

THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Stetten Lecture

'Ghoulish' Potion Shows Nervous System Function

By Alisa Zapp

At the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture scheduled for the week before Halloween, a researcher will describe the deadly effects of a brew containing the functional equivalent of cobra toxin, tetrodotoxin



Dr. Olivera

(puffer fish poison), and botulinum toxin. He'll also describe how this potent venom, found in marine snails, helps to reveal molecular mechanisms underlying nervous system function.

Dr. Baldomero M. Olivera, distinguished professor of biology at the University of Utah, studies the hundreds of neurotoxins produced by venomous cone snails. His research has already led to the development of a potent painkiller, now in clinical trials, that appears to vanquish pain that is

SEE STETTEN LECTURE, PAGE 4

NIH Scientists Win Lasker Award

Two NICHD scientists, Dr. John Robbins and Dr. Rachel Schneerson, will receive the 1996 Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award for the landmark development of a polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccine for Hemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).

Robbins and Schneerson joined NICHD in 1962, soon after the institute was established by Congress. At that time, the leading cause of acquired mental retardation in the United States was brain damage from meningitis caused by Hib. Meningitis

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'Looking for That 1 in 1000'

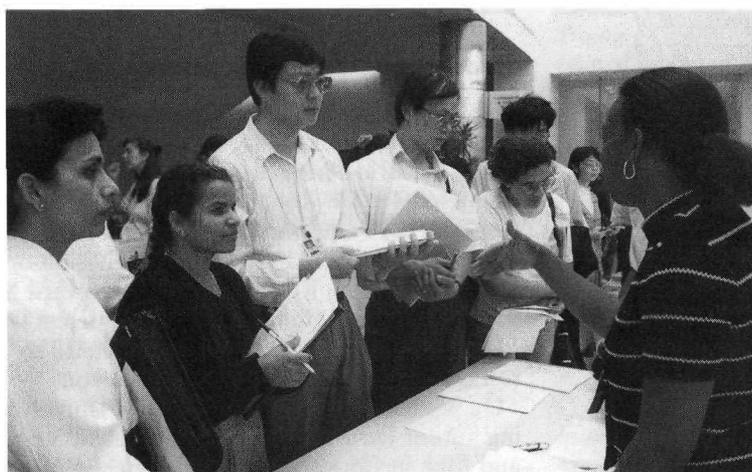
Job Fair Adds Spice to 10th Festival

By Carla Garnett

A few new spices were thrown into the scientific potpourri that is NIH's 5-day annual Research Festival, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Leading off was a Sept. 16 symposium featuring international experts on a current "hot" topic—prion diseases, a group of neurodegenerative disorders that includes "mad cow" disease, and its human counterpart Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease. Two other symposia—one on the genetics of complex disease and another, the NIDR Alumni Symposium, which honored Dr. Stephan Mergenhagen, the recently retired long-time chief of the institute's Laboratory of Immunology—four poster sessions, a picnic lunch, a scientific job fair, nearly 30 workshops, and a scientific equipment show were packed into the festival.

Organizers estimate that about 5,000 attended festival events that were centralized for the second year in a row at the Natcher

SEE RESEARCH FESTIVAL, PAGE 6



Successful Experiment: NCI's Dr. Lakshmi Channavajjala (second from l), who was among the dozens of postdocs attending the Research Festival's first-ever job fair, landed an interview later in the day.



Dear Editor,

I just read your article on the parking crunch that is expected due to upcoming construction projects on campus (*NIH Record*, Sept. 24). Why not extend the NIH Transshare program to IRTA (and visiting) fellows? I assure you that this would go far towards reducing our traffic problems!

Dr. Gabriella Ryan, LGDR/NCHGR

Dear Editor,

I just saw the letter to the editor in the *Record* on cycling on sidewalks. NIH regulations forbid bicycling on sidewalks. I would have liked to have seen a note to this effect after the letter. While there are signs on the buildings telling people that bikes are not permitted inside, most people aren't aware of any other regulations pertaining to bicycles.

As the front page article stated, parking may be getting tighter. I'd like to see articles on alternative commuting methods with suggestions that employees within, say, 1.5 miles be encouraged to walk and those less than 5 miles be encouraged to bike. With the bike racks on the front of the regular Ride-On buses even those farther from NIH can take the bus even if they aren't within a few steps of the bus stop.

Jay Miller, President, NIH Bicycle Commuter Club

LASKER AWARDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is a potentially fatal infection of the membranes surrounding the brain. Even with effective antibiotic treatment of Hib infection, 5 percent of those who contracted it died and about 30 percent had residual central nervous system damage, including mental retardation, deafness or seizures. Because of the development of the vaccine, however, Hib infection has been reduced by more than 95 percent in the U.S.

The NICHD investigators will share the award with two other scientists who worked independently of them as part of another team to develop the Hib vaccine, Drs. Porter Warren Anderson Jr. and David Hamilton Smith.

Since routine use of Hib conjugate vaccine began in the U.S., the number of cases of Hib meningitis or sepsis has fallen from 15-20,000 per year to less than 100. **R**

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series, held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, holds fast to its schedule at mid-month, then tosses a World Series curve Oct. 28 with a special Monday version.

On Oct. 16, Dr. Ronald C. Desrosiers will speak on "A Role for Auxiliary Genes in the Pathogenesis of AIDS." He is professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, and chairman, division of microbiology, New England Regional Primate Research Center, Harvard Medical School. He is hosted by the Virology and Clinical Research Interest Groups.

Dr. Baldomero M. Olivera visits Oct. 23 to discuss "Using Deadly Cone Snails to Learn Drug Design and Probe Nervous Systems." (See story on p. 1.)

On Monday, Oct. 28, Georgetown University linguistics professor and bestselling author Dr. Deborah Tannen visits at 3 p.m. in Masur to speak on "Women and Men in Conversation: A Linguistic Approach." This is the NIH Director's Cultural Lecture.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 4-5595. **R**



Dr. Deborah B. Henken has joined NICHD's Developmental Biology, Genetics and Teratology Branch as a health scientist administrator. She is responsible for administering research in the area of developmental neurobiology and related topics in genetics. She comes to NICHD after completing the Grants Associate Program and is the last individual to participate in the 1-year program of training for research scientists in the development of careers as HSA. The program began in 1963 and trained approximately 180 individuals during that period. Prior to entering the extramural program, Henken was a bench scientist in the Laboratory of Experimental Neuropathology, NINDS.

