

The NIH Record

Regret, Optimism Mark Disability Awareness Program

By Rich McManus

A mixture of regret and optimism characterized the NIH Eighth Annual Disability Employment Awareness Program, held Oct. 25 in Wilson Hall; regret because NIH and the rest of HHS and the federal government lag far behind in employing workers with disabilities, and optimism because attitudes are changing and employers are wising up to the talents and enthusiasm of workers with disabilities.

First the good news, delivered by NIH acting director Dr. William Raub: "There have been many advances in the past 5 years in employing the disabled at NIH and in federal government." A campaign to remove barriers to employment is under way, technological advances allowing the disabled to make fullest use of their abilities are in progress and NIH is among the first employers in Montgomery County to participate in the Marriott Foundation's "Bridges" program, which employs and trains disabled high school students.

Eight students have been hired at NIH since last November, with NHLBI leading the way in bringing disabled workers aboard. For this, the institute has won a Pyramid Award in the "Employer of the Year" category from Montgomery County. Dr. Ron Geller, director of NHLBI's Division of Extramural Affairs, recently accepted the award from County Executive Sidney Kramer on behalf of the institute; Geller is also chairperson of the NIH



Cara Stewart, an occupational therapist and advocate for the disabled, performed at the program in Wilson Hall, teaching the audience a sign-language version of "America the Beautiful." Stewart was also Ms. Wheelchair Maryland 1988.

advisory committee for employees with disabilities.

Putting resounding emphasis on the impor-
(See **DISABILITY**, Page 4)

Federal Agencies Ranked

NIH Work Force Rated Tops

Only national security is nearer and dearer to the hearts of former federal executives than health research and money, say members of the Washington-based Council for Excellence in Government.

NIH tied with the Federal Reserve as the second most respected federal agency, according to 250 former government executives and council members who recently completed a *Fortune* magazine survey.

The National Security Council was rated first. NIH finished ahead of such contenders as the Council on Economic Affairs (fourth), the Office of the Treasury Secretary (fifth) as well as the CIA and the FBI (eighth and ninth).

Almost 90 government agencies were rated on four criteria: quality of management; quality of work force; quality of service; and return on the tax dollar.

Survey respondents, all of whom are now in the private sector, were asked to rank the agencies based on personal experience with the agency or perception of the agency's competence at accomplishing its mission.

"The top-rated agencies are all older, more established agencies for which a political consensus exists about their mission," said Mark A. Abramson, council president. "They are generally highly visible, and they all have a reputation for stability of leadership and for

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David Rodbard Named Second DCRT Director

By Anne Barber

Dr. David Rodbard became the director of the Division of Computer Research and Technology on Nov. 5. He succeeds Dr. Arnold W. Pratt, DCRT's first and only director until retiring last June.

"I would like to see an increase in scientific computer applications that would assist scientists in labs/clinics as well as statisticians and epidemiologists throughout the NIH community," he said. "This will involve personal computers, workstations, mainframes and supercomputers."

One of the major functions of the computer center, Rodbard points out, is to serve as the focal point and coordinator of all computer activities on campus. "And, we have many diverse systems," he adds.

"We want to encourage more interactions with all groups at NIH including the Clinical Center, National Library of Medicine, Lister Hill Center, National Center for Research

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Tainted Drug Targeted

Collaboration Yields Animal Model for L-Tryptophan Illness

A federal research team has developed an animal model for L-tryptophan-associated eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome (EMS), an inflammatory disease to which over 1,500 cases and 27 deaths have been attributed. The model provides the first direct, experimental evidence linking contaminated batches of the dietary supplement to the crippling disease.

L-tryptophan has been sold over the counter as a dietary supplement in pharmacies and health food stores for two decades. Some consumers take L-tryptophan for insomnia, anxiety, depression or other ills. L-tryptophan first caught the attention of public health officials in New Mexico on Oct. 30, 1989, when three patients were reported to have a new syndrome characterized by severe and incapacitating muscle pain (myalgia) and high blood levels of eosinophils, a special form of white blood cells. (Other symptoms of L-tryptophan-associated EMS may include general fatigue, cough and breathing difficulties,

a skin rash, progressive weakness and in a few cases, paralysis.) As more cases emerged, the Food and Drug Administration promptly, in November 1989, ordered a recall of the product and severely restricted the importation of L-tryptophan from Japan, which produces virtually all of the substance sold in the United States.

Research on the animal model for L-tryptophan-associated EMS was conducted collaboratively by scientists from NIAMS, NINDS, FDA, and the Centers for Disease Control.

"This study, in which we identified specific inflammatory changes in the rats treated with tainted L-tryptophan, is the first evidence in a living system of a cause-and-effect relationship between this substance and the disease," says Dr. Esther M. Sternberg of NIMH, senior author of the study.

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TOPS

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seeking and retaining excellent people."

Least respected agencies include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Small Business Administration, the Indian Health Service, the Department of Education, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The bottom-ranked agencies "have suffered from declining resources and high turnover of staff, often because they are politically controversial," said Abramson. "They tend to be newer organizations whose mission is less clear and for whom there is not a national political consensus about their worth."

The three top-rated agencies—the "super-stars"—were all rated first on one or more of the judging criteria. The Federal Reserve was rated tops for quality of management and quality of service; the NSC tops for return on tax dollar; and the NSC and NIH shared the top ranking for quality of work force.

Ranked in the next-to-highest category was NIH's cousin, the Centers for Disease Control.

According to a spokesman, the council did not give overall ratings to large departments whose autonomous units had high name recognition, such as the Department of Health and Human Services. Instead it rated a number of major agencies within the large departments. In the case of HHS, this led to a range of ratings, with "best" for NIH and CDC, "good" for the Food and Drug Administration, "fair" for the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and "needs improvement" for the Indian Health Service.

Also excluded from the survey were such large central management agencies as the General Services Administration and the Office of Personnel Management; the smallest agencies were similarly unrated.

Highlights of the survey's findings are reported in the Nov. 19 edition of *Fortune*. □

Bake Sale Benefits Patients

The Friends of the Clinical Center (FOCC) will host its first bake sale from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15 in the Clinical Center lobby outside the special events office. Items for sale will include miniature cheese cakes, brownies, carrot cakes, and cookies. The proceeds from the bake sale will help FOCC provide emergency financial assistance to NIH patients and their families. Those contributing baked goods or volunteering time to sell the food will have a chance to win a raffle that afternoon. Baked goods should be dropped off at the volunteer office, Bldg. 10, Rm. 1C144. For more information, call Andrea Randers, 496-1807. □



Dr. Gordon Wallace (r), president of the NIH Alumni Association, presents a gift to former NIH director Dr. James Wyngaarden at a birthday reception held in his honor at the Japanese Embassy on Oct. 19. Looking on is Harriet Greenwald, executive director of NIHAA and editor of the NIHAA newsletter, *Update*. Japanese alumni of NIH form one of the biggest overseas memberships of NIHAA, which is based at FAES House in Bethesda. The reception, sponsored by NIHAA, drew some 150 guests. In addition to Wyngaarden, it also honored Japanese research fellows currently studying at NIH.

Government Is Big Advertiser

The United States Government was, in 1989, the 36th biggest advertiser in the U.S., spending \$309.5 million on ads, according to *Advertising Age*.

