

# THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Levity and Brevity

## Varmus's Leadership Lauded By Shalala, ICD Directors

By Carla Garnett

It lasted only about 55 minutes, but in that short period, many tales were told out of school—some of them made up. Laughter and applause punctuated most comments. An irreverent oath was uttered. Throughout the proceedings, one thought remained constant: Only the highest regard is held for NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus and the job he is doing at NIH by his colleagues, friends and associates.

According to a veteran NIH scientist and administrator, an NIH director traditionally receives a round of applause at an ICD directors' meeting only twice: upon arrival and upon departure. "We want to change that tradition now, because Harold is a very special person and an extraordi-

SEE TRIBUTE, PAGE 4



Erection of construction cranes outside Bldg. 10 announces renovation of the facility. See back page for more photos.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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**Sculptor Works Like the Dickens After Hours**

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Actor Christopher Reeve (c) visited NIH on Dec. 15 to learn more about research on spinal cord injury and to meet with leading scientists. Among those who hosted his visit to the Clinical Center were Dr. Zach Hall (l), NINDS director, and NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus. Reeve was briefed in the 11th floor solarium by intramural scientists and several extramural grantees. Segments from the visit were aired Dec. 23-24 on NBC's Today Show.

Sculptor by Night

## NIA's Rosztoczy Creates Cast Of Characters After Hours

By Rich McManus

Arrayed across a table top on the fifth floor of the Gateway Bldg. in Bethesda is a small coterie of figures, lifelike representations of characters invented by Dickens and Tchaikovsky. Here is Tiny Tim, hobbling on a wooden crutch. There, Jacob Marley, swathed in chains and mummy-gray, freezes in mid-stagger. Nearer is the Harlequin from *The Nutcracker*, resplendent in mask and parti-colored outfit.

It could easily be the display room of one of the fashionable boutiques that are its neighbor in the upscale glass-and-brick office building. But here on the morning after Thanksgiving—a time of almost unparalleled hushedness—it is an NIA conference room devoid of conferees except for these silent, exquisite representatives of the past.

SEE NIA SCULPTOR, PAGE 6



*Dr. Tom Puglisi has been named director of the Division of Human Subject Protections in the Office for Protection from Research Risks. The division implements regulations and policies related to the protection of human subjects in research conducted or supported by the Department of Health and Human Services. Puglisi joined OPRR in 1989, serving first as an assurance coordinator, and most recently as chief of DHSP's Compliance Oversight Branch.*

### NIH Acquisition Staff Honored

At a recent HHS Acquisition Symposium in Washington, D.C., several NIH teams received the assistant secretary for management and budget's Award for Innovative Government-wide Procurement Initiatives.

NIAID was recognized for the first research and development paperless acquisition process. The award went to Lewis Pollack, Gregory Pryor, Rosemary Hamill, Carl Henn, and Sara Southard. The NIH Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center was recognized for streamlined acquisition of long-term information resource needs,



*Pictured above at the symposium were (from l) Terrence Tychan, Office of the Secretary, HHS; Dr. Steve Kelman (obscured), Office of Federal Procurement; and awardees Gregory Pryor, Lewis Pollack, Carl Henn, Rosemary McCabe Hamill and Sara Southard, all of NIAID.*

namely the Electronic Computer Store, Image World and the chief information officer/solutions and partners contracts. Awardees were Manny DeVera, Carol Marcotte, Julius Tidwell, and Gale Greenwald.

One hundred twenty-five members of the NIH acquisition community attended the symposium, which focused on innovative and streamlined procedures. ■

### WHO Honors NICHD Scientists

Two NICHD scientists, Drs. John Robbins and Rachel Schneerson, recently received the World Health Organization Children's Vaccine Initiative Pasteur Award for Recent Contributions in Vaccine Development for the landmark development of a polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccine for Hemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).

The two shared 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. All four recently received the 1996 Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award for their work on the Hib vaccine. ■

### In the Dark Dec. 27

A power outage that began late Sunday, Dec. 1, 1996, and ended around 4 p.m. the next day disrupted DCRT computing services as well as telephone service to Bldgs. 12, 12A, and 12B. The power failure was caused by an electrical explosion in the 13,800-volt switchgear located in an NIH substation. DES was able to restore enough power by early Monday morning to run NIHnet. Once full power was restored, all DCRT services resumed with no loss of data or software.

A long-planned "uninterruptible power supply" scheduled for completion in the next few months will prevent future power outages from disrupting DCRT computing and networking services by supplying Bldg. 12 with emergency power from a combination of batteries and diesel generators. DCRT is also taking steps to ensure emergency telephone access to essential staff in Bldgs. 12A and 12B. ■

### Do You Get the Winter Blues?

The NIMH Clinical Psychobiology Branch is seeking men and women ages 18-65 who experience symptoms of winter-related depression to participate in a study of how light therapy affects the brain to reduce symptoms. For more information call 6-0500. ■

### Camera Club Meets

**Jan. 14**

The NIH R&W Camera Club meets on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8. Guest speaker is Erwin Siegal, former president of the Virginia camera club and a professional photographer specializing in portrait and medical photography. He will speak on "From 35mm Slide to Color Print."

The subject of the evening's competition is architecture. Formats include black and white prints and color prints and slides.

