

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

5-Year Plan Developed

Office of Dietary Supplements Marks First Anniversary

Imagine a birthday celebration where dozens of guests arrive first to congratulate you then to tell you what they think you ought to be doing with your life. Such was the case Feb. 19 when an interagency forum convened at Stone House to review a draft strategic plan for NIH's Office of Dietary Supplements.

The office was established at NIH in November 1995 as a result of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act passed by Congress in 1994. The goals of ODS are to explore more fully the potential role of dietary supplements as a significant part of the efforts of the United States to improve health care; promote scientific



On hand for the Office of Dietary Supplements' recent planning session were (from l), ODS director Dr. Bernadette Marriott, Dr. William Harlan, director of NIH's Office of Disease Prevention, and Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, NIH deputy director.

study of the benefits of dietary supplements in maintaining health and chronic disease; and conduct and coordinate scientific research within NIH relating to dietary supplements.

ODS, part of NIH's Office of Disease

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Time to Educate, Not Legislate

Varmus Visits Hill To Address Questions on Cloning

By Carla Garnett

Recent discoveries in cloning technology present an opportunity to educate the public about a complex, but potentially invaluable scientific tool, said NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus during a Mar. 5 Capitol Hill hearing titled, "Biotechnology and the Ethics of Cloning: How Far Should We Go?" Legislation enacted too hastily on the issue could limit, delay or even prevent tremendously promising research that may one day benefit human health, he said.

"The way in which any bill that limits federal research funding is crafted can impede our ability to do many of the very things intended for scientific inquiry," he explained. "Unless a bill is written in a way that places a very tight fence around that which the public and Congress wants to forbid, there is the possibility that in closing off research related to unwanted goals you may also cut off research advances related to wanted goals." There is no need to act precipitously, Varmus stressed, "Human cloning is

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NIEHS's 'Worm Wigwams' Welcome Wiggly Waste Watchers

By Doug Nicholas

NIEHS has worms—and they'll even eat broccoli! Composting is often considered a throwback technology, but the NIEHS environmental awareness advisory committee has taken it on a technological ride into the 21st century by installing North Carolina's first two "Worm Wigwams"—state-of-the-art composting bins that use vermi-technology to turn organic waste into usable mulch in a fraction of the time it normally takes.

What is vermi-technology



Dick Sloane shows off one of two Worm Wigwams in use at NIEHS. Attempts to photograph the worms failed due to the critters' shyness; when Sloane opened the lid the worms scrambled to the warm, slimy core of the composting bin.

SEE WORMS PUT TO WORK, PAGE 4



Dr. John Bowers recently joined the Referral and Review Branch, Division of Research Grants, as scientific review administrator of the metallobiochemistry study section. Prior to coming to NIH, he held faculty positions with Harvard Medical School and research positions in the department of radiological sciences at Deaconess Hospital, Boston. He has published more than 40 scientific articles and presentations, and has received a number of honors, including an undergraduate research fellowship in clinical chemistry at Hartford Hospital and awards from honor societies.

NIDDK Advisory Council Gains Nine

NIDDK welcomed nine new members to its advisory council recently.

The six new members who will review grants in diabetes, endocrine and metabolic diseases are Dr. David Harlan, director of the immune cell biology program at the Naval Medical Institute; Dr. Judith Bond, professor and chair of the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at Pennsylvania State University; Ruby Haughton, vice president for government relations at U.S. Bancorp, in Portland, Ore.; Dr. S. Robert Levine, founder and chair of the Health Corporation and a member of the international board of directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International; Dr. Jerrold Olefsky, professor of medicine at the University of California, San Diego, and chief of the endocrine and metabolic section at the VA hospital in La Jolla, Calif.; and Dr. James Rothman, vice chair of Sloan-Kettering Institute.

Three other new members will review grant applications for kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. They are Dr. Barbara Hayes, assistant dean for academic affairs at Texas Southern University Graduate School in Houston; Dr. Eric Neilson, a C. Mahlon Kline professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. George Stamatoyannopoulos, professor of genetics at the University of Washington.



NIDDK director Dr. Phillip Gorden (top, c) welcomes new councillors (top, from l) Dr. S. Robert Levine, Dr. Jerrold Olefsky, Dr. George Stamatoyannopoulos, Dr. Eric Neilson; (bottom, from l) Dr. David Harlan, Dr. Barbara Hayes, Dr. Judith Bond, and Ruby Haughton.

Take Your Child to Work Day

NIH's observance of "Take Your Child to Work Day" will be on Thursday, Apr. 24. There will be new activities as well as favorites from last year. The day is an opportunity not only to show your child (or grandchild) what you do at work, but also to show them more about biomedical research and what NIH does. Interestingly, last year many parents found that they learned things about NIH they hadn't known before.

