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The NIH Record

‘Panel of Wise Men’

Three Nobelists Hail NIH for Hill
By Rich McManus

Most people like a good love story, and the House appropriations subcommittee on labor, education and HHS was no exception May 14 as it heard three NIH-supported Nobel Prize winners testify—as a capstone to the recent House appropriations hearings—that the agency played generous, perhaps even indispensable, matchmaker to their exceedingly fruitful love affairs with science. But an antagonist loomed over the otherwise-heartfelt proceedings: the specter of flat NIH budgets (and a 15.9 percent reduction in purchasing power) over the next 6 years as national priorities place defense spending and reduced tax revenues, in the words of one congressman, disproportionately ahead of competing agendas such as public health.

The three laureates were Drs. Eric Wieschaus of Princeton, Daniel Nathans of Johns Hopkins, and Donnall Thomas of the University of Washington, who formed a chorus of yeasayers for continued favorable budgets from Congress for biomedical research. Though their theme was similar as they recounted their NIH-enriched biographies in science, their voices were individually compelling: Wieschaus conveyed true passion as he explained complex genetic studies that involved creating 27,000 inbred families of fruit flies in order to tease out the function of individual genes. The youngest of the Nobelists, he embodied unembarrassed enthusiasm for arduous scientific inquiry. Defining himself as a basic re-

(See HILL HEARING, Page 8)

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‘Today’s Decision, Tomorrow’s Security’

NIH Kicks Off 1996 Savings Bond Drive

Employees were encouraged to “begin building for tomorrow” at the same site where NIH will soon begin building for tomorrow. NIH’s 1996 U.S. Savings Bond Drive kickoff, themed “Today’s Decision, Tomorrow’s Security,” was held May 8 in Masur Auditorium at the Clinical Center, where construction of a new Clinical Research Center is proposed for fiscal year 1997. It’s fitting that the Clinical Center should be the lead ICD for this year’s bond drive, remarked NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth L. Kirschstein, because “the new hospital’s goals of flexibility and adaptability also apply to U.S. Savings Bonds, which can be used for a variety of purposes and serve as positive

(See BOND DRIVE, Page 10)

NIH’ers Race for the Cure

Join your fellow NIH’ers at this year’s Race for the Cure downtown on Saturday, June 15. There’s an event for every level of athlete—a 5K run, a 5K walk, and a 1-mile fun walk. The National Race for the Cure, sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, supports research, education, screening and treatment for breast cancer.

Last year, more than 250 NIH staff ran or walked in the event. For 1996, NIH hopes to double that number. Join more than 30,000 people who will gather near the Washington Monument to fight breast cancer.

Pick up an entry form at the R&W. Fee is $20. Sign up to ride downtown on buses leaving Bldg. 31 at 7:15 the morning of the race. All NIH’ers will receive a race T-shirt and a breast cancer awareness stamp pin.

(See MINI-MED SCHOOL, Page 6)
**NIAID Council Gains Five**

Five new members have been appointed to the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council, the principal advisory body of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The new members are: Dr. Jerrold J. Ellner, vice-chair of the department of medicine and director of the Tuberculosis Research Unit at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland; Dr. Warren D. Johnson, chief of the division of international medicine and infectious diseases at Cornell University; Garry T. Lyle, controller, administrative operations for Xerox Corp. in St. Petersburg, Fla.; Dr. Paula Marie Pitha-Rowe, professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins University; and Dr. W. Gary Tarpley, vice president, discovery research at Pharmacia & Upjohn in Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Gay, Lesbian Forum Sponsors Speaker Series**

Salutaris, the NIH Gay and Lesbian Employees Forum, is presenting “Noons in June,” a collection of forums of interest to the NIH community. Each forum begins at noon and consists of a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session with the speaker. Come early, there is limited seating available.

- June 5, Bunim Rm. (10/9S235), Dr. Elliot S. Gershon, Clinical Neurogenetics Branch, NIMH, “Genetic Research on Sexual Orientation—Does It Help?”
- June 12, Bunim Rm., Dr. Ruth Fessinger, department of counseling and personnel services, University of Maryland, “Outward Bound: Lesbian and Gay Identity Development in Contemporary Society.”
- June 19, Bldg. 10, Rm. 2C118, Naomi Churchill, director, NIH Office of Equal Opportunity, “Being Gay or Lesbian—Like All Other People, Like Some Other People, Like No Other People.”
- June 26, Bunim Room, Jessica Xavier, spokesperson, It’s Time, Maryland!, “Out in the Workplace: Transsexuals in Transition.”

For more information write to Salutaris, NIH GLEF, P.O. Box 30767, Bethesda, MD 20814, or email NIHGLEF@RecGov.org.

**NIH Director’s Awards Ceremony Set, June 21**

The NIH Director’s Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 21 in the Natcher Auditorium at 1:30 p.m. to honor NIH recipients for their outstanding accomplishments.
NIH'ers Win HHS Award for Distinguished Service

Twenty-one NIH staff members received the HHS Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service, along with other employees, at a ceremony held in their honor on May 14. NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein attended the ceremony in support of the NIH recipients, who are as follows:

John H. Jones, NINDS
“For sustained superior performance of his normal duties while also providing leadership in planning and implementing the institute’s migration to a new network.”

Dr. Paul McCurdy, NHLBI
“For writing efforts, outstanding service and accomplishments in promoting and implementing research programs to ensure safety of the nation’s blood supply.”

NIEHS DIR/BRCA1 Group
Dr. J. Carl Barrett
Dr. Michelle L. Bennett
Heather Brownlee
Charles Cochran
Dr. Phillip Andrew Futreal
Astrid Haugen-Strano
Lori A. Terry
Roger W. Wiseman
“For isolation and characterization of the breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility gene, BRCA1, which will provide new insights into these important cancers.”

Lilly Ouyang Engstrom, OD
“For uncommon dedication and leadership in coordinating NIH, PHS and DHHS activities related to the government-wide review of Cold War human radiation experiments.”

