Alumni Reunion Weekend Proves You Can Go Home Again

The notion that "you can't go home again" was formally disproved at NIH Oct. 15-18 as Alumni Reunion Weekend welcomed hundreds of past and present colleagues from around the world.

For better or worse, however, the axiom "you can't be in two different places at once" still holds. Four days worth of scientific symposia given by leaders on the frontiers of biomedicine confronted alumni with discomfitting dilemmas: How can I see a Nobel prize winner in neuroscience and a world authority in immunology when both are lecturing at the same time at different ends of the Clinical Center?

Happily, participants in the Centennial-ending weekend were able to resolve such quandrums, usually by going to the lecture least packed with young postdoctoral scientists.

Whether intended or not, the weekend resulted in a meeting of two scientific generations, one already steeped in honors, the other going forth on the shoulders of its predecessors.

"To many of us who have left NIH and returned, it still seems like Camelot," said former NIH director Dr. Donald Fredrickson, capturing the mood of the weekend.

In addition to the generations, the weekend united the three "partners in discovery" that have enabled NIH to observe 100 years-industry, academia and government.

"More than any college or university, NIH has shaped our lives in the most profound way," said Dr. Arthur Kornberg, professor of biochemistry at Stanford. "NIH is truly a national university of health."

"No one should consider NIH an old institution," stated Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, president and chief executive officer of Merck Inc. "It is young in creativity, young in energy, and young in its commitment to the future."

Added fellow NIH alumnus Dr. Theodore Cooper, vice chairman of Upjohn Co., "By any measure, NIH is a cost-effective enterprise. Its core concept of pursuing knowledge for its own sake should remain in place."

Secretary Otis R. Bowen, DHHS, read greetings from President Reagan at the Centennial Commemorative ceremony on the steps of Shannon Bldg. Oct. 16, then called NIH "a living, working monument that houses not only history but also the sophisticated tools of inquiry."

"NIH represents the promise of imminent breakthroughs to any (natural) threat the human condition may face," he said. "I am privileged to preside over what NIH is and does."

What NIH is and does was the subject of 4 days' worth of symposia organized by a 15-
such molecules could also bind very specifically to enzymes, making it possible to produce synthetic enzymes that are more stable than natural enzymes. Cram has concentrated on making a synthetic enzyme that is as simple as possible.

The possible applications of synthetic enzymes to medicine and other fields are significant and promising. For example, it may one day be possible to produce synthetic enzymes that can be used to treat illnesses resulting from enzyme malfunction. -Anne Oplinger

**Symposium on Fetal Health**

A symposium on “Transplacental Effects on Fetal Health” will be held at NIH Nov. 5-6.

The purpose is to present our current understanding of the mechanisms of action of biological agents, the effects of disturbed maternal metabolism, and drug and chemical abuse on the developing fetus of humans and animals.

The symposium will be open and free of charge, and places will be reserved for at least 100 participants. Invitations will be given on a first-come basis. For further information, contact George Migaki, 576-2452.

**Fundamentals of Extramural Program**

The Office of Health Scientist Administrator Development Programs will present a 2-day orientation session entitled “Fundamentals of NIH Extramural Activities” Jan. 28-29, 1988. It will be held in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall, starting at 8:30 a.m., with registration at 8 a.m. The course will present an overview of extramural activities, grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, their review and scientific and fiscal management.

Participants will be limited to approximately 50 people. Priority will be given to those who are new to the extramural side of NIH at all grade levels. Those interested are asked to submit an HHS-350 form (Training, Nomination and Authorization) through their appropriate BID channels to the HSA Development Programs Office (Bldg. 31, Rm. 1B62). Participants will be informed of the decision concerning his/her application. Those selected will be provided with further details of the course.

Any questions about the course may be directed to A. Robert Polcari, or Roberta Light at 496-1736 or Dr. Paul Velletri, 496-7707.

**Annual Leave: Use It or Lose It**

Annual leave in excess of the maximum carryover balance is normally forfeited if not used by the end of the current leave year. If you have not already planned to take those excess hours of annual leave, you should discuss your leave with your supervisor now while there is still time to schedule it. Your bi-weekly Earnings and Leave Statement tells you how much annual leave you must use so that you will not lose it when the leave year ends on Saturday, Jan. 2, 1988.

