

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Director's Lectures Feature HHMI Investigators

Dr. Thomas M. Jessell, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will present the NIH Director's Lecture on Wednesday, Mar. 19 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. He will discuss "Inductive Signals and the Control of Neural Cell Fate."

A week later, on Mar. 26, Dr. Günter Blobel, an HHMI investigator at the Rockefeller University, will give an NIH Director's Lecture at the same time and venue; his topic will be "Protein Traffic Into and Out of the Nucleus."

Jessell's research focuses on determining the molecular mechanisms involved in neuronal development—particularly the early development of the spinal cord.



Dr. Thomas M. Jessell

Working in the fields of molecular biology, biochemistry, and cell biology, he and his colleagues created techniques for isolating antibodies that recognize specific subpopu-

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Glory Days Celebrated, Sought

First Clinical Research Day Builds Past into Future

By Carla Garnett

Nearly 50 years ago, NIH was poised to transform itself and the way medical research was conducted. In July 1947, Congress authorized more than \$30 million in construction funds for the agency to build a 600-bed clinical research hospital. Since then, the Clinical Center has been the site of dozens of breakthrough cures or treatments for everything from acne to vasculitis.

Now, history seems about ready to repeat itself, as NIH is once again on the threshold of building a grand new Clinical Research Center. The first Clinical Research Day held Feb. 10 put the two similar eras in perspective, featuring a glance at the past by NCI deputy director Dr. Alan Rabson, a view of the present by



Poster presentations were a part of the first Clinical Research Day, held Feb. 10 as the Magnuson facility makes way for the new Hatfield Center.

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For Medicinal Purposes

Expert Group Examines Science Of Smoking Marijuana

By Carla Garnett

NIH convened a group of experts Feb. 19-20 to hear scientific presentations and review research data on use of marijuana as a therapeutic agent. Following the 1½-day workshop, the 8-member group agreed that further study of the most promising clinical applications of smoked marijuana is warranted, said Dr. William Beaver, professor of pharmacology at Georgetown University School of Medicine and chair of the ad hoc group.

NIH assembled the workshop in response to recent passage of referenda in California and Arizona that make it legal for physicians in those states to prescribe marijuana cigarettes for their patients. Attempting to distance itself from policy battles over

SEE MEDICAL MARIJUANA, PAGE 6

Orioles Tickets on Sale

On Thursday, Mar. 20, the R&W Gift Shop in Bldg. 31 will hold its annual sale of Baltimore Orioles season tickets. The sale begins at 8 a.m. outside the gift shop. Customers should arrive early if they have a particular game in mind. Members may buy one set of tickets the first time through the line. After 1 p.m. they can come back for additional sets. You must be an R&W member to buy tickets. Bring your R&W membership card.

Pianist Schiff Performs, Mar. 23

The FAES Chamber Music Series will present Andras Schiff, piano, on Sunday, Mar. 23 at 4 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Tickets are \$20 at the door; students/fellows, \$10. For more information call 6-7975.

APAO Seeks Award Nominations

The NIH Asian/Pacific American Organization (APAO) seeks nominations from NIH employees for its 1997 Outstanding Achievement and Scholarship Awards. Recipients will be honored during the evening program of the annual Asian/Pacific American Heritage Program on May 30. The categories of awards are as follows:

Category I: For significant accomplishments in advancing NIH's EEO goals;

Category II: For significant accomplishments in scientific research or administrative work;

Category III: A scholarship of \$1,000 to an outstanding college-bound student whose total family yearly income is below \$60,000.

Nominations for categories I and II should be in the form of letters of recommendation citing the nominee's records and accomplishments. Nominations are open to all NIH employees—one nomination for each letter of recommendation.

Nominations for category III can be made by either the parent(s) of a student or by the student. The scholarship award is for a student of AP origin or for children of members of APAO. (The membership of APAO is open to all employees of NIH. To join, email Treasurer Mary Yuen at my4q@nih.gov.)

Instructions on what to include in the category III nominating package are available from Dr. Rita Liu, to whom all award nominations should be sent. She is in Parklawn Bldg., Rm. 10-42. The closing date for nominations is Apr. 18. Recipients will be notified in mid-May. ■

Spring Craft Fair, Mar. 20

The Friends of the Clinical Center is holding a spring craft fair in the Bldg. 10 Visitor Information Center and first floor on Thursday, Mar. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds from the fair benefit patients and their families with special needs while participating in research protocols at the CC.

It is expected that more than 50 craftspeople will be exhibiting and selling their wares. Registrants include potters, weavers, dried floral arrangers, glassmakers, jewelry makers, woodcrafters, knitters and seamstresses. With Easter and Mother's Day, and June weddings approaching, it's a good time to buy gifts.

Each craftsperson has been asked to donate an item for raffle. Raffle tickets will be sold outside the B1 cafeteria Monday, Mar. 17, Tuesday, Mar. 18, Wednesday, Mar. 19 and the day of the fair. Each raffle ticket is \$1 or six for \$5. Raffle tickets will be drawn throughout the day on Mar. 20 and winners will be able to select their own prize.

For more information, call Kai Lakeman at (301) 530-7530. ■

Myeloid Stem Cell Meeting, May 4-7

The 1997 Molecular Aspects of Myeloid Stem Cell Development meeting will be held at Annapolis Historic Inns in Annapolis, Md., from 2 p.m. on May 4 to noon on May 7. Key-note speakers include Hartmut Beug, Thomas Graf, Pier Pelicci, Janet Rowley and Charles Sherr. For more information, call Patti Hall, Foundation for Advanced Cancer Studies, Inc., (410) 658-2882 or email, hall3915@dpnet.net. ■



Ashe Memorial Elm Relocated—An American Liberty elm tree originally planted across from Bldg. 10 in memory of tennis champion Arthur Ashe has found a new home: owing to construction of the new Clinical Research Center, the tree was recently replanted adjacent to the Bldg. 31A patio. The tree was dedicated on World AIDS Day, Dec. 5, 1994, in a brief ceremony honoring Ashe, who died of AIDS in 1993. A plaque mounted on a stone at the base of the tree completes the memorial.

Need Your Own Web Server?

SILK (Secure Internet LinKed), a powerful new Web technology developed by DCRT, enables you to create and manage your own Web server and build client/server applications in a secure production environment. Use SILK as your Web server without having to buy and maintain hardware and software. You perform all functions using only a Web browser—DCRT does the rest for a modest monthly fee. To learn more, come to DCRT's demonstration of SILK on Thursday, Mar. 20, at 1:30 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. For more information, see <http://silk.nih.gov/>. ■

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March is National Nutrition Month

NIH is hosting a number of activities in March to promote National Nutrition Month. The theme this year—"All foods can fit" (selected by the American Dietetic Association)—reminds us that we can have healthy diets without denying our favorite foods. Variety and moderation are the key factors to a healthy diet, and a healthy diet and adequate physical activity are the key factors to a healthy lifestyle.

The following activities on campus during National Nutrition Month are sponsored by the NIH nutrition coordinating committee, the Worksite Health Promotion Program, and the Clinical Center:

¶ A seminar on "How To Make All Foods Fit" will be presented by the Clinical Center dietetic interns on Friday, Mar. 14 in Bldg. 10, Visitor Information Center Little Theater, from noon to 12:45 pm.

¶ Two seminars will be hosted by the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, NIDDK. The presenters, dates, and times will be announced when they are confirmed. The proposed topics are "The Prevalence of Obesity in the U.S." and "Folic Acid and Cardiovascular Disease."

¶ Colorful banners on the directors' bulletin boards and posters in the NIH cafeterias will announce the nutrition month theme.

