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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

"Still The Second Best Thing About Payday"

The NIH Record

Biography of NIDDK Scientist Appears in Book

By Mark T. Sampson

A new book, *Asian American Biographies*, spotlights notables Kristi Yamaguchi, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist in figure skating, Connie Chung, coanchor of the *CBS Evening News*, and one of NIH's own: Dr. Constance T. Noguchi, a research physicist with NIDDK's Laboratory of Chemical Biology.

"I feel honored," says Noguchi. "The value of this book is that it communicates to people, especially kids, that it's okay to be different. I think it's always helpful when children are aware of the contributions that people with a

Dr. Constance Noguchi of NIDDK

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NIH To Hold Annual King Program, Jan. 14

The NIH 1994 Commemorative Program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and work will be held Friday, Jan. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The 1994 program theme—"Begin the Healing and Building, Stop the Destruction"—was coined in keeping with NIH's mission to heal and build toward optimal health for all people.

Sponsored by NIH's Office of Equal Opportunity, the program will feature Dr. Samuel D. Proctor, pastor of the Abysinnian Baptist Church in New York City. A 1942 graduate of Virginia Union University, Proctor has also studied at the University of Pennsylvania and Yale University. In 1984, after holding the King Memorial chair at Rutgers University's graduate school of education, he was named Martin Luther King professor emeritus there and was awarded the university's distinguished service medal. Proctor has been

(See KING PROGRAM, Page 2)

Research Reveals New Clues About Personality, Aging

By Jo Ann Pass

If you believe that personalities change with age, that there is such a thing as the midlife crisis and the 7-year itch—hold on to your hat. An ongoing NIA study blows many of the popular personality, age-change theories right out of the water.

"All the expectations were wrong—expectations that one becomes more irritable, stress-prone, conservative, hypochondriacal, peevish, and petty with age. After age 30, one's personality is pretty much etched in stone and remains remarkably stable, despite all life's changes. In fact, personality is the stable basis for adapting to continual changes occurring over time," says Dr. Paul T. Costa, Jr., chief of NIA's Laboratory of Personality and Cognition.

His study, part of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, began in 1958, when researchers started collecting natural history data on more than 1,000 people from age 20 to 90 and older.

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NIAID Helps Young Scientists Bridge the Career Gap

By Ann London

A career in scientific research can be challenging and rewarding, yet the road to a successful position in government, academia, or industry is not simple, especially for minority scientists.

To help young minority researchers launch and pilot their careers, NIAID recently sponsored the first Workshop on Bridging the Career Gap for Underrepresented Minority Scientists. The NIH Office of Research on Minority Health funded the workshop.

The 48 students and young investigators who attended brought an eagerness to learn the ins and outs of the grant application process as well as ways to refine and reach their research goals. They listened attentively as representatives from government, industry, and academia shared experiences, information, and material. The participants were encouraged to share their triumphs as well as

(See CAREERS, Page 6)

NHLBI Starts Asthma Education, Prevention Program

To counter the rising morbidity and mortality from asthma, NHLBI's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) has expanded its prevention efforts to a new audience—people with undiagnosed asthma, especially minorities. A mass media campaign, targeted primarily at African Americans, has been released nationally to create greater awareness of asthma's warning signs and to encourage people who experience them to seek treatment. The ultimate aim of the campaign is prevention and control of asthma symptoms through better diagnosis and treatment.

According to NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant, "We hope that the basic and clinical asthma research that we are supporting will soon yield the understanding needed to actually prevent the disease itself. But we still need to get the millions of Americans who already are experiencing the chronic airway irritation of untreated asthma into treatment. With treatment, their asthma symptoms can be prevented, and they can lead normal, active lives."

(See ASTHMA, Page 4)

Cell Biology Interest Group Forming on Campus

By Rich McManus

Last fall, around the time that NIH's annual Research Festival was going on, a number of intramural scientists who shared an interest in cell biology got together and wondered how many people there might be on campus with whom it might be useful to interact.

Enthused about the air of collaboration and sharing that characterizes the festival, and excited about the arrival of a new NIH director with a demonstrated commitment to basic research, the scientists had a third reason for wanting to reach out: one of them, Dr. Richard Klausner, had had a longstanding interest in the quality of life in the intramural community and had recently chaired a task force that reported to the scientific directors on that subject. The task force had made recommendations, very well received in campus laboratories, about establishing science-based faculty senates that might cross institute boundaries and unite minds that might not ordinarily cross paths.

The group, which also included NICHD's Dr. Juan Bonifacino and Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, sent faxes to people they thought most likely to be receptive to the creation of a cell biology interest group.

"We immediately got just a fantastic response from all over campus," reports Klausner. "People were extremely enthusiastic."

The first meeting, an organizational gathering, was held last November and more than 80 scientists showed up.

"Even the people who weren't able to come to the meeting expressed enthusiasm about

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KING PROGRAM
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awarded honorary degrees from 23 universities and colleges, and has traveled extensively in nine countries.

The Coppin State Choir and the Estampa Espanola Dance Group also will participate in the program. In addition, the observance will be shown on closed-circuit television in Bldg. 10, 14th floor assembly hall; Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9; the Frederick Cancer Research and

Isabel Otero, known to many as a cashier at the cafeteria in Bldg. 31, will perform with the Estampa Espanola Dance Group.

Development Center, Bldg. 549; EPS, Conf. Rm. H; and Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Mont. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information or for reasonable accommodation needs, call O.H. Laster of OEO, 6-6301. ❑

FAES Announces Spring Courses

The FAES Graduate School at NIH has announced its schedule of courses for the spring semester. The evening classes sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences will be given on the NIH campus.

Tuition is $60 per credit hour, and courses may be taken for credit or audit. Courses that qualify for institute support as training should be cleared with the supervisors and administrative officers as soon as possible. Both the vendor's copy of the training form and the FAES registration card must be submitted at the time of registration.

Courses are offered in biochemistry, biology, biotechnology, chemistry, immunology, languages, medicine, microbiology, pharmacology, psychology, psychiatry, statistics, toxicology, administration and courses of general interest.

It is often possible to transfer credits earned to other institutions for degree work, and many courses are approved for AMA category I credit.

Classes will begin Jan. 24, and walk-in registration will be held from Jan. 10 through 14. Spring schedules are available in the graduate school office in Bldg. 60, Suite 230, the Foundation Bookstore, Bldg. 10, Rm. B1L101, and the business office in Bldg. 10, Rm. B1C18. To have a schedule sent, call 6-7977. ❑

PERSONALITY
(Continued from Page 1)

Costa's premise challenged the belief that personality development continues throughout one's lifetime, and, therefore, challenged the validity of "age-stage theories," including the 7-year itch and midlife crisis.

More than 30 years later, his data negates the stereotype of a depressed, rigid and cranky older population. According to Costa, "Adults of all ages show a wide range of individual differences, and these differences are likely to be more important in predicting well-being, coping and interpersonal relations than is age. Enduring dispositions provide one of the foundations for a sense of identity and a basis for conducting our lives. Planning for a career, marriage, or retirement should be based on realistic projections of our needs, abilities, and styles, and the continuity of personality allows us to use the current self as a reliable indicator of the future self."

This year, the American Psychological Association's Division 20, Adult Development and Aging presented Costa with the Distinguished Contribution Award for "his role in shaping psychology's view of personality and aging and for his sustained and exceptional contributions to the psychology of aging."

"The award is especially meaningful to me because it is given by psychologists and academics with research and clinical backgrounds and because it recognizes our pioneering longitudinal studies, which refute the prevalent myths about how age changes and impairs personality," says Costa.

He is past president of the American Psychological Association's division of aging and adult development. He coauthored the book *Personality in Adulthood* with Dr. Robert

Dr. Paul T. Costa (r) accepts the Distinguished Contribution Award from Dr. Mick Smyer of the American Psychological Association at the 101st annual APA meeting.

R. McCrae, and has acted as consulting editor for *Psychology and Aging* and the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.* Costa is president-elect of the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences.