Male Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks male volunteers ages 18-45 for a 5-month study of 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 is provided. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 6-9576. **R**

Vanity Fair Outlet Trip

Finish your holiday shopping early this year while saving enough money to buy yourself a gift! R&W will visit the Vanity Fair Outlets in Reading, Pa., on Friday, Nov. 8. Bus leaves Bldg. 31's C-wing entrance at 7 a.m. and returns to NIH at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person, which includes coupon book, lunch coupon, and shopping bag. Call 6-4600 to reserve a seat. **R**

NIH RECORD

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NHLBI Launches Media Campaign For Latinos, Heart Health Is Key

The video depicts the devastating impact that heart disease can have on a Latino family—but, at a recent gathering in Washington, D.C., the drama was about how a community with heart can help its people have a healthier future.

The gathering at Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church was for the premier of a new multimedia information campaign to help area Latinos learn more about and so prevent heart disease. The campaign is part of an NHLBI-sponsored community initiative, “Salud para su Corazon,” or Health for Your Heart.

Besides the 30-minute video, “Por Amor al Corazon,” the campaign’s new broadcast and print materials include a 21-part Hispanic radio series, eight bilingual heart-health booklets, and a bilingual Latino cookbook.

The premier was sponsored by NHLBI, the NIH Office of Research on Minority Health, and the Community Alliance Working for Heart Health, which consists of representatives from more than 30 area Latino health, government, business, and other groups.

“Improving the health of Latinos is a top priority for the institute,” said director Dr. Claude Lenfant. “And this initiative is the first comprehensive cardiovascular disease prevention effort designed specifically for Washington-area Latinos.”

Salud para su Corazon was started about 2 years ago to conduct research, develop intervention strategies, and produce and disseminate educational materials about heart health for Latinos in metropolitan Washington.

A key part of the initiative is its outreach activities such as conducting high cholesterol and hypertension screenings at health fairs and sports events, and holding heart-healthy cooking demonstrations at churches and other community sites.



Joining the *Salud para su Corazon's* healthy heart at the premier were (from l) Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health; Dr. Elmer Huerta, community leader and *Cuidando su Salud* radio show host; and NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant.

String Quartet Returns

The Manchester String Quartet Series returns for the eighth season on Oct. 21. The lunchtime concerts are from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. All are welcome. The series is made possible by a grant from the Merck Co. Foundation. Complete 1996-1997 schedule includes: Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 3, Apr. 7 and May 19. Call Sharon Greenwell, 6-4713, for more information. ■

NIEHS Celebrates 30 Years, Opens New Labs

Proud of its recent Nobel Prize, its discoveries of genes for prostate, breast and ovarian cancer, and its pioneering research on lead poisoning, infertility and other environment-related diseases, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences celebrates its 30th anniversary Oct. 29—by looking forward.

The birthday also marks the opening of a \$48 million module, or wing, containing 57,500 square feet of new laboratory and office space.

North Carolina’s business and government representatives have reasons to look happily back over the past 30 years. At the beginning of 1966, NIEHS’ future home, Research Triangle Park, N.C., was just an expanse of rocky farmland between Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill with lots of big dreams and few tenants.

But before the year was over, the park was set as the future home of both a major facility of IBM and the newly established NIEHS, then called the Division of Environmental Health Sciences. The division achieved institute status in 1969.

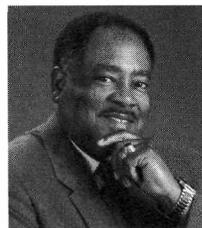
According to a local newspaper of the time, the announcements that NIEHS and IBM were coming changed the park from a big idea into a reality, setting it on the road to being the world-recognized and emulated research park still evolving and expanding today.

Research Triangle Foundation, the park’s landlord, welcomed the fledgling NIEHS with a 509-acre campus of woodland, azaleas and a large lake that is residence to duck, geese, fish and beaver.

The opening of the new lab addition, NIEHS’ fourth major laboratory module, a four-story unit called the F Module, will bring all NIEHS’ lab space under one roof. And, with this new wing, the main building of NIEHS jumps from 175,000 square feet of labs and offices to 232,000.

NIEHS will celebrate its 30th birthday outdoors (under a tent, in case of rain) where staff and guests can view the new laboratory module with its elevated walkways connecting to the rest of Bldg. 101.

All are invited to the anniversary program and dedication of the F Module at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29 at the main building at 111 T. W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park. ■



Earl F. Simmons, mail supervisor for the National Library of Medicine, received the National President’s Recognition Award at the 18th annual National Training Conference of Blacks in Government in Atlanta recently. He was cited for his “demonstrative commitment as the BIG Million Man March Coordinator.” Serving presently as first vice-president of the NIH chapter of BIG, he has received many honors from the organization.

STETTEN LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

unresponsive even to near-lethal doses of morphine.

Olivera will discuss his work and display a short video of a cone snail attacking and devouring a fish at the DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Lecture on Wednesday, Oct. 23. The lecture, entitled "Using Deadly Cone Snails to Learn Drug Design and Probe Nervous Systems," will start at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Cobras, scorpions, and other venomous animals may use one primary chemical weapon to overpower their prey. Cone snails use an entire arsenal. Their venom contains 50 to 150 peptides, each of which wreaks havoc on the central nervous system of fish. Independently, the peptides stimulate responses that include jerky swimming, sudden whole-body rigidity, or even sleep. Together, they cause chemical shock, paralysis, and death.

Olivera and his coworkers have extensively characterized about 30 of the peptides and have at least sequence information for more than 100 peptides. Each peptide recognizes and jams a

specific ion channel or receptor subtype. So specific are the peptides for their targets that molecular biologists now commonly use the peptides as labeling tools. One peptide even enabled researchers to identify subtypes of voltage-gated calcium channels.

This specificity has obvious implications for the design of highly efficient drugs that have few side effects. Most drugs bind to their therapeutic target, but also bind to related molecules, causing a wide range of side effects. The snail peptides appear to bind only one target, and they do it with extremely high affinity.

"The average present-day drug binds its target more selectively than closely related molecules by a factor of ten, a hundred, or a thousand," Olivera said. "But with the snail peptide, you're talking factors of a million, a billion, or more."

Those numbers quickly piqued the interest of Dr. George Miljanich, now at Neurex Corp., a pharmaceutical company in Menlo Park, Calif. Neurex is examining one of the cone snail peptides for its ability, when administered directly into the spinal cord, to relieve intractable pain in people with cancer or AIDS. The trials are in phase II/III and have

produced some dramatic results.