Dr. Jack Whitescarver, OD
“For leadership in planning, coordinating, and developing the first NIH Comprehensive Plan and Budget Estimate for Scientific Opportunities in HIV-Related Research.”

NIAID Acellular Pertussis Team
Dr. George C. Curlin
Dr. Carole A. Heilman
Dr. William C. Blackwelder
Dr. David L. Klein
Martha J. Matthies
Elizabeth A. Horigan
Maria A. Deloria
Mark J. VanRaden
Dr. Steven Wassilak
“For outstanding leadership, management and coordination of the Swedish and Italian acellular pertussis vaccine efficacy trials.”

Nonsurgical Option for Gum Disease Uncovered

Persons with severe periodontal disease may be able to avoid surgery by taking antibiotics, a new study shows. Scaling and root planing (deep cleaning of teeth above and below the gum) combined with short-term use of oral and locally applied antibiotics dramatically reduced the need for gum surgery and tooth extractions by 88 percent, according to a recent study.

Periodontal disease is a progressive infection that, untreated, can destroy the gums and other supporting structures of the teeth and can lead to tooth loss. The condition is typically treated by clearing away pockets of harmful bacteria (debridement) that cause periodontal disease. When this fails, surgery is usually recommended. This involves lifting back the gums, removing the hardened plaque buildup, then stitching the gums back in place.

In a study supported by the National Institute of Dental Research, Dr. Walter J. Loesche of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Dr. James Giordano at the University of Detroit/Mercy School of Dentistry, and their colleagues used debridement plus antibiotics to significantly decrease levels of these damaging bacteria and reverse the majority of what were inevitable surgical cases. Said Loesche, “This antimicrobial regimen not only provides a treatment option for severe periodontal disease, but also brings such treatment into the realm of greater accessibility for many individuals.”

The investigators concluded that debridement plus antimicrobial treatment is likely to be successful for most people with advanced gum disease for whom surgery is initially recommended.

DSFM Awards Ceremony, June 12 in Natcher Bldg.

The Division of Space and Facility Management, ORS, will hold its third Annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Natcher Bldg. auditorium. Naomi Churchill, director, Office of Equal Opportunity, will deliver this year’s keynote address. The theme for the event is “Of One Accord,” which denotes the importance of customer service teamwork. All NIH’ers are invited to attend.

Healthy Males Needed

If you are a white male, ages 50-69, healthy, have no history of cancer, and are not taking steroids or antibiotics, you are eligible to participate in an NCI study on male serum hormone levels and prostate cancer. Volunteers will be paid $130. Call Susan Greenhut, (301) 309-3667, for details.
Children’s Inn Gets New Director

By Laura Vazquez

Aft er 5 years as executive vice president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Inc., A. Gilson “Gil” Brown wanted more of a hands-on challenge. So he decided to apply for the position of executive director of the Children’s Inn at NIH.

After a series of four interviews and meetings with board members, Brown began his new position on Feb. 5, replacing Bob Gray. Children’s programs and welfare have always been of great interest to the father of three and former teacher of behavioral sciences. His new position is just an extension of that interest. When asked why he was drawn to the Children’s Inn, he replied, “It has a very compelling mission...working with children and families in stress.”

The Children’s Inn, a public-private partnership built with funds from Merck & Co., Inc. on land donated by NIH, was created so that the physical, emotional and financial burdens of families bringing their children to NIH for sometimes complex and painful treatment for serious or life-threatening illnesses could be eased. The inn provides patients and their families with private living quarters and several common areas such as a game room, library, and kitchens. The whole complex is meant to provide respite from the worries of clinical trials by providing an environment that is as far removed from hospitals and medical treatment as possible. Brown sees his mission as making sure the inn continues to be a place that is “just like home” for children, and the families of children, receiving treatment at NIH.

Brown has found his “hands-on challenge” in running this direct services organization. Helping him fulfill his mission of providing the best environment possible is a staff of 10 employees and more than 250 volunteers. They provide services to inn residents that range from cleaning and ordering supplies, organizing and conducting recreational trips, to making reservations and arranging transportation—even going to the grocery store to pick up a lost or forgotten item. They also do a variety of essential administrative tasks. Brown also works closely with various NIH employees who provide building maintenance, conduct special events for the inn, or provide services to its residents.

To make sure that these efforts can continue, Brown must also lead or coordinate fundraising for the inn, which helps pay the salaries of his staff and keeps the inn appropriately furnished. All of these responsibilities, when looked at together, may sound like they make up a difficult and sometimes depressing job. But Brown prefers a happier view. He enjoys seeing the direct impact his efforts make, and as he says, “It’s hard to argue against sick kids.” Foremost in his mind is the good that the inn does.

Training Classes

PC <-> Mainframe Communication with Kermit 6/5
Protein Secondary Structure 6/5
Prediction Methods 6/7
Back ing Up Personal Computer Data 6/7
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group 6/9
C Language Fundamentals 6/10-14
Configuring Windows and Windows 95 for PARACHUTE Network Access 6/13
PC Trouble Shooting 6/17-18
Windows NT and NTS Hands-on Workshop 6/18-19
Macintosh Shortcuts and Info 6/19
Database Technology Seminar 6/21
BRMUG 6/25
Netscape for the PC 6/26

All of the classes are free and held on campus.

Healthy Women Sought

NICHD is looking for healthy female volunteers, ages 18-43, to participate in menstrual cycle studies. Volunteers may not be on any medications, pregnant or nursing. Studies include endometrial biopsy or 2-3-day inpatient evaluation of an investigational drug. Volunteers will be paid. For more information, call 2-1481.
Monnier To Give Shock Lecture

Dr. Vincent M. Monnier is the 1996 Nathan W. Shock Award recipient. The award has been presented annually since 1990 to honor the memory of the first scientific director at NIA and the “father of modern gerontological research.” Monnier will accept the award and present a lecture on Thursday, June 6 at 3 p.m. in the Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center Auditorium, 5510 Hopkins Bayview Circle, Hopkins Bayview Research Campus in Baltimore. It is free and open to the public.