In spite of planning, circumstances sometimes arise that prevent you from taking leave that has been scheduled and approved earlier during the leave year. In such cases, you and your supervisor are jointly responsible for ensuring that any “Use or Lose” leave is re-scheduled in writing before the last three bi-weekly pay periods of the leave year. This year, your “Use or Lose” leave must be scheduled in writing not later than Saturday, Nov. 21.

**The Decision Is Yours—FERS or CSRS**

The Dec. 31 deadline is fast approaching when you must decide which retirement plan is best for you—FERS or CSRS. To help you make your decision, NIH is providing individual counseling with federal retirement experts. This service will be available through Dec. 31 and employees interested in obtaining counseling are advised to make an appointment as soon as possible before the holiday season crunch.

For more information, please call 496-8372.

**Volunteers Needed**

Mothers with children born between March 1976 and August 1977 are needed to participate in a study of the influence of nutrition during infancy on a child’s later development. Those participating will be paid. For more information, call Sue Madison, 654-5784.
Disabled Are Often Better Employees

Cleland Lauds Courage of Handicapped Workers

On April 8, 1968, an Army captain serving in Vietnam was nearly blown apart when a grenade exploded near him. The blast took the captain’s right arm, both legs and, for a time, his will to live.

Almost 20 years after this tragedy, veteran Max Cleland spoke at NIH’s fifth annual “Employ the Handicapped” program Oct. 22.

Cleland is currently Georgia’s secretary of state. He was chief of the Veterans Administration under Jimmy Carter and was at one time the youngest member of the Georgia state legislature. He was also once a suicidally depressed patient at Walter Reed Army hospital.

“I was fortunate to work through that period of my life,” he said to an attentive audience in Wilson Hall. “I found out that it wasn’t my life I wanted to end, but the pain I was going through. It was a strengthening process.”

NIH currently employs some 518 handicapped or disabled workers, or about 4 percent of the total workforce. Cleland says these employees generally have three strengths important to any employer: preparation, faith and courage.

“A disabled person is better acquainted with the struggles of life than a normal person,” he said. “That’s what makes them better employees.”

Cleland said a study has shown that handicapped workers have a higher job performance level and lower absentee rate than the average employee.

Just getting up in the morning is a trial for many handicapped workers, including himself, Cleland said. “I find that I really have to prepare each day, just to survive. Most days I get the bear, but once in a while the bear gets me.”

Quoting a physician well-known for rehabilitation efforts, Cleland said, “Disabled people have a depth of spirit that the able-bodied never know.”

Cleland quoted a wide variety of authorities to make his case for the handicapped worker—Hemingway, psychologist Viktor Frankl, Jefferson, Kennedy, basketball coach Bobby Knight, Helen Keller, Rev. Robert Schuler, Robert Louis Stevenson, Aldous Huxley and others. But he was most persuasive when he spoke simply for himself.

“I’ve been called everything from a liability to a fire hazard (in a New York theater, apparently for obstructing an aisle),” he said. “I understand that it is natural and human to rank the handicapped below the able-bodied.” But a second look often reveals hidden strengths, he argued.

“We’re all disabled to one degree or another,” he continued. “I’m disabled in a way you can’t see—I’m a Democrat.”

A natural humorist and raconteur, Cleland returned repeatedly to a central theme: “Once you realize you can still be all you can be, even if disabled, then you’re in business. It’s not how many powers you have, but how you use them.”

Acknowledging a sustained round of applause with waves and winks, Cleland yielded the stage to music therapist Nadine Wobus of Bowie, Md., who led the audience in a sing-along. She was followed by dancers from the performing arts class at Model Secondary School for the Deaf, Gallaudet University.

Dr. William Raub, NIH deputy director, introduced the program and was presented with an award acknowledging NIH’s awareness of the needs and abilities of handicapped workers. The program was sponsored by the Division of Equal Opportunity.

dBASE Workshop

If you need assistance using dBASE, attend a free hands-on dBASE Workshop sponsored by the User Resource Center on Nov. 13.

The workshops are designed to help you create a structure, write a program, merge files, use fields in one file to update fields in another file, or design a menu driven system.

Consultants will be available to demonstrate commands and techniques and to help you get started. Workshops are not intended for high-end dBASE programmers and consultants will not debug multi-level interactive programs.

