

# The NIH Record

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National  
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Health

## Recombinant DNA Committee Seeks To Limit Its Role in Reviewing Industrial Experiments



Recently appointed RAC chairman, former Congressman Ray Thornton, listens as other RAC members discuss industrial gene-splicing technology.

By Wendy Zellner

The Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee early this month proposed limiting its review of industrial projects using gene-splicing technology.

At the opening of the committee's quarterly meeting on June 5-6, NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson discussed with the RAC the possibility of their moving back from "what some see as a position on the brink of regulatory involvement."

Present NIH guidelines for recombinant DNA technology are mandatory only for federally funded experiments. Industrial firms may voluntarily seek review and recommendations from the RAC for recombinant DNA projects. These primarily have involved using more than 10 liters of material containing recombinant DNA.

(See RAC, Page 11)

## Credit Union To Close for 1 Day

The NIH Federal Credit Union will be closed on Monday, June 30, in order to effect a changeover in its computer system.

The change is being made in order to improve service. The Credit Union will be open for regular business hours on July 1. □

## Conflict Review Panel Wants Suggestions Before June 30

Last year almost 1,200 NIH employees participated in a survey on conflict and cooperation. The study was conducted by members of the psychology research staff within the Office of Productivity Programs, U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

The information has been consolidated into a report running over 100 pages, and is currently being reviewed by two NIH committees. (A summary of the preliminary findings appeared on page 12 in the Apr. 29 issue of *The NIH Record*).

### Report Due in September

The committees will submit their report and make recommendations to NIH Deputy Director Dr. Thomas E. Malone and NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson by the end of September.

To make recommendations for reducing conflict, call the NIH Review Panel for the Study of Employee Conflict, 496-1483.

In order to allow the review panel adequate time for consideration, please make recommendations by June 30. □

## Dr. Levy Heads Delegation To China

A U.S. medical delegation visited the People's Republic of China last month to develop proposed plans for cooperation on cardiovascular diseases.

The delegation noted that, although cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in both countries, striking differences existed that required careful confirmation, validation, and explanation.

These differences in China include a higher death rate; higher urban than rural ratio; and higher cardiovascular mortality rates in the north as compared to the south.

It was felt that explanation of these differences through a standardized comparison of cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular risk factor prevalence between the two countries would be helpful.

This opportunity was discussed at the con-

(See CHINA, Page 6)



Dr. Abner L. Notkins, chief of the Laboratory of Oral Medicine, National Institute of Dental Research, was awarded the 1980 David Rumbough Scientific Award for his work on the causes of diabetes and specifically the viruses relating to beta cell damage. He received the award on June 8 at the Tenth International Conference of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation in Washington, D.C.

# The NIH Record

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## Seminar To Interest Employees In Solar Hot Water System Offered on July 2

A seminar on Purchasing, Installing, and Operating a Solar Hot Water System: Experience Gained by a Consumer Group at the National Bureau of Standards will be presented on Wednesday, July 2, from noon to 1 p.m., in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 4.

This seminar is part of a continuing series on solar energy applications sponsored by the Solar Transition Committee at NIH/NIMH.

The featured speakers—both from the National Bureau of Standards—will be Edmund Lazar, a computer systems analyst, and Gene Metz, a solar architect.

Mr. Lazar is also president of the Energy Club at NBS and helped to develop a co-op there for providing assistance to employees interested in purchasing solar hot water systems for their homes.

The seminar is open to all NIH employees. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Warren Evans, 496-3060. □

## 16 Employees Selected as STRIDE Interns

Sixteen NIH employees have been chosen as interns in the 1980 STRIDE Program. They were selected from among 179 eligible employees who submitted over 1,060 applications for the training positions announced last January.

It is expected that most interns will begin on-the-job training on July 14. Academic training will begin on Sept. 2 at American University.

The selected interns are listed below:

Carol Bleakley, Computer Programmer, DRG  
David Brightwell, Biologist, NCI  
Mark Chappell, Chemist, NIMH-IRP  
Janet Follin, Position Classification Specialist, OA/DPM  
Janice McAllister, Chemist, NHLBI  
Charlotte Manley, Accountant, OA/DPM  
Paula Montgomery, Biologist, NIMH-IRP

## Reduce Commuting Expenses, Sign Up for Car Pool

If you missed the deadline date for the commuter pool, it's not too late. Applications are still being accepted at the Parking Office, Bldg. 31, Rm. B1C-11, for new employees or those employees who would still like to sign up.

The names of all previous NIH participants in the Commuter Club have been deleted from the computer; therefore, everyone must apply to receive updated information.

Shift workers will also be able to sign up. NIH is the first Government agency to try commuter pooling with rotating shift workers. The new matching option will allow employees to form day-to-day pooling arrangements that can reduce commuting expenses.

If commuting distance is more than 12 miles, leased or owner-operated vanpools will be available for those interested in participating in or establishing a vanpool.

Advantages of vanpooling include: economical use of scarce fuel, lower commuting costs, less wear on privately owned automobiles, and a more pleasant commuting trip with time to socialize, read, or just relax. In exchange for maintaining the vanpool, the driver usually commutes free.

## Problem Drinkers Can Get Help At Weekly Meetings

The Employee Assistance Program of Occupational Medical Services has released the locations, times, and dates when employees can gather to discuss drinking problems:

On Mondays, from noon to 1 p.m., in Bldg. 31, Rm. B2B-35. The meetings are open only to Alcoholics Anonymous members.

On Fridays, from noon to 1 p.m., in Bldg. 31, Rm. B2B-35. These meetings are open to A.A. members, and nonmembers are welcome.

On Thursdays, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Federal Bldg., in the basement conference room (B1-19). The meeting is open.

On Tuesdays, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Westwood Bldg., Rm. 503. This meeting is a combined session for A.A. members, nonmembers, and Al-Anon families and friends. □

Sharon Quinn, EEO Specialist, NCI  
Michael Raum, Chemist, NIAID  
Susan Richardson, Computer Specialist, NICHD  
Arthur Rush, Administrative Assistant, NIDR  
Pearl Selby, Administrative Assistant, NINCDS  
Marilyn Schoenfelder, Personnel Management Specialist, NIA  
Krista Stone, Accountant, OA/DPM  
Barbara Weldon, Public Information Specialist, NIAMDD  
Christine Wolf, Computer Specialist, DCRT

The STRIDE Program combines on-the-job and academic training specifically designed to prepare interns for placement in their target professional positions. The training period generally lasts from 1 to 3 years.

Employees and supervisors interested in additional information on NIH's STRIDE Program should call Margi Dyke, STRIDE Program Manager, Career Development Branch, DPM 496-6211. □



NIH Parking Office Chief Cheryl A. Amatucci checks a commuter card from Damascus from the car pool information center located outside of Bldg. 31's cafeteria.

For more information on ridesharing or Commuter Club applications, contact the Parking Office, 496-6851. □

## Building 31 Cafeteria To Offer Several New Features After Renovation

Commencing July 10, the Bldg. 31 cafeteria will be renovated in order to facilitate service through a major change from a single line system to what is known as a "modified scramble."

