

# The NIH Record

## NIAID's 'Iron Man'

### Roskey Jennings Marks 57 Years with NIH

By Anne Barber

"The best advice I can give you," says Roskey Jennings, who will be 78 years old on Aug. 11, is "Don't worry about things." Jennings has been working at NIH for 57 of those years. He began working at the Hygienic Laboratory at 25th and E Streets downtown on Mar. 25, 1930.

"If something comes up today that I can't handle, I'll worry about it tomorrow," he says. For the past 44 years, he has arrived at work before 3 a.m. to collect and sterilize glassware left behind by the researchers. By the time the sun comes up, he has row after row of sterilized glassware ready for the day's research.

For 43 of Jennings' 57 years, he never missed a day of work. In fact, he has been nicknamed the "Iron Man" of NIAID. But, on Feb. 20, 1986, he rolled a big cart over his toe in Bldg. 5 where he works for NIAID in the Laboratory of Viral Diseases and Laboratory of Biology of Viruses; he is responsible for sterilizing glassware used in experiments and providing technical support for the scientists.

Jennings was busy making spinner bottles for the labs when the *Record* journeyed over to Bldg. 5 to interview him. While he was out of work for 2½ months, the lab used up most of his supply of glassware. There were only five bottles left when he came back. An order of 40 was placed, of which he already has 11 completed.

His accident, which he didn't really think too much about at the time, did not heal itself. Jennings was placed in the hospital on Nov. 24, 1986, for only the second time in his life; the first time was in 1947.

"They fooled me into going into the hospital," he says about his family and doctor.

According to Jennings, although the Washington Hospital Center is a nice hospital and the staff was nice to him, he did not intend to stay there any longer than the 6 weeks his doctor had originally planned. But Jennings is not the easiest person to get into the hospital; his doctor decided to do an operation that was long overdue as well as take care of his infected toe.

Jennings, whose schedule at NIH starts early in the morning when most people are still in bed, did not adjust easily to the routine hours of a hospital. At midnight, you would find him walking the hospital corridors.

"The nurses would tell me, 'Get out of the hall and go back to bed,'" he said.

(See JENNINGS, Page 4)

### 'Theatre Gene' Makes Playwright of NIDDK Biologist; 'Experiments' a Stage Success

A molecular biologist in Bldg. 2 has inadvertently proven the existence of a thespian gene—a concoction of nucleotides that, passed from generation to generation, results in human beings who love the theater.

Such is the only conclusion one can draw from a meeting with Dr. Robert Martin, an NIDDK scientist who, when not studying DNA synthesis in animal cells, is either at the theater, writing a play or practicing on that near cousin to the cell, the cello.

"My whole family has been interested in the theater for years and years," said Martin, whose first play, a comedy about the scientific enterprise called *Experiments*, had its premier last month.

"My son works with the opera at Wolf Trap during the summer, was president of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society at college and is writing the libretto for an opera," he said. "My daughter has acted at the Folger Theatre and Source Theatre and my wife is a former theater critic for the *Washington Post*. There's a lot of theater blood in the family."

Martin's wife Judith is also well-known as the columnist "Miss Manners" and as a novelist in her own name. Small wonder then that her husband's first play is a comedy of manners. Or, in the case of some characters, the lack thereof.

Based on life in a scientific research institution, the play features an ambitious young female postdoctoral investigator who discovers the first solid tumor-causing virus in humans.

She also finds out that science is not the gilded enterprise featured in children's books—it is an unruly world as much governed by passion as by principle.

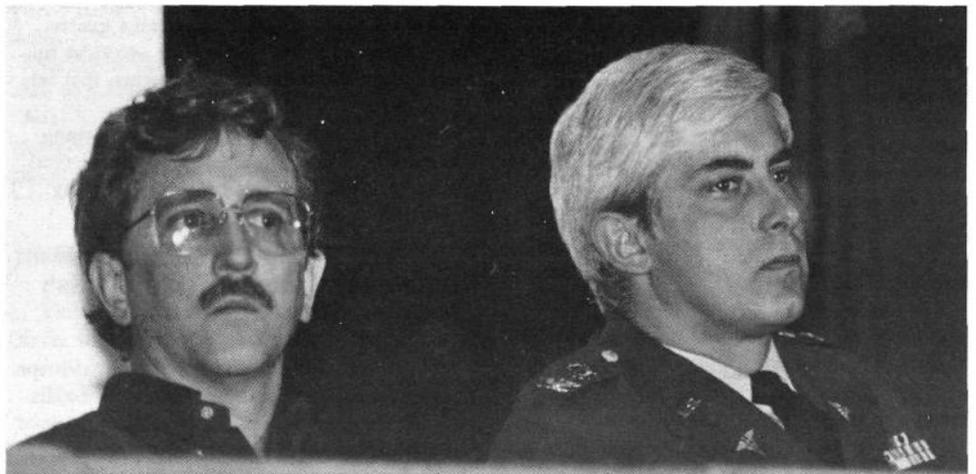
"I wanted to show science as the work of human beings, with all their foibles and funniness," said Martin, who began his research career at NIH in 1960 and is now chief of a section on microbial genetics. "Even though *Experiments* is comedy, I was making serious points about the misadventures in science, the selling of it and the pushing to get ahead. There's a little bit of 'What Makes Sammy Run?' in the play."

It is hard to imagine that anyone with less experience in the field could better recreate the scientific habitat Martin presents in *Experiments*. In his 27 years here, "I've seen it all—many times over," he admits. "Everyone who has seen my play is convinced they know who the characters are based on."

An introduction to the comedy states Martin's theme: "While scientists may be engaged in serious business, the best scientists are children at play."

And play they do, but not always by the rules. The main conflict centers around a decision to go public with uncertain research results that may lead to better salaries and jobs. This tension leads to the play's most emotionally authentic dialogue, including the following advice, given by an older colleague to the young woman who has found a

(See THEATRE, Page 2)



Dr. Marvin Reitz (l) of NCI and Col. Donald Burke of Walter Reed listen pensively to questions during the recent 3-day AIDS vaccine workshop held in Masur Auditorium. Though testing in humans may occur during 1987, an effective, safe AIDS vaccine will be tough to develop, panelists agreed. FDA sponsored the workshop.

## THEATRE

(Continued from Page 1)

"dodecahedral virus" that may cause cancer: "You think of science as being all logic. Well, I guess you're learning the hard way that it's not. It's as much art as anything hanging at the National Portrait Gallery. Like art, it's full of fashions—the 'ins' and 'outs.'"

Another colleague advises, "When science stops being fun, it stops being worth doing."

The young woman eventually decides, against the advice of her peers, to hold a press conference announcing premature results. Lam-basts a coworker: "Somehow you've become the prototypical self-centered, driven, slightly unethical, celebrity conscious ideal of our time."

Mixed in with such moments are many lighter ones featuring a host of comic types—a careless, almost invisible janitor, a window washer who picks a most inopportune time to

Grodzicki directed *Experiments*, which was staged as a fundraiser for her Children's Theatre, a company that puts on two musicals each year.

"It was extremely well received," she said, noting that 150 people came to each perform-

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*"When science stops being fun,  
it stops being worth doing,"  
colleague advises.*

---

ance, roughly half of whom were NIH'ers. "It's an absolute scream."

Three NIDR employees—Chris Flores, Susan Schafer and Jim Weiffenbach—acted in the play, as well as two professional actors.

*Experiments* was, literally, an experiment for Martin, who completed seven drafts of the play before staging it.