He will deliver a formal address entitled "Personality Continuity in Adulthood and Aging" at the 102nd annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Aug. 12-16, 1994, in Los Angeles.

A recent article in *Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences* identified Costa as one of the 50 highest impact authors and the second most-cited author in psychology. ❑

Victim Support Group Starts

Domestic violence is one of the most common of all crimes, and it takes its toll on the family, society and the future. The NIH Office of the Director, NIMH, advisory committee for women, R&W Association and the Office of Equal Opportunity are forming a support group for victims, friends and family members who are concerned about or experiencing domestic violence. The group's mission is to provide a safe, confidential, nonjudgmental environment for the exchange of information that will help NIH employees with issues surrounding domestic violence and its effects on men, women and children.

Meetings will be held every other Monday, beginning Jan. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first meeting will be in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 7, featuring a representative of the Montgomery County Police Academy. For a list of future meeting dates and places, call OEO, 6-9013. ❑

High School Needs Tutors

Walter Johnson High School needs tutors during the following times: Monday-Friday, 10:45-11:30 a.m., and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Contact the principal, Frank Masci, (301) 571-6909, for information. ❑

The NIH Record

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Inflammation Symposium Closes NHLBI 'Frontiers' Series

The last symposium in the popular Frontiers in Basic Sciences series opened and closed on notes of inspiration and nostalgia.

The symposium, "Inflammation in Cardiovascular, Lung, and Blood Diseases," was held recently in the Clinical Center's Masur Auditorium and gave attendees a 2-day glimpse into emerging areas of research in inflammation.

But it also marked the end of the series, sponsored by NHLBI. The series' goal was to promote better approaches to disease prevention and control. To achieve that, the novel series afforded rare opportunities for basic and clinical investigators from diverse fields to share cutting-edge data and stimulating research ideas.

In its 10 years, the series hosted 20 symposia and grew dramatically in attendance—from about 250 scientists in 1983 to approximately 700 for recent symposia.

Symposia topics have included the mechanisms of myocardial ischemia and clinical applications, oxygen free radicals, human gene therapy, and cytokines.

NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant opened the inflammation symposium by saying how nostalgic he felt about welcoming attendees to the final gathering. He briefly reviewed past sessions, thanking those who had made the series a success.

Symposium cochair Dr. Charles G. Cochrane, a member of the department of immunology at the Scripps Research Institute in LaJolla, Calif., then thanked Lenfant and NHLBI for its support of the series.

Cochrane noted that every scientist asked to participate in the inflammation symposium had readily accepted—a sign, he said, of the series' high regard. "This is one of the prime symposia in the new frontiers in biology," he added.

The inflammation symposium exemplified the cause for the series' enthusiastic support. Cochairs Cochrane and Dr. Peter Libby, director of the vascular medicine and atherosclerosis unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, explained that it had been designed to spotlight tomorrow's research areas in inflammation as well as to appeal to diverse interests.

"The more we know about diseases," Libby said, "the more we learn about their shared pathogenesis. One intersection among these processes is the mechanisms of inflammation."

In fact, as Dr. Michael A. Gimbrone, Jr., noted in his presentation, inflammation was one of the first conditions to fascinate doctors. As far back as antiquity, its clinical signs were recognized as being tied to disease.

Gimbrone, director of the vascular research division at Brigham and Women's Hospital, traced the progress in scientists' understanding of inflammation. Only during the past decade, he said, have researchers begun to piece together the process's molecular mechanisms.

Inflammation symposium cochairs Dr. Peter Libby (l) and Dr. Charles G. Cochrane (r), meet with NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant.

The symposium's other presentations—nearly 30—focused exclusively on the frontier of current studies in inflammation and their possible future clinical applications.

The first day covered inflammation's basic mechanisms—leukocyte-tissue interactions, signal transduction, cytokine involvement—while the second explored inflammation in pulmonary or cardiovascular diseases.

The symposium ended with an overview of the prospects of genetic manipulation of inflammatory processes and the outlook for using genes as therapeutic agents.

"That's the excitement," said Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical Center in New York City. Formerly chief of NHLBI's Pulmonary Branch in the Division of Intramural Research, he started the first gene therapy human clinical trial in cystic fibrosis while at the institute. He predicted that various vectors and genes will one day be combined to cure not only hereditary disorders but other diseases as well.

Drs. David A. Dichek and Elizabeth G. Nabel agreed. Dichek, a senior investigator with NHLBI's Division of Intramural Research, said gene therapy may become a tool against vascular disease. Nabel, an associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, observed that medicine is entering a new era when the use of DNA as a medicine will yield options to stimulate or inhibit gene expression in vivo.

At the symposium's close, attendees agreed with cochair Libby's pledge at the outset: "Everyone will get something to take home with them and inspire them in their research."

A summary of the symposium is being developed and will be available in spring 1994.—**Louise Williams** ❑

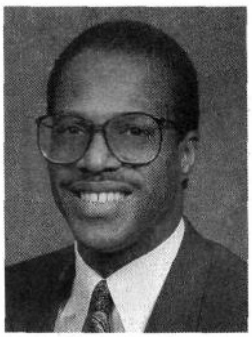
Hypertension Study Needs Vols

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting patients with high blood pressure who have no other medical problems to be included in a 1-day outpatient study. The study includes placement of a small needle in the brachial artery. Participants will be paid. For information call Cressie Kilcoyne, 6-8739. ❑

Cultural Diversity Seminar

The NIH Executive Speakers Series Seminar will present its first 1994 offering entitled "Managing Cultural Diversity in the Workplace: Supervisory Skills for Scientists and Administrators," from 1 to 3 p.m. on Jan. 5 in Bldg. 31C, Conf. Rm. 10.

Dr. Jeffery M. Johnson, president and principal consultant of Management Plus Consulting and Training Services based in Washington, D.C., will give the seminar. He is a nationally and internationally known speaker specializing in leadership development and managing effective relationships.



Dr. Jeffery M. Johnson

Johnson is no stranger to the scientific community; he has designed and conducted extensive management training for managers at some 50 public, private and business agencies, including the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Energy, Washington Hospital Center and Howard University. He received a bachelor of arts, master of arts, and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan with a specialty in urban education and management.

The seminar is sponsored by the NIH Training Center, Division of Personnel Management. Registration is onsite. For information call Dr. James Moone, 6-2497. ❑

EAP Career Workshop Series

In January, the NIH Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will continue its "Tuesdays at the Little Theater" video workshop series, "Work, Career, and Personal Growth." The January topic will be "Self-Esteem and Peak Performance" with Jack Canfield on videotape.

These workshops employ a two-part approach. At each session, an expert speaker's videotape is shown first. Counselors from EAP then lead a group discussion about the focus topic and videotape segment. The topics were selected because they are typical workplace issues faced by NIH employees.

The lunchtime, drop-in format is planned to make attending simple. The series is free, open to all employees, and no registration is required. If you have any questions, contact EAP, 6-3164.

The workshops, held every Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m., are in the Bldg. 10 Visitor Information Center's Little Theater.

Future workshops are planned as follows: March (all Tuesdays) "Negotiate with the Pros" (John Dolan on videotape); May (all Tuesdays) "High Impact Communication Skills" (Ann Ronan on videotape); July 5, 12 "How to Speak Up, Set Limits, and Say No" (Maria Arapakis on videotape). ❑

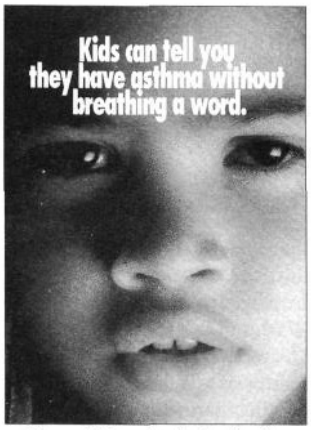
ASTHMA

(Continued from Page 1)

The mass media campaign makes the point that asthma can be life threatening if left untreated and urges people who experience asthma warning signs to seek care. Its theme is, "Breathe easier. Ask your doctor if it's asthma." It consists of print and radio public service announcements, a poster and flyer, and an airport advertisement—all describing the four principal warning signs of asthma: chronic coughing or wheezing, especially at night or after running, shortness of breath and tightness in the chest.

