

# The NIH Record

## *FAES Funds Fellowships*

### Local Teachers Attend 'Summer School' at NIH

By Diana Pabst

"What I Did on My Summer Vacation . . ."

We turned the table on nine local high school science teachers and asked them to talk about what they're doing this summer at NIH.

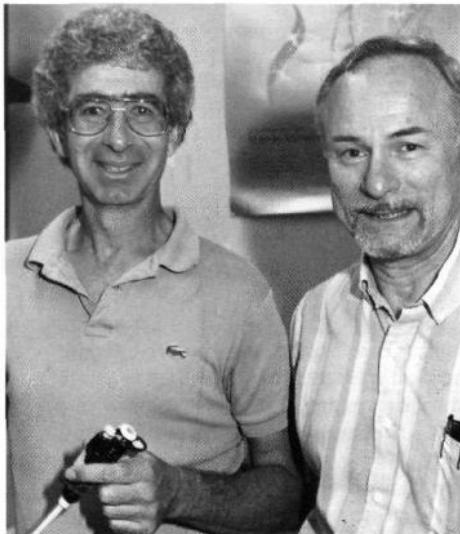
They are here on 8-week fellowships funded by FAES, offered this year for the first time. A key aspect of the program is hands-on lab experience that will help the teachers—and ultimately their students—bridge the gap between textbook explanations and step-by-step techniques in modern bioscience.

"When I was in school they didn't even mention DNA. Here, I'm manipulating it," said Diana Reinhard, a teacher at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring.

Reinhard, who has taught biology and other sciences for 23 years, is working under Dr. Susan Kane in NCI's Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Kane is using recombinant DNA technology to study a new system for expressing high levels of proteins in mouse cells.

Reinhard called the experience at NIH "one of the most intellectually challenging things I've done in my life."

Betty Roe, who teaches chemistry at Gaithersburg High School, is doing protein and enzyme assays for Dr. Peter Backlund Jr. in the Laboratory of General and Comparative Biochemistry, NIMH. His research deals with methyltransferases, enzymes that catalyze the transfer of methyl groups to proteins. These



Teacher Peter Stallone (*l*) of Springbrook High and Dr. Alan Peterkofsky of NHLBI.

reactions may regulate functions such as nerve signalling or migration of white blood cells.

"The experiments I'm doing are not practical for a high school lab . . . but most important for me is the updating of scientific knowledge and how it can be applied to my class," said Roe.

What are some of the lessons she and the  
**(See TEACHERS, Page 6)**

## The Many Faces of Protein Kinase C Help This Busy Enzyme Get So Much Done in So Many Places

By Leslie Fink

Cells almost always know how and when to practice their specialty. Gland or nerve cells, for example, know when to secrete their respective hormones or neurotransmitters, and muscle cells know when to contract or expand. At the helm in each of these distinct cellular duties is an enzyme extraordinaire called protein kinase C.

Ever since protein kinase C, or PKC, was discovered, scientists have been puzzled by the observation that this one enzyme controls such diverse functions as cell growth and specialization, metabolism, hormone action, nerve signal transmission, fertilization, and gene activity. Now, according to a report in the July 15 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Dr. K.-P. Huang and his colleagues at NICHD are learning just how this hard-working enzyme wears so many hats. Such information will make it possible to study

whether PKC abnormalities play a role in human disease.

"Nature has devised a number of mechanisms to give PKC its remarkable versatility," says Huang. He and his coworkers recently discovered, for example, that PKC comes in at least three varieties called isozymes. The team determined that, although the structure of the three isozymes is nearly identical, each is the product of a separate gene. Receiving orders from separate genetic control centers, the scientists say, "suggests that these enzymes may have specialized functions in different tissues." Discovering which isozymes control which functions promises to lead scientists closer to understanding how the variety of cells in the body perform their vastly different duties.

Now the scientists have found that varying the location of the isozymes—among tissues in

**(See PROTEIN, Page 2)**

## Amnesty Group Writes For Rights of Others

By Carla Garnett

Grass roots have been growing in the basement of Bldg. 10 since mid-1981. Every Thursday at lunch time, a small band of health professionals convenes in the nether regions of the Clinical Center to protect human rights.

The group, called the Medical Scientists Committee, and affiliated with Amnesty International's Urgent Action and Medical Networks, is comprised of, but not limited to, doctors, nurses, researchers and administrators. Their mission, whose abstract rewards can never be measured fully, is complex.

At a typical meeting, nearly a dozen members gather around a table to read, circulate and autograph typewritten petitions to various heads of foreign governments on behalf of political prisoners.

These governments, usually in the throes of civil unrest, are requested, at most, to release persons held for nonviolently practicing their beliefs. The letters, at the very least, ask national leaders to end tortures and unfair prison conditions in their countries.

"We have to be careful how we word each letter," said Alison Markwick, NICHD employee and committee chairperson, who was originally an Amnesty member in Australia. "Although we are nonpartisan, some countries like South Africa think we're communists, and the Soviet Union thinks we're right wing."

Information on the arrest policies of different nations is distributed by Amnesty International, a 27-year-old organization founded in Great Britain to support the humane treatment of political prisoners worldwide.

According to a recent article featured in the *Potomac Gazette*, Amnesty has about half a million members in more than 150 countries.

At least three different programs fall under Amnesty's umbrella: the Adoption Network, which focuses on securing the release of a single prisoner of conscience (one who has not used or advocated violence in pursuit of religious or political freedom); the Medical Action Network, devoted to health maintenance of prisoners; and the Urgent Action Network, which enlists immediate support for persons in imminent danger of torture or death.

The predicaments of the prisoners are communicated to regional Amnesty chapters by mail.

In response, Medical Scientists Committee members volunteer to draft letters, identifying their group as a "nonpolitical group of health professionals concerned about human rights,"

**(See AMNESTY, Page 4)**

## PROTEIN

(Continued from Page 1)

the body and even within the same cell—gives PKC added abilities to take on specialized jobs. Using highly specific antibody markers, the scientists set out to match the different PKC isozymes to different functions by pinpointing their location throughout the body. In laboratory animals, they found that the type I isozyme, for example, appears in large amounts in the brain but not in any other tissues. And whereas the type II isozyme is found in almost all tissues, type III is found mostly in parts of the eye and in a light-sensing gland in the brain.

Using the markers to chart where inside cells the isozymes reside, the researchers found specific isozymes in some cellular regions but not in others. Although a type of brain cell, called Purkinje cells, contained two of the isozymes, they resided in different locations within the cell. Type III occupied the cell body, while type I preferred the spiny projections known as dendrites. The results suggest that even within a single cell, "the different protein kinase C isozymes may regulate different cellular functions," the report says.

When the body needs cell growth, muscle contraction, nerve activity, or some other function, the message calling for cells to act must make its way inside the cells. PKC is a key player in the system of messenger molecules that transfers these action signals. By adding phosphate molecules to a variety of function-controlling proteins, PKC regulates the activity of these proteins. Changing the protein in turn influences the way a cell and its genes respond to the incoming signal.

