Human Genome Office Attains Center Status

By Leslie Fink

NIH's role in the human genome project, the worldwide effort to sort and characterize the body's entire set of genetic instructions, took on new emphasis recently when a separate NIH center was established to fund and oversee the work. The new National Center for Human Genome Research (NCHGR), formerly the Office of Human Genome Research under the NIH director, will now be equivalent to other NIH institutes in its authority to award grants and plan and direct scientific research.

Directed by Dr. James D. Watson, the new center will distribute funds for research aimed at locating—and then analyzing the chemical structure of—all the genes on the 23 pairs of chromosomes contained in human cells. Scientists refer to the collection of all the genetic information in an organism as its genome.

Funds distributed by NCHGR will include grants for individual research projects as well as work in multidisciplinary centers, and support for graduate and postdoctoral training.

Before NCHGR was established, funds pegged for human genome research were administered by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.


'Stop the Man ... Remember the Dream'

Benjamin Hooks To Keynote King Commemorative Program

The NIH is sponsoring a program in commemoration of the birth, life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Friday, Jan. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The theme of this year's program is "Remember the Man ... Remember the Dream."

The program will feature Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he has served since 1977. He is a well-known and highly effective orator, a licensed minister, a businessman and a lawyer.

Prior to assuming directorship of the NAACP, Hooks was a commissioner with the Federal Communications Commission. He was co-founder and vice president of the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association of Memphis for 15 years, from 1955 to 1969, a career he pursued while also working in law and the ministry.

For several years, Hooks had an assistant public defender in Memphis, representing the legal interests of the poor and indigent. He practiced general law in Memphis and was later selected as the first black judge in Shelby County (Memphis) Criminal Court, where he served with distinction for several years.

When it was formally established by secretary of health and human services Dr. Louis Sullivan. As an independent center, NCHGR will receive directly from Congress monies earmarked for human genome research which, this year, will be about $60 million. The NCHGR is also equivalent to other NIH institutes in its role in advising the NIH director on matters relating to the center's mission.

In addition to being the focus within NIH for issues relating to human genome research, NCHGR works with other federal agencies to coordinate, plan and develop policy on this project.

NCHGR currently has a staff of about 30 employees and expects to raise that number eventually to about 40. As deputy director, Dr. Elke Jordan oversees the day-to-day business of NCHGR, which is housed in the Lister Hill Center (Bldg. 38A).

According to Watson, "Gene mapping and analysis will be the key tools of biology of the 21st century. When finally interpreted," he says, "the genetic messages encoded within DNA molecules will provide the ultimate answers to the chemical underpinnings of
DONOR MONTH

(Continued from Page 1)

divided into components and the patient can be given only the part he or she really needs. One blood donation could save three or four lives. However, this information should not leave the impression that the blood supply is overflowing. Just the opposite is true. Less than 5 percent of the eligible population of the United States donates blood. New donors are constantly being sought.

This month, the NIH blood bank honors the thousands of donors who have supported Clinical Center patients and NIH research needs. Everyone who has thought of giving blood is urged to start out the nineties by donating this month. For more information, or to make an appointment, please call 496-1048.

The NIH blood bank is currently located in temporary quarters on the fifth floor of Bldg. 10's D wing. It will move to permanent quarters on the hospital's new first floor wing soon; look for an announcement in the Record.

KING

(Continued from Page 1)

Youth Chorale Alumni Chorus will provide musical selections. Edward Jackson, currently director of the D.C. Youth Chorale at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., and a voice instructor, will direct the alumni chorus.

This program is sponsored by the NIH Division of Equal Opportunity and its 1990 MLK planning committee. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For further information or if accommodations for disabilities are needed, please contact Denise Banks or Irene Peyton in the Division of Equal Opportunity, 496-6301.

Clinic Needs Caregivers

The Whitman-Walker Clinic is a community-based organization that provides medical and social services to people living with AIDS and others who are HIV positive. The clinic relies on the generous support of volunteers who fill more than 50 volunteer positions. The clinic currently has a critical shortage of nurses, doctors and physician assistants. A couple of hours of volunteer work every week or month will assist greatly in serving a growing list of clients. Training and supervision is provided. Please call the Whitman-Walker Clinic, 797-3576.

History of Medicine Lectures

The Washington Society for the History of Medicine will meet Thursday, Jan. 11 at 8 p.m. in Bldg. 58A, Rm. IN30B, where two speakers will give talks. Dr. Martha Crawford of the National Archives will speak on "Naval Hospital Corps 1899-1914," and Dr. Fitzugh Mullan will discuss "Plagues and Politics." Two hours of CME category 1 credit are offered.

Lecture Series on Taxes

Tax time is scary enough for Americans; it can be a nightmare for foreigners working in the United States.

The Fogarty International Center's International Services and Communications Branch is hosting a free lecture series to help foreign scientists unravel the U.S. tax system.

The series of nine sessions will begin Jan. 12 and run through Apr. 6. The locations and time vary. The talks will cover federal and state annual returns, as well as such special issues as tax treaty benefits.

The series is open to NIH Visiting Program participants, nonimmigrant guest researchers and special volunteers, nonimmigrants on expert or expert consultant appointments, FIC scholars-in-residence, FIC international research fellows and other nonimmigrant scientists working officially at the NIH.