Call the URC, 496-5025, to reserve a personal computer at one of the workshops. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

The happiness of society is the end of government.—John Adams
Flu Vaccine Urged for CC'ers

Influenza season is here. Now is the time to consider vaccination to minimize the spread of influenza among Clinical Center patients and staff.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that all medical personnel be immunized yearly. Influenza can be spread in health care facilities, both from patients to staff and from staff to patients. Because many hospital employees could be absent from work during an influenza epidemic, which could seriously affect our ability to provide quality patient care, all CC employees (both professional staff and support personnel) are encouraged to be immunized against influenza.

The new vaccine provides better protection than earlier vaccines.

The Occupational Medical Service will conduct walk-in clinics for administration of the influenza vaccine on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Nov. 3 and ending Dec. 17. The hours for the walk-in clinic on Tuesdays are 8 to 10:30 a.m.; Thursdays, 1 to 3:30 p.m. and 6 to 11:30 p.m.

For questions about influenza or the vaccine, please call the Hospital Epidemiology Service, 496-2209, or the Occupational Medical Service, 496-4411.

'Science For All' Is a New STEP Series

A new lecture series called "Science For All" is being introduced by the STEP committee to present the major biomedical achievements of our time in a format designed to appeal to the entire NIH community.

The speakers will lead audiences to a basic understanding of a contemporary topic so that listeners can use scientific knowledge to understand important health issues. The topics were chosen for their relevance to personal health decisions and speakers were chosen both for professional achievements and skill in presenting the excitement and implications of their research areas. The new series marks the STEP program's 25th year of service to the extramural community.

The first event will take place on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. This series does not require advance registration nor is continuing education credit available. Dr. Bert Vogelstein of Johns Hopkins University's department of oncology, will speak on "Genes and Chromosomes." Vogelstein is involved with NIH programs in an advisory capacity as well as through his research. His research interests include genetic mechanisms involved in human tumorigenesis, particularly those of brain and colon. An ample question and answer period is planned.

Other important topics are being planned for this series. For example, many would like to know more about drug abuse and its effects on the mind and body. There is much curiosity about the burgeoning area of diagnostic technologies involving CAT scans, MRI and other techniques, but how do they work and what can they tell us about our health status? More and more is heard about Alzheimer disease, schizophrenia, and learning disabilities; what do we now know about brain biochemistry that might help us treat or even cure these disorders?

The entire NIH community is encouraged to watch for announcements of continuing events in this series. For additional information contact the STEP program office, 496-1493.

Health Benefits Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management has announced an "Open Season" for Nov. 9 through Dec. 11, under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. During that period eligible employees may change their plan, option, type of enrollment, or any combination of these. One cannot be covered as an employee under their own enrollment and as a family member under someone else's enrollment in the FEHBP. Likewise, a member of one's family cannot be covered under more than one enrollment in the program.

Commissioned Corps personnel, employees serving under appointments limited to one year or less, and intermittent employees are not eligible for enrollment in the FEHBP.

In connection with open season, eligible employees will receive a booklet entitled "1988 Enrollment Information Guide and Plan Comparison Chart (1987 Open Season)," from their BID personnel office. This booklet contains open season enrollment instructions and general information about the FEHBP. It itemizes major features of all plans and contains general categories of coverage such as dental and vision care, outpatient and inpatient service, calendar year deductible, hospice care, etc.

The Division of Personnel Management will sponsor an open season Health Benefits Insurance Fair on Monday, Nov. 23, in the Clinical Center's ACRF Amphitheater lobby. Various plan representatives will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer individual questions on the 1988 contracts. All employees are invited to attend.

The NIGMS-sponsored DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Symposium on DNA-protein interactions in the control of gene expression attracted an overflow crowd to Mansur Auditorium last month. Pictured above were the speakers at the symposium, Dr. Mark S. Ptashne of Harvard University (far left), Dr. Steven L. McKnight of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (second from left), and Dr. Paul B. Sigler of the University of Chicago (far right). In the center are NIGMS director Dr. Ruth L. Kirstein and NIH deputy director for science emeritus, Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Jr.
Angels Snap Arrows at CFC Rally

Declaring that "the Centennial may be over but the beat goes on," Dr. William Raub, NIH deputy director, started the 1988 Combined Federal Campaign at NIH during a noon rally on Oct. 21.

Minutes later, a team of four NIH Health's Angels runners defeated "Bowen's Arrows" (challengers from DHHS) in a 3-mile run that traditionally opens the CFC season.

The festivities began with a march through campus by the 145-member Damascus High School Band under the direction of Matt Kuhn.

