$500,000 Grant

Merck Gift Marks Children's Inn's First Birthday

By Rich McManus

The Children's Inn at NIH celebrated its first birthday July 17 with a party attended by kids, parents, NIH officials and representatives of Merck & Co. Inc., who brought the biggest gift—a $500,000 challenge grant to help the inn toward a goal of $10 million for its endowment fund.

"Happy birthday Children's Inn," said NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy. "This is my first visit to the inn and I can't think of a better way to begin a friendship. The inn represents the culmination of the efforts of thousands of NIH employees. NIH could be called the 'National Institutes of Hope,' and it was that hope that built this inn."

More than 700 seriously ill children and their families hailing from 49 states and 16 foreign countries have resided at the inn during its first year, reported Kathy Russell, president of the inn's board of directors.

"There is a loving feeling at the heart of the Children's Inn," she said. "This is a place of family, friends, love and healing. We can be a model of what future medical care can be."

Guests at the party included Ginger Sullivan, wife of HHS secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan, (See INN, Page 2)

Radio Interviews Broadcast

NIH Helps Beam Health Messages to Millions

It has been more than a year since Walter Clark visited the Soviet Union and realized how little health information, if any, the average citizen there receives. Clark, who works in public affairs at the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, had been traveling as a private citizen in January 1990 under the auspices of the Center for U.S.-U.S.S.R. Initiatives (health being one of the initiatives) when a thought struck him—preventing illness and promoting health in the Soviet Union might be accomplished through radio programs such as the Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RF/E/L). Upon his return, Clark contacted these organizations to discuss his idea. After no progress was made, a mutual friend suggested he get in touch with Jim Bryant, the public affairs officer at NIH's Fogarty International Center, who had previously worked in both of the news organizations—VOA and RF/E/L—and was familiar with their operating styles. Bryant also recognized the immense need for health information in many countries.

"I telephoned Brian Cisilak, VOA's senior science producer, whom I knew," Bryant said. (See RADIO, Page 4)

Turning Outsiders to Insiders

EA Program Helps Women, Minorities Compete for Grants

By Rich McManus

Every year since 1978, NIH has invited scientists and science administrators from small colleges and universities across the country to come to Bethesda for lessons in a game the big boys already know—grantmanship.

Since that year, 117 people have graduated from the Extramural Associates Program (EAP), a crash course designed to give a leg up to the 300 institutions around the United States with primarily minority and women enrollments.

"This program is a well-kept secret," said Dr. Percy Thomas, who took over the program last November and is injecting new energy into its goals. "But it's a good one and one that should be supported."

EAP offers what Thomas calls an "inside-the-shop" look at NIH's extramural grant opportunities for faculty from schools where "sponsored" research is rare or nonexistent. We're not talking the Johns Hopkins, Cal-Berkeleys and Stanfords here, where well-paid administrators, not a lone scientist at the bench, herd federal dollars to large labs. We're talking Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Prairie View A&M University and Tougaloo College. We're talking Claflin College (Orangeburg, S.C.), Bowie State and the College of New Rochelle.

"Our purpose is to teach them all about NIH grant mechanisms so they can go back to their home institutions and stimulate research activity," says Thomas. "Many go back to manage MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) or MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support) programs."

EAP training comes in two forms. The first is a 5-month semester module where faculty—typically a half dozen to a class—come to Bethesda from January through June. The second form involves two doses of NIH—a 2-month stint here (June and July) and one month the following year.

Regardless of how it's taken, the EAP training is intimate and inclusive. As trainees are known) meet the players in charge of programs and review at NIH, establishing personal contact with individuals who want to help faculty from the EA institutions do excellent research.

"A lot of people don't realize that NIH is real people," said Dr. Joe Marcello, a chemistry professor at Sheldon Jackson College (enrollment 205, about half of whom are Alaska Natives) in Sitka, Alaska. "They're people who want to help, who have a real goal to do this."

The EAP trainees are not confined simply to NIH, but are also introduced to grantmakers and their machinery at other federal agencies including ADAMHA, Agriculture, Energy, Labor, and the National Science Foundation.

"There's a tremendous amount of coopera-
INN
(Continued from Page 1)


"The Children's Inn reminds us that America's achievements in medicine have always been the result of a strong partnership between government and industry," said Angel, who noted that the occasion also marked Merck's 100th birthday. "This partnership laid the foundation and put the stones and the beams and the rooms in place at the inn."

Merck's original gift of $2.5 million in April 1988 paid to start construction on the 36-room inn. The company later added $1.2 million in April 1989 to complete the building fund.

Shortly after construction was finished last summer, the first families arrived, filling the residence to capacity within the first few months. On occasion, patients have been turned away from the inn because it was full; discussion of expanding the facility has already begun.

Most of the patients who stayed at the inn during its inaugural year were ages 7 to 12, and most were treated on pediatric protocols at the National Cancer Institute. Though the average stay is 5 days, some patients have remained for 4 months.

To me, the most important thing about this anniversary is how impossible it is to think how we ever survived without (the inn)," said Dr. Philip Pizzo, chief of NICI's Pediatric Branch and one of the inn's founders. "It is so integral to our operations. It has become an indispensable component of our research and treatment program.

"For NIH, the inn stands as testimony to its commitment to the care of children," he continued. "It is a clear sign to the community that pediatric research is a serious venture at NIH, one that will be pursued with vigor in the years ahead."

Healy said that, as the mother of two daughters, she has done her share of bedside vigils when her children were sick.

"Most of us have that instinct when we are ill that we want to be home in our own bed, or, as I once heard it phrased, "All sickness is homesickness," she said. "The children who come here as patients are the most vulnerable to that homesickness aspect of illness. They need the warmth and support that only a home and family can give. The Children's Inn is not a cure for homesickness, but it is the best preventive medicine that could be imagined."

