

"Still
The Second
Best Thing
About Payday"

The NIH Record

\$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

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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 (RFE/RL).

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 RFE/RL—and was familiar with their operating styles. Bryant also recognized the immense need for health information in many countries.

"I telephoned Brian Cislak, VOA's senior science producer, whom I knew," Bryant said.

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Stealing the show at the first anniversary of the Children's Inn at NIH was Hydeia Broadbent (second from r), who sang a song she made up for guests including (from l) NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy, congressional spouses Janet Waxman (foreground) and D. Chris Downey, and Albert D. Angel, president of the Merck Company Foundation.

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—grantsmanship.

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 Hopkinses, Cal-Berkeleys and Stanfords here, where well-paid administrators, not a lonesome 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 model 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. EAs (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 grant-makers and their machinery at other federal agencies including ADAMHA, Agriculture, Energy, Labor, and the National Science Foundation.

"There's a tremendous amount of coopera-

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INN*(Continued from Page 1)*

Sullivan, D. Chris Downey, wife of Rep. Thomas Downey of New York (and one of three congressional spouses who spearheaded development of the inn), Janet Waxman, wife of Rep. Henry Waxman of California, and former Rep. Doug Walgren, whose wife Carmala led the effort to build the inn. As they looked on, Albert D. Angel, president of the Merck Company Foundation, presented Russell with a check for \$500,000.

"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 3 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 NCI'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 8 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, flycasting, decoy carving, hunting, fishing, rafting, RVs 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; youngsters 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

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NEI Offers Views

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 state 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 subse-

quent 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 re-evaluation 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.

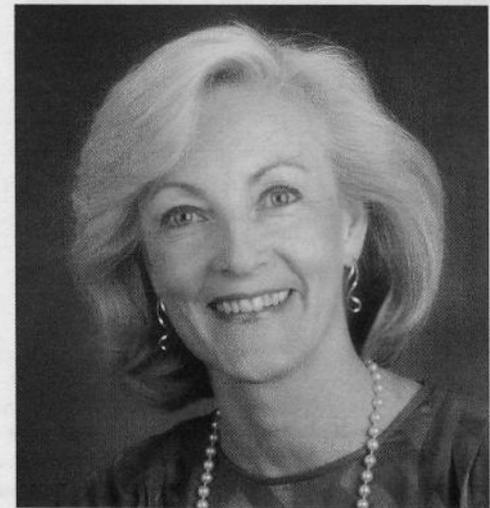
For example, Underwood said, she foresees a day when both community organizations and public health groups will operate vitamin A-oriented programs.

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." □



Eleanor Nealon, chief of the Reports and Inquiries Branch of NCI's Office of Cancer Communications, received the Fox Chase Cancer Center Communication Award from center president Dr. Robert C. Young. Nealon was honored last month at Fox Chase's sixth annual patient reunion for her role in informing the American public about cancer research, treatment and prevention.

Study Offers Pay

You and two friends can each earn \$470 for participating in a study of commonly prescribed drugs. Requires 6 hours during the day, 1 day a week, for a total of 7 weeks. Each member must be between 21 and 50 years old, in good health, and not active-duty military. Call 295-0972 for more information. □

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, FIC 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



Dr. Robert Silverman (l) of NIDDK is being interviewed on the subject of diabetes by Valerie Gartseff. A science and medical reporter for VOA, Gartseff will be conducting all the VOA interviews.

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; Drs. Dale McFarlin and Marinos

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. □



Dr. Dale McFarlin of NINDS was taped recently by VOA on the subject of multiple sclerosis.

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 was begun 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

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 by 33 months of age. The eight non-infected 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'ers 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."



Isaac White (l) and Dennis Fuller of DES's Shops Branch recently provided help to the D.C. Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for the poor.

There was a wide range of talents represented, including skilled craftsmen and people from all walks of life—lawyers, doctors, journalists, accountants. "I even saw a lady carpenter up on the roof," White noted.

"Dennis was on television," continues White. "Channels 4 and 7 came out to the building site (Upsall St. in Southeast Wash-

ington) and made videotapes."