During the band's tour to drum up interest in the CFC, it stopped outside the B and C wings of Bldg. 31. The band director, mistaking Bldg. 31 for the Clinical Center, instructed the musicians to "play extra loud because there are a lot of sick people in this building." That comment left NIH escorts in stitches.

The theme of this year's campaign is, "Remember, someone out there needs someone like you." Several hundred NIH'ers who turned out for the kickoff heard Calvin Bullock, director of the United Black Fund, lead the audience and band in a spirited recitation of this theme.

Then the race began with a pistol shot fired by Raub. NIH's Michael Sullivan won the race in 16:44. Although not a member of Health's Angels, Sullivan will soon become the object of an intense recruiting drive by the club, said Art Fried, race organizer for the Angels.

Pierre Savagner finished second in 17:17. Heidi Gerken and Jeff Grier of DHHS placed third and fourth, respectively. Gerken's time of 17:19 set an event record for a woman runner.

The Health's Angels foursome of Anne De

The Baltimore Orioles Bird mascot helped kick off the CFC season at NIH. Here the Bird makes the acquaintance of a young fan in front of the Clinical Center. NIH's CFC goal in 1988 is $525,000.

Groot, Lou Mocca, Tom Roach and Anne Burkhardt beat Bowen's Arrows because their cumulative scores outweighed those of the visitors.

Immediately after the run began, a 1-mile CFC walk around the campus started. Raub took up the rear of the march, shortly after helping the Baltimore Orioles' Bird mascot to its feet; visiting NIH to help spur interest in the CFC, the Bird had collapsed in the fury of the race's start.

"The CFC provides an enormous opportunity for giving," Raub said. The campaign is expected to continue through November.

NichD Seeking Women Patients With Blocked Fallopian Tubes

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is seeking patients for a study investigating a nonsurgical, radiologic procedure designed to open blocked fallopian tubes. Medical care at the NIH Clinical Center is free.

Volunteers must have medically proven bilateral proximal fallopian tube obstruction; normal monthly menstrual cycles; and an otherwise normal reproductive tract. The patient must not have experienced an episode of pelvic inflammatory disease during the past 12 months.

For further information, contact Dr. Maria Pia Platia, 496-4686.
member committee codirected by Dr. Joseph E. Rall, NIH deputy director for intramural research, and Dr. Philip Chen, NIH associate director for intramural affairs.

The lectures began Wednesday, Oct. 14, with presentations on medical genetics and concluded Saturday, Oct. 17, at a plenary symposium in the Kennedy Center. Rall had the weekend's last official word as he spoke on the future of man.

Dr. P. Roy Vagelos began the Kennedy Center program by citing basic research at NIH that has led to the discovery of enzymes, deciphering of the genetic code, and the development of monoclonal antibodies, among other scientific breakthroughs.

Dr. James Wyngaarden, NIH director, spoke next, giving a brief history of NIH. "The next century will bring far more progress than has currently been realized," he assured a large Concert Hall audience.

Seven other speakers, including Nobel prize winner Dr. Joseph Goldstein, outlined recent developments on the frontiers of biomedical investigation.

While most of the presentations were highly technical, humor occasionally leavened the proceedings, especially when Dr. J. Michael Bishop of the University of California, San Francisco, gave an erudite lecture on oncogenes.

Recapping NIH history for a moment, Bishop noted that the original budget allocation for NCI in 1937 was $750,000. "That wouldn't keep Bob Gallo (NCI's Dr. Robert C.) in business for a month," he cracked.

Bishop said "a genuine biological road map of tumorigenesis (cancer development) is coming into view," partly as a result of insights into the behavior of genes in fruit flies.

"Genetically speaking, there is not much difference between the fruit fly and man," he explained. "If that troubles you, I suggest you consult the clergy or Stephen Jay Gould (a Harvard anthropologist)."

Addressing the question of diet and cholesterol, Goldstein noted that Winston Churchill—"who likely did not follow any of the American Medical Association recommendations" on diet and heart disease—was a smoker and drinker who lived to be 91 while noted author/runner Jim Fixx (who probably knew he had a family history of clogged arteries and heart attacks) died at 52 during a training jaunt in Vermont. Goldstein's point was that scientific evidence—in his case the correlation between high levels of serum cholesterol and heart disease—does not always translate into simple and automatic therapy.

The rigors of the plenary session were followed by dinner and dancing at the Pension.
An informal brunch on Sunday morning—the closing activity of alumni weekend—found alumni saying goodbye to old friends and new acquaintances.