Healy wondered aloud whether children who stay at the inn are more responsive to treatment due to the warm surroundings. "Pediatric researchers like Phil Pizzo are intrigued by that question," she said, "but my common sense as a parent tells me absolutely yes."

Pizzo said there was no doubt in his mind that the inn boosts quality of life. "Families do make a difference in treating children with very serious illness," he assured.

Before the inn was built, parents and their sick children stayed at a variety of local motels, shuttling back and forth to NIH as necessary for treatment. Largely as a result of witnessing the stress inflicted on both patient and parent in those circumstances, Pizzo, the congressional spouses, and other concerned NIH caregivers settled on the idea of an inn.

"Living at the inn, instead of in a hospital or motel room, has allowed the children some semblance of a normal life," Pizzo explained. "They cook their meals here, eat here, sleep here, play here—many do homework here. They live as close to a normal life as possible during a very abnormal time. They even have a sense of neighborhood here, because parents become friends with other parents, and children with other children."

As youngsters gathered to partake of an enormous chocolate birthday cake on the inn's first floor, the highlight of the party took place—AIDS patient Hydeia Broadbent, 7, of Las Vegas, brought down the house with a love song she composed for all the children of the world.

Merck's challenge grant is a start toward a Children's Inn Fund of $10 million. A private, nonprofit organization, the inn is entirely dependent on private contributions to meet its annual operating budget. To make a gift to the fund, contact the inn, 496-5672.

Outdoor Show Benefits Inn

Join the "Call of the Wild" at a Benefit Sportsman's Outdoor Show at the Frederick Fairgrounds in Frederick, Md., on Saturday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There will be more than 75 displays and demonstrations with hourly lectures by experts on topics including conservation, flyfishing, decoy carving, hunting, fishing, rafting, RV's and more. Wildlife artists will be on hand and crafts will be available for purchase.

Bring the kids for children's programs and free giveaways. Admission is $5 for adults, $2 for children 16 and under admitted free. Proceeds benefit the Children's Inn at NIH, Ronald McDonald House, and Hospice of Frederick County. For more information call (301) 831-9586.

Genome Video To Air

The Human Genome Project, a 23-minute video produced by the National Center for Human Genome Research, will be aired on the "Health and Sciences Network" in Lipsett Amphitheater on Aug. 22 at 10 a.m.

NCHGR director Dr. James Watson, who codiscovered the double helix structure of DNA, and other leading scientists will explain the nature and potential impact of this 15-year research initiative.

The human genome project will develop biological maps of each human chromosome and will also develop technology to read the complete genetic instructions contained in DNA, the hereditary chemical that makes up chromosomes. These tools will make it faster, easier and cheaper than it is now to find and analyze the genes causing nearly 4,000 known genetic diseases. These tools will also help to shed new light on other diseases such as cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's disease, in which genetic predisposition plays an important role.

For more information call Sandy O'Connor, 402-0911.

Study Needs Preschoolers

The NICHD seeks the help of parents and their 3-year-old children in a study of language development. For more information, call Anne O'Reilly, 496-6832.

The NIH Record

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and circulated to nonemployees by subscription only through the Government Printing Office. The content is reproducible without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 1991.

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Scientists Make Recommendation on Third World Vitamin A Treatment

By Bob Kuska

A group of leading international scientists in the study of vitamin A deficiency—a debilitating condition that each year affects nearly 10 million children clinically and 50 million more subclinically in developing nations—recommended recently that developing countries should have a greater say in designing vitamin A deficiency control programs.

Currently, international organizations often institute vitamin A control programs without adapting them to the unique social or economic conditions of communities in these nations.

"There are several possible strategies to ensure and sustain an adequate vitamin A status in all population groups, especially children," the group stated. "The choice of intervention is the prerogative of governments and should depend on specific country factors including the severity of the vitamin A problem, the resources available, and national priorities for their utilization."

The group’s recommendation was issued recently in Geneva at a special meeting to review the status of clinical trials, completed and ongoing, in vitamin A deficiency control. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the National Eye Institute, the World Health Organization, and the United States Agency for International Development.

Vitamin A, which is found in a variety of inexpensive foods such as dark, green leafy vegetables and yellow fruits and vegetables has long been recognized as playing a protective role in the prevention of blindness, and child health and survival.

However, in several Asian, African, and Latin American countries, many children consume diets that are low in vitamin A. As a result, they are more susceptible to death from common childhood infections such as acute diarrhea, severe respiratory infections, and measles. Vitamin A deficiency is also the leading cause of childhood blindness, which is associated with early death in many developing nations.

Since the first internationally supported efforts to fight vitamin A deficiency were launched in the 1970’s, two control strategies have held sway: dietary supplementation and food fortification.

Although dietary supplementation—population-based, periodic distribution of vitamin A capsules—has proved beneficial in fighting vitamin A deficiency, ineffective delivery systems have hamstrung these programs. For example, supplementation programs may reach a large segment of the population on the first round, but they experience a decline in participation in subsequent rounds. Also, because of the random nature of capsule distribution, the child who most needs vitamin A is frequently missed.

Food fortification programs—adding vitamin A to a food staple, as is often done with milk, margarine, and breakfast cereal in the U.S.—have also reported mixed results.

While food fortification programs may potentially reach a large segment of the population, they have been vulnerable to the political and economic instability of most developing nations. For instance, the Guatemalan government temporarily discontinued fortifying sugar because it could no longer afford to import vitamin A. The program was recently reinstated when economic conditions were stabilized.

Although the scientists’ recommendation does not represent new international health policy, Dr. Barbara Underwood, NEI’s assistant director for international program activities and a participant at the Geneva meeting, said it does open the door for a reevaluation of public health strategies to combat the problem.