The object of this "modified scramble" is to provide broader menu selections, easier access, and faster service. New features will include a salad bar, made-to-order deli sandwiches, and yogurt bar as well as additional cashiers.

The renovation, which will be accomplished in two phases, will require about 2 months to complete.

During the first phase, the north serving line, closest to the B-wing, will be closed. Once renovated, this line will immediately reopen for service.

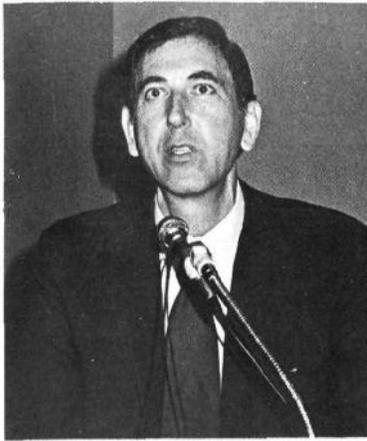
Approximately 2 weeks later, phase two will begin. At this time the south line, closest to the A-wing, will be closed until the renovations are completed.

Although there may be some delays during the renovation, two additional cashiers will be placed on the operating serving lines to ease any potential inconvenience. □

## Volunteer Tutors Available To Help Summer Students

The Training Assistance Branch is once again sponsoring a free tutorial program for summer employees in the areas of math and science. In the past students have been tutored to prepare for MCAT's, to refresh on basic concepts, or to learn about a new area.

Volunteer tutors are available to help you. If you want tutoring, call 496-2146. □



# NIH HONORS ITS GRADUATES

Photos by Lew Bass



At the Sixth Annual Honors Convocation (clockwise 1 to r): NIH Deputy Director Dr. Robert F. Goldberger said that NIH was proud of its UDC graduates and their accomplishments. Glennie J. Moultrie (c), chairperson, student government council, Southwest Education Center, led the convocation in a moment of reflection. Behind him standing are (l to r): George Slate, supervisor, NIH Career Education Center; Cherrie D. Williams, supervisor, Southwest Career Education; and Veronica L. Thomas, chairperson, student government council, NIH Career Education Center. Washington Post

columnist William Raspberry encouraged the graduates to "Be Necessary." Families and friends read the graduation program prior to the convocation. NIH Education Center graduates and staff take a moment for a class photograph. Punch and graduation cake were sampled by the graduates, their families, and friends at a 14th floor CC reception held after the ceremony. Southwest Education Center graduates and staff also have their class photo taken. (No photo available for the Parklawn graduates.)

One is a laboratory technician, another a library administrator, and still another maintains equipment. All are NIH employees who were among this year's 24 graduates who received their college degrees from the University of the District of Columbia through NIH's Career Education Center. The employees, who work full-time and went to school on their own, were recognized at the Sixth Annual Honors Convocation held at the Masur Auditorium on June 6.

NIH and university officials presided at the ceremony, with the graduates' families, friends, and former Career Education Center graduates attending. The keynote speaker, *Washington Post* columnist William Raspberry, whose urban affairs column appears twice weekly, was introduced by Richard O. Jackson, CEC project officer. Mr. Raspberry characterized his address as being only two words—"Be necessary!" he

told the graduates in life and in work. He outlined what he saw as some of the pitfalls in society today even for college graduates, and warned that, even with their recently conferred degrees and the implied advantages they offer, graduates should avoid becoming a part of the "upward mobility of a caste of uselessness." Mr. Raspberry, using his career as an example, stressed that it is the responsibility (See GRADUATES, Page 8)

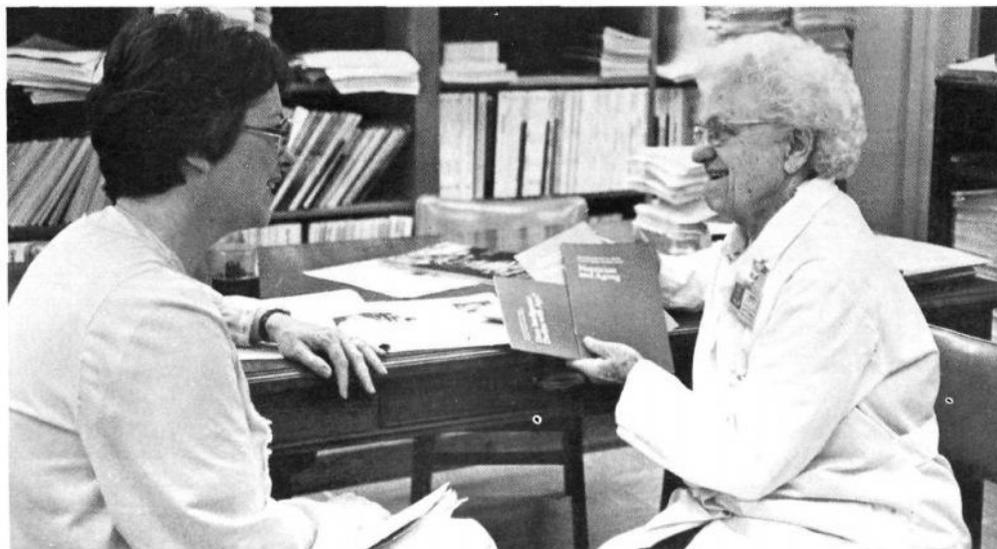
# A Lifelong Dream Comes True

By Jan Stuart Ehrman

If you peeked at Jeanne Horstman's resume, you would notice her multiple talents immediately. From pharmacy, to sales, to teaching, this 79-year-old enthusiast has experienced a variety of successful careers. But she was not satisfied until April 1977. "At that time, my biggest wish came true," Jeanne said with a grin, "I became a Government employee."

Jeanne, hired by the National Institute on Aging, now works as a health aide in the Clinical Physiology Branch of NIA's Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore, where scientists attempt to resolve the mysteries of why and how people age.

Born in Poland around the turn of the century, 6-year-old Jeanne traveled with her family to America and took up residence in a Polish community in East Baltimore. For the next 73 years, until recently she continued to live in Baltimore.



Jeanne discusses the NIA booklet, Nutrition and Aging, with longitudinal participant Anne Bedessem. —Photos by Daniel S. Rogers, GRC.

claims for an insurance company. Later, she retired and taught English to foreign students as a volunteer at the YWCA, for her "a truly rewarding experience."

Jeanne then worked for a short while as a volunteer pharmacist at Baltimore City Hospitals. About this time, 1975, Congress decided that the elderly had too many valuable skills not being utilized.

Jeanne was a member of the Waxter Center, an organization that provided services to older people. A grant was accepted by the center, and Jeanne was one of those interviewed.

While never losing hope for a Government position, Jeanne spent a year as the head of an art department library and also worked a year as an interpreter for the Baltimore Department of Health Services. Then came her big break.