Though it included much hectic running around to scientific symposia and social activities, the weekend was deemed “successful,” by Dr. Dante J. Marciani, director of research for Cambridge Bioscience Corp. in Massachusetts.

Originally from Peru, Marciani first came to NIH as a visiting fellow in 1970 and extended his stay with NCI until 1979.

Another alumna, Dr. John F. Sherman, who served as NIH deputy director for 6 years and as acting director for 6 months, was at NIH for a total of 21 years. He is presently executive vice president of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington. “It was a remarkable tribute to the most remarkable institution,” Sherman said of the reunion.

Agreeing with Sherman was Dr. Thomas E. Malone, former NIH deputy director and presently associate vice chancellor for research at the University of Maryland-Baltimore: “It has been a wonderful activity that simply reveals the love that alumni and workers here have for NIH.”

Dr. Leon Jacobs, president of the newly forming NIH alumni association, began working here 50 years ago and continued to work for 42 years except for an interruption during World War II. He now serves as board chairman of Gorgas Memorial Institute, located in the FASEB Building on Rockville Pike. “I loved every minute of it,” said Jacobs. “Anybody who has spent as much time around here as I have either has to love it or be stupid.”

The senior science editor for Oncology Abstracts, Dr. Graciela Duran-Troise (now working for Cambridge Scientific Abstracts) was once a cancer researcher at NCI working on retroviruses. She said the weekend was “very nice. Unfortunately, I didn’t have time to attend all the sessions. But this is a very nice grand finale.”

Dr. Karoly Lapis, director of the Institute of Pathology and Experimental Cancer Research at Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest, Hungary, was delighted to be a participant. Lapis came to NIH as a scholar-in-residence in 1984 and was here for 1 year. The weekend was his second trip back to NIH for a visit.

Dr. Philippe Lazar, director of France’s INSERM (the French version of NIH), first visited NIH as a scientist in 1966 and has returned several times. “The reunion is great,” he said. “I think it was friendly, with many different kinds of expressions of friendship.”

Dr. Alton Meister of Cornell was one of 10 invited speakers at the symposium on the biochemical foundations of medical research.
(Continued from Page 7)

through the meetings and lunches. The seminars especially were excellent.

Dr. William R. Duryee from George Washington University's School of Medicine was the recipient of an NIH fellowship for 12 years. "I have very nice thoughts about this reunion," he said. "I attended some symposia that were absolutely splendid."

Said Dr. Fred J. Payne, now with the Fairfax County Health Department in Virginia, "I saw a lot of old friends, many more than I thought I would. That was the wonderful part of the reunion—it brings all the memories back."

Payne left NIH in 1978 after 9 years of service. "I still come back to use the NIH library occasionally," he said. "That's a wonderful advantage of being close."

Mark Sharp, a science writer for NIMH, and his wife Celia, a chemist in NINDS' Digestive Diseases Branch, along with their two girls, were enjoying the informal brunch.

A former patient at the Clinical Center and an NIH employee for the past 10 years, Sharp feels he is an 'old NIH lifer' because he has been around for a long time. He attended most of the symposia and feels you couldn't ask for a more thorough concentration of information than was offered during alumni weekend.

"I'm not sure how many alumni came this weekend, but those who did have been interested and enthusiastic," said Dr. John Eberhart, senior advisor to the deputy director for intramural research. "It has also been a fine
occasion for the NIH staff to get together for social occasions and scientific sessions."

Dr. Kiyoshi Kurahashi, who worked at NIH from 1955 to 1960 in what is now NIDDK, attended a number of symposia and was "especially interested in physical chemistry and molecular genetics." He is now affiliated with the Protein Research Foundation in Osaka, Japan.

Kurahashi and Dr. Siro Senoh, who was at NIH from 1956 to 1959, are organizing an NIH alumni chapter in Japan. For Senoh, who is currently at the Suntory Institute for Bio-Organic Research in Japan, the most important element of the weekend was "meeting friends."

Reflecting on the weekend he helped plan during the past year, Dr. Joseph E. Rall said, "I think it was a great time to renew old friendships with alumni and also see what is going on in all fields of biomedical research."

One of the drawbacks of the weekend, he allowed, was space.

"Unfortunately, NIH did not have enough large conference rooms for all the seminars. Some were overcrowded, especially in the ACRF Amphitheater."

Nevertheless, Rall concluded, "It was such a success that, although we cannot have another centennial for 100 years, we can certainly have another reunion and symposia much sooner, perhaps in 5 years or so."