All are welcome to join. For more information contact Dr. Yuan Liu, 4-6382. ■

## N I H R E C O R D

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NIH Record Office  
Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03  
Phone 6-2125  
Fax 2-1485

Editor  
Richard McManus  
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor  
Carla Garnett  
cg9s@nih.gov

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## Awareness Program Says Deafness No Obstacle to Achievement

By Jo Bagley

Current technology increases choices, removes obstacles and provides endless opportunities not only for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, but for everyone. These points were emphasized during the recent 4th annual Deaf Awareness Day Program entitled, "Enhancing Communication by the Year 2000—How Technology Impacts Upon Deaf and Hearing Communities."

The first speaker, Philip Bravin, president of Yes You Can, Inc., a company specializing in using technology to enable individuals who are deaf or visually impaired, spoke about capabilities of current technology and his projections about what may be possible in the future. "It won't be long before the telephone, television and personal computer will cease to exist as we know them," he prophesied. "We will have something that incorporates them into one unit." Bravin envisions the day when an individual from the United States who is deaf will sign a message in English while wearing sensors on his or her fingertips. That message will be sent, via a computer, to someone in France who will hear the message in French. "Choice, however, is the key word," he cautioned. "Technology will be able to do what you want, but it is up to you, as the individual, to choose." He concluded by urging the audience to "Fear not and have fun!"

Dr. Philip Zazove, a physician who is deaf, was the second speaker. He shared a personal story of how his hearing parents, who were physicians, did not



Featured speaker Philip W. Bravin greets his audience.

realize he was deaf until he was 4 years old. He explained that this occurred in the 1950's, when there was not much acceptance of diversity or knowledge of what a person could accomplish with a disability. His parents, who were told that there wasn't much hope that their son would have a normal life, would not lower their expectations for him. Zazove credits his parents for his current success because they believed in his abilities, fought for him and provided opportunities. He recounted how it took him 2 years and 30 rejections before he was finally accepted into medical school, despite having high grades and test scores. "Fortunately, people are now more open to what people who are deaf can do," he said. Zazove urged everyone to expect children who are deaf to be successful, help these children develop self-esteem and provide them with chances. He concluded, "Hearing loss does not limit what a person can do. Only the sky will be the limit."

This conclusion was verified by a repertoire of dances performed by the Gallaudet University Dance Troupe. The performers, who were either deaf or hard of hearing, captivated the audience with intricate dances to songs including "Singing in the Rain," "Do You Love Me?" and "Amazing Grace." Deafness did not limit their ability to dance in synchrony to music.



Dr. Philip Zazove recounts his experiences of becoming a physician.

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"Amazing Grace." Deafness did not limit their ability to dance in synchrony to music.

Photos: Ernie Branson



The deaf awareness program planning committee, intermingled with guests, includes (from l) Joel Kirkpatrick, Kay Johnson, speaker Dr. Philip Zazove, Karen Basnight, Ward Pettis, Frances Cannon, Jerry Garmany, Susan Smith, Patience Sparks, speaker Philip Bravin and Sally MacDougall.



The Gallaudet University Dance Troupe performs to "Amazing Grace."

## Kaiser Plan Service Day

Kaiser Permanent Health Plan will be on the NIH campus Thursday, Jan. 23 to assist plan enrollees who have claims or enrollment problems or questions. A plan representative will be available from 9 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 2A52. No appointment is necessary. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Down Syndrome Study Recruits

Adults with Down syndrome are sought for memory and aging studies conducted by NIA's Laboratory of Neurosciences. Participants must be 18 or older. For more information call 1-800-350-5047 or 6-4754, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours call 6-4273.

TRIBUTE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nary director of NIH," said the veteran—NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci—who emceed "A Celebration of Leadership: A Tribute to Harold Varmus and Science at the NIH." The event was held in Masur Auditorium Dec. 18 by the ICD directors. Speakers included HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, assistant secretary for health Dr. Philip Lee, NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, National Academy of Sciences president Dr. Bruce Alberts and NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner. Congresswoman Connie Morella (R-Md.) and FDA commissioner Dr. David Kessler were among more than 500 attendees, and Constance Casey, Varmus's wife, joined him and the speakers on stage.

"This is sort of a midterm tribute—and we hope not even yet midterm—an expression of our admiration and affection for the scientist, the leader, the man," explained Fauci, who said the program would proceed in a manner much-favored by Varmus, "brief and to the point."

The program began with glowing compliments from Lee and Kirschstein to Varmus's "visionary leadership" and "tremendous energy and creativity

in the adventure called NIH." Rather quickly, though—by the third speaker, Varmus's close friend Alberts—the event developed into more of a celebrity roast that included a

doctored slide and sound presentation by Klausner of Varmus's supposed earliest experiences at NIH.

"Where there is no vision, the people will perish," commented Lee, quoting Proverbs. Eminently qualified to judge NIH leadership, having served first as ASH in 1965 when Dr. James Shannon directed NIH through what is called the agency's "golden era," Lee said Varmus's tenure here has returned NIH to that former luster. Behind every effective institution, he continued, is a leader who is able to tell a story. "NIH is one of the most effective public institutions in the world" because "no one has told NIH's story as effectively as Harold Varmus."

After lauding Varmus for his unparalleled scientific judgment, his patience, self-confidence and values, Alberts described him as "a man totally without pretense, who refuses to wear a tie." A beat later he drew chuckles when he jokingly addressed the honoree, "Who tied that one you've got on today?"