¶ DeLITEful Entrees (which are lower in calories, fat, and sodium than regular entrees) will continue to be provided in all GSI cafeterias. (DeLITEful Entrees were initiated as a joint venture between the CC dietetic interns and GSI cafeterias during National Nutrition Month last year.)

¶ Better Choices Program (to identify snacks lower in calories, fat, and sodium) will continue to be featured in many NIH vending machines.

¶ A message about the nutrition month theme will appear on your March DHHS paystubs.

For more information about National Nutrition Month activities at NIH, contact the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, 4-8822; the Worksite Health Promotion Office, 6-1105; or the CC nutrition department, 6-3311.

For copies of the *USDA/DHHS 1995 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and various fact sheets on weight control, contact the NIDDK Weight-control Information Network, phone (800) 946-8098/(301) 570-2177; fax (301) 570-2186; internet: WIN@matthewsgroup.com.

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) offers a consumer nutrition hot line (800-366-1655) for food and nutrition messages recorded in English or Spanish from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday. The ADA internet address for nutrition information is: <http://www.eatright.org>. R

Women's History Month Marked, Mar. 27

Do you know about the many contributions made by NIH women, women in the community and by women in every era of American history?

On Thursday, Mar. 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., join keynote speaker Judy Mann for a brown bag lunch in Bldg. 1's Wilson Hall in celebration of Women's History Month. Beverages and dessert will be provided and everyone who attends the program will receive a memento.

Mann, author of *The Difference: Growing Up Female in America* and prizewinning columnist for the *Washington Post*, has been writing about women, families, politics and gender conflicts for more than 17 years. Her presentation will encompass the theme of the 1997 Women's History Project, "A Fine and Long Tradition of Community Leadership."

National Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Sonoma County, Calif., in 1978. It quickly spread across the nation, and is now celebrated in thousands of schools, workplaces, and communities. R

BIG Installs New Officers

The passing of a gavel officially marked the beginning of a new era for Blacks in Government (BIG) as Felicia Shingler was installed recently as president of the NIH chapter. A writer-editor in NIH's Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration, Shingler became the eighth president in the chapter's history, succeeding Zita Givens at the helm of one of BIG's most prestigious chapters.

Shingler is a lifetime BIG member who brings to her new position extensive experience with the organization: member since 1989, former chair of the chapter's young adult resource and development committee, member of BIG's national membership committee, and member of the task force on fairness and employment practices under former NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy.

Her theme for this administration is "Communication—Bridge for Unity," a reflection of her commitment to foster greater communication and understanding between BIG and NIH management and employees.



Newly installed NIH BIG chapter officers include (from l) Felicia Shingler, president; Earl Simmons, first vice president; Johnny E. Lindsay, second vice president; Alesha Hopkins, recording secretary; Jacque Ballard, regional representative; and Joy Pinkney, regional representative. Not shown are Nailah Agyemann, elections committee, and Albert Parrish, treasurer.

DIRECTOR'S LECTURES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lations of developing neurons and axonal pathways. More recently, they have identified some of the molecules involved in regulating neural cell induction, proliferation, and differentiation, and in guiding growing axons to their correct targets.

Jessell has received particular scientific recognition for a series of studies on the dorsoventral patterning of the spinal cord in which he identified the sequence of cellular and molecular interactions responsible for generating different functional classes of neurons within the spinal cord.

He has received numerous awards and honors. He was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Royal Society of London, and was awarded the Julius Axelrod Distinguished Lectureship. He has also received the National Academy of Sciences Prize for Scientific

Reviewing and a Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award, a 7-year grant awarded by NINDS to distinguished investigators.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Günter Blobel and his coworkers deciphered the molecular "zip codes"—now known as signal sequences—that target eukaryotic proteins to their proper intracellular destinations. Pioneering work in his laboratory is responsible for much of what we know about how proteins enter membrane-bound organelles.

His group is also tackling what may be an even more complex problem—how proteins get into and out of the nucleus.

Blobel is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and is a past president of the American Society for Cell Biology. Among his many honors are the Gairdner Foundation Award (1982), the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award (1993), and the King Faisal International Prize for Science (1996).

The lectures are part of the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series. All NIH employees are invited to attend. For more information, contact Hilda Madine, 4-5595. ■

Musical Benefits Children's Inn

"Moppetts Through the Year," a musical variety show presented by Katherine Mizell's Modelling Moppetts & Stage II Models, is the theme of the 28th annual Bunny Benefit, proceeds from which go to the Children's Inn at NIH. Performances are scheduled at Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, Mar. 15-16 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For more information call (301) 774-1194. ■

NIH Expands Recycling Opportunities

Recently, the Office of Research Services introduced a plan for campus-wide recycling expansion to NIH executive officers and administrative officers. The program will be directed by the Environmental Protection Branch (EPB) of the Division of Safety, and will build on the current NIH recycling program.

Expanded recycling will be implemented in stages across campus. The campus has been divided into "clusters" of buildings, each of which will have the opportunity to participate. Because of the varied characteristics of NIH buildings, a customized recycling plan will be created in collaboration with EPB and volunteer coordinators from the buildings. This joint effort will take into account factors such as available space for recycling containers, staff needs and interests.

In addition, recycling collection containers will be placed outside buildings for collecting aluminum, newspapers and unsorted (commingled) glass, plastic and metal containers. All recycling containers will be identified with the blue and green NIH recycling logo and with information about the material that can be recycled in the container.

Further information is available on the NIH Recycling Home Page: <http://www.nih.gov/ors/recycle.htm>. ■

Symposium on Science of Brain Disease

Twelve NIH institutes will host this year's Brain Awareness Week symposium, "The Science of Brain Disease," Mar. 18 from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The schedule is:

8:30 a.m. "Molecular Biology of Alzheimer's Disease," Dr. Sangram Sisodia.

9:15 a.m. "Glutamate Receptor Autoantibodies and Rasmussen's Encephalitis," Dr. James McNamara.

10:45 a.m. "Representation of the Visual Scene in the Cerebral Cortex," Dr. John Maunsell.

11:30 a.m. "Asymmetric Division and Fate Determination in the Developing Cerebral Cortex," Dr. Susan McConnell.

1:30 p.m. "T-Pa for Acute Stroke: From Bench to Bedside," Dr. John Marler.

2:15 p.m. "Imaging the Actions of Alcohol and Drugs of Abuse," Dr. Nora Volkow.

3:15 p.m. "Forward Genetic Approaches to Neuroscience and Behavior in the Mouse," Dr. Joseph Takahashi.

4 p.m. "Genetically Modified Mice in the Service of Memory: A Second Generation Approach," Dr. Eric Kandel.

For details of the program, check <http://www.nih.gov/news/brain.htm> or call JoAnn Pass, NIA, 6-1752. ■



Dr. Günter Blobel, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. professor and an HHMI investigator in the Laboratory of Cell Biology at Rockefeller University

TRANSHARE Helps Pay for Your Commute

NIH TRANSHARE is a transportation incentive program for NIH employees, managed by the Office of Research Services. It permits federal agencies to participate in state or local programs that encourage employees to use bus, rail, or similar mass public transportation. Employees can receive a tax exempt benefit/subsidy for using public transportation to commute to work. Over the last few years, the monthly dollar amount employees may receive has increased and eligibility has expanded to include the Commissioned Corps.

Federal employees are eligible to receive this subsidy, but the legal definitions exclude certain categories of NIH personnel: visiting fellows, IRTA fellows, NRSA fellows, NRC fellows, summer aides, Fogarty scholars, and guest researchers.