Finding large amounts of type I isozyme in the dendrites of nerve cells has led Huang to suggest that this isozyme plays a role in learning and memory. Dendrites are active portions of nerve cells that take in and process chemical information fired from adjacent neurons. Huang and his colleagues have also found large amounts of the isozyme in information-processing regions of the brain known as the hippocampus and amygdala. Because type I shows up during a time after birth when nerve connections in the brain are being made, this isozyme may play an important role in building the circuitry for these mental functions, says Huang. His team plans to study whether defects in the type I isozyme in human cells may underlie disorders of memory and learning such as Alzheimer disease.

Because type II was found in many tissues in adult animals, Huang suggests that this isozyme directs signals responsible for day-to-day cell functioning. "It appears that the type II protein kinase C is the major backbone for

signal transduction in most tissues," the report says.

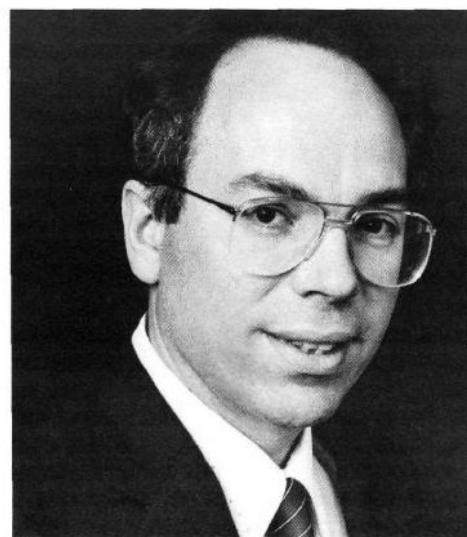
But in newborn rats, type II seems to play a role in the normal development of the immune system. Huang and his coworkers found large amounts of the isozyme in the developing spleen and thymus, organs "essential for the normal development of immunological function early in life," says Huang. Thus, the report says, the type II variety may help control cell functions specific to the immune system, especially during early development.

The researchers found the highest levels of the type III isozyme in the eye's retina and in a light-sensing gland known as the pineal gland. These organs help convert light into chemical messages the brain uses to create visual images and may play some role in hormone changes related to seasons. It seems likely, Huang says, that in these tissues, the type III isozyme participates in transferring signals essential to these sensory functions.

Because the antibody markers also detect PKC isozymes in human tissue, researchers can now begin to look at whether defects in these isozymes, or in the genes that encode them, play a role in human disease. □



*Carolyn McHale has been appointed chief of the Scientific Information and Data Systems Branch, NIAMS. She was formerly chief of the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation and of the Office of Program Analysis and Technical Information, NIA. Before joining NIH in 1974, McHale was a chemist with the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Bethesda. She holds a B.S. degree in biological sciences from Drexel University in Philadelphia.*



*Dr. Jack A. McLaughlin has been appointed associate director for extramural and collaborative programs at NEI. He will serve as the director's principal advisor for scientific and administrative management of the institute's extramural programs. He came to NIH in 1976 as a research associate in the Medical Neurology Branch, NINCDS. After completing the grants associate program in 1980, he joined NEI as a program director for retinal degenerative disorders, and was appointed chief of the Retinal and Choroidal Diseases Branch in 1984. He has served as acting associate director for extramural and collaborative programs since 1987.*

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## What Is AMC?

By Nancy E. Etzel

It's rather interesting how a 20-year-old person working at NIH can be called a "classic"—my friends find it quite amusing. I have a "classic" case of arthrogryposis (are-throw-gri-Posis) multiplex congenita. This means my wrists, elbows, shoulders, hips, knees and feet are affected. What? You've never heard of it? It's a relatively rare condition, occurring in perhaps one in every 3,000 births. However, I am lucky as I have full use of my elbows. Many people with this disorder cannot bend their elbows or even walk without special adaptive equipment.

The term arthrogryposis multiplex congenita describes the presence of multiple contractures at birth. A contracture is a limitation in the range of motion of a joint. Nearly every joint may be affected including the jaw and the back. Frequently, these contractures are accompanied by muscle weakness.

Having a rare "physical challenge" (which sounds much better than a handicap or disability) has been very frustrating. When I tell people what I have, they look as if I just told them I am from Pluto. "What the heck is that?" and "Is it catching?" are some of the more memorable lines I hear when I disclose my challenge. AMC is not like any other disorder, not like cerebral palsy or anything else; it has its own unique problems and treatments.

The treatments can vary from case to case. For example, I have had seven operations, splints for my hands, and a back brace for scoliosis. I am now very functional and happy that I am able to do so much. There are those with AMC who cannot feed themselves and

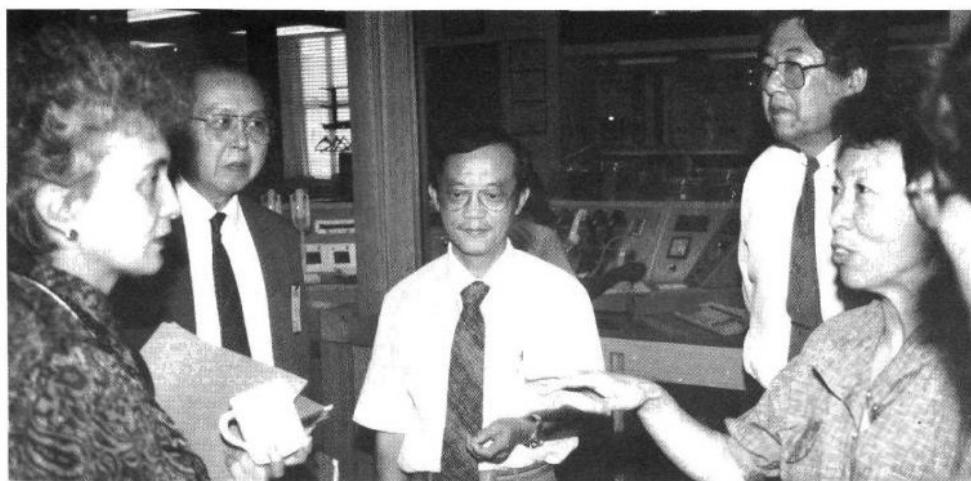


Nancy E. Etzel

will have to depend on someone for the rest of their lives. In the cases that have been reported, intelligence has been normal. Some of my professors at college question this fact. (In my case it is more likely that I am just lazy!)

I hope you have learned something about AMC. If you are interested in more information, have AMC, or know someone who does, you can contact the support group, AVENUES, Mary Anne and Jim Schmidt, P.O. Box 5192, Sonora, CA 95370. They publish a newsletter twice a year and can help answer questions regarding AMC. If you are interested in the medical aspects, the person to contact is: Dr. Judith Hall, Director of Clinical Genetic Services, Grace Hospital, 4490 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6H 3V5, Canada, (604) 875-2157.

Oh, before you leave, remember physically challenged people are just that—people! □



Dr. Kenneth Chang from NIH participated in a special call-in show to Beijing for the Voice of America. Chang, chief of NCI's viral oncology section, worked with the Chinese Branch for the show, "Cancer: Prevention and Treatment," which was broadcast on July 26. Discussing the show are (l to r): Besie Wan, host, "Health and Hygiene" program; Chang; Dr. Jia Ting Chen, senior industrial hygienist, OSHA, Department of Labor; and Joseph Wang, program coordinator.