The campaign is based on the findings of the NAEPP expert panel on the diagnosis and management of asthma, as well as on marketing research.

NHLBI conducted focus groups in the summer of 1992 to explore perceptions and knowledge of asthma, before and after diagnosis, among adults with recent asthma diagnoses and African American mothers of young children with asthma. Some of the focus group findings were:



If your child coughs a lot, is often short of breath, or wheezes, especially at night or after running, she might have asthma. And if left untreated, asthma can be life threatening. So if you notice these symptoms, see a doctor.

Breathe easier.
Ask your doctor if it's asthma.

National Asthma Education Program
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute;
National Institutes of Health; Public Health Service;
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- Although most of the focus group participants had heard of asthma before being diagnosed with it, few had known much about the disease prior to diagnosis, including that it could be life threatening.
- Many of the focus group participants had had to see several physicians before finding one who could provide an accurate diagnosis, and some had not been diagnosed until they were in the emergency room dealing with a life-threatening episode.
- Except for those focus group participants with severe asthma, most thought they could lead normal lives with asthma; yet most were not aware of many of the essentials of good asthma management—for example, use of peak flow meters to monitor changes in the severity of the disease, or avoidance of things that bring on asthma symptoms such as tobacco smoke, dust mites, or domestic pets.
- Most focus group participants were taking several different medications but did not know what these medicines were for or how to use them properly.

Several of the more than 30 voluntary health organizations, major medical associations, and community programs that are represented on the NAEPP coordinating committee are helping distribute the mass media materials.

New materials carrying the same asthma warning signs message and targeting the same audience of people with undiagnosed asthma will be released in the spring of 1994. A second wave of materials targeting Hispanics with undiagnosed asthma will come out in the fall of 1994. ❑

Driveway Destiny Determined

As employees may have noticed, the cobblestone drive in front of Bldg. 10's clinic wing was replaced with an asphalt surface recently. The Division of Engineering Services, ORS, sincerely thanks those who took the time to respond to its call for employee opinion concerning this decision. Responses ran heavily in favor of forsaking the aesthetics of the cobblestone for the benefit of patient and employee safety and accessibility. NIH'ers' input was valuable and greatly appreciated. ❑

When Mike Basham (l), a computer specialist in DCRT's Distributed Systems Branch, lost his locked bicycle to a thief on the NIH campus in August, he also lost his main source of transportation to work and happy father-baby son outings at home. "Little did I know that Jim Tomlin (r) was coming to my rescue," said Basham. Tomlin, a fellow DCRT employee and member of the NIH Bicycle Commuter Club, organized a collection and 2 months later presented Basham with a check to cover the cost of the replacement bike seen in the photo. "It's very hard for me to find the right words to express myself in this situation," said Basham in an e-mail message to fellow DCRT'ers. "If you've ever had anything stolen, you'll understand how I felt after I lost my bike. If you've ever been on the receiving end of an extraordinary act of kindness, you'll know how I feel now."

Mind-Body Connection Explored

If you have ever wondered why those who take care of aging parents frequently get sick themselves or why breast cancer patients who belong to support groups fare better than those who do not, you may want to attend "Mind-Body Interactions and Disease," a symposium on mental states, immune function, and health to be sponsored by the NIH Reunion Task Force, chaired by Drs. Wendy Baldwin and Susan Blumenthal, on Jan. 12-14.

In the first session of the symposium, which will be open to the public and NIH staff, scientists will present an overview of the field of psychoneuroimmunology, an emerging field that focuses on study of the relationships among the mind, body, and behavior. Presentations will highlight scientific data documenting the effects that psychological states such as stress and depression can have on physical health and the benefits of psychosocial interventions on health outcomes. The public session will be followed by a 2-day workshop in which investigators will evaluate the scientific data on the physiological and anatomical connections between the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems. Participants will focus on such topics as the effects of classical conditioning and stress on immune function in cancer patients, immunological responses of breast cancer patients to behavioral interventions, the effects of emotional states and stress on asthma symptomatology, psychological predictors of recovery from infectious mononucleosis, and the effects of behavioral interventions on HIV disease progression.

To learn more about the conference on "Mind-Body Interactions and Disease," call Dr. Fred Altman, 3-4337.

Clinical Center nurses Gladys Campbell (l) and Alice Kacuba participated in an innovative clinical fellowship for nurses sponsored by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the American Journal of Nursing, *and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories. Campbell, chief, critical care/heart, lung, and blood/neurology and neurosurgical nursing, was mentor to Kacuba, a staff nurse in the surgical intensive care unit, for 7 months. Their partnership culminated in a cowritten article in* AJN.

Conference Draws Experts on Neuro-AIDS

More than 40 percent of individuals infected with HIV-1 will develop neurological disease at some time during their clinical manifestations of AIDS. In the United States alone, there are estimated to be 3,200 new cases of HIV-1 associated dementia per year. Very little is known about how HIV-1 causes such serious diseases in the nervous system and consequently, there is no effective therapy.

To address this problem, NINDS recently organized a conference entitled "Technical Advances in AIDS Research in the Human Nervous System." More than 30 national and international experts convened at the meeting, which was also supported by the NIH Office of AIDS Research and IGEN, Inc., a Rockville-based biotechnology company.

Scientists and clinicians presented a series of findings highlighting novel methods in their investigations. Some of the results described at the conference include:

- HIV-1 can be both neuroinvasive, able to enter the nervous system, and neurovirulent, able to cause damage to neural cells. The possibility that specific strains of the AIDS virus are responsible for the virulent infection was raised by scientists who have studied specific family histories of viral strains.
- Development of sophisticated tissue culture systems of different neural-derived cell types have allowed examination of direct and indirect effects of HIV-1 infection. Possible release of cytotoxins from infected cells can cause neuronal dysfunction by turning quiescent cells into destructive ones.
- Recent developments in the use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) have allowed scientists to see that HIV-1 can infect neurons and astrocytes. Using a new technique, called *in situ* PCR, HIV-1 was also identified in sperm cells of males who had antibodies but who did not have AIDS and in the cell lining of the female cervix, which furthers our understanding of heterosexual transmission of AIDS.

Participants in the recent "Technical Advances in AIDS Research in the Human Nervous System" conference organized by NINDS gather for a group photograph.

The conference also covered the alarming increase of AIDS in Asian countries, transmission to children, and the increased incidence of AIDS in heterosexual populations. Despite ongoing clinical trials of drugs for AIDS, no new drugs that target the nervous system have been developed. Proceedings from the conference are scheduled for publication by next summer. ❑

Transplantation Effort Extended to Native Americans, Hispanics

To improve transplantation among African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics, NIAID and the Office of Research on Minority Health have begun a project that will better identify proteins crucial to transplant survival in these populations.

The effort, the first collaborative project of its kind, is coordinated through the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics in Lenexa, Kan. The project expands upon a similar ongoing NIAID effort in African Americans.

"This research not only will facilitate transplantation matching but also will provide valuable information about why African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics suffer higher rates of some autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and insulin-dependent diabetes," says Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID director.

Each year, thousands of American lives are prolonged through organ transplantation. However, minorities generally wait longer to receive transplants and have a higher rate of graft rejection.

In part, this situation exists because data on human leukocyte antigens (HLA), the cell proteins researchers use to match transplant recipients to donors, are not as well characterized in these population groups.

Because HLA molecules regulate the immune response, they play an important role in transplantation and in autoimmune diseases, in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own cells, leading to organ failure. Different population groups have distinct variations of the more than 110 known HLA types.

"The ability to match precisely for transplantation and identify the antigens that are important to different diseases requires understanding the HLA composition of different populations," says Dr. Andrea Zachary, chief of NIAID's transplantation section.