The government was the 20th leading purchaser of magazine advertising space in 1989, with \$43 million spent in that medium. Bracketing that position were Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., which placed 19th in magazine ad expenditure and E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., which finished 21st.

According to *MagazineWeek*, a spokesman for the ad survey credited the great diversity of federal agencies for the large aggregate figure.

"Both Amtrak and the U.S. Post Office were up in spending, and that helped get the total spending of the U.S. Government up," said the spokesman.

The biggest magazine advertiser in 1989 was Philip Morris Cos., which spent \$281.5 million in that medium and more than \$2 billion on all U.S. advertising. General Motors ranked second in total ad spending. □

The NIH Record

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NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Room 2B-03
Phone 496-2125
FAX 402-1485

Editor
Richard McManus

Assistant Editor
Anne Barber

Staff Writer
Carla Garnett

Editorial Assistant
Marilyn Berman

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Staff Correspondents:
CC, Karen Riedel
DCRT, Anita S. Ferguson
DRG, Sue Meadows
FIC, Louise Williams
NCI, Patricia A. Newman
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Kinyoun Lecture Highlights Third World Disease

How can immunology help us understand leprosy, and what can leprosy, along with other third world diseases, teach us about immunology? These are the questions to be addressed in the Kinyoun Lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The speaker will be Dr. Barry R. Bloom, an investigator at Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He is also a former member of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council and currently serves on the council's AIDS subcommittee.

Throughout his research career, Bloom has pursued his interest in the mechanisms and regulation of cell-mediated immunity. His inroads in the field have resulted in his being a codiscoverer of the first lymphokine, the migration inhibitory factor, a component of which later proved to be gamma-interferon.

Bloom's involvement in leprosy research grew in concert with his increasing commitment to World Health Organization projects, including the WHO committee on immunology of leprosy, which he chaired from 1977 to 1986. Bloom also heads the scientific and technical advisory committee of the WHO special programme for research and training in tropical diseases. With support from NIAID, Bloom's current leprosy research involves testing a vaccine that induces protective antigens against the leprosy bacilli and shows promise as an immunotherapeutic agent for patients already infected.

Leprosy, along with its challenge to the immunologist, has served as a model for Bloom's long-held interest in the role of cell-mediated immunity in resistance to microbial infection. Over the years, he extended this work to include numerous other diseases



Dr. Barry R. Bloom

caused by intracellular viral, bacterial and protozoal pathogens. Within the WHO special programme for vaccine development, for example, Bloom now chairs the committee on tuberculosis. The recent worldwide upsurge in the number of tuberculosis cases, which is beginning to parallel the AIDS epidemic, has spotlighted Bloom's expertise as an international disease control consultant.

NIAID created the Kinyoun Lectureship to honor Dr. Joseph J. Kinyoun, who more than a century ago demonstrated that medical research—understanding the infectious process—is the foundation of disease control. Bloom's topic for the lecture follows in this tradition.—Karen Leighty □

Health Benefits Open Season, Nov. 13-Dec. 10

The Office of Personnel Management has announced an open season, Nov. 13-Dec. 10, under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). During that period eligible employees may change their plan, option, type of enrollment, or any combination of these. Note that AFGE, NFFE, Postal Supervisors and NAGE will drop out of FEHBP as of Dec. 31. Employees currently enrolled in these plans will need to change their enrollment during open season.

Commissioned officers, employees serving under appointments limited to 1 year or less and intermittent employees are not eligible for enrollment in FEHBP. However, temporary employees who have completed 1 year of current continuous employment, excluding any break in service of 5 days or less, are eligible to enroll.

Employees eligible to participate in the open season will receive a booklet, *1991 Enrollment Information Guide and Plan Comparison Chart*, from their personnel office. This booklet contains open season enrollment instructions, general FEHBP information, the major features of all plans, and general categories of coverage such as dental and vision care, outpatient and inpatient service, calendar year deductible, hospice care, etc. This year, the OPM has again authorized benefits carriers to mail the 1991 plan brochures directly to enrollees. Employees who are eligible for enrollment and are not currently enrolled or covered by a federal plan should contact their personnel office for information on the program or plan brochures.

The Division of Personnel Management will sponsor an open season Health Benefits Insurance Fair on Monday, Nov. 26, in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall. Various plan representatives will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer individual questions on the 1991 contracts. The advisory committee for employees with disabilities will be available to assist disabled employees. There will also be an interpreter to assist hearing-impaired employees address their questions to the benefits carriers. All employees are invited to attend. Employees wishing to attend should obtain the approval of their supervisor. □

R&W Offers Discount Membership

R&W will begin its annual membership drive Nov. 13, with discounted memberships offered through Jan. 31. The discounted rate for 1 year is \$4. After Jan. 31, the cost will be \$5. Join now at any R&W store and save money. □



The Falls Church chapter of Quilters Unlimited recently presented seven quilts and three clutch balls to the Children's Inn at NIH for use by the residents. Quilting patterns included "ocean waves," "nine patch," and "shoe fly." Presenting the crafts to Carmala Walgren (r), president of the board of directors of the Friends of the Children's Inn, are (from l) Mary Lewis and Kathleen Buschow.

DISABILITY

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tance of tapping the strengths of disabled Americans was guest speaker Harold Russell, who reprised, in person, the optimistic role that won him two Academy Awards in the film *Best Years of Our Lives*.

"Disability really doesn't mean a damn—it's the individual (who matters) and that's what we're here to celebrate," said Russell, who for 25 years was chairman of the president's committee on employment of people with disabilities. "Disabled people want to be part of the excitement of living in America. We're not pleading for employment, we're pleading for the opportunity for employment."

In his film role, an excerpt from which was shown for the audience, Russell played a WWII sailor returning home with a



Harold Russell, an Academy Award-winning actor who also served 25 years on the president's committee on employment of people with disabilities, spoke out strongly in defense of hiring disabled workers at the DEO program Oct. 25.

handicap—his hands were amputated following a shipboard fire. In real life, Russell lost his hands in an artillery accident at an Army base in North Carolina on June 6, 1944. Both on celluloid and in the flesh, he is infectiously enthusiastic and without either self-pity or resentment.

"I've come to accept my injury and not really think too much about it," said Russell, who has metal pincers where his hands used to be. In addition to amputation, Russell has suffered a bout with prostate cancer (now in remission) and has overcome injuries suffered in a fall down a staircase in 1988.

"None of us with disabilities can go forward without support of many kinds," he asserted. "But when you get right down to it, it's not what you've lost, but what you have left and how you use it. In this business, you can't advance unless you first want to help yourself."

Taking for his theme the recent passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Russell summarized the intent of the legislation: "The aim is not to give jobs away, but to enable people to take jobs without discrimination based on their disability. Opportunity—that's what ADA is all about."

Russell said that, in the last 25 years, there has been a great increase in the number of Americans with severe handicaps. Medical advances are sparing many individuals who in an earlier age would have died, and young people are suffering disabling injuries at an alarming rate. An estimated 42 million Americans are considered disabled.

"What a terrible shame, what a waste, if we disregard all this potential and talent," he stated.