"The employment counselor (at Waxter) asked me what I wanted to do next, so I told him that I wanted to work at the Gerontology Research Center," Jeanne said. "He called Dr. Greulich, GRC scientific director, and I was hired.

"Ever since, I've had a love affair with my job and the people who work here," she added with a smile. Jeanne said the work combines her two favorite interests, people and medicine.



Ms. Horstman

workers and the opportunity to work for the Federal Government provide enough incen-

tive, according to Jeanne. "All the GRC people have been extremely kind to me. I couldn't be happier," she said.

Jeanne displays her own kindness as she interacts with the volunteer participants in GRC's Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Human Aging.

Younger people respect Jeanne for her friendly, youthful attitude. "These people are always encouraging me," she said. "They say, 'I hope I'm like you when I reach your age.'"

Strangely enough, I was about to tell Jeanne that myself. □

## 'Research Awards Index' Gives Data on Over 20,000 PHS Grants and Contracts

The 19th edition of the *Research Awards Index* is now available. Published in two volumes, the index contains scientific and administrative data on more than 20,000 Public Health Service research grants and contracts.

The first volume contains 7,000 scientific subject headings under which appear identification numbers and titles of pertinent projects.

Volume II contains three parts: project identification data, which includes the names of investigators, grantee addresses, and project titles; the same information on research contracts; and an alphabetical list of grantee investigators.

The index is available to Federal agencies and biomedical libraries by contacting the Research Documentation Section, Statistics and Analysis Branch, DRG, Westwood Bldg., Rm. 148, 301/496-7441.

Single copies of *Research Awards Index*, NIH Publication No. 80-200 (stock no. 017-041-00132-7), may be purchased for \$21 domestic postpaid or \$26.25 foreign postpaid from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. □



Jeanne logs in vital information about the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Human Aging.

Early on, Jeanne expressed an interest in medicine, enrolling in a 2-year premed program in pharmacology at the University of Maryland.

She graduated during the height of the Depression, and went to work as a pharmacist in a drugstore. However, she quickly became disillusioned with the job. "In those days a pharmacist was required to do more than just fill prescriptions." They also had to sell the store's merchandise.

When she found out that she couldn't go into medicine strictly as a pharmacist, Jeanne decided to try the Government.

After additional training at State Teacher's College in Towson, Md., Jeanne took an aptitude test which indicated she possessed "the gift of gab," and other excellent interpersonal skills.

With these special abilities, Jeanne became a cosmetic saleswoman and eventually a cosmetic advisor in Baltimore drug stores. "Not only could I sell these products, but I could also sell myself," she remembered. "Faith in her own ability" helped her to get ahead.

From 1960 to 1962, Jeanne handled medical

## 20 Lectureships to USSR Available for 1981-82

Approximately 20 Fulbright Lectureships to the USSR will be administered through cooperating Soviet agencies for the 1981-82 academic year. Participants will lecture in various institutes and universities in the USSR.

Applications should be made for a full semester or academic year in the USSR. The Soviet academic calendar is: autumn semester, Sept. 7-Dec. 25, 1981; winter semester, Feb. 1-May 28, 1982.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens at the time of application. A Ph.D. and college or university teaching experience at the level and in the field in which the lectureship is sought is required. Knowledge of Russian or the language of the host republic in the USSR would be very useful, but is not required.

Living conditions vary considerably. In some locations, where housing is in short supply, preference may be given to those without dependents. Scholars will be housed in dormitories or apartments, when possible; otherwise, they will be assigned hotel accommodations.

The International Communication Agency will issue an award in the amount of \$1,700 per month. Awards for one semester normally will be written for 4 months and academic year awards, for 9 months.

The deadline for applications is July 1, 1980. For additional information and application forms, contact: William A. James, Program Official, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036. □

## Safety of Operation To Correct Nearsightedness Questioned by NEI Advisory Council

The safety and effectiveness of a surgical procedure that has received nationwide publicity as a cure for nearsightedness (myopia) have been questioned by the Federal Government's top vision research advisory group.

In a resolution adopted May 28, the National Advisory Eye Council expressed grave concern that the procedure, radial keratotomy, is being adopted even though recent reports from foreign countries and the U.S. do not provide an adequate basis on which to assure the general public of its safety and efficacy.

For this reason, the council called for research on radial keratotomy and urged restraint on the part of patients and eye surgeons until the results of such research can be reviewed and evaluated.

Myopia is a condition affecting about one-third of the adult population in the United States. In most cases, it can be easily, safely, and effectively corrected by the use of eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Surgical correction of myopia by radial keratotomy involves cutting into the cornea, the transparent layer covering the front of the eye. A series of deep incisions are made that extend from beyond the outer edge of the cornea toward, but not into, the central portion.

The incisions are intended to be deep enough to weaken the tissue so that internal eye pressure causes the edge of the cornea to bulge slightly.

This causes flattening of the central portion of the cornea, thereby improving focusing ability in the nearsighted, or myopic person. The incisions result in permanent corneal scars.

A variety of surgical techniques to correct nearsightedness and other refractive errors such as farsightedness and astigmatism have been developed over the past 20 years.

Radial keratotomy in particular has received widespread publicity during the past year because of reports to the American press by a Soviet ophthalmologist and release of information from American surgeons who have learned to do the procedure.

### Studies Still Experimental

National Advisory Eye Council members consider radial keratotomy to be experimental because they know of no studies which indicate the procedure has been subjected to adequate scientific evaluation in animals and humans.

They said research is needed to determine how effective radial keratotomy is in correcting myopia and to evaluate the safety of the procedure and its short- and long-term side effects.

The council, therefore, urged the National Eye Institute to support research on radial keratotomy in animals, and also in humans provided patients are enrolled in scientifically designed clinical trials conducted by qualified investigators. □



As part of its ongoing series of presentations of special interest to women, the NIEHS Federal Women's Program recently held a rape crisis seminar. Speakers were (l to r): Officer Carol A. Simmons, crime prevention section, Raleigh Police Department; Harriet S. Burgess, NIEHS FWP coordinator; and Lynn Bruce and Sharon Kupit of the Durham Rape Crisis Center.

## CORRECTION

The Laboratory of Chemistry, one of the oldest laboratories at NIH, which celebrated its 75th anniversary on June 20, is part of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases.

In an article on the laboratory's celebration of its diamond anniversary in the last issue, *The NIH Record* (June 10, 1980, page 9) incorrectly named the laboratory in its headline as being part of NIAID. The *Record* regrets the error.

Also in the same story, the role played by Dr. Bernard Witkop, laboratory chief, in broadening the laboratory's program to include many new investigations was discussed. The diversity of these new studies is suggested by the names of some of the sections (not laboratories) begun in his administration: metabolites, biochemical mechanisms, medicinal chemistry, carbohydrates (immunology), and microanalytical services and instrumentation.