"You know the old theater adage, 'There's no such thing as writing a play, there's only re-writing a play,'" he laughs. "I had made various stabs at novels but found I wasn't suited to the medium. What I really like is theater, so I figured why not write a play?"

Since *Experiments*, Martin has written several other plays and is working on one at the moment.

"I have no current plans for readings or a production, but then, 6 months ago there were no plans for *Experiments* either," he said.

Martin says he squeezes writing in on evenings, weekends, and "while daydreaming to and from work." He also finds time for cello lessons, and has played with the NIH Orchestra.

Is he another 'Slava' Rostropovich? "More like 'Sloppy,'" he rejoined, cheerily.

Martin's current play focuses on a quartet, posing the question, "How does one treat musical talent and what do you do when that talent fades?"

If the protagonist in that play is anything like Martin himself, he will probably succeed in another field, or at least be happy trying. □

### Runners/Walkers 'On Your Marks'; Parklawn Classic, April 24

The 1987 Parklawn Classic will be held Apr. 24 at 11 a.m. Registration notices will be distributed desk-to-desk on Apr. 15. Late registration is Apr. 22. For more information, call Mark Despain, 496-6061. □

## NIH Invites Congress to a Series of Breakfasts

A series of seven "Congressional Breakfasts" begins this month on Capitol Hill to acquaint elected officials and their staffs with the work of NIH in its 100th year.

The first breakfast, Apr. 9 in the Cannon Caucus Room, features Dr. Albert Sabin and two other investigators discussing the topic of pediatric research.

More than 200 guests have been invited to each of the hour-long breakfasts, which are sponsored by 15 major pharmaceutical companies and endorsed by hundreds of voluntary health organizations.

The agenda for future breakfasts, which are open by invitation only, includes: Apr. 24, basic research; May 13, cancer; June 5, heart disease; July 9, aging; Sept. 15, high-tech medicine; and Oct. 6, neuroscience. □

## Correction

A picture caption that ran on page 1 of the Jan. 27 issue of the *Record* incorrectly identified Mrs. C.W. Tyssowski as a sister of Ruth Wilson. She is the sister of Mrs. Luke I. (Helen Woodward) Wilson. □



Martin is both playwright and molecular biologist.

ply his trade, a fireman who storms into the right room but the wrong building, and an oily sheikh seeking to monopolize the biotechnology biz.

Martin says these characters might never have seen the light of stage had it not been for an incident of serendipity.

"I was interviewing for a secretary in our lab and met a candidate who said she needed her noons off to run a theater," he recalls. "I thought, 'Click!'"

The candidate was Johanna Grodzicki, founder of the 11-year-old Bethesda Youth Theatre. Though Martin didn't hire her for his lab ("She got a much better job than I could have given her," he says. Adds Johanna, "We're both so into the theater we couldn't have gotten anything done."), he did enlist her aid and that of many area high school students in putting on the 2-hour play, which ran Mar. 6 and 7.

## The NIH Record

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*There's More Room on the Plate, Though*

## Satellite Dish Helps NCI Monitor Cancer Advances

By Anne Barber

Perhaps by now you have noticed the new "dish" on top of Bldg. 31C. It has been there 4 weeks and is busy receiving signals. What kind of signals you ask? The answer—signals from the Hospital Satellite Network (HSN).

The satellite dish is on loan free to NIH from HSN through a contract recently signed by NIH Director James B. Wyngaarden.

"The dish can only receive signals, it cannot telecast," says Paul van Nevel, director, NCI Office of Cancer Communications.

The hospital network began in 1984 and provides 24-hour-a-day programming to hospitals with health information for physicians, nurses, and patients. There are approximately 1,200 hospitals participating in the network.

However, NIH belongs only to the cancer center portion of the network. Satellite dishes, like the one on Bldg. 31C, have been installed at the 20 largest cancer centers across the country; HSN hopes to expand to include small cancer centers as well as community health centers.

As HSN starts other subnetworks, like the Cancer Center Network, the dish can be used by other institutes as well.

The cancer broadcasts occupy only 3 hours of air time a week. The programs are videotaped in the 31C conference room via a wire running from the dish (see photo). These tapes may be borrowed for viewing. They can also be shown over a closed circuit TV hook-up that is available.

"This has a lot of potential," van Nevel says. "Especially when more centers are added to the network and there are more hours of programming."

Some of the events that van Nevel said could be transmitted by the Cancer Center Network are scientific seminars about work on the cutting edge of research, and special broadcasts from NCI on policy and program information, and patient education programs.

"The network can also provide a teleconference service with an interactive capacity. Conferences can be telecast with a call-in line so individuals at cancer centers can ask the panelists questions," he continues.

At the moment, live uplinks cannot originate at NIH, but NIH staff who participate in live programs such as teleconferences can do so in other locations in downtown Washington.

In January 1985, NCI's PDQ database program was inaugurated when HSN aired a live 1-hour teleconference. HSN sponsored and paid for the entire telecast, which originated from



*Sitting on top of Bldg. 31C is the satellite dish on loan from the HSN. Notice the wire running from the dish into the conference room below, which allows for videotaping of programs received.*

the DHHS building in Washington, D.C.

HSN programming in recent years has included the Clinical Center's Medicine for the Layman series. The network did this at no cost to NIH for 2 years but is no longer taping the lectures. The CC was disappointed to see HSN discontinue this practice because the network furnished the CC with copies of the videotapes, which could be sent out to various community groups for use.

March's programming on the cancer network included "Diet and Cancer Prevention" produced by NCI for the Medicine for the Layman series.

Summing up HSN's capabilities and how they could be used at NIH, van Nevel says, "NIH has a lot of information available and this gives us another channel to get it out to the people who need it." □

### Institute Relay Planned

The 10th Annual NIH Institute Challenge Relay will be held on Wednesday, May 20 at noon (rain or shine) in front of Bldg. 1.

The relay will consist of 2.5 miles run in 1/2 mile legs on a course around Bldg. 1 by teams of five runners. Each team member runs 1/2 mile. The categories include men's, women's and mixed. □

## McDevitt to Give Kinyoun Lecture

By Laurie Doepel

Why do certain diseases tend to "run in families"? Historically, this question has been more easily answered by mystics than by scientists. Within the past decade, however, medical researchers have been accumulating evidence to indicate that, just like eye and hair color, *susceptibility* to some diseases may be inherited, too.

This relation between genetics and immunity will be addressed by Dr. Hugh O. McDevitt, a renowned Stanford University Medical School scientist, at this year's NIAID-sponsored Kinyoun Lecture. The lecture will take place Friday, Apr. 10, at 3 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. McDevitt has titled his talk "Regulation of Immunity by Class II MHC Antigens."

For more than 25 years, he has been at the forefront of research unraveling the mysteries of the MHC, or major histocompatibility complex. This large cluster of genes regulates tissue transplant reactions and also controls general immune responsiveness.

Initially, the MHC was known to include only transplantation genes (hence the name "histocompatibility"). Early in his career, McDevitt identified the first set of immune response genes and pinpointed their location to the same chromosomal region as that of the MHC. The revelation that the MHC comprises immune response genes in addition to transplantation genes generated enormous scientific interest and gave impetus to many important studies describing the structures and functions of MHC genes and their antigen products.

While most of his research has been conducted at the genetic and molecular levels, McDevitt maintains a keen interest in the clinical implications of his work. His recent experiments in rodents and humans provide evidence, supported by that of other researchers, that unique genetic sequences in the MHC may determine susceptibility to autoimmune diseases.