Shalala rounded out the 7-minute salutes by reading greetings to Varmus from President Clinton

and administering a newly revised oath of office to the NIH director, who—with right hand placed on a copy of Dickens' *Great Expectations*—dutifully vowed "to support and defend the Constitution against anyone who says I can't bring my bicycle into the building" and "to continue wearing clothes that can be found only in one place and time (San Francisco in the 1960's)" and other such inglorious, but funny promises.

"In less than 4 years," said Shalala, sobering, "Harold has already built a great legacy at NIH for which science, his colleagues and indeed the American people are deeply indebted to him."

Celebrating his 57th birthday on the same day, Varmus accepted both accolades and good-natured jibes with grace and his customary brevity. He recalled that a year or so ago, in a critique of his directorship at the 2-year mark, a writer quoted an "anonymous immunologist," who called Varmus "the invisible administrator."

Varmus said the characterization has stayed on his mind. His hope, however, is that discoveries made now at NIH are seen 50 years from now as having led to controlling or curing cancer or understanding HIV and many other diseases and that the science accomplished during his tenure here is judged by history as constantly vibrant and groundbreaking. Then, he said, "It will not matter who sat in which chair, who gave which speech or who signed which document and this administrator will be very pleased to be invisible. Many thanks again for this wonderful morning at this wonderful place." ■

**Survival Skills Workshops Resume**

The new year brings with it the second part of the NIH fellows committee's year-long workshop series entitled "What They Never Taught You in Graduate School: A Series of Survival Skills Workshops."

The schedule is as follows:

Jan. 27 "Being a Professional Scientist" A special address to fellows on campus by Dr. Harold Varmus, NIH director, 3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Feb. 24 "Grantspersonship" 8-11:30 a.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

Mar. 24 "Writing and Publishing Research Articles" 8-11:30 a.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

May 19 "Teaching: A Brief Introduction" 8-11:30 a.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

For more information call 2-1914; a description of the entire series can be found at <ftp://helix.nih.gov/felcom/index.html>.

Additional sponsors include the Office of Research on Women's Health, the Office of Education and the intramural scientific directors. ■



NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus is administered a humorous oath of office by HHS Secretary Donna Shalala during a recent tribute to his leadership. His wife, Constance Casey, holds the copy of Dickens' *Great Expectations* upon which Varmus makes his pledge.



### Task Force Weighs in on Weight-Loss Drugs

Prescribed weight-loss drugs, when combined with a healthy diet and regular physical activity, may help some obese individuals lose weight and maintain that weight loss for at least 1 year. More research, however, is needed to determine the long-term safety and effectiveness of these medications, according to a review of the medical literature by the national task force on the prevention and treatment of obesity. The review of research from 1966 through 1996 was published in the Dec. 18 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

According to the review, obese patients using either single-drug or combination therapy lost, on average, from 5 to 22 pounds more than patients receiving placebo or nondrug treatments. Patients receiving drugs were significantly more likely to lose 10 percent or more of their initial body weight, enough to improve health; however, most did not approach an "ideal" body weight. Most of the weight loss occurred during the first 6 months of treatment. Patients taking the drugs for more than 6 months either maintained their weight loss or experienced a slight increase. Once the weight-loss drugs were stopped, patients regained lost weight.

"There's little justification for the short-term use of weight-loss drugs, because most patients regain lost weight when they stop taking the medications. This does not mean that these drugs are ineffective, but that obesity is a chronic disease that requires long-term treatment," says primary author Dr. Susan Yanovski, director of the Obesity and Eating Disorders Program, NIDDK, and executive director of the task force. ■

### NIDR Studies Dental Amalgams in Kids

NIDR will award more than \$9 million in grants over the next 5 years to fund two clinical trials examining the health effects of dental amalgams in children. The studies aim to document whether or not there are adverse health effects attributable to mercury-containing dental amalgams.

Approximately 100 million people in the United States have amalgam fillings. Little is known about the health effects of low-level exposure to mercury because of the complexity of measuring exposure from multiple sources and assessing multiple potential effects.

Mercury is used in numerous industries, is found in foods, and is used to form various alloys, including dental amalgam. Dental amalgam, which is approximately 50 percent mercury, is the standard material used worldwide in restorations for the treatment of dental caries.

Some studies have suggested that mercury-containing dental amalgams may be the cause of various diseases ranging from mild skin conditions to debilitating neuromuscular diseases. ■

### International Study Links Fly-like Gene to Tooth Development, Glaucoma

What do flies and humans have in common other than a penchant for picnics? The answer is in the genes. Although separated by eons of evolution, the two species share certain genes that are strikingly similar in structure and are critical to the development of both life forms.

In an international study supported primarily by NIDR, scientists at the University of Iowa have identified one such gene as the cause of Rieger syndrome, a rare disorder that leaves its mark on many parts of the body. Affected individuals have facial bone abnormalities, small or missing teeth, and serious eye disorders that lead to glaucoma in 50 percent of the cases. There can also be involvement of the pituitary gland and other organs. This is the first finding of a gene that results in glaucoma in a high proportion of affected patients. The findings were reported in the December issue of *Nature Genetics*.

Although Rieger syndrome is a rare disorder in which glaucoma strikes in childhood, finding the responsible gene gives scientists a tool to study the causes of the more common forms of adult glaucoma. It is also the first gene of its kind to be associated with the failure of tooth development. ■

### Consensus Conference on Breast Cancer Screening, Jan. 21-23 in Natcher

NIH is planning a consensus development conference to review updated results from studies on the role of breast cancer screening in women ages 40 to 49. The conference will be held in Natcher Conference Center Jan. 21-23.