## Hispanic Heritage Week

The third week in September has been designated by Public Law 90-498 as "National Hispanic Heritage Week." The law, passed by Congress on Sept. 17, 1968, was established to provide all Americans with the opportunity to reflect on the Hispanic heritage of our nation.

The Division of Equal Opportunity and the NIH Hispanic American Advisory Committee have planned a program in observance of this week. The session will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. This year's theme is "500 Years of Hispanic Heritage 1492 to 1992—The Women's Contribution."

The program will feature a scientific presentation, "Molecular Neurogenetics," delivered by Dr. Lydia Villa Komaroff, associate professor, Harvard Medical School, followed by a panel discussion on Hispanic women's issues. In addition to Komaroff, Dr. Ana Maria Perera, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Emma Navaja, attorney-at-law, and Paquita Vivo, president of Isla, Inc., will serve as panel members.

To augment this event, samplings of Mexican, Central, South American and Caribbean cookery will be provided.

NIH director Dr. James Wyngaarden fully supports employee participation in this observance and encourages supervisors to permit employee attendance to the maximum extent possible.

For further information, please contact Victor Canino, Hispanic Employment Program Manager, Division of Equal Opportunity, 496-6301. □

## OPM Holds Job Fair

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management will sponsor the first nationwide "job fair" to recruit candidates for health, science, and technology positions within federal agencies at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City on Friday, Aug. 26 (11 a.m.-7 p.m.) and Saturday, Aug. 27 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.).

For this recruitment effort, OPM has targeted candidates for positions within "shortage category" occupations, including healthcare, engineering, physical and life sciences, math, data processing, and computer science fields.

"We'll be looking for nurses, engineers, computer science professionals, microbiologists, and actuaries, just to name a few," says Bill Irvin of OPM. "We want to provide all federal agencies with an opportunity to review the best qualified candidates in their field," he explained. □

## AMNESTY

(Continued from Page 1)

and identifying by name the victim and his or her alleged offense. Each member then signs the letters.

Usually the letters also refer to two United Nations agreements—the Human Rights Declaration and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners—as the basis for their entreaties. Amnesty groups rarely petition their own countries.

In a typical weekly session, the committee may mail about 14 letters. Funding for the project, which averages almost 750 missives regarding more than 300 cases annually, is usually contributed by members of the committee. Additional financial support has come from FAES and the R&W Association.

Do the letters get results? "It's hard to judge the effects of our single letters," admitted Stephen Miller, NINCDS employee and secretary of the committee. "But with hundreds of similar groups around the world sending letters during the same time period, the message must be clear. Each month we get roughly a dozen reports from Amnesty International headquarters of prisoners being released. Occasionally we get replies directly from the countries' embassies."

Richard Baltaro, a first-time committee attendee and long-standing Amnesty member previously in Rhode Island and in Rome, has known of newly released prisoners who have written to Amnesty groups in thanks, attributing their recently regained freedom, and in some cases, their spared lives to the hundreds of petitions written on their behalf.

"The prisoners are very grateful," Baltaro said. "They know that they have been supported."

Aside from writing letters, the Medical Scientists Committee also sponsors speakers to bring attention to the group as well as the state of prisoners.

"Sometimes we'll bring in foreign speakers who'll talk about their experiences abroad," said Miller. "Hopefully they'll mention our efforts as well."

In 1987, the committee presented a lecture by Lev Goldfarb, a visiting Soviet scientist, who discussed the Refusnik movement.

This year, the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo, a group of Argentinian matriarchs attempting to reclaim their grandchildren, spoke at NIH. The children, whose parents were murdered, were seized by the military during a political uprising in the 1970's.

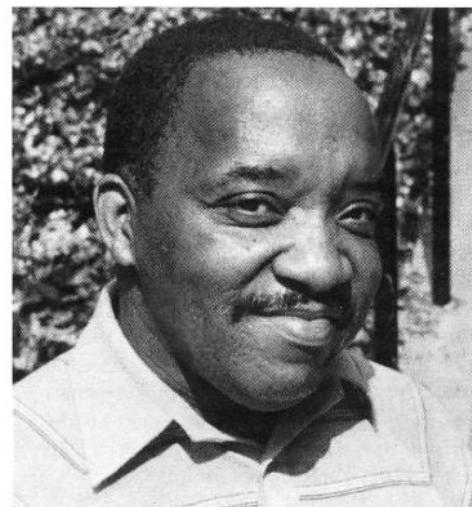
Some committee events have been cosponsored by such groups as SHER (Self Help for Equal Rights), and BIG (Blacks in Government).

Other activities include providing informa-

tion at tables set up in campus cafeterias. "We get a lot of foreign visitors who were members of Amnesty in their own countries and want to join us to stay involved," Miller commented.

"Ideally, we'd like to double, even triple our membership, but realistically, if we could just get a few more persons to join and share the letter-writing responsibilities, it would relieve a little of the pressure on us. There are certainly enough urgent actions to be addressed."

The Medical Scientists Committee meets every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 to 1:30 in Bldg. 10, Rm. B1D25. To obtain additional information, call Dr. Pat McKinley, 496-9291. □



*"I went to Chicago and Detroit to vacation and visit family. I'd like to go to Monte Carlo."*

—Richard Pitts  
CC



*"I just started working here a few months ago, so I have no vacation time, really. I'd like to go somewhere cool, though."*

—Helen Meissner  
NCI



*"I'm not taking one this summer. We took one in October to Massachusetts. I'd like to go to California, Santa Barbara maybe."*

—Janice Sphon  
NCI



*"I went to the West Coast—California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah." Would like to go to "... oh, I don't know. Alaska, I guess."*

—Isabelle Hirsch  
NCI

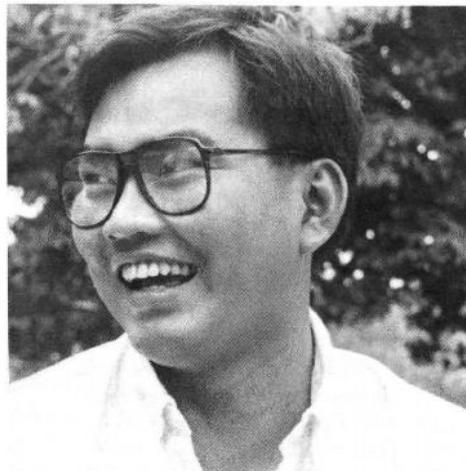
## Where I Spent My Summer Vacation ... or Would Like To Spend It

The Record sent its investigative reporting team into the merciless heat of a recent morning to find out the answers to two burning questions: Where did you spend (or do you plan to spend) your summer vacation? and Where would you have liked to vacation this summer? We were astonished at the breadth and variety of answers to our inquiries. We were also astonished at the number of people willing to urge us in the direction of the one conceivably hotter place than where we were standing. Herewith are the people and the answers we received. (Note the look of cool satisfaction on the faces of those who ventured most widely.)



"I've been to Virginia Beach, Chicago, and Atlantic City. I'd go to Hawaii if I could go anywhere."

—Janice McCoy  
NICHD



"I'm going to Virginia Beach. Would like to go to Hawaii."

—Tan Le  
NCI



"I'm going to Ocean City, Md. for a week. Would like to go to Hawaii."

—Michele Ronan  
NIDR

"I'm going to Michigan to visit my mom. I'd love to go to Machupicchu in Peru. I'm a photographer and I'd love to photograph it."