Two former sections, pharmacodynamics and oxidation mechanisms, now form the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry. □

**ARE YOU AFRAID OF YOUR ANGER?**  
Call 496-3164  
Employee Assistance Program

### Caribbean Cruising Program Featured at Next Sailing Club Meeting

The next meeting of the NIH Sailing Club will be held Thursday, June 26, at 8 p.m., in Bldg. 30, Rm. 117.

The program will feature the new promo-

tional film, "Welcome Aboard", from the Moorings Charter Company in the Virgin Islands, as well as slides from our own members' Caribbean charters. □

## Summer Employees Invited To Take Part In Many Activities at NIH

NIH has recently experienced a population explosion that will not subside for 3 months. Some 928 summer employees are currently working at NIH. Contrary to popular belief, these summer employees include not only undergraduate college students, but also high school and graduate students, and faculty members.

Most summer employees will be working between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.

As with regular employees, payday is every other Tuesday. However, the employee will not receive the first paycheck until approximately 3½ weeks after the employee starts working. Therefore, summer employees should not become alarmed if they don't receive their first check on the first regular payday.

The check, however, will be for 2 weeks' work, not the total of time worked. The final check, which will include the time an employee worked before receiving the first check, will be mailed after the employee's appointment ends.

Deductions are made for Social Security, as well as Federal, State, or District of Columbia taxes, unless the employee is eligible for exemption from withholding income tax.

Summer employees can deposit their money into the Credit Union. They may join the Credit Union by depositing a minimum of \$5 and paying a 25-cent membership fee. Government salary checks are cashed free for members. Travelers checks and money orders are available without service charge.

To join the Credit Union, you must appear in person at the main office, located at 9030 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

After an employee joins, transactions may be made in the office located in Bldg. 31, Rm. 1A-08. To withdraw or deposit money, employees must present their Credit Union card and NIH identification card.

For rest and relaxation, summer employees can join the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association. The R&W is an organization designed to promote recreational, educational, social, and welfare activities for employees and Clinical Center patients. By becoming a member, summer employees are offered discount privileges from participating merchants, discount tickets to various shows and athletic events, and free notary service. Annual dues are \$3.

A free tutorial program in the areas of math and science is also available for summer employees. In the past, students have been tutored to prepare for MCAT's, to refresh on basic concepts, or to learn about a new area. □

### Film on Water Safety Begins Week of July 7

"Water: Friend or Foe," a 23-minute film on water safety, is being offered by the Occupational Medical Service beginning the week of July 7.

The film shows water as a danger or a pleasure and what to do in an emergency. It may be viewed at 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on the dates indicated:

Monday, July 7, Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall  
Tuesday, July 8, Bldg. 10, Masur Auditorium  
Wednesday, July 9, Federal Bldg., Rm. B-119  
Thursday, July 10, Westwood Bldg., Conf. Rm. D. □



NIEHS's Glassware Unit in the Comparative Medicine Branch has won a group award for meeting a 40 percent increase in workload with no increase in manpower, and for excellent attitude and adaptability in the face of rapidly changing demands for service. Examples cited in the commendation were the new requirements for packaging glassware for off-site delivery, new color coding methods for glassware, and special detergent washing procedures that have been added to normal operations. Recipients are (l to r) Patricia Heggins, Rev. James Scott, Shelia D. Nicholson, and Patricia Oakley. Not pictured were Clyde Rogers, Tina Thomas, Margaret Pearce, Wayne McCorkle, and Joyce E. McLean. Juanita Davis, supervisor of the group, has been with the unit since 1967.

## CHINA

(Continued from Page 1)

clusion of the visit when U.S. and Chinese coordinators signed a joint statement proposing specific areas of cooperation in cardiovascular research. Plans have been submitted for review and approval by both countries.

The visit was made under an agreement between the United States and the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Science and Technology signed in January last year, and the Protocol between HEW (now HHS) and China's Ministry of Public Health for Cooperation in the Science and Technology of Medicine and Public Health signed last June.

Dr. Robert I. Levy, Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, was accompanied by Drs. Jeremiah Stampler, Northwestern University Medical School; Alfred Fishman, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Lawrence Cohen, Yale University School of Medicine; and Burton Sobel, Washington University School of Medicine.

The purpose of the visit was to implement the protocol for cooperation in the cardio-



Professor Wu and Dr. Levy take a break outside the Cardiovascular Institute, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences.

vascular area; to hold a joint working meeting between Dr. Levy, the U.S. coordinator for the exchange in the cardiovascular area, and Professor Wu Yingkai, the Chinese coordinator for the cardiovascular exchange; and to agree on proposed plans for this year and 1981.

During the visit, the U.S. delegation had an opportunity to visit laboratories, hospitals, and clinics and to meet with cardiovascular specialists in Beijing, Sian, Guandong, and Shanghai.

An exchange of medical personnel to begin studies of the epidemiology of atherosclerosis and hypertension was proposed.

The initial exchange calls for two Chinese researchers to learn current lipid standardization techniques and the ways of studying the prevalence of atherosclerosis hypertension and their associated risk factors in the U.S.

In addition, a specific protocol for prevalence and mortality surveillance will be drafted for consideration and approval by joint U.S.-PRC Cardiovascular Steering Committee that will meet in the U.S. next spring. □

Cigarette smoking is the largest single preventable cause of illness and premature death in the United States. □

# National Advisory Council on Aging Observes Its 5th Anniversary



Dr. Butler presents an award to Dr. Shock "for contributions to the science of gerontology, especially as they relate to his significant role as progenitor of the NIA."



Former Congressman Rogers was honored for his "key role in the House of Representatives in the sponsorship and passage of the Research on Aging Act, establishing the National Institute on Aging, NIH."



Mrs. Mahoney was honored "for her achievements as a private citizen in shaping national health science policy, particularly with the respect to the creation of the NIA."



Dr. Butler (r) talks with Senator Eagleton, honored for "his key role in the United States Senate in the sponsorship and passage of the Research on Aging Act, establishing the NIA, NIH."

Celebrating the 5th anniversary of its National Advisory Council last month, the National Institute on Aging cosponsored with the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation a scientific meeting and later honored four individuals who had been instrumental in creation of the Institute or who had made significant contributions to aging research. The Council met the following day.

At the meeting held May 29 in the new Lister Hill Center auditorium, seven prominent scientists presented original papers on issues in aging.

NIH Director Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson

spoke and congratulated NIA on its vigor and energetic early years.

Other speakers included: NIA Director Dr. Robert N. Butler; Dr. Nathan Shock, NIH scientist *emeritus*; Dr. Reubin Andres, clinical director of NIA and chief, Clinical Physiology Branch; Dr. George M. Martin, professor of pathology and adjunct professor of geriatrics, University of Washington in Seattle; Dr. Tamara K. Hareven, professor of history, Clark University; and Dr. John C. Beck, director, division of geriatric medicine, and professor of medicine, University of California, Los Angeles.

At a small reception that evening, Dr. Butler and Macy Foundation President Dr. John Z. Bowers presented awards to: Dr. Shock, Florence S. Mahoney, Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, and former Representative Paul G. Rogers.