Years of research have confirmed that women ages 50 to 69 who are screened with mammography on a regular basis have a reduced chance of dying from breast cancer. In 1993, when NCI held an international workshop on screening for breast cancer, the evidence was less clear for women ages 40-49. The upcoming conference will examine data generated since the 1993 conference.

Researchers who have conducted randomized breast cancer screening trials, as well as authors of other relevant studies, will present their findings at the conference. Thirty-two presentations have been scheduled, including data from American, Swedish, Canadian, and Scottish clinical trials.

The final consensus statement will be presented at a press conference at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23 at Natcher auditorium.

A conference flyer and registration form are available by calling (301) 770-3153. ■



*Dr. Novera Herbert Spector, a retired NINDS health scientist administrator in the Division of Fundamental Neurosciences, was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation from the International Society of Neuroimmunomodulation (ISN) in recognition of his significant contributions to neuroimmunomodulation research, his efforts to promote the field, and his leadership in the founding of ISN and tenure as its first president. Spector coined the term neuroimmunomodulation, which refers to interactions between the nervous and immune systems. Also in his honor, ISN established the Novera Herbert Spector Leadership Award, to be given at subsequent congresses to an investigator who has made significant contributions.*

"I do become very attached to them," says their creator Nancy Rosztoczy, assistant to the associate director of the Neuroscience and Neuropsychology of Aging Program. "I feel like they're my children."

One of the sculptures is indeed her child—son Phil, captured at age 3 in a bust so lifelike that it helped launch her career as a serious sculptor.

"I was always artsy-craftsy since I was a little kid," remembers Rosztoczy. Though her parents didn't make any particular fuss over their daughter's artistic inclination, Rosztoczy encountered an art



Nancy Rosztoczy and some of her creations, including (from l) Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Godfather Drosselmeyer (holding the Nutcracker) and Marley.

teacher in eighth grade who encouraged her to sculpt.

"My first figure was a giraffe. [The teacher] entered it in a series of contests and it kept winning." The giraffe took first place in Kalamazoo, then won a statewide competition in Michigan.

"I never got it back," chuckles Rosztoczy. "I wonder what happened to it?"

She didn't pursue art as she grew up passing through a series of 13 American schools as the family moved with her father's career; he specialized in corporate turn-arounds. But she "always had this little thing in the back of my mind." Her hands could create art and she was never unhappy when she was making it.

When her first son, Steve, was born, she "thought it would be neat to give my husband a head study." She looked for someone to do the job but "no one wanted to do it. No one wanted to get involved with a squirmy kid."

So she bought a book called *How to Sculpt*, 10 pounds of modeling clay and three tools. While her

husband was away on a business trip, she took the opportunity to sculpt Steve, who was pacified by his grandmother. "She gave him a model car to distract him, and kept him supplied with vanilla wafers."

The finished job was too good to pass off as luck. "It was a good likeness," Rosztoczy recalls. "People recognized him. A friend of mine saw it and said 'Go study, you have talent.'"

Then living in Hartford, Conn., she signed up for a sculpting class in a city-run adult education program. The teacher insisted that all students begin with the rudiments, including a plaque. But Rosztoczy, who had never taken an art class (she earned a B.S. in psychology at Guilford College) was anxious to begin another head study, this time of her second son, Phil.

"I whipped off the three preliminary sculptures the teacher asked us to do in order to be able to do the head," she remembers. Impressed with Rosztoczy's seriousness, the teacher became a friend and further encouraged her artistry. Perhaps more significantly, Rosztoczy's mother convinced a well-known American sculptor named Earline Heath King to review her daughter's work. King saw the head study of son Phil and added her blessing to Rosztoczy's ambition. That would be all she needed to commit seriously to a life of artwork.

When her husband took a job with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, Rosztoczy enrolled at Montgomery College for sculpting classes with Oreste Poliszczuk, a Ukrainian artist "who was the only one who could pronounce my name," she quips. She spent 5 years with him, winning an A in every class she took.

In 1979, a friend asked her to sculpt a figurine of the character Scrooge from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* for a sale.

"That sort of launched things," says Rosztoczy, understatedly.

She made a 60-figure limited edition for the sale. The 24 she donated to the organization sold in the first 10 minutes. Customers who bought Scrooge wanted to know what was coming next from Atelier Rosztoczy.

She went on to do nine characters from Dickens' Christmas classic, including Tiny Tim, Bob and Mrs. Cratchit, Jacob Marley, and the various ghosts of Christmas. To accommodate the production, Rosztoczy's husband built her a studio in the basement of the family's Potomac home.

"It was perfect for when the kids were young," she says. "I worked all day while they were in school."

After her public "debut" in 1979, "things really started to roll," she said. A local businessman commissioned 80 pieces that he gave as gifts to longtime employees and used at trade shows to detail concepts difficult to envision. Demand for the Dickens figurines bumped the limited editions to lots

of 100. Relying solely on word of mouth among satisfied customers, her base of clients steadily climbed. The Nutcracker figurines in which she is now immersed are done—one new figure each year—in lots of 200. Though they sell for \$225 each, the cost barely covers the effort of making them.

“It takes a very long time to do one character, but it’s a labor of love,” she says. Painting the figures, often in meticulous detail, adds time, as do the rigors of her intricate design, crafting the clothes and creating such accoutrements as the special hand-cast buttons that adorn Tiny Tim’s jacket. It took her a year to find the metal chain on Marley’s ghost, for example. Her mother pitches in by hand-knitting scarves worn by Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit.