In complimentary experiments, McDevitt and his colleagues are trying to develop monoclonal antibody therapies for such diseases. If successful, this research may eventually help those with such intransigent diseases as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and diabetes.

The Kinyoun Lecture takes on special significance during the NIH Centennial celebration because the lecture honors Dr. Joseph J. Kinyoun, founder of the Laboratory of Hygiene from which the NIH evolved. □

**JENNINGS**

(Continued from Page 1)

"I didn't know how many friends I had until I was in the hospital. I had a lot of people from work visit along with members of my family," Jennings continues. "Between my two sisters alone, they have 30 kids. And one day, they brought 16 of them with them. Sounded like an army coming in."

After 6 weeks, he had enough of confinement and made a deal with the doctor. "You sign me up to go home," he said, "or sign me out to St. E's." The next day, the doctor released him but advised him not to return to work right away.

On Feb. 2, Jennings reported back to work full time; he doesn't believe in doing anything halfway.

"I enjoy being back at work, I like my job," he says. Retire? "No, but one day, I will just quit and go to join God."

According to Jennings, NIH has really outgrown itself. "When I first started downtown, there were only two buildings," he said. "You could shake hands with everyone in one-half hour. "Now this place is so large you could get

*"Just a little faith," Jennings strongly believes, "will take you many miles."*

lost, especially in the Clinical Center," he continues. "I call the Clinical Center 'Little New York,' the difference being that you still have money in your pocket when you leave."

He and his two brothers and two sisters grew up on the family farm in Danville, Va. His father died at the age of 102 and his mother died at 92. His sisters still live there. He goes back for vacations but doesn't feel he could go back there to live again. "Too much adjustment," he says. "I'll go back in my last days to the family plot and be buried there."

Jennings left the farm and came to Washington by himself at the age of 18. "Never hung around benches, always stayed close to myself," he said. "Never been arrested by police neither in all these years." His father always told him a man is supposed to have his money in his billfold in his pocket. Translated, that means no gambling or wasting money on alcohol. Throughout all these years, he still remembers that saying.

In 1980, then secretary of HHS Patricia Harris honored Jennings for 50 years of service at a ceremony held downtown at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building. In 1984, he received the NIH Director's Award in further recogni-



Roskey Jennings (c) receives congratulations from NIH Director Dr. James B. Wyngaarden (r) for his tenure of 57 years at NIH. Dr. William F. Raub, NIH's Deputy Director happily joins in the occasion.

photo/Bill Branson

tion of his many years of devoted service. In 1985, he also received a cash award for his service to the Laboratory of Viral Diseases.

He has enjoyed his life thus far. "Hasn't been the sweetest (his wife died in 1970 after a long illness), but it was what the Lord wished," he says.

"Just a little faith," Jennings strongly believes, "will take you many miles." □

**DS Creates New Branch**

The Division of Safety has announced the creation of a new branch—the Emergency Management Branch—that will beef up NIH's fire prevention and fire fighting ability.

Headed by Richard Shaff, who joined DS at its inception in 1979, the branch has two forks—the Fire and Emergency Response Section (known to most of us as the NIH Fire Department) and the Fire Prevention Section.

Two platoons staffed with "emergency response specialists" (the term fire fighter no longer reflects the breadth of training these people receive in such areas as rescue and handling of hazardous materials) are included in the former section, which will continue to provide 24-hour emergency response on campus.

The latter section will pursue an aggressive fire prevention program, with emphasis on techniques appropriate for a research environment.

Questions about services provided by either branch may be directed to the EMB, 496-1986. □

**Don't Import Without a Permit**

Strict enforcement of requirements for permits covering importation of all biological material is being undertaken by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

The requirements state that all investigators must obtain permits prior to making any effort to obtain materials from foreign sources. The permit must then be forwarded to the sender for affixing to the shipment.

All import shipments containing any material of animal origin (including human) must have the appropriate permit affixed to the shipment (a PHS permit or a USDA permit) on arrival at the port of entry. USDA will no longer issue permits after the fact, except in emergencies.

Materials arriving at ports of entry without a permit are subject to destruction or return to the sender. Individuals who render a false declaration about the materials being imported are individually subject to legal action.

Guidance for obtaining the required permits is available in Manual Issuance 1340-1. Assistance in clarifying these requirements may be obtained by calling 496-2960. □

**Plan for Retirement**

The Recruitment and Employee Benefits Branch, DPM, is offering another Retirement Planning Program for NIH employees on May 6-7. A personnel bulletin will be distributed desk-to-desk giving more detailed information. □

**20 Yrs. of Great Music Remembered****FAES Announces 20th Concert Series**

By Dr. Giulio Cantoni

The Chamber Music Series at NIH, sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, announces its 20th Chamber Music Series at NIH.

The program for 1987-88 will include Viktoria Mullowa, the Vienna String Quartet, the Chamber Orchestra of Cologne, Andras Schiff, the Washington Wind Ensemble, Eugene Istomin, Uto Ughi, and the Kaplan-Carr-Golub Trio.

This is a good time to look back on our 135 concerts, review our objectives and reaffirm our dedication to excellence in chamber music.

From the beginning, the purpose of our Chamber Music Series has been to present concerts of the highest quality, alternating artists of international reputation at the peak of their career with younger performers of great talent and as yet relatively unknown in this country.

The first concert was held on Nov. 3, 1968, and featured the famous Mieczyslaw Horszowski, then age 76. This great artist returned twice to our concerts in 1984 and 1985, still performing at the peak of his form. The second concert of Feb. 16, 1969, was by Isaac Stern.

Rudolf Serkin, one of the greatest musicians of our time, also played a benefit concert for us in 1975.

In 1969, 1971 and 1973 when we invited Jean Pierre Rampal to perform in our series, he was widely admired but not yet established as the superstar he is today. Benita Valente, recently acclaimed by the *New York Times* as having been "discovered" by the public, was recognized by FAES in May 1970 when she made the first in a happy series of appearances in our concerts; she returned in 1972, 1973, 1981 and 1985.

The great Amadeus Quartet had not been heard in Washington since the early 1950's when it appeared in our concerts for the first time in 1971. That same year saw Pollini's Washington's debut at the NIH. The newly established Trio de Milano, now recognized as one of the outstanding ensembles of our time, made its U.S. debut at NIH in April 1971.

Among the world famous artists that we have been privileged to present one or more times are Fournier, Firkusny, Weissenberg, the Quartetto Italiano, Maureen Forrester, Gerald Souzay, the Virtuosi di Roma, Gold and Fizdale, Lily Kraus, the Trio di Trieste, the Bach Aria Group, Nikita Magaloff and Claude Frank and Lillian Kallir and many other distinguished musicians.

We are especially proud of the fact that a number of artists who are now world famous were practically unknown in Washington or even in the U.S. when they made their debut here. These include Radu Lupu, Pinchas Zuckerman, Peter Serkin and Richard Stolzman alone or with Tashi, William Parker, in one of his very first concert appearances, the Tokyo String Quartet, Murray Perahia, the Aulos Wind Ensemble, the Vermeer Quartet, Silvia Marcovici, Salvatore Accardo, Uto Ughi, the Gabrieli String Quartet, and Orlando String Quartet, Yozuko Horigome, Stephen Hough, Ewa Podles, I Soliti Italiani, Young Uck Kim and friends, the Colorado String Quartet, Andras Schiff, the Aurny String Quartet and, among others, a series of eight young cellists who from 1978 to 1985 performed in a specially endowed concert dedicated to the memory of Gregor Piatigorsky.