Underwood stated, for example, international health organizations should expand current vitamin A programs to include a stronger public education component. "Many of these mothers are poor and illiterate, and do not understand the importance of vitamin A in their children’s diet,” she said. "But if you sit down and discuss with them the significance of the problem and the available solutions, they can easily learn to incorporate vegetables and fruits that are rich in vitamin A into the meals of their children.

"It’s much like the old parable,” she added, "if you give a fish to a hungry man, he is fed for one day; but if you teach the man how to fish, he is independent for life."

As part of this reevaluation process, Underwood said, public health officials will also need to consider vitamin A deficiency as a social and human development issue—not only as a medical problem, as it is now viewed.

With this new perspective, Underwood said, local community and political organizations could become more involved in planning and implementing programs to counteract the problem. This change could translate into a more extensive effort to help patch the holes in the current periodic, high-dose vitamin A delivery system.

For example, Underwood said, she foresees a day when both community organizations and public health groups will operate vitamin A-oriented programs.

Currently, public health groups must supervise vitamin A distribution to children because high-dose supplements, which are dispensed in most current programs, have the potential to make the children sick if overused.

However, as safe low-dose supplements become available, vitamin A distribution could be placed in the hands of community organizations that are more familiar and accessible to parents, Underwood said. In this way, vitamin A delivery to needy children could be greatly enhanced as a temporary measure while changes in child-feeding behavior are promulgated.

"The key point from the meeting is we have to realize that there is no magic bullet approach,” said Underwood. "It will take a combination of strategies suited to local resources and conditions to eliminate vitamin A deficiency as a public health problem. If we can expand and coordinate our national and international efforts, I think we can make major inroads into solving this problem."
RADIO
(Continued from Page 1)

"He agreed the idea was intriguing and requested more information."

A joint meeting with representatives from both agencies—NIH and ADAMHA—was held to solicit support and suggestions. Attendees included Dr. John H. Ferguson, NIH acting associate director for disease prevention; Storm Whaley, NIH associate director for communications; Dr. George Coelho, international affairs chief for ADA­MHA; Dr. John T. Kalberer, NIH disease prevention coordinator; and Dr. Coralie Farlee, NIC assistant director for planning, evaluation, and public affairs.

The DHHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, recognizing that the project supported Secretary Louis W. Sullivan's "Healthy People 2000" campaign, also offered its cooperation. "We can no longer afford to ignore the fact that prevention is the single most important factor in maintaining good health," said Sullivan back in September 1990, when he began his campaign to educate the American people about the importance of healthier lifestyles.

In January 1991, "To Your Health," a weekly worldwide health promotion radio program began by VOA. Since the start by VOA, RFE/RL now broadcasts interviews on its weekly science program to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. It is hoped that future collaboration with the World Health Organization, the International Red Cross, and other international foundations, governments and industry, along with the news media of many nations, will assist in expanding the NIH/ADAMHA concept to spread health-related information throughout the world.

Health messages broadcast thus far over VOA and RFE/RL radio have touched on such topics as smoking, cancer, high blood pressure, cholesterol, infant care, alcohol abuse, hearing loss, dental care, sleep deprivation and depression among many others.

Several NIH components have participated in the taping of these interviews, including Glen Bennett of NHLBI, who participated in two of the initial broadcasts on smoking; Drs. Michael Horan and James Cleeman, also of NHLBI; NCI's Drs. John DeGiovanna, Marc Manley, Charles Smart, and Peter Greenwald; Dr. James Snow, NIDCD; Drs. Wendy Baldwin, Duane Alexander, and Sumner Yaffe, NICHD; Drs. John LaMontagne and George Curlin, NIAID; Dr. Robert Silverman, NIDDK; Dr. Dale McFarlin and Marines Dalakas, NINDS; Dr. Ronald Dubner, NIDR; Dr. Carl Kupfer, NEI; and Dr. John Kalberer.

Other PHS agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, have also contributed programs for use over the networks.

Clark and Bryant are delighted the program has finally gotten off the ground and feel confident that the broadcasts will provide millions of listeners throughout the world with practical information on how they can live longer, healthier lives.

If interested in participating in the VOA and RFE/RL radio broadcasts, contact Jim Bryant, 496-2075. NIH and ADAMHA are responsible for providing topics, background information, federal physicians and other health experts for each program.

Infection With Decay-Causing Bacteria Linked to Age of Child

Dental scientists have shown for the first time that there is a specific time period during which young children are most susceptible to infection with decay-causing bacteria transmitted from their mothers.

With support from NIDR, Dr. Page Caufield and his coworkers at the University of Alabama carried out a 4-year study on 46 infants of mothers known to harbor high levels of mutans streptococci—bacteria strongly associated with tooth decay. Infants were tested for bacteria at 3-month intervals over the study period. DNA fingerprinting techniques were used to determine the similarity of strains between mother and child to confirm the source of infection.

By the end of the study, 38 of the 46 children had become infected with mutans streptococci from their mothers. Seventy-five percent of the infected children acquired the bacteria during a narrow time period between 19 and 28 months of age. The rest were infected after 33 months of age. The eight noninfected children were still free of the bacteria after 49 months of repeated sampling—an interval clearly outside the period of risk.

None of the noninfected children developed tooth decay, compared to 29 percent of the infected group. At present, investigators are not certain what factors prevented the bacteria from being transmitted to these eight children, or if they will continue to remain free of infection.

This is the first study to show a well-defined "window of infectivity" during which decay-causing bacteria are most likely to be transmitted from mother to child. Further studies will explore whether treatment of mothers during this critical time period to reduce the maternal levels of mutans streptococci can prevent infection of children and resulting tooth decay.—Wayne Little
Skilled Craftsmen

NIH's Help Build Homes for the Poor

Two workers from the Division of Engineering Services' Shops Branch—Dennis Fuller and Isaac White—recently joined with the D.C. Habitat for Humanity to help build two homes for low-income buyers. Fuller (carpenter shop) and White (paint shop) were recommended by Bruce Codrington of Montgomery College's Apprenticeship and Technical Training Program, whom they both know from attending classes. The project was called the "Blitz Build" because the homes were completed, from the foundation up, in 7 days. The project began June 15.