“I really researched the history and costuming of the era to make it as authentic as possible,” she says.

“I have to see every new piece completely in my mind before starting the armature,” which is the bent wire foundation for each figure’s pose. Simply put, she attaches the clay to the armature to create a character. Then Rosztoczy makes a mold of this prototype, into which she pours a casting material. The figures that emerge resemble the original sculpture and are ready for the finish work. Then they are hand-painted and dressed.

As Christmas 1996 approached, Rosztoczy was working every night to complete orders from customers in 18 states and 2 foreign countries. Most customers want full sets of figurines. She will also do portrait work—busts of children, for example—if asked, and hopes one day to land a major commission for public sculpture such as appears in downtown Washington.



Rosztoczy's figurines from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* include (from l) Scrooge bearing a candlestick, Tiny Tim and Marley.

“I feel very capable of doing a major work of art, like the one at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial,” she says. She once did a commission of Supreme Court Justice Byron “Whizzer” White that resulted in 30 gold medallions.

But absent the glitter of a high-profile commission, Rosztoczy is well rewarded by the art itself.

“Art keeps me out of trouble,” she laughs. “I’m real happy when I do my work. The studio brings peace, calm and happiness. I really thrive on it and love it. I’ve made a lot of wonderful friends through the years.”

The Potomac Library has displayed her work on several occasions and the Bethesda Library on Arlington Rd. wants her figures for their showcases next May and December. She has been featured on local TV news and in community newspapers. She has also fielded offers from foreign companies to churn out cheap knock-offs of her copyrighted figures, but has rejected the chance to profit on substandard work. Her sculptures are now collectors’ items, for which a considerable secondary market exists.

But she nonetheless hungers for purer artistic expression, including an imagined piece she is reluctant to discuss. She’ll only say, jauntily, “If they need a new head study up there at the Fogarty Center, let me know.” ■

#### Fire Damages NIAID Rental Lab

An NIAID laboratory at the Twinbrook II rental facility near the Parklawn Bldg. in Rockville was destroyed by fire early Saturday, Dec. 21, presumably due to an electrical problem. A few research animals perished as fire fighters from Montgomery County and NIH responded. No one was injured, but damage to the facility and to laboratory equipment may reach \$800,000.

The facility, which houses thousands of research animals—mainly mice—was left a mess by the blaze, which was upsetting to workers in the Laboratory of Immunogenetics, headed by NIAID scientific director Dr. Thomas Kindt. The fire was largely confined to the lab’s human immunogenetics research section, whose chief is Dr. Mary Ann Robinson.

There had initially been concern about possible radiation leakage during the fire, but no such hazard emerged. Radiation physicists reported to the scene promptly and confirmed that the lab’s radioactive materials were safely contained.

The animal facilities were quickly made secure and operable. Robinson’s lab is scheduled for extensive repairs prior to reoccupancy. ■



NIAID’s Dr. Donald L. Lodmell was recently honored as a distinguished alumnus of the University of Montana for his scientific research contributions. He is credited with the advancement and testing of recombinant and DNA rabies vaccines. After graduating from the University of Montana with a doctorate in microbiology in 1967, he spent 2 years on a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH campus in Bethesda. In 1973, he moved back to his native Hamilton, Mont., to work as a research scientist at NIAID’s Rocky Mountain Laboratories where he is now in the Laboratory of Persistent Viral Diseases. Since that time, he has distinguished himself scientifically with studies on the pathogenesis of rabies virus infections, the mechanisms of rabies virus persistence, and the recovery from rabies infection.



Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (r), NIAID director, receives the 1996 Ellen Browning Scripps Medal for his significant contributions to medicine. Presenting the honor is Dr. Dee E. Silver, board member of the Scripps Foundation for Medicine and Science and chairman of the award committee.

### NINR Reaches Out to Minority Nurses

The National Institute of Nursing Research has intensified efforts to attract minority nurses to biomedical and behavioral research careers. It is collaborating with the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) and the National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) to inform the minority community about NINR research and research training opportunities.

"We have already begun to tap the potential of these partnerships," said Dr. Patricia Grady, NINR director. "We are broadening opportunities for minorities and helping increase the national pool of senior nursing scientists." She added, "Our joint involvement is key to finding solutions to pressing health problems, particularly for the more vulnerable populations."

Dr. Laura James, NINR health scientist administrator, and Kay Johnson, NINR's Equal Employment Opportunity officer, attended NBNA's 25th annual conference in Chicago. James found that many undergraduate and masters level nurses are interested in research projects with minority and vulnerable populations. "The benefit of having NINR as a resource is that we can support minority investigators with supplemental minority grants and facilitate their partnering with advanced level nurse researchers," she said.

Another HSA in the institute, Dr. J. Taylor Harden, attended the annual NAHN conference in New York. She copresented a workshop, "Creating Your Research Opportunities," that highlighted strategies nurses could use to develop their research interests, and to avoid pitfalls in the profession.

One of the pitfalls is becoming "place-bound," said Harden. "To benefit from a strong research mentorship program, beginning researchers may have to move from their current employment or doctoral education setting." ■



A group of 75 health care executives from Argentina visited NIH recently as part of a course given by George Washington University's department of medicine. The group got overviews of NIH, the Human Genome Project, the Fogarty International Center, and toured the Clinical Center and National Library of Medicine. The group informed their NIH hosts that the visit was the highlight of their stay in Washington, D.C.

