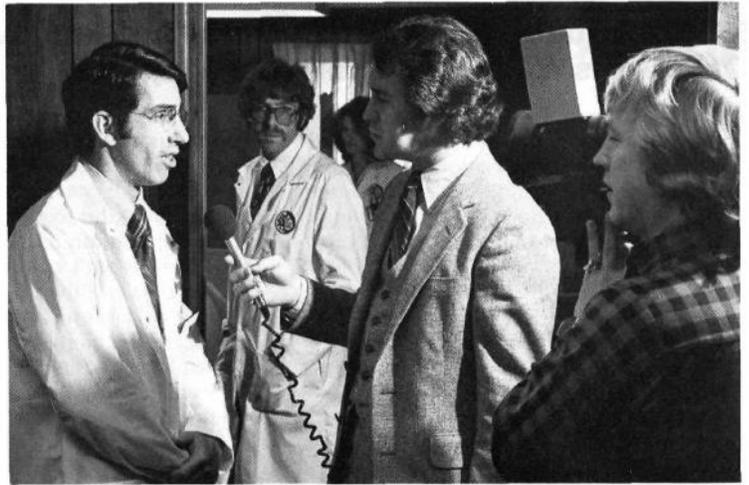
Applications are accepted anytime during the year. Submit an updated SF 171 to: Program Manager; Office Skills Career Development Program; Career Development Branch, DPM; Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C-39.

For further information, call 496-6211.



Above left

Several science writers watch a demonstration of the Clinical Center Pheresis Unit's new cell separator by Laurence Corash (l), assistant chief, Clinical Hematology Service, CC, and Dr. Arthur Nienhuis (foreground), chief, Clinical Hematology Branch, NHLBI, during the Unit's Open House on Jan. 22. These machines will help in the treatment of patients with blood disorders such as thalassemia major and sickle cell anemia.

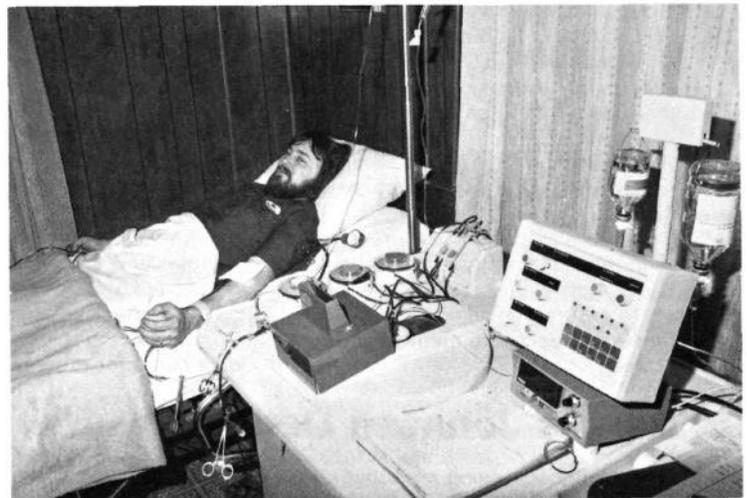


Above right

Kelly Burke, Channel 4 News, interviews Dr. Harvey Klein, chief of the Pheresis Unit, about the benefits of the use of neocytes in patients with transfusion-dependent anemias.

Lower right

While television cameras run and lights glare, Brian J. Rooney, a DES engineer, quietly donates neocytes, or young red blood cells, during the Open House. Mr. Rooney's blood passes through a newly installed continuous blood flow separator and back into his body during the 4-hour collection process. Neocyte donors are needed for research projects; employees interested in donating should call 496-9461.



## Spencer Logan Dies; Retired Deputy EEO Officer

Spencer Logan, 68, who retired from NIH as deputy equal employment officer in 1973, died Jan. 17 in Annapolis after a lengthy illness. He had a heart ailment.

Mr. Logan had a long career in Government service. For his work as coordinator of the Army Staff Management Intern program from 1960 to 1970, he won a Meritorious Service Award. During this time, he also served as consultant to other Government agencies.

Joining NIH in 1970, Mr. Logan was honored by the NIH EEO Council 3 years later with a Special Achievement Award "in recognition of his outstanding contributions."

A resident of Annapolis for the past 16 years, he has been actively concerned with community matters, including serving as chairman of the Community Action Agency.

Mr. Logan was also the author of an award-winning book, *A Negro's Faith in America*.

A native of Elizabeth, N.J., he graduated from Rutgers University, receiving his B.S. degree in 1950, and did graduate work at Columbia University.

Mr. Logan is survived by his wife, Vivian, and a brother, George, of Elizabeth.

The Spencer Logan Scholarship Fund has been set up in St. Philip's Episcopal Church, where he was a member.

## Learn To Assess Skills and Goals in Feb. 29 Workshop

Have you ever thought about the skills you possess and how they might be used? Have you considered the importance of goals to your life? Have you ever tried to summarize your goals, values, and interests so that someone else could understand them?

If you haven't and would like to learn how, sign up for the 1-day workshop on Self-Assessment and Career Options being offered by the Career Development Branch.

The workshop, which will be held Friday, Feb. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., will teach participants to define their skills and goals as well as to identify types of organizations or

institutions which are consistent with their needs.

The workshop is offered at no cost to individuals or their B/I/D's, and is open to NIH employees at the GS 8 and below levels. Enrollment is limited, however, to 20 participants.

Interested employees should send a DHEW 350 Training Nomination and Authorization form to the Career Development Branch, Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C-39, no later than Feb. 15.

For further information about the workshop, call Dr. Ursula Lohmann, 496-6211.

## Student Government Council Representatives Elected

The Student Government Council of the Career Education Center, formerly Upward Mobility College, recently held an election assembly in the Masur Auditorium.

Besides the election, the assembly honored Calvin Bussey, CC, who served for 2 years as chairman of the Student Government Council and who contributed much to making it a viable force in the college program. He was praised for his dedication and accomplishments, and was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

The following were chosen to represent the students for a 2-year term of service:

Gloria Barnes, NLM; Rene Costello, CC;

Augustina Crump, OD; Mary Ernst, NIAMDD; and Ellen Cross, CC. Also elected were: Robin Ridley, NCI; Pearl Selby, NCI; Regina Toler, NCI; and William Ward, NIAID.

### Members Reelected

Members reelected were: Ronald Edwards, DCRT; George Martin, OD; and Veronica Thomas, NIAMDD.

Continuing in office are: Marvin Bush, OD; Betty Dabler, CC; George Gaskins, CC; and Michael McIntyre, NCI.

Members meet every Friday from 1 to 2 p.m., in Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C-02B.