—Liana Harvath  
FDA  
(Not Pictured)



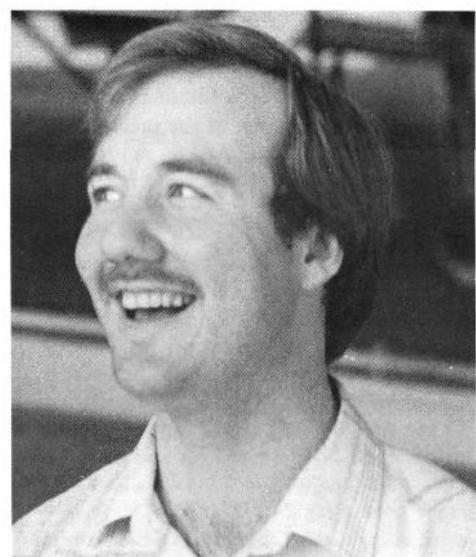
"We're planning to go to Vermont for a week, to Cape Cod for a few days, and to either Hawaii or Australia for two weeks. I'd really like to go to Australia."

—Sandy Myers  
NIMH



"I am not originally from this country and I have already traveled a lot. I've been to Death Valley, Phoenix, New Mexico, the Wind Caves in South Dakota, the Badlands, the Everglades. I hope to go to the Virgin Islands before I leave."

—Catherine Godfraind  
NINCDS  
on a 16-month U.S. stay from Belgium



"I spent time with my brother from Oregon but we stayed in the area. I'd like to go to Australia, though."

—Bob Kruth  
NCI



Teacher Melanie Fields of Sidwell Friends School

## TEACHERS

(Continued from Page 1)

other teachers will carry back to the classroom?

Roe: "One of the things I see now more than ever before is the link between biology and chemistry. I think we need to emphasize that link more."

Melanie Fields, a biology teacher at Sidwell Friends School in Washington: "It's opened my eyes to research areas ... that weren't there 10 years ago."

Leith Bernard, who teaches biology and chemistry at Washington International School: "A better understanding of the precise techniques of measurement. And an appreciation for the idea that not all the answers are known, that each answer leads to another question."

The teachers said the experience is also important because it offers a network of contacts and role models to tap in counseling their students about career opportunities. Several hope to place more of their students in internships at NIH.

They also had high praise for the teaching skills of their NIH supervisors and coworkers.

Peter Stallone of Springbrook, who has taught science for 24 years, said Dr. Alan Peterkofsky in the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics, NHLBI, has been "very understanding, an excellent teacher."

"He explains what's going on, he seems to know just where to go," Stallone said. "I couldn't be luckier than to work for him." Peterkofsky is studying the regulation of levels of cyclic AMP by the enzyme adenylate cyclase in the bacterium *E. coli*. Stallone is working

with a protein, known as CRP, that binds with cyclic AMP and controls its function in gene transcription, the transfer of information from DNA to new strands of messenger RNA, which then carry the information from the nucleus to the cytoplasm.

Dr. Michael Cashel, who is supervising Montgomery County teacher Gloria Seelman, thinks NIH scientists also benefit from the interaction. "It's good for us because they ask questions," he said. "Sometimes a naive mind will ask more penetrating questions than someone who's worked in an area a long time.

"Whether they're teachers or high school students, they make us think," said Cashel, head of the section on regulation in the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, NICHD.

"It's valuable to have teaching responsibilities," he continued. "We get that feedback. When you teach something I think you understand it a little better."

The teachers learned about the summer fellowship program at a 1-day "Frontiers in Biology" seminar held at NIH in April. About 95 teachers attended.

Dr. Michael Gottesman, chief of the molecular cell genetics section, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, NCI, organized the FAES-sponsored symposium. NIH scientists presented an overview of topics including biological regulation, recombinant DNA, viruses and AIDS, growth factors and oncogenes.

"FAES has been supporting students in internships for years, and it was obvious that one more way to get to students was to reach

teachers," Gottesman said.

Gottesman coordinated the summer fellowship program, matching the recipients—who receive \$5,000 each—with scientists in their areas of interest.

More than half of the teachers, like Reinhard and Stallone, requested projects involving recombinant DNA, a fundamental technique of biotechnology in which genes from different sources are joined.

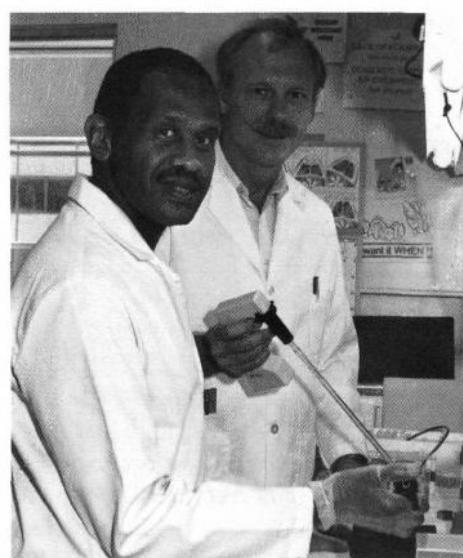
"Biotechnology is so important, but the techniques are quite complicated to read about—there's so much specialized language," said Bernard, a native of New Zealand.

"Seeing the techniques makes me better understand it, and maybe better teach it."

Bernard is interested in the movement of



Dr. Michael Cashel (l) of NICHD and Montgomery County teacher Gloria Seelman



Henry Gaines (l) of Gaithersburg High School has taught science for nearly 25 years. This summer he is learning in the laboratory of Dr. James Primus, NCI.

molecules across cell membranes, so she was assigned to the Laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism, NHLBI, where Dr. Jeff Sands is studying the transport of substances across membranes in certain kidney cells.

Bernard is helping to measure the activity of the enzyme aldose reductase in rat kidney tissue. The enzyme is instrumental in the conversion of glucose to sorbitol, which protects kidney cells against high concentrations of sodium chloride, urea and other substances.

Henry Gaines of Gaithersburg High School wanted to study monoclonal antibodies. These are highly specific antibodies that can be made in large quantities; scientists believe they may have important applications in immunotherapy, such as in attacking tumor cells.

"This permeates all cell biology disciplines," said Gaines, who teaches biology, anatomy and physiology.

"So much is happening so fast, it's not in the textbooks yet," said Gaines, who is working with Dr. James Primus, expert scientist in tumor immunology, Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Biology, NCI.

Gaines, who has taught science for nearly

25 years, is compiling a packet of background information about monoclonal antibodies—from history to production and application—that students and other teachers can read easily “to make it less of a mystery.”

He estimates he’s read at least 50 technical papers on the topic, in addition to working in the lab, interviewing scientists about related research and attending lectures and seminars at NIH.

Gloria Seelman is developing a series of lab exercises she can use in a genetics course she’ll teach for the first time this year. Assigned to Montgomery County’s 3-year-old magnet school for students gifted in math and sciences, located at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, she has designed sev-



Diana Reinhard (l), a teacher at Springbrook High, works with NCI's Dr. Susan Kane in the laboratory.

eral of the school’s science courses.