The ISCB also offers free, private tax consultations for NIH foreign scientists. The tax consultant will not prepare forms, but will advise scientists about problems and procedures.

Check with your intramural administrative office for a copy of the lecture schedule. For more details about the lectures, call 496-7357; to schedule a consultant appointment, phone 496-6166.

The NIH Record

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Michael Brown To Lecture on Genes and Cholesterol

Nobel laureate Dr. Michael S. Brown will be the featured speaker for the NIH Lecture, Jan. 17, at 3 p.m., in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. "Genes That Control Cholesterol" is the title of his talk, sponsored by NHLBI's Division of Intramural Research.

Director of the Center for Generic Disease at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Brown is one of the seminal figures in cholesterol research. With his colleague Dr. Joseph Goldstein, he discovered the receptors that control the level of cholesterol in blood. For this fundamental advance, Brown and Goldstein shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985, as well as many more honors including the Lasker Award and the National Medal of Science.

A researcher and teacher at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas since 1971, Brown is now Paul J. Thomas professor of medicine and genetics, and holds the distinguished chair in biomedical sciences. Before starting his academic career in Texas, he spent 3 years as a researcher at NIH. One of his former institutes, NHLBI, has since supported much of the research that earned Brown and Goldstein high honors.

Brown received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and is now a trustee of that school. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, he holds honorary degrees from the University of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania, and L'Université de Paris-Sud.

New Protein May Link Abnormal Development and Cancer Spread

Scientists at NCI have identified a novel protein, Nm23, which may be lost or reduced when cancer cells obtain the ability to spread to distant sites in the body. Mouse and human tumor cells with high tendency to metastasize, or spread, have low levels of Nm23. In contrast, tumor cells that are less likely to spread have high levels of the protein. The scientists have also found that Nm23 is almost identical to a protein that plays a crucial role in fruit fly development.

Dr. Patricia S. Steeg of NCI's Laboratory of Pathology initially identified the nm23 gene, which produces the Nm23 protein. She and her coworkers reported their findings in a recent issue of Nature.

"Low levels of Nm23 protein correlated with an increased tendency for the tumor cell to spread," Steeg said. "Since it is tumor metastasis, or spread, that kills most cancer patients, Nm23 protein levels could be important tools for cancer prognosis and possibly treatment."

Dr. Ariella M. Rosengard, also of the Laboratory of Pathology, explained that "the Nm23 protein could aid in prognosis if its levels in patients' tumors prove to correlate with the development of recurrent cancer." She added that "predicting the course of an illness is important to physicians because it helps them to select appropriate treatment."

In some patients whose cancers are detected early, for example, the patient will be cured by surgery alone. But in a significant minority, the disease will recur because microscopic deposits have spread throughout the body. If doctors could identify patients at high risk of recurrence, they could offer those patients chemotherapy while sparing other patients the discomfort, risks and expense of additional treatment.

Genes furnish the blueprints for making specific proteins needed by a cell. From the DNA sequence of the nm23 gene, the researchers were able to predict the composition of its corresponding protein. This protein, they found, was 78 percent identical to the predicted protein product of a recently reported fruit fly gene called awd (abnormal wing discs).

"The extraordinary degree of conservation of nm23 during evolution from fruit fly to man suggests that this gene may play a central role in development," said Dr. Lance A. Lioetta, chief of the Laboratory of Pathology. "There's reason to believe that the role of Nm23 protein in humans is similar to the role played by the Awd protein in fruit flies."

Dr. Allen Shearn of Johns Hopkins University, who studies the awd gene, noted, "Mutations in the awd gene, or decreased levels of its encoded protein, cause abnormalities in fruit fly development, leading to death at an early stage." The deformities include abnormal structure and differentiation of numerous body parts. They are similar to changes seen during tumor progression and spread—a process that the researchers have found to be associated with reduced levels of Nm23.

"This is one of the first examples that has been found of a developmental gene that is also associated with tumor metastasis," Lioetta noted. "The fact that loss of the Nm23/Awd protein is associated both with metastasis and with developmental defects implies a molecular link between these two processes. Deeper insight into this connection could give us clues that will help us understand and deal with cancer."

CC Departments Relocate

Two Clinical Center departments—spiritual ministry and patient activities—recently relocated to space in what used to be sun decks on the hospital's 14th floor. The move put the two departments closer to facilities at the heart of each program—the hospital chapel in the case of spiritual ministry and the gymnasium and assembly hall in the case of patient activities. Tours and refreshments marked the opening of the new offices.
GENOME
(Continued from Page 1)

human existence.”

The development of recombinant DNA technology in the early seventies provided the basis for the techniques that now allow scientists to determine the order of the units, called bases, that make up DNA. DNA is the chemical substance genes are made of. Even today, though, only the relatively small and simple genomes of viruses have been fully sequenced. The genome of the cytomegalovirus, for example, considered one of the largest virus genomes, contains about 240,000 bases organized into 22 genes.

By comparison, the large and complex human genome is estimated to contain about 3 billion bases, organized into some 100,000 genes. So far, the largest human gene to be sequenced directs the production of a protein known as human growth hormone and contains about 70,000 bases.

For several years, mapping and sequencing human genes has been carried out as a fundamental scientific endeavor in laboratories around the world. The aim of the human genome project is to coordinate and focus these individual efforts toward the common goal of determining the exact structure of the molecules of human heredity. Done randomly, says Watson, the project would take far too long and would cost many times more than the $3 billion he estimates the unified project will require.