There will be preregistration for those activities with space limitations. For more information, check the Web site <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/tycw>. More detailed information will be in the *NIH Record* and in a desk-to-desk flyer. ■

NCRR Grantee Wins Award

Dr. Dean R. Appling of the University of Texas recently received the first E.L.R. Stokstad Award for his outstanding research on folate and one-carbon metabolism. Folic acid is required by virtually all organisms and a deficiency in humans can be associated with cardiovascular disease and neural tube defects in newborns. The Stokstad Award of \$2,500 and an engraved plaque is given to promising scientists for outstanding fundamental research in the area of nutrition.

Appling is a grantee of NCRR's Comparative Medicine Area, Biological Models and Materials. This program develops cell systems, lower organisms and nonbiological systems as models for use by biomedical researchers. Appling uses a yeast model to study the organization and control of folic acid-mediated one-carbon metabolism. ■

Problems with Alcohol?

Is alcoholism destroying your family? NIAAA is seeking both actively drinking and recovering alcoholics for various studies. If you are 18 or older, have no significant medical problems, no current drug use (except alcohol), and take no medications, you may qualify for free treatment. For more information call 6-1993. ■

NIH Garden Club Is Growing

The NIH Garden Club is beginning to sprout, and will branch into two sections, one meeting after work and one meeting at noon time. This will allow more people to participate. All meetings are open to anyone interested in gardening. The next set of meetings will be: Apr. 1, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Conf. Rm. 7, Bldg. 31, and Apr. 14, 12 - 1 p.m., Conf. Rm. 8, Bldg. 31. For more information contact Karen Helfert at kh21k@nih.gov. ■

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New Lecture Series Focuses on Chemistry-Biology Interface

Dr. Keith Woerpel, an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of California, Irvine, will give the first talk in a new lecture series at NIH focusing on the integral role of chemistry in biomedical research. His talk, entitled, "Learning About Strained-Ring Silicon Compounds: From Reactive Intermediates to Organic Synthesis," will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 8, in Bldg. 1's Wilson Hall. The lecture series is sponsored by NIH and the American Chemical Society.

Woerpel is an organic chemist who was one of 10 NIH principal investigators to receive the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in December 1996. This new award recognizes outstanding scientists and engineers who



Dr. Keith Woerpel

are at early stages in their careers and show exceptional potential for leadership. Woerpel's research combines elements of organic and organometallic chemistry, with emphasis on developing new, stereoselective carbon-carbon bond-forming reactions. With support from NIGMS, his laboratory is investigating the chemistry of organosilicon compounds as part of what he describes as a larger effort "to uncover and understand new reactivity patterns and to develop them into powerful synthetic tools."

He received a B.S. degree from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. degree from Harvard University, where he studied with Dr. David Evans. He then spent 2 years as an NIGMS-funded postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Bergman at the University of California, Berkeley. Woerpel has been a faculty member at the University of California, Irvine, since 1994.

Dr. John Schwab, a program director in the NIGMS Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry, is an organizer of the new lecture series. He said, "The series is being called 'Chemistry: A Life Science' in order to draw attention to the opportunities for scientific synergism between chemists and other life scientists. We plan to invite world-class scientists whose research illustrates the applications of chemistry—including organic, bioorganic, inorganic, medicinal and

biochemistry—to challenging problems in biomedical research. Our hope is that the seminar series will stimulate interdisciplinary communication and research efforts in this critical interface area, which currently appears to be underemphasized within the NIH intramural program."

Other NIH scientists who were instrumental in the creation of the lecture series are Drs. Kenneth Kirk, Kenneth Jacobson, and John Daly, all of NIDDK, and Dr. Michael Rogers of NIGMS. The NIDDK scientists and Schwab are also among those who are setting up a chemistry interest group at NIH. A World Wide Web site for this interest group ("CHEMIG") is located at <http://chem.info.nih.gov/chemig>.

The second lecture in the series will be presented on Monday, May 19 by Dr. Daniel Kahne, a professor of chemistry at Princeton University. Particularly interested in carbohydrate-mediated recognition phenomena, he has recently developed methods for the combinatorial synthesis and screening of oligosaccharide libraries. His research has been supported by NIGMS for the past 7 years.

Lectures and occasional mini-symposia in the "Chemistry: A Life Science" series will be held monthly from September through May, and will be announced in the *NIH Calendar of Events* as well as on the Chemistry Interest Group home page. All lectures will be open to scientists from other federal laboratories as well as those from nearby universities and research institutions. In addition to giving a lecture, each speaker will schedule time to meet with interested intramural and extramural scientists at NIH. For more information, contact Schwab, 4-5560.—Ann Dieffenbach ■

Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program

The Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, NCI, is accepting applications for the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program, a 3-year program for M.D.s or holders of doctorates in a health-related field that begins in July 1998; applications are due by Sept. 1, 1997.