Since the NIH TRANSHARE Program began in FY 1992, NIH has been working to expand the definition to include those in research training programs. ORS has, for the last 4 years, submitted a legislative proposal to DHHS to expand eligibility for participation in TRANSHARE. But the research training programs continue to be excluded under the law.

NIH will continue to pursue the legislative avenue, but may also have to turn to the appropriation path to seek approval. Currently, NIH has approximately 1,500 employees enrolled in the TRANSHARE Program. Each of these employees receives up to a \$42/month subsidy.

While TRANSHARE plays a big role in reducing traffic flow on campus, so do carpooling and bicycling. NIH applauds employees who have chosen these voluntary modes of transportation to

commute to work.

NIH has 450 carpools with 920 employees enrolled. In some cases, vehicles have been reduced from 5 to 1. In addition to carpools, NIH has an active Bicycle Club operated under R&W. More than 150 bicycle parking racks/lockers are located throughout the campus, and the Division of Public Safety provides a bicycle registration program.

The NIH Transportation Management Plan continually seeks to improve parking capability on and off campus, especially as major construction projects affect various parking areas. It reports that commuters coming from the I-270 North corridor now have a newly opened HOV lane.

As everyone is aware, parking on campus has recently become tighter. NIH is currently working on creative short- and long-term measures to minimize the impact of ongoing and future construction projects, but it is too big a job for one office to manage alone. It will require all employees working together. Your ideas and input are welcome. The NIH parking and transportation working group (P&TWG) is soliciting more members to work on these issues. Email Tim Wheelles (tw36t@nih.gov) with your ideas.

In the meantime, you can go to the P&TWG Web page to find out about off-campus parking, shuttle service, TRANSHARE subsidies, ride sharing, etc.: <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/parking/parking.htm>. Or call the Employee Transportation Services Office, 2-RIDE, for more information. ■



Dr. Axel V. Wolff has been named director of NCRR's Veterinary Resources Program, which provides veterinary support services to NIH intramural scientists. He oversees the largest federal animal research program and manages 450,000-square feet of American Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC)-accredited animal holding space in Bethesda and Poolesville. Wolff joined NCRR in 1989, serving as a veterinarian at the NIH Animal Center in Poolesville. In 1996, he was promoted to chief, Laboratory Animal Service-Poolesville.

Fogarty Center Sponsors Tax Prep Workshops for Foreign NIH'ers

The Fogarty International Center will sponsor a series of tax year 1996 tax preparation workshops to help foreign participants in the NIH Visiting Program complete federal and state tax forms. The workshops will be about 3 hours long.

Participants should bring copies of their W-2, 1042S, and/or 1099 forms to the workshop.

The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Who Should Attend
Mar. 17	9 a.m.	Bldg. 31/Conf. Rm. 7	Visiting Fellows
Mar. 17	1 p.m.	Bldg. 31/Conf. Rm. 7	Visiting Associates/Scientists/Special Experts
Mar. 25	9 a.m.	Natcher/Rm. F1 & F2	Visiting Fellows
Mar. 25	1 p.m.	Natcher/Rm. F1 & F2	Visiting Associates/Scientists/Special Experts
Apr. 1	9 a.m.	Natcher/Rm. F1 & F2	Visiting Fellows
Apr. 1	1 p.m.	Natcher/Rm. F1 & F2	Visiting Associates/Scientists/Special Experts



Drs. Patricia Walker and Thomas Darling, both of NCI's Dermatology Branch, will be awarded two of the five Young Investigator Awards of the American Academy of Dermatology at its national meeting in San Francisco this month. Walker has helped develop a gene therapy approach where genes are introduced and expressed in skin by injecting naked plasmid DNA into the dermis. Her most recent research is focused on development of an effective vaccine for leishmaniasis. Darling is using molecular approaches to analyze candidate genes for evidence of mutations that account for subepidermal blister formation in patients with a form of epidermolysis bullosa.



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marijuana smoking, NIH asked the group of pharmacologists, physicians and investigators to undertake the difficult task of sorting through what meager clinical research exists about benefits and risks of smoking the illegal drug for such disorders as glaucoma, the nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy, and AIDS wasting.

"NIH is seeking advice on four major questions," said Dr. Alan Leshner, NIDA director, in opening remarks on behalf of NIH. NIDA is one of 10 NIH components that cosponsored the workshop, and is the only source from which doctors can legally obtain marijuana for clinical research. The panel sought specifically to answer the following: What research has been done on the medical uses of marijuana? What are the unanswered questions involving use of the drug? What are the diseases and disorders for which marijuana might have potential as a treatment and that merit further study? What special issues have to be considered in conducting clinical trials on the therapeutic uses of marijuana?

"We are interested only in the science of this issue," Leshner stressed, "not in the politics or policymaking of smoking marijuana."

About 5 minutes into Leshner's introduction, a group of a dozen or so people carrying placards rose shouting from their seats in Natcher auditorium. "Stop the war on patients!" they yelled repeatedly. "Stop harassing doctors!" The outbursts were referring to what some see as unfair treatment of people—some doctors, some patients—who have been prescribing or smoking marijuana despite the current illegality of the drug. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, White House drug control policy director, and others in the government's battle against drug abuse have criticized all illegal marijuana use.

The planned disruption was a protest against the workshop, which some advocates of marijuana viewed as a stalling tactic by federal policymakers. Patients are suffering and dying, protesters contended, while NIH, HHS and other government entities delay potential therapy in the form of marijuana. The demonstrators also denounced NIH's decision to exclude from the ad hoc group physicians who prescribe the drug illegally and patients who smoke marijuana to ease disease symptoms. The interruption of the meeting lasted only moments, but set a contentious tone for the rest of the session. Disrupters who refused to pipe down were escorted out by NIH police, but were allowed to return if they caused no further disturbance to the workshop.

A lively public comment session was held on day two, at which patients who smoke marijuana for various conditions and others spoke.

Only experts in the field who said they had no

particular bias toward or against smoking marijuana for medical purposes were selected for the ad hoc group. Eight other scientists gave presentations on the existing medical and scientific literature on several aspects of the issue—the pharmacology of marijuana, its effects on appetite stimulation, nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy, glaucoma, movement disorders, pain relief, and cachexia (wasting of body mass due to disease) in people with AIDS, and clinical trial considerations for marijuana studies.

"The individuals chosen for the presentations and the expert group were nominated by the NIH planning group," explained Dr. Frank Vocci of NIDA. "The names were ranked in terms of an individual's research experience with marijuana and whether they had offered a public opinion on marijuana effectiveness. If so, they could be a speaker but not a panelist. Those in the expert group were both medical specialists and clinical trialists. Most of these individuals had some direct clinical trials experience."

Dr. Reese Jones, professor at the Langley Porter Institute, University of California, San Francisco, began the science portion with an hour-long lecture on the clinical pharmacology of marijuana. He pointed out a number of issues that complicate the clinical study of smoked marijuana, including the difficulty of designing a blind trial, and the near impossibility of quantifying and standardizing the dosage of a drug that a study participant smokes (and thereby self doses).

"It's the nature of smoking that people dose themselves," he said. "That's one of the advantages of it. But it does present a problem in designing the studies. [In order to get reliable data] a patient must smoke the same way each time, which is virtually impossible."

Of major concern to many group members was the potential risk to the lungs and other organs that the act of smoking itself presents, an issue that must be balanced against any benefit marijuana may offer.