Addressing the reluctance of employers to hire disabled workers—either because of their disabilities or because of the costs of accommodating them—Russell said, "Disability is an attitude issue, and prejudice about it prevents progress. The accommodation issue is really very simple—you provide the things people need. Look at me. I wear glasses, I have a hearing aid and I've got these hooks. The cost is not that high, especially when you consider that disabled people have made great contributions to the wealth and greatness of our nation."

Government initiatives to employ the disabled are significant, he said, because private industry tends to respect trends in federal personnel practice: "The Fortune 500 companies figure that if Uncle Sam says it's okay, I guess it's okay."

What is not okay, according to several speakers on the program, is government's report card when it comes to meeting its own hiring objectives for disabled workers. Delivering the bad news was Eugene Kinlow, HHS deputy assistant secretary for personnel administration: "We have missed (our employment targets for disabled workers) by a mile. We do worse than we should by a large margin."

"If we could double the number of disabled employees in HHS, their number would still be underrepresented," he said. "That's tragic, and that's sad."

Kinlow said he will co-chair, with NIGMS director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, a task force charged by Secretary Sullivan with improving the representation of disabled workers in federal health and science careers; Stephen Benowitz, director of NIH's Division of Personnel Management, will also serve on the panel, formally known as the HHS committee on women, minorities and the handicapped in science and technology.

"Next summer, when interns are hired for training positions at NIH, you will see more disabled workers," Kinlow declared.

Diane Armstrong, director of NIH's Division of Equal Opportunity, honored several



Dr. Ron Geller (l), director of NHLBI's Division of Extramural Affairs, accepts an "Employer of the Year" award for his institute from Sidney Kramer, Montgomery county executive. Geller, who also chairs the NIH advisory committee for employees with disabilities, leads an effort to employ disabled high schoolers through a cooperative effort with the Marriott Foundation.

employees who have supported programs for disabled NIH'ers and said she will focus more on what happens to disabled workers once they are on board rather than on recruitment.

"The approach I'm going to be out there marketing is career enhancement, and what we do with the disabled once they are hired," she said.

Summing up the feelings expressed during the program was performer Cara Stewart, an occupational therapist who has been confined to a wheelchair since a car accident in 1974, and who led the audience in a sing- and sign-along version of "America the Beautiful": "What makes America great is not economic might, nor military power, but people—all kinds of people. People seeing the value of each human being." □

NIDCD Seeks Patients

The speech and voice unit, NIDCD, is seeking patients with unilateral vocal fold paralysis of any etiology to participate in a comprehensive study on innervation and motor control of the larynx. Treatment with injectable collagen for augmentation of the paralyzed vocal fold will also be evaluated.

Patients who are accepted into the study will be provided travel expenses and accommodations. Participants should be in good health and between 21-70 years of age.

For more information or patient referral, contact Dr. Christy L. Ludlow, 496-9365 or Dr. Karen Rhew, 496-7492. □

Fogarty Center Hosts Science Counselors' Day

By Jim Bryant

Science counselors from 39 foreign embassies and the delegation of the European Economic Community in Washington—and one ambassador—attended a special series of briefings at the Fogarty International Center's science counselors' day on Oct. 17.

This biennial event provides current information on research and policy issues of interest to the Washington-based diplomatic community and acquaints scientific diplomats with NIH activities.

"We were very pleased with attendance and with the excellent presentations. Undoubtedly this sort of interaction will help the international biomedical research community better understand the work of the NIH," said Gray Handley, chief of FIC's International Coordination and Liaison Branch, which organized the day-long program. "It is clear that there is a great deal of international interest in the work of the NIH and there is a growing understanding of the mutual value of international collaboration in all areas of biomedical research."

In welcoming the counselors—and Ambassador Victor Mosquera of Colombia—FIC director Dr. Philip E. Schambra commented that NIH might more aptly be called the "International Institutes of Health," since one-third of the intramural scientific research staff is from other nations.

NIH acting director Dr. William Raub spoke of the promises and challenges related to NIH activities. He opened the session by explaining that the NIH mission can be stated very simply: to improve human health through research. Of course, achieving the mission requires complex actions such as international collaboration. "We emphasize basic research and targeted research," he said. "We are a health agency first and foremost," and "health is a global concern."

Following Raub's comments, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, reviewed the scope and state of AIDS research at NIH. He explained that knowledge gained through AIDS research is important not only in making progress against HIV infection, but also in understanding other health problems that affect people throughout the world. The meeting participants were especially encouraged to learn from Fauci that anti-HIV vaccine development efforts may bear fruit within a reasonable amount of time.

An explanation of the "Decade of the Brain" and the importance of neurological research was provided by Dr. Roger Porter, deputy director of NINDS, who noted that research in this area will benefit greatly from international efforts during the next 10 years. He pointed out that this decade is one of great



Dr. James Watson outlines the ambitions of the human genome project for an audience of international science counselors at Stone House. In addition to having discovered the double helical structure of DNA, for which he shared a Nobel Prize, Watson is also director of NCHGR.

opportunity in the rapidly expanding and productive field of neurological research.

The quest to map the entire human genome was described by Dr. James Watson, codiscoverer of the double helical structure of DNA and now director of the National Center for Human Genome Research. Watson spoke of the array of benefits to mankind that will likely result from the genome project. He also made special note of the importance of other nations joining the U.S. in this historic



Dr. Roger Porter, deputy director of NINDS, gives an update on the Decade of the Brain for attendees of FIC's science counselor's day.

venture.

The final speaker on the morning program was Dr. David Wolff, chief of FIC's International Research and Awards Branch, who spoke about the Fogarty Center's international fellowship programs.

Over lunch at Stone House, FIC and other ICD international program staff had useful discussions with the science counselors on potential areas of international cooperation. They shared ideas about promoting and developing research opportunities, noting the important role science counselors can play in generating international scientific activities. Following the luncheon, many of the counselors toured the National Library of Medicine and the Clinical Center. □

Anyone for a FEW Chapter?

Federally Employed Women (FEW) is the only national organization solely concerned with eliminating sex discrimination in the federal service. FEW lobbies for the rights of women and men on issues most vital to federal employees, including pay equity, retirement, contracting, women in the military, federal budget, and civil rights.

FEW chapters throughout the world are comprised of women and men concerned with the quality of life in the federal service. Membership is open to all federal and D.C. government employees (regular members) and to any other persons supporting the goals and objectives of FEW (associate members).

A discussion meeting to determine the feasibility of establishing a FEW chapter on the NIH campus will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 6, Bldg. 31. Karen Scott, executive director, Edna Battle, regional manager, and Cynthia Barnes, president, Parklawn chapter, FEW, will give presentations and answer any questions.

All interested employees are encouraged to attend and to help establish a FEW chapter on the NIH campus. For further information contact Lucretia B. Coffey, NIH Federal Women's Program manager, 496-2112. □

Overweight Women Wanted

The Unit on Eating Disorders, NIMH, is seeking overweight women ages 18-49 in good health to participate in a study. Volunteers must be at least 50 pounds overweight. Free weight loss treatment (Optifast Program) will be offered in exchange for your research participation. Call 496-4319 and leave message. □

RODBARD

(Continued from Page 1)

Resources, and NCI's Advanced Scientific Computing Laboratory in Frederick, as well as all computer facilities on campus, large or small."