Information about the HLA system also will benefit vaccine researchers investigating why a vaccine may stimulate undesirable autoimmune reactions in or not protect some populations.

In addition to the samples already being gathered from African American volunteers, laboratories nationwide will collect and test blood samples from 2,500 to 3,500 volunteers from five Native American tribes and from Hispanics who trace their ancestry to different geographic regions—Europe, South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

Cells and DNA specimens will be stored in a repository for use in further studies, unless participants believe this would violate their tribal customs. Results from this collaborative effort should be available in late 1994. ❑

BIG Tutoring Program Starts

The NIH chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) will begin its 1994 Tutoring Program on Jan. 31. An interest session will be held on Jan. 28 in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. If you are an NIH employee and are interested in tutoring or being tutored, contact Felicia Shingler (4-7255) or Joy Pinkney (4-7235) for more information. ❑

Hot Flush Study Recruits

NIMH is seeking volunteers to participate in a study investigating the cause of menopause-related hot flushes. Volunteers must be medication-free. Hormonal evaluation will be performed and payment is provided. For information, call Jean Murphy or Nazli Haq, 6-9675. ❑

CAREERS
(Continued from Page 1)

their fears and frustrations, and in turn they received encouragement and advice from the 22 speakers and facilitators.

Said NIAID director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci in his welcoming remarks, "Since the competition for scarce resources has increased tremendously, we are now, more than ever, concerned about minorities' lack of access to successful biomedical research careers. The diversity of ideas and enthusiasm this relatively untapped pool of talent can bring to the scientific arena will enrich and expand our ability to solve our nation's health problems."

The participants, who came from all over the contiguous United States and from Puerto Rico, are at a crossroads in their biomedical research careers. The graduate and postdoctoral students and the young investigators attending the workshop were either approaching or had reached a time to make critical

Dr. Milton J. Hernandez (c), director, NIAID Office of Scientific Training and Manpower Development, discusses the Research Supplement for Underrepresented Minorities program with grantees Dr. Sampson Sarpong (l) of Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Benjamin I. Oyefara of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

career choices. Most of them are funded through the "Research Supplements for Underrepresented Minorities" program, and some work in NIAID intramural laboratories. They all must decide, however, whether to pursue academic research, where they must compete for funding, or to enter another research setting such as government or industry. They must make decisions that will help them become established members of the scientific community.

For those who choose academic research, one "union card" for building a successful career is receiving their first independent research grant. Because most biomedical researchers spend a considerable part of their career in academia, this workshop was conceived as a vehicle to give young minority investigators information to help them compete successfully for research funding. But what distinguished this workshop from most that focus on grantsmanship was the considerable time spent on career development, networking, and mentoring.

Sharing his experiences in the research arena during his keynote address, Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority

Dr. Ruth L. Kirschstein (l), NIH deputy director, discusses the Research Supplement for Underrepresented Minorities awards with grantee Dr. Patricia A. Fraser, a postdoctoral student at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

health, challenged the group to use the tools and information from this workshop and their home institutions to move ahead and become successful members of the biomedical research community.

NIH extramural administrators, many of whom have done research in private institutions and successfully competed for grant support, shared the peculiarities and technicalities of the grant funding process and the ABCs of grant writing. They gave detailed information and practical advice for successfully completing the complex grant application process. One speaker pointed out that something as simple as the kind of typeface used, e.g., too small or too fancy, can make an application difficult to read and contributes to the "irritation factor." This may significantly reduce the time a reviewer spends considering an application. Even seemingly obvious advice such as "follow the directions on the application," was not overlooked.

In addition to information about grant applications, one workshop speaker focused on "street smarts." One can have the best method and most sound science, but having "street smarts" may give one applicant the advantage over another. For example, such strategies as contacting NIH program officers, scientific review administrators, and other NIH officials for advice on different thematic areas in the biomedical research field can save an applicant needless aggravation as well as disappointment.

Some of the graduate students were filled with idealism and had not yet faced the reality of competing for funds. Instead, their concerns centered around whether they had chosen the right field and if so, how to advance in it. Others who had recently entered the academic arena had received—as do many new, young investigators at the instructor or assistant professor level—a timeline to get their first independent funding. This funding, in some cases, determines whether an individual will remain at that institution or will have to make other career choices. Because the competition for shrinking NIH dollars is intense, participants were also given a list of other institutions and organizations that provide research funding.

To augment the information on grants, the workshop faculty spent considerable time on career development, networking, and mentoring. The participants were encouraged to share their research career goals and experiences. Small group sessions were particularly conducive to sharing personal beliefs and goals as well as fears and frustrations. In these sessions, they received feedback not only from the facilitators but also from participants who had dealt successfully with similar situations.

Typical concerns were: "I don't know where I am in my career development." "Should I start writing a grant now?" "How much preliminary data should an application have?" Many of the more experienced participants said they wished they had such a workshop earlier in their career development.

Dr. G. Davon Kennedy, a young investigator, grantee, and faculty member at Georgia State University, commented that the workshop was very helpful even at his career level and helped validate his decision to stay in academia.

In addition to competing for dwindling research funds, many minority scientists also contend with societal problems. Carmen Collazo-Custodio, from Puerto Rico, is a graduate student at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She said that she experienced "culture shock" when she came to the United States.

"Coming from a society such as exists in Puerto Rico, I sometimes feel lonely here. But

Dr. Thomas J. Kindt (l), chief, NIAID Laboratory of Immunogenetics, discusses NIAID intramural research with graduate student Carmen Collazo-Custodio of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

at this workshop, I met others like me and now know that I am not alone," she said.

If the vision of the organizers unfolds according to their hopes, the participants will continue to benefit from the workshop, perhaps throughout their scientific careers.

The attendees left armed not only with informational material but also with names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the participants, speakers, and guests, and the assurance that they could look to these colleagues and mentors for guidance and advice. These bright and promising young scientists are ready to do a lot of soul-searching and reflection as they move ahead to forge their future in biomedical research. ❑

Chinese American Association Recognizes Scientists

The NIH-FDA Chinese American Association recently recognized three scientists at its annual holiday party. Receiving awards were Dr. Carl Wu of the Laboratory of Biochemistry, NCI; Dr. Chang-Jie Chen of the Laboratory of Viral and Molecular Pathogenesis, NINDS; and Dr. Andrew C. Chang of the Biological Resources Branch, NIAID.

Wu was cited for his pioneering and sustaining contributions to gene regulation as exemplified by his studies on stress-induced transcriptional responses. Chen was cited for his role in the characterization of the multiple drug resistance (mdr-1) gene. In 1986, Chen, with Dr. Igor Roninson of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, in collaboration with Drs. Michael Gottesman and Ira Pastan of NCI, were one of the first teams to elucidate the structure and function of the mdr-1 gene. Chang was recognized for his work on the role of merosin in T-cell development.

In presenting the awards, Dr. Kuan-Teh Jeang, vice president of the association, remarked, "While we are proud of the achievements of these scientists, they represent examples of many others at the NIH and FDA whom we are not able to cite individually. We are particularly pleased to highlight the accomplishments of younger scientists such as Drs. Chen and Chang, since postdoctoral scientists frequently perform the majority share of research but are often neglected in recognition."

NIH-FDA CAA is a professional organization made up of approximately 650 members of Chinese/Chinese-American extraction from NIH and FDA.

MLP-8 Open for Business

As many of you have noticed by now, Multi-Level Parking Garage (MLP) 8 opened its doors on Dec. 7. The garage, located at the intersection of Lincoln and Convent Drives, provides NIH employees with 1,570 new general (any color sticker) parking spaces.

Although the opening of MLP-8 will help to meet the overall need for parking, parking spaces on the NIH campus will continue to be held to a 0.5 employee-to-space ratio by agreements with the National Capital Planning Commission and other regulatory agencies. In order to adhere to these agreements, NIH will have to remove the temporary spaces that currently violate the 150-foot buffer zone on the southern portion of the campus.