### Cholesterol Show Wins 'Freddie'

*Cholesterol: The Killer Within*, a 60-minute program produced in cooperation with NHLBI's National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP), recently won a "Freddie" award at the 1996 International Health and Medical Film Competition, sponsored by the American Medical Association.

The award, named to honor Dr. Fred Gottlieb, the festival's founder, was presented at a ceremony in San Francisco.

The program, which won in the wellness category, was produced by Medical Communications Resources, Inc. In the show, host Mike Farrell of *M\*A\*S\*H* acts as a medical detective who examines the latest scientific evidence to piece together clues about the relationship between cholesterol and heart disease.

The program tells both coronary disease patients and the public how to lower or prevent high blood cholesterol. And it lets viewers get started at once on improving their health by calling a toll-free "Cholesterol Connection Hotline" for free NCEP materials, including "Live Healthier, Live Longer: Lowering Cholesterol for the Person with Heart Disease" and, for those trying to prevent heart disease, "Eat Right to Lower Your High Blood Cholesterol."

The special first aired during National Cholesterol Education Month in September on Public Broadcasting System (PBS) stations across the country, including WETA and WHMM locally. It will continue to air on PBS affiliates throughout 1997. ■

### Memory Loss Study Needs Subjects

Individuals with mild to moderate memory loss who are suspected to have Alzheimer's disease or who have been diagnosed with the disease are sought by NIA's Laboratory of Neurosciences. For more information, call 1-800-350-5047 or 6-4754, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours call 6-4273. ■

### Postmenopausal Women Needed

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, needs postmenopausal volunteers for an outpatient study comparing estrogen and lipid-lowering therapies. Participants must not be taking any medications, hormone replacements or vitamins or be willing to stop medications for 2 months. Volunteers will be paid. Call Rita Mincemoyer, 6-3666, or Londa Hathaway, 5-4038. ■

### Healthy Volunteers Sought

The NIMH Clinical Psychobiology Branch seeks healthy male and female volunteers ages 18-65 for a study of the effects of light therapy on brain activity. Volunteers must be free of medical and psychological disorders and not taking any medications. Payment is provided. For more information call Kim Katz, 6-0500. ■

## NICHD Launches Biologist Forum

You wanted to learn how to sail. You joined the NIH Sailing Association. Easy enough. Now you want to learn how to perform long range PCR. Where to go? NICHD's Biologist Forum, where there is something new each month for NICHD biologists to learn.

The forum provides members with a venue to exchange information on scientific techniques and update their technical skills. Forum membership includes, but is not limited to, the "401 series" general biological science employees who perform professional laboratory work primarily in the areas of biology and chemistry. Current forum membership consists of employees from three NICHD laboratories.

The forum's founders created the group nearly 2 years ago to fulfill the academic and professional needs of NICHD general biological science employees. The forum provides a professional arena for the exchange of information regarding new scientific tools and technical skills. The small group environment allows members to learn about research projects in other labs, discuss scientific methods being successfully employed by others, and gain experience presenting information.

"I enjoy hearing about the research projects of my NICHD peers as well as having an opportunity to present my work in a friendly and neutral, but constructive environment," said Helen Murphy, an NICHD biologist.

The forum also seeks to establish clearly the role of the biologist as a professional contributor in the NIH scientific community.

"I do feel that throughout the NIH, these employees are sometimes overlooked with respect to their contributions, their continuing education, or broadening their opportunities," said Dr. Arthur Levine, NICHD scientific director. "Forums like this may bring them more visibility and more reward."

Monthly forum topics vary, but have included shortcuts and helpful hints for conducting DNA mutagenesis or purification, protein stabilization, sequencing and PCR reactions. "On a typical day I may be doing a yeast transformation, sequencing, protein purification from a cell culture, and a PCR reaction, which may seem like a lot to keep track of, but by getting tips from others who do this daily, it is much simpler to manage," said Belinda Jackson, a biologist conducting basic research in the Laboratory of Eukaryotic Gene Regulation.

The forum has also explored the use of NIH computer hardware and software, including the VAX, nucleic acid analysis software, and database searching software. "As a direct result of that meeting, I am now able to more easily manage and manipulate information files that I routinely use in

my lab," said Murphy. Forums like this often attract nonmembers. "We hope that this forum gives members and nonmembers alike an opportunity to add to their skill base by learning the latest techniques. This is really a way to grow and learn new skills," said Klara Post, forum chairwoman.

The forum must, by nature of its environment, teach members how to negotiate their way through the ever-changing NIH administrative rules and regulations, like the new government "credit cards." Thus the forum may dedicate a session to a discussion of these new cards or other administrative processes altered by NIH reinvention efforts.

Post encourages general biological science series employees at NIH laboratories to convene their own forums to promote the exchange of technical information and scientific techniques. "Perhaps once a year, all of the forums across campus could meet to exchange information and ideas," she said.

Last month, the group provided training on Adobe Illustrator, a graphics package, to teach members how to scan, import and clean up images for placement in manuscripts. This month, the forum hopes to bring in a manufacturer to discuss options for use of nonradioactive materials for labeling purposes.

NIH labs interested in developing their own institute forums should contact Post at 6-5538. ■

## Study Needs Older Women

Pre- and post-menopausal women ages 45-60 are needed for a study evaluating the effect of hormone replacement therapy on drug metabolism. Must be medication-free and a nonsmoker. Volunteers will be paid. Call Jeanne or Cheryl at USUHS, (301) 295-2625.