## NINCDS Funds Project To Evaluate and Improve Care Of Patients With Head, Spinal Cord Injuries

In a new research project to evaluate and improve the care of patients with head and spinal cord injuries, the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke has awarded contracts totaling nearly \$6 million for the development of three comprehensive central nervous system (CNS) trauma centers and a national data bank on traumatic coma.

The University of California at San Diego, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have received 3-year contracts to establish the CNS trauma centers and to participate in the coma data bank. Three-year contracts for the coma data bank have also been awarded to the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

The CNS trauma centers will be focal points within their areas for evaluating the coordination of emergency care and followup treatment to head and spinal cord trauma victims and for developing improved approaches to patient services.

Major goals are to identify and prevent the most common results of head and spinal cord injury. The centers will also develop and evaluate plans to ensure that all victims who need it have immediate access to medical and surgical care.

The coma data bank will store information on thousands of head injury patients. Every item of information related to treatment will be recorded: cause and severity of the injury, aid given at the scene of the accident, method of transportation to the hospital, hospital care, and the patient's condition 2 years after injury. These data will then be stored in a computer center at Stanford University, and will be analyzed by the principal investigators and by statisticians at NINCDS.

Researchers will develop studies to determine which combination of emergency services, professional skills, and medical technology best increases a patient's chance for survival.

### Pilot Programs

The CNS trauma centers and the coma data bank are pilot programs that respond to needs identified in the NINCDS National Research Strategy for Neurological and Communicative Disorders—a comprehensive plan for basic and clinical research in the neurosciences over the next decade. NINCDS anticipates that the Institute-supported comprehensive CNS trauma centers may serve as models for centers throughout the country.

The coma data bank, too, if proven successful, is expected to lead to a network of clinical data banks for other neurological disorders.

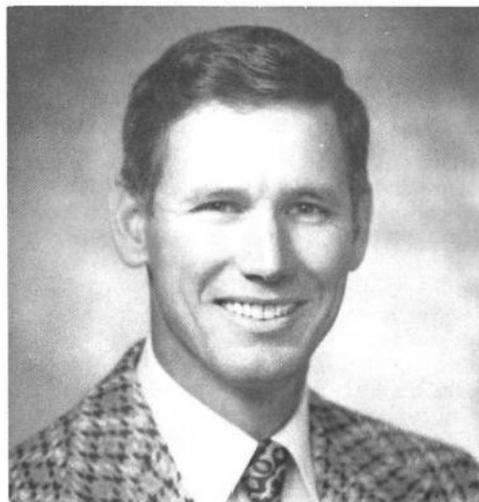
## Dr. Dennis Johnsen Detailed to New Delhi

Dr. Dennis Johnsen, former executive secretary of the Animal Resources Program Review Committee, Division of Research Resources, and currently a member of the staff of the Division of Research Services, has been detailed from NIH to the Department of State to serve as science attache and international health representative at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

In this position, Dr. Johnsen will continue to represent the interests of NIH and other Federal agencies in a program of health cooperation that began early in the 1960's. During this time, funds totaling approximately \$30 million have supported more than 150 collaborative projects between Public Health Service agencies and a large number of Indian institutions and organizations.

Prior to entering the PHS Commissioned Corps at NIH in 1976, he was with the U.S. Army's medical research and development program for 14 years as a veterinarian specializing in laboratory animal medicine.

Dr. Johnsen is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi around Feb. 15. He will be accompanied



**Dr. Johnsen's U.S. Army experience included a 4-year tour in Thailand in research on malaria, Japanese encephalitis, and other tropical diseases.**

by his wife and three children on the assignment, which is expected to last for at least 2 years.

## Internat'l Education Branch of FIC Transfers to HRA

The International Education Branch of the Fogarty International Center has been transferred to the Health Resources Administration.

The organizational transfer was made 6 months ago, but the physical move was not accomplished until last month.

As a branch of the Office of International Affairs, HRA, it will continue to develop and

supervise technical study programs in the U.S. for health professionals from around the world.

These programs are sponsored by the Agency for International Development, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and other public and private agencies, institutes, and foundations.

## Dr. C. James Scheirer Is New Grants Associate

Dr. C. James Scheirer, formerly with the Department of Justice, has joined the Grants Associates Program. The program trains scientists in health science administration.

Dr. Scheirer received a B.S. degree in



**Dr. Scheirer**

mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963, and his Ph.D. degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, where he held a National Institute of Mental Health predoctoral fellowship from 1968 to 1970.

Dr. Scheirer then became associate professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Binghamton, where, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, he served as a member of the University's human subjects committee, coordinator of academic evaluation, director of graduate training, and chaired the committee to evaluate the university's undergraduate program.

He was the recipient of research grants from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York, NIMH, and the National Science Foundation. During 1976-77, he was on sabbatical leave at Cornell University as a National Science Foundation faculty fellow.

In 1978, he joined the Office of Research and Evaluation Methods in the Justice Department's National Institute of Justice.

Dr. Scheirer has published extensively in his field.

## Dr. Myers Joins GA Program

Dr. Maureen Walsh Myers, former NIH senior staff fellow, has joined the Grants Associates Program for a year of training in health science administration.

Dr. Myers received her B.A. degree in biology from Brown University in 1964.

She joined NIH in 1966, working in the Clinical Center's Virus Diagnostic Laboratory, after holding a brief appointment at the Washington Hospital Center. In 1967, she transferred to the National Cancer Institute, leaving in 1971 to attend Georgetown University.

She received her Ph.D. degree in microbiology in 1975 and then became a senior staff fellow in the Laboratory of Experimental Pathology, National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases.

Dr. Myers is the author or coauthor of 11 publications and 8 abstracts in her field.



**Dr. Myers**

# Joint Agreement Speeds Data on Cancer Research To Developing Countries

The search for cancer information in developing countries is being made easier by a year-old joint project between the National Cancer Institute and the British Library.

This cooperative project, Cancer Information



Services for Developing Countries, was established under the direction of the International Cancer Research Data Bank, which was formerly part of the Office of International Affairs, NCI, but is now part of the Division of

Cancer Cause and Prevention.

Until last April, access to cancer information in developing countries was very often difficult because of limited library facilities and research resources. In April, several hundred letters announcing the service were mailed to medical facilities in these countries.

By August, CISDC had received approximately 400 requests for literature searches from some of the 100 countries eligible to use the service. But many cancer scientists in these countries, which were selected on the basis of per capita GNP listed in the *World Bank Atlas*, are still unaware of CISDC and the help it can provide.

Today, among the 40 or 50 countries that have made cancer requests, there are four major users: India, Egypt, Kenya, and Nigeria.