ORS encourages employees to consider alternative parking and commuting habits such as parking at one of several satellite parking lots, carpooling, or taking advantage of the Transhare subsidy program. For information on any of these programs, contact Gail Thorsen at the Employee Transportation Services Office, 2-7433. ❑

NOGUCHI PROFILED IN NEW BOOK OF ASIAN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHIES

(Continued from Page 1)

similar background can make in many different areas. It gives them a broader perspective of what they can do."

The collection profiles 21 Asian Americans, highlighting their contributions in literature, drama, art, politics, and science.

Some are celebrities; others are less familiar. Included is a biography of Chinese American writer Amy Tan, author of the best-seller *The Joy Luck Club*, now a major motion picture. Also described are I.M. Pei, a Chinese American architect who designed the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., musicians Midori and Myung-Whun Chang, and actor Haing Ngor of *21 Jump Street*.

What flatters Noguchi most is being included in the same pages as Susumu Tonegawa, a Japanese American biologist who won the 1987 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research on the immune system.

Noguchi's own contributions to science are considerable. She has helped develop new methods to measure sickle cell disease severity. Sickle cell disease occurs worldwide among diverse racial and ethnic groups. In the United States, the disease primarily affects African Americans, striking 1 in 500 newborns in this group.

Years ago, physicians could only use subjective indices such as the patient's level of pain to try to measure severity. However, pain indices provided little help for evaluating the progression of the disease and the effectiveness of therapies.

The most important factor in disease severity is the polymer formed in sickle cells from the abnormal sickle hemoglobin. The more polymer that is present, the more severe the disease symptoms; the less polymer, the milder the disease.

On the basis of years of experimental work by her and others at NIH and elsewhere, Noguchi incorporated three variables—oxygen saturation, total hemoglobin concentration, and hemoglobin composition—into a mathematical formula for calculating the polymer content of sickle cells. She then used data from analyses of the red blood cells of large numbers of patients with sickle cell disease and related syndromes to show that these analyses correlated well with clinical severity.

Noguchi's formula for polymer fraction makes possible a true measure of disease severity, which in turn helps doctors determine the appropriate treatment, ranging from use of drugs to bone marrow transplantation. For example, polymer fraction has been used to measure the effectiveness of therapies such as hydroxyurea and erythropoietin, a combination that elevates fetal hemoglobin levels.

Recently, Noguchi and her coworkers have been studying the molecular basis of genetic approaches to the therapy of sickle cell disease. She is studying the mechanism of hemoglobin switching so as to be able to optimize treatments that lead to the increased production of embryonic and fetal hemoglobins, which may be effective therapy in patients with thalassemia as well as sickle cell disease. She and her colleagues have also recently cloned and sequenced the gene for the human erythropoietin receptor and are studying its role in the development of red blood cells and in the therapy of hemoglobin diseases.

Noguchi's brief biography in the new book attributes part of her research success to her Chinese culture and its values, particularly its emphasis on independent learning and personal success.

Also described is her early interest in science as a young girl growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown. This interest led her to the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics.

Noguchi came to NIH in 1975 after completing a Ph.D. in physics at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. After a fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Alan N. Schechter of NIDDK, Noguchi assumed her current position as research physicist in 1985.

Targeted for teens, *Asian American Biographies* is one of several books published by Globe Fearon, a subsidiary of Paramount Publishers, as part of its multicultural biographies collection. ❑

NIDR director Dr. Harald Löe (l) has been honored with an Exemplary Service Award from Oral Health 2000, a research and service initiative convened by the American Fund for Dental Health in 1991. Löe was cited for providing the vision for Oral Health 2000, which unites private industry, government agencies, health advocacy and volunteer groups, and other organizations with the common goal of improving the oral health of all Americans. Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, who serves as honorary chairman of Oral Health 2000, presented Löe with the award at the program's Second National Consortium held recently in Washington, D.C.

The Record

CELL BIOLOGY

(Continued from Page 1)

this initiative," said Bonifacino. An organizational committee was formed whose members are listed below.

Klausner, who is chief of NICHD's Cell Biology and Metabolism Branch, says the group is an idea whose time has come.

"The idea of forming this is really sort of a natural progression of ideas and activities that have been going on for years," he said. "It's not uncommon to have special interest groups such as the Yeast Club, the Lambda Lunch, and the structural biology interest group.

"There has been an increasing level of discussion about life in the intramural community," he continued. "There is a need for scientists to find interactions with each other. We need ways to reinforce, encourage and support scientific interactions on campus."

While Klausner emphasizes that the cell biology interest group will be grounded in science, he also hopes that its existence will also serve to attract bright young investigators to the campus. "It will help a lot in recruiting and improving the quality of scientific life here," he predicted.

The group has three goals. First is establishment of a monthly workshop in which three people from the intramural program are invited to give 20-minute talks, followed by discussion and a brief business session. Second is to establish a series of visiting professorships in cell biology. "We would invite very prominent people from around the world to come to NIH for 1 or 2 days and give talks and visit with staff," said Klausner. "This will reinforce NIH as a physical focal point for cell biology."

The third goal is to establish a directory of all those on campus whose work involves the myriad subtopics of cell biology. "The real core of this idea is to get people on campus to get to know one another," Klausner said. "NIH is a very big place. It's not easy to learn who is here, much less what they're doing."

The directory, a compendium of "vital statistics" on those with interests in cell biology, would be used as a database to which names could be added.

"We plan to divide it into subgroups depending on the person's interest," said Klausner. Eight aspects of cell biology have already been identified, including organelle biology, cell structure and motility, and signal transduction. "People may well want to sub-identify by area of interest. Once the directory is fleshed out, we'd eventually like to publish a brochure on cell biology."

Klausner admits the rubric of cell biology covers an indefinite area. "It's a large field and the definition is unclear. But that's a strength, because it can redefine itself as science changes. It's not clear where cell biology begins and ends.

"I hope lots of people find interest in this broad area," Klausner commented. "Our intention is not to leave anyone out. There's no exclusivity or restrictions. Membership is entirely by self-selection. I'm hoping there will be a proliferation of these groups on campus."

Drs. Juan Bonifacino (l) and Richard Klausner are helping form a cell biology interest group.

The first two monthly workshops—held from 3 to 5 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10— have been announced by Dr. Ed Korn, who is in charge of organizing them. On Tuesday, Jan. 18, Drs. Susan Gottesman of NCI, John Hanover of NIDDK, and Allen Spiegel of NIDDK, will speak. The roster for Tuesday, Feb. 15 includes Drs. Ken Yamada of NIDR, Tom Reese of NINDS and Ron McKay of NINDS.

The visiting professorships will start in March, the organizers said. The first speaker, Dr. Robert Weinberg of MIT, will lecture on "Regulation of Progression Through the Cell Cycle," on Mar. 15. Dr. Christianne Nusslein-Volhard will be the second visiting professor, lecturing on "The Genetic Basis of Pattern Development in Flies and Fishes" on May 3. The final visiting professor of the spring will be Dr. Randy Schekman of the University of California, Berkeley, who will speak May 31 on "Genetics and Biochemical Dissection of the Secretory Pathway."

Organizing Committee Members

Harris Bernstein (NIDDK)
T: 2-4770 F: 6-9878
Diana Blithe (NICHD)
T: 6-6437 F: 2-0574
Juan Bonifacino (NICHD)
T: 6-6368 F: 2-0078
Sam Cushman (NIDDK)
T: 6-5953 F: 2-0432
Monique Dubois-Dalcq (NINDS)
T: 6-1645 F: 6-0899
Peter Fishman (NINDS)
T: 6-1325 F: 6-8244
Richard Klausner (NICHD)
T: 6-6368 F: 2-0078
Ed Korn (NHLBI)
T: 6-2116 F: 2-0013

"This is a very open structure," Klausner said. "Simply by bringing people together, we hope to have lots of other spinoffs such as scientific collaborations, sharing of techniques, creating a reagent directory. There's a feeling of 'Why didn't we do this before?' among the group."