Monnier’s talk is entitled, “From Bjorksten to Kohn: The Collagen Theory of Aging in Light of the Maillard Reaction.” Nearly 200 years ago, French scientist Louis Camille Maillard discovered the important chemical reaction, the Maillard reaction, responsible for allowing sugar molecules to form complexes with macromolecules such as proteins and nucleic acids. With age, more of these complexes form and play a role in some age-associated diseases such as diabetes.

Monnier received his degree in medicine from the Universities of Basel and Geneva in 1972, and completed his postdoctoral training in the departments of pathology and biochemistry at the University of Geneva in 1977, and at the laboratory of medical biochemistry at Rockefeller University in 1980. Currently, he is a professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University.

Levin To Speak at Last Executive Seminar

The fourth and final seminar of the 1995-96 Executive Speakers Seminar Series will be held on Wednesday, June 12, at 2 p.m. at the Natcher Conference Center’s main auditorium.

Susan R. Levin, an independent trainer, facilitator, and mediator, will speak on “The Science of Managing Conflict: A Practical Approach.”

Her seminar will focus on conflict, which is an inevitable part of life. Everyone confronts conflict in the workplace, but few people know how to manage it effectively. In this seminar you will learn about specific approaches and techniques to help resolve and even prevent conflict.

Levin specializes in communication skills and development, focused on conflict management, intercultural communications and diversity awareness in the United States and abroad. Nationally, she has presented conflict management training for many groups and has written about diversity in the workplace for the Internal Revenue Service and National Public Radio.

Internationally, she has been involved with building the capacity of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and microenterprise development in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe. For the Agency for International Development, she organized and facilitated a “lessons learned” conference in Budapest for NGO leaders who provide humanitarian assistance throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

Consulting with the University of Maryland department of government and politics, Levin helped develop a proposal for a conflict management training program for Israelis and Palestinians using Project ICONS (International Communication and Negotiation Simulation), which enables participants to practice their negotiation skills on the Internet.

Levin is a certified mediator with the Supreme Court of Virginia and the D.C. Office of Human Rights, and has consulted with the U.S. Institute of Peace and the National Institute of Dispute Resolution. She received her M.S. in international affairs from George Washington University.

No registration is required for this seminar. For more information, call Joyce Laplante, Division of Workforce Development, 2-3380.

Samuel Wilson Named New NIEHS Deputy Director

Dr. Samuel H. Wilson, an internationally known scientist in environmental toxicology, will join NIEHS as deputy director. He will be responsible for helping director Dr. Kenneth Olden administer the institute. His work has included pioneering basic research on DNA polymerase—enzymes responsible for the replication and repair of DNA, the chemical of heredity. This work may lead to drugs that can control the replication of cancerous and HIV-infected cells.

Wilson is currently at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He is the founding director of the Sealy Center for Molecular Science, holds the Mary Gibbs Jones distinguished chair in environmental toxicology, serves as director of the Centennial Center for Environmental Toxicology, and is a professor in the department of human biological chemistry and genetics.

Olden said that when Wilson joins NIEHS at the end of the summer he will be returning to the “NIH family.” He spent 24 years at NIH, beginning in 1968 as a postdoctoral fellow at what is now the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. In 1970, he became a research scientist in the Laboratory of Biochemistry at the National Cancer Institute, and was chief of its nucleic acid enzymology section when he moved to the University of Texas.

Wilson received his M.D. at Harvard Medical School in 1968 and received postdoctoral training at Dartmouth Medical School as well as at NIH.

Smokers, Siblings Sought

Cigarette smokers and their siblings are sought for a family study of smoking and human behavior at NCI. Required are two same-sex adult siblings, both willing to be interviewed and donate a blood sample. At least one of the two must be a smoker (at least a pack a day for at least 5 years). Pay will be provided and travel expenses are available for out-of-town volunteers. For more information call Mark Nelson, 6-2979.
book." He stressed the importance of God in his life and that studying and doing well is "not just for nerds, but for everyone...A life without science and math isn't logical."

His words and vision were well received by the 200-member audience at Ballou High School—so well that they implored him for his autograph. (But it wasn't only Carson; several other speakers signed programs and even a poster.) Ballou High School is also the site of the Ballou Mathematics Science Technology Academy, a charter school for high-achieving students in the District.

Last year, officials at the Ballou Academy teamed up with NIH's Office of Science Education and the Association of American Medical Colleges to recreate a Mini-Med School at their location. NIH's Mini-Med School is in its third year at the campus location; it was also held on Capitol Hill last fall for congressional staffers. Certificates of completion are awarded to each participant who attends the entire series.

According to Cassandra Isom, the program's director in the Office of Science Education, NIH assembled a board of D.C. nongovernment residents and community officials to determine the program's focus. "Ward 8 is considered the most neglected ward in D.C.,” said Isom. “We strived to choose topics that specifically impact on African Americans.” Hence, Carson was chosen to kick off the 4-week stint, which ran Apr. 17 through May 8, as an author of two bestselling books about personal achievement and drive and someone revered in the African American community.

The board also expressed an interest in cancer, so NIH offered as speaker its Nobel Prize-winning director Harold Varmus, who had earned the award for cancer research. He prepared statistics that dealt specifically with the African American community to support his discussion. With respect to cancer and its relation to heredity, one young boy courageously asked whether he could get stomach cancer since his aunt had died from it. "When I heard that question I knew we were 'right on' [with this program],” commented Isom. "People were responding to us.”

The same week of the program featured Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID director, who addressed the origin and spread of AIDS. With colorful maps, tables, and the covers of Time and Sports Illustrated projected high on a screen above the crowd, Fauci stressed the extreme seriousness of the disease and its consequences for heterosexuals and drug users. He believes that, besides fetuses and children, "no one has to get AIDS...Take responsibility for yourself. You are in control.” As expected, he was bombarded with questions following his presentation.