A cancer information service for developing countries was first conceived in 1974, when computer data bases of published cancer literature and ongoing cancer research were developed, as part of the International Cancer Research Data Bank Program.

"We have a very strong commitment to the international objectives of our program," says Donna J. Wicker, NCI biomedical information specialist and coordinator of the collaborative project with the British Library, "and we are excited about the potential value of document delivery in countries where information resources are limited."

Under the CISDC project, a requester can receive up to five free photocopies of entire journal articles from each bibliographic listing.

A doctor's request for the latest information on breast cancer can be mailed to the CISDC staff at the British Library.

The process can take up to 3 days or longer, depending upon the speed of postal delivery. To shorten delivery time, the British Library is now experimenting with facsimile technology to see if the articles can be delivered more quickly.

The informational capability of the CISDC service, which uses primarily the CANCERLINE Retrieval System, is extensive. It can locate information from CANCERLIT, a data base that contains 200,000 abstracts of published cancer literature. Each month 4,000 articles are added to its memory, and the most recent information is merged only 35 days after it appears in a medical publication.



Ms. Wicker stands in front of a world map whose flag pins show where cancer information requests have originated since CISDC began.

Another data base in the CANCERLINE system is CANCERPROJ, which contains 22,000 descriptions of ongoing worldwide cancer research projects and is updated quarterly.

In addition, requesters can obtain summaries of 2,000 clinical protocols that are contained in CLINPROT. Other data bases on the National Library of Medicine's computer system, such as MEDLINE and TOXLINE, are also available.

Although 80 percent of all medical research is published in English today, a requester can confine his request to articles written in his language.

Requests for cancer information are made directly to the British Library Postal Service at Boston Spa. These requests are searched in CANCERLINE using the British Library's BLAISE system.

## BLAISE and MEDLARS

"BLAISE is analogous to MEDLARS," says Dr. Phillip Holmes, director of service planning and marketing for the British Library's Bibliographic Services Division, about his country's medical literature search capability.

Dr. Holmes stated during a recent London interview that, under the CISDC agreement, developing countries can have personnel trained in England to access CANCERLINE through a computer terminal. This training is available to developing countries without charge but is part of the BLAISE training program.

Currently most CISDC requests have been of a "more general level" for cancer information than about specific treatments for certain types of cancers, he said, noting that there is a need for greater dissemination of cancer treatment information to developing countries.

One of the biggest problems CISDC continues to face is identifying cancer scientists and cancer treatment facilities in developing countries.

Dr. Alan Linsell of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, acts as a consultant to the CISDC project in the continuing effort to identify cancer scientists in developing countries.

"Today we are getting the word out," says Dr. Holmes about the CISDC project, and each month more and more requests for cancer information come in to Boston Spa, because more and more developing country scientists are "getting to know about our service."

## NCI Wins Two Awards In STC Competition

Two NIH publications were honored at the Society for Technical Communication, D.C. chapter, awards luncheon on Jan. 11 in Rosslyn.

An Award of Merit in the book category was presented to Florence I. Gregoric, NCI Monograph editor, for NCI Monograph 51, *Perinatal Carcinogenesis*. Dr. Jerry M. Rice, Experimental Pathology Branch, NCI, was scientific editor.

In the complete periodicals category, an Award of Achievement was presented to the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, February 1979 issue. Phyllis Jay is managing editor of *JNCI*.

In 1977, a record low of 14 infant deaths per 1,000 live births was achieved in the U.S.

## Effects of Smoking on Women's Health Outlined in Surgeon General's Report

Cigarette smoking, an early sign of woman's social emancipation, is now the major threat to her personal health and her ability to bear healthy children.

This is the finding of the latest Surgeon General's report on smoking, *The Health Consequences of Smoking for Women*.

The report, which was sent to Congress last month, delivers three warnings.

First, it establishes that women whose smoking habits resemble those of men—and the number is increasing—will begin to encounter the same health risks as men.

Second, it warns that an epidemic of lung cancer among women has begun. The epi-

demio is the result of smoking initiated in World War II and the years immediately following.

Third, the report adds new evidence of the harm which smoking during pregnancy exerts on the fetus and the newborn.

The report also contains good news, Surgeon General Dr. Julius B. Richmond told reporters at a recent press conference.

Information on cigarette consumption in the U.S. shows that the incidence of smoking is declining for both men and women. There are fewer smokers, proportionately, than at any time in the last 45 years.

Per capita consumption has dropped to the

levels of 1952, and cigarettes with lower yields of tar and nicotine are gaining popularity.

This good news extends to every age group from adolescence onward, with one exception, said Dr. Richmond. Smoking among older girls and younger women has not declined significantly. There are now more females ages 17-24 smoking cigarettes than there are males.

Final publication copies of *The Health Consequences of Smoking for Women* will be available this spring. For further information about the report, contact the HEW Office on Smoking and Health, Park Bldg., Rm. 1-5A, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Md. 20857, 443-5287.

## David Saunders, NHLBI Branch Chief, Dies

David D. Saunders, chief of the Information Systems Branch, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, NHLBI, died of cancer Jan. 11 at the Clinical Center.

Mr. Saunders was recruited to lead the branch in 1979. Prior to his appointment, he served as information systems coordinator for OPPE for 1 year.

Dr. Jay Moskowitz, director, OPPE, recalls Mr. Saunders' achievements: "David came to the Institute to help create a new information program, and his achievements were nothing short of remarkable."

In addition to his official duties as branch chief, Mr. Saunders served as executive secretary of the NHLBI information systems working group, which determines the Institute's directions in data processing and information systems.

Before joining NIH, Mr. Saunders spent 15 years in private industry in data processing and systems development and design, and for 10 years worked on the design of large information systems for government agencies.

He received his B.S. in mathematics from the University of Miami, and performed graduate work in operations research at the University of Richmond and in systems man-



David D. Saunders

agement at American University.

Mr. Saunders was born in 1933 in Baltimore, Md. He was an active member of St. Patrick's Church in Norbeck, and the Westwood team of the NIH Golf League. He is survived by his wife, Jean, and their children, Kathryn and Greg.

## DEO TASK FORCE

(Continued from Page 1)

Director of the Health Resources Administration. Dr. Ruth D. Sanchez-Dirks, Associate Deputy Director for EEO of the Public Health Service, will be a consultant.

The Evaluation Task Force was asked to undertake a comprehensive study designed to strengthen the NIH DEO.