In addition, Rodbard wishes to maintain and further develop advanced research in biomedical computing with emphasis on molecular graphics and dynamics, the biophysics of molecular interactions, the analysis of nucleic acid and protein sequence data leading to the prediction of secondary and tertiary structure, and imaging on both the clinical and molecular levels. "I have a great deal of respect for the high level of expertise in DCRT and plan to continue the many effective programs and services," he said. "The Computer Center Branch has provided consistent, reliable, economical service on the central mainframe facilities, among many other activities. The Data Management Branch has developed and supported the administrative databases essential to the operation of NIH, both intramural and extramural.

"I feel that the tremendous talent within DCRT can better serve the NIH community by establishing close links with multiple labs throughout NIH. We can assist with the computer automation of labs throughout the campus."

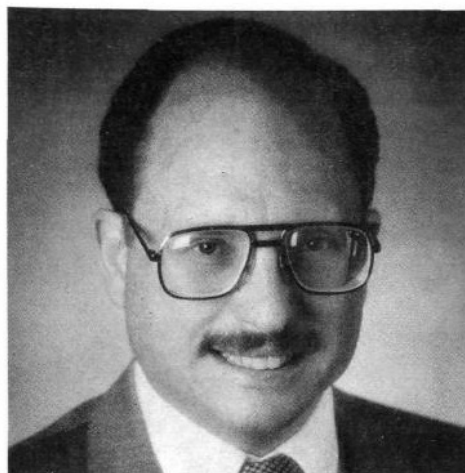
The task of computerizing biomedical research is so large that DCRT cannot do it alone, he admits. "Acting as a reservoir of expertise and a resource for training, DCRT can provide support for user groups and serve as the hub of the network that will link all scientists at NIH with each other and the outside world." In the near future, Rodbard sees the networks RESnet and NUnet having a tremendous impact on NIH scientists.

The recent establishment of the Enter Bulletin Board System allows scientists to talk to one another almost instantly and effortlessly, he points out. "This means they can share reagents, cells, antibodies, isotopes, even transgenic animals, that may lead to considerable cost savings in this era of austere budgets."

Rodbard would eventually like to see a listing by author and title and keywords of all abstracts, manuscripts, and publications by NIH scientists entered into BBS at the same time they are submitted for clearance for publication. This would enable other NIH scientists to have access to the information 6 to 12 months in advance of publication.

"Working together with NLM and Lister Hill Center, we could perhaps adapt Grateful Med software to retrieve this type of pre-publication information," he continued. "I am sure NIH scientists can conceive other important uses for BBS and the networks."

DCRT's Computer Systems Laboratory has been a leader in the development of advanced



Dr. David Rodbard

laboratory work stations and associated software including a lab analysis package. "This is just the beginning of the development of tools for use by bench scientists at NIH," he said.

Rodbard sees the large biometrics/epidemiological community at NIH as an important ally for DCRT, both in terms of its expertise in statistical computing and in providing consultation in experimental design/data analysis. This group of scientists has developed considerable computer expertise of its own and DCRT would like to join it in a number of ventures.

"Certainly biomedical research is moving faster than ever before," he observed. "Likewise, the development in computer hardware systems and software is moving at a fantastic pace." The job of DCRT, he says, is to harness these two developments in order to provide practical assistance to all scientists.

When Rodbard joined NCI back in 1966 as a clinical associate in the Endocrinology Branch, he worked closely with DCRT especially in mathematical modelling of radioimmunoassay and receptor binding data.

"I had the good fortune to learn my way around DCRT rather quickly," he said. "I came here for assistance as well as to use the superb central facilities. I would like to make it possible for more scientists to exploit the resources of DCRT to help facilitate their research as much as DCRT facilitated mine."

"I'm convinced computer networking will have a tremendous benefit for all aspects of life at NIH," he said.

Another of Rodbard's goals is to explore possible collaboration with a wide range of outside institutions including universities, other federal government agencies and industry. He would also like to expand DCRT's involvement internationally by bringing recognized scholars to DCRT through the auspices of the Fogarty International Center.

"The computing scene changes so rapidly," he says. "It is very important for us to stay in touch with the world to stay abreast."

Rodbard is also interested in expanding the summer program for students to encourage careers in biomedical computing and to reach minorities and persons with special needs.

DCRT's Personal Computing Branch, according to Rodbard, has had a tremendous impact on providing support and consultation to users of PCs at NIH. "We would like to see this kind of support enhanced, especially in high level scientific application areas, with more sophisticated software."

Prior to becoming DCRT director, Rodbard served as chief of NICHD's Laboratory of Theoretical and Physical Biology and head of its theoretical biology section. He also served as coordinator of the Clinical Center's "Computers in Clinical Medicine" elective course from 1981 to 1989.

"In this capacity," he said, "I developed a faculty of more than 70 scientists drawn from all the institutes plus DCRT and the Lister Hill Center. This provided me with a fairly high degree of familiarity with computer activities in the area and brought me into close contact with all laboratories and branches of DCRT."

His interest in mathematical statistics and biophysics using computers to solve problems, especially in the area of endocrinology, led Rodbard to develop a number of computer programs that have been distributed and used throughout the world. Examples include the Logit-Log method for radioimmunoassay; the FLEXIFIT and the ALLFIT methods for analysis of families of dose response curves; and LIGAND for analysis of receptor binding data. The latter two programs were developed in collaboration with Dr. Peter Munson of NICHD and Dr. Andre DeLean, a former NCI fellow. One of the papers written by Munson and Rodbard has been cited nearly 2,000 times and has been listed as one of the 300 most-cited articles in the world in biomedical literature.

Rodbard, a member of the PHS commissioned corps, earned his M.D. in 1964 from Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. He received his B.A. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Buffalo in mathematics and chemistry.

An author or coauthor of more than 260 publications, Rodbard also serves as board member and treasurer of the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences. He is an active member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, American Physiological Society, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Statistical Association, Biometrics Society, the Endocrine Society, and the American Diabetes Association and others.

"I am very proud and honored to have been appointed to this position," says Rodbard. "And I look forward to the many exciting developments of the next decade as we prepare for computing in the 21st century." □

NIH Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, Oct. 15



Dr. Roberto Cruz, president of the National Hispanic University in Oakland, Calif., gave the keynote address during NIH's celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month on Oct. 15 in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

Photos: Bill Branson



Graciela and Jorge demonstrate the malambo, an Argentinian gaucho dance.



Rene of the Trio Nuevo Horizonte, a folkloric musical group, demonstrates his dexterity in playing the quenque 10-string guitar made from armadillo shell.



Graciela and Jorge, an Argentinian dance team, delighted the audience with their vivacious moves.

Seminar on Procurement, Dec. 3

Are you confused by the complexities of the federal procurement process? Would you like advice on the quickest, most effective ways of procuring supplies and services needed by your laboratory or office?

The Division of Procurement is repeating its monthly seminar for individuals who request goods and services. The seminar will address what the requestor's role is in the procurement process, how to buy from mandatory sources, and how to justify purchases.