Like Gaines, she has assembled a thick notebook of materials. It outlines about 15 lab exercises along with questions for students, precautions for teachers and followup experiments students can do on their own. One exercise, for example, involves growing *E. coli* in a special solution of nutrients, then measuring it with a spectrophotometer to make a standard growth curve (which shows duration and rate of growth).

Seelman’s goal is to use the exercises with her students, then introduce them to other science teachers in the county.

“Microbial genetics is ideal for experiments at the high school level,” noted Cashel, Seelman’s supervisor. “The materials are cheap, the bacteria grow fast and you often get the results the next day.”

But, he said, “students are not exposed to it, even though it’s simple. It takes someone like Gloria who’s willing to spend the time and effort in developing a curriculum.”

Biology teacher Maryanne Watson of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria is working with Dr. John Hanover in the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Metabolism, NIDDK.

She is isolating RNA that codes for nuclear pore proteins. The nuclear pore is the gateway between the cell’s nucleus and cytoplasm.

For most of the teachers, the fellowship program has been an introduction to NIH. But two were not strangers to the campus. Melanie Fields is married to Dr. Doug Fields, a biologist in NICHD’s Laboratory of Developmental Neurobiology; Grace Mandeville’s father is a former NIH grants administrator.

Fields is using recombinant DNA techniques to investigate gene mutations in Tay-Sachs disease under Dr. Rachel Myerowitz, a biochemist in NIDDK’s Metabolism and Biochemistry Laboratory.

Mandeville has taught science in Montgomery County schools for 17 years, most recently at Thomas Wooten High School in Rockville. But this fall she will move to the new Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg.

With the new assignment comes an opportunity some science teachers only dream of: a “blank check” to outfit the classroom labs with the tools and equipment needed to enhance her syllabus. For Mandeville, too, that means giving more weight to studies of



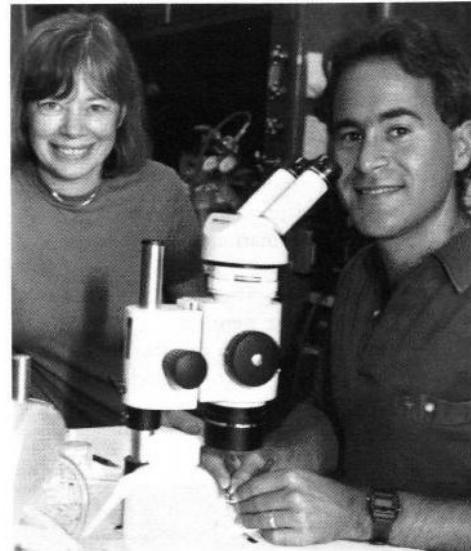
Chemistry teacher Betty Roe

DNA and molecular biology.

“Textbooks teach it in an abstract way, and it isn’t understood by the students,” she said. In the past, she has had to “patch together equipment” when teaching a unit on DNA.

“My hope is that if I expose kids to it at the 10th-grade level, let them get a feel for the tools, they’ll be more comfortable when they read about it.”

Mandeville was assigned to the lab of Dr. Roscoe Brady, chief of the Developmental and Metabolic Neurology Branch, NINCDS, where researchers are investigating the mechanisms involved in Gaucher’s disease, an inherited lipid storage disease that can cause



Teacher Leith Bernard (l) and Dr. Jeff Sands of NHLBI

mental retardation and other problems.

Working with Dr. Raymond O’Neill, Mandeville is assisting in efforts to combine fragments of human DNA with mouse genes to develop an animal model that could be used to synthesize the enzyme lacking in Gaucher’s disease.

“I’m fortunate to be in this lab not only with Dr. O’Neill, who has an ability to explain things well, but also to be able to go on clinical rounds with Dr. Brady,” Mandeville said.

“I can bring back a better feel for medicine and disease to share with my students who are

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Grace Mandeville (l), who will be teaching at Gaithersburg’s new Quince Orchard High in the fall, is working this summer with Dr. Roscoe Brady (c) of NINCDS and Dr. Raymond O’Neill.

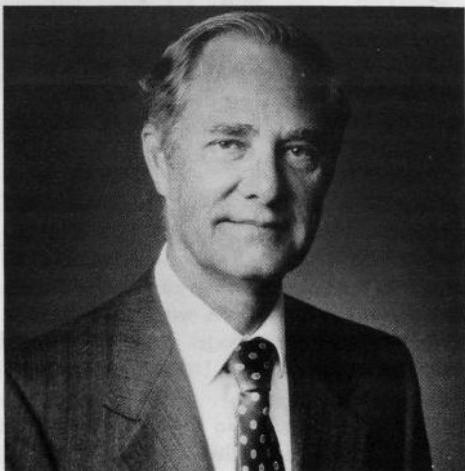
(Continued from Page 7)

interested in medical careers."

Like some of her teacher colleagues, Reinhard thinks the research experience at NIH this summer will give her a lot more empathy for her students.

"Now I appreciate what it's like to be overwhelmed with information," Reinhard said. "At first I was reading up on it at night, suffering from overload. Then, at the end of two weeks, a bright light went on."

"I've seen that point in my students," she said. "The dawn finally comes and it's so exciting." □



*Ed Singletary, long-time chief of the photography unit, Medical Arts and Photography Branch, DRS, retired recently after 18 years at NIH. Ed previously was a Navy photographer for 20 years. As new photographic equipment and processes applicable to biomedical research were developed over the years, he consistently introduced them into the MAPB photo unit to improve services for NIH investigators. "There's hardly one lab job we do now the same way we did 18 years ago," he has said. "Ed's keen business awareness matched his enthusiasm and dedication," said DRS director Dr. Robert A. Whitney. "The result was a smooth operation. He'll be missed."*

## Normal Volunteers Needed For Vaccine Research

The NICHD seeks healthy volunteers, ages 18-45, to participate in evaluation of a new vaccine against pneumococcal infection. Volunteers will be tested for HIV; females will be also tested for pregnancy. Positive test for either will exclude participation. For information call 496-6141. □

## Ferguson To Head Office of Medical Applications of Research

Dr. John H. Ferguson, a neurologist with more than 22 years of experience in research, teaching and private practice, has been appointed director of the Office of Medical Applications of Research, the NIH's focal point for technology assessment. He will head the Consensus Development Program and supervise other office activities including coordination of Medicare coverage issues and the NIH Patent Program.

Most recently, Ferguson, 55, has been in clinical practice in Waco, Tex. Since 1969 he has been assistant then associate professor of neurology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, his hometown, then associate clinical professor of neurology and family practice at Baylor College of Medicine in Waco.

The lead author or coauthor of more than two dozen papers he has done research and written on a number of topics including epilepsy, intracortical connections and seizure, cerebrospinal fluid cytology in leukemia and hemifacial spasm. In addition to his private practice, he has served on the staffs of several teaching hospitals and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Cleveland.

Ferguson said he first became interested in the OMAR position because it offered him the opportunity to put his two careers—clinical practice and research—together. As a practitioner, he says he is well aware of how valuable technology assessment can be.