Fuller was asked to be assistant foreman for carpentry and White was in charge of landscaping, among other jobs. There were approximately 40 or more people working on the project daily. "They came from all over—Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and California," said White.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan also joined the project as a carpenter. "A very good one, at that," remarks Fuller. "But at first he gave us a scare," adds White. "When we first arrived, there was this huge saw buzzing and we saw someone (Lujan) cutting a board in a direction that could be dangerous. We went over to assist and when we realized the guy knew what he was doing, we just offered to help him move the saw to a safer position."

Flashlights at Noon

Team Studies Kuwait Oil Fires and Health

How dangerous to human health is the pollution generated by the oil well fires in Kuwait? More than 500 such fires were touched off before Kuwait was liberated by United Nations troops during Operation Desert Storm, and hundreds of fires still burn as special teams undertake the gradual process of putting them out. What will be the future health cost to the people of Kuwait and others in the surrounding area?

Preliminary information to help answer that question was gathered recently by the first environmental health team to visit Kuwait, as reported in a recent News and Notices of the Harvard School of Public Health. The on-site team sent to Kuwait included Dr. Thomas Dumyahn, senior research engineer, and David Gilmour, a technical assistant, both of Harvard's department of environmental health, which receives funding as an Environmental Health Science Center from NIEHS. The team was invited by the Kuwait government in conjunction with the World Health Organization and NIEHS.

The Harvard newsletter reported vivid experiences that illustrate the profound impact of the fires. "There were days when the sky was so overcast at noon that we had to use flashlights," Dumyahn reported. The team's activities included gathering samples of the emissions from the fires, and training Kuwaiti technicians to generate data for use in ongoing studies as the fires are put out. This will help fulfill the goal of helping the Kuwait government assess levels of exposure and the likely health effects of the fires.

"This is particularly crucial for the children whose future lung development can be compromised by certain levels of toxins in the environment," Dumyahn said.

Said Gilmour, "We frequently saw children playing outdoors near the oil fires. Sometimes at the same location, our own clothes would be blackened by the fire deposition."

Pollution from the fires includes inhalable particles as well as gasses such as nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide. The team was equipped with an instrument called a respirable bulk sampler. The samples gathered will allow Harvard researchers to study the health effects of the emissions in a controlled laboratory setting.

The respiratory biology laboratory at Harvard is now analyzing the samples for toxic metal content and organic composition.

Samples are being analyzed in a collaborative effort by Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (home of another NIEHS-funded Environmental Health Sciences Center); the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories; the Desert Research Institute; and the Environmental Protection Department of the Kuwait Ministry of Health.

"This kind of environmental damage has no borders and no politics," said Dr. Terri Damstra, NIEHS assistant to the director for international programs. "In the long term we all pay a price. It would be encouraging to think that the international community will spare itself in the future by learning from this experience now."

Overweight Men Wanted

Men ages 18-49 are needed for an NIMH psychological testing study. This is not a treatment study, but compensation will be provided. Must be at least 50 pounds overweight. Call 496-4319 and leave message.
EA PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 1)

tion with NIH in this program," offers Thomas.

All of the institutes, centers and divisions at NIH contribute to the EA curriculum through presentations, workshops and one-on-one meetings.

"We range across the disciplines—grants management, programs, review, the intramural laboratories," Thomas explains. "The participants are quickly integrated into the NIH system. A good percentage ask about actual bench research here so they can refer students and faculty here for laboratory research."

Each EA drafts an "institutional plan" that specifies how NIH training will be utilized once he or she returns home. In addition, EAs also prepare a 1-hour seminar on the usefulness of their training for classmates. "This is a good way to have cross-fertilization," Thomas observes.

Another feature of the training provides built-in continuity and critique: each new summer EA class is taught by members of the class that preceded it. As July wound down, the five members participating in the summer institute for undergraduate faculty were tutored by three returning members of the class of 1990.

Assessments among EAs can be frank. Asked whether NIH has a good idea of what scientists at small schools face when searching for federal research dollars, Joe Marcello was blunt: "Overall, probably not. We lag when it comes to research. NIH officials should tour the historically Black and women's colleges,

From Gang Research to Grantsmanship

Among all the obstacles to completing a Ph.D. dissertation ever recorded at NIH, perhaps none has involved diving face-first into a playground sandbox to avoid a crossfire of pistol shots. None, that is, until Percy Thomas arrived.

Thomas was the new director of the Extramural Associates Program, landed at NIH in a classic case of serendipity. A behavioral scientist with a focus on mental health administration, he came to NIH in May 1990 to do an organizational study for Dr. Learmon Lee, director of the Division of Financial Management.

"It was a 'climate assessment' study," recalls Thomas, "where employees give their ideas of the organization and what needs changing. I interviewed about one-third of the DFM employees personally."

Though his final report is not yet in, Thomas found fairly standard issues—communication leading the way—on the minds of the 160 DFM employees. During the study, however, he learned that the Extramural Associates Program needed a new director and that his background was a "good fit" for the position.

Born in Newport News, Va., and reared in Baltimore, where he attended Carver High School, Thomas majored in physical education and biology at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, then earned a master's degree in the psychology of emotionally disturbed and mentally retarded children at Coppin State University.

"I grew up with very strong values," he recalls. "My mom (who recently earned an AA (See THOMAS, Page 8)
course, is to benefit the health of all Americans. "The EA program is very exciting in the sense that it endeavors to make a difference out at institutions external to NIH," says Thomas. "I would like to see the program expanded out in the regions where the EA schools are. I also think there should be more focus on women's institutions. There's a feeling of neglect on the part of women's schools about NIH."