The Institute chose a small sculpture by Meg Egeberg as its award.



Meg Egeberg's sculpture, "Generations," has been chosen by NIA as an award. Bronze replicas will be given to the honorees.



Marjorie Guthrie, an activist on behalf of sufferers of neurological disease, attended the anniversary celebration. Her late husband was the brilliant folksinger, Woody Guthrie.

The occasion was a moment of historical reckoning as well as a celebration. Dr. Bowers recalled that the Macy Foundation gave a grant of \$10,000 to NIH in 1940 to foster research on aging. This grant permitted the establishment of a Unit of Gerontology in the NIH Division of Physiology, in what in many ways may be considered the first "seed" of NIA. □

## Oral Health Behavior Conference Seeks Ways To Improve Dental Health

Sixty behavioral and social scientists participated in a conference on Oral Health Behavior held last month in Warrenton, Va.

Improving dental health among Americans depends largely on persuading people to practice good oral hygiene, use recommended preventive measures such as fluorides, and obtain regular professional dental care. Efforts to reduce dental disease by these means, however, are beset with problems.

### Examines Research Goals

The conference, sponsored by the Behavioral Group of the American Association of Dental Research, and supported by the National Institute of Dental Research and Proctor and Gamble Company, examined the issues and proposed future research goals.

Topics were discussed first from the perspective of research in oral health behavior and then placed in the larger context of basic behavioral and social science research. □

**ARE YOU QUESTIONING YOUR USE OF ALCOHOL?**  
Call 496-3164  
Employee Assistance Program

## Checks Given to Patient Emergency Fund At R&W Association's Annual Meeting

A combination of interest and door prizes attracted a great number of employees to the NIH R&W Association's 32nd annual meeting at the Clinical Center on June 11.

R&W president Jerry Stiller reported that the association now sponsors 50 activities plus 20 special services.

He reminded the membership that the association's election of officers takes place this month. Balloting will be completed by midnight June 26. Half of the members of the board of directors now up for office will serve 2-year terms.

Membership in the past year has grown moderately, with more new members becoming involved in association activities.

Retired NIH'ers have recently organized as a separate R&W group, and upon retirement all employees are eligible for lifetime membership cards at no charge.

Progress has also been made this year in the R&W's public relations effort, including the design of a new logo and better dissemination about association activities.

As part of the R&W's responsibility "to promote and conduct recreational, educational, and welfare activities" for the CC patients, Mr. Stiller presented checks for \$6,000 for the Patient Emergency Fund to Dr. Charlotte M. Berg, deputy-chief of the CC Social Work Department.



R&W President Stiller presents checks totaling \$6,000 for the Clinical Center Patient Emergency Fund to Dr. Berg at the annual meeting.

### 'Know Your Pension Plan' Booklet Leads to Happy Retirement

Retirement may seem a long way off for many people. And if you have a pension plan, you probably take your future for granted.

Being covered by a plan doesn't mean you will automatically get a pension.

To help you understand pension eligibility, vesting, survivors' benefits, and your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, write to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 534H, Pueblo, Colo. 81009 for a free copy of *Know Your Pension Plan*. □



R&W Awards Chairman John Edwards presented this year's President's Award for outstanding service to Colleen Keegin, DCRT.

Several awards were presented to persons who distinguished themselves as having made contributions to R&W over the past year.

Among the candidates for first vice president this year are Leo Buscher, Phoebe Phaebler, Agnes Richardson, and Ralph Stork; treasurer: Linnie Sloan and Steven Thornton; and recording secretary: Mary Hodges or Adrian Webber.

Ten newly installed ballot boxes have been provided for balloting and they are located at the R&W stores in Bldgs. 10, 31, 38, Westwood. Other locations are: Bldg. 31 R&W Activities Desk, Rm. 4A-04 at Landow, Rm. 710 at Federal, and Rm. 5A-03 at Blair.

Additional boxes are at the snack bar in Bldg. 12B, Rm. 1318 in Bldg. 13, and the first floor lobby of Bldg. 29. Voting hours vary from location to location, however, most are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Election results will be posted and distributed from the R&W Association's Office on June 27. □

### Mashies Win NIH Golf Ass'n 'Stroke' Play Title at Outing

At the fourth NIHGA outing on June 9, 97 members and 6 guests tackled the challenging Germantown Country Club.

The Mashies, defending champions, produced the best golf of the day and easily beat their nearest rivals, the Brainwaves, into second place.

The Westwoods, who are the current leaders, fell back into third place and are now being pursued for this year's championship by the Brainwaves, the Sodbusters, and the Mashies.

Dave Vistica's 73 was the best low gross and Lee Carter's 66 was the best low net round.

Altogether, 29 golfers won three balls each for best performances in their categories, while several more won one ball each for low net in their foursomes. □



DCRT Information Officer Patricia O. Miller was recently elected president of the Washington, D.C. chapter of Women in Communications, Inc. The 350-member area group is part of a 9,000-member national organization of print journalism, broadcasting, public relations, advertising, and communications professionals.

## GRADUATES

(Continued from Page 3)

of the graduates to make themselves "necessary" to their employer so that their work and dedication could be recognized. "See yourself through your employer's eyes."

The employee-graduates were reminded that throughout their lives they should "never forget to be relevant," and that "humanity, like charity, begins at home."

Among those graduating were:

Name	Degree	Major
Miriam Carson	BBA	Business Administration
Taylor Chestnut	BBA	Business Administration
Joanne Evans	Cum Laude, BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Jill Fought	Cum Laude, BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Shirley Harris	AA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Sandra Meadows	Cum Laude, BBA	Public Administration
Delores Michael	BS	Biology
Catherine Neely	Cum Laude, BS	Biology
Lorraine Royal	Magna Cum Laude, BBA	Business Administration
Alfred Stringer	BA	Political Science
F. Violet Zitomer	BA	English
Virginia Monroe	BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Sandra Orkin	Summa Cum Laude, BPA	Public Administration
Mariea Snell	BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Wilberta Swann	BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Mitchell B. Pierre, Jr.	Cum Laude, BS	Mathematics
Zola Brown	BBA	Business Management
Wanda Burton	Magna Cum Laude, BA	Political Science
Sharon Delaney	BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Chiquitta Jones	BA	Social Welfare & Rehabilitation
Barbara Lewis	BBA	Business Management
Ruth Minnis	BBA	Business Management
Catherine Saunders	BS	Business Education
Rosa Simmons	BBA	Business Management

NIH's Career Education Centers offer an educational program at three different locations: NIH, Parklawn, and the Southwest campus. Students receive college credit in any of 50 courses offered each semester. The CEC's also offer courses to students wishing to return to school after a long absence.