Knowing what human genes look like will open doors to understanding how they work. Knowledge about gene function will, it is hoped, lead to new ways to identify and treat many of the thousands of known human diseases caused by defective genes. The information may also help researchers and doctors understand and treat other conditions such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes that seem to run in families.

In the first phase of the project, scientists will begin a coordinated task of mapping each of the human chromosomes. This involves breaking down the DNA in each chromosome into manageable pieces and identifying the proper position of each piece on the chromosome. In the process, many of the 100,000 human genes will be identified. This phase is expected to take about 5 years.

During this time, biologists, computer scientists, engineers and chemists will develop new technologies that will enable them to break down and analyze the order of the DNA bases at a lower cost and greater speed than is now possible. This process, called gene sequencing, will make up the second phase of the project and is expected to take about 15 years to complete.

NINDS Study Shows Parkinson’s Disease Slowed by Deprenyl

By Frances Taylor

The drug deprenyl delays the progression of symptoms in patients with early Parkinson’s disease, according to recent reports from a major NINDS-supported clinical study. Parkinson’s disease—a progressive, disabling brain disorder—afflicts more than 500,000 Americans.

Study coordinator Dr. Ira Shoulson of the University of Rochester believes deprenyl is the first treatment to slow the progression of a degenerative neurological disorder. “Our current data suggest,” he and his colleagues reported, “that deprenyl ... may delay the onset of severe disability by ameliorating an underlying process of Parkinson’s disease.”

The clinical trial thus far has also demonstrated that patients taking deprenyl are able to continue working full-time longer because deprenyl delays disability.

Parkinson’s patients experience tremor, stiffness and loss of voluntary muscle control as cells in the brain’s substantia nigra die. Because these cells produce the chemical messenger dopamine, their loss disrupts movement-related communication in the brain.

The current therapy for Parkinson’s disease—levodopa—bolsters dopamine levels but does not stop cell death. Because levodopa alleviates Parkinson’s symptoms without slowing the neuronal destruction that causes them, its effectiveness in many patients declines with time.

In the deprenyl study, which is the largest clinical trial ever conducted for Parkinson’s disease, 100 physicians and scientists studying 800 patients treated half the group with deprenyl and the other half with another experimental treatment or a placebo. During the first year of treatment, 44 percent of the patients not receiving deprenyl declined to the point of needing levodopa to maintain their normal daily activities. But over the same period, only 24 percent of the patients given deprenyl required levodopa.

“The results translate into a delay in the development of disability of nearly one year,” the scientists wrote, “and an extended capacity for full-time employment.” In fact, the results were so promising that the scientists modified the study to place all 800 patients on deprenyl therapy in order to investigate the long-term benefits of the treatment.

Normal Volunteers Needed

The Developmental Endocrinology Branch, NICHD, is recruiting healthy women as well as infertile women for clinical research studies. Candidates must be 18-50 years old and have regular menstrual cycles. They should not be currently taking chronic medication, including birth control pills.

Studies last for one menstrual cycle and require frequent blood drawing and an endometrial biopsy. Compensation is available. For further information, call 496-4244.

Staff of the new National Center for Human Genome Research includes (front, from l) Dr. Bettie Graham, Linda Jacobson, Dr. Elke Jordan, Michelle Coleman, James Vennette; (2nd row, from l) Sonya Johnson, Alice Thomas, Erin Berger, Carolyn Mohan; (3rd row, from l) Ivan Hernandez, Linda Engel, Pam Lukken, Trude Hilliard, Kathleen House; (back, from l) Anita Brooks, Dr. Nancy Parson, Dr. Jane Peterson and Kumar Vanswani. Missing from photo are NCHGR director Dr. James Watson, Dr. Mark Goyar, Leslie Pink, Jane Ader, Maryjane Bajjisky, Lolita Bost and Elaine Leopold.
Management Intern Program Offers Career Opportunities

Are you interested in management careers in administrative services, budget, grants and contracts, personnel, program planning or public information?

The NIH Management Intern Program (MIP) has trained individuals demonstrating high potential for these careers and others and is now accepting applications for the FY 90 program. Past interns have come from a variety of backgrounds such as nursing, support staff, biology and chemistry.

The program provides specialized training for selected individuals to prepare them for careers at NIH. The program permits 12 to 15 months of rotational job assignments, which introduce interns to a variety of careers in administrative management. Experience is supplemented by formal and informal training. Upon completion of the MIP, interns are qualified for positions such as administrative officer, budget analyst, grants management specialist and personnel management specialist. Graduates have been and continue to be a primary source of future senior managers at NIH.

Application forms are available now in the NIH Training Center, Bldg. 31, Rm. B2C29. Applications must be completed and received by Feb. 28.

To be eligible to apply, individuals must have a career or career conditional appointment; be a DHHS employee; be willing to work full time; and be at least a GS-5 level employee (positions are offered at the GS-5, 7, and 9 levels; employees above the GS-9 level may be eligible to take a down grade but retain their salary).

Information on the program, application and selection process is provided at the sessions listed below. All sessions are held from 11 a.m. to noon except where noted by the asterisk. Interested persons are encouraged to attend one of the information sessions listed below before completing the application.