With the support of our faithful audience and friends we hope to continue in the future to offer great music at NIH.

*Dr. Cantoni is chairman of FAES Music Programs.* □

**Spring Forth to DST**

Did you arrive late to work on Monday, Apr. 6? Did you know that Daylight Savings Time "fell back" this year?

As a result of a law passed by Congress last July, Daylight Savings Time was changed from the last Sunday in April to the *first* Sunday in April as part of an energy savings program. It will also provide greater opportunity for outdoor recreation and safety benefits.

So remember next year: 'Spring Forward, Fall Back' and move your clocks *ahead* on the *first* Sunday in April. □

**Musical To Benefit CC Patients**

A musical production called, "Broadway Scrapbook: Struggle & Survival," will be held Apr. 24-26 in Masur Auditorium for the benefit of the Friends of the Clinical Center.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop will be honorable chairman of the show, a light-hearted look at six aspiring performers in pursuit of fame on Broadway written by Mike Teele of Ford's Theater. The cast includes Clinical Center employees and songs from musicals spanning four decades.

A patient performance is scheduled for Thursday, Apr. 23 at 8 p.m. Regular performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday. The Apr. 25 performance will include a sign language interpreter.

Tickets are available at all R&W stores for \$10. For more information, call 496-4600. □



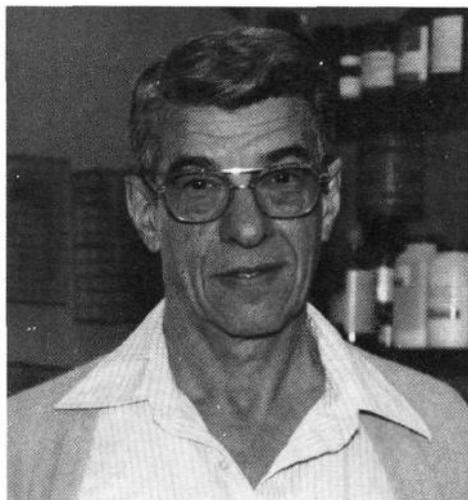
*Alice Page Smith, director of NIH R&W musicals, presents a check for \$2,200 to the NIH Patient Emergency Fund as the Theatre Players take well-deserved bows. The check was accepted by Dr. Charlotte Berg, deputy chief of the Clinical Center Social Work Department (seated on the right at the table). Looking on are players (l to r): John Burklow, Mary Daum, Gale Luce, Jean Welsh, Bill Morrison, Cindy Kincaid, Pam Awkerman, and Millie Fenton.*

## Dr. Milton Kern Is Mourned

On Thursday Mar. 12, Dr. Milton (Mick) Kern died peacefully in his home at the age of 61. For more than a year Mick had bravely faced lung cancer with courage that was inspiring to those around him.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., graduated from Bois High School and studied at Brooklyn College. His college studies were interrupted by World War II, when Mick saw service in the West European Theater as an ordnance expert. After returning home he finished Brooklyn College and entered graduate school at Yale University, where he obtained a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1954 with Dr. Gifford Pinchot.

After a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University with Dr. Sidney Colewick, Mick became an instructor at Washington University School of Medicine where he worked with Dr. Herman Eisen. In 1963 he joined NIH in Dr. Yale Topper's section (LBM, NIADDK). In 1985 Mick joined the



Dr. Milton Kern

section on carbohydrates in Dr. Cornelis Glaudemans' section (LC, NIADDK). His interest was in immunology; work on the triggering of the sequence of events leading to the proliferation of b-lymphocytes occupied a large part of his professional life. He published some 70 papers in this field.

Mick was a man with high professional standards and unassailable integrity. He was extremely fair, friendly and outgoing and never too busy to help people in their work or with personal matters. He treated the postdoctoral fellows he had with respect and sensitivity and concerned himself with their futures.

Mick is survived by his wife of 37 years, Es-

telle, and leaves behind three children and five grandchildren.

He enjoyed traveling and always was great company. But never did his strength of character show better than in the last year and a half of his life. Faced with his illness he nevertheless was cheerful, continued his professional career and never lost interest in science, politics, and his friends. Those of us who knew him are lucky. We will miss him.—Cornelis Glaudemans □

### NIDDK Cystic Fibrosis Symposium

The second annual spring Cystic Fibrosis Symposium, sponsored by NIDDK-Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Joint Program, will be held on Apr. 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Bldg. 31C, Conf. Rm. 6, 6th floor.

The program will consist of presentations by 17 speakers on topics that include: current efforts in cloning of the human mucin gene, development of a blood test for cystic fibrosis, biochemistry of secretion in endocrine and exocrine cells.

For further information, call Dr. Victor Jimenez, 496-3093. □

### Applications Being Taken For Grants Workshop

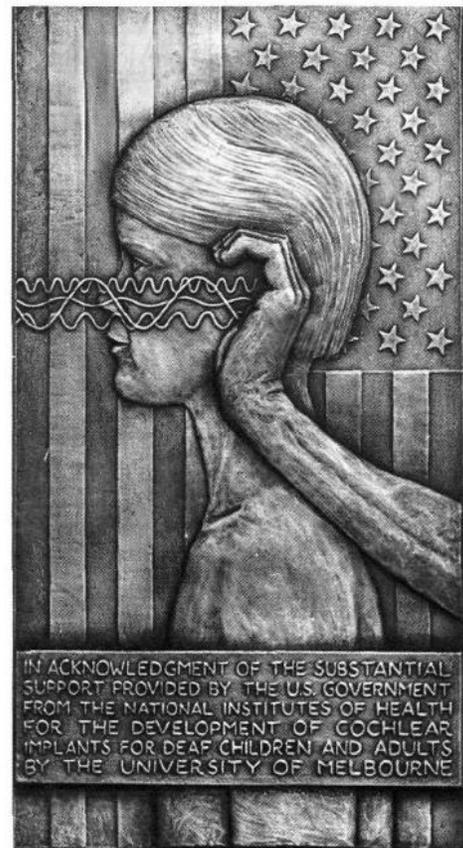
A workshop on extramural programs and grant support sponsored by NIGMS will be held Wednesday, May 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Shannon Bldg.

Application forms will be available from intramural laboratory and branch chiefs during the week of Apr. 13. Applications should be sent to Extramural Workshop, Rm. 919, Westwood Bldg., by May 15.

For additional details, call Dr. Janet Newburgh or Dr. Christine Carrico, 496-7181, or Dr. Judith Greenberg, 496-7175. □

### Are You Home, Home on the (Normal) Range?

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is seeking married, healthy persons, ages 25 to 45, who are employed, for a study of the effects of work and home demands on blood pressure. For further information call 295-3263. □



*This bronze plaque, created by Australian artist Michael Meszaros, was recently unveiled at the University of Melbourne in recognition of NINCDS support of a program to develop cochlear implants, devices that help deaf people hear.*

### Science Writers Guild Hosts NIH Publications Panel

You can meet the NIH press on Apr. 9 at noon when the NIH Science Writers Guild presents a panel discussion with the editors of NIH publications.

Editors of the *NIH Record*, *News and Features*, *Search for Health*, *Healthline*, the *From the NIH* column, *Clinical Center Closeup*, and NIH broadcast unit will give brief introductions to each publication's content, audience, format, and editorial style.

The Science Writers Guild meeting will be held in Bldg. 31, Rm. 2A52, from noon to 1 p.m. and is open to all NIH employees. □

### Make Yours a Double

The NIH Singles Club 'Happy Hour' will be held on Apr. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the FAES House on Old Georgetown Rd.