"It is gratifying that a peptide we discovered a little over 10 years ago is now relieving pain in patients," Olivera said. "There's every reason to think that some time next year it will probably be approved as a drug." Indeed, Miljanich said that Neurex plans to submit a New Drug Application to the FDA for the analgesic by the end of 1997.

As a testament to the specificity of the snail peptides for receptors in different areas of the body, Neurex is examining whether this same peptide, administered intravenously, can protect against nerve cell death following head injury or other trauma. These trials are in phase II.

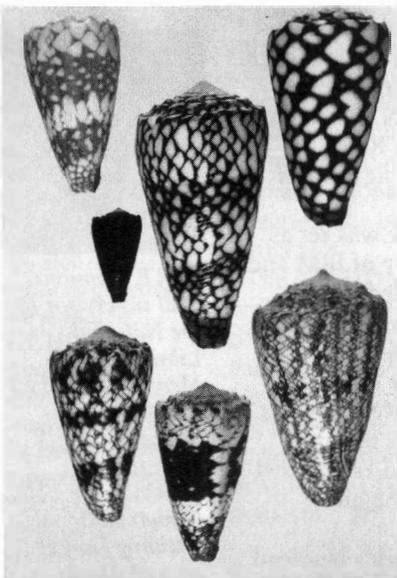
Although Olivera's main thrust continues to be basic research, he encourages others to investigate direct medical applications of his work. Such applications seem almost as varied as the peptides themselves. Two groups of researchers are examining the use of another cone snail peptide as a diagnostic screen for Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome, an autoimmune disorder triggered by lung tumors whose cells express specific calcium channels. A psychiatrist at the University of Utah is studying the peptides as possible treatments for psychiatric illnesses. Olivera suggested that the peptides might be developed to target key ion channels in cardiac and gastrointestinal systems.

"I think every one of the peptides could be a potential pharmacological agent, or at a minimum, a diagnostic tool," he said. After all, "the snail uses each as a very potent drug for its own purposes."

The snail peptides have additional qualities that bolster their potential as therapeutic agents. The targets of the snail toxins—ion channels and receptors—tend to be similar among all vertebrates, suggesting that what causes a neurological response in fish will cause some response in humans. The snail peptides are also much smaller, and therefore more easily manipulated as drugs, than toxins in snake or spider venom.

On a more basic level, knowledge provided by the cone snail studies may shed light on conditions—such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, and epilepsy—that involve abnormal function of receptors and ion channels in the nervous system.

NIGMS has supported Olivera's work since 1979. **R**



Shells from some of the world's cone snails. Of the 500 species of cone snails found in tropical oceans, about 70 species produce poisonous venom. Some of these poisonous snails bury themselves in the sand and extend a worm-like tube from their mouths to lure nearby fish. When the fish bites, the tube releases a poisonous harpoon that injects neurotoxins into the fish. The snail then engulfs the paralyzed fish with an extendable stomach-like structure. Within 2 hours, the snail spits out all that is left of the fish—bones, scales, and the used harpoon.

FEW Chapter Honored

The Bethesda chapter of Federally Employed Women received third place in the national organization's membership drive for 1996. The chapter was awarded a check for \$50 in appreciation for its efforts. The membership drive at NIH was chaired by Ofc. Shelley Dunham of the NIH Police. **R**

A Useful Summer

Dental Students Explore Research

'Awesome' is the term Deborah Clark-Holke uses to summarize her experience at NIDR. "I love pounding away at a problem in the lab!" says the 25-year-old, one of 10 dental students who spent part of the summer conducting research at NIDR. "Even though research is sometimes frustrating, it's a challenge that keeps pulling me back," she says. A student at the College of Dentistry, University of Iowa, Clark-Holke describes her participation in the NIDR Summer Dental Student Award (SDSA) program as an experience she would definitely like to repeat.

Launched this year, the SDSA program gives dental students a glimpse of research by offering them a chance to gain hands-on experience at NIDR for 6 to 12 weeks. Clark-Holke and nine other students were chosen from 30 applicants to participate in the program. Students were matched with a mentor and chose a research project according to their interests and experience.

"I think the program offers a unique opportunity for students to 'try out' research as a career," said program manager Dr. Marian Young, of NIDR's Bone Research Branch. "It's a chance for them to see how science is organized, how it works, and whether or not it's something they want to pursue."

Geoff Steinkruger, a student at the College of Dental Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, found the summer program an excellent opportunity "to see another side of science." During his 8 weeks, he worked in the Laboratory of Cellular and Developmental Oncology studying the cell signal protein transforming growth factor-beta. "It's really been an eye-opening experience for me," said the 24-year-old, who had his first brush with research in the summer program. "I am amazed at the diversity of research both at NIDR and NIH."

Although many of the students had worked in a lab, to some, the thought of working at NIH seemed a bit intimidating at first. But the overwhelming feeling among the students was one of eagerness to get here and "do science."

"I have wanted to do research ever since I was a sophomore in college," said Kapil Vij, 24, who attends the College of Dentistry, University of Illinois at Chicago. "I was anxious to get here and get going on my own projects right from the start."

"What better place is there to do science?" said Mark Berkman, who enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to spend his summer on the NIH campus. The student from Ohio State University College of Dentistry searched the Medline database to find out which NIDR mentor had done work in embryology, a topic of great interest to him. He found NIDR director Dr. Harold Slavkin. "When I came across Dr. Slavkin's work on cartilage develop-

ment, I knew that I wanted to work in his lab," said the 21-year-old, who spent 9 weeks studying chondrogenesis, or cartilage formation.

Between their time in the lab, the informal get-togethers, and the more structured activities like tours and presentations, the students were treated to a panel discussion that featured dentists who had pursued research careers.

Panel members answered questions that ranged from, "Do you ever have days when you feel research isn't for you?"—which drew laughter from the panel members—to "How do I choose a Ph.D. subject area?", and, more basically, "How do I know if research is really for me?"

"Get involved with research while you're in school," advised panelist Dr. Richard Ranney, dean of Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland. "You need to look within your university—the dental school as well as the medical school—and talk to the people doing research."

As the summer wound down, the students departed for their schools and another year of academic pursuits. "I think it was a productive summer for them," said Young. "The reaction I heard was, 'Wow—so this is research; it's really interesting!' I wouldn't be surprised if many of them choose it as a career."

"I met some high caliber people at NIDR and have learned a great deal," said Clark-Holke, who described her 7 weeks at the institute as "too short."

Vij, who made a presentation on the program to incoming students when he returned to school, said he hopes NIDR continues and expands the program. "This summer's experience was like a teaser," he said. "I would like to come back."