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Fauci Receives ‘Flame of Hope’ Award from Lupus Institute

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was recently honored by the Terri Gotthelf Lupus Research Institute with the annual Flame of Hope Award for his “contributions to basic and clinical research on the immune system.” The ceremony took place in the Capitol Hill office of Congressman Christopher Shays (R-Conn.).

Theodore Gotthelf, chairman of the board of trustees for the Lupus Research Institute, said, “We honor Dr. Fauci for his ongoing efforts on lupus research as a career. His work in lupus research has been invaluable, not only in understanding lupus as it relates to the immune system, but also in laying the foundation for new treatments of these complicated diseases.”

Gotthelf went on to note that Fauci has become a national and international spokesperson on AIDS research and potential treatments, continued, “Dr. Fauci’s earlier work with lupus research and the regulation of the immune system prepared him for the enormous challenge he now faces.”

In accepting the award, Fauci said, “I am honored to be selected for this award. The study of lupus has probably shed more light on the complexities of immune function and given us more insight into a vast array of diseases than any other single disease. Efforts of a number of investigators in lupus research have been beneficial not only for lupus patients, but also for mankind in understanding one of the most important systems of the body—the immune system.”

The Lupus Research Institute’s mission is to increase public awareness and knowledge of lupus and its symptoms. The institute’s major focus is sponsorship of the lupus scholar research program, which supports young scientists under the supervision of senior investigators for 5-year periods at research facilities throughout the country. The goal is to create a cadre of individuals who will pursue lupus research as a career.

The institute is named for the late Terri Gotthelf, who died of lupus at the age of 21 in 1981. She and her father, Theodore, decided to establish the Terri Gotthelf Lupus Research Institute to help others learn more about the disease and find its cause and cure.

Workshop on Monkey Behavior

A workshop on “Monkey Behavior and Laboratory Issues” will be held Friday, Jan. 26, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

Discussion will focus on behavioral and social needs of nonhuman primates in relation to their well-being, and optimal methods of conducting biomedical research with primates. Workshop leaders will be Dr. Melinda Novak, University of Massachusetts and New England Regional Primate Research Center, and Dr. William Mason, University of California, Davis, and California Regional Primate Research Center. Faculty are primatologists and experts from various research institutions.

The workshop is open to NIH intramural scientists, facility managers, veterinarians, technicians and animal care staff working with monkeys.

For more information, contact the Office of Animal Care and Use, 496-5424.

Furniture Donations Sought

Help give foreign scientists a leg up—a chair or table leg, that is. The Fogarty International Center needs furniture to loan to some of the 2,000 foreign scientists carrying out research on campus.

The loans are handled by the FIC’s Foreign Scientist Furniture Loan Service (FSFLS), which relies solely on private donations. Currently, the service has a severe shortage of such items as beds and bedding, tables, chairs, kitchen supplies, sofas, dressers and bookcases.

Donations are tax-deductible. They pay another dividend, too—they give donors a jump on their spring cleaning. Anyone interested in donating usable goods should contact Helena Safarova, FSFLS manager, Bldg. 35, Rm. B301, 496-6318.

Mineo Named to NIEHS Grants Post

David L. Mineo has been named chief of the Grants Management Branch within the Division of Extramural Research and Training, NIEHS.

He will be responsible for administration of more than 300 active extramural grants to universities and other nonprofit research institutions throughout the United States. These include individual research grants, center grants to Environmental Health Sciences Centers and Marine and Freshwater Biomedical Research Centers, as well as training grants.

Mineo comes to NIEHS from its sister institute in NIH, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, where he was chief of the Grants Management Branch. He is a graduate of American University in business administration.

Banner Joins NIA Neurosciences

Dr. Carl Banner has joined the neuroscience and neuropsychology of aging program at the National Institute on Aging as a health scientist administrator. He was previously a senior staff fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at NINDS.

At NIA, Banner will direct the extramural research program on the etiology of Alzheimer’s disease. He said he considers this a particularly exciting time to be working in this field. Molecular biologists have made significant progress in characterizing the neuropsychological markers that accompany this severe form of dementia. In addition, recent advances have been made in finding a genetic locus associated with a familial form of Alzheimer’s disease.

Banner received his Ph.D. in cellular and developmental biology from Harvard University in 1983.
Lockshin Named NIAMS Extramural Program Director

Dr. Michael D. Lockshin, an authority on systemic lupus erythematosus, was recently appointed director of the extramural program at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

As director of this program, he will oversee the development, review and funding of grants and contracts for NIAMS. Lockshin will be responsible for NIAMS's almost 800 active grants that support a full range of basic scientific and clinical research. Additionally, he will manage the institute's research centers in arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases and its research training program, which includes more than 200 fellowships, career awards and institutional training awards.

Lockshin will advise and participate with the institute's national advisory council in identifying and assessing the needs and requirements for research and manpower development. In addition, he will advise the institute director on all matters and policies pertaining to the extramural program.

Before coming to NIAMS, Lockshin was professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College; attending physician at the New York Hospital; attending physician and associate scientist at the Hospital for Special Surgery and a consultant in rheumatology at Memorial Hospital Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Author of more than 70 scientific papers and book chapters, Lockshin has received numerous honors for his work in the area of systemic lupus erythematosus. He has served on numerous committees of the American College of Rheumatology, the Arthritis Foundation and the Lupus Foundation of America. From 1983 to 1986, Lockshin was a member of the board of directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine and chairman of its subcommittee on rheumatology. At the present time, he serves on the editorial boards of Arthritis and Rheumatism and the Journal of Rheumatology and is a reviewer for many other scientific journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of Immunology.