A member of the group of experts, Dr. Paul Palmberg, professor of ophthalmology at the Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami School of Medicine, reported his success with a glaucoma patient who smoked marijuana as part of a compassionate use agreement with the Food and Drug Administration in the 1970's. He said the patient's symptoms were relieved—with no apparent ill effects to date, nor intoxication. He also said the beneficial effects lasted only a couple of hours. The patient, a woman, had to smoke about 10 cigarettes per day to maintain the level of relief she was experiencing.

In addition, Palmberg mentioned another patient also treated with marijuana cigarettes under an IND whose glaucoma was not relieved by the drug. The

large number of major medical advances made in the last decade in treating glaucoma, he said, could diminish the rationale of smoking marijuana to relieve symptoms of the disorder.

Marijuana cigarettes were made available for patients with certain conditions in 1978, under a Single Patient Investigational New Drug (IND) of the FDA. A total of 14 patients ultimately received marijuana under this IND. Compassionate use ended in 1992, due in part to the unpredictability of administering the drug, and the development of newer, more potent and longer lasting alternatives, Jones reported. [One such alternative is Marinol, a synthetic derivative of the major active constituent of marijuana, which was developed with support from NCI. In 1985, FDA approved Marinol for treating the nausea and vomiting of patients undergoing chemotherapy and, in 1992, for use in wasting in patients with AIDS. However some patients, especially those with nausea, say they have difficulty swallowing a capsule.]

These reasons most likely contributed to the decline in research proposals to use marijuana in clinical trials. NIH welcomes clinical investigators to submit proposals for studying the therapeutic effects of marijuana, Leshner said. As with all NIH-funded research, he added, the studies must be carefully peer-reviewed and approved.

"You can argue policy and you can argue politics all you want," workshop chair Beaver concluded, "but if you haven't got the data, then you haven't got an issue."

The group will provide a written summary of its conclusions to NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus in 4 to 5 weeks. This will assist Varmus in considering what actions NIH could take to fund research on the therapeutic potential of marijuana for patients with certain diseases. ■



Israeli Ambassador Elisha Ben-Elissar (l) visited NIH on Jan. 28 to learn more about current biomedical research cooperation between U.S. and Israeli scientists. His visit to the Clinical Center was hosted by director Dr. John Gallin (r) who led a tour of the CC and described plans for the new Clinical Research Center building. Ambassador Ben-Elissar also met with NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus and NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner. The visit was organized by the Fogarty International Center.

NIH-Puerto Rico Extramural Associates Hold Workshop in San Juan

The NIH-Puerto Rico Extramural Associates (EA) Consortium—an outgrowth of the EA Program—recently organized a workshop on "Proposal Writing, Peer Review and NIH-NSF Funding Opportunities," which was convened in San Juan.

Dr. Matthew Kinnard, director of the EA Program, said it was a landmark accomplishment "because the primary mission of the EA Program is to encourage and facilitate the entry and participation of underrepresented minorities and women in biomedical and behavioral research."

The 3-day workshop featured more than 100 scientists and health scientist administrators and included presentations on various aspects of grantsmanship, NIH and NSF funding opportunities for research and training, peer-review mechanisms and the history, mission and future of the EA Program.

The program was organized by four Puerto Rican extramural associates who are current recipients of EA research development awards from NIH.

The "hands-on" workshop gave participants an opportunity to participate in a "mock peer review" session as well as to hear from representatives of NIH and NSF extramural programs. Two NIH offices that are particularly supportive of the EA Program were represented by Dr. Lorrta Watson, minority health policy analyst, Office of Research on Minority Health, and Joyce Rudick, senior program analyst, Office of Research on Women's Health, both of whom addressed the audience. Other NIH'ers making presentations included Kinnard, Drs. Anne Sassaman and Jose Velazquez from NIEHS, Milton Hernandez from NIAID, Anthony Rene from NIGMS and Lynn Amende, NINR. A practical proposal writing seminar was directed by Dr. Mary Ann Sestili, formerly of NCRR and former EA advisory board chair, which was followed by presentations by Drs. Clifton Poodry, director, MORE Program, NIGMS, Adolphus Toliver, director, MARC Program, and Ernest Marquez, director, MBRS Program. ■



Dr. Matthew Kinnard (r), director, Extramural Associates Program, meets with Dr. Norman Maldonado, president of the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, at the recent 3-day workshop in Puerto Rico.

Sailing Course Offered

Join the fun with the NIH Sailing Association. Basic training classes start Wednesday evening, Apr. 9 from 7:30 to 9:30. Cost is \$110 plus \$35 club membership dues. Course includes six evening classroom sessions, a Saturday morning orientation at the marina and 3 or 4 weekday afternoons on South River near Annapolis, with two students and one instructor aboard the club's Flying Scots (19-foot sloop-rigged centerboard daysailers). Students who complete basic training qualify to sail these boats for low charter fees.

Students must be NIH/NOAA employees, patients, or contractors, as well as R&W members. Application forms (class and membership) and more information on the Sailing Club are available at the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31.

CC director Dr. John Gallin and a look into the future by NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus. The day also included scientific presentations and workshops, poster sessions and a sneak peek at the new facility's latest architectural plans.

Moments of Discovery

Rabson, who came to the CC in 1955 and spent 20 years there as a pathologist, reminisced—at times, humorously—about some of the early days of clinical research in the hospital. He recalled the dedication to patient care and the vision of the first CC director, Dr. Henry Masur. He also remembered a research climate dominated solely by unlimited scientific needs and largely unfettered by administrative and regulatory red tape.

"There was a minimum of administrative overlay," he said. "Research was the only goal."

Mentioning a few of the great medical advances realized at the CC, he called to mind treatments for Niemann-Pick disease, acne, vasculitis and chronic granulomatous disease, as well as the development of such medical devices as the high-speed dental

NIH Guest House for patients and their families, and reinvention of CC administrative processes including new initiatives in procurement and personnel and a new cost accounting system. Longer term proposals include establishing clinical training programs for researchers, "harnessing the power of the information age by increasing the CC budget from 1 to 5 percent for informatics," forming a new Clinical Bioethics



CC director Dr. John Gallin outlined his vision for the revitalization of the Clinical Center.

Program to explore such issues as privacy and genetic testing, and forging new alliances with NIH's grantees.

"We'd like to open the doors of the Clinical Center to extramural investigators to allow more collaboration with intramural scientists and to give extramural scientists access to some of the special resources," Gallin continued, citing the CC's investment in telemedicine technology and the upcoming opening of the hospital's new stem cell facility.

"My goal is for every clinical investigator in the world to spend time at the Clinical Center—whether for training, long-term career, collaboration or utilization of special resources," he concluded, "and that every patient with a medical problem will know about the Clinical Center and turn to the NIH for advice and, when appropriate, participate in an NIH protocol somewhere in the United States."

On Goldilocks' Quest

Architects have a lot in common with scientists, intimated Robert Frasca, whose firm, Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership, won the reportedly tooth-and-nail competition to design the \$310 million Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center. "You go through a lot of trial and error, it's very labor intensive, and there are no short cuts. The difference is that, where you all deal mostly with the laws of nature, we deal much more with human perception."

On hand to give a preview slide presentation on where design plans are headed, Frasca said the new center "will be the focus of the entire campus," featuring bookstores and other retail enterprises as well as sky bridges that will connect building wings and plenty of open atria that will encourage informal confabs.

"Interaction is fundamental to the whole design," Frasca explained, pointing out several gathering



Dr. Monica C. Skarulas (c) of NIDDK and Dr. Maria L. Turner (r) of NCI discuss their poster collaboration during Clinical Research Day.

drill. He also made a prediction:

"The new Clinical Research Center will be a place where major advances in clinical research will be made, and major advances will be made by people in this room, at this time."