For further information call Judy, 496-6149. □

## New Animal Models Anticipated

# Genetic Blood Disease Beta-thalassemia Treated in Mice by Gene Transfer

By Leslie Fink

Treating genetic diseases by replacing defective genes with "good" genes has been an ambitious but distant hope for medical researchers. Recently, though, a team of scientists at Columbia University did just that in animals inheriting the blood disease beta-thalassemia. Using a technique known as microinjection, the researchers injected into fertilized mouse eggs genes that dramatically improved symptoms of the disease in the offspring.

Although this gene transfer method is not suitable for treating beta-thalassemia in humans, Dr. Frank Costantini, leader of the Columbia team, said "we thought it useful to attempt to correct the [mouse] beta-thalassemia by this procedure, if only as a preliminary step toward eventual somatic gene therapy for human thalassemia." Somatic gene therapy refers to techniques that may help a patient who already has the disease. These methods will not, however, prevent the disease from developing in people who are genetically programmed to inherit it.

These experiments also pave the way for new animal models of human blood diseases, the NICHD-supported researchers said in a recent issue of *Science*.

Beta-thalassemia results when abnormal genes inherited from both parents fail to produce enough of the blood protein beta-globin. This molecule combines with alpha-globin molecules to form hemoglobin, the large, oxygen-carrying protein in red blood cells. Low amounts of beta-globin lead to low amounts of hemoglobin. This in turn causes red blood cell abnormalities and, in severe cases, death in early childhood.

Lacking an animal version of the disease, researchers testing treatments for beta-thalassemia had until recently been limited to what they could ethically and technically perform in human patients. Three years ago, though, scientists at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences in North Carolina discovered mutant mice with genetic defects and symptoms similar to those of humans with beta-thalassemia. Several generations of these mice have now been bred to preserve the genetic trait, making them the only animal model available for studying beta-thalassemia.

Costantini and his coworkers injected copies of normal mouse beta-globin genes into fertilized eggs from the mutant mice. The scientists then placed the eggs back into foster

mothers that carried the embryos to term. Because the normal gene had been taken up by all the cells in two of these bodies—including blood cells and sex, or "germ line," cells—mating these mice to thalassemic mice produced a second generation of offspring that carried the normal beta-globin gene.

Blood tests from this second generation showed the procedure had improved the disease symptoms. Red cells and amount of hemoglobin in blood from these "transgenic" mice were nearly normal.

Injecting genes into fertilized eggs, though, is often plagued by a low success rate. Costantini estimates that only a few percent of the eggs injected will develop into cured individuals; this is one problem that makes the technique an unlikely candidate for treating human genetic disorders. Getting the injected genes to work properly "varies tremendously from one animal to the next," says Costantini. "And the odds of getting high enough gene activity to overcome the defects are actually very low. But it's a technical problem, and it's not impossible to imagine it will be overcome in the next 20 years or so."

Also, methods for diagnosing a genetic disease in a single-celled embryo—the stage when microinjection is done—simply do not exist. Besides these technical problems, he says, there are also ethical problems: "Is it right to mess around with the germ line?"

In a second experiment, the scientists introduced the human beta-globin gene into normal mice and found that these mice made higher-than-normal amounts of beta-globin as a result of carrying the human gene. Because the human gene was already in the germ line, breeding these mice with thalassemic mice introduced it into their offspring as well.

Although these baby mice were genetically programmed to develop beta-thalassemia, they also carried the normal human beta-globin gene, which overrode the defective genes and completely cured their disease. Beta-globin molecules encoded by the human gene were able to combine with mouse alpha-globin molecules to form working hemoglobin. And, reports Costantini, the "abnormalities characteristic of thalassemic mouse red blood cells were entirely eliminated by the introduction of the human beta-globin gene."

Such success means scientists studying genetic blood diseases can now use beta-thalassemic mice to test other techniques for

delivering human beta-globin genes into blood cells. "The fact that human beta-globin chains work in mice means you can use this mouse as a model," says Costantini. "If the human chains didn't work, you would have to do all your tests with mouse genes, and then try to convert your strategy to human genes."

The results also open doors to developing new animal models of other genetic blood diseases. By similarly producing mice that express the defective human gene for sickle cell anemia, for example, Costantini and his coworkers hope to develop an animal model for that disease. "That would be very useful," he says, "because there is no animal model for sickle cell anemia, and there are several drugs that might prevent sickling that can't be tested in human patients. But they could be tested if there were an animal model." □



Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg, chief of the Surgery Branch in NCI's Division of Cancer Treatment, has recently received two awards and been notified of a third for his innovative cancer treatment (LAK/IL-2) based on adoptive immunotherapy. Ben-Gurion University awarded him an honorary doctor of philosophy degree. He also received the 1985 Dr. Friedrich Sasse Award of \$10,000 at the University of Berlin and the Nils Alwall Award, to be presented this summer at the fifth annual meeting of the International Society of Blood Purification, under the patronage of King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm, Sweden.

## Rodney Duvall, NIAID's Unofficial Historian, Retires

By Jeanne Winnick

Rodney Duvall, "unofficial" historian of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, retired recently after a 40-year career with the institute. As a biological laboratory technician in the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, he spent his entire career in Bldg. 5.

Duvall's archives include historical information about the early days at NIAID, photos of the campus as it looked in 1948, and documentation of its vast growth from a facility with just 1,000 employees to the largest biomedical research facility in the world with a total today of approximately 14,000 employees.

Not only did he retain those records, but he also has the score book from 1950's softball games played during lunch break on the spot where Bldg. 10 now stands. "Life was more relaxed back then," said Duvall. "There were no traffic jams, no lack of parking, and there was a special closeness among the employees."

Negotiations are now under way with individuals from the NIH Library and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene regarding the preservation of the most important of these historical records, including reports of early research on parasitic diseases.

Dr. Franklin Neva, chief of the LPD since 1969, recalls how Duvall's "wise counsel" helped ease his transition from Harvard Medical School to his duties at NIAID. "What made Mr. Duvall such a valuable member of the laboratory was his loyalty and his willingness to take on responsibility. In addition to his work as a laboratory technician, he took on administrative duties, was property manager for several years, and served on various committees. He was always concerned about the lab as a whole."

Dr. Allen Cheever, head of LPD's Host-Parasite Relations Section, and a man with whom Duvall worked closely for the past 20 years, recalls that "he was a superb laboratory technician. He learned techniques quickly and usually improved upon them so that both accuracy and output improved. In addition, he was an excellent teacher and excelled working with students, postdoctorals and other technicians."

Also, Cheever, added "Rodney was an invaluable resource for ideas and materials, saving the LPD thousands of dollars each year through his collection of unused equipment and materials, which he was often able to repair."

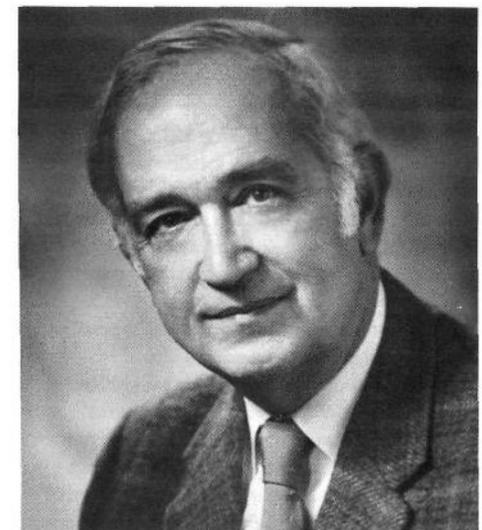
Duvall has been honored throughout his career, not only for his sustained high-quality performance with the institute but also for his many hours of community service. He was a leader with the Boy Scouts of America, was active in the Lions Club and, since 1945 has been a volunteer fireman and rescue squadsman with the Damascus (Md.) Volunteer Fire Department. He will remain active with the department, where he has been treasurer for 12 years.