Thomas' enthusiasm for EA is only part of a larger fervor for NIH (which also employs his wife Alice, a grants administrator at NCHGR).

"The thing that makes NIH special," he says, "is that, no matter what employees do here, they're doing something important for humanity, for society. That's powerful. That's not so true with a lot of the other agencies. I'm very happy and pleased to be part of the NIH family."

So, too, it appears, are successive classes of EAs.

**An EA Who Bounced Back**

Most EAs who come to Bethesda for training end up going back to their home institutions and stoking the grant-finding fires there. Occasionally, one bounces back to NIH and remains here. Such is the case of Dr. Lemuel Evans, director of NCI's Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program.

"Normally, this doesn't happen," said Thomas, a member of the EA class of 1982.

He had been on the faculty at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York for 10 years prior to his EA year. "I was divisional chairperson for natural sciences and math, and a professor of biology. Medgar Evers didn't have a high level of funding from external sources, and our faculty wanted to become more involved in research funding."

His president at CUNY, having been lobbied by then-EA director Jean Oliver, asked Evans to go to Bethesda and learn how to channel research dollars back to Medgar Evers. And did those dollars flow?

"No question about it," snaps Evans. "There was a definite increase in the number of applications submitted to NIH."

Evans says the EAP gave him insights into the organization and function of NIH and other government agencies. "It was very similar to grants associate training," he recalls. "It was a series of very interesting and rewarding experiences."

Today, Evans, who has been back at NIH since 1984, is one of the experiences new EAs get when they come to town; he familiarizes them with details of his program at NCI.

"We promote the participation of minority researchers in RO1 research through a supplement program, which began at NCI in 1984." (See EVANS, Page 8)

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**Fishing for Skills in Grant-gathering**

Just before his 2-month semester as an extramural associate ended last month, Joe Marcello grilled up a portion of a 280-pound halibut he had reeled in off the coast of Alaska and shared the bounty with his four peers in the EA class of 1991.

The ability to go deep-sea fishing at whim is just one of the perks that makes teaching chemistry at tiny Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska, a pleasure.

"I took two of my students out fishing that day and it took us 2½ hours to catch the halibut in 40 fathoms of water," he recalls.

Such close interaction between student and teacher typifies what is best about America's small, predominantly minority institutions. The downside, however, is that these schools—some 300 of which are eligible for EA involvement—attract almost no federal research money.

"We have to fly by the seat of our pants on our grants," says Marcello. "It's up to the teachers to apply for them. No one's there to help."

Marcello has gone back to Sitka—America's largest city in square miles—with hopes of starting an office of sponsored research at SJC, "if I can persuade the president to do it."

A chemistry professor there for 5 years, Marcello is trying to beef up the science program in a school where half of the 205 students are Alaska Natives and less than half the faculty hold Ph.Ds.

"Kids need nurturing at small schools," he relates. "They need someone to hold their hand and ease them along the trail. These kids would just be numbers at the big, top schools."

Marcello is outraged when the Browns and Stanfords come recruiting Alaskan teenagers, who have only rudimentary educations picked up in bush schools. "The big schools get to brag that they have a culturally diverse student body, but the kids get lost. They're unprepared and fall through the cracks."

(See MARCELLO, Page 8)
MARCELLO
(Continued from Page 7)
'talk to the trees'—put fresh logs in their
booms and those logs tended to flip as they
became waterlogged.'

An ability to listen to the wisdom gained
by others is a trait even the EAs must learn as
they come to Bethesda.

'These people at NIH are really trying to
help, even if they reject an application,' said
Marcello. 'People have to pay attention to
that. I've heard people in this program say
they can't compete at this level. I say, 'Don't
expect an RO1 grant the first time out. Learn
to crawl first, then walk and run.'

Among all the federal agencies to whom the
EA program introduced him, Marcello found
NIH (and NSF) to be the most personal and
caring.

'(NIH) is an agency that wants to help,' he
declares. 'There's people here that you can
talk to—it's not some impersonal, gigantic
building on a hill. People seem willing to
help—as long as the science is good.'

THOMAS
(Continued from Page 6)
degree at age 72) didn't play.'

Thomas took his Ph.D. in alcoholism
education and mental health administration at
Johns Hopkins, where his thesis research
involved infiltrating an infamous Los Angeles
gang known as the 'Crips' in 1971-73.

'I was studying juvenile gangs from a
qualitative research perspective,' he remem-
bers. 'I infiltrated and lived with members of
the gang.'

Regarding him warily at first, the Crips
soon took his presence among them for
granted and, as Thomas says, 'After a while,
they ignored me.'

Confessing to a lapse in judgement, Thomas
recalls the day he unwittingly found himself
in a turf war and had to dive into a sandbox
to avoid flying lead. 'I wasn't paying atten-
tion to where I was.'

Thomas found "a strong correlation in gang
behavior and the behavior common to large
organizations. There's a strong link to
government and the corporate world, with emphasis
on equipment, turf, and resources. There are
similar mechanisms in the gang world, but
harsher discipline.'

Thomas also learned that gangsters work
hard for a living, though not during tradi-
tional office hours.

'The kids used me,' he reminisces. 'I had
a car and took them places. I used to take
kids to job interviews and got them jobs as
extras in movies. I became almost a quasi-
social worker.'

'These were very young kids, bright, but
not well educated,' he continued. 'It gave
me a real sense of what poverty and a lack of
education do to cut short the potential in
people.'

Thomas studied how society's large
institutions—welfare, police, schools—impact
poor communities and learned that the gangs
provide self-esteem, a sense of control, and
much individual attention.

In 1972, he joined NIMH, developing a
course to train managers of community mental
health centers how to deliver services to a
culturally diverse clientele. He later worked at
FDA in a variety of training capacities,
including a stint instructing Kuwaiti food
inspectors.

Married with two children, Thomas is
happy to be at NIH at a time when the
emphasis on helping women and minorities is
so strong.