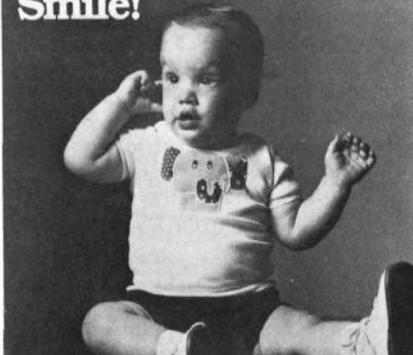
It will evaluate the capabilities of the Division to carry out its responsibilities with regard to the operation of the several NIH equal opportunity programs and determine how effectively the DEO advises NIH officials and managers at all levels on matters pertaining to equal opportunity and civil rights and to suggest improvements.

The task force was also asked to assess NIH progress in implementing the Civil Rights program and the working relationship between the several divisions, councils, and officials involved in EEO activities within NIH and the liaison with outside organizations and agencies.



Maxine I. Richardson has been named Equal Employment Opportunity coordinator for the National Cancer Institute. Ms. Richardson, who has 25 years of Government service, including work on the staff of the Assistant Secretary for Health, HEW, brings 9 years of EEO experience to her post. She served most recently as an EEO specialist for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. According to Ms. Richardson, the role of EEO has changed over the last 5 years from primarily handling discrimination complaints to providing advice on career advancement.

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on a Good  
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Use Fluoride  
for a Healthy  
Smile!**



## 5-Year US-USSR Health Cooperation Report Issued

*U.S.-U.S.S.R. Health Cooperation: 1972-77*, a report that documents the progress of the first 5 years of jointly developed activities and exchanges of scientists between the two countries, is now available.

The publication, prepared simultaneously for distribution in the U.S. and the Soviet Union, summarizes accomplishments in the major collaborative program areas: cardiovascular diseases, artificial heart research and development, cancer, environmental health, arthritis, and schizophrenia.

The booklet also contains information on the exchange of individual American and Soviet scientists in nonspecific health and biomedical research areas.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the Publications Office, Fogarty International Center, Bldg. 16A, Rm. 205.

# Surprise Graduation Party for Teacher Given by Students

Speeches, a bouquet of roses, a handmade cape "made for a queen," and a wooden plaque were the gifts that Dr. Elaine Shalowitz received from her students at a surprise party to honor her for completing her doctorate in education. More than gifts was exchanged at the party—the message of mutual appreciation was clear.

The party, organized by students and former students of NIH's Upward Mobility College of the University of the District of Columbia, was held after work on Dec. 19 in a Bldg. 31 classroom, the day after Dr. Shalowitz was awarded her degree.

Doing a story on a teacher who has had an effect on the lives of her students can become cliché ridden but the best way to know her is to read what her students say and what she says about them.



A surprised Dr. Shalowitz is congratulated by Arthur Rush at her party.

Many of her students are people "whose learning skills are rusty, that's all," she says, about the caliber of her students. "Most can do college work, they just need a start."

Over the years, she has found that "those employees who are students are more motivated in their work, and for this alone, supervisors should see the benefit from our program."

Dr. Shalowitz describes herself as a teacher who has taught every grade from pre-nursery to postgraduate courses. "I'm a person who likes to teach and I like people," she says.

"Every teacher should have a night like this," she said at her party. She disclaimed any credit for her students' success and credited them for the work they did. "I'm the fortunate one," she says.

"Mrs. Shalowitz! She has me reading more books than ever before in my whole life," says Arthur Rush, a Vietnam veteran who works as a Bldg. 31 housekeeper. He credits her with encouraging him to begin his education again. Mr. Rush's powerful and personal speech on the Importance of Reading in Society at the party reiterated his teacher's long-standing philosophy about the importance of the printed word for personal and educational growth.



A light moment is shared between Dr. Shalowitz (l) and freshman Augustina Crump (at the podium), while Harriet Brooks (l rear), George Martin, and Reverend Johnson look on.

Growth is the yardstick that Dr. Shalowitz uses to measure a student's progress. Her reputation as a teacher has grown because her students know, without her having to say, that this is what she expects from them.

"We are not here to knock anyone out of the program, but to develop potential," she says. There's enormous potential in each individual."

One of her former students, Sarah S. Caplan, NIAID technical reference assistant, who graduated last year magna cum laude, was glad to be at the party. "She's beautiful—and is able to do everything for everybody."

"She's open to all situations. She goes all the way to be a friend," says Rev. Guy H. Johnson, pastor of the Laytonville Charge United Methodist Church, in Gaithersburg, who works as a DES shop planner. He started his studies 6 years ago and graduated in 1977. Reverend Johnson credits Dr. Shalowitz with helping him maintain his interest in getting a degree over those years.

Dr. Shalowitz's personal involvement with her students even extends beyond her regular teaching hours. "She came to my church on a Sunday to hear me preach," says Rev. Johnson, noting that his former teacher is Jewish and is vitally interested in interfaith activities.

For the past several years, Dr. Shalowitz has also taught evening classes at the Beth El Congregation Adult Institute. At the party, Rev. Johnson led the gathering in a prayer, and said, "we are here to honor one who is blessed and has blessed so many."

## Established Student Library

Making books available is one of her accomplishments. She helped to establish in 1973 a student library and a reading room, that happens to be located next to her office. While being interviewed, several students stopped by to say "hello," and to pick up assignments and books.

Besides using a variety of modern teaching methods to help employees sharpen their learning skills. Dr. Shalowitz has set up a study program geared to the individual needs of a student. She says that there are many employees "who deeply want to come (into the UMC program), but feel that they are not ready yet."

"They (her students) insisted that I get my degree," says Dr. Shalowitz. Over the years, even when she was tired of going to school herself, her students repeatedly challenged her to finish. "They would say to me, 'how can you encourage us to stay in school and get our degrees, if you don't?'" "I couldn't face them," she says, "if I didn't get it."

## Federal Government Seeks Advice On Consumer Programs

There are times when everyone needs advice. Right now, the Federal Government is seeking comments on consumer programs.

More than 30 Federal departments and agencies recently published proposed consumer programs. The programs tell how each agency will work with consumers in handling complaints, providing information, getting the public's point of view on agency activities, and handling other problems that affect consumers.

A free set of the proposed consumer programs is available from the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 645H, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

If you think an agency's plan is good, or needs improvement, or leaves out a big consumer need or a segment of the consumer population, let the agency know by Mar. 10.

After the comments are received, the agencies will review them and revise the programs.

## VISITING SCIENTIST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Reported by Fogarty International Center

12/12—**Dr. Dieter Muller**, German Democratic Republic. Sponsor: Dr. J. R. Fouts, Laboratory of Pharmacology, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

1/10—**Dr. Kenji Fujieda**, Japan, Endocrinology and Reproduction Research Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Charles Strott, NICHD, Bg. 10, Rm. 12N204.