This fall's semester begins Aug. 25 and any employee desiring to sign up should do so at least 2 weeks in advance. For further information about the college program and its courses, employees can call 496-5025. □

# Infection, Not Lack of Food, May Be Major Factor In Undernutrition in Certain Areas

The elegant arrangement by which breast feeding protects the newborn against infection, and thereby guards his nutritional status was the subject of a recent presentation by Dr. Lars Hanson to the NIH Nutrition Coordinating Committee. Dr. Hanson, currently a Fogarty Scholar, is credited with discovering the special component in breast milk that provides this protection.

Infection, and not necessarily a lack of food, may be the major factor in undernutrition in areas of the world where exposure to infectious agents is widespread, he told the committee. Sick infants lose nutrients through diarrhea and vomiting, their appetites decline, and the foods they do eat are not utilized efficiently by the body.

Almost all infections, including many intestinal diseases, reach us through the mucous membranes. Breast milk contains a special type of antibody, called secretory IgA, which coats the mucous membranes, providing a barrier against bacteria and other microorganisms, he explained.



Girls in Bangladesh, who play with clay figures similar to these, get a positive attitude toward breast feeding.

less milk, however, so their babies receive less antibody.

Dr. Hanson's studies in developing countries have shown that vaccination can increase the level of secretory IgA in breast milk. In Pakistani women who, as a result of natural exposure, had secretory IgA in their milk against the organism that causes cholera, parenteral (outside the intestine) vaccination increased the antibody level dramatically.

This was surprising, he said, because secretory IgA immunity results from mucosal exposure, and nobody expected it could be boosted by parenteral vaccination.

The vaccine seems to work only if the mother has been exposed naturally to the organism. In Swedish women, who had not been exposed to the cholera organism, parenteral vaccination did not induce secretory IgA production.

Boosting the level of immunity in breast milk is not as simple as it sounds, Dr. Hanson cautioned.

Researchers gave live oral polio vaccine to the Pakistani mothers who had received the cholera vaccine, and found that the polio antibodies present in the milk before vaccination practically disappeared.

The cholera vaccine seemed to play a role in this disturbing response, although the level of polio antibody also diminished significantly in 6 of 10 women who did not receive the cholera vaccine.

The most dangerous period of an infant's life is after weaning, when he loses the protection of breast milk. Dr. Hanson suggested to the committee that it may be possible to boost the baby's secretory IgA immunity by vaccination prior to weaning.

The best way to protect the infant after weaning is by diminishing his exposure to infectious agents, he said. The recent success of Costa Rica in reducing the rate of

infectious disease proves that this is possible.

Infant mortality and diarrheal disease have decreased by 98 percent over 12 years in this developing country, he noted. The dramatic change in the incidence of infectious disease has also improved the nutritional status of the country's citizens.

The message from Costa Rica, stressed Dr. Hanson, is that any nutritional program instituted in a developing country must go hand in hand with measures to prevent infectious disease.

Breast feeding during weaning can help protect the infant from developing food

(See *INFECTION*, Page 10)



Dr. Hanson is credited with discovering the special component in breast milk which protects the newborn against infection.

Secretory IgA is particularly important in protecting against intestinal infection because, unlike other types of antibody, it is not readily degraded by enzymes in the intestinal tract.

Secretory IgA is not the only protective component in human milk, but it is the most important, according to Dr. Hanson. He noted that the newborn cannot synthesize his own secretory IgA; in fact, he said, this antibody is the most delayed immune response of the neonate.

Breast milk contains secretory IgA against all of the microorganisms in the mother's intestinal tract, which are the same organisms to which the infant will be exposed. The level of secretory IgA in the milk is remarkably high, Dr. Hanson noted, providing the infant with  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  gram of antibody per day.

Surprisingly, the concentration of antibody is the same in both healthy mothers and undernourished mothers. The latter produce

## Nutrition Coordinating Committee Holds Special Seminars

The NIH Nutrition Coordinating Committee, operating out of the Office of the Director since 1977, consists of representatives from 11 Institutes and the Division of Research Resources. The committee is chaired by Dr. Artemis P. Simopoulos.

Additional NIH offices; other agencies of the Public Health Service; the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, HHS; and the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President have liaison representatives to the committee, which meets once a month.

Since January 1980, special scientific seminars have been held during the second hour of each NCC meeting. These seminars are conducted primarily by scientists conducting biomedical and behavioral nutrition research at NIH.

The most recent seminar was Dr. Lars Hanson's presentation on Breast Milk, Infections and Nutrition. □

## INFECTION

(Continued from Page 9)

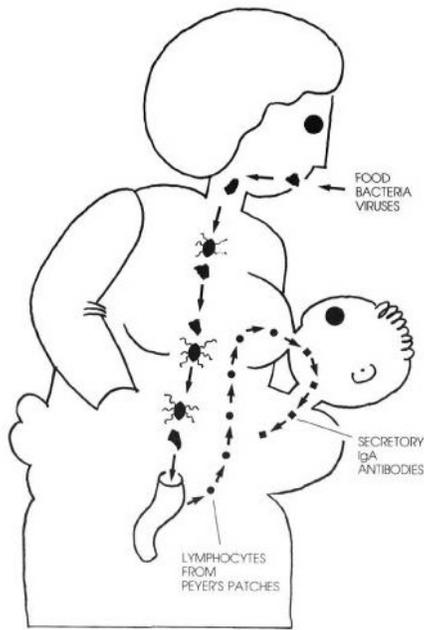


Diagram shows how bacteria, viruses, and food proteins that reach the mother's intestinal tract evoke an immune response which is transferred to the mammary glands.

allergies, Dr. Hanson told the committee. The mother produces secretory IgA in the breast milk against any antigen that enters her intestinal tract, including food proteins, he said. For example, antibodies against cow's milk proteins are found in the breast milk of mothers who drink cow's milk.

These breast milk antibodies against food proteins diminish the baby's exposure to the proteins, giving him the chance to develop a tolerance for them, Dr. Hanson explained. Continued breast feeding during weaning reduces the risk of food allergies in infants who are prone to developing them.

Dr. Hanson is head of the department of clinical immunology at the Institute of Medical Microbiology, University of Goteborg, Sweden. He also teaches clinical immunology at the University's medical school, and serves as physician-in-chief for clinical immunology for the city of Goteborg.

He has been studying the relationship between breast feeding and infection and nutrition in Pakistan for the past 7 years and in Guatemala for the past 2 years. Dr. Hanson will be at NIH through September. □

## Young and Old Meet in Triple Celebration At Capital Children's Museum

"We need to bring the old and the young together," said Dr. Robert N. Butler, Director of the National Institute on Aging, at a celebration held at the Capital Children's Museum in mid-May.

Joining together to celebrate the museum's Senior Volunteer Program (partially supported by ACTION), the Institute's storybook, *A Treasure Hunt*, and Older Americans Month, the museum and NIA seemed to make his words come true.

The museum fills a large building in Northeast Washington, and features a "hands-on" series of exhibits for the thousands of school children who visit it weekly. A group of almost 50 older volunteers helps with the museum's program.

Ann Lewin, museum founder, welcomed guests and expressed her conviction that it was necessary to have "rich and poor, black and white, and young and old" together to complete her vision of the educational program.