Pictured with NIDR director Dr. Harold Slavkin (seated, l), intramural director Dr. Henning Birkedal-Hansen (standing, third from l) and SDSA program manager Dr. Marian Young (standing fourth from r) are some students who spent their summer at NIDR.

Ski Club To Meet

The NIH Ski Club will hold its first meeting of the season on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8. The trips planned for the 1997 ski season will be discussed. A trip is planned to Austria Feb. 28-Mar. 11. There will be 6 days of skiing (downhill and cross-country) and a stop in Vienna for 3 days prior to returning home. Side trips for sightseeing are also available.

RESEARCH FESTIVAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Conference Center. In addition, about \$320 was raised for the Children's Inn via picnic lunch sales.

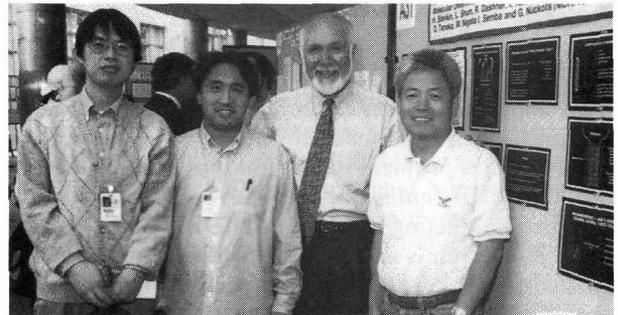
"Each event served an important purpose and, in my mind, each was successful," acknowledged Dr. Henning Birkedal-Hansen, NIDR scientific director and chair of the 1996 festival organizing committee. "Perhaps what impressed me most was the depth and breadth of science on campus. Needless to say the key to success is the quality of the science, and all of the symposia and workshop organizers did a marvelous job in putting together a string of excellent science presentations. The poster presenters also did a great job in sharing their ideas, approaches and findings with us. Personally, I learned a lot."

New for 1996 was the rebirth of an idea by original Research Festival planner Dr. Abner Notkins to invite participation in the poster sessions by ICD scientific directors and other VIPs including NIDR director Dr. Harold Slavkin, whose poster drew a constant crowd at the opening poster session.

"As a new intramural scientist in NIAMS," Slavkin said, "I was very impressed with the collegiality of the intramural community. It is a terrific intellectual environment. A number of IRP scientists stopped at the poster and were wonderful in offering suggestions and many opportunities for collaboration. There is a convergence between clinical craniofacial dysmorphism, developmental and molecular biology, and evolutionary biology—a new intellectual synthesis—and this convergence was evident at the poster session. And, it was great fun!"

Already involved in a 3-lab collaboration was Dr. Ivan Fuss of NIAID who displayed results of research on ALPS, or autoimmune lympho-proliferative syndrome, that also garnered a steady stream of interested onlookers. "A lot of what we're looking into with regard to autoimmune phenomenon—what brings it about, why it occurs—is relevant to other people's work," he said, explaining his poster's popularity.

Not necessarily seeking research partners, but excited to be showing off some new-found knowledge was Eileen Farnon, who came to NIH for a year and a half to decide between grad school and med school. Now a first-year student at Temple University Medical School, she said she will probably pursue some mechanism such as a Howard Hughes fellowship that will allow her to return to NIH in the future. She worked with colleagues and Drs. Michael Lenardo of



VIP poster presenter Dr. Harold Slavkin (second from r), NIDR director and NIAMS intramural scientist, drew a continuous crowd to discuss his work during NIH's 10th annual Research Festival.

PHOTOS: BILL AND ERNIE BRANSON

NIAID and Henry McFarland of NINDS on her poster describing a method of measuring antigen-specific cells in multiple sclerosis. "I'm just starting med school this fall so it's too soon to choose a specialty, but I'm leaning towards infectious diseases," she said.

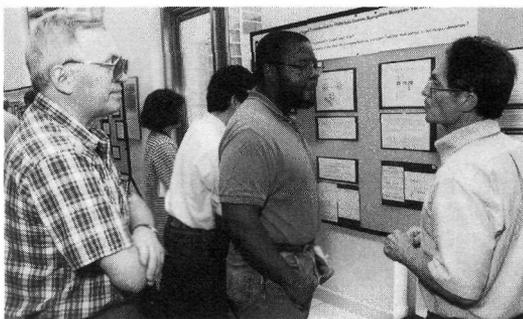
Another highlight of the festival was the scientific job fair that was added this year to lend assistance to NIH fellows. Representatives from FDA and several pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies staffed tables until noon on Wednesday, Sept. 18, collecting resumes, applications and scheduling afternoon interviews with prospective employees from NIH labs. About 30 open positions had been logged into a special jobs database prior to the fair.

Dr. Kong Chen of NINDS said he was interested in the pharmacology positions offered by FDA. "I was also hoping there would be more employers here," he said. "I wasn't able to stay long because I am running an experiment just now, and it seemed everybody there was crowded around the FDA table."

Recruiting for jobs in NCI's Pediatric Oncology Branch, Dr. Carol Thiele was able to explain perhaps why FDA was drawing so much interest. "This was my first job fair," she said. "I was looking [to interview] a postdoc/staff fellow. I think that people were looking for a job and didn't really care what it was about. Most wanted a 'slot' or FTE position. I spoke with about 20 people and I didn't think most were appropriate for the position, as they did not have the appropriate background. I did, however, get an application for a technician. I also have a technician slot open. I think [the job fair] would be a good format for NIH techs to see what is out there and would be a good opportunity to interview interested techs."

Another recruiter, Jeff Hallquist, director of marketing and sales for the pharmaceutical firm HRP, Inc., said his company was accepting resumes for a study director and would be ready to hire a qualified Ph.D. holder by Dec. 1. "I had a woman looking for a position come up to me and put this whole thing in perspective," he said. "She said

Dr. Henry Metzger (r), NIAMS scientific director, presents his research during the festival's poster sessions, which this year were also opened to the campus's VIPs.



everybody here is looking for that one job in a thousand, for that perfect fit. She was right. We're all looking for that perfect one in a thousand applicant and they're all looking for that one in a thousand employer. This is certainly a great place to start looking."