The program offers master of public health training during the first year at accredited universities followed by independent research opportunities within NCI in the Rockville area.

There is also a summer cancer prevention and control academic course, which is part of the fellowship program, but open to physicians and scientists interested in specialized instruction on the principles and practices of cancer prevention and control. It is held for 6 weeks beginning in July at Executive Plaza South; prior experience in epidemiology is recommended.

For more information contact Barbara Redding, 6-8640, or email REDDINGB@dcpcepn.nci.nih.gov. ■



NIHES' Michelle Bennett has been awarded a 3-year, \$120,000 grant from the U.S. Army to develop a genetically engineered strain of mice that will have defective copies of a second breast cancer gene, BRCA2, that has been linked to the majority of inherited breast cancers not caused by BRCA1. Investigators will use the mice to learn more about how hereditary breast cancer develops in humans. Bennett played a role in the discovery of BRCA1.



Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo was recently appointed deputy director of NCI's Division of Cancer Biology. Prior to coming to NIH in 1990, she was an assistant professor in the departments of urology and cell biology at Baylor College of Medicine. Ruiz Bravo was a program director in the Genetic Mechanisms Branch of the Division of Genetics and Developmental Biology, NIGMS. In addition, she served in a number of special assignments, including acting deputy director for the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research, NIGMS; and special assistant to the deputy director for extramural activities, NIGMS. Currently, she chairs the staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee, which is responsible for offering training opportunities of interest to NIH extramural staff.

WORMS PUT TO WORK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all about? Simply put, it's about worms. By maintaining suitable temperatures in even the coldest winter months, the Worm Wigwam—with its insulated outside walls and thermostatically controlled electric heater—allows vegetable waste processing redworms to thrive. In return for the comfy home, the redworms process large amounts of organic material, consuming, digesting and passing almost any decaying organic matter including food waste, leaves and grass, shredded paper or cardboard waste, and chopped straw or hay. The worms' castings are the "vermicompost," which is like a rich potting soil but is superior to conventional compost in nutrient levels and water-holding capacity.

The Worm Wigwams cost \$375 apiece. Each contains 10 pounds of worms (about 10,000) worth \$75, which are working to process 10-20 pounds of cafeteria waste plus shredded paper and other organic waste each day.

Dick Sloane, who spearheaded the effort and set the Worm Wigwams up in early December, said the system offers three benefits. NIEHS reduces its



Dick Sloane presents NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden with a small bag of vermicompost to celebrate the early success of the institute's worm composting project. John Schelp and Laurie Johnson, cochairs of the environmental awareness advisory committee, join in the fun. The vermicompost is the castings, or leavings, of the 20,000 worms that spend their days eating and digesting the institute's cafeteria vegetable waste as well as shredded paper, clean discarded animal bedding, and leaves and grass. Olden noted that he has been photographed holding many things, but never a bag of worm poop! The EAAC hopes to harvest about 30 pounds of vermicompost each week, which will be used as mulch for trees on the NIEHS campus.

daily waste stream, the compost provides a nutritional mulch for landscaping, and the institute receives a public relations value—people from North Carolina State University in Raleigh and SunShares recycling in Durham have already visited to check out the new composting units.

Compost harvesting began in January, and Sloane

Cut Away View of the NIEHS Worm Wigwam



A cutaway view shows the inner workings of the Worm Wigwam. Layers of green cafeteria waste and other organic materials are placed on top of a metal grate. Most of the decomposition occurs in the warm core of the pile. The 10,000 worms not only process the waste through digestion, but their constant movement also aerates the organic mass.

conservatively predicts a steady harvest of 2 to 4 cubic feet—about 30 pounds—per week.

Fun Worm Facts

- ♦ Redworms may live up to 4.5 years in the Worm Wigwam (compared to 1 year in the wild), and will grow to a length of up to 3 inches.

- ♦ Redworms can live in a wide range of temperatures. They're happiest from 55-70 degrees, but can handle 45-80 degrees.

- ♦ Redworms are hermaphrodites—they have both male and female sexual organs—and reproduce quickly in confinement. Their population may double or triple in 1 year.