One older volunteer, Estella Frye, testified to its benefit to her, saying, "I don't feel that I'm an old woman, I feel like the children do." Ms. Frye participates in the "Another Birthday" program, designed to allow quiet talk between children and an older person about what it is really like to be old. Sometimes the children say "being old means you can't move and you lose your teeth," and Ms. Frye delights in telling them differently and jumping up and down just as they do. This innovative program is designed to dispel fears and emphasize the normality of aging.

Similar goals motivated the NIA in publishing *A Treasure Hunt*. Research has shown that children are influenced by stories that they read, and often become fearful not only of older people but also of becoming older themselves.

Therefore, *A Treasure Hunt*—written by Christopher Wilson and illustrated by Dagmar Wilson—depicted young people getting to know the older people in their community and learning some important lessons from them. In the spirit of the NIA Capital Children's Museum program, each child who visited the museum that day was given his or her own copy of the story book.

Stressing the value of intergenerational activities, Dr. Butler called the Senior Volunteer Program "a marvelous experiment in trying to achieve a real sense of life as a whole—of the entire life cycle." □



Dr. Butler, Helen Kelley, director of ACTION's Older Americans Volunteer Program, and children at the Capital Children's Museum agree on the message in *A Treasure Hunt*.

"This century," said Dr. Butler, "offers a special opportunity to have a three- or even four-generational family." This is due to the remarkable progress that has been made in combating child and maternal mortality.

Most people today will live to old age. This means not only that we all have a stake in what happens to the elderly—our future selves—but also, in Dr. Butler's words, "there was never a time when we had to worry more about protecting relationships between children and old people."

The Capital Children's Museum is located at 800 3rd Street, N.E. and is open to the public. Its telephone number is 544-2244.

Single copies of *A Treasure Hunt* may be requested free from the NIA; additional copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$2.25.

A special quantity price of 25 percent off is given for orders of 100 or more. Orders may be charged to VISA or Master Charge. The publication number is 017-062-00120-1. □

## Col. Albertson Appointed to DRR Advisory Council

Colonel John N. Albertson Jr., commander and director of the U.S. Army medical bio-engineering research and development laboratory at Fort Detrick, Md., has been appointed an *ex officio* member of the National Advisory Research Resources Council.

Promoted to colonel in 1974, Dr. Albertson has had a variety of research, hospital, and field medical assignments as well as command and staff positions.

Among those were chief of the medical and biological sciences branch at the Pentagon; executive officer of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; executive officer of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and chief of staff of the Army medical research and development command.

He became the head of the Fort Detrick research and development laboratory in 1979. □

## Volunteers Allergic to Jewelry Or Nickel Needed

Physicians in the NCI Dermatology Branch are seeking volunteers who are allergic to jewelry or sensitive to nickel.

All that will be required of participants is a small sample of blood. A financial allowance is included. For information, contact Drs. William Levis or Daniel Tanner, 496-1741. □

## Computerized Consultant File Used Extensively; More Minorities Polled

The NIH Consultant File—a computerized registry of over 7,300 scientists interested in vacancies on scientific advisory committees and other peer review activities—has been used extensively and continues to grow.

It was established about a year ago to assist NIH executive secretaries and other staff to identify and assess new nominees for these activities.

Special efforts were made to include scientists who had not previously served as peer reviewers for NIH, and female, minority, and handicapped scientists. The file currently contains names of 1,682 female, 1,027 minority, and 126 handicapped scientists.

Over 300 people whose names are in the file were appointed to NIH review committees or have provided other peer review service between July 1 and the end of 1979.

Information in the file is provided by individuals who are asked to fill out a short questionnaire and submit a current CV, a list of publications, and any other supporting material they desire. The questionnaire asks for name, address, degrees, and areas of research expertise (selected from the code list provided).

These items, plus any available information on minority, sex, and handicap, are put into a computer record which is linked by a common ID number to the CV and supporting material.

The dual nature of the Consultant File information, a computer record backed up by a CV, allows a two-stage search. The first stage is the computerized search which produces a list of the above information on all individuals in the file who meet the criteria specified by the searcher.

From the listing, a subset of individuals is selected for whom the searcher would like to see the CV's. The CV's furnish detailed

information which executive secretaries can use to evaluate the candidates' qualifications.

Public announcements inviting nominations for vacancies on peer review committees appeared in the *NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts*, the *Federal Register*, *Science*, and elsewhere early in 1979.

### Names Provided by NIH Sources

In addition, 62 professional and research organizations were contacted and have provided approximately 5,300 names of female and minority scientists. Additional names have been supplied by sources within NIH.

These combined sources have yielded over 15,000 names of individuals who have been contacted to determine their interest in being included in the registry. About 7,300 submitted resumes and other materials.

Operation of the file and refinement of its design are guided by the NIH Consultant File Working Group, chaired by the NIH Associate Director for Extramural Research and Training and composed of representatives from a number of NIH offices. About one-third of the members are Institute and DRG review group executive secretaries.

The NIH Consultant File Working Group is planning to recontact those currently in the file to determine their continued interest and to request an update of information. Also, a subcommittee of executive secretaries has just completed development of a more extensive research expertise list which has been adopted and will soon be phased into use.

The Program Analysis Branch routinely performs computer searches for NIH staff and forwards copies of CV's upon request. A search program is also available for those preferring to perform their own searches. For further information, contact PAB, 496-5011. □

## Carol Wood Applies Her Skills as CC Therapist To Winning Play on Tennis Courts

During the working day, Carol Wood, physical therapist in the Clinical Center's Rehabilitation Department, applies her knowledge of body movement to the care and treatment of patients. However, when she leaves the CC, Carol takes her skills to the tennis courts.

She is a professional tennis player who has won numerous championships throughout her career.

She won the Women's Mid-Atlantic Singles once and Doubles five times and took part in the U.S. Open in 1979 in Flushing Meadows, N.Y., where well known players such as Renee Richards and Nancy Ritchie also competed.

Nationally, Carol is ranked No. 3 in Singles in the 40 and Over group and No. 1 in Doubles in that group. She will be representing the U.S. later this month in Munich, West Germany, in the international competition for the Young Cup.

She claims that her three children keep her in shape and are her only other sport! □



Nationally, Carol Wood is ranked No. 3 in Singles in the 40 and Over group, and she is No. 1 in Doubles in that group.



Dr. William W. Lawrence, NIEHS employee counselor, was unanimously selected recently as a member of the Durham (N.C.) City School Board to fill a vacancy. Dr. Lawrence has been active with the Durham City schools for several years, serving as chairman of the city schools systemwide advisory board for the past 2 years. He is also a member of the committee for community education, an active PTA member, and a volunteer counselor at the E. K. Powe School.

## RAC

(Continued from Page 1)

The RAC proposed reviewing only information on the biological properties of material to be used in large-scale industrial experiments. The committee would then determine if the material was vigorously characterized and free of harmful genes.