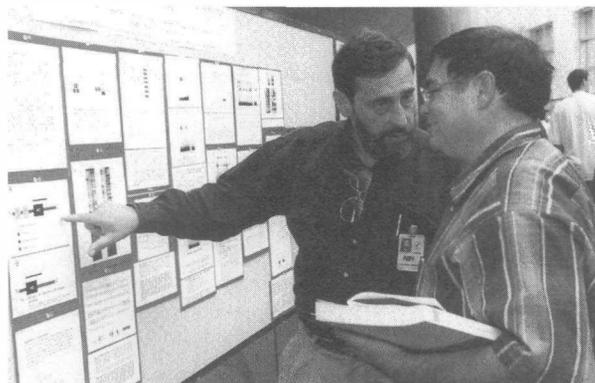
At least one postdoc was having a successful day at the job market: Dr. Lakshmi Channavajjala, a 6-year employee of NCI's Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, landed an afternoon interview for a postdoctoral fellowship position in biotechnology at Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center. Her colleague in the lab, Dr. Kaur Harvinder, was attending the fair just for future reference, however. "I just started my job here," she said, smiling, "so I'm a new baby on the block."

Birkedal-Hansen said he sees the fair as a work in progress that will only grow more beneficial for NIH's postdocs. "I believe that the addition of the job fair will prove to be an important element of the festival," he commented. "This year 12 companies were represented. Obviously there is room to grow and expand this event, and I have no doubt that many more companies will sign up in future years. I am particularly pleased if we can assist our fellows in pursuing their career objectives in this manner."

Festival activities concluded Thursday and Friday under the big tents temporarily erected on parking lot 10D for 2 days of scientific equipment displays and demonstrations by the Technical Sales Association, which also underwrote some festival expenses.



NIDR scientific director Dr. Henning Birkedal-Hansen (l) chaired the 1996 NIH Research Festival organizing committee, which selected Dr. Stephan Mergenhagen (r), a longtime NIDR lab chief who recently retired, as honoree of this year's alumni symposium. Several of his former colleagues gathered to discuss current work and pay tribute to their mentor.



NICHD's Dr. Alexander Karavanov explains research conducted in collaboration with scientists at the University of California.

Genome Lecture Series Begins Oct. 17

NCHGR's 1996-1997 Human Genome Lecture Series will begin Oct. 17. The series will feature nine speakers from the fields of molecular biology, technology development and genome research and covers topics that span the breadth of the goals of the Human Genome Project. All lectures take place from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The schedule follows:

OCT. 17: Dr. Randall Scott, Incyte Pharmaceuticals. "Pharmaceutical Applications of High-Throughput DNA Sequencing: Moving Molecular Biology into the Information Age."

NOV. 21: Dr. Gary Karpen, Salk Institute. "Tropical Paradises and Metazoan Centromeres: Molecular-Genetic Analyses of Chromosome Inheritance in *Drosophila*."

DEC. 19: Dr. Richard Wilson, Washington University. "Genome Analysis by Large Scale DNA Sequencing."

JAN. 16: Dr. Gerald Rubin, University of California, Berkeley. "The *Drosophila* Genome Project: How

Will It Help Us Determine the Function of Human Genes?"

FEB. 20: Dr. Dierdre Meldrum, University of Washington. "Capillary Automated Submicroliter Sample Preparation for Genome Analysis."

MARCH 1997: To Be Announced

APR. 17: Dr. Wylie Burke, University of Washington Medical School. "Care of Individuals with an Inherited Predisposition to Cancer."

MAY 1997: TBA

JUNE 12: Dr. Stanley Fields, University of Washington. "Prospects for Protein Linkage Maps."

For more information, contact NCHGR's Office of Communications, 2-0911. To schedule an appointment with the speaker, contact Dr. Ken Nakamura, 2-0838. ■

Overweight Kids Needed

Healthy overweight children are needed for an NICHD study investigating body composition and the causes of overweight: African American and Caucasian boys and girls, ages 6-10. There will be two visits, one during the day and one overnight. Participants receive a thorough evaluation for medical causes of overweight including a physical exam, blood tests, metabolism tests, and x-rays. This is not a treatment study. Participants will be paid. Call 6-4168 for more information. ■

RNA Symposium Planned

The NIH RNA Club is sponsoring the Mid-Atlantic Regional RNA Symposium on Tuesday, Oct. 22. It will be held in Rm. E of the Natcher Conference Center beginning at 9 a.m. The meeting will feature talks by speakers from NIH and neighboring institutions, a keynote address by Tom Blumenthal of Indiana University on "Operons in the nematode genome," and a poster session. Talks will cover a range of topics in the areas of RNA metabolism and RNA-protein interactions, including RNA splicing, retroviral RNA transport, RNA editing and translational regulation.

The meeting is free, but preregistration is requested. To register and get more information, access the Web site at www.nci.nih.gov/intra/LTVB/SYMP.HTM or contact Susan Haynes at sh4i@nih.gov or Brenda Peculis at bp51h@nih.gov.

This Year, Foil the Flu

The approaching flu season inspires a touch of dread in everyone. But there is a weapon—flu immunization—to help foil the flu.

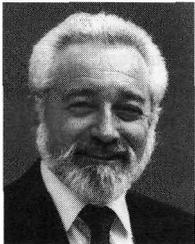
Because the flu can spread rapidly and easily from one person to another, getting a flu immunization has an added benefit: if you don't get it, you can't give it to anyone else.

Millions of people suffer annually with the flu, which can be a dangerous disease. Each year, the flu and its complications hospitalize between 250,000 and 500,000 Americans and kill almost 20,000. Because of these serious consequences, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends flu immunization. A flu shot every year is urged for

people: with chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular diseases; over 64 years old; who have been treated in the past year for conditions such as renal dysfunction, chronic metabolic disease; who are immunosuppressed; working in settings with high-risk populations such as the Clinical Center.

Immunization is necessary every year for two main reasons: The types of flu virus are different every year, and the immunization effect lasts only about 6 months. Few people have any side effects or reactions to the vaccination.

NIH employees are fortunate because they can get flu immunizations free at the worksite and without an appointment.



Dr. Dov Jaron has been named NCRR associate director for the biomedical technology area, which includes several extramural programs such as research project grants (R01's), shared instrumentation grants, and funding to 65 state-of-the-art resource centers nationwide. From 1980, until his new assignment began Sept. 1, he served as professor and director of Drexel University's Biomedical Engineering and Science Institute in Philadelphia. He is an expert in applying bioengineering techniques to cardiovascular research.