Jerome Battle (r), a junior at McKinley Tech High School in D.C. and an NIH Centennial Scholar, presented a medal to Dr. Otis R. Bowen, secretary, DHHS, during a ceremony in Bldg. 1. Battle was one of several scholars who returned to NIH to present top officials with medals marking the NIH Centennial.

Dr. Barnab Blumberg of Fox Chase Cancer Center spoke about Anistraria antigen, hepatitis and liver cancer at a symposium on "NIH: Milestones in Medicine."

"I only wish I could be here 100 years from now to celebrate the 200th anniversary of NIH," said Dr. Edward Brandt, chancellor of the University of Maryland-Baltimore.

Accepting a hug from Dr. Siro Senoh of Japan is Dr. DeWitt Stetten Jr. (r), NIH deputy director for science emeritus.

Dr. Alan Rabson of NCI was co-chairman of a symposium on oncology held in the ACRF Amphitheater.
Students Thank NIH For Open House

Among the thousands of students who visited NIH during a Centennial Open House last month were members of teacher Ann Gedosch's sixth grade class at Cold Spring Elementary School in Potomac.

A courteous collection of scholars, the students wrote letters of thanks to Dr. Jay Moskowitz, NIH associate director for program planning and evaluation and executive director of the Office of Centennial Activities.

One of the letters was written by Moskowitz’ son, Andy. Another letter, by Kristi Van Buren, was representative of the total. We have reprinted her letter here, followed by interesting excerpts from notes penned by her classmates:

Dear Dr. Moskowitz,

Thank you for planning the trip to NIH for us. It was an enjoyable experience. I had a great time! I’m sure everyone else had a great time too. I learned and saw a lot. It was interesting to see a picture of the brain and the parts of it. I also learned how people at home can give a diabetes test to see if you have diabetes. I looked through a microscope and saw many germs.

Thanks again for planning the trip.

Sincerely,

Kristi Van Buren

“One of the things I learned was that when a liver has white specks, it is not healthy.”

—Abigail Hurowitz

“I learned about the brain, because after you have a stroke part of the brain turns black.”

—Bevin Schwartz

“I learned a lot about the brain. It was very interesting. It was too bad that we couldn’t see the real brain.”

—Leah Serio

“I learned if you lack some vegetables, you’ll get some disease that messes up your face.”

—Jarrett Twigg

U.S., Israel Sponsor Symposium on Aging

Average life expectancy continues to increase, not only in the United States, but worldwide. It is estimated that by the year 2025 there will be more than 1 billion people age 60 and over worldwide, resulting in a total population in which one out of every seven people will be an older adult. This rapid increase in the number of older people—which can be attributed to factors such as better sanitation, nutrition, and prevention and treatment of major diseases—is also creating special challenges for aging populations.

On Nov. 15-17, the DHHS Office of International Health, the Ministry of Health of Israel, and the National Institute on Aging will cosponsor the “U.S.-Israel Cooperation in Health Binational Symposium: The Challenge of Aging Societies.” This symposium is the fourth in a series being held to exchange health information, strengthen links between the scientific communities of the two countries, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

The symposium will open with a plenary session at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15, in the Lister Hill Center Auditorium (Bldg. 38A) at NIH. During the session, experts from the U.S. and Israel will address several topics: the needs and approaches to the health care of older people, epidemiology of aging in relation to planning of services, education of health care providers, and clinical challenges in aging.

The plenary session will resume in the Lister Hill Center Auditorium on Monday, Nov. 16, at 8:30 a.m. These sessions are open to the public.

Concurrent workshops will begin Nov. 16, at 1:30 p.m. in Conf. Rms. 7, 8 and 9, Bldg. 31C. These workshops, which conclude on Nov. 17, will focus on Alzheimer disease and other dementias, forecasting the care needs of the elderly, health promotion in the elderly, hospitals, community and informal care of the elderly, and resources for research in aging.

Attendance at the workshops will be on a space-available basis. For further information call Gudrun Porter, 496-5278.

CATLINE Presentation

CATLINE is a database for all the books catalogued by the National Library of Medicine since 1964. It is available for searching through the same software used to search MEDLINE.

The NIH Library (Bldg. 10, Rm. 1L25) will present and demonstrate CATLINE on Thurs., Nov. 5, from 11 a.m. to noon in the library conference room on the lower level.