The seminar will be held on Dec. 3 in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 4 from 3 to 5 p.m. □

Infant Center Eligible for CFC

The NIH infant/toddler day care program run by Childkind, Inc., is eligible to receive donations through the Combined Federal Campaign; the CFC number is 2339. All funds collected go toward Childkind's tuition subsidy program. For more information about this program and Childkind, call 496-8357. □

NIDR Alerts Hispanics About Gum Disease and Diabetes

Periodontal (gum) disease is a problem for many people, but for those with diabetes mellitus it can also complicate their diabetic condition. Gum disease can upset good blood sugar control, and loose or missing teeth can make eating the right foods difficult.

A new publication from the National Institute of Dental Research alerts Hispanics with diabetes about their increased risk of oral health problems. Entitled *Enfermedad periodontal en los diabeticos—Guia para los pacientes*, the booklet describes how gum disease develops and how it is treated, and details special treatment considerations for diabetic patients. The guide also provides practical information for preventing the periodontal complications of diabetes and illustrates step-by-step brushing and flossing techniques.

An accompanying card, *Consejos de cuidado dental para diabeticos*, summarizes important information diabetic persons should know about their oral health. It serves as a quick reference to: special difficulties gum infections can pose for people with diabetes; warning signs of oral health problems; and good dental hygiene practices.

These publications are available in English under the titles *Periodontal Disease and Diabetes: A Guide for Patients* and *Dental Tips for Diabetics*. Also produced by NIDR is a companion booklet, *Detection and Prevention of Periodontal Disease in Diabetes*. This publication is a basic, informative guide for primary care physicians, dentists and allied health professionals who work with diabetic individuals in the management of their disease.

Copies of these publications may be obtained free from the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse, Box NDIC, Bethesda, MD 20892. □

NIMH Needs Volunteers

The National Institute of Mental Health seeks volunteers to participate in a study using an innovative treatment for depression. Treatment involves sleep manipulation and the use of medication. All services and medications are free. For more information call Sarah, 496-2141 or 496-6981. □

Allergic to Cats?

FDA/NIAID seeks volunteers who are cat allergic, especially cat allergics who live with cats to participate in a study involving allergy skin testing. Participants will be paid. Send written requests to Jackie Matthews, Bldg. 29, Rm. 201. □

L-TRYPTOPHAN ILLNESS MODEL DEVELOPED

(Continued from Page 1)

The researchers gave a specific strain of rats contaminated L-tryptophan in doses proportionate to those taken by humans who became ill. This tryptophan was from a batch that CDC and FDA scientists had determined to have the same chemical profile as EMS-case-associated tryptophan and to contain the implicated contaminant "peak 97." These rats developed both inflammation and increased thickening of the connective tissues surrounding the muscles (which is characteristic of the illness in humans), as determined by Dr. Marinos C. Dalakas of NINDS, an expert in muscle pathology and one of the authors of the paper. The same strain of rat given L-tryptophan not implicated in causing EMS, however, showed no signs of the disease. Lewis rats were used because earlier research by NIAMS and NIMH scientists showed the rats to be susceptible to inflammatory diseases.

The work confirms earlier epidemiologic studies that linked L-tryptophan to EMS. FDA, CDC, and state health officials investigating the epidemic discovered that virtually all the victims had taken the substance from the same commercial source. The link between contaminated L-tryptophan and EMS was then drawn by further epidemiologic studies published this summer and conducted by the Oregon and Minnesota departments of health, CDC, and the Mayo Clinic, when doctors traced certain batches of the substance to the outbreak.

The animal model findings appeared in the Nov. 1 *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and were presented Oct. 29 at the American College of Rheumatology's annual scientific

sessions in Seattle by Dr. Leslie J. Crofford of NIAMS, first author of the study, and Sternberg. Both are rheumatologists.

At the meeting, Sternberg and Crofford said, "A particularly exhilarating part of the study was the way scientists from four federal health agencies quickly came together and pooled their resources to address this health problem. The study would not have been possible without the application of many different disciplines, techniques and concepts."

Sternberg first described a case similar to EMS in a patient receiving a type of tryptophan (5-hydroxy-L-tryptophan) in 1980 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. She began studying the current L-tryptophan-related illness in 1989 when a colleague in South Carolina told her about two cases with symptoms similar to the ones she described in 1980. This second study was published in NEJM in March 1990.

"I am extremely pleased that timely and cooperative efforts among agencies could result in this important animal model being reported just one year after the disease was first identified," said Dr. Lawrence E. Shulman, director of NIAMS and a well-known expert in diseases similar to EMS. "The model contributes in a highly significant way to improving our understanding of the disorder and of the precise mechanisms by which the tissue damage takes place."

NIH scientists participating in the joint research project with Crofford, Sternberg and Dalakas were Dr. Ronald L. Wilder, NIAMS, and Dr. Isabel Illa, NINDS. □

Orientation to Extramural NIH

The Office of Health Scientist Administrator Development Programs will be presenting an orientation session entitled "Fundamentals of NIH Extramural Activities" on Jan. 23-24, 1991.

This full 2-day course will be held in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall, starting at 8:30 a.m., with registration at 8 a.m. each day. The course will provide an overview of extramural activities. Individual sessions will cover grants, primarily, but also will include contracts and cooperative agreements. The review processes, the scientific and fiscal management of awards, and the criteria for the selection of the appropriate award mechanism will also be discussed.

The number of participants will be limited to approximately 50 people. Priority will be given to program and review staff at all grade levels who are new (6-9 months) to the extramural side of NIH.

Those interested are to submit an HHS-350 form (Training, Nomination and Authorization) through their appropriate ICD channels to the HSA Development Programs Office, Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B35. PHS commissioned officers are asked to use this form also. In item 10, please list your complete office address, not your home address; item 14 — no cost; item 18 — send vendor's copy to the HSA office; item 20 — A(8), B(8), C(1), D(NA); please be very specific in items 16 and 17 and indicate how long you have been in the NIH extramural area; item 21 (NA) and item 22 (9998). All other instructions are on the back of the HHS-350.

To be considered, applications must be received in the HSADP office no later than COB Dec. 12, 1990. Merely submitting an application to personnel, no matter how early, does not assure its reaching the HSADP office by the deadline date or at all. It is the applicant's responsibility to see that the HSADP office receives your application by the deadline date. Applications received after the deadline will be returned without further consideration.

Each applicant will be informed of the decision concerning his/her application. Those selected will be provided with further details of the course. No one will be admitted to the course without the memo of selection signed by the codirectors.