In addition to his work at NIH and his community service, he found time to return to school to earn an associate of arts degree from Federal City College in 1976, and a B.Sc. degree from the University of the District of Columbia in 1978.

Looking back on his career, Duvall said that he especially enjoyed his years as a laboratory technician because, "in some ways, being around the professionals gave me a better outlook on life and a good perspective of the workings of mankind." □



Marilyn E. Farrand, a registered dietitian with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, has been named Outstanding Dietitian of the Year by the District of Columbia Metropolitan Area Dietetic Association. The award honors professional leadership and service to the field of nutrition. Farrand was also honored this year for her volunteer work with the Nation's Capital Affiliate of the American Heart Association, where she has served on the board of directors for 5 years and on the nutrition subcommittee for 15 years.



Dr. Albert Z. Kapikian of NIAID was recently awarded the Behring Diagnostics Award in Diagnostic Virology and Rickettsiology, given annually to a distinguished leader in microbiology by the American Society of Microbiology. He was honored for "the numerous and varied methods which he has developed for virus detection and antibody assay, which have contributed greatly to the understanding of the etiology, immunology, and epidemiology of a variety of important viral infections."



In NIAID's Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases are (l to r) Dr. Allen Cheever, Rodney Duvall, and Dr. Franklin Neva, looking at a preserved specimen of a tapeworm, wrapped around a cylinder in a jar of preservative. Duvall recently retired after 40 years with the institute.

### Men Needed for NIMH Studies

The National Institute of Mental Health is seeking dyslexic and hyperactive men, ages 18-40, for two studies of brain activity.

- Participants must have a documented history of serious reading problems, speak English as native language, have no auditory impairments, and be in good health.

- Participants must have been diagnosed as hyperactive in childhood by a physician, have no auditory impairments, and be in good health. Childhood school and medical records are needed for participation.

For further information, contact Ashley Hanahan, 496-9070. □

## Short Cycles, Long Periods Linked to Endometriosis

Women who have short menstrual cycles and long, heavy periods appear to have increased susceptibility to endometriosis, according to a recently published study. Women with these characteristics had double the risk for endometriosis compared to women with longer cycles, and shorter, lighter periods.

Endometriosis, a condition in which cells from the lining of the uterus infiltrate the abdominal cavity, affects between 10 and 15 percent of all women during their childbearing years. It can cause severe pain and is a major source of infertility. It is estimated that endometriosis is found in about one-half of the women who undergo surgery to overcome infertility.

In order to identify physical and lifestyle factors associated with severe endometriosis, a study team comprised of researchers from seven infertility centers compared the menstrual histories of 268 women who were infertile due to endometriosis with 3,794 women who delivered a baby between 1981 and 1983. Menstrual histories were based on cycles when women were not using oral contraceptives or IUDs.

A comparison of the two groups of women found that the ones suffering severe endometriosis tended to start menstruation at an earlier age; to have menstrual cycles of 27 days or less (the average is 28 to 34 days); to have longer periods (7 days or more); and to have heavier, more painful periods.

Two factors—exercise and smoking—were found to help protect women from endometriosis. The protective effect associated with exercise was largely confined to women who had started a regular exercise program before the age of 26 and who engaged in some type of conditioning activity such as jogging or calisthenics at least 2 hours a week.

Very few cases of endometriosis were found among women who started smoking before age 17 and who smoked more than a pack a day. The investigators were careful to point out that the "adverse health effects of smoking clearly

outweigh any potential protective benefits on endometriosis suggested by this finding."

Douching did not appear to affect susceptibility, nor was any difference observed among women who used tampons or sanitary napkins. Obesity was not found to be a risk factor, but almost half of the endometriosis patients were taller than 5'5".

Since this study was epidemiological, it could not determine if the menstrual patterns characteristic of the women with endometriosis were a precursor or a symptom of the disease. However, the investigators say these markers can be useful in diagnosing endometriosis as a possible cause of infertility.

The epidemiological findings also help to confirm several theories about the origin and spread of endometriosis. One theory is that endometriosis occurs when cells from the lining of the uterus are "flushed" upwards through the fallopian tubes and into the abdominal cavity. Short cycles and heavy periods are conducive to this.

Also, it has been hypothesized that once cells from the uterine lining are implanted in the abdominal cavity, they are dependent upon hormones such as estrogen. Thus, factors that lower estrogen levels would also serve to inhibit the proliferation of uterine cells outside of the uterus. Since both smoking and exercise are known to lower estrogen levels, the finding that these activities have a protective effect reinforces this theory.

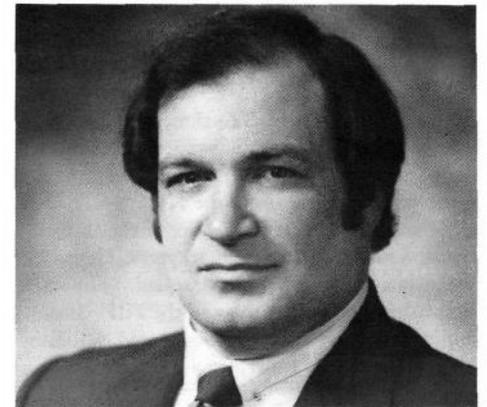
This study, supported in part by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, was conducted at medical centers in Boston, Mass.; Burlington, Vt.; Sherbrooke, Quebec; Washington, D.C.; Lexington, Ky.; and Denver, Colo. Dr. Bruce Stadel of the NICHD Contraceptive Development Branch and Dr. Stephen C. Schoenbaum of the Harvard Community Health Plan helped coordinate the research. The study was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. □



Susan Newburger (l) program development specialist from the National Academy at Gallaudet College presented a seminar entitled "Orientation to Deafness and Considerations in Working with the Hearing-Impaired" as part of the sign language courses offered through the NIH Training Center. Bobbie Quinn interpreted for the hearing-impaired.

## Barbarash To Direct DELPRO

Gary R. Barbarash has been appointed director of the NIH Delegated Procurement (DELPRO) Program in the Division of Procurement. He will oversee the entire DELPRO program and training seminars.



Gary R. Barbarash

Barbarash, who holds a degree in chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis, spent 10 years as a research chemist, including 3 years at NINCDS. After obtaining a master's degree in business, he joined NCI's Division of Cancer Etiology in 1981.

He has received many awards, including the 1986 NIH Merit Award for administrative excellence. He is the author of the computerized ROSS System that assists laboratory chiefs in monitoring their expenditures. □

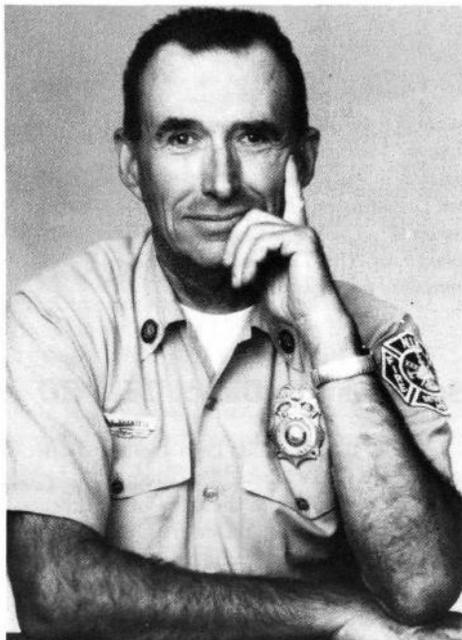


NIH Toastmasters officers for the spring term include (front row, from l) Madeline Catravas, Margaret Foster, Marie Pinbo, Jennie Hunt. At rear are (from l) Alex Nobleman, Vivian McFarland, Dan Higgins and Anthony Kaminski, the group's president. The Toastmasters, who meet Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. in 311 B2C05 to practice communication skills, welcome guests and new members at any time.