An appropriate physical containment level for the material would be recommended, but the RAC would no longer review details of a plant's proposed containment system. Local biosafety committees would be charged with applying the RAC's standards for containment levels.

The RAC's proposal will be published for public comment in the *Federal Register* at least 30 days before its next meeting, Sept. 25-26. At that time, it is expected to vote on a final recommendation to Dr. Fredrickson.

Recombinant technology involves splitting the genetic material from an organism of one species and transferring this hereditary material to an organism of another. For example, genes from humans can be transferred to bacteria, which can then manufacture products such as insulin or other hormones in large quantities greater than human cells can produce.

In other action at the meeting, the committee recommended approval of an experiment that would release into the environment material containing recombinant DNA.

Dr. Ronald W. Davis of Stanford University proposed that corn plants with added recombinant corn DNA be planted in a field so their characteristics can be studied. The committee recommended that such an experiment would be safe because no genetic material foreign to corn would be involved.

If approved by Dr. Fredrickson, this project would be the first exception to the NIH guideline prohibiting the release of products of gene-splicing into the environment. □

## Vernice Ferguson Leaving NIH To Head VA Nursing Service



Ms. Ferguson has received numerous honors and awards. Among these are the Mary Mahoney Award from the American Nurses' Association, DHEW Distinguished Service Award, and membership in the CC Assembly of Distinguished Nurses.

Vernice Ferguson, chief of the Clinical Center's Nursing Department, will leave on July 14 to become director of the Veterans Administration Nursing Service.

Ms. Ferguson will head the Nation's largest organized nursing service with approximately 60,000 nursing personnel staffing 172 hospitals, 91 nursing homes, and 220 outpatient clinics.

Before coming to the CC in 1973, she was general medical and surgical nursing specialist for Program Planning and Policy Development at the VA Central Office. She has also been chief of Nursing Service at VA hospitals in Madison, Wis., and West Side, Chicago.

For the past 6½ years, she has been chief of the CC Nursing Department, supervising eight nursing services that include 28 nursing units and five clinics.

Ms. Ferguson received her certificate in nursing and a bachelor of science degree from New York University-Bellevue Medical Center. She has her master's degree in health education from Columbia University, and in 1977 was awarded a honorary doctor of science degree from Marymount College of Virginia.

Ms. Ferguson helped initiate the Nursing Department's Annual Program Meeting and Annual Research Review policy during her administration. Consultants from within and without the organization are called together to offer expertise in research and clinical practice.

She was also responsible for establishing the annual nursing awards program and staff retreats to define goals, long-range plans, and modes of implementation for the department.

Ms. Ferguson says, "I think we have achieved much in the professionalism of nurses in this hospital. This is a grand Nursing Department. Their caring cannot be matched. I leave them with fond wishes." □

## Genetically Engineered 'Life Forms' Patentable Rules U.S. Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that life forms created in the laboratory by genetic engineering are patentable like any other invention.

The 5-to-4 decision could make genetic engineering more profitable and give corporations potentially exclusive commercial rights for any marketable life forms they produce.

The case was brought by General Electric Co. after it was denied a patent for a new microorganism created in 1972 to clean up oil spills.

The U.S. Patent Office rejected the company's application because "products of nature," it ruled, "were not meant by Congress to be the exclusive property of anyone. Living things, like the leaves of trees, and laws of nature, like Einstein's theory of relativity," did not fit U.S. patent law.

Chief Justice Warren Burger, writing the court's majority opinion, rejected the idea that products of genetic engineering are legally products of nature.

They would not exist but for the intervention of the scientists who created them in the lab, he wrote, like the telephone, the electric lamp, and the airplane, these organisms are man-made and are protected by laws designed to cover man's inventions.

The decision does not affect existing Federal controls on genetic research or the authority

of the Environmental Protection Agency to control the release of new microorganisms into the environment.

The key to the court's decision lies in its interpretation of fundamental patent law. Government attorneys opposing the patent issuance argued that Congress had previously enacted a separate patent law to cover plant hybridization because it involved a life form. Such legislation, argued the Government, involved Congress in whether such inventions should be handled under new laws and not the old patent law.

Inventions are "often unforeseeable," and are to be encouraged, said Justice Burger disagreeing with the Government's argument. He was joined by Justices Potter Stewart, Harry Blackmun, William Rehnquist, and John Paul Stevens.

Justice William Brennan wrote a dissent with Justices Byron White, Thurgood Marshall and Lewis Powell. They disputed Burger's interpretation of patent law, writing that Congress never intended to cover living organisms.

"It is the role of Congress, not this court, to broaden or narrow the reach of the patent laws," Justice Brennan said. "This is especially true where, as here, the composition sought to be patented uniquely implicates matters of public concern." □

## National Laboratory Animal Facilities Survey Completed

The report of the third national survey of laboratory animal facilities and resources, covering fiscal year 1978, is now available.

The survey, sponsored by NIH, was conducted under contract by the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources of the National Academy of Sciences. Two previous surveys were done by the institute for FY 1960 and FY 1968.

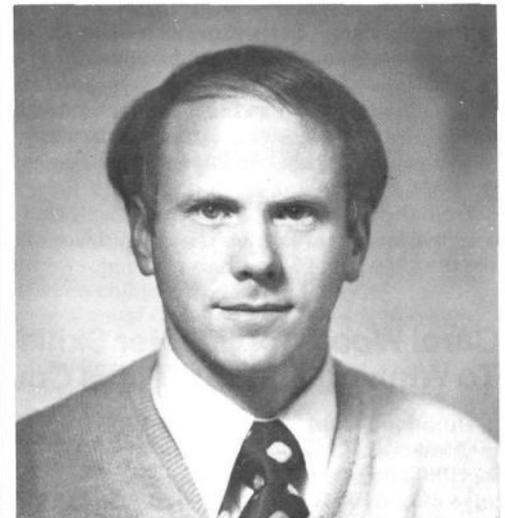
The new report is a compilation of returned survey questionnaires distributed to 2,637 known users of laboratory animals in the United States.

Including a detailed explanation of the dimensions of the survey population, the new publication contains data on average daily laboratory animal inventories, animal use and source, facility administration and personnel, facilities and equipment, and costs of animal care.

In most instances, comparisons between data obtained in FY 1968 and FY 1978 are displayed.

The 90-page booklet also contains analyses of objective data on the current status of unfilled needs in, and future requirements for, research animals, animal resource personnel, facilities, and programs throughout the country.

One free copy of *National Survey of Laboratory Animal Facilities and Resources* can be secured by writing to the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, National



Robert J. Garrison was recently appointed chief, Biometrics Research Branch of NHLBI's Epidemiology and Biometry Program. His research has centered on the study of genetic aspects of coronary heart disease through his work with the NHLBI Twin Studies and the Framingham Heart Study. Mr. Garrison received the PHS Commendation Medal in 1979 "for his outstanding contributions and services" to NIH.

Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418, or to the Office of Science and Health Reports, DRR, Bethesda, Md. 20205. □

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