Any questions about this course may be directed to the HSA Development Programs Office, 496-1736. □

Just the Fax

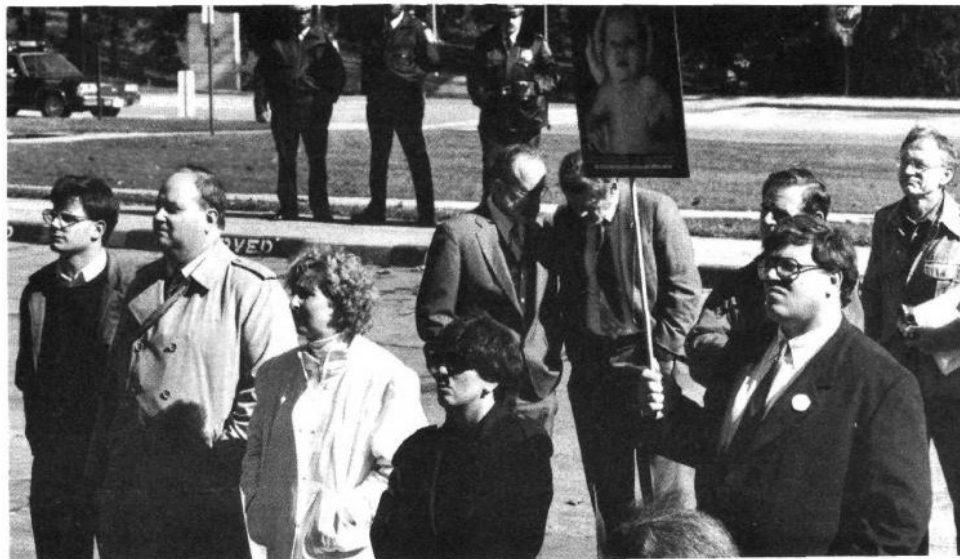
The fax number for the NIH Calendar of Events (yellow sheet) and the *NIH Record* has changed to 402-1485. The new number is effective immediately. □



At a recent Stone House gathering, Fogarty International Center director Dr. Philip E. Schambra honored FIC employees who earned individual and group awards during the past fiscal year. Pictured are (top, from l) Stephanie Medeiros, Mildred Hatton, Myra Halem, and Schambra; in middle row are (from l) Patricia Brandt, Valerie Katsouros, Eileen Trevisan, and Wanda Pifer; at bottom are (from l) Marcia Smith and Cathy Ross. Not pictured are awardees Francis Anderson, Joy Butler, Susan Castillo, Brian Daly, Sylvia Funk, Mary Juniors, Silvia Mandes, JoAnn Sartain and Helen Townsley.



A petition signed by some 80,000 Americans who support the use of animals in biomedical research was presented to Dr. William Raub (top, l), acting NIH director, and Dr. Frederick Goodwin (second from l), administrator of ADAMHA, by representatives of iiFAR—incurably ill For Animal Research, a group that mustered about 70 people for a rally (below) on the lawn of Bldg. 1 on Oct. 26. Len Koch (top, r) chairman of the iiFAR board, and a Seattle representative of the group led the "Rally for Research" and said they will return to NIH with more supporters. iiFAR is offering a \$5,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest of people who break into research labs on behalf of animals.



Spector Feted by Physiology Society

Dr. Novera Herbert Spector, NINDS health scientist administrator, recently received a medal commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Polish Physiology Society in recognition of his contribution to basic research in physiology, especially on interactions among the nervous, endocrine and immune systems and his contribution to the Polish Physiology Congress. Spector is also past president and principal founder of the International Society for Neuroimmunomodulation. □

Advice on Women's Dress

"Dressing for Figure Challenges" is a seminar designed for women by the image consultants of Positive Impressions, Ltd. It will benefit all women but especially the 5'4" and under—the larger figure and the tall thin figure learn to dress to camouflage their problem areas and highlight their assets to save time and money on clothing and look their best. The seminar will be held Wednesday, Nov. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 7. □

'Knowledge Is Power' Symposia

Two objectives of the Black Employment Program and the Black employees advisory committee (BEAC) are to increase cultural sensitivity and awareness among all NIH employees, and to sponsor career enhancement activities to assist employees in the workplace. To accomplish these objectives, the BEAC, under the auspices of the Division of Equal Opportunity, will conduct a series of symposia entitled "Knowledge Is Power."

The first symposium will be held Wednesday, Nov. 28, in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The speakers for this event will be: Joanne Simms, chief, Labor Management Branch, OD, who will speak on the administrative and the negotiated grievance procedures; Frederick Isler, chief, Complaints Branch, DEO, who will speak on the EEO complaint procedure; and representatives from labor organizations within NIH who will speak on the negotiated grievance procedure. The forum will include a question and answer period. To conclude the symposium, light refreshments will be served. All employees are invited to attend.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For additional information and reasonable accommodation, call Jalil H. Mutakabbir, Black Employment Program manager, 496-6301.

Employees are encouraged to forward suggestions for topics and speakers to Tyrone Bellinger, chairperson, Black employees advisory committee, NIGMS, WW/9A04, 496-6301. □

NCNR Issues HIV Report

The National Center for Nursing Research has issued a report entitled, *HIV Infection: Prevention and Care*. The report covers the state of the science, research needs and opportunities and recommendations for future research on prevention of HIV infection and care of those infected. It was compiled by an expert panel of nurses and physicians with a mandate to develop recommendations for nursing research priorities in this area.

This report is the first of seven reports being developed as part of the national nursing research agenda, the NCNR's priority setting initiative. The other reports, to be released during the next 2 years, will cover low birthweight; mothers and infants; long-term care for older adults; symptom management; information systems; health promotion for children and adolescents; and technology dependency across the lifespan.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the NCNR Office of Information and Legislative Affairs, Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B25, 496-0207. □

Margaret Miller, NCI Researcher, Dies

Dr. Margaret K. Deringer Barrett Miller, 74, a retired research biologist at the National Cancer Institute, died of kidney failure Aug. 12 at Suburban Hospital.

Miller, who resided in Mitchellville, Md., was born Aug. 16, 1915, in Spangler, Pa. She earned the A.B. in 1936 from Hood College, the M.A. in 1938 and the Ph.D. in 1942 in zoology from Johns Hopkins University Medical School. From 1938 to 1940, she served as research assistant to Dr. Warren H. Lewis in the department of embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, and from 1941 to 1942 as research assistant to Dr. Sarah Tower in the department of anatomy at Johns Hopkins.

In 1942, Miller joined the NCI staff as a research fellow and continued as a biologist until 1965, when she took deferred retirement. Then from 1971 to 1980 she returned to civil service and from 1980 to 1985 she was a guest researcher at the NCI Registry of Experimental Cancers, the WHO Collaborating Center for Reference on Tumors in Laboratory Animals. In this capacity, she dealt with cancer investigators around the world.

Educated as a biologist and specializing in zoology, she trained herself in other disciplines including chemical and radiation carcinogenesis, pathology, genetics, immunity, immunogenetics, and tissue transplantation.

She was the first scientist at NIH to develop several new substrains of mice by the meticulous transfer of the fertilized ovum from a mouse of one strain to the uterus of a mouse of another strain. Subsequent inbreeding of the offspring resulted in the development of substrains with specific genetic characteristics and patterns of cancer. To the nomenclature of each new strain she added DE, the first two letters of her maiden name (Deringer). Several such strains of DE mice have been used throughout the world because of the types of tumors they develop. In studies on the etiology of mammary tumors using these inbred substrains of mice, Miller carried out research on the reciprocal roles of virus and genetics in the causation of cancer. One strain of mice, the HR strain, appeared to be hairless; however, when examined microscopically, rudimentary hair follicles were identified in sections of skin. Because these HR mice are susceptible to the induction of blood vessel tumors they subsequently have been studied extensively. She was the first to identify the hepatoblastoma of mice, a primitive type of neoplasm that may be found in newborns or young children.