Although CATLINE records differ from the journal indexing of MEDLINE, the commands and term entry format are essentially the same. Participants in this 1-hour program will be assumed to be familiar with MEDLINE searching.

The presentation will concentrate on CATLINE record structure and simple search approaches. There will be an online demonstration.

Please call 496-1156 to register.

CFC Gifts Help CC

Employees at NIH are able to support the Friends of the Clinical Center, Inc. under the Combined Federal Campaign.

The agency was formed in December 1984, to help obtain money for the growing needs of the Patient Emergency Fund (PEF). Money designated on the pledge card for Friends of the Clinical Center goes toward the PEF and activities for patients at NIH that cannot be funded through the government. To give to the FFOC, designate agency number 352 on the CFC pledge card.
The Making of a Magical Musical

By Mary Daum

Costumes and sequins are in piles waiting to be sewn together. Someone is at the piano playing Some Enchanted Evening. An announcement is made: “Make-up will be worn tonight.” A groan echoes through Masur Auditorium.

There’s no business like show business as the 40 people that make up the cast of Magical Musicals of the 1940’s can attest.

Two nights a week, plus Saturdays and sometimes Sundays, the NIH R&W Theatre Group rehearses for its annual musical review. This year the review will highlight songs from musicals of the 1940’s, including Oklahoma, South Pacific, Kiss Me Kate and Carousel.

Rehearsals are long and tiring. There are few, if any, costume, sound or light people who do not double as performers.

Why do people go through all this? 

“Let’s face it, I’m a ham,” says Cynthia Kincaid, the theatre group’s chairman. “I’ve been singing for as long as I can remember—all the way through school. In college I was a voice major.” In addition to singing in the show, Kincaid has the monumental task of costuming the whole cast.

John Burklow, a health educator with the National Cancer Institute, has decided to participate for a second year in a row. He found out about auditions for the show last year when he saw tent cards advertising for participants.

“I met a lot of nice people last year and had a lot of fun,” he said. Although he did not have a great deal of experience on the stage before last year, Burklow is quickly becoming comfortable as a performer.

Rehearsal begins. Mary Ann Williamson sings Many a New Day from the musical Oklahoma. As the song ends there is enthusiastic applause. Williamson has been with the NIH group for about 6 years.

“The singing is the reason I decided to be involved. I like to be able to sing all different types of music,” says Williamson. A computer programmer who works for the National Institute of Dental Research, she brings many years of experience with her to the show.

Jean Welsh, an employee of the National Institute of Mental Health, performed in the last two shows. She studies voice and says she enjoys putting into practice what she’s learned.

“When you’ve wanted to sing all your life, it is fun to finally be able to sing on stage,” she says.

Credit for the success of NIH musical reviews the last several years goes to Alice Page Smyth. A long-time employee of the Clinical Center, Smyth spent most of her free time organizing each review down to the last detail. This year Smyth could not direct since she will be taking care of a new baby.

The honor of directing was passed to Gary Daum, a theatre group board member who has many years of theatre and musical experience. He has preformed in operas and musicals and served as the musical director for several shows in the area.

Magical Musicals of the 1940’s will run Nov. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. with matinee performances on Nov. 15 and 21 at 3 p.m. Performances are in the Clinical Center’s Masur Auditorium. Harden and Weaver of WMAL will be the guest celebrities on opening night. Tickets may be purchased at the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W30.

Tickets are $5 for adults, $4 for adults at matinees, $4 for senior citizens and $3 for children under 12. Patients of the Clinical Center and their families are admitted free.

Rehearsing for their production of “Magical Musicals of the 1940’s” are NIH R&W Theatre Group members (from l) Jean Welsh (NIMH), Mary Zinn (DRR), Joyce Evans (GC), Charlotte Brown (NCI) and Carolyn Rentschle (FDA).

Gallo Wins Gairdner Award

Dr. Robert C. Gallo, chief of NCI’s Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, received the 1987 Gairdner Foundation International Award of $20,000 (Canadian).

He was honored with Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Institut Pasteur in Paris for their significant contributions in the identification and isolation of the human immuno deficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

Their research has produced knowledge about how HIV causes disease and has led to development of a blood test for HIV infection.

Five additional scientists—three from the United States, one from Argentina and one from Switzerland—were also honored for their outstanding contributions in the fields of coronary artery bypass surgery, identification of genes controlling embryonic development, mechanism of information storage by nerve cells, and determination of structure of the common cold virus by x-ray crystallography.