This was Fuller's first time working for the D.C. Habitat. Although he does a lot of volunteer work, it is usually confined to the Baltimore area where he lives.

On the other hand, White is quite familiar with Habitat's projects—he does volunteer work on Saturdays on one house, a multi-unit structure, that is still being built on Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.

Habitat for Humanity uses donated materials, land and volunteer labor to build or renovate houses for families who cannot afford decent housing. The families work on their houses together with volunteers and pay a low-interest mortgage to Habitat.

White and Fuller were pleased to give of their talents to help the homeless and underprivileged. Would they go back again? "Yes," they quickly answer in unison. In 1992, when former President Jimmy Carter is scheduled to come to Washington to help build 10 houses with D.C.'s Habitat, they would like to participate again.

For more information about D.C.'s Habitat for Humanity, call Heather Peterson, (202) 347-3077.—Anne Barber □

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."—Thomas R. Hawkins □

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.



The EA class of 1991 includes (seated, from l) Dr. Joe Marcello of Sheldon Jackson College, Dr. Joyce Cadwallader of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Dr. Bodiford Stackhouse of Winston-Salem State University. Standing are (from l) Dr. Paul Villas of New Mexico State University, Dr. Ali Khan of Elizabeth City (N.C.) State University and Thomas.

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,

spend a couple of days and see what it's like when there's no infrastructure for acquiring grants. It's easy to sit inside the Beltway for one's career. If they got out there, they would see what's happening."

According to Marcello, disproportionately high numbers of small-school graduates populate the graduate programs at big universities. All the more reason, he argues, to target such schools—the breeding grounds for tomorrow's minority and women scientists—for assistance.

Marcello quickly assures that the EA-eligible institutions do not expect handouts, leniency or charity from NIH. They certainly don't expect to earn grants on their first try. "We've got to learn to crawl first, then walk and run."

Percy Thomas has a vision of EAP that includes more walking and running than crawling. "We want to stimulate the pool of women and minority researchers and set a climate that will influence minorities to be motivated to pursue research careers," he said. He hopes for a day when NIH can do more than train visiting faculty.

"Though we do a super job of training people and doing research programs, what's needed on these campuses is a stronger sponsored-research office," he said. "It would be nice if, in the future, when EAs finished their NIH training, they had the research administration infrastructure support to put the mechanisms in place that would allow them to do research on their home campuses."

It is rare to hear anyone hollering for more administration these days, but Thomas is calling for the kind of administration that allows labs to be built and more women and minorities to be educated. The grand goal, of

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, 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. Leamon 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



Dr. Percy Thomas is the new director of the Extramural Associates Program at NIH.

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 Evans, 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)



Returning members of the EA class of 1990 flank Thomas. They are (from l) Dr. Harry Bass of Virginia Union University, Dr. Ellen Shimakawa of Chaminade University of Honolulu and Dr. Kara Eberly of St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind.

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.

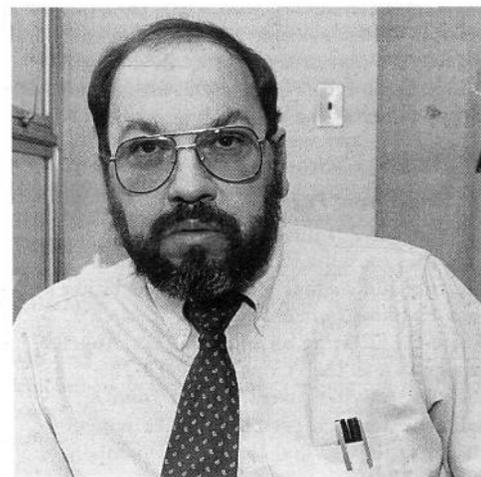
"We have to fly by the seat of our pants on our grants," says Marcello. "It's up to the teachers to apply for them. No one's there to help."

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."



Dr. Joe Marcello hopes to start an office of sponsored research at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska.

Cultural sensitivity is a major requirement for teachers in Alaska, he reports.

"There's great diversity in cultures, even among Alaska Natives. Hands-on, observational learning is very important. An impersonal lecture—common in large universities—won't reach the kids. Teaching has to be interactive."