A native of Ohio, Lockshin received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1959 and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1963. From 1963 to 1968, he served as an intern and then a resident at Bellevue Hospital and Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York City. During this period, he also served as an epidemiology intelligence service officer at the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta and assistant professor of epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. From 1968 to 1970, he served as a fellow in rheumatology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

"As a former grantee of NIAMS, I have a strong feeling for the mission of the institute," Lockshin said. "My career to date has bridged both the clinical and the research worlds, and I look forward to a new and exciting challenge as director of the NIAMS extramural program."—Barbara A. Weldon

Lee Appointed Chief of NICHD's Biometry And Mathematical Statistics Branch

Dr. Young Jack Lee has been appointed chief of the Biometry and Mathematical Statistics Branch in the Prevention Research Program of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. He began his appointment as chief in October after 9 years as a mathematical statistician in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

"As a branch chief, I am responsible for setting the direction of the branch," Lee says. "My goals are statistical excellence and responsible collaboration with other members of the institute."

A native of Korea, Lee came to NIH in 1977 when he joined the National Cancer Institute as an IPA from the University of Maryland. From 1977 to 1979, he designed and reviewed clinical trial protocols, as well as analyzed data, for NCI. In 1979, Lee was appointed statistician in NCI's Carcinogenesis Testing Program, where he remained until 1980.

From 1980 to the present, Lee served as a mathematical statistician in NINDS. In addition to performing statistical consultation and collaboration for the institute's projects, he conducted research in statistical methodology and established and operated a statistical coordinating center. While at NINDS, Lee also worked on a project studying the long-term effects of the anticonvulsant phenobarbital on cognition in children.

Lee obtained his B.S.E.E. degree from Seoul National University's College of Engineering. He has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in statistics from Ohio State University.

Lee is active in several professional societies, including the American Statistical Association, the Biometric Society and the Society for Clinical Trials. He has published numerous articles on both statistics and biostatistics, as well as other subjects. He is an editorial board member of the American Journal of Mathematical and Management Sciences and a reviewer for the Mathematical Review.—Anne Blank
Lecture/Film Series Focuses on Stress


A combination of seven lecture presentations and seven films will be presented on the NIH campus. Each lecture and film presentation will be offered in the same time period—noon to 1 p.m.—throughout the series. The purpose of the series is to provide information to the NIH community on the effects of rapid social change and transition on the individual, the family and the workplace.

Each month a presentation followed by a question and answer session will be led by an expert in the field focusing on various aspects of our lives in transition. On the week following the lecture, a film on the topic and a small group discussion will be offered. The schedule for the lectures and film presentations is listed below.

**January**

- **Beyond Grief: Renewal Strategies for Dealing With Loss**
  - Elizabeth Kober, R.N., M.A.
  - Tuesday, Jan. 16
  - Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
  - Film: *The Amache Family*
    - Wednesday, Jan. 24
    - Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

- **February**
  - **Coping With Diversity: The Black Experience**
  - Arthur Hendren, M.D.
  - Wednesday, Feb. 14, Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.
  - Film: *Legacy of a Dream*
    - Wednesday, Feb. 21, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

- **March**
  - **Joining Forces: Balancing Out Work and Family Demands**
  - Michael Stauber, Ph.D.
  - Monday, Mar. 19, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
  - Film: *Achieving Balance: How to Handle the Stress of Work and Family Life*
    - Wednesday, Mar. 28, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

- **April**
  - **The Wounded Family: Dealing With Family Violence**
  - Nancy Penn, M.S.W.
  - Thursday, Apr. 12, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
  - Film: *To A Safer Place*
    - Wednesday, Apr. 18, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

- **May**
  - **When Food Is a Problem: Taking a Look at Eating Disorders**
  - Sonya Lange
  - Wednesday, May 16, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
  - Film: *The Slender Trap*
    - Wednesday, May 23, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

**June**

- **Co-Dependency: When Helping You Is Hurting Me**
  - Andrew Sparker, R.N.
  - Wednesday, June 20, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
  - Film: *It's Your Problem*
    - Wednesday, June 27, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

**July**

- **The Good News About Depression**
  - Norman Wilson, M.D.
  - Wednesday, July 11, Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.
  - Film: *Dealing With Depression*
    - Wednesday, July 18, Little Theater, Bldg. 10.

NIH Communicators Collect Kudos from NAGC

NIH's public information community collected colorful kudos recently; the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) recently announced the 1989 winners in the largest ever of its annual Gold Screen and Blue Pencil competition.

More than 700 entries nationwide vied for the Blue Pencil honors that NAGC gives to outstanding publications. The promise of a Gold Screen prize, awarded for outstanding audiovisual materials, drew more than 150 competitors. NIH winners and titles of their work are listed below.