Since its establishment in 1957 by the late James A. Gairdner, the foundation has honored 191 scientists, 30 of whom have subsequently received the Nobel prize.
Judge Asks Librarian To Judge Constitution Essay Contest

Charlotte Moulton, National Library of Medicine reference librarian, was recently surprised to find a letter in her mailbox from former chief justice of the Supreme Court Warren E. Burger. The letter was an invitation to serve on a panel that would select a winning paper in a national high school essay contest. Entrants were to prepare a composition on the topic, "The Constitution: How Does the Separation of Powers Help Make it Work?"

She was honored by the request but puzzled by how her name had been selected since she had never met the chief justice. Nevertheless she accepted the invitation and dashed off to the public library to review constitutional law and research the lives of the signers of the Constitution.

Entries were received from all 50 states and within a few weeks she received the papers of the 12 finalists. She had 2 weeks to review them. On Aug. 31 she met with the full panel of eight judges in Washington, D.C., for the final selection. Two papers, one by Liza Johnson of Portsmouth, Ohio and the other by Malibub Majumdar of Richland, Wash., were each so outstanding that the panel could not make a decision on a single winner.

After speaking with the sponsors of the contest—the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, the American Bar Association and USA Today/Gannett Co. Inc.—it was decided to present both writers with a $10,000 cash award and certificate.

Moulton later was invited to attend an honorary dinner and reception for the winners and a presentation at the White House.

A former school teacher and involved citizen, she still hasn't a clue as to how her name was selected, but said she feels deeply rewarded at having been a part of the bicentennial celebration of the Constitution.

"A challenging experience from which I hope that I never cease to grow," she commented.

Physicians Educated About Depression

By Blair Gately

More than 10 million Americans suffer from depression and most seek help first from a physician in general practice rather than from a mental health professional, according to a scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health.

"The major recognition for treating clinical depression is in a general medical setting, but there is a widespread lack of recognition of the condition," said Dr. Darrel Regier, director, Division of Clinical Research, NIMH.

The results of a recent study show that one-half to three-quarters of primary care physicians failed to diagnose depression in their patients.

Serious depression is a major health problem in the United States, according to NIMH. The annual cost to the nation is estimated to be $16 billion—more than $10 billion alone in time employees lose from work.

Regier and other NIMH officials spoke at a recent conference for physicians at NIH. The session was designed to inform clinicians on how to recognize symptoms of clinical depression in their patients. It was sponsored by NIMH's D'ART program, which stands for Depression—Awareness, Recognition and Treatment.

The program is a national one, formulated to educate the public, primary care physicians and mental health specialists about depressive disorders and their symptoms and treatments.

"Depression is found in all age groups, but is highest in those from ages 25 to 44," Regier said. Twice as many women as men are affected, but there is no difference in race or socioeconomic status in those suffering from depression.

Dr. Robert Hirschfeld, chief, Affective and Anxiety Disorders Research Branch, NIMH, outlined the difference between a general feeling of sadness and a diagnosis of clinical depression. The ups and downs and good and bad moods people feel are part of the human condition, he said. A person who is clinically depressed has depression that persists over a long period of time and that person is functionally impaired—unable to work or maintain social relationships.

He pointed out that depression can be the result of a number of medical disorders, including endocrine disorders (especially thyroid conditions), vitamin and mineral deficiencies, infections (including hepatitis), neurologic disorders (strokes), cardiovascular disease and malignancies (especially lung, brain, and pancreatic tumors).

Hirschfeld pointed out that certain types of medication, including antihypertensives, hormones and corticosteroids can cause depression in patients and he warned physicians who prescribe these types of drugs to watch for signs of depression in their patients.

He cited the different modes of psychotherapy that are used to treat depression, alone or in combination with drug therapy.

Dr. Frederick Goodwin, scientific director, NIMH, instructed physicians on the types of drugs used to treat depression and stressed the need for doctors to assess a patient's individual and family history and general medical status before prescribing any medication.

Dr. Harold Goldstein, director of training for the D'ART program, told the physicians that although depression is a serious and widespread disorder these are "effective treatments" available. He and the other speakers urged physicians to educate themselves about depression and to be aware of its symptoms in their patients.

Hypertensives Sought

Hypertensives younger than 40 are being sought for an NIH study about stress, the nervous system, and high blood pressure. Call Ms. Folio, 496-3244 or Dr. David Goldstein, 496-2103.