Goal Tending

Evoking words from the first medical board meeting held in the CC on June 9, 1953, Gallin said despite strained fiscal circumstances, increasing distractions of regulatory oversight and the changing health care delivery system, "patients must be part of the research team."

He outlined key elements of his vision for a reinvigorated clinical research setting. Some elements are already in progress, such as establishment of a CC board of governors, creation of the

areas inside and outside the proposed structure on which construction is scheduled to begin soon. Other designer touches mentioned include bay windows for the lab areas, a waterfall outside the patient lounge, and a lobby hearth. The dimensions of the labs and the patient care areas will be standardized so that they are interchangeable and can be easily rearranged as research priorities change over the years. Also, the scale of the building will be much lower than the existing CC, "putting the building on a more human level," Frasca said. In addition, the infrastructure components—heating/cooling system, plumbing—of the new facility will be located above each floor, so that repair and renovations to them will not interrupt the clinical work going on below.

Frasca said the slides and design elements are the result of a number of interviews with NIH researchers, hospital administrators and other future inhabitants of the CRC, and that he hopes feedback and ideas will continue to flow between the designers and the folks who will call the Hatfield Center their new home.

"We compare this process to the one that Goldilocks went through—we don't want it too hot or too cold or too tall or too short. We want to get everything just right, and you all are the only ones who know what just right is."

Once and Future Excellence

In his look toward the future, Varmus said NIH's traditional strengths—outstanding science and personnel—will need to be relied upon to address the serious hurdles current researchers are facing in pursuing patient protocols. An overall shortage of funds for science, the burgeoning trend toward managed care and the long-term debts associated with conducting clinical investigation are just three of the many challenges, he said.

"We must consider the value of the research we do with every dollar we spend," he said, listing three categories into which current concerns can be placed—administrative, recruitment, and interest and excitement.

Varmus said in the next few months he will establish a working group of NIH's best investigators to brainstorm about ways to maintain the standard of excellence of clinical research at NIH. In addition, he said, greater emphasis must be placed on training, because energy generated by students brings in new ideas and keeps the scientific atmosphere fresh.

A new training initiative based on the success of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute model will begin this fall at NIH, Varmus continued. Already, about 75 applications have been received by NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman, who advertised the program at medical

schools nationwide. Also under consideration is an NIH Ph.D. program that would require candidates to spend time conducting clinical research.

"As we undertake this critical thinking about clinical research," Varmus concluded, "we must remember that like anything else there is good clinical research and some that is not so good. Today, we are focusing on this building and its 44 years of success, and yet we must remember we are working in the context of a much larger scientific enterprise." ■

Workshop To Explore Breast Cancer, Virus Link

The possible role of viruses, including interactions between viruses and environmental factors, in the etiology of breast cancer will be the focus of a workshop to be held Mar. 18 in the Natcher Conference Center. The 1-day conference will be held in Rms. F1 and F2, starting at 8:30 a.m.

The objectives are to review what has been learned about the role of viruses in breast cancer, to stimulate communication on this topic within the research community, and to develop recommendations for future research.

Sponsored by the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer, which is coordinated by the Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health, the workshop will focus on past attempts to identify a human breast cancer virus, criteria for proving a viral causation of human breast cancer, current research, and future directions in exploring links between viruses and breast cancer.

Conference cochairs are Dr. Marjorie Robert-Guroff, chief, section of immune biology of retroviral infection, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Gertrude Case Buehring, associate professor of tumor virology, School of Public Health, University of California at Berkeley.

Attendance at the workshop will be limited to the first 100 registrants. There is no charge for registration. For information or to register, call (301) 468-6555 or email Bfeldman@prospectassoc.com. ■

Overweight Kids, Parents Needed

Healthy overweight children and normal weight children with two overweight parents 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. ■

Financial Fair Set, Mar. 19

The R&W is hosting the fifth annual Financial Fair on Wednesday, Mar. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 10's Visitor Information Center in the main lobby on the first floor. There will be CPA's, mortgage specialists, financial planners, bankers, life insurance representatives, car insurance representatives, loan officers and estate planners. There have been many tax law changes that affect us all. With the proper information you can handle your finances to get the maximum benefit. Don't miss the fair!

'It Was a Great Race!'

Fahner-Vihtelic Returns Successfully from Bottom of the World

By Rich McManus

John Fahner-Vihtelic, the NIH'er profiled in the last issue of the *NIH Record* who once survived 16 days alone following a car crash in the woods of Washington State, recently returned from his latest encounter with extremity: he not only ran in the second, and last, Antarctica Marathon last month, but also set a personal best time in the event—5 hours and 5 minutes.

"That's 10 minutes better than my first marathon (the Marine Corps, in 1994)," he exulted. The car crash, which occurred 21 years ago near Mt. St. Helens, left him an amputee. He lost his left leg below the midshin on Oct. 1, 1976, following the accident, in which his left foot was pinned by a pine root to the dashboard of his upside-down station wagon. A prosthetic leg enables him to pursue a range of athletic events including footraces and triathlons.

About 100 athletes participated in the Antarctica Marathon. Fahner-Vihtelic was sponsored by World Team Sports, a Charlotte, N.C.-based organization dedicated to the value of athletics and human determination; the letters T.E.A.M. stand for "the exceptional athlete matters." The first marathon near the South Pole was held in 1995. The 1997 version did not draw enough runners to justify continuation of the event, which involves transporting participants by boat from Tierra del Fuego to King George Island, the largest of the Shetland Islands just off the Antarctic Peninsula.

Temperatures were around freezing, with sustained winds of 40 mph and blowing snow, when Fahner-

A crushed Mercury station wagon was prison for John Fahner-Vihtelic for 16 days before he worked himself free. The 1976 incident claimed the lower part of his left leg. He has since become a serious athlete, competing in marathons and biathlons.



Fahner-Vihtelic runs up Collins Glacier, with Matthews Bay in the background.

Vihtelic began the 26.2-mile race.

"It was cold—no doubt about it," he said, "but you just run and you stay warm. It's getting toward the end of summer down there. Winter really sets in at the end of March."

The race course meandered along Matthews Bay through research stations belonging to Russia, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and China. Call it a mini-United Nations course. It also included a mile run up the Collins Glacier.

"We were running through dirt, mud, rock, snow and ice for a surface," says Fahner-Vihtelic, 48, who is a licensing specialist and patent advisor with NIH's Office of Technology Transfer. "There were a lot of streams from glacial runoff. You'd be running for awhile on dry dirt, then there would be a mile of mud."

The event itinerary provided the following caveat, printed in tiny type at the bottom of a page:

"Warning!...Antarctica presents many everchanging obstacles to overcome in order to conduct an event safely including icebergs, glaciers, snow, crevasses, rain, low temperatures, mountains, streams, katabatic winds [intense downdrafts of air], dive bombing skuas [large members of the gull family], mud and rocks. Each runner should understand that they (sic) must overcome or avoid most if not all of these elements while attempting to finish their (sic) race."

Most if not all. Fahner-Vihtelic encountered only one real slow-up, and it hadn't been anticipated by race officials: "At about 16 to 20 miles, my (prosthetic) limb got loose and slowed me down. I'm sure I would have broken 5 hours had it not



The race course included such hazards as streams, rocks, wind, seals and divebombing skuas—large gulls native to Antarctica. Fahner-Vihtelic (r) prepares to traverse a rather wide streambed.

happened.”

While passing through the Russian research center, site of the start and finish lines, Fahner-Vihtelic paused to add an extra prosthetic sock, which tightens up the limb, before running the last 6 miles of the race.