The Women's Health Seminar Series kicked off the 1996-97 season with a look at "Women's Health in the Middle and Later Years." Speakers covered a range of issues, from social and psychological health to urinary incontinence to bone diseases to cardiovascular disease. Participants included (from l) seminar committee cochair Dr. Judith Cooper, NIDCD; seminar coordinator Dr. Sooja Kim, DRG; guest speakers Drs. Jane Cauley, University of Pittsburgh; Eleanor Simonsick, NIA; Kristene Whitmore, Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia; Sharon Jackson, Bowman Gray School of Medicine; seminar committee cochair Joyce Rudick, NIH Office of Research on Women's Health; and ORWH director Dr. Vivian Pinn. Sponsored by ORWH, this year's four-part seminar series will focus on women and aging. The next program, which will cover osteoporosis and arthritis, will be held Thursday, Mar. 6, 2-4 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. For more information, call ORWH at 2-1770.

## FAES Presents Sunday Concerts

The FAES Chamber Music Series will present Radu Lupu, piano, at 4 p.m. on Jan. 19, and Marina Piccinini, flute, and Andreas Haefliger, piano, at 4 p.m. on Jan. 26. The concerts are held in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Tickets are \$20 at the door; \$10 for students and fellows. For more information call 6-7975.

## Looking for Lefties

Is human handedness genetic or cultural? Scientists in the ABL-Basic Research Program based at FCRDC are looking for a gene affecting handedness. Needed are families with one—and only one—left-handed parent, and with two—and preferably only two—left-handed children 16 or older. If interested call 1-800-244-4201.

## Office of Dietary Supplements Gives First Grants

The newly established NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) has announced the funding of its first six research grants to explore the potential role of dietary supplements in health promotion and disease prevention. These studies will be funded by ODS in conjunction with selected NIH institutes. ODS has committed \$270,000, or nearly 30 percent of its FY 1996 budget, to support these six grants in cooperation with five institutes.

In conjunction with NIAAA, ODS will fund a study by Brown University investigators to examine the association between low blood levels of tryptophan and increased levels of alcohol abuse and dependency in Native Americans. Results of this research may help clarify the potential role of dietary tryptophan intake in preventing alcohol addiction among populations at high risk.

ODS will cosponsor two studies with NIAMS. The first will be conducted by scientists at the University of Memphis who will examine the hypothesis that inadequate calcium intake combined with substantial losses of calcium through sweat can contribute to bone loss in people participating in intensive exercise.

The second ODS-NIAMS study will be conducted by researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The project will examine in rats the interactions between methotrexate treatment for rheumatoid arthritis and both dietary folic and folinic acid, which can affect the toxicity and/or effectiveness of methotrexate.

NIDCD and ODS will cosponsor a study at the University of Michigan that will test the effects of dietary supplements in reducing or preventing the hearing loss that may occur with antibiotic therapy.

ODS and NIDDK will cosponsor a project at Albert Einstein College of Medicine to study dose-response patterns of vanadium, a trace element found in a number of spices and health food supplements; the study will assess the toxicity and safety concerns of vanadium use in humans.

The sixth study funded by ODS will be in conjunction with NINDS and will be conducted by scientists at Vanderbilt University. Researchers there will use magnetic resonance imaging techniques to examine the effects of thiamine deficiency and its treatment on neurochemical markers in the brain. ■

## Study Needs Mothers

Argentine-American or Japanese-American mothers with a healthy firstborn infant no older than 5 months are needed for a study of social and cognitive development in infancy. Participation involves two brief visits to mother and baby in the home. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen. For more information call Debby Clay at NICHD, 6-6832. ■

## Korach Publication Considered 'Hot'

A 1994 report by NIEHS' Dr. Kenneth Korach is featured by *The Scientist*, a newspaper for science professionals, as a "hot paper," meaning it has been cited in more than 50 other research reports in less than 2 years. And no wonder: It tells of a man who is 28, and 6-foot-8 but still growing—when conventional wisdom would have had him dead before birth.

Coauthor Dr. Eric Smith of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center conducted tests that showed the man, his patient, to be severely estrogen resistant, a condition normally considered deadly to the developing male embryo.

Knowing of Korach's development of an estrogen receptor knock-out mouse, Smith sent samples of the man's DNA to Korach's lab at NIEHS, where evaluation revealed a mutation in the gene encoding the estrogen receptor. The case was the first reported mutation of this gene resulting in a living person who is hormonally insensitive to estrogen.

The finding, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (331:1056-61, 1994) may provide clues to some childhood growth disorders.

Korach attributed interest in the paper to "the uniqueness and novelty of the findings. We hope it will allow us to make people aware that this mutation can exist in the human population." ■



Dr. Kenneth Korach



Furthering community outreach efforts, Dennis Rodrigues of the Office of Communications, OD, and Kathy Kranzfelder of NIDDK provide an overview of NIH's World Wide Web information resources to a group of local retirees. This group is part of a pilot project, funded by NIH, aimed at helping older Americans make better use of home computers to find health information.



### Axelrod Named Scientist Emeritus

Pioneering NIMH researcher Dr. Julius Axelrod, whose work described how the actions of neurotransmitters are ended and the effect of psychoactive drugs, has been awarded the title scientist emeritus. This honorary status is given by the scientific directors to distinguished investigators who wish to continue their research after formal retirement from the intramural programs.