An anecdote from the recent Valdez oil spill illustrates Marcello's point:

"The big oil companies wanted natives to help build log booms to prevent the spill from widening. The natives said, 'We must first talk to the trees.' Of course, the riggers thought the natives were out of their minds. So they went ahead and built log booms that leaked like a sieve. Booms made by the natives, on the other hand, were impermeable. The difference was that natives knew enough to let the logs soak long enough to become stable in the water. The riggers—who didn't

(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 remembers. "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 attention 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 traditional 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 to minority populations and helps recruit minorities to clinical trials. Another initiative overseen by Evans offers career development to minority clinicians and institutions doing cancer research.

"We also cofund MARC and MBRS applications relevant to NCI, and support



Dr. Lemuel 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 gaining 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 Infectious Diseases has awarded three grants to study better ways to control tropical and parasitic 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 endemic."

The centers will provide opportunities for research scientists to study diseases directly affecting the health of people in these countries. The grantees are Dr. Edgar M. Carvalho, Federal University of Bahia Medical School in Bahia, Brazil; Dr. Mediadora C. Saniel, 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 multidisciplinary research effort, bringing together relevant biomedical knowledge and technology. The centers will develop programs in basic as well as 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 treatment 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, particularly among children, can occur rapidly after treatment. This disease presents a challenge 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 million 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 contact with respiratory secretions. The incubation period ranges from 6 months to 10 years or longer. The leprosy bacterium can be resistant 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.

Saniel'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, parasitology and tropical diseases officer of NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.—James Hadley □

'Working Safely With HIV' Classes Offered by DS

The Division of Safety, Occupational Safety and Health Branch (OSHB) 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. □

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 such 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

leviated 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 transfederal 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.

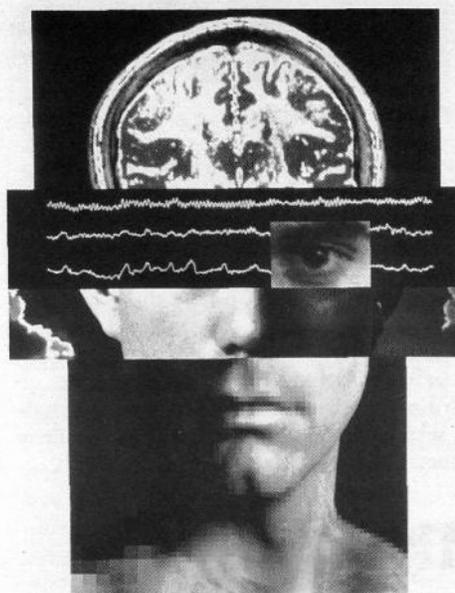
Members of the subcommittee were drawn from the Executive Office of the President and the 12 departments and agencies that conduct brain research, including the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, State, and Veterans Affairs as well as the Agency 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 neurogenetic 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 Decade 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 □



Future research opportunities in brain and behavioral sciences are outlined in Maximizing Human Potential: Decade of the Brain 1990-2000, a new transfederal report published by the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Copies are available from the NINDS Office of Scientific and Health Reports, 496-5751.

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 al-

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 spreads across Canada and the United States. By tracing AD through 8 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 pre-



Linda Nee

sided 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.

Speakers and their topics include: Tony Pawson, "SH2 Domains Direct Protein-Protein Interactions in Signal Transduction"; James Roberts, "Control of the G1/S Transition in the Human Cell Cycle"; John Newport, "How Cells Know When to Go into Mitosis"; Joan Ruderman, "Control of the Cell Cycle in Early Embryos"; Andrew Murray, "How Cells Know When to Leave Mitosis"; Joseph Nevins, "Functional Consequences of Oncogene-Anti-oncogene Interactions."