The National Cancer Institute captured nine Blue Pencil Awards:
- *Chew or Snuff--It's Real Bad Stuff*, a brochure submitted by Paul Van Nevel, won honorable mention in the category for best four-color general brochure.
- In the category for best two- or three-color publication for a general audience, NCI's *A Time of Change/De Nina a Major* won second place; Chris Thomsen won honorable mention for his *What You Need to Know About Cancer* series.
- In the category for best two- or three-color publication for a technical audience, NCI’s Advocacy Institute won first place for its Media Strategies for Smoking Control.
- Two honorable mentions—*Quit for Good Kit* and *Patients Helping Progress: Cancer Clinical Trials Press Kit*—as well as second place for *How To Help Your Patients Stop Smoking* were awarded to NCI in the category for best four-color publication for a technical audience.

Nancy Brun collected third place for her “National Cancer Institute 1989 Nutrition Calendar/Poster Series” in the visual design category.

The Clinical Center claimed two Blue Pencils and a Gold Screen:
- *Medicine for the Layman—Relieving Pain, Stroke Update, Alzheimer's Disease,* by Irene Haske, Mary Hepburn and Elyn Pollack, won first place for best one-color general audience publication.
- Wendy Schubert of the CC took second place for her one-color technical audience publication, *Cultural Influences on Health Care: PORTACATH: Patient Information,* a videotape by Harriet Bennett, formerly of the CC, received honorable mention in its category.

Other NIH awardees included Mary Sullivan of the Office of Communications, OD, whose *News and Features from NIH—Special Issue—Women's Health* won third place in the category for one-color general audience publications.

The National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse won third place in the two- or three-color general audience publication category for *The Diabetes Dictionary,* submitted by Beatrice Jakubowski of NIDDK.

Editors Diane Searf of NHLBI and Louise Williams of NICHD collaborated on the two- or three-color general audience honorable mention, *Developmental Speech and Language Disorders.*

Award winners received their honors at a banquet held recently at the Rosslyn Westpark Hotel in Arlington.—Carla Garnett
FIC Scholar Lauded for Scientific Achievements

By Louise Williams

Dr. Viswanath Sasishekaran is having a good year. In fact, the Fogarty International Center scholar-in-residence is having several good years all at once.

The Indian biophysicist has won three prestigious awards—two given annually for scientific achievement and a third honoring 40 years of accomplishment.

He received the Shri Om Prakash Bhasin Award for Science and Technology in the field of biotechnology. Given by India's National Academy of Sciences, the award prompted an Indian newspaper to dub Sasishekaran and hiscowinners "the country's top 10 scientists."

He also won the Jagdish Chandra Bose Award for research in the life sciences. The award commends achievement in such disciplines as the life, physical and chemical sciences. It is funded by a trust, run by the Indian government's university grants commission, which oversees institutions' funding and curricula.

Finally, Sasishekaran was chosen to exemplify 40 years of achievement in Indian science—an award honoring his country's statehood. The special honor was created by the Watsmann Foundation, an organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii, that funds such public service projects as a reforestation program in India. The awards were given to one individual each from such disparate fields as science, sports and the arts.

All three awards pay tribute to Sasishekaran's investigations of the structure-function relationship in macromolecules. Perhaps most significant has been his work on the conformations of proteins, the structure of nucleic acid and drug-deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) interactions.

For example, he and colleagues have been looking at antitumor and anticancer drugs that bind to DNA. They have synthesized analogs of naturally occurring molecules that apparently derive their biological activity from their geometrical shapes, which curve to permit DNA bonding. The investigators have synthesized analogs of distamycin and netropsin, changing the curvature of the naturally occurring molecules' backbones. The synthesized analogs are as toxic as their natural counterparts and may ultimately prove therapeutically effective against some cancers. However, Sasishekaran stresses that much more work lies ahead and that his investigations have dealt only with the drugs' physical chemistry—he has not performed biological tests with them.

Sasishekaran refers to these investigations as his "bread and butter" work, and they have brought him more than accolades. They also helped propel him to a high academic stand-

Dr. Viswanath Sasishekaran explains a model of sevenfold symmetrical growth.

ing. Prior to taking up his scholar's residency last April, the 56-year-old Sasishekaran served as dean of the science faculty, chairman of the division of biological sciences, and professor of biophysics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore in southern India.

Still, scientists do not live by bread and butter alone, and Sasishekaran found his many administrative duties left too little time for research. So, he accepted an invitation to become a Fogarty scholar.

He was nominated for the award by Drs. Todd Miles and David R. Davies, chiefs of the sections of organic chemistry and molecular structure, respectively, of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Sasishekaran is the fourth Fogarty scholar from India, and he is finding the NIH "an ideal place" for getting back to full-time research. Lately, his interests have drawn him into mathematical realms, specifically irrational numbers and geometrical methods for generating aperiodic lattices, as he ponders nature's seeming preference for certain symmetries and whether or not noncrystallographic symmetries can develop.

"The NIH has afforded me the opportunity and freedom to do what I want, and I don't think I could enjoy it more," he says.

He plans to continue these studies on returning to Bangalore next spring, when he resumes his professorship at the Indian Institute of Sciences.

NCNR Funds Centers For Nursing Research

NCNR grants totaling more than $1.3 million have been awarded to schools of nursing at four universities to develop exploratory or specialized centers for nursing research. The schools are: University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania and University of Washington.

A specialized research center grant was awarded to Dr. Nancy F. Woods at the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle to develop a Center for Women's Health Research. The 5-year grant will support studies focusing on midlife issues: symptoms that may be associated with stress or reproductive hormone transition; the waiting of fertility; recovery from alcohol and drug abuse; the effects of ovarian hormones on intestine function and sleep patterns with aging.