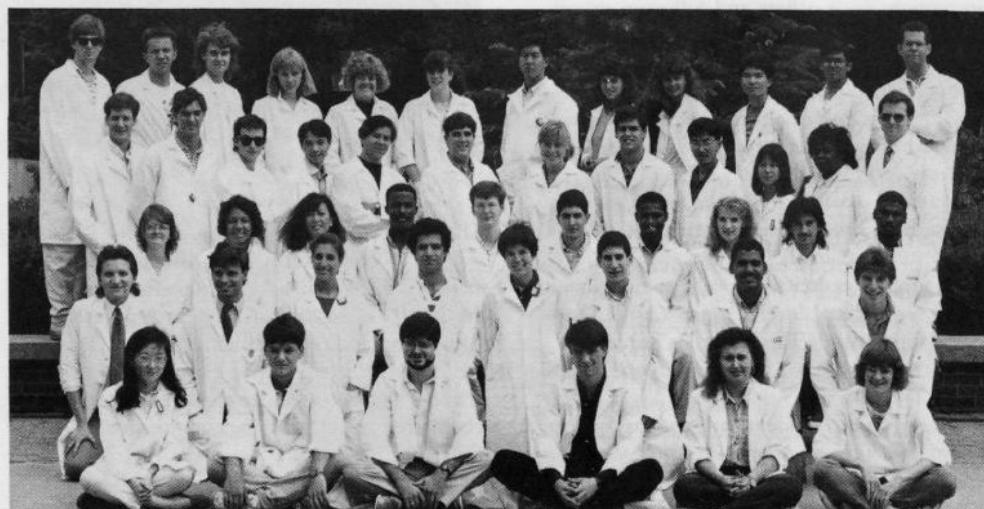
"In practice," he said, "I would get 10

journals and go to a few medical meetings each year and this is how I got my information. The pressure of time—the hours consulting on the phone, seeing patients—simply won't allow the clinician the chance to learn all there is to know about new or changing technologies."

The strength of the consensus program, he said, is that it "brings the best, most current science directly to the clinician. It summarizes the information and critiques it in as non-biased a manner as possible."

As director of OMAR, Ferguson said his main and most difficult task will be to improve the quality of health care delivery in this nation by more effectively disseminating information about new or existing technologies to the practitioner. Physicians will then use this knowledge to provide better care to the patient, he said.

Dr. William T. Friedewald, NIH associate director for disease prevention and acting director of OMAR for the past year, said of the new appointment: "I was delighted to relinquish my acting directorship of OMAR to someone with such ideal credentials as John Ferguson." Friedewald heads the NIH Office of Disease Prevention, comprised of OMAR, the Division of Disease Prevention and the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination.—Michael Bernstein □



*Here's what the next generation of biomedical scientists looks like. On campus to attend the NINCDS Summer Program in the Neurosciences, these high school and college students came from all regions of the country to work in the institute's labs and branches. At the program's end, 14 outstanding students earned an NINCDS Exceptional Summer Employee Award—the largest number ever.*

## Mary Virts Retires From NIH After 37 Years in Bldg. 1

Mary Virts came to NIH and Bldg. 1 37 years ago and spent her entire career in the same building. In fact, she spent her last year in the sub-basement of Bldg. 1, sorting through the files stored there.

"People thought I was crazy to ask for this assignment, but I have really enjoyed it," she said.

"The files contain a lot of the history of NIH. I've come across a lot of interesting facts and old photographs."

According to Virts, the files contain operating as well as policy material; some of it dates back to the 1940's. "The running history of NIH is in those files," she says.

There were more than 600 files to sort through when Virts, who retired at the end of July, first began the project. She has now consolidated and weeded out extraneous material so that there are approximately 175 left. The remaining files need to be preserved and will eventually be stored in the U.S. Archives, Virts says.

"One of the biggest changes I've noticed in going through all the files is the changing relationship between NIH and Congress," she says. "For example, Dr. James A. Shannon, former director, had a very close relationship with the Hill. After his departure, you could see it deteriorating over the years."

Virts came to NIH in 1951 as an 18-year-old grade 3 secretary to the director of what is now called the Division of Financial Management. Later she became a top secretary at a grade 5. "That was very hard to achieve back then," she continued. "Now it is a grade 8."

Later she moved into the Office of Administration as secretary to the NIH associate director. She stayed in that office for 32 years, serving as the administrative officer for the immediate Office of the Director for the past 13 years.

"Ironically, when I first joined the government, there was a freeze on recruitment and I had to wait 2 months to be hired. Now, as I'm going out, there is another freeze."

According to Virts, people often ask her how she could possibly stay in the same job and office for so long. Her response: "There was always enough change to keep it interesting."

"The character of my job changed as the directors and administrations changed. OD is where the action is and the executive officer handles the resources and oversees it all—budget, personnel and space."

One anecdote that Virts recalls is that, during the Civil Defense drills common in the early 1960's, she was the one chosen to drive Shannon, then director of NIH, around in a government car. The two of them were desig-



Mary Virts

nated to go to a special underground shelter cleared for top officials.

"I don't remember exactly where I drove him now but I guess just around the area until we were told it was clear for us to return to NIH."

At a retirement breakfast held recently for her in Wilson Hall, Virts saw a lot of her old friends, some retired, some not. "I saw a lot of people that I really care about. They are part of my family."

Some former employees returning to wish her farewell were Mary Meyer, director's secretary in 1951; Verda Rexroth, secretary to several former directors; Dr. Donald Fredrickson, former NIH director; James Carter, former director's chauffeur; Dick Seggel, executive officer for 13 years; Tom Kennedy and Gerri Benson, former OPPE employees; Lillie O'Hara and Dottie Saverino, who formerly worked on the files that Virts has been working on; Mary Calley Hartman, who used to work in the Special Events Office; Hazel Milroy, former budget office employee; and many others.

At the reception, Virts was presented with a bird carving by Bob Dennis of OD's personnel office. "They all know I'm a birdwatcher and it is a beautiful carving of a sanderling," she says. "I'll certainly cherish it."

She was also presented with a drawing of Bldg. 1 by Brent Jaquet of NIDR, along with a certificate from the Executive Officer's Group, for which Virts served as executive secretary for 16 years.

Virts and her husband, Arthur (a retired Postal Service employee), live in Boyds, Md., where they grew up. "Our roots are very important to both of us; we are just down-home country people. I'm so very lucky I have two families—Boyd's and NIH."

—Anne Barber □

## First Gene Mapping Grants Awarded by NIGMS

The first research grants awarded under a special gene mapping initiative of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences started recently. This initiative is supported by a \$17.2 million Congressional appropriation to NIGMS in fiscal year 1988.

Gene mapping, the process of pinpointing the specific locations of genes on chromosomes, enables scientists to learn more about genes involved in inherited disorders and may lead to new means of diagnosing, treating and preventing such disorders. Knowing the locations of genes also provides a wealth of information on the genetic makeup of all humans.

The new awards are a component of NIH's efforts to characterize the genomes (the complete genetic endowment) of humans and model organisms such as yeast, fruit flies and mice. In addition to gene mapping, this endeavor involves the development of new tools for and approaches to genome analysis, as well as the determination of the sequence, or order, of subunits of the genetic material DNA.

The current efforts to characterize complex genomes are an outgrowth of studies in the underlying fields of molecular genetics and gene expression that have been supported by NIH, and in particular by NIGMS, for more than 20 years. This research has already led to greatly improved strategies for studying human genetics and inherited disorders. While most research done in the past has focused on locating specific genes of interest, the new initiative will support a more systematic approach that involves mapping all of an organism's genes.