Sickle cell anemia, a disease that affects one in 400 African Americans, was discussed on May 1 with Dr. Griffin Rodgers, chief of NIDDK’s molecular hematology section. He described in detail the structure and function of hemoglobin, and how distorted cells contribute to poor circulation. Current sufferers of the disease posed several questions regarding warning signs, symptoms, and hereditary factors. Rodgers said he was particularly impressed with the "well articulated and knowledgeable questions" about sickle cell as a worldwide disease. "They led to a flourishing discussion about a related problem—malaria," he said.

The final week featured Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and best-selling author of An Unquiet Mind, who kicked off her presentation with a video capsule of the late D.C. politician John Wilson and his personal struggle with manic depressive illness. Jamison's life-long examination of famous musicians, writers, and artists, has inspired her to chronicle the life of Vincent Van Gogh and Lord Tennyson. She exhibited the family trees of these two men to demonstrate how manic depression can afflict generations of families.

During the second hour on May 8, Dr. Vivian Pinn, NIH associate director for research on women's health, lectured about the importance of women as participants in medical research. She had a special message to African American women: "There's hope today to..."
improve the quality of life of Black women by giving them a better understanding of what they can expect from their doctors—asking questions and not turning away until those questions are answered.” To produce clear descriptions of the technical aspects of her research, she titled each slide with catchy phrases, like “Why Do Blacks Die Young?” Obesity and diet are the primary reasons why many African American women suffer more health problems than other races and genders, according to Pinn. “Women tend to care for others before we care for ourselves,” she explained. “We can’t forget ourselves in the equation.”

Pinn’s final words exemplified the true meaning of the Mini-Med School at Ballou: “I hope I’ve brought a message of hope, not gloom. There is so much to be hopeful for—a healthy and productive future.”

The Record

Lyme Disease Foundation Honors NIAID Researchers

Several NIAID scientists were recently honored by the Lyme Disease Foundation for significant research contributions to the understanding of spirochetal and tick-borne diseases. The awards were presented during the 9th Annual Scientific Conference on Lyme Borreliosis in Boston.

Dr. Claude F. Garon, chief of the Microscopy Branch at NIAID’s Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) in Hamilton, Mont., shared the first prize with Dr. William M. Whitmire, also in MB, for a published manuscript entitled, “Induction of B-cell Mitogenesis by Outer Surface Protein C of Borrelia burgdorferi.”

Second prize went to Dr. Tom G. Schwan, of the Laboratory of Microbial Structure and Function at RML, for “Analysis of Relapsing Fever Spirochetes from the Western United States,” published with his colleagues Drs. Joe Hinnebusch and Kenneth L. Gage.

Both articles cited appeared in the foundation’s Journal of Spirochetal and Tick-borne Diseases.

Dr. Lin J. Hymel recently joined NIGMS as a scientific review administrator in the Office of Scientific Review. He is a molecular biologist whose independent research has been in biophysics and physiology. He comes to NIGMS from Tulane University School of Medicine, where he was an assistant professor in the department of physiology. Prior to that, he was an assistant professor at the Institute for Biophysics at the University of Linz, Austria. Hymel will be working primarily with the review of applications to the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research.

Researchers at NIDR received the 1996 William J. Gies Award for the best paper published in the Journal of Dental Research during the preceding year. The title of the paper was “A Compilation of Partial Sequences of Randomly Selected cDNA Clones from the Rat Incisor.” The Gies Award plaque was accepted by Drs. Yutaka Matsuki and Kenneth Yamada from NIDR’s Laboratory of Developmental Biology. The presentation took place during the opening ceremonies of the International Association for Dental Research annual session held in San Francisco. Shown are Dr. Richard Ranney (l), immediate past-president of IADR, Matsuki (c), first author of the paper, and Yamada, a coauthor and chief of the LDB. The other members of the research team were Drs. Misako Nakashima, Norio Amizuka, Hershey Warshawsky, David Glotzman, and Yoshihiko Yamada.

Dr. Dennis M. Dixon has been named chief of the Bacteriology and Mycology Branch in NIAID’s Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Before joining NIAID in 1991 as mycology program officer, he was director of the Laboratories for Mycology at the Wadsworth Center for Laboratories and Research, a part of the New York State department of health. He earned his doctoral degree in microbiology at the Medical College of Virginia of the Virginia Commonwealth University and has taught at Loyola College in Baltimore, the University of Maryland in Baltimore and Albany Medical College. The author of numerous scientific articles and book chapters, he currently serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, the Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology, and Mycoses.
searcher, he made the case for knowledge alone as the foundation of all eventual health benefits.

Thomas, the senior member of the panel, was more avuncular; he referred repeatedly to his father's half-century in medicine compared to his own distinguished career as a bone marrow transplant pioneer. A lifelong clinical and basic researcher, he emphasized society's obligations to future generations. He happily expects to outlive his prize-winning breakthrough—marrow grafting—and see its likely successor—stem cell transplantation—cure illnesses in generations to come.

Nathans, sitting in the middle, was as able a defender of biomedical research as NIH could hope to retain, demonstrating a solid and sober grasp of the benefits and costs of doing federally funded medical research, and handling authoritatively the queries of the handful of committee members who drifted in and out of the 2-hour public meeting.

Ironically, many of the visitors who stopped by the hearing room during the session were middle school students who wandered in and plopped into the seat next to Varmus, likely unaware of how much Nobel gold surrounded her. Varmus began to chat with her, but when Wieschaus started using words like "homology," and "Drosophila," the girl and her entourage disappeared as if on cue.