## Branzell Retires From Fire Department

Anthony R. Branzell Jr. recently retired from the NIH Fire Department after more than 30 years of service. He came to NIH in November 1956 after serving in the U.S. Army. He transferred to the fire department in 1959 and served in many capacities, retiring with the rank of fire protection inspector.

As a fire protection inspector, Branzell provided fire prevention services and education to NIH personnel, patients, and visitors. He



Anthony R. Branzell Jr.

was responsible for the enforcement of fire codes and the protection of property. He made many friends while performing his inspections in the various buildings of the NIH.

He was also an active member of the BCC Rescue Squad for more than 30 years. He is currently a life member of the squad. "His accomplishments were many and the NIH community will miss his dedication," said William F. Coleman, chief, Emergency Response Section.

During his retirement, Branzell plans to relax and remain active in his new community of New Windsor, Md. □

## NIH Tennis Teams Forming

The NIH Tennis Club is preparing for a successful competitive 1987 season in the Greater Washington Tennis Association League. The men will have up to three teams and a women's team is also possible.

If interested, call Herb Dorsey, 530-0378 (evenings). □

## NEI Needs Volunteers

The National Eye Institute is seeking normal volunteers between the ages of 18 and 45 to participate in a study examining eye movements used in reading.

Volunteers will be asked to look at changing patterns on a screen for three or more testing sessions, each lasting 5 hours with rest periods as needed. Also, they may listen to music during the tests (but must provide their own tapes and earphones). A fee will be paid at the standard NIH rate.

For further information, contact Dr. Zoë Kapoula, 496-3549 or 496-3446, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. □

## Menopause Pamphlet Available

The National Institute on Aging has updated *The Menopause Time of Life*. Topics include menopause symptoms, use of estrogen, osteoporosis, nutrition, physical fitness, etc. The pamphlet is intended for women of all ages and may be helpful to family members.

To obtain a free copy, write to the NIA Information Center/Meno, 2209 Distribution Circle, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or call (301) 495-3455. □

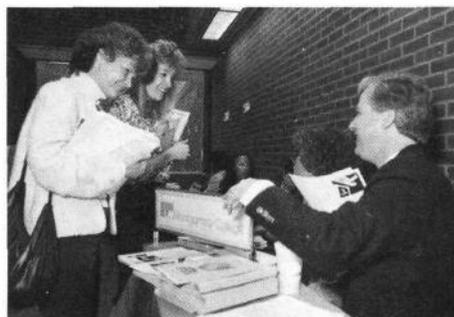
## Get Psyched To Bike

The NIH R&W Bicycle Commuter Club will hold its annual "Think Spring Fling" at the FAES House (on the corner of Old Georgetown Rd. and Cedar La.) on Wednesday, Apr. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. Movies and videotapes on touring, racing and safety will be shown. Cheese buffet and refreshments will be served and door prizes will be included.

Membership cards will be available at the door (members and family \$1; nonmembers \$2).

For further information, contact Katie Woodbury, 496-7095 or Cindy Walczak, 496-9750. □

## Many Turn Out for Career Day, March 26



photos/John Crawford

## TRAINING TIPS

The NIH Training Center of the Division of Personnel Management offers the following:

Courses and Programs	Dates
<i>Management and Supervisory</i> 496-6371	
Managing Behavior in the Work Environment	6/13-15
Effective Communications	5/5-8
Managing Stress and Maximizing Effectiveness	5/19-21
Presidential Operations Workshop	5/30-6/1
Supervising in the Federal Wage System	6/4-8
Introduction to Supervision	5/11-15
Communication for Results	6/23-26
Federal Budget Process	6/3-5
Pragmatic Problem Solving	5/4, 7/15, & 9/15

*Office Skills* 496-6211

Better Office Skills Service	4/27-29
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	
Effective Writing for Secretaries	5/4-8
Secretarial Skills	5/4-8
Effective Decisionmaking	6/8-9
Working with Personal Differences MBTI for Support	6/15-16
Improving Voice and Diction	6/29-30

*Adult Education* 496-6211

*Training and Development Services*  
*Program Orientation* 496-6211

Apr. 15—Bldg. 38, Billings Aud.  
Apr. 21—Blair Conf. Rm. 110  
Apr. 29—Westwood, Rm. 428  
May 6—Federal Bldg., Rm. B1/119  
May 19—Landon Bldg., Conf. Rm. E  
June 9—Bldg. 10, 11th floor solarium  
June 16—Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C07

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## Of Mottoes and Mortification

Those of you who read the last issue of the *Record* no doubt anticipate learning the paper's new motto, promised for this edition. Let there be no further delay. The *Record* shall hereafter be unofficially known as, "The Second Best Thing About Payday."

Payday, as perhaps few of you know, is the day the paper is published. Owing to occasional delays, the *Record* sometimes doesn't appear in your hands until Thursday or Friday. We learned of this hiatus in a way I am almost too embarrassed to admit.

Last issue, I had the nerve to make a colossal grammatical error in my opening editorial. Right there in the midst of a swaggering prose some critics found downright un*Record*ly appeared an "I" where there should have been a "me." Oh me, oh my, thought I, I've ruined my reputation in two paragraphs.

It is an ill wind that doesn't blow some good, however, and the mistake, even though a howler, taught us a few good lessons. First, people read the *Record*. My mailbox is choking with corrections from every institute and division at NIH. To my relief, most comments were as forgiving as they were reproving, though some expressed vehemence. One reader went so far as to attach a grammar lesson from *The Gregg Reference Manual*. Because this at least presumes that we are educable, I put it in the

"un-nasty replies" category.

Just between you and me, I thought briefly of publishing a list of names and phone numbers of those who wrote me and suggesting that anyone with usage questions feel free to call them, preferably at home during the wee hours. But that smacked of revenge, a habit never uglier than when it usurps the place of gentle gratitude. I hereby admit that I was wrong and that the error should never have appeared in the first place, especially since my boss caught it before it was printed and made a change that I subsequently ignored. Corollary to lesson one: you should almost always trust your boss.

The second lesson is that the *Record* doesn't always reach you on payday, which may make my motto recondite. Many readers say they get it late, a report substantiated by the fact that the bulk of the correction letters were dated Thursday and Friday, suggesting a delay in delivery. Sometimes that delay is our fault, sometimes it belongs to others along the production and delivery line. We intend to be more timely.