The gene mapping initiative will be facilitated by several NIH-supported research resources. These include a genetic sequence data bank; a repository of cells from people with genetic diseases; repositories of specific segments of DNA; and computer hardware and software programs that enhance communication and data exchange among biomedical researchers. □

## Working Mothers Wanted

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development seeks employed mothers with first-born infants, no older than 5½ months, and their substitute caregivers, to participate in a study of infant development in the context of maternal employment. Participation involves 2 visits to the infant, once when with mother and once when with the caregiver. For more information, call Ann Fox, 496-6832. □

## Mary Lois White Dies

Many NIH employees were saddened by the recent death of Mary Lois White, who was an honorable and dedicated member of the NIH community for 28 years.

She was first employed as a cafeteria worker with GSI until she transferred to the federal service in 1970. At that time she was employed by the housekeeping services section of the Division of Administrative Services, where she remained for 12 years. In 1982 she transferred to the NIH Print Shop and she was working there at the time she became ill.

White had a remarkable and profound impact on her fellow workers at NIH. She was the first member of the housekeeping services section to participate in the Upward Mobility College Program, and she will be remembered for paving the way for her coworkers who sought the same training opportunities that were available to other NIH employees. She continued to take classes over the years and never gave up her dream of obtaining a college degree. At the time of her death, Mary was within 12 credit hours of receiving a degree in public administration. She also served on the EEO Advisory Committee in her division for many years. She was a thoughtful, effective member of that committee; as a result of her efforts, she became the first recipient of the Harvey Bullock Award for distinguished contributions to EEO.

During her employment in the Print Shop, White was active in local union activities (AFGE/AFLCIO). She aided in the successful resolution of the employee-related issues that developed when the NIH Print Shop was reorganized.



Mary Lois White

In addition to her community-spirited activities at NIH, she was also active in her church, St. Mary's Episcopal, where she was a member for nearly 30 years. White's achievements at work, in her education and in her community are especially remarkable in light of the numerous personal hardships that she faced. Her life was, indeed, a profile in courage.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Johnson, a granddaughter, Valencia M. Colston, a grandson, Carl A. Colston, Jr., a son-in-law, Malcolm Johnson, a fiance, Benjamin Miller, two sisters, Eunice McCauley and Clara Crank, and two brothers, Reuben and Miles Williams. She also leaves many good friends throughout NIH who will always remember the contributions she made toward the betterment of conditions for her fellow employees.—

Thelma Gaither

## Bowlers Needed

The NIH Wednesday Night Mixed Tenpin Bowling League will need several bowlers for the 1988-89 season. They bowl at Westwood at 6 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Sept. 7. For further information, please call Betty Morris, 496-5415 or Joyce Fisher, 496-7617. □

## KERMIT Seminar

The DCRT Training Program is sponsoring a seminar on KERMIT on Aug. 26 at 9 a.m. in Bldg. 12A, Rm. B51.

KERMIT is a software package used to transfer files between the PC and the mainframe computer. Topics to be covered include how to install KERMIT on the PC, how to use it for file transfer and for terminal emulation.

To register for the seminar, contact the DCRT Training Unit, 496-2339, TDD 496-8294. □

## 10 Mile Run Planned Sept. 18

The NIH Health's Angels annual 10-mile run, now known as the "Al Lewis 10 Mile Run" in memory of the late club president, will be held Sunday, Sept. 18, at 9:45 a.m. at the Ken-Gar Palisades Park in Kensington, Md. As usual, the race will be cosponsored by the D.C. Road Runners Club as the 10-mile event in its championship series.

Medals will be awarded by DCRRRC to the first 3 finishers in each of six age groups for men and women. The Health's Angels will provide special awards for the fastest NIH man and woman, and the overall winners will have their names engraved on the permanent club plaque. For the 13th year the club will also present the famous "Unbody Award" to the fastest runner whose weight in pounds is 2.5 times or more his or her height in inches; NIH Record editor Rich McManus will be back to defend his title in this category while Tom Roach will put his "Fastest NIH'er" title up for grabs as he serves as codirector of this year's event.

The race is run out-and-back from Ken-Gar on the well-shaded bike path through Rock Creek Park and is relatively flat with the exception of a short hill on Old Spring Rd. NIH runners are urged to get ready for this year's 10 miler; last year's turnout of NIH'ers was poor—especially among NIH women who were not represented at all. The 10 Miler will be preceded by a 1-mile fun run for children 10 and under at 9 a.m. and a 2-mile "Run For Your Life" at 9:15. Registration is held on race day with a \$2 entry fee for the 10-mile run; the shorter events are free.

—Dick Henneberry □

## Correction

Two picture captions were misplaced in the last issue of the *Record*. On page 10 of the issue, the captions for NIAID AIDS nurses Nancy L. Sears and Christine Grady were accidentally reversed. Grady appeared over Sears' caption and vice versa. We regret the error. □



American and Italian researchers reviewed the state of the art of imaging and spectroscopy of the heart, and problems in image acquisition due to uncontrolled moving parts of the anatomy within the *in vivo* subject, at a U.S.-Italy joint symposium on magnetic resonance imaging and cardiovascular diseases held recently under the auspices of the U.S.-Italy Agreement for Cooperation in Cardiopulmonary Research. Dr. Claude Lenfant, director, NHLBI and Prof. Rudolfo Paoletti, director, Institute of Pharmacology, University of Milan, are coordinating activities under the agreement.



## TRAINING TIPS

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

### Courses and Programs

#### Management and Supervisory 496-6371

Networking: Silent Politics

### Dates

9/1

Working With Difficult Employees

9/7

Report Writing

9/13

Conducting Effective Meetings

9/22

Dealing With Daily Conflicts

9/14

Working With Personal Differences:

Advanced MBTI

9/27

Managing Behavior in the Work

Environment

10/26

Working with Personal Differences:

MBTI I for Technical & Support

10/12

Working With Personal Differences:

MBTI I for GS-12 and above

10/19

#### Office Skills 496-6211

Basic Time & Attendance

9/1

Travel Orders & Vouchers

9/26

#### Adult Education 496-6211

#### Training and Development Services 496-6211

Personal Computer training is available through User Resource Center (URC) self study courses.

There is no cost to NIH employees for these hands-on sessions. The URC hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8:30-9:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:30-4:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00-3:00 p.m.

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NHLBI's Office of Prevention, Education, and Control recently hosted a meeting for public service directors from television stations from around the country to stress the role of public service advertisements in educating the public about health issues, and cardiovascular disease in particular. Among those attending the meeting were (from l): Terry Bellicha, chief, OPEC's Communications and Public Information Branch; Brigid McHugh, director of public relations, American Heart Association; and, Mike White, director, OPEC.

## Piatigorsky Delivers First Bloemendaal Lecture

Dr. Joram Piatigorsky, chief, Laboratory of Molecular and Developmental Biology, NEI, delivered the first Hans Bloemendaal Lecture at the University of Nijmegen in The Netherlands. The lecture entitled, "Gene Sharing in Evolution and Differentiation: Lens Crystallins as Enzymes," was presented at a joint symposium sponsored by The Netherlands Society of Biochemistry and The Netherlands Society of Cell Biology.