'NIH is so complex,' he admits. 'I never
dreamed how huge it is. Everything is
interrelated.'

EVANS
(Continued from Page 7)
and became NIH-wide in 1989," he said. His
program also helps spread health information
in minority populations and helps recruit
minorities to clinical trials. Another initiative
overseen by Evans offers career development to
minority clinicians and institutions doing can-
cer research.

'We also cofund MARC and MBRs
applications relevant to NCI, and support

Dr. Lenneal Evans was an EA at Medgar Evers
College of CUNY, then returned to NIH in 1984.
MARC summer students, 13 of whom are on campus
this summer," he added.

The former cytogenetics researcher says the
EAP addresses a basic issue: 'Success in gain-
ing funding depends on an administrative
component devoted to facilitating the request
for funding. No such infrastructure exists at
the small, minority institutions. Harvard, on
the other hand, has a huge set-up for this.'

Evans thinks the EA program has to take a
step that its current director, Dr. Percy
Thomas, also agrees must be taken—NIH
money must help the small institutions
establish the wherewithal to gather grants.

'That would help the program achieve its
full potential,' he says.

NIAID Funds Three Tropical
Medicine Research Centers

The National Institute of Allergy and Infec-
tious Diseases has awarded three grants to
study better ways to control tropical and para-
sitic diseases. The grants—totaling
$1,181,278 for the initial year—will fund
Tropical Medicine Research Centers in the
Philippines, Brazil and Colombia for 5 years.

In announcing the awards, Dr. Anthony S.
Fauci, NIAID director, said, "This initiative
reaffirms NIAID's long-standing commitment
to research in tropical and parasitic diseases in
countries where such infectious diseases are
demic.'

The centers will provide opportunities for
research scientists to study diseases directly
affecting the health of people in these coun-
tries. The grantees are Dr. Edgar M.
Carvalho, Federal University of Bahia Medical
School in Bahia, Brazil; Dr. Meiadora C.
Sanie, Research Institute of Tropical Medicine
in Manila, Philippines; and Dr. Nancy G.
Saravia, International Center for Medical
Research and Training in Cali, Colombia.

Each center will organize a multidiscipli-
ary research effort, bringing together relevant
biomedical knowledge and technology. The
centers will develop programs in basic as well
clinical, epidemiological and applied
research in one or more of the diseases found
in their countries, in an effort to improve
upon existing treatment and prevention
strategies.

In addition, the new centers are designed to
strengthen the research capacity of the host
countries. These grants provide opportunities
for American and foreign scientists to gain
research experience in the diseases that are
common in certain countries.

The main objective of Carvalho's research in
Brazil is to study the pathogenesis and treat-
ment of schistosomiasis, leprosy and
leishmaniasis. Schistosomiasis, a disease caused
by parasitic worms, may result in serious
damage to the liver, intestines or urinary tract
of an infected individual. It affects some 200
million people in 76 developing countries.
Although drugs are available, reinfection, par-
cularly among children, can occur rapidly
after treatment. This disease presents a chal-
lenge to researchers because of the complex life
cycle of the causative parasite. Some progress
has been made toward a vaccine.

Leprosy, a chronic debilitating disease
caused by a bacterium, afflicts 10 to 12 mil-
ion people. The mode of transmission is not
known, but many experts think the disease is
transmitted to a susceptible individual by
direct skin-to-skin contact with lesions or con-
tact with respiratory secretions. The incuba-
tion period ranges from 6 months to 10 years
or longer. The leprosy bacterium can be resis-
tant to drugs, making the disease difficult to
treat.
Leishmaniasis is caused by a protozoan that is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of a sandfly. The parasite may involve internal organs of the body or cause lesions on the skin or mucous membranes. Twelve million people in 80 countries are affected. The incubation period may last from a week up to many months. Drug treatment is not uniformly effective, and, although experimental vaccines are under study, none are available. Saravia will also conduct interdisciplinary studies on leishmaniasis in Colombia, to address major barriers preventing control of the disease.

Saravia's research in the Philippines focuses on schistosomiasis, malaria, and leprosy. Approximately 270 million people suffer from malaria and more than 1 million die from the disease each year. Thirty years ago, there was great optimism that malaria could be eradicated through the use of powerful insecticides and synthetic antimalarial drugs. Now, because mosquitoes that carry malaria parasites have become resistant to many insecticides and the most deadly malaria parasite has become increasingly drug-resistant, the disease has regained its hold in many countries.

The Tropical Medicine Research Centers are being coordinated by Dr. Michael Gottlieb, parasitologist and tropical diseases officer of NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. — James Hadley □

**Report Offers Brain Research Overview**

Maximizing Human Potential: Decade of the Brain 1990-2000, a new comprehensive report on the most exciting areas of current and planned research in the brain and behavioral sciences, has been published by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), part of the Executive Office of the President. The 100-page book represents the first time the 22 separate federal organizations involved in brain research have collaborated on a project of this dimension.

Each chapter of Maximizing Human Potential includes recent significant accomplishments as well as future plans in specific research areas as: learning and memory, communication and sensory disorders, environmental impacts on the human brain, brain and spinal cord damage, brain development, rehabilitation and restoration of function, human behavior and mental disorders, aging and the human brain, and drugs and addiction. Also included are research accomplishments and plans in basic research, technology, and international activities—areas that span the full range of the basic and clinical neurological sciences.

"Advancing our capability to understand and effectively treat the many brain and behavioral disorders, whether genetic or environmental in origin, will improve every aspect of our nation's well-being. Many brain disorders could be prevented, cured, or alleviated inexpensively if research opportunities were fully exploited," says Dr. D. Allan Bromley, assistant to the president for science and technology and director of OSTP.