“The skuas were bothersome,” he relates. “They did not like us in their area.” He would encounter small clusters of the birds along the ground while running. As he approached, they took wing, but rather than flying away they tended to hover threateningly over his head.

“Down in Antarctica, the rule is to leave nature totally undisturbed,” he said. “You can’t pick up a stone or leave one behind where there wasn’t one before. We sometimes had to wait 20 or 30 seconds, or sometimes a minute for fur seals to get off the course. They can be very aggressive.”

Fahner-Vihtelic encountered seals twice, and used the ecologically inoffensive method of clapping loudly to rout the creatures.

The winning time in the race was 2:30, accomplished by Scott Dvorak, a professional runner sponsored by Reebok who is also director of public affairs for World Team Sports. Normally able to finish marathons in about 2:15, he was slowed just 15 minutes by all the White Continent could hurl his way.

Fahner-Vihtelic estimates he placed about 70th in the race. Little did he guess that, in exiting Antarctica, his true marathon had just begun: “The flight home was as bad as the marathon,” he said. Some 32 consecutive hours of flights and layovers left him utterly spent. “When I got to Metro Center (on the subway ride home) the whole place was spinning. I probably should not have been alone in there.”

Once home he remained in training—about 30 to 35 miles of running per week—for a marathon Mar. 9 along an old rail bed connecting Annapolis and Baltimore. He also expects to compete with WTS in the Cherry Blossom 10-Miler at Hains Point in April, and at the Spring Lake 5-Miler in New Jersey later in the spring. He also plans to participate in a

number of triathlons this year.

Nor is the press finished with him. The ex-Green Beret medic, whose 1976 crash survival story went worldwide over the wires (a brother in the Peace Corps learned of the ordeal while serving in the Marshall Islands) and whose TV appearances have included the *Today Show*, *To Tell the Truth*, *P.M. Magazine*, and *The Gary Collins Show*, gave interviews about his Antarctica experience to *Time* magazine, *Sports Illustrated*, *GQ*, the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

What did he tell them all? “It was a great race! I enjoyed it!” ■

BIG Recruits, Mar. 27

The NIH Chapter of Blacks in Government will host a membership drive at noon on Thursday, Mar. 27 in the Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10. All are welcome.



Recent springlike weather has brought out a new round of sidewalk construction at NIH. In the photo above, workmen lay the foundation of a walkway adjacent to Bldg. 34 along Lincoln Dr. Below, the same sidewalk continues into Parking Garage 8. Other new sidewalks span the lawn on the Natcherward side of Bldg. 38A, and the east side of Bldg. 6. The new walkways traverse ground formerly used as footpaths. Wear away enough lawn around here and they’ll eventually pave it!





Dr. J. Taylor Harden has joined the National Institute on Aging as an assistant to the director for special populations. She comes to NIA from NINR and will assist NIA with its research and training programs for special populations, which include the Summer Institute on Aging Research and efforts focused on women, minorities and the disabled. From 1992 to 1994, she was an associate professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing. She has already collaborated with NIA on a number of programs, including the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation, and looks forward to working on many new initiatives.

Fogarty Center's Schmidt Retires

By Irene Edwards

Dr. Jack R. Schmidt, director of the Fogarty International Center's Division of Advanced Studies, has retired from the government after 13 years at FIC and a total of 45 years of service. In the course of his long career with the Army, Navy and, finally, NIH, he always succeeded in combining his research interests with a commitment to global science and international health.

His first exposure to the international science scene took place in 1953, while he was working as a virologist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research—and it was nothing if not exotic. First, he worked in a laboratory that was trying to isolate the agent that caused Korean hemorrhagic fever, a disease that was creating havoc among U.S. troops in Korea. The causative agent remained unknown until the late 1970's, when it was found to be Hantaan virus. Subsequently, he worked in a lab that was isolating and characterizing a new virus—Mayaro—which was the cause of a febrile illness in Japanese immigrants working in an agricultural project on the edge of the Bolivian rain forest. Finally, he found himself in rural Japan, bleeding black-crowned night herons and pigs in the interest of identifying the natural hosts of Japanese encephalitis virus.

Changing allegiance from the Army to the Navy in 1958, Schmidt began his first long-term overseas posting as head of the virology department at the Naval Medical Research Unit in Cairo, Egypt. He spent the next 8 years there, working on a number of arthropod-borne viruses, particularly on sandfly fever. Since one of the major missions of the Department of Defense overseas laboratories was to define the potential threat posed by infectious diseases to military operations in various parts of the world, his horizons in Africa reached southward, and in 1966, he established and directed the operations of a new tropical medicine laboratory in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where Emperor Haile Selassie presented him with a medal in recognition of his work. In 1972, he returned to the United States to become director of programs and scientific advisor at the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and the Medical Development Command in Bethesda. In this position, his functions shifted from bench science to management, but his mission continued to encompass international research, since the Navy had research units in Taiwan, the



Dr. Jack R. Schmidt

Philippines, Indonesia and Peru, in addition to the one in Cairo, for whose research programs he was ultimately responsible.

Finally, in 1984, after having taken his first retirement, he came to FIC, where he served as chief of the International Coordination and Liaison Branch and acting deputy director of the center before taking over stewardship of the Scholars-in-Residence Program. This gave him the opportunity to host some of the most eminent researchers from the U.S and abroad, to introduce them to intramural scientists with common interests, and to create an atmosphere in which they could be maximally productive.

After these 45 years as a researcher, manager and facilitator, Schmidt has decided to retire once again, this time to pursue his interests in art and music, travel, and embark on new adventures. FIC director Dr. Philip Schambra recently said, "FIC will miss Jack Schmidt. A classicist in his tastes and his work, he values simplicity, clarity, balance and perspective. It has been of great benefit to FIC and NIH that he came out of retirement to share these attributes and to contribute his experience and skill." All his colleagues wish him and his wife Mary Lou a rich and fulfilling retirement. They will watch and wait to see if yet another career lies in store. ■

DCRT Courses and Programs

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

Introduction to Image Processing	3/13, 18, 20, 25, 27
C++	3/13, 18, 20, 25, 27
Introduction to HTML	3/12
ADBIS for Windows: Budget and Finance	3/13
ADBIS for Windows: NIH Property Management	3/14
LAN Concepts	3/14
Biomolecular Docking with ICM	3/18
Configuring Windows and Windows 95 for PARACHUTE Network Access	3/19
Introduction to Networks	3/20
Database Technology Seminar	3/21
Avoiding Pitfalls with Statistical Analysis	3/24
BRMUG Macintosh Users Group	3/25
Relational Database Design	3/26
ADBIS for Windows: NIH Property Management	3/27
Where to Keep Web Pages at NIH	3/31
ADBIS for Windows: NIH Property Management	4/1
MS Exchange for End Users	4/1
An Overview of the ALW System	4/1
Genetics Computer Group (GCG) Sequence Analysis	4/2-4
Using SAS/STAT to Analyze Linear Models	4/2-4
Designing an Intranet	4/2
Electronic Forms Users Group	4/2
Mathematica	4/2

DRG's Hyatt Bids Farewell To NIH After 31 Years

Dr. Asher A. Hyatt, a person whose name is often considered synonymous with peer review, has retired after 31 years of service in the Division of Research Grants.