Miller's early models of the common pulmonary cancer in mice have been used in laboratories all over the world in efforts to learn more about the features of this neoplasm. Her studies revealed the effects of



Dr. Margaret Miller

chemical carcinogens and radiation on its initiation, and the effects of genetics, particularly the hairless gene, and other genes such as the dominant spotting, caracul, and fused genes. She was the first investigator to induce lung cancer in guinea pigs.

Miller was a member of leading U.S. scientific societies and associations in her field, and was a regular contributor to the programs at the meetings held by these organizations.

Her first husband, Dr. Morris K. Barrett, whom she married in 1949, died in 1967. Survivors include her husband of 13 years, the Rev. W. Robert Miller of Mitchellville; one brother, Bronaugh Deringer of Belleair, Fla.; three stepsons, Warren M. Barrett of Newington, Conn., Richard A. Barrett of Marco Island, Fla., and Robert J. Miller of Plymouth, N.H.; one stepdaughter, Patricia Miller of Silver Spring, Md.; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.—

Dr. Harold L. Stewart □

Holiday Theater Tickets

R&W has tickets to several upcoming theatre events in December to help you celebrate the holiday season. Shows include *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre, *Handel's Messiah* at the Kennedy Center, *Gigi* at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, *The Sound of Music* at Burn Brae Dinner Theatre, and the Washington Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at Lisner Auditorium. Most performances are discounted, and there are no service charges. Call 496-4600 for dates and prices. □

Savings Plan Info Available

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is having another open season from Nov. 15, 1990 through Jan. 31, 1991. FERS employees who were hired before July 1, 1990, as well as CSRS employees, have an opportunity to change their current election, or make an initial election.

A number of significant changes have occurred in TSP since the last open season, because of legislation enacted July 17, 1990. Eligible CSRS and FERS employees may now elect to contribute to the C Fund (stocks) and F Fund (bonds) without restrictions. For CSRS employees, this means that not all of their funds must go to the G Fund. For FERS employees, this means that the 1 percent automatic agency contributions and the agency matching contributions may also be put into the C and F Funds. FERS employees who are not contributing their own money may elect to put all or part of the 1 percent automatic contribution into the C and/or F Funds. FERS employees who are currently putting part of their own contributions into the C and/or F funds must complete a new election form (TSP-1) or else their future contributions, starting Jan. 13, 1991, will all go into the G Fund.

The features of the plan and directions on how to make a plan election or to change your current withholding are described in the *Thrift Savings Plan Open Season Update* pamphlet. More detailed information is provided in the *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees* booklet. Both the pamphlet and the booklet will be distributed to eligible employees by their ICD personnel office. □



Dr. G. Iris Obrams has been appointed chief of the Extramural Programs Branch in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program, Division of Cancer Etiology, NCI. Obrams, who is certified in public health and general preventive medicine, received her medical degree from Albany Medical College and her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. She served recently as deputy chief of the Extramural Programs Branch. She has a special interest in epidemiologic methods for molecular epidemiology and multistage models of carcinogenesis, especially hematopoietic malignancies.



TRAINING TIPS

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

Courses and Programs Starting Dates

Management and Supervisory 496-6371

Interpersonal Relationships in the Work Environment	11/27
Introduction to Supervision	12/3
Efficient Reading for Professionals	12/13

Office Operations Training 496-6211

Delegated Acquisition Training	12/17
Introduction to Working at NIH	12/3

Personal Computing Training 496-6211

Introduction to DOS	11/19, 11/30
Word Perfect 5.0 to 5.1 Transition	11/20, 12/7
Introduction to dBase III	11/26
Introduction to Word Perfect 5.1	11/27, 12/10
Word Perfect 5.1 — Advanced Topics	12/3
DBase III Plus — Advanced Topics	12/4
Welcome to Mac	12/3, 12/14
Intro to Microsoft Word	12/5
Excel — Level 2	12/10
Mac Draw II	12/6
Intro to Power Point	12/13
3Com Network — Level 1	12/4
3Com Network — Level 2	12/11

Training and Development Services 496-6211

Personal Computer training is available through User Resources Center (URC) self study courses. There is no cost to NIH employees for these hands-on sessions.

The URC hours are:

Mon.-Thurs.	8:30 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Training Center, DCRT, and other training information is available on WYLBUR. Logon to WYLBUR and type ENTER TRAINING

Clinical Center Garage Parking To Change

Changes in the Clinical Center (Bldg. 10) garage parking assignments will become effective on Monday, Dec. 3. The new parking assignments, which affect every level of the garage, are as follows:

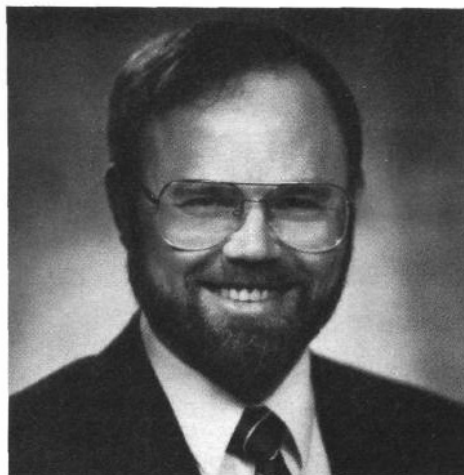
P-1 and P-2 Levels Will Be Interchanged

The P-1 level, including the entry ramp and ramp to P-2, is designated for preferential (red sticker) and patient care permit parking Monday through Friday until 3 p.m. Institute scientific directors/clinical directors, CC director and deputy director, with reserved spaces, will park on this level adjacent to the south side building entrance. The entrance is located on Convent Drive.

The P-2 level, including the ramp to P-3, is designated for general employee (white and black sticker) parking at all times. Parking will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The entrance is located on Memorial Drive.

P-3 Level

The P-3 level is designated Monday through Friday until 3 p.m. for the following groups: patients (inpatients and outpatients), visitors to inpatients, hospital consultants with



Dr. James Anderson has recently been appointed a program administrator in the Genetics Program, NIGMS. He will handle grants in the areas of the physiology of gene control and RNA processing. Before coming to NIGMS, Anderson was head of the department of molecular genetics at Crop Genetics International in Hanover, Md. In this position, he directed a research project that used recombinant DNA technology to create plant "vaccines" that could reduce the need for insecticides and fungicides. From 1980 to 1983, Anderson worked at Genex Corp., where he developed E. coli expression vectors for the synthesis of protein pharmaceuticals. Anderson has a Ph.D. in bacterial physiology from Purdue University and has done research at Dartmouth College and the University of Michigan.

Yancik Moves to NIA Post

Dr. Rosemary Yancik, a medical sociologist with a longstanding interest in aging, has joined the National Institute on Aging as assistant director for liaison and applied research on aging. Her research interests have focused on the areas of cancer and aging for 12 years.

At NIA, Yancik will help develop collaborative programs involving institutes within NIH, other federal agencies, and the private sector to investigate how cancer and other diseases affect the older population. In addition, she will contribute to a variety of programs in NIA's Office of Planning, Analysis and Com-



Dr. Rosemary Yancik

munication and Office of International Activities.