Material for the Brain 1990-2000 report was prepared by members of the OSTP subcommittee on brain and behavioral sciences under the direction of subcommittee chairperson Dr. Roger J. Porter, deputy director of NINDS. Porter served as editor of the book, coordinating and guiding it through several months of revision and review by the many subcommittee members.

Members of the subcommittee were drawn from the Executive Office of the President and the 12 departments and agencies that conduct brain research, including the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, State, and Veterans Affairs as well as the Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation. Six NIH institutes, one NIH center (NINDS, NEI, NIA, NIDCD, NIEHS, FIC and NICHD) and the three ADAMHA institutes (NIAAA, NIDA and NIMH) played important roles in developing this interagency inventory of brain and behavioral sciences research.

Each year more than 50 million Americans are affected by brain disorders ranging from stroke, spinal cord injury and neurogenic diseases to Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, alcoholism and drug abuse. In the United States, brain-related disorders cause more people to be hospitalized than any other major disease, including cardiovascular disease or cancer.

In July 1990, President Bush issued a December of the Brain proclamation, in recognition of both the tremendous opportunities presented by recent and anticipated advances in brain research and the enormous costs that disorders of the brain exact in human suffering.

The OSTP is leading the effort to organize all government-supported research and development in the brain and behavioral sciences; Maximizing Human Potential is the first product of this effort.

"Research programs on many major diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and Huntington's disease, are poised for a breakthrough," says NINDS's Porter. "The accelerating pace of the neurological sciences means that scientific breakthroughs are being turned into medical treatments faster than ever before."

For a single copy of Maximizing Human Potential, call the NINDS Office of Scientific Health Reports, 496-5751. — Shannon Garnett □

**‘Working Safely With HIV’ Classes Offered by DS**

The Division of Safety, Occupational Safety and Health Branch (OSH B) announces the upcoming schedule of classes for "Working Safely with HIV in the Research Laboratory." This 2-hour program is mandatory for all NIH personnel working with retroviruses. The course provides specific information on how to work safely with blood and body fluids, including HIV, in a research laboratory. Topics include: administrative policies; medical surveillance programs; proper waste disposal; steps to be taken in the event of a potential exposure. Contact the OSHB, 496-2346, for registration information.

All classes will be held in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The class starts at 9:30 and lasts until approximately 11:30. Class dates are: Wednesday, Aug. 21; Tuesday, Oct. 1; Monday, Nov. 4; Tuesday, Dec. 10; and Tuesday, Jan. 7, 1992. □

**Tenpin Bowlers Needed**

NIH employees are now invited to bowl at Navy. The Navy Mixed Classic League will have a few vacancies for the 1991-92 season. They bowl Wednesdays at 6 p.m. beginning Sept. 4. For more information, call league secretary Dan Venor, (301) 649-5429. □
Linda Nee Honored for Alzheimer’s Research

For her outstanding contributions and achievements in medicine through research on Alzheimer’s disease (AD), Linda Nee received a 75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal at the 10th annual Geneva Sayre Lecture delivered recently at Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y.

Nee, a social science analyst at the NINDS Clinical Neuroscience Branch, has been bridging the gap between neurologists and patients for 20 years.

She is recognized as the social worker who helps patients understand the science and technical language of the genetic factors associated with AD. By tracing the occurrence of AD in large family groups, Nee and her colleagues at NINDS have found that about 60 percent of patients have no family history of the disorder, 30 percent have at least one relative with the disease and just under 10 percent have a clearly inherited form of the disease.

AD, a progressive brain disorder that may affect as many as 4 million Americans, involves subtle to severe memory loss, language deficits, and loss of cognitive abilities, often leading to incapacitation and death.

During the past 12 years, Nee has followed 10,000 members of a family that now spans across Canada and the United States. By tracing AD through generations of the family, Nee charted the world’s largest AD family tree. She found that 50 percent of the offspring were affected, indicating that, in this family at least, AD is a dominantly inherited illness.

In 1987, this study in combination with studies of three other large families (two of which Nee also investigated) allowed scientists to detect a genetic marker for AD on chromosome 21, the chromosome that is also involved in Down syndrome.

Nee usually follows patients for 10 to 15 years, allowing her to spend more time with individual patients than is typical for studies of this type. Consequently, another hat she wears is that of the liaison between the families and the scientists. She supplies data to the scientists by establishing pedigrees of the families. At the same time, she explains the lab work to the families.

Nee’s research also lends support to the belief that AD is not strictly an inherited disease. Her large study of identical twins revealed that AD affected both twins in only 41 percent of the cases. This finding suggests that an environmental factor or factors may be involved in AD.

Research this extensive would keep the average person too busy for outside commitments, but not Nee. While studying 23 families with the inherited form of AD, she cofounded the Washington, D.C., chapter of the National Alzheimer’s Association and presided over the group for 4 years. Nee is also president-elect of the Friends of the Clinical Center, an organization that raises emergency funds for NIH research participants.

Nee was honored by her alma mater, Russell Sage College, as part of the Sage Colleges’ 75th anniversary celebration. She was one of three recipients of a commemorative medal at that ceremony. Her name will be added to a prestigious list of recipients including several NINDS grantees and a Nobel Prize winner. - Shannon Garnett

Fall Symposium Examines Cell Cycle Regulation

A fall mini-symposium on cell cycle regulation will be held Oct. 18 at Hood College in Frederick, Md. Deadline for registration is Sept. 18.


Registration fee of $25, which includes lunch and refreshments, should be paid to Foundation for Advanced Cancer Studies c/o Patti Hall, NCI-FCRDC, P.O. Box B, Bldg. 539, Frederick, MD 21702-1201.

NIGMS Trainee Receives Award

A young scientist who has received support through two NIGMS grant mechanisms is the 1991 recipient of the University of Michigan’s Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) Award. Since 1982, Dr. Charles Richard Neal, Jr. has participated in the Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program and the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program. The MBRS and MARC programs work to increase the number of minority biomedical scientists, while the MSTP trains scientists to perform clinical research.