Questions from the subcommittee, chaired by Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.), touched on such subjects as the relevance of nonhuman genomes to human genome research ("Ten years ago no one would have guessed how [genetically similar different life forms are]. Now, we're surprised when we don't find similarities," said Wieschaus); the pressure brought to bear on scientists by animal rights activists (which begat the Oddest Moment of the Hearing: Wieschaus said the crux of sympathy for the animal rights movement is love of pets, but activists don't target fly researchers because "most people never had a pet insect...many don't realize that insects are animals." To which Porter responded that he once saw a pet bumblebee on a leash in Peking!); Congress' trend toward "directed" or targeted, versus basic, research (you've got to have both, all surrendered, though again, Wieschaus had an insight to offer—you get more bang from a basic research buck because "scientists choose the cell lines that will give them the most direct answers. Human work is more complex and much, much more difficult. Success rates are inevitably much lower.")); how limiting funding for science is also limiting U.S. chances at future Nobels (Nathans reported, with shock, that 250 applicants, "many of them first-rate," applied for a recent opening for an assistant professorship at Johns Hopkins. Wieschaus said one of
his most brilliant postdocs opted out of science due to the funding crunch and is now in the construction business; and how research affects cost of health care (Nathans argued persuasively that biomedical investment already has brought down the cost of health care and will continue to do so, especially as medicine moves more toward prevention and early detection. Thomas made a strong case for building the proposed Clinical Research Center at NIH: “It may be the only place in the country where we can do clinical research in the future.”)

Other topics, some peculiar to a representative’s own district (Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California clearly faces vocal advocates of breast cancer research. She also dubbed the day’s hearing “a panel of wise men.”), included NIH’s role in fostering the biotechnology industry, the ethics of embryo research, and the regulatory burden under which NIH operates.

But the most candid and context-defining remarks of the day came from Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.), a 22-year subcommittee veteran who warned of coming reductions in the domestic discretionary portion of the budget—where NIH lies—of 20 to 30 percent.

“Biomedical research will always be a top priority for this committee,” he allowed, “but there are strong forces in this Congress hellbent [on devoting enough resources to defense] to sustain a 2½-war strategy, globally...at the same time we have a country that is extremely reluctant to send soldiers anywhere.”

Coupled with this lust for military spending is “an almost insatiable demand to supply additional tax reductions to people who are already very well off.”

He urged the well-meaning panelists to “get involved in the broader debate about our overall national priorities and about our national revenue base” and asked scientists to assist Congress in “helping the state of the law catch up with the state of the science, especially in the area of genetics.”

Obey assured the scientists that his subcommittee “has never had problems justifying the NIH expenditure,” but cautioned that “even the most favored programs are facing budget squeezes even tighter than they are today. If we can’t get a better set of decisions on resource allocation at the macroeconomic level, it will be beyond the subcommittee’s power to help you.”

Earlier in the day, some subcommittee members and their staffs visited NIH, including laboratories and patient care units in the Clinical Center.

Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.) painted the big picture for the panel: some in Congress favor defense spending and reduced tax revenues for Americans—both of which can affect NIH funding.

Princeton biologist Dr. Eric Wieschaus, the youngest Nobelist who testified, spoke passionately on behalf of basic researchers.

The National Library of Medicine launched Internet Grateful Med (IGM)—a program for assisted searching of Medline via the World Wide Web—on Apr. 16 at a conference on health care applications of the information superhighway. The benefits of easy access to Medline were expressed by pioneering heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey and Sen. Bill Frist, who is also a heart surgeon. For the most current information about Internet Grateful Med, point your browser to IGM’s URL: http://igm.nlm.nih.gov.

Attending the conference were people whose lives have been saved or medical situations improved because of access to Medline, including a Virginia couple whose desperate search for a cure for their son’s crippling and usually fatal genetic disorder led them to NLM, where their search of Medline exposed obscure information and new hope for their son. This story was later made into the movie Lorenzo’s Oil; a Maryland pharmacist who experienced 6 first-trimester pregnancy losses before she finally consulted Medline and found out how to prevent her recurrent pregnancy loss. She was accompanied by her 11-month-old son.

IGM gives access to Medline as well as offering direct links both to HSTAT, which provides the full text of clinical practice guidelines in various medical categories, and to Images from the History of Medicine, which offers some 60,000 online images from the library’s historical collections. Other NLM databases will be added in the near future.

For more information on how to use IGM, call 1-800-638-8480.

Clinicians Urgently Needed at Washington Free Clinic

The Washington Free Clinic provides free primary and specialty health care services to uninsured families. The clinic relies completely on the support of volunteer physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurse midwives. The clinic currently has a critical shortage of clinicians. Just a few hours of volunteer work each month will assist greatly in efforts to serve an ever-increasing number of low-income patients. Support and followup are provided. Contact Corinna Britton, volunteer coordinator, for more information, (202) 667-1106.

Normal Volunteers Sought by NIMH

The section on clinical pharmacology, NIMH, is seeking healthy adults ages 18-45 for participation in studies of cognitive or brain metabolic effects of potential antidepressant drugs. Cognitive studies require two separate overnight and full day stays in the hospital. Brain metabolic studies involve PET brain imaging in the nuclear medicine department. Interested candidates should call either Brad Folley or Dr. Joan Oshinsky, 6-5423.
BOND DRIVE 1996 KICKS OFF AT CLINICAL CENTER, FEATURES JAZZ BAND, RAFFLE, ‘WARTHOGS’
(Continued from Page 1)

reminders to each of us to strengthen our security.”

Also on hand to extoll the virtues of purchasing bonds was CC director Dr. John Gallin, who reminded employees of the difficult decisions NIH’ers make daily and of the importance of being prepared financially for unforeseen problems that sometimes crop up. “Whatever your financial goals,” he said, “savings bonds can help you achieve them. No one can predict what will happen, but it is safe to say that if you’re purchasing bonds, you’re building for your future.”

U.S. Savings Bonds Marketing Office Representative Syddia Lee-Chee, NIH’s 1996 bond account coordinator, said there is no better time to start saving than the present. About 60 million Americans own U.S. Savings Bonds, which are a completely safe investment backed by the full credit of the United States. She enumerated several other benefits of bond ownership: No state or local taxes can be levied on them; federal taxes are deferable until bonds mature; savings bonds earn market-based interest rates and are replaced free of charge if lost or stolen. Lee-Chee also pointed out that employees can have as little as $3.75 per pay period automatically deducted from their checks and applied to their savings bonds purchase. “For all the right reasons,” she concluded, “invest in your country. Buy U.S. Savings Bonds.”