1/13—**Dr. Nobuyuki Shitara**, Japan, Surgical Neurology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Paul Kornblith, NINCDS, Bg. 10A, Rm. 3E68.

1/13—**Dr. Oren Zinder**, Israel, Clinical Hematology Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Raphael Shulman, NIAMDD, Bg. 10, Rm. 9N250.

1/14—**Dr. Reto Obrist**, Switzerland, Laboratory of Microbiology and Immunology. Sponsor: Dr. Ann Sandberg, NIDR, Bg. 30, Rm. 303.

1/14—**Dr. Eugenio Parati**, Italy, Experimental Therapeutics Branch. Sponsor: Dr. Thomas

Chase, NINCDS, Bg. 36, Rm. 5A05.

1/15—**Dr. Sashi Kumar**, India, Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry. Sponsor: Dr. Richard Cox, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

1/15—**Dr. Guy Laurent**, Belgium, Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology. Sponsor: Dr. Kurt Kohn, NCI, Bg. 37, Rm. 5D19.

1/21—**Dr. Hiroji Aiba**, Japan, Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Benoit de Crombrughe, NCI, Bg. 37, Rm. 2E24.

1/21—**Dr. Lena Omnell**, Sweden, Intramural Research Program. Sponsor: Dr. Marie Nylén, NIDR, Bg. 30, Rm. 132.

1/22—**Dr. Richard Elliott**, United Kingdom, Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Sponsor: Dr. Richard Henneberry, NINCDS, Park 5 Bg., Rm. 431.

## Marshall R. DePue Retires; Had Dual Career In Supply and Grants Management



Mr. DePue was the last of those 55 grants management specialists employed at DRG in June 1966 who was still working in the Grants Management Branch at the time of his retirement.

Marshall R. DePue, grants management specialist in the Division of Contracts and Grants, retired Jan. 11 after 27 years with NIH and a total of 37 years' Government service.

Before coming to NIH, he worked for several Federal agencies—including the Public Health Service Industrial Hygiene Division, Veterans Administration, and, during the Korean conflict, the National Production Authority—with time out for 3 years with the U.S. Navy (1942-45).

While with the Industrial Hygiene Division, Mr. DePue had his first contact with NIH working out of its temporary building, T-6.

In 1953, he came to the NIH Supply Management Branch. He says it was an exciting job because during his early years here his branch was involved in furnishing the new Clinical Center with all of the unique requirements of its specialized equipment.

Part of this busy time, their office was in the kitchen of Stone House, and later the little house next door that had been servants' quarters. He recalls that the tunnels between the CC and Bldgs. 14 and 13 were bulging as the new equipment arrived.

After 13 years as a property management specialist, he joined the Division of Research Grants, in 1966, where he became one of its 55 grants management specialists. Upon his retirement, he was the only one of these 55 specialists to still be working in the Grants Management Branch.

The grants management function primarily was transferred to the B/I/D's, and he served many units in an advisory capacity.

Commenting on the change in tempo, Mr. DePue says that when he came here NIH had only 3,000 employees, and with the slower pace, NIH'ers had time to enjoy pitching horseshoes at lunchtime.

At a retirement luncheon on Jan. 10, his many friends and colleagues gave him a camera and a check for additional camera equipment.

During his employment here, Mr. DePue was active in the golf association (he was one of the few members to score a hole in one), Toastmasters, bowling leagues, and the Hamsters. In retirement he plans to play golf, travel, and loaf.

## Revised Directory on General Clinical Research Centers Issued by Info. Office

The 1979 revised directory of major clinical research activities and participants at the General Clinical Research Centers of NIH has been published and is available.

The booklet, *General Clinical Research*

*Centers, A Research Resources Directory*, contains 86 pages outlining in detail facilities and investigations at all 74 Division of Research Resources-supported GCRC's.

A single free copy of the revised directory

## Laboratory Animal Data Bank, Online Resource, Now Open to Researchers

The Laboratory Animal Data Bank—a new online information resource—is now available to biomedical researchers.

The data bank gives scientists rapid access to information about laboratory animals used in experiments. Included are baseline data on physical characteristics and experimental measurements, as well as data on hematology, pathology, environment, and behavior.

Using the LADB, scientists may select and examine baseline data for various physiologic and biologic values; determine the environmental and husbandry conditions for each animal group selected; discover pathologic changes in animals; statistically analyze the retrieved data; and print out the data as distributions, such as histograms or data tables, and as complete reports.

LADB contains data on 754,388 observations taken from 229 animal groups—29,294 animals of 9 species. Information to enlarge the data bank will continue to be collected from institutions throughout the country.

The data bank was developed by the National Library of Medicine on behalf of HEW's Committee to Coordinate Environmental and Related Programs, and for several other Government agencies, and began on Jan. 14.

### Plans Call for More Access

At present the data bank can be accessed from computer terminals located at 20 institutions in the United States, a figure that is expected to grow to about 100 over the next year. Among users are: Government researchers, academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and animal breeders.

The LADB data are in the computers of the Battelle Corporation's Columbus Laboratories. The TYMNET network provides the communication link to the data bank. Battelle-Columbus, under contract to NLM, developed LADB over a 4-year period.

Under current user agreements, there are two types of users.

The *offline* user may telephone the LADB search center at Battelle's Columbus Laboratories to request a search. The charge ranges from about \$50 to \$250, depending on complexity of the search.

The *online* user has direct computer access via TYMNET. The per-hour cost is about \$20.

User agreements and collection of user charges are essentially the same as for the NLM's MEDLARS/MEDLINE system.

Further information about the LADB, including an application kit, may be requested from: Dr. Warren Hoag, Specialized Information Services, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md. 20209, telephone, (301) 496-5023.

## Dr. Ferdinand Hui Named to Fogarty Prog. Development Post

The appointment of Dr. Ferdinand Hui as a program development officer in the International Cooperation and Geographic Studies Branch, Fogarty International Center, became effective on Jan. 1.

Dr. Hui will be involved in the development of international cooperation with a number of other governments and international organizations. He will also participate in the conduct of studies on biomedical research in other countries.

Dr. Hui was born in Hong Kong, educated in the United States, and received his B.A. degree in biology in 1965, and his M.A. in experimental embryology in 1967 from the University of Oregon. In 1972, he received a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology and anatomy from New York Medical College.

He was also the recipient of a fellowship award from the Dysautonomia Foundation of New York from 1968 to 1972, and received postdoctoral training from the National Institute of Drug Abuse from 1974 to 1976.

In 1976, he was appointed as a pharmacologist by the Bureau of Drugs, U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The following year he became a PHS commissioned officer.