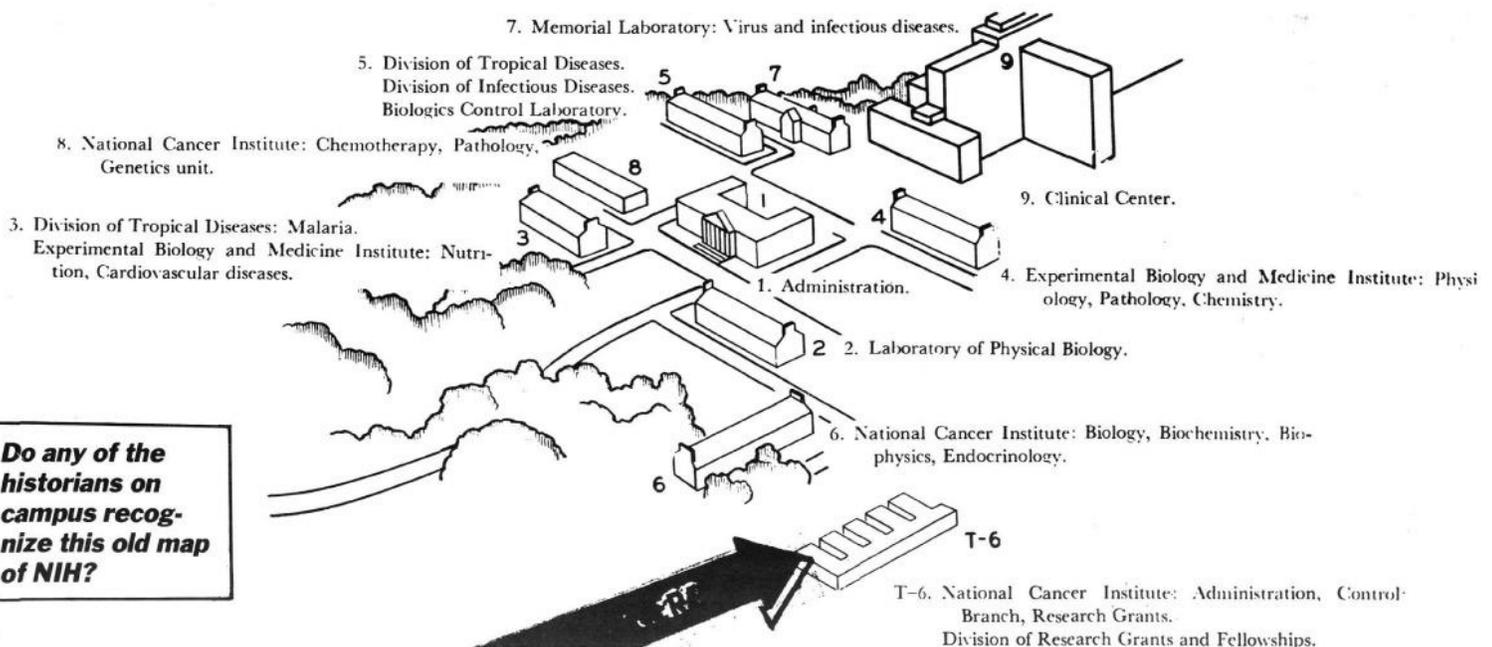
The last lesson is one that dawned hard on me this past week. Ever notice that there are no names following the editorial opinions expressed in most newspapers? Now I know why.



*Devon "Wes" Farmer, chief, DCRT Central Systems Services, recently retired after 21 years at NIH. Before joining DCRT in 1966, he had 20 years of combined Navy and Air Force service. While in the Air Force, he served overseas in Tokyo as an EAM/keypunch supervisor and as a data processing supervisor in Libya. He came to DCRT as a computer operator, working his way up to shift coordinator and eventually head of the Operations Unit. He received two cash awards, and an NIH Merit Award. As for his retirement, he plans to golf and fish.*

## THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

### DIRECTORY OF BUILDINGS



**Do any of the historians on campus recognize this old map of NIH?**



# The NIH Record

## Response to Workers' Protests

### NIH Buildings To Be Renamed

Tired of working each day in numbingly numeric buildings, employees at NIH have staged a revolt against the names of their office buildings.

The revolution began April 1 in Building 31, where workers unanimously rejected the boring designation "31."

"It kills my soul to report for duty each day to a building named so unimaginatively," said one institute official who declined to give his Social Security number.

Following weeks of discussion, employees in 31 decided to rename their building after Avogadro's number, or  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$ .

Nor to be outdone, employees in the Blair Building in Silver Spring countered with a new

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*"The name Eastwood has the sort of macho panache we want associated with the Division of Research Grants," said one worker.*

---

name of their own:  $1.3803 \times 10^{-16}$ , otherwise known as Boltzmann's constant.

"The numerical name gives us a sense of belonging to NIH, even though we're off campus," said a worker at the Silver Spring outpost.

Not all NIH'ers were comfortable with numbered buildings, regardless of a number's scientific eminence. Feeling that the name of their building had grown too provincial in the sophisticated 1980's, employees at the Westwood Building agreed to change the name to the Eastwood Building.

"The name Eastwood has the sort of macho panache we want associated with the Division of Research Grants," said one worker. A plaque reading "Make our grantees' day" has been erected outside DRG Director Jerome Green's office.

Similarly, employees at the Federal Building in downtown Bethesda yearned for a designa-

tion befitting the august architectural company they keep. The name "Hearts n' Things" was considered too boutiquey, so workers settled on One Hot Shoppes Plaza.

Because Building 17 (an electrical power vault, one of several on campus) is only a 22,400th the size of Building Avogadro, clever authorities have renamed it after Loschmidt's number, or  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$  divided by 22,400.

Authorities shan't rename the Shannon Building; it has been named once already. Stone House may gain a less generic title. Among the candidates are Amethyst and Tourmaline, though nothing is being taken for granite. Lister Hill may also be rechristened; strangers to the campus anticipate finding a hill near this building and are always disappointed.

It had been suggested that Buildings 14A, B, C, D, E, F and G collectively be called Animal House, owing to their use as animal holding facilities. But since none of the animals has been known to refer to the place by any name at all, the alphanumeric system of nomenclature is considered entirely appropriate. □



*Employees in the newly named Avogadro Bldg. (see story on this page) recognize this vehicle as one of the new automated mail carts that follow tracks in the floor to deliver mail to each room. Workers are urged to stay out of the way of the carts as they make their daily rounds; the carts occasionally travel at high speeds and may injure the careless.*

### Gala Luncheon To Mark NIH's 101st Year

The NIH Centennial Plus One committee announces that a gala luncheon in honor of NIH's 101st year will be held sometime in 1988 at the Bethesda Community Store.

A distinguished committee appointed by the NIH director decided on a modest menu for the affair, which comes hard on the heels of the centennial. Guests will savor bologna and tomato sandwiches on white bread, choice of either coconut cream or pumpkin pie (don't forget to pick up your plastic fork in the cigar box by the front door), and 16 oz. bottles of their favorite Rock Creek carbonated beverage. Complimentary Twinkies and barbecue Fritos will be distributed, courtesy of a local pharmaceutical house.

Check future issues of the *Record* for the date and time of this affair. □

### Couch Potatoes Hold Parley

An organizational meeting of the NIH R&W Couch Potatoes Club has been called for Apr. 13 at 5 p.m. in the lounge at Chatters, a bar in the Bethesda Ramada Inn. On the agenda is a proposal to rename the outfit; Sofa Spuds is a leading candidate, as is Meetin' Taters.

"A more enticing name might boost membership," said one clubber. "We're having a hard time attracting new members. Everyone's so doggone busy."

For more information, call 496-SPUD. □

### Abnormal Vols Sought

Does anyone ever read all the short blurbs that appear in the *Record* recruiting normal volunteers for studies? If you do read them, you may be abnormal. For a free test to determine abnormality or its lesser manifestation—unusualness—come to Bldg. 19 anytime during business hours. Confidentiality is assured. □

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