All future activities of the cell biology interest group will be announced in the *NIH Calendar of Events* (yellow sheet). Anyone interested in joining the group should contact one of the eight members of the organizing group listed in the sidebar to this article.

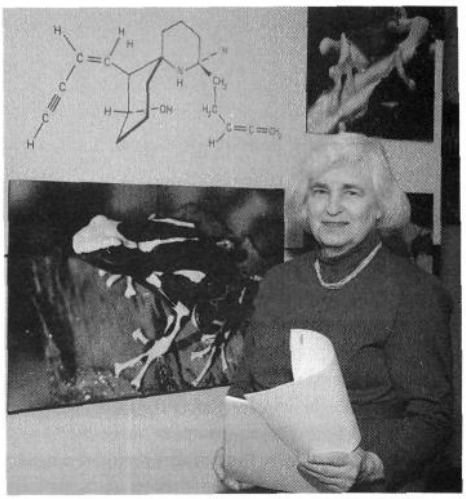
NIH, Indian Researchers Shed Light on Cause of Shrimp Allergy

NIH and Indian researchers have identified two regions of a muscle protein found in shrimp that may trigger the adverse reactions suffered by shrimp-allergic people. The researchers also found similar regions in muscle proteins of other shellfish, which may explain why shrimp-allergic people are often allergic to lobster, crabs and other crustaceans as well.

"As we work to understand why certain foods cause allergies, a crucial goal is describing the specific parts, or epitopes, of food proteins that bind to the antibodies responsible for allergic reactions," says study investigator Dr. Dean D. Metcalfe, head of the mast cell physiology section in the Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, NIAID. "Very few of these epitopes are currently known. Our characterization of such epitopes in a protein that causes shrimp allergy could eventually lead to ways of treating seafood-allergic patients employing immunotherapy."

In the United States, about 3 percent of children and 1 percent of adults have clinically proven allergic reactions to foods. Among U.S. adults, the most common foods causing allergic reactions include shellfish such as shrimp, lobster and crab; peanuts; tree nuts such as walnuts; fish; and eggs. In children, the pattern is somewhat different: common food allergens are egg, milk and peanuts.

"The foods to which people react are the ones they eat most often," Metcalfe explains. "In Japan, for example, rice allergy is more often observed, and in Scandinavia, codfish allergy is common." ❑



Dr. Isabella Karle, an NIGMS grantee, recently was honored with the Franklin Institute's $250,000 Bower Award. The award, which is one of the nation's richest and most prestigious scientific honors, recognizes Karle's work in crystallography, the study of the atomic structure of molecules by using x-rays. The award states that "this inventive work has profoundly facilitated studies in chemistry, biology, and medicine." A senior scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, Karle is the first woman to receive the award.

Hogan Named Chief of NIAID's Basic Immunology Branch

Dr. M. Michele Hogan has been named chief of the Basic Immunology Branch within the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation, NIAID.

She was chief of the immunoregulation section within the branch from 1990 to 1993, when she became acting chief of the branch. She joined NIAID in 1989 as acting chief of the Genetics and Transplantation Branch. In 1991, she received the NIH Merit Award for "exceptional contributions to the NIAID in the field of transplantation biology."

She is an active member of many NIH committees including the NIH trans-agency committee on transplantation, the U.S.-Japan immunology board of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Program, the preclinical immune-based therapies committee of NIAID's Division of AIDS, and represents NIH on the United Network for Organ Sharing.

Dr. M. Michele Hogan

Hogan has conducted research in cellular immunology of septic shock and written many articles in this field. She is an ad hoc reviewer for the *Journal of Immunology* and the *Journal of Physiology, Endocrinology and Metabolism.* She is a member of the American Society of Transplant Physicians, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Association of Immunologists. She sits on the AAI's committee on women.

A native of Ely, Minn., Hogan received a bachelor's degree in biology from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., in 1978. She earned a master's degree in cell biology in 1980 and her doctoral degree in pathology and immunology in 1986 from the University of Minnesota.

An Anthropologist on the Side

She completed a 2-year postdoctoral research fellowship with the department of microbiology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1988. She was a senior research associate there in 1988 and 1989.

In addition to her interest in immunology, under the auspices of the University of Minnesota's Archeometry Research Center and the department of anthropology at the University of Tel Aviv, Hogan was a field investigator and physical anthropologist in the Tel Michal excavation in Herzylia, Israel, from 1976 to 1980. ❑

Home Monitoring Does Not Reduce Preterm Delivery Risk

University of Maryland researchers have shown that home monitoring of uterine activity provides no advantage over routine care in preventing preterm delivery for high risk women. Supported by research efforts at NICHD, the study reveals no difference in the incidence of preterm delivery (before 37 weeks) between women who used a home monitoring device and those who did not.

A home uterine activity monitor is a machine that allows a woman to record the existence and the duration of her uterine contractions at home by herself. After a recording, the monitor transmits the results to a nurse for evaluation. However, this study questions whether or not monitoring the rate of contractions is effective in reducing the likelihood of preterm delivery. Early recognition of preterm labor enables efforts to prevent preterm delivery, thus theoretically reducing the rate of occurrence.

In this study, researchers targeted women hospitalized at least once during their current pregnancies to prevent preterm delivery. Fifty-six women between 20 and 34 weeks of pregnancy were asked to participate in this clinical trial. All of the women were instructed to report any symptoms of preterm labor such as pain in the lower back, upper thigh, and abdomen; menstrual-like cramps; and sensations of the baby "balling up."

Investigators randomly assigned the women into two groups. One group practiced home uterine activity monitoring, and the other received appropriate routine care for women who had been hospitalized for preterm labor. The incidence of preterm delivery was 57 percent in the home monitoring group versus 54 percent in the group that received routine care. Researchers concluded that home uterine monitoring is not effective in reducing the occurrence of preterm delivery.

Although previous work done by other scientists suggested that home uterine activity monitoring reduced the incidence of preterm birth, the article argues these results were based upon very narrow admission criteria. Selecting a significant number of women whose preterm labor cannot be successfully treated skews statistical analysis critical to accurate interpretation of results, according to the investigators.

Study findings appeared in a recent issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology.*—**Carolyn Chung** ❑

Former Fellows Talk About Experiences in Academia

The NIH fellows' committee has invited a panel of former NIH postdoctoral fellows and a representative from the Division of Research Grants to discuss issues related to pursuing careers in academia. The moderator will be Dr. Thomas J. Kennedy, president of the NIH Alumni Association and consultant, Association of American Medical Colleges.

During the reception following the program, clinical associates and postdoctoral fellows will have an opportunity to meet their ICD representative to the NIH fellows' committee and are encouraged to provide input about activities for the committee.

The program will be Wednesday, Jan. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Bldg. 10, Lipsett Amphitheater. All clinical associates, postdoctoral fellows and other interested staff members are encouraged to attend. The program and reception are cosponsored by the NIH Alumni Association and the Office of Education. ❑

Dr. James B. Snow, Jr. (c), NIDCD director, is joined by W. David Kerr, NIDCD executive officer (l), and Dr. Jay Moskowitz, NIDCD deputy director, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new NIDCD exhibit and publications display case in the C wing, Bldg. 31.

The NIH Life Sciences Education Connection

✎ Beginning in January, the NIH community will be able to make another new "education connection." On Jan. 25, the Office of Science Education Policy (OSEP) will kick off a monthly brown bag discussion series, the Science Education Luncheon Connection. The series will be held at noon in the 11th floor solarium of the Clinical Center on the last Tuesday of each month from January through May and will allow the NIH community to keep abreast of current trends in precollege science education and public understanding of science.

Bring your lunches and be ready for an informal discussion with some of your peers. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Jan. 25—Bruce Fuchs, OSEP, will discuss such programs as Mini-Med School, which cultivate the public's interest in science.

Feb. 22—Ginny Trulio, project coordinator, NIH EDNET, Office of Education, will give a demonstration of the NIH electronic bulletin board and discuss the role that the scientific community can play in maintaining the electronic dialogue.