Providing musical entertainment at the annual kickoff was the Jazz Ensemble from Quince Orchard High School, directed by William Holland. The ensemble treated the audience to rousing renditions of Duke Ellington’s “Caravan” and “Sophisticated Lady” as well as Glenn Miller’s “Pennsylvania 6-5000.”

As has become tradition, “Rooter,” the mascot of the Washington Warthogs indoor soccer team, frolicked with attendees, coaxing chuckles all around. Warthogs Defender Troy Snyder also returned this year to autograph sports trading cards.

A 20-inch color television, donated by Geico Insurance Co., was raffled off as well. The winner was R.P. Striker.—Carla Garnett
Younger Women's Ovarian Cancer Likely Inherited

Inherited mutations of the breast cancer gene BRCA1 may cause 10-20 percent of ovarian cancers in women under 50, report researchers at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The percentage is two to four times that found in women with ovarian cancer at all ages, according to the researchers, who published their results in the Apr. 17 Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Lead author of the report Dr. Johnathan Lancaster, a British physician, arrived at NIEHS as a visiting researcher in 1994 at about the time it was announcing the identification of BRCA1 (along with the University of Utah).

Working at the institute, Lancaster was a member of the international team that identified the second breast cancer gene, BRCA2. He has studied the role of both BRCA1 and BRCA2 in sporadic, or nonfamilial, breast and ovarian cancers, which account for 90-95 percent of cases of the diseases.

His new study used a novel technique, which Lancaster developed to apply to BRCA1, called the protein truncation test (PTT), to search for mutations—a search that until now has been a difficult and time-consuming process. This may be part of the reason why, despite extensive screening, only 16 BRCA1 mutations have been found in 267 sporadic ovarian cancers studied to date.

In a pilot study with the new method, three of 16 patients diagnosed at a mean average age of 48 were found to have the altered gene. The women were being treated by the division of gynecology/oncology at Duke University Medical Center, which collaborated in the study.

Most ovarian cancer is diagnosed in women over 50.

Although Lancaster says the finding needs confirmation in a larger study, he notes, “it does confirm the view of many physicians that early-onset cancers are more likely to be inherited. Thus, if a healthy woman tells her doctor her mother or sister died of breast cancer or ovarian cancer at a young age, he might see that as a clue that mutations in a gene such as BRCA1 may be involved.”

Ellen Moul has been selected as the National Institute of Nursing Research's new budget officer. Before coming to NINR, she began her federal career in 1982, serving as an administrative officer for the Clinical Oncology Program in NCI's Division of Cancer treatment. Originally from Pennsylvania, Moul received a bachelor's degree in health planning and administration from Pennsylvania State University.
Dr. David Lipman, director of NLM’s National Center for Biotechnology Information, has been chosen to receive the 1996 Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities’ Award. He was cited for “his work in computational biology and the development of software for the comparison of both nucleic acid and protein sequences.” Lipman, who has been NCBI director since the center’s founding in 1989, will receive the award at a ceremony in conjunction with the annual Protein Society meeting in San Jose, Calif., on Aug. 3.

Lynn C. Hellinger has been named director of NIAID’s Office of Human Resources Management. She comes to NIAID from the Clinical Center, where she was deputy director of the Office of Human Resources Management and chief of the personnel operations section. In 1983, she joined NIH as a personnel staffing specialist in the OD Staffing Management Branch of the Division of Personnel Management. Before that, Hellinger was a personnel management specialist in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. She earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Bela J. Gulyas has been named director of NCRR’s Office of Review. He brings to his new job knowledge of the NIH peer-review process and experience as deputy OR director. His goal is to “provide and maintain quality peer-review for NCRR grant applications.” OR reviews some 600 applications per year, most of which are lengthy requests to fund clinical, biomedical technology, and other resource centers that NCRR supports. Gulyas joined NCRR in 1988 and has spent 8 years administering scientific review of clinical research center grant applications for about 75 centers, including 4 years as deputy OR director. He first came to NIH in 1971, and has been a senior investigator at NICHD, chief of its gamete physiology section, and executive secretary of DRG’s reproductive endocrinology study section.

Dr. Nava Sarver has been named chief of the Targeted Interventions Branch in the Basic Sciences Program in NIAID’s Division of AIDS. The branch coordinates research leading to the discovery and development of new anti-HIV drug targets, innovative treatment strategies and novel vaccine designs for the treatment and prevention of HIV infection and AIDS. Sarver joined DAIDS in 1988 as a senior scientist in the targeted drug discovery section, became section chief in 1990 and acting chief of the Targeted Interventions Branch in 1994.

The Biological Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, is seeking mothers between ages 18 and 40 who either have no psychiatric history of depression or who have had one or more past episodes of postpartum depression following a full term pregnancy. Volunteers must be free of medical illnesses and medication-free. They may be asked to participate in a 6-month protocol investigating the effects of ovarian and stress hormones on brain and behavior in an endocrine model of pregnancy. All volunteers will be paid. For more information, call Dr. Miki Bloch, 6-9675.

Men and Women Sought for Study on Anxiety
Men and women who experience anxiety in social and performance situations (e.g., parties, dates, work, public-speaking) are needed for 4-5 hour study on psychological and behavioral aspects of social anxiety and alcohol use. Eligible participants will receive $50. For more information, call Giao Tran at American University, Agoraphobia and Anxiety Program, (202) 885-1743.
Parking Group Invites Views

Did you know there is a parking and transportation working group (PTWG) at NIH that provides recommendations and advice on NIH parking and transportation issues? The PTWG is composed of employees representing all facets of NIH as well as key personnel responsible for carrying out transportation and parking initiatives.

Although things have been relatively quiet over the past several months, many changes are expected that could directly affect you and your institute. For example, some parking lots will be closed for repaving this summer, while others will be taken off-line due to construction. Also, the Master Plan indicates that some "temporary" lots could be removed and reverted back to grass. These are just a few of the issues that the PTWG reviews and suggests alternative solutions for NIH.