Piatigorsky, one of the leading researchers in the field of lens crystallins (soluble proteins that are responsible for the transparency of the lens), has focused his research on the molecular biology of these proteins, particularly the evolution and expression of their genes.

Prof. Bloemendaal, who recently retired as



Prof. Hans Bloemendaal (l), former head, department of biochemistry, University of Nijmegen, is shown with Dr. Joram Piatigorsky, NEI, who recently gave the first Hans Bloemendaal Lecture at a joint symposium sponsored by The Netherlands Societies of Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

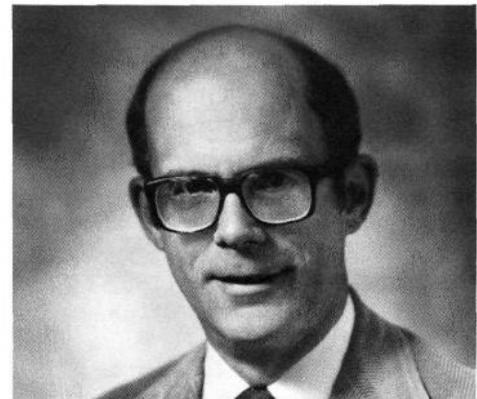
head of the department of biochemistry at the University of Nijmegen, was honored for his research accomplishments in the field of crystallins. "As a result of Dr. Bloemendaal's pioneering research, the University of Nijmegen has become an international center for crystallin research," said Piatigorsky.

The first Hans Bloemendaal Lecture was part of the opening ceremony for a new building that will house the university's departments of biochemistry and cell biology. This lectureship and an accompanying monetary award will be conferred every two years. □

## Birds vs. Jays

R&W is planning a trip to Memorial Stadium on Friday, Sept. 9, to see the Orioles vs. Toronto Blue Jays. Cost is \$16 per person.

The bus will leave Bldg. 31C at 5:30 p.m. To reserve your seat, contact the R&W Activities Desk, Bldg. 31, B1W30, 496-4600. □



Dr. Marcus Rhoades has joined the NIGMS staff as a health scientist administrator, overseeing a portfolio of grants in the Genetics Program. He recently finished a 2-year assignment at the National Science Foundation, where he administered grants in the area of prokaryotic genetics. Rhoades holds a Ph.D. degree in biophysics from The Johns Hopkins University and previously served on the faculty at Johns Hopkins and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. His research has focused on the genetic control of viral DNA structure.

## Conference on Food Allergens

The NIAID is cosponsoring a conference entitled "Occupational Diseases Due to Food Allergens" on Sept. 8-9.

The conference will be held at the Pan American Health Organization, Conf. Rm. A, located at 525 23rd Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Pre-registration is required; telephone registration will be accepted by Lynne Plummer, 986-4886. □

## NIMH Needs Volunteers

Healthy normal volunteers over 18 years of age without a history of psychiatric illness are needed for a brain metabolism study at NIMH using the PET scan technique.

Two appointments are required for this procedure. A 1- to 2-hour appointment involves screening to evaluate suitability. The second appointment, for the experimental procedure itself, requires 4 to 5 hours. This procedure involves an injection of radioactive 18-fluorodeoxyglucose, periodic blood sampling, an auditory attention task, and the PET scan. Volunteers will be paid for the two sessions. For further information, please phone 496-4022. □

## Tasty Bytes Featured in DCRT Newsletter

What began as an amusement is now a career. Dan Zoll, former freelance translator, ex-editor of the foreign studies journal *Japan Quarterly* and one-time librarian at NLM, who had always enjoyed computers for fun, is now a computer specialist who auditions and evaluates software and hardware in the Personal Workstation Office (PWO) at DCRT.

As part of his work, Zoll compiles and edits *PWO Newsbrief*, a 3-year-old publication designed to provide a variety of technical information to campus computer users.

In circulation since September 1985, the newsletter reviews new hardware and software, offers hints and tips to facilitate computer use and answers questions generated from a telephone helpline maintained in the PWO. Included also are names and addresses of local dealers, support groups and troubleshooters.

"We get on average about 600 calls per month," Zoll estimated. "We publish the most commonly asked questions and our answers in *Newsbrief*."

A typical cover of the publication features an article updating the state-of-computer-art and how it affects NIH'ers. Familiar "computerese" glyphs like "XT," "ASCII" and "LAN," found commonly in user manuals, are frequently explained and compared in the text.

"A lot of the information in the newsletter, I glean from the many computer pubs I read," said Zoll, surrounded by automated hardware. "Some of it comes directly from the company briefings I attend."



Dan Zoll

The 8 to 12-page newsletter, produced entirely on a personal computer using desktop publishing software, takes about 2-3 weeks to assemble and is issued irregularly five or six times a year.

Not having a stringent schedule affords the editor freedom to alter the paper's design, style and typefaces as often as he likes. Experimenting now with a three-column layout as opposed to the usual two-column design, Zoll admits to having fun while working.

"I keep trying to establish a consistent look for the newsletter, but I learn something new that I think makes it look a little better. So I change things frequently." —Carla Garnett □



*So that trees and grass may flower  
Heaven forged the Federal shower  
Why it falls at 5 p.m.  
Is wisdom deeper than this pen.  
Just be sure that when it tumbles  
You aren't standing in this jumble.  
(Photos taken by Peter Doob, ORS, following a recent thunderstorm that ravaged the campus.)*



## DeVita Wins Pezcoller Award

Dr. Vincent T. DeVita Jr., who recently announced his resignation as director of the National Cancer Institute (see story in next issue), will receive the first Pezcoller Foundation Award Sept. 10, in Trento, Italy.

Professor Umberto Veronesi, chairman of the prize selection committee, will present the \$150,000 award to DeVita on behalf of the foundation in recognition of his "innovative work on the curative chemotherapy of lymphoma, as well as the overall stimulus and leadership he has given to the field of oncology."

The Pezcoller Foundation, established in 1988 by Dr. Alessio Pezcoller, will recognize outstanding contributions of oncologists every three years. The Pezcoller Award also honors a "spirit of dedication and leadership demonstrated for a specific medical cause."

DeVita has been director of NCI since 1980, and has been cited frequently for his accomplishments in the development of curative chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease and diffuse large-cell lymphomas. □

## Alumni Office Established

The National Institutes of Health Alumni Association (NIHAA) has established a new office at 9101 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20814; telephone (301) 530-0567. Harriet R. Greenwald has been appointed executive director. She will coordinate the activities of the association, which was organized as a result of interest by present and past NIH personnel.

In June Drs. James Wyngaarden and Anthony Fauci spoke to more than 200 new members at the first meeting of the Washington chapter of NIHAA. This meeting was a wine and cheese party held at The Cloister. Plans are being developed for a fall event, the publication of a newsletter, and a membership drive locally as well as nationally and internationally.

Full membership in NIHAA is open to all persons who have worked or trained at NIH. Present NIH employees are invited to join as associate members. The dues are \$25 per year or \$250 for life membership.

For more information about NIHAA, contact Greenwald at the above address. □

## NCAB Plans Seminar

The 16th annual seminar of the NCAB/AALAS—"Biotechnology and Laboratory Animals: Partners in Progress"—will be held Nov. 9-10 at the Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley, Md. □