Influenza Immunization Clinic Schedule 1996

October 16 - November 22

After Nov. 22, immunizations given by appointment only

On Campus Clinics

Bldg. 10, Rm. 6C306

If your last name begins with

| | Your date is: | a.m. | p.m. | | Your date is: | a.m. or | p.m. |
|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|
| A, B | Nov. 7, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 2 | L, M | Oct. 22, Tues. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 3 |
| C, D | Nov. 12, Tues. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 3 | N - Q | Oct. 24, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 2 |
| E, F | Nov. 14, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 2 | R, S | Oct. 29, Tues. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 3 |
| G, H | Oct. 16, Wed. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 3 | T - V | Oct. 31, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 2 |
| I - K | Oct. 17, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 2 | W - Z | Nov. 5, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 | 1 - 2 |

Walk-in (any last name) Nov. 19, Tues. 7:30 - 11 a.m. 1 - 3 p.m.; first come, first served on Nov. 21, Thur. 7:30 - 11 a.m. 1 - 2 p.m.; Oct. 21 thru Nov. 21, Mon. and Thur. evenings, 4:30 - 8

Bldg. 13, Rm. G-904 (all day clinics are 8 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.)

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| A - D | Oct. 25, Fri. | E - H | Nov. 1, Fri. | I - M | Nov. 8, Fri. | N - S | Nov. 15, Fri. |
| T - Z | Oct. 18, Fri. | | | | | | |

Off Campus Clinics

EPN, Rm. 103 (all clinic times: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.)

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| A - L | Nov. 13, Wed. |
| M - Z | Oct. 30, Wed. |

Federal Bldg., Rm. 1C05 (all clinic times: 1-3 p.m., Tues., Oct. 22 and Nov. 5)

Poolesville

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Conf. Rm., Bldg. 102 | Nov. 12, Tues. | 8 - 11 a.m. |
| Conf. Rm., Bldg. 110 | Nov. 12, Tues. | 12 - 2 p.m. |

Solar Bldg., Rm. 1A04 (all clinic times: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.)

| | |
|-------|---------------|
| A - L | Oct. 23, Wed. |
| M - Z | Nov. 6, Wed. |

Rockledge, Rm. 5054 (all clinic times: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m.)

| |
|---------------|
| Oct. 21, Mon. |
| Oct. 28, Mon. |
| Nov. 4, Mon. |

NIDR's John Townsley Retires

Dr. John Townsley, associate director for policy and coordination in NIDR's Division of Extramural Research (DER), recently retired after more than 25 years at NIH.

As chief advisor to the division director, he coordinated the development and administration of research grants and training programs. He was also executive

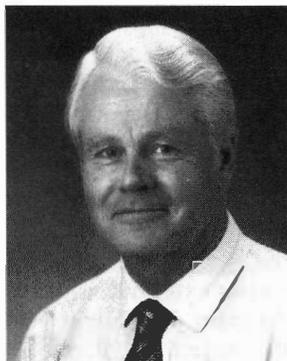
secretary of NIDR's dental research programs advisory committee, which provided recommendations to the institute on program priorities.

A native of Great Britain, Townsley earned his bachelor's degree and doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Leeds. In 1962, he arrived in the U.S. after accepting a fellowship in steroid biochemistry at Clark University and the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Massachusetts.

"I was here for a year, and one year became two and then three and, before I knew it, six," he said. "I liked the research environment and found the sunny skies of Massachusetts preferable to those I'd left behind in Britain!" After completing his fellowship, he became a staff scientist at the Worcester Foundation and then served at Ohio State University as an assistant professor. He joined NIH in 1971 as chief of the perinatal biochemistry section at NICHD.

In 1977, he switched from intramural to extramural when he was recruited by NIDR's National Caries Program as chief of the Caries Research Grants and Contracts Branch. "When I was in the intramural community I enjoyed the collegiality and the freedom to pursue my own research interests," said Townsley. "The extramural program was satisfying in other ways—talking to investigators from many different fields, helping young scientists develop into first-rate investigators, encouraging outstanding-but-unfunded scientists to 'hang in there,' and watching the direction of research change through programs I helped start."

Prior to becoming DER associate director in 1991, Townsley headed the extramural program's Craniofacial Anomalies, Pain Control and Behavioral Research Branch. He initiated the development of three craniofacial research centers whose studies focus on the molecular mechanisms of orofacial birth defects. He also broadened the research portfolio to include clinical trials of orthodontic procedures and surgical treatments for jaw abnormalities and cleft lip and cleft palate.



Dr. John Townsley

Within the last few years, Townsley developed NIDR's Regional Research Centers in Minority Oral Health program. The program supports research on oral diseases and conditions prevalent among minority populations and provides career development opportunities for minority investigators. Recently he chaired the NIDR minority recruitment and retention coordinating committee.

Upon retiring, Townsley ventured to southern Greece and Crete, traveling with a group of archaeology students from Montgomery College. "It was interesting to see the sites of the Greek myths, which thrilled me when I was a boy," he said. "There's so much history and literature that I've never had time to study. Now I'll be able to make up for lost time."

Other retirement activities include spending time with his three grown children and their families. He already has three grandsons and there are two grandchildren on the way. He also is continuing to tutor a Korean student in conversational English and he'd like to tutor another immigrant who needs help in becoming more accustomed to America. Keeping in touch with his friends at NIH is one more priority. "I have a feeling that the problem of deciding what to do will be just as difficult during retirement as it was when I was working full-time," he said. "I imagine I will be kept busy." ■

EAP Video Workshop Series Set

This month, the NIH Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will start the 1996-1997 season of its "Tuesdays at the Little Theater" video workshop series with the topic "How to Deal with Difficult People."

The workshops employ a two-part approach: At each session, a segment of an expert speaker's video tape is shown first. Counselors from EAP then lead a group discussion about the topic. Topics address typical workplace issues faced by NIH employees.

The lunch-time, drop-in format makes attending simple. The series is free, requires no registration and is open to all employees. The workshops are held in the Bldg. 10 Visitor Information Center's Little Theater. If you have any questions, contact EAP, 6-3164.

"How to Deal with Difficult People" will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: Oct. 15, 22; Nov. 5, 12, 19. ■

Feeling Sad? NIMH Wants You

The NIMH Behavioral Endocrinology Branch is seeking men and women over age 45 who are medication free and experiencing the following: feeling sad or "flat," sustained lack of enjoyment and motivation, loss of energy, and decreased sexual interest. Eligible subjects will be recruited for a treatment study that augments age-related decline in the hormone dehydroepiandrosterone. For information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 6-9576. ■



Dr. Neal West recently joined NCCR as program director for laboratory animal sciences in the comparative medicine area. This program supports research and resource grants to improve the health care and environment of laboratory animals and establish special colonies for research. West received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and conducted biochemical research for 20 years at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center. There he investigated the mechanisms of steroid hormone action in the reproductive tracts of nonhuman primates. He came to NIH in 1990 as a grants associate and completed several assignments in NCCR before serving as a scientific review administrator at NCI for almost 5 years.