In 1970, Axelrod received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for more than 10 years of research that culminated in a clearer understanding of how brain cells signal each other chemically.

Axelrod formally retired from NIMH in 1984. He has continued as an unpaid guest researcher in the NIMH Laboratory of Cell Biology, headed by one of his former students, Dr. Michael Brownstein. Since his retirement, Axelrod's research has been mainly concerned with the transduction of neurotransmitter signals in cells. More recently, he has been involved in studies on the natural ligand of the cannabinoid receptor, anandamide, which he will continue as scientist emeritus. ■



*Dr. Eugene Streicher, codirector of NINDS's Division of Fundamental Neuroscience and Developmental Disorders, recently received the Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs Annual Education Award for outstanding contributions as a mentor, advising and developing the careers of neuroscientists, and as a*

*representative of institutions that help advance neuroscience research.*

### Injured on the Job?

Do you have a work-related upper extremity problem or injury, i.e., carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, or repetitive strain injury of the fingers, wrist, elbow or shoulder? USUHS is conducting a study that includes a \$30 payment and opportunity to win \$500 in a study lottery. Volunteers must be ages 20-60, seen by a physician within the past month and currently working. Call (301) 295-9659. ■

### DWD Training Tips

The Division of Workforce Development, OHRM, offers the courses below. Personal computer training is also available through User Resource Center hands-on, self-study courses, at no cost to NIH employees. Additional courses are available by completing the "Training by Request" form in the back of the DWD catalog. For more information call DWD on 6-6211 or consult DWD's home page at <http://www-urc.od.nih.gov/dwd/dwdhome.html>.

#### *Courses and Programs* *Starting Dates*

##### *Management and Supervisory Development*

Basic Supervision	2/3
How Good Leaders Make Tough Choices	2/21
Coaching Skills: Coaching For Commitment	2/20
360 Degrees Feedback: The Whole Story	2/27
Feedback Skills: How to Give Constructive Feedback	2/19
Meetings That Get Results	1/28
Managing Conflict in the Workplace	2/11
Interacting with Difficult Employees	1/22

##### *Communication Skills*

Report Writing	1/29
Managing & Valuing Workforce Diversity: Skills for Utilizing Differences	1/30

##### *Administrative Systems*

Domestic Travel	2/10
Basic T&A Using TAIMS	1/21

##### *Human Resource Management*

Intro to Human Resource Management	1/22
Basic Position Classification	2/3

##### *Career Transition*

Beginning Federal Service for FERS Employees	2/26
Mid-Career Financial Planning (CSRS)	1/21
NIH Retirement Seminar (CSRS)	2/12
Career Assessment & Planning - Grades 8 & Below	1/27
Researching Job Leads	2/11
Understanding Federal Employment Process & KSA	2/11
Resume Writing & Cover Letter Preparation	2/24
Successful Interviewing	2/24

##### *Computer Applications and Concepts*

Lotus for Windows	1/27
MS Word 6.0 for Windows	1/21
MS Mail for Windows	2/5
Intro to Internet	2/25
Advanced Internet	2/25
Web Page Design - HTML	2/11
Introduction to MS Word 6.0	2/11
Introduction to Excel 5.0	2/25
PowerPoint 4.0	2/26

### **DWT** Courses and Programs

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

Database Technology Seminar	1/17
ADBIS for Windows: NIH Property Management	1/22
Configuring Windows and Windows 95 for Parachute Network Access	1/22

### Postpartum Depression Study

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking volunteer mothers ages 18-40 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. Participants must be free of medical illnesses and medication-free. Volunteers 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 Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 6-9576.

### Manchester String Quartet Rescheduled

The Manchester String Quartet concert scheduled for Jan. 13 has been rescheduled for Monday, Jan. 27. Call Sharon Greenwell, 6-1776, for more information.

### Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features two Howard Hughes Medical Institute researchers at the latter end of the month.

Dr. Helen M. Pivnicka-Worms visits on Jan. 22 to discuss "Reversible Phosphorylation and Cell Cycle Control." She is an HHMI associate investigator and associate professor at Washington University School of Medicine.

On Jan. 29, Dr. Huda Y. Zoghbi, HHMI investigator and professor at Baylor College of Medicine, presents, "Toward Understanding the Pathogenesis of Type 2 Spinocerebellar Ataxia."

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



*Just Like Old Times:* It might as well be 1950, when the Clinical Center was being built, judging by the presence of massive construction cranes on the east and west sides of the building. Plans call for the south side of the hospital, seen here, to become the new entrance to Bldg. 10 while the new Clinical Research Center is built on the north face of the structure.



*Encroaching on parking lot 10K near the county firehouse at Cedar Ln. and Old Georgetown Rd. is this staging site for contractors involved in campus renovation. A number of trailers have been arranged into a small village segregated from parking and parkland by fences.*



*The greensward that formerly graced the west lawn of Stone House is now a bustling construction site as workers prepare to renovate utility tunnels adjacent to Center Dr.*



*Big Muddy:* A peek through a construction fence shows extent of utility tunnel excavation directly opposite Bldg. 1. Center Dr. has had to shimmy sideways to allow for the digging.



*Anchor's Away:* The former grassy dome at the intersection of South Dr. and Center Dr., which used to be home to a large white anchor (symbol of the Public Health Service), was graded flat just prior to Christmas by workmen. The anchor was relocated to the front of Bldg. 1.