A native of England, he received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of London in 1954. After postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he worked as a research scientist in the Boston area until 1966, when he came to DRG as executive secretary of the medical and organic chemistry fellowships review committee. He subsequently became executive secretary of the medicinal chemistry A study section, and in 1979 was promoted to chief of the chemistry and related sciences review section, providing leadership and guidance to about 20 peer review study sections in the basic sciences. He has been the STEP committee chairman, has served on NIH peer review process in this country and also in London and in Hungary. He received the NIH Merit Award in 1980, the NIH Director's Award for leadership skills in 1983, and three Public Health Service special achievement and recognition awards.



Dr. Asher A. Hyatt

A farewell open house brunch at the Rockledge-2 building was attended on Hyatt's last day by his many friends and colleagues in DRG and several of the institutes. Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld, DRG director, spoke of the high regard in which he has been held in the scientific community. In a Quaker meeting format, many of those present described their recruitment, mentoring, and supervision by Hyatt, and his uncompromising values of excellence, fairness and integrity. With a tinge of sadness, others described his retirement as premature, a manifestation of reinvention. Earlier in the week, Dr. Marvin Cassman, NIGMS director, had interrupted the proceedings of his national advisory council to bid farewell and seek an ovation to a valued friend to NIGMS. Hyatt had attended more than 90 meetings of the council.

Hyatt intends to remain in Bethesda, spending more time with his son and daughter and friends, and exploring the myriad things to see and do in this area, this country and around the world. He also intends to work part-time with other agencies and local universities involved in grant application and peer review processes. Last, but by no means least, he is determined to learn to play better bridge.—Lynne Williams ■

McFarland, NCI Chemist, Retires

After 39 years at NIH, Vivian W. McFarland retired recently.

From 1957 to 1989, she was a chemist in the laboratory of Dr. Peter T. Mora and for the last 7 years she was a chemist in the laboratory of Dr. Mark Udey, NCI Dermatology Branch. Her long and distinguished career at NCI is remarkable for the variety of responsibilities she assumed, and for her exceptional competence.



Vivian W. McFarland

McFarland came to NCI in 1957 as an analytical chemist. Early in her career, she was involved in the isolation of viruses and characterization of macromolecules via physicochemical and immunochemical methods. In Udey's laboratory, she expanded her repertoire to include techniques of cellular immunology. She also made significant contributions outside the laboratory. She served as an EEO counselor for NCI from 1986 to 1989, and subsequently served as a member of an NCI promotions review board. McFarland was awarded the NCI EEO Special Achievement Award in 1989 for the contributions she made as an EEO counselor and received the NIH Director's Award in 1995. She has made many additional contributions that, in aggregate, may be more important than those that have been formally recognized. She actively supported the laboratory efforts of many postdoctoral fellows and frequently provided sage advice to young (and not so young) people regarding both laboratory and personal matters.

McFarland set the standard for excellence as a technical specialist, and as a human being. She looks forward to finding out what people do between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. everyday, and to smelling the roses. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues at NIH. ■

Softball Players Needed

The NIH R&W Men's Softball League is looking for additional players for the upcoming season. The softball season runs from April until August and includes both a regular season and playoffs. Games are played weekday evenings at a field close to NIH. The current entry fee is about \$15 per player and is less than \$1 per player per game. Compared to county softball leagues, this is a real bargain. Current teams are looking for individual players. Prospective players should contact Frank Nice, 6-1561, for more details. ■

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 \$40 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.

DRG's Jones Retires After 44 Years of Government Service

Dr. Lynwood Jones, Jr., retired recently after 44 years of government service, 25 of which he spent with the Division of Research Grants. Prior to his retirement, he was scientific review administrator for the immunology, virology, and pathology study section, Referral and Review Branch.



Dr. Lynwood Jones, Jr.

A native of Petersburg, Va., Jones received a B.S. in biology from Virginia Union University, an M.S. in embryology from Virginia State College, and a Ph.D. in microbiology and biochemistry from Catholic University of America. Prior to joining DRG, he worked as a research microbiologist at the biological laboratories at Ft. Detrick, where he planned, conducted, and evaluated research in bacteriology.

Jones joined DRG in 1972 as a biologist, became a health scientist administrator in March 1975 and worked as a scientific evaluative officer in the Research Analysis and Evaluation Branch. He became executive secretary of the clinical sciences study section in 1979, which later was named the immunology, virology, and pathology study section. He has served on the training advisory committee since its inception, as well as other committees on peer review.

In addition to his work at DRG, Jones has held a faculty position at the University of the District of Columbia as adjunct professor in microbiology (1971-1980) and has taken an active role in community affairs. From 1956 to 1964, he played a leadership role in the civil rights activities in Frederick, Md., a period of accomplishment in his life of which he is very proud. More recently, he has worked with high schools in mentoring young people and taking an active role in science fairs in the Washington area. He is the author of numerous publications and a member of the American Society of Microbiology, the Research Scientists of America, and Sigma Xi.

Looking back over his experiences at DRG, Jones reflected, "It has been a very rewarding and exciting career. I have really enjoyed working with everyone in the division and the NIH scientific community. It is especially exciting to see the improvements over the years in peer review."

He and his wife Virginia have one son, Lynwood III, who is a practicing physician in infectious disease in Schaumburg, Ill. After retirement, Jones

expects to remain active in his leadership role in the community, and to continue mentoring young scientists. ■

Toastmasters Mourn Steven Shaffer



Steven Shaffer

Steven Shaffer, 48, a member of the NIH Evening Speakers Toastmasters Club, passed away unexpectedly at his parents' home in Baltimore on Jan. 2. He worked as a cartographer at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Joining the NIH public speaking club in 1987, he attended the bimonthly meetings regularly and dedicated himself to self-improvement and the improvement of fellow members. He excelled as an extemporaneous speaker with a rare sense of humor. He served as club president and vice president and won many speech and speech evaluation contests. Shaffer was well-liked and admired for his easygoing, warmhearted and gentle manner. Survivors and mourners include his parents, Lillian and David Shaffer, a brother, Brian Shaffer, and a sister, Barbara J. Shaffer, other relatives and many friends, including those in the many Toastmasters clubs in the area.

Skills Development Offered

The Administrative Skills Development Curriculum is being offered in 1997. The curriculum is open to all NIH administrative staff in one-grade-interval jobs who have ICD approval and funds authorization.

During a workshop, "Planning for Career Advancement for Administrative Support Staff," participants will form individual development plans. These plans, approved by supervisors and personnel offices, will guide participants through the program. A minimum of six courses must be completed in 3 years to receive a certificate of completion. At least two courses must be taken each year.

The deadline for submitting training nominations is Mar. 24. Participants will receive confirmation from the Division of Workforce Development. For more information, contact Pauline Irwin, 2-3385. ■

Betts Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are now open for the 1997 Henry B. Betts Award, which includes a \$50,000 cash prize and is presented to an individual for outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life for people with physical disabilities. Nominees can nominate themselves, and be in any discipline. Direct inquiries to Henry B. Betts Award, 303 W. Erie, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60610, phone (312) 335-1592 or email hbbaward@nathanpr.com. Nominations must be postmarked by June 6.



NIDCD's Debbie D'Angelo Dies

Debbie D'Angelo, a program analyst in the Epidemiology, Statistics and Data System Branch (ESDSB), NIDCD, died recently at her home in Rockville. She was 43.

D'Angelo was born and reared in Davenport, Iowa, and received her bachelor of science degree from the University of Arizona in 1981.



Debbie D'Angelo

She joined NIDCD as a program analyst in February 1995 to work with the chief of ESDSB on program activities within the branch. D'Angelo served as executive secretary of the epidemiology and

biometry research advisory subcommittee of the NIDCD Council, and as executive secretary to the protocol writing committee of the joint NIDCD-Indian Health Service study of otitis media in American Indian and Alaskan Native children.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of such a kind person and a valued employee. Ms. D'Angelo's dedication, high quality work, and her consideration for others will continue to be an inspiration to all of us at NIDCD," said Dr. James B. Snow, Jr., NIDCD director.