Dr. Ruth McGonigle of the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, has received a specialized research center grant for advancing care in serious illness. The 5-year award will concern improving recovery from surgery, facilitating adaptation to cancer diagnosis, and studying the health effects of bereavement.

A 3-year grant has been awarded to Dr. Sue K. Donaldson at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing to establish an exploratory center focusing on long-term care of the elderly. Feasibility studies will concern alcohol treatment for older persons, prevention of falls, methods of discharge planning and issues in family caregiving.

Dr. Jacqueline M. Dunbar of the University of Pittsburgh has received a 3-year award to establish a Center for Research in Critical Care Nursing. The exploratory center grant will concern such issues as improved patient safety during mechanical breathing, social support and recovery, and causes of injury in children.

For further information, contact the NCNR Division of Extramural Programs, 496-0523.

Salute to Youth Dinner

Members of the NIH community are cordially invited to the 1990 Salute to Youth Dinner. This year's honorees are the Honorable Constance A. and Mr. Anthony Morella. The event will take place on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, with dancing to Richard Bray's Orchestra and dinner. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are $150 each; proceeds benefit Bethesda Youth Services programs for the prevention of substance abuse. Call Randy Schools, 496-6061, or Bob Caldwell, 530-3725, if you would like to have a formal invitation.
Marvin Cassman Named NIGMS Deputy Director

Dr. Marvin Cassman was recently appointed deputy director of NIGMS. Prior to this assignment, he served as director of NIGMS' Biophysics and Physiological Sciences Program.

"Biomedical research is one of my top priorities and Dr. Cassman's broad expertise in such rapidly advancing areas as structural biology, biophysics and instrumentation development make him eminently qualified for his new position," said Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, HHS secretary. "In addition to his scientific proficiency, Dr. Cassman possesses the administrative skills needed to manage research programs not only in such established fields as genetics and cellular biology, but also in biotechnology, structural biology and other areas that will continue to grow in importance in the 21st century."

As deputy director, Cassman will aid the NIGMS director in executing policies, coordinating activities and allocating the resources of NIGMS. In addition, he will represent NIGMS at NIH forums and in dealings with other agencies, outside scientific organizations and international scientific groups.

Cassman joined NIGMS as a health scientist administrator in 1975 and was appointed chief of the molecular basis of disease section in 1978. One of his accomplishments during this period was the launching of a program to fund the purchase of scientific instruments that are shared among researchers at a grantee institution. Cassman became director of the newly created Biophysics and Physiological Sciences Program in 1995.

A native of Chicago, Cassman received his B.A., B.Sc. and M.S. degrees from the University of Chicago. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York City, in 1965. After graduation he worked as postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, following which he taught biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Harald Løe Honored by Norwegian Government

Dr. Harald Løe, director of the National Institute of Dental Research for the past 7 years, was recently appointed Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit by King Olav V of Norway.

The Order of Merit is presented to those whose accomplishments further Norwegian interests and international relations between Norway and other countries. Løe was recognized for his extensive contributions to his field of dental research both in the United States and his native country.

The title of Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was conferred upon Løe at a ceremony in the Embassy of Norway in Washington, D.C. The Norwegian ambassador, Kjeld Vibe, presented him with a gold cross and a diploma citing the appreciation of King Olav. In his speech, Ambassador Vibe complimented Løe on his contributions to research and said, "Through his work, Dr. Løe has also contributed towards bringing our two nations closer together."

Løe is an internationally renowned expert on periodontal disease. He was the first to prove that bacteria in plaque cause gingivitis. Further research led him to the development of an experimental mouth rinse that can reduce gingivitis—the first stage of gum disease. The mouth rinse is now used widely in Europe and the U.S.

NIGMS Director Kirschstein Honored

Dr. Ruth L. Kirschstein, NIGMS director, was recently selected by the Office of Personnel Management for its 1989 "Profiles in Excellence," a part of OPM's organizational excellence project that was launched last year to identify, document and disseminate information on outstanding leadership and organization practices in the federal government.

Kirschstein was cited for leadership that "established an international reputation for the institute and built consensus and support in the scientific community and Congress."

Prior to becoming NIGMS director in 1974, Kirschstein was an intramural scientist who developed a test to ensure the safety of viral vaccines such as those used for polio, measles and rubella. As a result of her work and that of her staff, the "Sabin strains" were selected as the safest for the oral polio vaccine, which virtually eliminated the incidence of polio in the United States.

"Profile" honorees may be federal executives as well as organizations. Nine other 1989 winners include the Centers for Disease Control, the Social Security Administration and secretary of energy James D. Watkins.

Tickets on Sale at R&W

R&W has discount tickets on sale now for the following upcoming Kennedy Center events:

- Feb. 17 - Beaux Arts Trio, $20
- Mar. 17 - Dance Theatre of Harlem, $29
- Mar. 31 - American Ballet 50th Anniversary Celebration, $32
- Apr. 27 - National Symphony Orchestra, $22.50
- May 4 - Tokyo String Quartet/WPAS, $25.50
- May 25 - Pearl Bailey with Louis Bellson, $27

Order your tickets at any R&W. For more information call 496-4600.
Arthur Hand Retires from PHS Dental Career

Dr. Arthur R. Hand, a senior research investigator with the National Institute of Dental Research, retired from the Public Health Service Dec. 1 to become director of the central electron microscope facility at the University of California at Los Angeles. He also will hold a faculty appointment in the university’s department of pediatric dentistry. Hand currently conducts research on salivary gland structure and function in NIDR’s Clinical Investigations and Patient Care Branch. He has been with PHS and NIDR for more than 20 years.