### Decade of Lab, Teaching Experience

These appointments cover 10 years of experience in laboratory teaching and lecturing on comparative anatomy, vertebrate embryology, histology, physiology, and pharmacology.

Dr. Hui has had experience in histology, radioautography, and cytochemistry; *in vivo* and *in vitro* pharmacological preparations for evaluation of drugs; and protein and nucleic acid (DNA and RNA) separation, purification, and determination. He is the author of 20 papers in these various fields and has also served as a special member of the Drug Abuse and Pharmacology Task Force in 1976.



Dr. Hui has a long-standing interest in Chinese affairs and is fluent in three Chinese dialects.

## Dr. King's 'Dream' Lauded by Speakers At Commemorative Program



Commemorative program participants meet at a reception before the event. They are (l to r): Levon O. Parker, chairman of the NIH Cultural Committee; Dr. Fredrickson; Congressman Mitchell; and Ms. King.

There was standing room only at the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Program in the Masur Auditorium on Jan. 16. The program was videotaped and also shown to employees in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall.

Among the speakers were Yolanda King, daughter of the civil rights leader; Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (Md.); and NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson.

The overflow crowd heard Dr. Fredrickson describe how Dr. King's contributions had touched the lives of everyone around the world, particularly the hungry, the poor, and the jobless. He noted that Dr. King's legacy was a challenge he has left for us.

After the invocation by the Reverend William Hart, Jr., from the Christian Tabernacle Church of God in Washington, D.C., the Spirit Tabernacle Choir offered two musical selections, and the Baltimore Dance Theater performed.

### Dr. King's Legacy

Ms. King said that her father's life had made people "look at themselves, and how they should always pull themselves up," and she shared her thoughts about where the Nation was moving today regarding civil rights and affirmative action.

"We must rededicate ourselves to the dream that he fought for, social justice for all," said Ms. King.

Congressman Mitchell told the attentive audience that "in order for the dream of equal opportunity, affirmative action to work—whether it be within the Federal, local, or state government—the letter of the law would have to be enforced." He stressed that minorities should become more involved in their own business enterprises.

The program concluded with the singing of "We Shall Overcome."



Ms. King and Dr. Fredrickson share a quiet moment during the invocation.

## Chinese Tech. Delegation Visits Lister Hill Center

The National Library of Medicine recently received the Survey Delegation of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information Center of China.

The delegation was headed by Wang Wei, deputy director of ISTIC. Their local escort was Chi Wang of the Library of Congress.

The seven-member delegation was made up of architects, engineers, and planners who are involved in preparations for a new ISTIC complex in Peking. They were especially interested in learning about the unique computer, communications, and audiovisual facilities contained within NLM's new Lister Hill Center building.

# Dermatology Research Priorities Reported to Congress

A comprehensive analysis of the priorities and needs for research in dermatology was presented to Congress Jan. 31.

The analysis—requested by Congress and funded by the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases—was delivered to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees during a ceremony co-hosted by Senator Richard Schweiker; Representative Neil Smith; and Eppie Lederer (Ann Landers), a long-time member of the board of trustees of the Dermatology Foundation.

According to the analysis, there is an acute shortage of academic and research manpower to meet the needs outlined.

The report, including over 120 contributors, has been published as a supplement of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* (November 1979). Eleven major segments represent the most prevalent, disabling, and costly problems, or groups of skin problems, that afflict Americans and contribute substantially to the burden of illness. A separate chapter covers the prevalence, severity, and costs of dermatological diseases.

#### Highlights include:

- An estimated 60.6 million Americans suffer from one or more significant skin conditions.
- Approximately 2 million Americans have skin disease that limits activity. Of this group, one-third described the limitation as moderate or severe.
- Approximately 7 million Americans find their skin disease to be a social handicap.
- In 1974 a total of 44 million visits were made to physicians for skin problems (7 percent of all visits to office-based physicians).
- Except for accidental injuries, skin diseases account for almost half of all occupational illnesses and approximately one-fourth of all work days lost.
- The economic burden from skin disease is estimated for the United States at \$2.62 bil-

lion yearly.

- One of the best known chronic skin disorders, psoriasis, costs the public \$248 million annually.

- Eczematous and immunological diseases comprise a major source of skin malfunction. New immunological observations have contributed to understanding many disorders in this group. Some of these diseases are among the most severe and life-threatening recognized, for example contact dermatitis.

- Probably no other skin disorder has the broad psychosocial implications of acne. It can be successfully managed in most patients, but fundamental research and understanding of causative factors will ultimately permit preventive medicine to reduce the stigma of this disfiguring disease.

- Skin cancers account for one-third to one-half of all reported malignancies in the United States. Studies of the mechanisms of skin cancer production are providing, and will undoubtedly continue to uncover, significant clues to the role of environmental factors, chemical carcinogens, viruses, and genetic factors in causing cancers.

- Venereal diseases, often recognized by virtue of their skin manifestations and because of their high prevalence, are of increasing concern from a research standpoint.

Bacterial and fungal infections of the skin are still major causes of illness, particularly in developing nations of the world.

With regard to fungal infections, more effective drugs are sorely needed. Parasitic diseases deserve additional investigation because they are serious worldwide problems and some, such as scabies, occur in epidemic proportions.

- The culture of skin fibroblast cells has opened up new avenues for studying a number of genetic diseases with defective cellular enzymes.

The skin also presents a model system for

the study of damage to DNA—the basic genetic building block—in several important inherited diseases.

- New drugs, devices, vehicles, and techniques are much needed to improve diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities. Currently some useful drugs are not available in this country. One section of the report discusses such drugs.

- The skin is the most accessible organ in which to study the complex process of aging and the chemical and physical insults of a rapidly changing technology.

- Malignant melanoma, the most severe skin tumor, is being attacked with the use of chemical and immunologic techniques to selectively destroy certain cells.

For further information, contact: Dr. Peyton E. Weary, chairman, Council on Governmental Liaison, American Academy of Dermatology, Inc., (804) 924-5115.

## Report on HDL Methodology Workshop Available From NHLBI

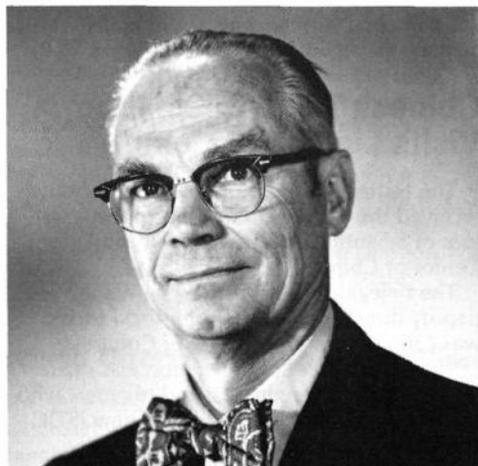
*The Report of the High Density Lipoprotein Methodology Workshop* has been published by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The workshop addressed several questions: what methods are being used to separate and quantitate total high density lipoprotein (HDL), its subclasses, and lipid and apolipoprotein components; how do the methods compare to each other, and what are their limitations and advantages; and what steps can be taken to improve the methods used for separation and quantitation of HDL lipids, apolipoproteins, or subclasses?