Before joining NIDCD, D'Angelo worked as a management analyst with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, HHS, where she reviewed and analyzed health legislation. During her time with OASH, she was instrumental in streamlining efforts of the PHS agencies.

Earlier in her career, D'Angelo was employed at the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington, D.C., as a general business and industrial specialist. She also held a position at the HQ Army Material Command in Alexandria, Va., as a contract performance specialist.

Throughout her 20-year career, D'Angelo was an outstanding federal employee. She was recognized with many superior performance and special achievement awards for her accomplishments.

Her family asks that expressions of sympathy be made in D'Angelo's name to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, 1125 15th St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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>.

<i>Courses and Programs</i>	<i>Starting Dates</i>
<i>Management and Supervisory Development</i>	
Innovations for Rewarding Today's Workers	3/25
Coaching Skills for the 21st Century	3/27
Preventing Sexual Harassment	4/1
Powerful Presentation Skills	4/2
Assertive Leadership	4/8
Time Management	4/9
Communication Strategies for Leaders	4/15
Supervision and Group Performance	4/16
<i>Communication Skills</i>	
Writing Skills Review	3/26
Write & Speak Like the News	4/1
American Sign Language II	4/15
<i>Administrative Skills</i>	
Planning for Career Advancement for Administrative Support Staff	4/21
Understanding and Managing Stress	4/15
Editing: An Introduction	4/7
<i>Administrative Systems</i>	
Travel for AO's	4/1
Foreign Travel	4/14
Basic T&A Using TAIMS	4/16
Commissioned Officers Leave and Attendance	4/17
<i>Human Resource Management</i>	
KSA Methodology	4/14
<i>Career Transition</i>	
Career Assessment & Planning - Grades 9 & above	3/20
Understanding Federal Employment Process & Writing KSAs	4/10
Researching Job Leads	4/10
<i>Computer Skills</i>	
Intro to Windows 3.1	4/3
Advanced Windows 3.1	4/9
Lotus for Windows	3/24
Excel 5.0 for Windows	4/15
Advanced Macintosh Techniques	4/17
MS Mail for Windows 3.1	4/8
Eudora Mail for Macs	4/15
MS Mail for Macs	4/15
Intro to Internet	4/17
Advanced Internet	4/17
Intro to CRISP	3/20

'Oaf of Office' Makes Run, Mar. 5-29

This year's Hexagon Show, "Oaf of Office," runs Mar. 5 to 29 at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and will benefit Community Family Life Services, a non-profit D.C. organization that offers assistance and emergency services to families and individuals. There will be evening performances of the show Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; a matinee runs every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Hexagon is a nonprofit, all-volunteer membership organization that each year produces a musical-political-satirical revue. All funds generated by the show go to Washington area charities. Call (202) 333-SHOW for tickets or for more information.

*Father of Invention***NLM's Le Receives Patent for Image Processing Method**By **Melanie Modlin**

"A very inventive fellow," is how Dr. George Thoma, chief of the National Library of Medicine's Communications Engineering Branch, describes his colleague Dr. Daniel Le.

It's an apt characterization. In January, Le, a research electronics engineer, received the first patent ever awarded to an NLM employee for his invention of a technique to improve the accuracy

and versatility of automated document scanners and optical character recognition (OCR).

Here's the problem his discovery solves: In the past, when an automated scanning machine "read" a piece of paper to store its contents in an electronic format, the scanner and other document imaging processes (such as optical character recognition) could only handle characters if the page was straight up and down, in what's called a "portrait" format. If the page was slightly at an angle when scanned (by an inexperienced operator,

for example), this skew of the text would prevent accurate optical character recognition. Similarly, a table or other item laid out sideways (in "landscape" format) couldn't be picked up by the scanner or other document imaging processes at all.

"I thought it was important to figure out a new way to preprocess the document image because we are using these scanning machines more and more," explained Le. "The best way to access, and perhaps to preserve, a document is in electronic format—then you can use it a million times. A paper journal, if it is used many times, gets degraded."

Le's "Automated Portrait/Landscape Mode Detection on a Binary Image," as it is identified in documentation for U.S. Patent Number 5,592,572, is the result of an algorithm he developed based on an analysis of projection profiles, vertical and horizontal variances on a page, and a technique to reduce the impact of nontextual data such as graphics and line art. Techniques other than Le's prove to be less accurate because graphics portions of a page also enter into the detection of page

orientation (portrait/landscape).

"It took me about 2 months to get through the thinking process on this project, and to review all back literature," Le recounted. "I looked for similar things in document imaging technology, to see if they would help me, but unfortunately their error rates were high.

"Then, I went back to some of the books I had used in school and reviewed all the math," he explained with a slightly pained chuckle. "The hardest part, and the most time-consuming, was the testing of our ideas on almost 12,000 medical journal pages from the NLM's collection. Finally, we achieved an accuracy rate of 99.3 percent and knew we had found what we were looking for."

Le has worked in NLM's Communications Engineering Branch, part of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, since 1990. He left his native Vietnam in 1981, emigrated to Hong Kong and arrived in the U.S. in 1982.

1997 has already been a banner year for him. Besides his patent, he was recently awarded a Ph.D. in computer science from George Mason University.

Le probably won't see huge financial rewards from his patent, for which he's a co-assignee with the National Library of Medicine. But there have been other satisfying results.

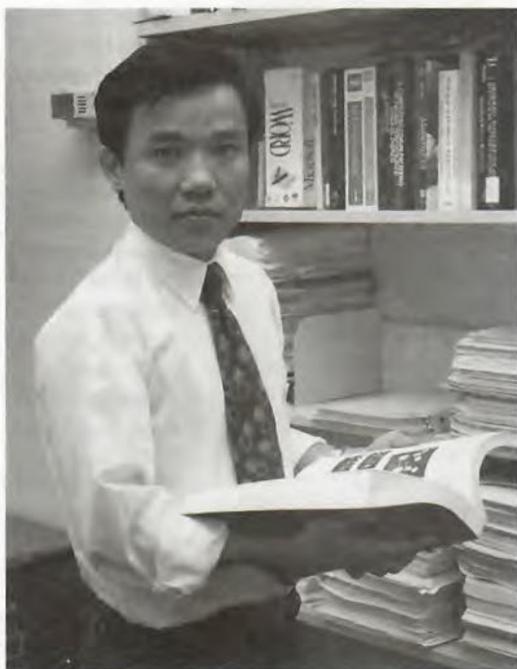
"I'm glad I can contribute something to my adopted country," he relates. "I'm just one of many people working on document imaging, but I hope my invention will make a small difference."

To the thousands who rely on accurately scanned documents, today and in the future, his invention will make a big difference.

A paper on Le's invention is available online at http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/doc_class/prword.html. ■

Seminar on Intellectual Property Issues

The Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association is hosting a brown bag lunch seminar to learn more about patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other intellectual property issues relating to government contracts. This seminar is open to all. A panel of experts will be available to answer questions. It includes Richard Lambert, counsel for intellectual property, DHHS; Thomas Mays, director, Office of Technology Development, NCI; and William Cotreau, patent attorney. The meeting is Wednesday, Mar. 19 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Executive Plaza North, Conf. Rm. H. Contact Sharon Miller, 6-8611, for details. ■



NLM's Dr. Daniel Le, a research electronics engineer, has won a patent—a first for a library employee—and his Ph.D. so far in 1997.