“I think of the move as more of a career change than a retirement,” said Hand. “When this opportunity came up I decided it would be a good time to retire from the PHS and take on a new challenge.”

Part of his responsibility at the university will be to design and teach a graduate course in electron microscopy. “I especially am looking forward to teaching. What little teaching I’ve done in the last 20 years I’ve really enjoyed,” he said.

Hand joined NIDR in 1968 as a research investigator in the Laboratory of Biological Structure (LBS). He worked in that capacity until 1976, when he traveled to McGill University in Montreal to serve as a visiting professor there for 1 year.

“The year as visiting professor was very enjoyable. I learned a great deal. It was a good opportunity and I would recommend that experience for anyone who is offered that kind of appointment.”

In 1977 he returned to NIDR and was named chief of the experimental morphology section and acting chief of LBS; he became chief of LBS in 1978. From 1982 to 1983 he served as acting chief of the Mineralized Tissue Research Branch, and in 1982 he was also named chief, Laboratory of Oral Biology and Physiology. He joined the Clinical Investigations and Patient Care Branch in 1986.

“I think what I’ll miss most are my colleagues at NIDR. It is very apparent here that you can ask for help and get it,” said Hand.

Hand attended the school of dentistry at the University of California at Los Angeles on a presidential scholarship and graduated summa cum laude. He received a PHS Commendation Medal in 1975 and the Basic Research in Oral Science Award from the International Association for Dental Research in 1978.

Hand hopes to continue his research on salivary glands at the University of Connecticut.—Mary Daum

Healing Human Hearts

Dr. Susan R. Gornner, professor of nursing and director of the cardiac recovery laboratory at the School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco, will address recovery from heart surgery in the third NCNR distinguished scholar seminar on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. The seminar will take place in the Mary Woodard Lasker Center for Health Research and Education (the Cloister).

In her presentation, entitled “Healing Human Hearts,” Gornner will discuss the social, emotional, educational and family issues relating to recovery from heart surgery. The event is cosponsored by NHLBI.

Gornner will also discuss her research on the reasons people elect heart surgery; whether or not expected benefits result; how patients and families manage the recovery period; how age, gender, activity patterns and expectations may relate to recovery patterns; and the efficacy of telephone contact with a nurse specialist during patient and family recovery at home.
**OPM's Loss, NIH's Gain**

**Diane Armstrong Named Director, Division of Equal Opportunity**

By Anne Barber

Diane E. Armstrong, newly appointed director of NIH's Division of Equal Opportunity, has worked for the federal government for 30 years. Most recently she served as chief of the Equal Employment Opportunity Division for the Office of Personnel Management.

Dr. William F. Raub, NIH acting director, said in announcing the appointment, "In addition to her outstanding record in EEO management at OPM, Ms. Armstrong has established and nurtured several very successful career support programs for OPM employees."

"I was their first full-time Federal Women's Program manager," Armstrong says, "I also established the first OPM FWP advisory committee."

Serving as chairperson for that committee, she planned and sponsored many workshops and seminars for OPM employees. For her accomplishments in this area, Armstrong received an outstanding achievement award from the Federal Women's Intergency Board.

As FWP manager, she planned OPM's annual observation of Black History Month. "In fact," she says, "I planned the first observance the agency held in 1981."

In 1986, Armstrong became chief of EEOD. As chief, she initiated development of the Communications Skills Improvement Program, an internal OPM literacy improvement program designed to help employees improve their reading comprehension skills. Tutors were sought out and trained by a literacy council and students were given administrative time to meet with tutors.

The program began in October 1988 with 16 tutors and 16 students," she said. "Thus far, three people have received promotions as a result of improving their skills."

Architect of the government's first literacy program, Armstrong developed the initiatives and hired a contractor to conduct the student-to-tutor matches. "It was all very confidential," she continued. "Only the student, student's supervisor and the tutor knew the circumstances."

"After the first year—no leakages," she says proudly. "The program has worked so well that the Department of Education has expressed an interest in possibly establishing it government-wide. But it takes a lot of dedication from both the tutor and student to make this work."

At OPM for 12 years, Armstrong initiated an interagency child care center and created a community services brochure for the Washington metropolitan area to assist employees with personal needs in addition to establishing the literacy improvement program.

**Visitor Center Offers Tours**

The NIH Visitor Information Center (VIC) in Bldg. 10 is now offering a guided tour of the NIH campus at 11 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The tour begins at the VIC reception desk in the lower lobby of the Clinical Center.

For further information, call 496-1776.

**Ubell To Speak, Jan. 18**

How does a journalist go about explaining complicated medical research to the lay person? Earl Ubell, health editor for Parade magazine and health and science editor for WCBS-TV, New York, will talk about "Explaining the Unexplainable" at an NIH Public Affairs Forum, Thursday, Jan. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The event is sponsored by the information officer's training committee and everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call 496-5895.