Mar. 29—Rick Weiss, a *Washington Post* reporter who covers the NIH community, will discuss the relationship between science education and the media.

Apr. 26—Patricia McWethy, executive director of the National Association of Biology Teachers, will discuss the relationship between scientist and science teacher.

May 31—Person to be announced from the Office of the Director, Division of Logistics, to discuss the process for loaning laboratory equipment to schools.

We'll keep you posted through this column on any changes to the program. Anyone interested in science education is encouraged to attend. Give OSEP a call, 2-2469, if you have questions regarding the luncheon series.

Knockout Mouse Illuminates Target for Allergy Therapy

Using a genetically engineered mouse, scientists at NIAID and the University of North Carolina have demonstrated that a molecule on the surface of certain cells is necessary for a crucial, early step in allergic reactions.

The molecule, which is a docking site or receptor for the IgE antibodies that trigger most allergic reactions, offers researchers a promising target for a new generation of allergy drugs that might benefit the estimated 40 million to 50 million people in the United States with allergies, the investigators say.

"By blocking the function of this molecule, known as the high-affinity IgE receptor, allergic reactions might be stopped at their onset, regardless of the substance to which a patient is allergic," says Dr. Jean-Pierre Kinet, chief of NIAID's molecular allergy and immunology section. "Conceptually, this strategy is preferable to current allergy treatments such as antihistamines that treat some of the symptoms of allergies but do not prevent the allergic reaction itself."

As reported in the Dec. 3 *Cell*, Kinet and his colleagues have developed a mouse that lacks a gene for making the high-affinity IgE receptor. Without the gene, the cells of this so-called "knockout mouse" do not make a functional receptor. Under experimental conditions, these mice did not suffer allergic reactions. On the other hand, ordinary mice with the receptor had the expected allergic reactions in the investigators' laboratory experiments.

"Previously, cell culture experiments have suggested that interfering with the high-affinity IgE receptor might be a good strategy to prevent allergic reactions," says Kinet. "Our results with the knockout mouse confirm this receptor's key role in allergy and demonstrate that a therapy that blocks the receptor could work." ❑

Rock Creek Chamber Players Schedule 1994 Sunday Concerts

The Rock Creek Chamber Players' 1994 Sunday afternoon concert season continues under the auspices of the recreation therapy section of the Clinical Center. The concert series, now in its third year, takes place in the 14th floor assembly hall, Bldg. 10. All concerts are free of charge and open to all. The dates and programs through July are as follows. Programs are subject to change; call Dr. Carl Banner, 493-5729 or 6-9350, for more information. All concerts are on Sunday afternoons at 3.

Jan. 23 Bach Trio Sonata from the Musical Offering, Martinu Sonata for flute, violin, piano, Schumann Trio #2 in F.

Feb. 27 Hindemith Trio for saxophone, viola and piano, Koechlin "Jean Harlow," Webern Quartet for sax, clarinet, violin, piano, Nicholas Maw "Night Thoughts," Shostakovich Trio in e minor.

Mar. 6 Guest artist pianist Haskell Small in a recital of piano music of Bach, Albeniz and Gershwin.

Mar. 13 Two women composers featured—Grazyna Bacewicz piano quintet, Elizabeth Brown "Maps of Heaven" (D.C. premiere), Schubert Trio in E flat, op. 100.

Apr. 24 J.C. Bach Quintet for flute and strings, Holst Trio for flute, oboe and viola, Harbison Duo for flute and piano (1969), Elizabeth Brown "Boll Weevil," Brahms Trio in B, op. 8.

May 22 Bach Suite for flute and strings, Schubert Quintet ("The Trout"), Faure Trio op. 115.

June 26 Mozart Quartet for flute and strings, Shostakovich piano quintet, Rochberg "Contra mortem et tempus."

July 24 C.P.E. Bach trio sonata in G, Brahms clarinet quintet, Xenakis "Morsima/Amorsima."

The American Society for Microbiology recently granted Dr. Jack A. Heinemann, a staff fellow in NIAID's Laboratory of Microbial Structure and Function in Hamilton, Mont., one of four ICAAC Young Investigator Awards. His research has shown that microbes can transfer their genes via conjugation to organisms as dissimilar to one another as plants and animals. He also has shown that dead bacteria can be converted to and function as conjugal donors. From 1989 to 1992, Heinemann was an NIH Intramural Research Training Award Fellow at NIAID. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1985 and his doctorate from the University of Oregon in 1989.

Dressed in black top hat and coat, Sergio Monarca is ready to clean the chimneys of NIH's residences. Speaking with an accent (his mother is British), Monarca said he has been cleaning chimneys for 10 years. He began while attending the University of Maryland and continued even after receiving his degree. "Chimneys should be cleaned every 2 years if used moderately," he explains. "What happens is, a thin buildup of soot can catch fire. If it does, it sounds like a 747 airplane taking off in your house." DES contracted with Olde Londontowne Chimney Sweeps in Bethesda for the job.

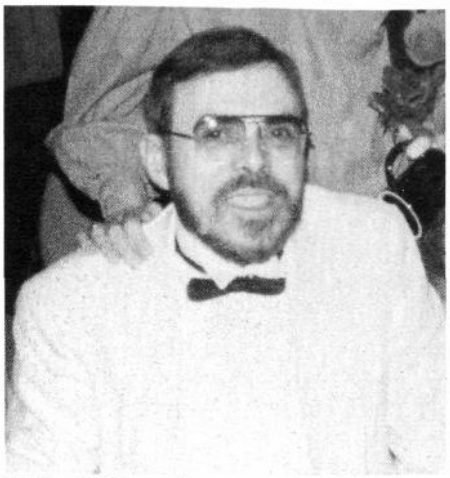
DCRT Mourns Hal Potter, 27-Year Federal Employee

Hallett H. "Hal" Potter, Jr., a computer assistant at the Division of Computer Research and Technology with 27 years of federal service, died Nov. 23 at his home in Takoma Park, Md.

He was born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area, graduating from Gonzaga High School and attending American University. He later moved to Maryland, where he became an active member of the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc., training in first aid and later becoming an aid instructor for the American Red Cross. During Navy service starting in July 1962, he assisted local fire departments and rescue squads with first aid training at his duty station in Hawaii. In June 1964, he received an honorable discharge after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

He returned to Maryland and the Wheaton Rescue Squad and remained active until the late 1960's, when his illness prevented him from riding with the fire and rescue units. He was awarded a life membership and was the recipient of many letters of commendation and honors, including one from Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer for 33 years of service with the squad. In 1976, the rescue squad established the "Hallett H. Potter, Jr. Award" for Squad Member of the Year as a living testimony of his devotion and dedication to the squad.

He began his NIH career in 1970 as a computer clerk in the production unit of DCRT's operations section, assisting users with job submissions, scheduling their processing, and following up on job status and customer delivery. He was well known by users for his smile, quick turn on words, and his ability to mimic voices of many popular people.



Hallett H. Potter, Jr.

As technology advanced with online terminals and thousands of computer runs, Potter progressed from clerk to supervisor. During these years, the physical effects of MS grew progressively worse. He accepted MS as a challenge and was determined to beat it, setting a goal for himself of achieving 30 years of service and then retiring "if he felt like it." He will be missed for his persistence, cheerful assistance to others, and the example he set for what could be achieved in spite of major illness.

Potter was the son of the late Hallett H. and Helen Potter, and the brother of Charles H. Potter. Memorial services were held at the Francis J. Collins Funeral Home, where the rescue squad gave highest honors to their fallen comrade, and at St. Bernadette's Church, both in Silver Spring, Md. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1577, 11435 Grandview Ave., Wheaton, MD 20915.

Longtime NIGMS Grantees Honored by White House

Drs. Donald J. Cram and Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch, both longtime NIGMS grantees, were presented the National Medal of Science by President Clinton at a recent White House ceremony. Waelsch was honored for "her lifetime work on developmental genetics, providing a large body of knowledge on the study of mammalian genetics." Cram was recognized for "his pioneering research on the chemical foundation of molecular recognition; understanding of the molecular basis of biological systems; his shaping of scientific thought and development, and guidance to generations of students."