Yancik was in the Office of Extramural Research, OD, before joining NIA. She also held several positions in the National Cancer Institute, including assistant director for centers and community oncology, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. She joined NIH in 1978. □

R&W White House Tour

R&W members are invited to a special tour of the White House on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 8 a.m. It's free, but limited to 50 people. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis at any R&W location. Participants should arrive at the visitors entrance on East Executive Ave. no later than 8 a.m. The tour will take approximately 30 minutes. For more information or reservations call the R&W Activities Desk, 496-4600. □

valid ID cards, handicapped patients and employees, volunteers, and new employees on their first day of employment. Patients, patient visitors and hospital consultants will park in a color-coded (red/blue) area of P-3. The entrance is located on Memorial Drive. Note: Consultant ID cards will be distributed by the Office of Medical Board Services, Rm. 1C121, Bldg. 10, 496-5959.

Spaces for handicapped patients will be located on the south side opposite the main bank of elevators. Numbered spaces for handicapped employees will be located on the south side opposite the main bank of elevators and in the southwest section of P-3.

"Special" patient care permit holders may park on P-3 after 2 p.m. All staff, visitors and patients may park on P-3 after 3 p.m.

Individuals not allowed to park in the CC garage will be directed to appropriate parking lots. An NIH map and shuttle bus schedule will be made available at the P-3 parking booth to those who need assistance. The shuttle bus will transport people from the visitor lots to the CC. □

Montgomery County Lauds Fogarty Center Volunteers

By Louise Williams

No one better deserves applause than volunteers, the helping hands who donate their time and energies to others' welfare.

The Montgomery County government recently applauded the efforts of the Volunteer Services Office of the Fogarty International Center, awarding the group a certificate of "recognition and appreciation."

"We're very proud of the Fogarty volunteers," said FIC director Dr. Philip E. Schambra. "They make a big difference in the lives of the foreign scientists who come to the NIH, helping them with the problems of settling into a different culture, enabling them to concentrate on their research. Without people willing to volunteer their efforts, there could be no such services."

"It's wonderful to have been acknowledged by the county," agreed Sandy Guilford, coordinator of the FIC volunteer program. "I know I have a group of great volunteers, but it's nice to know that others feel so, too."

She found FIC's recognition especially gratifying because the county had decided for the first time to emphasize a particular area of volunteerism, those working with the homeless or drug abusers. "Even though we don't work with those groups, we still received praise for our contribution to the community," she said. Altogether, the county recognized nearly 40 individuals and groups for their outstanding efforts.

The county award to the FIC group was part of a larger statewide drive to honor volunteers through its "Maryland, You Are Beautiful" program. In a proclamation, Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer praised volunteers, who "give so generously of themselves in order to make a positive and fruitful difference in the lives of others."

The state program to spotlight volunteers began about 5 years ago, according to George Sealey, Jr., coordinator of the county effort. "The program grew out of an initiative of Gov. Schaefer's. He had had a similar program as mayor of Baltimore that had done very well. So, he extended it statewide." All 23 Maryland counties plus the city of Baltimore participate in the volunteer-recognition drive, which hands out awards twice yearly, he added.

The upshot is not only a greater awareness of the contributions volunteers can and do make, but also a better feeling among area residents about "themselves, each other, and the state," Sealey continued. "Of course, we think we have the best state around anyway."

The FIC Volunteer Services Office—one of three direct services volunteer programs on the NIH campus—is part of the center's International Services and Communications Branch.

The program was forged in 1987 to help newly arriving foreign scientists and their families adjust to NIH and the metropolitan D.C. area. Besides Guilford and parttime employee Carmen Perez, the office's staff is comprised entirely of volunteers, who tackle such problems as finding families housing, furniture, or day care, or putting them in touch with a support group. It's a daunting workload—nearly 2,500 foreign scientists conduct research at NIH facilities each year.

Many of the volunteers are immigrants or spouses of foreign scientists who learned firsthand the problems faced by newcomers to the NIH area. Sabine Gessain, for instance, is a Parisian whose husband is a researcher at the National Cancer Institute. When the couple arrived at NIH about a year ago, they were told to visit the FIC Volunteer Services Office.

"We took an appointment and the woman we met was very warm and wonderful," recalled Gessain. "I keep that in mind."

In fact, she said, it was the memory of that woman's kindness that prompted Gessain to become a volunteer herself last May. "I remembered the nice feeling and now I try to do the same for other people."

Her work involves answering questions and giving newly arrived scientists and their families the office's hour-long orientation to NIH and the metro area.

"Scientists arrive and want to know how to find a house or apartment," she said, "or where to find a car or furniture, or museums or sports. They ask us a lot of questions."

Like most of the office's 25 volunteers, Gessain donates a half day each week. Dr. Samuel Hanik, a retired dentist who lives in Rockville, also works a half day each week at the program's office in Bldg. 31A, Conf. Rm. 3.

"I practiced dentistry for 50 years and used to come over to the NIH to visit friends here," he said. "I witnessed their research and, when I retired and saw an ad in the newspaper requesting volunteers, I decided to become one."

"That was 2 years ago and the work has been very satisfying because I meet people from all over the world. Some have been here for only one day, and we orient them to a new country."

Hanik was an old hand at volunteering: He'd previously donated his time to the Southern Maryland Dental Society, giving care to indigent children, and to a Mobile Medical Care program, helping working persons unable to afford health services.

But he enjoys the international flavor of FIC's program, especially helping foreign scientists brush up on their English pronuncia-

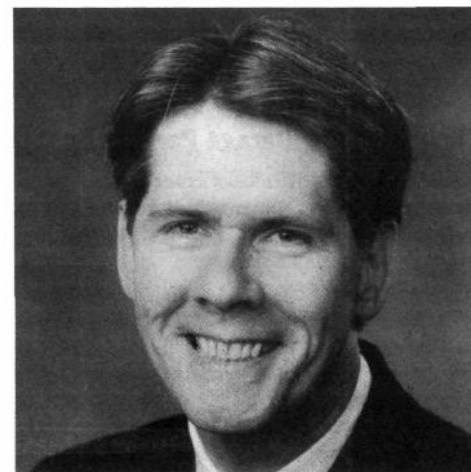
tion or dealing with the odd request such as the French investigator who wanted to get an airplane pilot's license here. After some checking, Hanik was able to "get him up in the air."

He also likes the friendships made with foreign scientists and other volunteers. "I look forward to coming into the office. We're doing a good service. Most of our parents or grandparents came over on a boat to Ellis Island to a strange country. They didn't speak the language. Thinking of that, I can imagine how these people feel. Working here is a good feeling. That may seem corny, but it's true."

Gessain agreed and wished more arriving scientists knew of the volunteer office. She feels that those who do not come into the office early on lose out on their United States experience, especially spouses who may be trapped at home with no friends or family to turn to for support.

For instance, the volunteer office put Gessain in touch with the NIH international women's group, introducing her to a diverse and active association. "I met a lot of people like me and have many friends now."

Guilford noted that the volunteer office can never have enough helping hands. She welcomes anyone interested in volunteering to contact her at 496-7357. □



Dr. Thomas D. Mays has been appointed director, Office of Technology Development, OD, NCI. Mays will oversee NCI's implementation of pertinent legislation, rules, regulations, and administrative activities relating to the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986. Before joining NCI, he was primary patent examiner for the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He also served as vice president of research and development for IGI Biotechnology, Inc., Columbia, Md. Mays received his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and will receive a law degree from Catholic University in May 1991.