The PTWG meets once a month. These meetings are open to all NIH employees and newcomers are welcome. ICD executive officers may also nominate representatives from their institutes to become members to ensure their views are included in recommendations that may affect them directly. Members are selected to ensure a cross-section of the NIH community.

If you have suggestions on how to improve the parking situation or transportation systems at NIH, try to attend these meetings and let your ideas be known. For a copy of the upcoming meeting schedule or agenda, contact Gail Thorsen, Employee Transportation Services Office, 2-RIDE (7433).

PHS Exhibit on Display At Ellis Island Museum

An exhibit titled "Doctors at the Gate: The United States Public Health Service at Ellis Island" will be on display at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York through July 31.

Prepared by the PHS historian and NLM, the exhibit will occupy six rooms at the museum, and will cover the founding and early history of PHS, the beginnings of quarantine, medical inspection of immigrants, the hospital facilities at Ellis Island, and the structure and functions of PHS today. For more information, contact Dr. John Parascandola, PHS historian, 3-5363.

CC's Moeller Retires After 40 Years at NIH

Delphine Moeller began work at the Clinical Center on May 2, 1955. She remembers it as if it were yesterday.

She also remembers almost every person who ever worked in the pharmacy department since her transfer there in 1960. Their names and addresses on index cards fill two file boxes. Details are important. In pharmacy, and in life.

Details such as why your African violets won't flower and what astronomical wonders are currently on display in the night sky. The next day she'll pass on an article backing up her advice on the violets and jot down the Smithsonian phone number from memory so you can further explore the constellations.

"Do you know what I was doing at 1 a.m.??" she asked on a recent morning. "Standing in my yard, looking at the new comet, Hyakutake. I figure that if it won't be back for 10,000 years, I should take a look at it."

Moeller, 85, retired recently after a CC career that covered nearly four decades. When she moved to Maryland in 1941, Old Georgetown Rd. was two country lanes. And renting a house along the C&O canal cost only $35 a month.

When jobs were scarce during the Depression, Moeller learned to type in her spare time. Those self-taught skills were put to the test in 1955 when she arrived at NIH looking for work.

Moeller's husband, a 41-year-old engineer and avid speed skater, had died of a heart attack leaving her alone with the daunting task of raising three children. In a hot Quonset hut, where Bldg. 31 stands today, Moeller passed her typing test and landed a government job. She never left.

"I went to work when the Clinical Center was a beautiful new building with pools and azaleas and marble benches. Work was mixed with fun then, and there was no worry about security," she added.

Over the years, Moeller has been secretary to each of the CC's three pharmacy chiefs: Milton Skolaut, Joseph Gallelli, and Charles Daniels, whom she remembers from his days as hospital pharmacy resident in 1975.

"When I was a resident, Mrs. Moeller was already an institution in the pharmacy department. She knew how to find anything that was written, or even referred to, by anyone in pharmacy," Daniels recalls. "Amazingly, she still has that knack in 1996. There was nothing that she could not find, regardless of what key words I asked about. In preparing for her last week at work she kept reminding me of things that needed to be tended to by her successor. She was worried that we may have difficulty finding important information, and was concerned about the department to her last day. She has uncommon dedication to the NIH."

Skolaut, who left the CC more than 25 years ago—he now lives in North Carolina—felt so strongly about her work that he wrote a letter thanking her and wishing her luck in her retirement.

During Moeller's last week on the job, she offered coffee and cookies to the streams of people dropping in to say so long. Pictures from the past 85 years were scattered across her work space showing all phases of her life. There was one of Moeller as a member of her high school basketball team—undefeated Michigan state champs in 1928-29. She still writes to two of her teammates. Another picture showed Moeller with her badminton partners.

"I couldn't get enough badminton in those days," she laughed. "We used to play badminton here on the 14th floor. And many of the departments had basketball teams that we would cheer on. Serious work was mixed with fun. It was an interesting place to work. I never thought of going anywhere else."

And for future plans, well, there's her garden to tend, books to read, art exhibits to view, and the achievements of her grandchildren to record. And then, there's that comet.
The NIH Life Sciences Education Connection

Share your excitement for science with the public. Volunteer to participate in science education outreach activities. The Office of Science Education sponsors a variety of programs including Science Alliance, Mini-Med School, Science in the Cinema and the Speakers Bureau. The staff of OSE will make it easy to get involved.

The Science Alliance Program is developing kits for scientists to take to elementary schools. The kits will contain everything you need to run an activity over the course of 1-3 visits to an elementary school. The NIH Mini-Med School is a 9-session evening course offered each spring that puts the adult public in direct contact with NIH scientists who teach the basics of biomedicine and research. The Science in the Cinema program is a summer film series for the public that features movies with a scientific theme. The films are shown in their entirety followed by a discussion led by an individual or individuals with expertise in the scientific area portrayed in the film. The Speakers Bureau needs scientists and staff who have an interest in communicating the application of science to the health and well being of society through visits to schools, community organizations, national conferences and conventions.

There will be a fall workshop for scientists who want to volunteer, but would like some help in preparing materials for this new experience. The workshop will be held Sept. 25, from 3-5 p.m. in the Little Theater of the Clinical Center. If you are interested in the elementary program, come to training for the Science Alliance kits on Sept. 26.

Scientists who have had successful experiences with outreach activities will help you get started with ideas and tips to make your first experience enjoyable.

For more information about any of these activities, contact the Office of Science Education, 6-0608.

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Healthy men and women without significant alcohol and anxiety problems are needed for a 4-5 hour study on psychological and behavioral aspects of social anxiety and alcohol consumption. Eligible participants will receive $50. For more information, call Giao Tran at American University, Agoraphobia and Anxiety Program (202) 885-1743.

NIH Grantees Win 1996 Lemelson-MIT Prize

Drs. Stanley N. Cohen and Herbert W. Boyer have been named recipients of the 1996 Lemelson-MIT Prize. The award was established in 1994 by inventor Dr. Jerome H. Lemelson and his wife, Dorothy, to recognize the nation's most talented inventors and innovators, as well as to promote positive role models for young Americans.