Recent population studies have demonstrated an independent, inverse relationship between HDL cholesterol levels and occurrence of coronary heart disease. HDL cholesterol has been shown to be a potent statistical predictor of coronary heart disease in middle-aged and older persons.

Free copies of the 399-page publication are available from Dr. Kenneth Lippel, Lipid Metabolism Branch, Federal Bldg., Rm. 4A-10.

## Dr. Moss Retires From NHLBI; Played Key Role in Extramural Programs



Dr. Moss was a source of encouragement to many scientists and administrators outside NIH engaged in medical research.

Dr. W. Glen Moss, deputy director, Division of Extramural Affairs, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, has retired after 20 years of Federal service.

As deputy director, Dr. Moss played a major role in the Institute's grant and contract program, which supports research and training.

Dr. Moss coordinated many of the day-to-day activities of the extramural program and served as the NHLBI key liaison to the Division of Research Grants.

He also served as a representative of the Institute in coordinating its activities with other NIH institutes and divisions.

Dr. Moss was professor of physiology at the University of Miami Medical School before joining NIH in 1961 as executive secretary of the Cardiovascular Study Section, Review Branch, DRG. In 1963 he moved to the National Heart Institute, serving as chief of several branches.

He received the DHEW Superior Service

Award in 1972.

Born in Red Fork, Okla., Dr. Moss received his A.B. degree from the University of Wichita, and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

He began his research career as an instructor of zoology at the University of Wichita, thereafter holding progressively senior professorships at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Illinois, and University of Miami medical schools.

At a retirement party held in Dr. Moss's honor Jan. 9, NHLBI staff members presented him with gifts and a compilation of over 70 congratulatory letters from friends and colleagues, including former study section members, council members, Institute and NIH Directors, and several Surgeons General.

Dr. Moss and his wife, Harriet, will live at their home on the Shenandoah River, where they will continue their avid interest in genealogy. Dr. Moss also plans to do a good deal of woodworking.

## Dr. Beebe Delivers Cutter Lecture On Atomic Bomb Survivors



Dr. Beebe talks to two reporters following a recent NIH Science Writers Seminar on the health effects of low-level ionizing radiation.

Dr. Gilbert W. Beebe, an epidemiologist in NCI's Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, recently delivered the Cutter Lecture on Preventive Medicine in Boston, an honor bestowed annually for 120 years by the Harvard University School of Public Health.

Entitled *The Atomic Bomb Survivors and the Problem of Low-Dose Radiation*, Dr. Beebe's lecture focused on studies of Japanese survivors of the atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In addition to the horrors of nuclear warfare that Hiroshima and Nagasaki have taught us, he said, the subsequent experience of the survivors is of the greatest importance in our efforts to understand the effects of ionizing radiation on human health.

Despite the availability of data on 55,000 persons exposed to doses under 10 rads, however, the A-bomb experience is still too small to provide risk estimates in the low-dose region for exposure to X-rays or gamma rays.

Dr. Beebe has authored more than 70 scientific articles. Before coming to NCI in 1977, he worked 25 years at the National Academy of Sciences and 7 years with the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, Hiroshima. He received his Ph.D. degree in sociology and statistics from Columbia University in 1942.

## NCI Briefs Physicians on 2 Antileukemia Drugs

Information for practicing physicians on two drugs useful for treating leukemia was presented at NIH recently at a New Drug Seminar held by NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment.

One of the drugs, the enzyme L-Asparaginase, has been available commercially since January 1978. It is used in combination with other drugs to induce remissions in children with acute lymphocytic leukemia.

The other drug, the antibiotic daunorubicin, is expected to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration soon. It is used to treat adult acute myelogenous leukemia.

Acute lymphocytic leukemia is diagnosed in about 2,200 patients each year in the U.S., including about 1,350 children under the age of 15. It is characterized by an abundance of abnormal and ineffective lymphoblasts.

L-Asparaginase in combination with vincristine and prednisone can achieve complete remissions in about 90 percent of children with the disease. Adult patients, however, are much less responsive to drug therapy.

L-Asparaginase is different from most chemotherapeutic agents because its cytotoxic (cell-killing) effects are limited largely to cancer cells. The drug's discrimination is based on a unique biochemical characteristic of leukemic lymphoblasts: they cannot produce asparagine, an amino acid which is essential for the proper functioning of all cells. The cancer cells must obtain asparagine from extracellular sources. L-Asparaginase works by breaking down extracellular asparagine, thereby depleting the cancer cells' only source of the amino acid.

Although the drug is not toxic to most normal cells, it can have serious side effects, the most common being a severe allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. Other possible

side effects include inflammation and damage of the pancreas, liver, and kidney, and central nervous system disturbances.

Acute myelogenous leukemia is a cancer that causes excessive production of immature white blood cells (myeloblasts) in bone marrow. More than 7,500 Americans develop this type of leukemia annually.

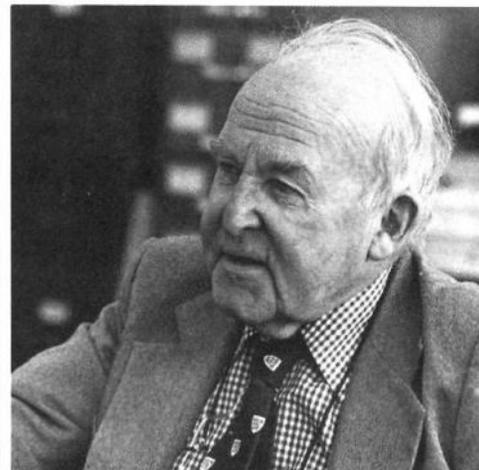
Clinical investigations have shown that daunorubicin is a beneficial chemotherapeutic agent for the disease when used alone and in combination with other drugs, particularly cytosine arabinoside (Ara-C).

More than 5,000 patients with acute myelogenous leukemia have received daunorubicin in clinical trials since 1965. The drug consistently induced complete remissions in about 60 percent of the patients.