FARE Program Rewards Fellows

The Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE) this year will again provide recognition for outstanding scientific research. The NIH fellows committee, financially supported by the scientific directors and Office of Research on Women's Health, will award 120 basic science and clinical fellows with \$1,000 each toward domestic travel and other costs associated with a scientific meeting. This money must be used between Oct. 1, 1996 and Sept. 30, 1997.

Applications, including abstracts, may be electronically submitted to Felcom (see address below), mailed (postmarked) or hand delivered to the Office of Education, Bldg. 10, Rm. 1C129, Attn: Shirley Forehand, between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15. Winners will be announced by mid-January 1997. Questions should be directed by email to award@atlas.niaid.nih.gov or to your institute's fellows committee representative. The application form and instructions, as well as examples of last year's winning abstracts, can be accessed at Felcom, the fellows web site, <ftp://helix.nih.gov/felcom/index.html>. ■



Drs. Sharon E. Moss and D.G. Patel are new health scientist administrators in NCRR's Office of Review (OR). Moss will review several General Clinical Research Centers grant applications and manage a special emphasis panel for the K-12 Teachers and High School Students Minority Initiative. Patel will review applications for the Research Facilities Infrastructure Program. Before joining NCRR, Moss spent the last 4 years in the Clinical Center as a speech language pathologist. Patel most recently served as a pharmacologist for the Food and Drug Administration.

STEP Forum on Change

The STEP committee will present a forum entitled "Thriving in a World of Change: A Personal Survival Guide," on Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall. The featured speaker will be Bruce Johnson, president, Making It Clear Communications Group.

Change happens. Whether we like it or not, it is the current reality of our workplace. What can NIH'ers do to minimize the disruption and maximize the benefits? Johnson will motivate, inspire, and provide listeners with information on how to deal with change as it occurs. He will also show how to develop a dream that will get us out of bed in the morning and help us maintain an attitude that will get us through the day.

The forum is open to all NIH staff on a first-come, first-served basis. No advanced registration is necessary. Extramural scientist administrator continuing education credit is available. For sign language interpretation or reasonable accommodations, or for more information, contact the STEP office, 5-2769. ■

NIMH Study Needs Women

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks women who are postmenopausal (no menstrual period for at least a year) and medication-free to participate in a study investigating the effects of hormones on behavior. Hormonal evaluation will be performed and payment is provided. For information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 6-9576. ■

Do you consider yourself a perfect parent? Is your relationship with your children so wonderful that it cannot be improved? If so, you probably won't need to attend this year's Brown Bag Lunch Series on balancing work and family. For the rest of us, the sessions promise to teach how to be better parents, and in turn, better employees.

The first program, "Building a Quality Relationship with Your Child," is Wed. Oct. 23. It will be led by Patti Cancellier, who has taught parenting classes extensively for the Parent Encouragement Program, Inc. She will seek to dispel the myth of the perfect parent, address what "quality time" really means, and discuss how to develop independence in your children in their early years.

The other session, "Riding the Roller-Coaster: Surviving Your Child's Teenage Years," is Wed. Oct. 30. Led by Dr. Scott R. Buehler, cofounder of Parent Care, Inc., this luncheon discussion will focus on the nature of power struggles, teenagers' need for belonging, how to earn trust, and the art of listening and communication.

Gloria Seelman, program coordinator, says, "Many of the basic skills involved in parenting, such as opening up lines of communication and earning trust, also apply in the workplace setting. Also, if we feel confident about our relationships with our children, we are better able to focus on our jobs."

Both programs will offer handouts and feature interactive discussions with the audience. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The series, sponsored by the Office of Research on Women's Health, meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall. Bring your lunch. For more information, call Seelman, 6-0608. ■

Disability Awareness Day Program

The 13th annual Disability Awareness Day Program will be held Thursday, Oct. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Natcher Bldg. auditorium. The theme is "Investing in Abilities."

Cosponsored by a number of NIH components, and the NIH advisory committee for employees with disabilities, the program will feature two keynote speakers: Judy Heumann, assistant secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education; and Richard Pimentel, senior partner, Milt Wright & Associates of Chatsworth, Calif. Comedian Ken Glickman will entertain.

In addition there will be an expo, featuring technological advances for people with disabilities, at the Natcher auditorium level from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For reasonable accommodation, contact Carlton Coleman, 6-2906 voice, 2-8014 TTY. ■



DCRT Computer Engineer Dew Dies

Robert B. Dew, a computer engineer with DCRT since 1983, died of cancer on Sept. 8 at his home in Kensington.

During his first years at NIH, Dew pioneered the application of PCs to clinical and laboratory automation. He designed an award-winning anesthesiology monitoring and reporting system and an automated system to measure coronary venous blood flow during cardiac catheterization. He also designed the Ethernet local area network for Bldg. 30 in 1989.

Since 1990, Dew worked on DCRT's Advanced Laboratory Workstation (ALW) system, integrating and developing software for electronic news, multimedia electronic mail, security, video conferencing, license management, and problem report tracking. His contributions led to the ALW system winning the Best in Open Systems Solutions (BOSS) award for Innovation in Hardware, Software, and Networking Approaches at the Federal Computer Conference in 1992.

Dew received a B.S. in physics from SUNY at Geneseo, a B.S. in electrical engineering from Clarkson College, and an M.S. in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University. He is survived by five sisters, his paternal grandmother, and several nieces and nephews.



Robert B. Dew

Dale Warren Mourned

Dale Warren, 56, who spent 34 years at NIH, died June 9. He had retired in 1995 from NICHD, where he was a laboratory technician.

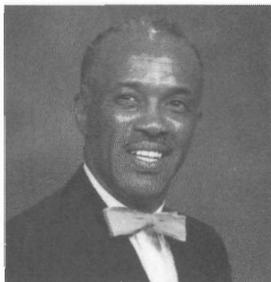
He attended Carnegie Institute, where he obtained a degree in laboratory techniques.

He also served in the U.S. Army for 10 years, with honors.

He married Eloise Woods in 1962 and the couple had two sons and a daughter who reside in Baltimore and Hyattsville, Md. He was also a grandfather of two granddaughters and a grandson.

Warren was known for his elegant style, and wore vintage apparel. He had a passion for gardening and landscaping, and many admired his yard.

He is remembered mainly for his bright smile, poise, love for his family and his faith in God.