Waelsch, who is still conducting research at the age of 86, has received support from NIGMS for the past 37 years. "I'm very excited about the award. I've worked hard all my life and it is nice to be recognized in this way," she said.

A leader in the field of mouse genetics, she has worked at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City since 1955. She is the founder of the college's molecular genetics department and served as its first chairperson. She became a professor emerita in 1978 and a distinguished university professor emerita in 1988. In 1979, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Cram, who received the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1987, has been supported by NIGMS for almost 30 years. He is the S. Winstein professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he has worked since 1947.

He has won many other awards, including six from the American Chemical Society. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1961, and received the academy's Award in Chemical Sciences in 1992. He was elected as a foreign fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry of the United Kingdom in 1991. He has been honored with six honorary doctoral degrees from universities in four countries, and was named California Scientist of the Year in 1974. From UCLA, he received two McCoy Awards, the Seaborg Award, and most recently the UCLA Medal in 1993. ❑

NIH Communicators Earn Kudos

The National Association of Government Communicators honored the work of several members of the NIH information community recently when it bestowed its Blue Pencil awards for editorial excellence and its Gold Screen awards for quality films and videos.

NIH'ers were recognized with 17 Blue Pencil awards in 11 categories, and with two Gold Screens in two categories.

The Blue Pencil winners and their categories are:

Magazines for Technical Audience—First place, NIAAA, for *Alcohol Health & Research World*, immunology issue.

Publication for a General Audience, 1 to 3 colors—First place, Kate Egan, NIA, for *Menopause.* Third place, Ann London, NIAID, for *Something in the Air—Airborne Allergens.* Honorable mention, Judy Murphy, NIAID, for *HIV—How To Help Yourself* series.

Publication for a General Audience, 4 colors—Third place, NHLBI, for *Heart Health...Your Choice* (a publication for patients).

Publication for a Technical Audience, 4 colors—First place, NINDS, for *Progress and Promise, 1992.* Second place, NCI, for *Tobacco Effects in the Mouth.*

Books for General Audience—Honorable mention, NIDDK, for *Noninsulin-Dependent Diabetes.*

Visual Communications via Displays, Bulletin Boards—First place, NIDR, for NIDR Hallway Display & Publication Racks.

Visual Communication via Posters, Maps, Logos, Folders—Second place, Office of Research on Women's Health, for "Gender Differences." Honorable mention, NEI, for NEI 25th Anniversary Logo, and to NIDR for "Take A Close Look."

Promotional Campaigns/Recognition Programs, Single Phase—First place, Patricia Blessing of NIDCD, for NIDCD Clearinghouse.

Promotional Campaigns/Recognition Programs, Multiple Phase—Second place, NCI, for A Mammogram—Once a Year for a Lifetime. Honorable mention, NEI, for Educating People with Diabetes Kit.

Photography, Black and White—Honorable mention, NEI, for View of Boys Through Normal and Diseased Eyes.

Photography, Color—Honorable mention, NEI, for View of Boys Through the Eyes of a Person with Diabetic Retinopathy.

Gold Screen award winners and categories were:

Video, Internal Communications—Honorable mention, NCRR's Medical Arts and Photography Branch, and DS's Radiation Safety Branch, for *Mixed Waste: A Major Issue in Biomedical Research.*

Video, Instructional Training—Honorable mention, Clinical Center, for *Universal Precautions.*

The honorees received their awards at a banquet last month in Alexandria, Va. ❑

Friendly Fidos

Dogs Bring Warmth to Clinical Center Patients

By Mary Hepburn

If W.C. Fields had seen the attention showered on the "caring canines" who visit the Clinical Center, he probably never would have quipped, "Anyone who hates children and dogs can't be all bad."

One would be hard-pressed to feel anything but warmth and happiness around these kids and animals. The animals are therapy dogs who visit as part of a program developed by the National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc. The kids are Clinical Center patients who enjoy the canines' company.

The dogs are eager for the attention they attract from patients, staff, and visitors. Their green harnesses sport signs that invite admirers to "please touch." Their Wednesday morning destination is 13 West where they'll spend a couple of hours visiting pediatric oncology patients. Several dogs—and their handlers—visit clinic, playroom, and treatment and patient rooms. More dogs return Thursday evenings for visits throughout other areas of the hospital.

A dog may nestle on a patient's lap during a chemotherapy session, or sit closely by waiting for a pat on the head or a rub on the belly.

Samantha, a German shepherd who also answers to the name Sam, waited outside a room while 12-year-old Casey had x-rays taken. Having Samantha nearby helped calm Casey's nervousness.

Jane Bartholomew (l), cofounder of National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc., brings her dog Samantha for a visit with Casey Moore at the Clinical Center.

Members of National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc., offer a special warmth and comfort to Clinical Center patients. Among program regulars are (from l) Mal Mellington with Liz; Mona Schaufele with Rocky (in front) and Desi; and Jane Bartholomew with Samantha.

"I look forward to seeing Sam," says Casey. Sam plays with Casey and jumps up on her hospital bed. That took some coaxing, since bed-sitting is off limits at Samantha's home.

Although dogs and kids seem to go together naturally, the program has not been without growing pains.

Recreation therapist Holly Cobb Parker has believed in the program since it first started 5 years ago. "The perseverance has been worth it," she says.

She credits the program's success to the support of Dr. Philip Pizzo, chief of the Pediatric Branch, NCI.

"We should never underestimate what animals, or pets, can do for the lives of these patients. This program was a good idea," he said.

A CC patient originally had the idea to include a program to get patients and pets together here. He approached Parker with the suggestion.

"Although it took 9 months to get the program off the ground, it was worth the wait," said Parker.

Samantha, Desi, and Rocky are frequent and popular visitors. Wheelchairs and IV poles are as familiar to the dogs as soft rubber balls and bones, their equally popular handlers point out.

They're all part of National Capital Therapy Dogs, Inc., a volunteer-based therapy dog program serving the public and health-care facilities in the Baltimore and Washington area. The organization provides extensive training for both dogs and handlers.

"The dogs know that they are going to work when those green harnesses come out," said Jane Bartholomew, Samantha's owner and cofounder of the group. And when it's time for the dogs to leave, it's hard to tell who has had the most fun, the pets or the patients.

Dogs are chosen to participate after having what Bartholomew describes as a temperament test. It's important to know how the dogs will respond to a typical hospital situation, the clang of a dropped tray, for example. The handlers spend several hours readying the dogs for each hospital visit, and the dogs are inspected by the CC vet.

The dogs are examined briefly each time they enter the hospital to make sure they're healthy, explains Dr. Joe Pierce, CC veterinarian. ❑

Parenting Workshops Planned

A series of parenting workshops is scheduled for the months of January, March and April at various NIH locations. Four sessions are being offered on the following topics: I) What's the matter with parents/kids today? II) Verbal encouragement—Why not praise? III) Setting effective limits. IV) Sharing responsibility—Training children to do tasks.

The schedule is as follows. All sessions are from noon to 1:30 p.m. except on Apr. 19.

Session I—Jan. 6, Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8, Mar. 1, EPN, Conf. Rm. H, Apr. 7, Westwood.

Session II—Jan. 13, Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9, Mar. 8, EPN, Conf. Rm. H, Apr. 14, Westwood.

Session III—Jan. 20, Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9, Mar. 15, EPN, Conf. Rm. H, Apr. 19, Westwood, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Session IV—Jan. 27, Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9, Mar. 22, EPN, Conf. Rm. G, Apr. 28, Westwood.

The series is open to all NIH employees and is free of charge, but registration is required. Contact Sheila Feldman, workshop coordinator, Bldg. 16, Rm. 202, phone 6-4161. Sponsors include OEO, NICHD, the advisory committee for women, and the Division of Space and Facility Management. Sign language interpretation will be provided. ❑

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