The exact mechanism by which daunorubicin kills cancer cells is unclear, but scientists have determined that the drug hinders normal DNA activity in the cells. Unlike L-Asparaginase, the drug can act on normal, rapidly dividing cells as well as leukemic myeloblasts, so patients must be watched closely for side effects.

The major side effect of daunorubicin is blood count suppression, a dangerous decrease in the number of infection-fighting white blood cells and of platelets, which play an important role in blood clotting. Other side effects include temporary hair loss, sores of the mouth and throat, nausea, diarrhea, and skin rashes.

NCI holds New Drug Seminars periodically when a new drug has recently or will shortly become available commercially. Dr. Raymond Weiss, chief, Clinical Investigations Branch, and Dr. Vincent Bono, chief, Investigational Drug Branch, sponsored the seminar on L-Asparaginase and daunorubicin.



Noted British physician Sir George Pickering returned to England recently after spending 3 months at NIH as a Fogarty Scholar. Sir George is a specialist in internal medicine, hypertension, and cerebrovascular disease. Retired from his position as Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, since 1974, he is currently working on the quantitative approach to disease.

## DNA GUIDELINES

(Continued from Page 1)

human growth hormone and, most recently, the virus-fighting substance known as interferon.

A decision document analyzing the public comments on the proposed revisions which appeared Nov. 30, 1979, in the *Federal Register*, accompanies the guidelines. The comments overwhelmingly endorse the revisions.

The steps announced reflect changes in the guidelines recommended by the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee.

## Dr. Eugene Stead Is a Visiting Professor At CC

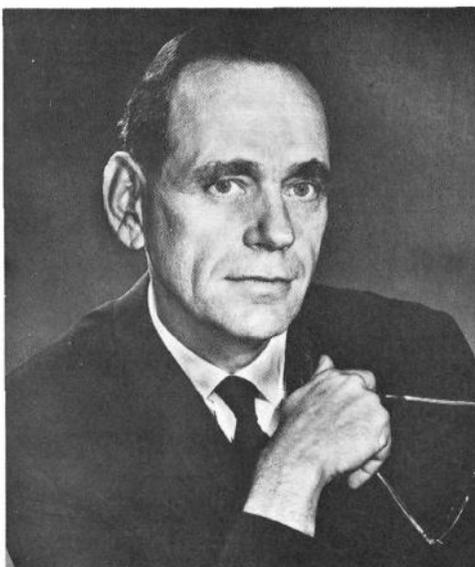
Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Distinguished Physician of the Veterans Administration and chairman emeritus of the department of medicine at Duke University, will be visiting the Clinical Center Feb. 13-15.

His visit is part of the CC's Visiting Professor Series, designed to give Clinical Associates an opportunity to meet with nationally prominent clinicians.

### Internal Medicine Specialist

Dr. Stead, a specialist in internal medicine, will participate in Institute teaching rounds with many of the CC's Clinical Associates. He will also present a Clinical Pathologic Conference, and will participate in a seminar on clinical trials sponsored by Dr. Robert Gordon, Special Assistant to the Director, NIH.

The CPC will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the CC Bunim Room, 9th floor, from 4 to 5 p.m. A reception for Dr. Stead will be held in



**Dr. Stead will participate in Institute teaching rounds with Clinical Associates.**

the CC Medical Board Room, Rm. 1S-213, on the same day at 5 p.m.

All staff are invited to attend the conference and the reception.

Environmental Health Sciences is the principal Federal agency supporting research and training in the area of effects of chemical, physical, and biological environmental agents on human health.

- A 30 percent increase for child health research. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development supports research to improve the health of mothers and children and to prevent conditions in childhood that result in disease and disability in adulthood.

## BUDGET

(Continued from Page 1)

sciences, epidemiology, behavioral science, and service delivery to improve understanding of the causes and mechanisms of diseases of the aging, to improve diagnosis, and to develop treatment methods.

- A 50 percent increase for environmental health research. The National Institute of En-

## PRESIDENT'S 1981 BUDGET FOR NIH

### Summary by Appropriation

(dollars in thousands)

	1979	1980*	1981
NCI .....	\$ 935,931	\$1,000,802	\$1,007,800
NHLBI .....	506,522	527,806	548,399
NIDR .....	65,263	68,734	70,451
NIAMDD .....	302,888	341,939	365,711
NINCDS .....	212,459	242,424	249,807
NIAID .....	191,413	215,768	228,412
NIGMS .....	277,628	312,628	331,639
NICHHD .....	197,710	209,602	217,531
NEI .....	105,226	112,968	116,562
NIEHS .....	78,260	84,306	97,269
NIA .....	56,911	70,228	75,317
DRR .....	154,164	169,302	184,439
FIC .....	8,989	9,095	9,181
NLM .....	41,431	44,657	44,730
OD .....	20,329	21,902	22,549
Central Service .....	—	—	—
Buildings & Facilities .....	30,950	10,480	11,750
<b>TOTAL, NIH .....</b>	<b>\$3,186,074</b>	<b>\$3,442,641</b>	<b>\$3,581,547</b>

\* Includes transfer for Clinical Center modernization and proposed supplemental request for pay costs.

## Dr. Gregory O'Connor Addresses Asian Cancer Conference

Dr. Gregory T. O'Connor, director of NCI's Division of Cancer Cause and Prevention, recently traveled to India where he gave the Homi Bhabha Oration at the inaugural session of the Fourth Asian Cancer Conference.

The oration is named after one of India's most eminent scientists, a mathematician and nuclear physicist of world renown.

During his lecture, Dr. O'Connor described cancer as a worldwide problem. Even in developing countries where infectious diseases are still the primary health problems, cancer will inevitably become a major cause of death.

Utilizing a broad definition for cancer prevention, Dr. O'Connor discussed the components of a preventive oncology program which includes primary health care, education, regulation, and research.

He emphasized that effective cancer prevention depends on continuing research and that every country has important contributions to make. He urged that international collaboration on all aspects of cancer prevention be vigorously encouraged.

Before coming to NCI in 1960, Dr. O'Connor spent 2 years in Africa as a senior lecturer at Makerere Medical College in Uganda.



**Dr. O'Connor, who joined NCI in 1960, has been director of Cancer Cause and Prevention since 1978.**

### New Series EE U.S. Energy Savings Bonds Now on Sale

New Series EE savings bonds which went on sale Jan. 1, 1980, will be called United States Energy Savings Bonds, Series EE, and will receive a 1/2 percent bonus if held to maturity.

The interest rate on these bonds will be increased from 6.5 percent to 7 percent for bonds held for the full 11 years to maturity.

After June 30, 1980, all U.S. Savings Bonds bought through payroll savings plans will be Energy Savings Bonds, Series EE. Series H and HH Savings Bonds will not be affected.

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