Through their research collaboration which began in 1972, Cohen and Boyer helped to lay the cornerstone for modern biological and medical science by inventing a method of cloning genetically engineered molecules in foreign cells. This discovery paved the way for the mass production of hormones and other chemicals once only made by the human body, and established the multibillion dollar biotechnology industry.

Cohen, a professor of genetics and of medicine at Stanford University, has been an NIAID grantee for more than 28 years and an NIGMS grantee for more than 20 years.

Boyer is professor emeritus of biochemistry at the University of California, San Francisco, and is director of Genentech, Inc., the biotechnology company he cofounded in 1976. His research was funded by NIGMS.

Cohen and Boyer will share the $500,000 award, the world's largest single prize of its kind.
OHRM Training Tips

The Division of Workforce Development, OHRM, offers the following courses:

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Personal computer training is available through User Resource Centers (URC) self-study courses. There is no cost to NIH employees for these hands-on sessions. Additional courses are available by completing the "Training By Request" form in the back of the DWD Catalog. For more information, call DWD, 6-6211 or consult the DWD Catalog.

NIDDK Mourns Branch Chief Shulman

Dr. N. Raphael Shulman, chief of NIDDK’s Clinical Hematology Branch, died Apr. 10. He was 70.

Shulman was a pioneer in research on immunohematology, blood coagulation and fibrinolysis, hepatitis, and the physiology and biochemistry of platelets. His clinical studies increased understanding of the mechanisms of autoimmune, alloimmune, and drug-dependent cytopenias and led to the definition and treatment of post-transfusion purpura.

“He opened the entire field of immunohematology,” explained Dr. Alan Schechter, chief of NIDDK’s Laboratory of Chemical Biology. He says Shulman was among the first medical researchers to apply rigorous biochemical analyses to increase understanding of the mechanism of human disease processes. Shulman’s development and patenting of complement fixation and hemagglutination tests helped clarify relationships between appearance and regression of viral antigen and antibody during the course of hepatitis B. He was one of the six most quoted American hematologists from 1967 to 1982.

“One of his greatest assets was his fundamental respect for patients and an overriding concern for their well-being,” said Dr. Diane Reid, a fellow in Shulman’s lab. She explained that Shulman’s branch served as the mid-Atlantic regional referral center for diagnosis and treatment of hemorrhagic diseases for over 20 years.

Shulman graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine at the age of 22. In the 1950’s, he served as a lieutenant in the Naval Medical Corps and chief of the hematology division of the Naval Medical Research Institute. He joined NIH in 1957 as a medical officer in charge of hematology research at the National Institute for Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, now NIDDK. In 1960, he was elected a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation. He was appointed chief of NIDDK’s Clinical Hematology Branch in 1962 and was elected a fellow of the Association of American Physicians in 1965.

At the time of his death, Shulman was studying mechanisms of immune-mediated cellular injury, specificities of platelet-specific autoantibodies, and factors influencing the regulation of plasma levels of thrombopoietin, a newly characterized growth factor.

Shulman is survived by his wife, Ilene, and four daughters. Memorial contributions to Johns Hopkins University and the American Cancer Society are being accepted in his honor.

Seven NIEHS employees helped the North Carolina Peace Corps Association raise more than $2,200 to build a bakery in the village of Bedaya, a village of 3,500 people in Chad. They are (from l) Joe Cirvello, John Schelp, Allen Wilcox, Marian Johnson-Thompson, Jimmy Washington, Dav Robertson, and Denise Orzech. Proceeds will purchase kitchen equipment, initial baking ingredients and two bicycles so bread can be sold in neighboring villages up to 8 miles away.
Tall Trio of Washington Bullets Visits NIH

On Wednesday, May 8, patients and employees in the Clinical Center enjoyed a rare treat, an up-close-and-personal encounter with three NBA basketball players: Gheorghe Muresan, Ledell Eackles and Jim McIlvaine of the Washington Bullets. The tall trio represented some of the nice surprises of this year's young team, and they certainly caught Bldg. 10 by surprise.

Muresan, voted the NBA's Most Improved Player, literally caused the biggest stir. Jaws dropped at the sight of the 7'-7" center stooping through doorways. While he made even the tallest adults seem tiny, with NCI pediatric patients, the man whom fans call "Big Gheorghe" was the proverbial gentle giant. He knelt down and chatted amiably with the little people, putting them at ease with a big hand shake and one of the widest grins seen this side of Lilliput.

Eackles and McIlvaine shared Muresan's enthusiasm on this special visit with NIH's young patients. Eackles, a mere 6'-5" guard, displayed the same grace at the children's bedsides as he did handling the ball on the court. And seven-footer McIlvaine, one of the NBA's rising stars, clearly enjoyed joking around with several Midwesterners sporting the team colors of the rival Chicago Bulls (he signed their jerseys anyway). Though busy winding down from the recently completed season, all three players were more than happy to share their time with the children. They may block shots, steal balls, and slam vicious dunks for a living, but Big Gheorghe and Co. helped make the day a little brighter for the kids, not to mention the grownups who eagerly gathered around the players. No one could resist a chance to stand next to these big-hearted stars as they made their way through the Children's Inn and the CC. At the end of their all-too-brief visit, the Bullets left behind a bonanza of T-shirts and autographs, as well as a lot of smiling faces, and a promise to come back another day and meet some more young friends at NIH.

Inn Holds Family Reunion

The Children's Inn at NIH will host its Family Reunion on Saturday, June 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. All pediatric patients and their families are welcome to attend, and spend the afternoon visiting with friends and catch up on inn news. The afternoon will feature a picnic lunch, arts and crafts, plantings, playground fun, music and a tour of the inn.

NIH caregivers who interact with pediatric patients and their families are welcome to attend, but should RSVP to Suzanne Oberlander, 6-5672.

Men Ages 18-45 Needed

The Biological Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, is seeking male volunteers between ages 18-45 to participate in a 5-month study investigating the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must be free of medical illnesses and not taking any medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms and be asked to participate in one of several protocols. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Jean Murphy or Nazli Haq, 6-9675.