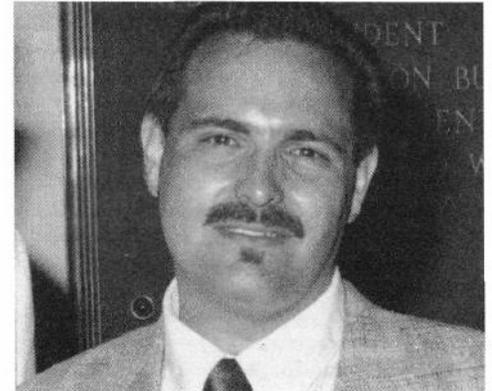
Registration fee of \$25, which includes lunch and refreshments, should be paid to Foundation for Advanced Cancer Studies c/o Patti Hall, NCI-FCRDC, P.O. Box B, Bldg. 539, Frederick, MD 21702-1201. □

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



Dr. Charles Richard Neal, Jr.

National 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 Jantsch □

TRAINING TIPS

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

<i>Courses and Programs</i>	<i>Starting Dates</i>
<i>Personal Computing Training 496-6211</i>	
Welcome to Macintosh	8/23, 9/11, 9/20
Intro to Word Perfect (Mac)	9/4
Advanced Word Perfect (Mac)	8/19
Advanced Microsoft Word	8/28
Excel Level 2	8/21
Excel Level 3	9/12
HyperCard Programming-Level 1	8/13
HyperCard Programming-Level 2	9/18
3Com PC Network-Level 1	8/20, 9/5
3Com PC Network-Level 2	8/26, 9/9
3Com PC Network Management-Level 1	9/16
Introduction to DOS	8/27, 9/5
Introduction to WordPerfect 5.1	9/4
WordPerfect 5.1 — Advanced Topics	8/26
Intro to Harvard Graphics, Rel. 2.3	9/5
Intermediate dBASE III +	9/10
Intro to Lotus 1-2-3, Rel. 2.2	9/9
Introduction to CRISP	8/13, 9/10
Advanced CRISP	8/13
CRISP Thesaurus	9/10

HHS Training Offers Women Management Preparation

The third session of the HHS Women's Management Training Initiative (WMTI) is under way. An orientation for this year's participants was held recently in Hunt Valley, Md. Thomas McFee, HHS deputy assistant secretary for personnel management, gave opening remarks and introduced members of his staff.

The WMTI is a 1-year program that provides a minimum of 80 hours of formal supervisory training to nonsupervisory employees to help them develop the tools needed to compete for higher graded positions. The training can be obtained through HHS, PHS, NIH, other federal agencies, and colleges and universities.

During the year, participants receive developmental assignments to supervisory positions for at least 30 days. These assignments are made with input from the participants' supervisors and mentors and are based on the individual development plans (IDPs) the employees devise in the first 6 weeks of the program. The IDPs, which are required of all participants, must be approved by the employees' supervisors and training coordinators. When the program is completed, participants meet for an end-of-the-year conference.

For more information about WMTI, contact Jill Ippel, 496-6371, or Lucretia Coffey, 496-2112.

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 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 violist 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. □



On hand at a gathering for participants in the Women's Management Training Initiative were (seated, from l) Jill Ippel, Janet Smith, Carletha Gates, Lucie Chen, Dorothy Kennedy, Lucretia Coffey. Standing are (from l) Mary Graham, Ruth Bortz, Edith Pruden, Melissa Keller, Donna Kerrigan, Kimberly Hooven, Ronda Rice, Margaret Easter, Nancy Chamberlin, Barbara Fabey. Not shown are Dorothy McKelvin and Ivan Hernandez.

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,



President Bush receives a model of the human brain from NINDS research fellow Dr. B. Gregory Thompson, Jr., at a White House ceremony where his mother, Mrs. Jeanne Thompson, received the 1991 Multiple Sclerosis Mother of the Year Award. Vice Admiral Thor Hanson (r), president and chief executive officer of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, officiated at the ceremony. (White House Photo: David Valdez)

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 director Dr. Carl Kupfer (bottom, c) is surrounded by employees to whom he gave the 1991 NEI director's award. They are (top, from l) Julian Morris, Florine Carpenter, Olive Childers, Ernest Kuehl, Jean Steinberg, Mary Alice Crawford, Graeme Wistow. At bottom are (from l) Lore Anne McNicol, Marie Morris, Kupfer, Marvin Podgor, Jane Schriver.

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. □