The University of Michigan award was established in 1984 to honor one graduating senior MSTP student who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in research and who exhibits the personal and professional qualities desired in a physician.

According to Dr. George DeMuth, director of the University of Michigan MSTP, Neal was recognized for outstanding research on the nervous system, excellent academic standing (including election to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society), and exceptional leadership in “establishing and fostering an influential minority organization on the campus and by serving ably and effectively as a student member of the medical school admissions committee.”

Recognized as an accomplished teacher, Neal was a sought-after tutor and was noted for providing valuable assistance to students. He was cofounder and president of the university’s Latin American and Native American Medical Association and was a successful recruiter for the University of Michigan medical and graduate schools.

A New Mexico native, Neal attended the University of New Mexico from 1979 to 1981 and went on to the University of California—Santa Cruz, where he participated first in the MBRS program and later in the MARC program. In 1984, with MARC predoctoral fellowship support, Neal enrolled in the University of Michigan MSTP and began study toward the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. He graduated in June 1991. - Susanne Jantusch
NIGMS Grantees Honored

Two scientists whose research is supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences were honored recently with awards from the Passano Foundation.

Dr. William S. Sly, professor and chairman of the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at St. Louis University School of Medicine, received one of two $40,000 Senior Laureate Awards. Sly was honored for his discovery of the pathway by which lysosomal enzymes are targeted to their specific location within lysosomes. He found that cellular receptors that bind a sugar molecule on the surface of these enzymes and direct the enzymes to lysosomes. This work has broad relevance to the study of intracellular transport and human enzyme storage diseases. Sly has a MERIT award from NIGMS.

Dr. Roger Tsien, an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, received the $15,000 Young Scientist Award. He designed and synthesized a series of calcium-sensitive fluorescent dyes that allow the rapid measurement of free intracellular calcium concentrations. Variations in calcium levels affect many biological processes, including the release of neurotransmitters and hormones, the activation of immune cells by foreign agents, muscle contraction, and visual adaptation to light and dark. Tsien also developed fluorescent dye techniques for the high-resolution measurement of intracellular pH. Tsien has been an NIGMS grantee for the past 9 years.

The Baltimore-based Passano Foundation presents its annual awards to scientists who have made "outstanding contributions to the advancement" of medical science. The foundation has honored a total of 73 scientists, 15 of whom have subsequently received the Nobel Prize.

World Bank Needs Books

The World Bank volunteer services book project has been shipping books and journals—over 700,000 volumes so far—to some 40 developing countries since 1983. The project now has a great demand for textbooks and journals at the university level, encyclopedias, dictionaries, books relating to nutrition and primary health care, and technical and vocational materials. Also needed are books covering the early childhood through high school years. If you have books to donate, call Lou Niemann, president of the book project, (202) 473-8960.

R&W Has NSO Tickets

Mstislav Rostropovich conducts the National Symphony Orchestra on Friday, Sept. 20. Hear the sounds of violinist Pinchas Zukerman as he joins the orchestra in its program of Kodaly, Bartok and Smetana. Orchestra seats are $29.35 and the program begins at 8:30 p.m. at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Contact the R&W Activities Desk for tickets or more information, 496-4600.

USUHS Needs Volunteers

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' department of medical psychology needs volunteers ages 18-45, with at least 1 year of college experience, for a 2-3 hour study of communication among coworkers. For further information call Diana, 295-3270.
Mother of NINDS Researcher Named MS Mother of the Year

Jeanne C. Thompson of Kansas City, Mo., mother of NINDS research fellow Dr. B. Gregory Thompson, Jr., has been named 1991 Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She received the award from President Bush in a recent White House ceremony during which her son Gregory presented the president with a model of the human brain in recognition of the Decade of the Brain. Vice Admiral Thor Hanson, president and chief executive officer of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, officiated at the ceremony.

The annual MS society award recognizes a mother who, despite the limitations imposed by chronic illness, has been an outstanding parent. Mrs. Thompson was diagnosed with MS 27 years ago. She is the mother of 11 children and has been an inspiration to her family, friends and community. After her daughter Amy was shot in the head during a robbery attempt in 1986, Thompson took charge of her daughter's care by coordinating and supervising the necessary 24-hour skilled nursing and other therapies required during the 3 years she survived.

Three years later another tragedy struck the family when Thompson's daughter Tricia also suffered a head and brain injury when the car in which she was riding was struck by a drunk driver. Again, Thompson assumed the demanding job of coordinating her daughter's care. Her love and understanding have kept the family together and moving forward; she has also served as a counselor to others who have reacted to these violent acts with anger, hurt and bitterness. "Hate takes too much energy and doesn't accomplish anything except to make the hurt worse," she said.

Thompson refuses to be slowed by MS. She is active in her community, advocating for victims' rights, furthering public awareness of the National Head Injury Foundation, and hosting events for numerous organizations including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Georgetown University and Law School, and many others. She is a true "super mom."

President Bush issued a Decade of the Brain proclamation in July 1989, calling upon scientists and the public to recognize and exploit the many scientific opportunities presented by recent and anticipated advances in brain research. Scientists believe that many neurological disorders could be prevented, cured or alleviated if research opportunities were fully implemented.—Roberta Wilson

NEI Employees Honored

Dr. Carl Kupfer, director of the National Eye Institute, presented the 1991 NEI director's award to 11 employees for their extraordinary achievements and contributions to the goals and mission of the institute at NEI's second annual Employee Recognition Day.

As NEI staff gathered in the rose garden of the Stone House, Kupfer reflected on the growth of the institute during the past 22 years and on the significant advances in vision research that have accompanied that growth. He stressed that these accomplishments would not have been possible without the contributions of dedicated NEI employees.

NEI staff enjoyed refreshments and received copies of the poster prepared especially for the occasion.