Dale Warren

DCRT Courses and Programs

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 4-3278.

| | |
|---|----------|
| ADBIS for Windows: Budget and Finance | 10/9 |
| Image Processing on the Macintosh | 10/10 |
| LISTSERV Electronic Mailing Lists | 10/10 |
| Using SQL to Retrieve Data | 10/10-11 |
| PC Troubleshooting | 10/16-17 |
| Backup/Recovery Facility for Personal Computers and Servers | 10/17 |
| Introduction to the Helix Systems | 10/18 |
| Database Technology Seminar | 10/18 |
| Tools to Integrate Databases into the Web | 10/21 |
| BRMUG Macintosh Users' Group | 10/22 |
| Planning and Installing a LAN | 10/22 |
| ADBIS for Windows: NIH Property Management | 10/23 |
| Macintosh Shortcuts and Techniques | 10/24 |

1997-98 Management Cadre Program Opens

The leadership development committee and the Division of Workforce Development announce the 1997-98 NIH Management Cadre Program, a highly competitive program designed to provide leadership training and developmental opportunities for high-potential NIH employees and prepare them for future leadership positions here. NIH is committed to ensuring that access to the program is available to women, underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities.

Application for the program is open to employees at grades 12, 13, or 14, on a career or career-conditional full-time appointment for at least 1 year prior to Dec. 3, 1996.

Application packages will be mailed upon request; call the Division of Workforce Development, 6-6211. Applications must be completed and received by ICD personnel offices by Dec. 3. For more information, contact: Pauline Irwin, program manager at DWD, 2-3385, e-mail: irwinp@odepsm1.od.nih.gov. ■

Jiu-Jitsu Club Welcomes Newcomers

The NIH Jiu-Jitsu Club is welcoming new members. The club meets each Thursday evening from 8:30 to 10 and each Saturday afternoon from 1:30 to 3 in the Malone Fitness Center, Bldg. 31C, Rm. B4C18. The club stresses mastery of practical self-defense skills, of traditional Jiu-Jitsu techniques (striking, grappling, locking, throwing) and developing fitness and flexibility. The monthly membership fee is \$20. For more information contact Dr. Peter Bassler, 5-1949. ■

Workshop on Membrane Lipids

The Structural Biology Interest Group is sponsoring a workshop on the importance of global membrane organization in the control and function of integral membrane proteins.

The 1-day conference will take place Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the main auditorium of the Lister Hill Center. In addition to NIH scientists and their collaborators, invited leaders in rhodopsin research who will participate are Dr. Walther Stockenius, University of California, Santa Cruz, and Max Planck Institute; Dr. Thomas Ebrey, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Dr. Mostafa El-Sayed, Georgia Tech. For registration and more details contact Dr. Richard Hendler, 6-2610; fax 2-1519 or email rw@helix.nih.gov.

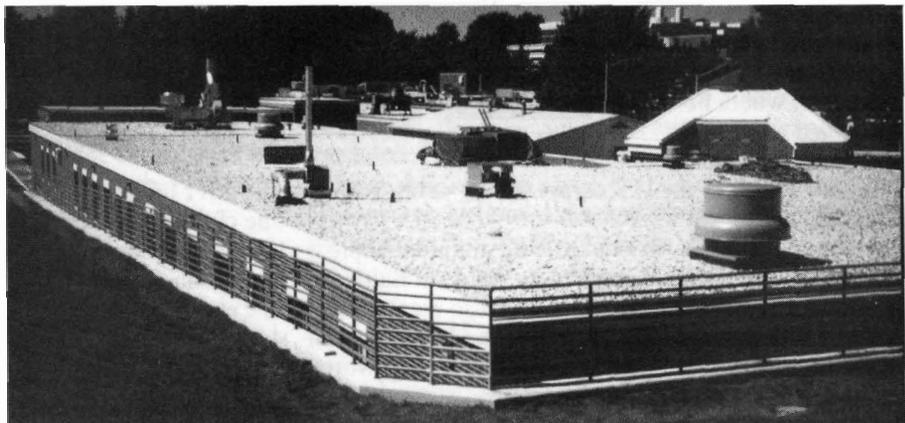
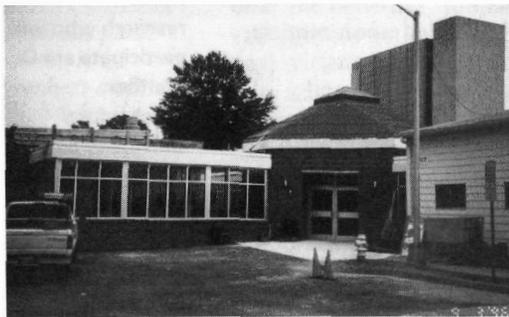
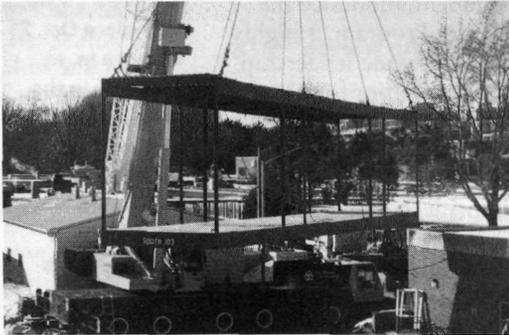
The Building of Bldg. 32T-II

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow...Delayed at times by furlough, snow storms and freezing temperatures, construction of Bldg. 32T-II—a second annex to NICHD's Bldg. 32—was completed recently. At right, crews begin in late October 1995 by excavating land and erecting a retaining wall at the southernmost point of Center Dr., adjacent to Bldgs. 32T and 18T. Lister Hill Center towers in the background.

At right, the major steam pipe that supplies several surrounding buildings is kept intact as the new foundation is diverted around the steamline, according to Project Officer Kyung Kim, an engineer at NIH's Office of Research Services.



Winter of our discontent? By February, after soil frozen about 15 inches deep thawed, the stone pillars—upon which the modular pieces that comprise Bldg. 32T-II will sit—are installed. At right, a view after layers of the Blizzard of '96 were cleared and (below) crews make final adjustments to the underground piping. A company in Pennsylvania designed the modular units to NIH specifications and transported them here via wideload trucks. At left, a crane sets the pre-built frames in place. Below left shows a frontal view of the completed building, which connects Bldgs. 32, 32T and 18T.



Finally, Bldg. 32T-II, literally carved out of a hillside and housing about 10,000 square feet of laboratory space, is ready for full occupancy nearly a year to the date of excavation. At left, a view of the lab appointments on the inside.