The Worm Wigwam is 3.5 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter. A steel grate separates the processing area where the worms live from the harvest area where the vermicompost falls. A crank on the side of the unit functions like a flour sifter, breaking up the mulch so it can fall through the grate. ■

Correction

The Web address for the NIH recycling program was misprinted in the Mar. 11 issue of the *NIH Record*. The correct address is: <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/recycle>. ■



Researchers Locate Lupus Gene

For the first time, scientists have zeroed in on the location of a gene that predisposes people to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE, or lupus), a chronic autoimmune rheumatic disease. Researchers have localized the gene to a region near the end of the long arm of human chromosome 1 in Caucasians, Asians and African Americans with lupus. Identifying genes for lupus will provide new insights about why people get the disease, and should help researchers develop new treatments or preventive measures.

"The finding that this gene appears to play a role across ethnic groups is very exciting," says Dr. Susana Serrate-Sztejn, chief of the NIAMS Rheumatic Diseases Branch, which helped fund the study. "It suggests that this is going to be an important gene for explaining what causes lupus."

The study, reported by Dr. Betty P. Tsao and her colleagues in the Feb. 15 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, was an international collaboration led by researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles and Cedars-Sinai Research Institute in Los Angeles.

The scientists used clues from other researchers' genetic analyses of mice with lupus-like illnesses to guide their search for human lupus genes. "The region we identified is probably similar to a corresponding region on chromosome 1 linked to disease in all of the lupus mouse strains studied to date. That suggests that we may be at some very important locus that controls immune response not only in mouse but also man," says Dr. Bevra H. Hahn, chief of rheumatology at UCLA and a senior author of the paper.

In autoimmune diseases such as lupus, the immune system goes awry and produces autoantibodies—antibodies that react against the body's own healthy cells and tissues. These autoantibodies contribute to the inflammation and tissue damage seen in people with lupus. The disease can affect many parts of the body including the joints, kidneys, skin, heart, lungs, blood vessels and brain. Scientists do not know exactly what causes lupus, and there is no way yet to prevent or cure the disease.—Elia Ben-Ari ■

Long, Short Sleepers Needed

The Clinical Psychobiology Branch, NIMH, needs subjects who habitually sleep 9 hours or more, or 6 hours or less, age 18-30, for a 5-consecutive-night sleep study. The volunteer should have no history of mental illness, no sleep disorders, and should not be on any medications, including over-the-counter medications and birth control. The study does not involve taking any medications. Contact Holly A. Giesen, 6-6981, or send replies to hgiesen@box-h.nih.gov. ■

Anti-Inflammatory Drugs May Help Reduce Risk of Alzheimer's Disease

In a 15-year study, anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, taken for as little as 2 years, appear to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Acetaminophen, with no anti-inflammatory activity, had no effect on the risk of AD, while the third compound reviewed, aspirin, a potent anti-inflammatory agent, appeared to have little or no effect on the risk of AD within the limits of this study.

The research, by scientists at the National Institute on Aging and Johns Hopkins University, appears in the March 1997 issue of *Neurology*. Key data for the study came from NIA's Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, which since 1958 has examined more than 2,300 people.

Other studies looking at the effects of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) on Alzheimer's disease have shown a link between these drugs and reduction in the risk of Alzheimer's. This study, however, is the first to look at a large number of patients over a substantial period of time. This long-term, or longitudinal, study enabled the researchers to eliminate a number of biases that made earlier short-term studies less definitive.

According to one of the authors, "many scientists now believe that inflammation may be an important component of the Alzheimer's disease process. The amyloid and protein plaques found in Alzheimer's patient's brains, which are hallmarks of the disease, may be indicative of an inflammatory response." Researchers believe that NSAIDs may influence inflammation by interfering with the actions of some proteins and thus lessening their harmful effects.

The scientists caution that chronic use of NSAIDs may lead to a number of serious side effects, including peptic ulcers and impaired kidney function. To determine the effectiveness of prophylactic use of NSAIDs in people at high risk for AD, clinical trials are needed.—Michael Miller ■

Study Needs Infants, Moms

Families of Argentine or Japanese ethnicity with a healthy first-born infant are needed for an NIH study of social and cognitive development. Participation involves two brief visits to mother and baby in the home. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen. Help us to learn more about Argentine and Japanese culture. For more information call Debby Clay at NICHD, 6-6832. ■

Softball Players, Teams, Umpires Wanted

The NIH R&W Freddie Harris Memorial Co-Rec Softball League is looking for players, teams and umpires for the 1997 season. The league starts in April and ends in September. For more information, leave a message at (301) 938-4343. ■



Malaria authority Dr. Richard Sakai of NIAID's Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases was recently named Knight of the National Order by President Konare of Mali. In 1990, Sakai accepted a posting to Mali as an NIH resident scientist to work with Malian scientists at the National School of Medicine and Pharmacy. His mission was to develop—from the ground up—a malaria research facility. Now completed, the Malaria Research and Training Center is a focus for malaria activities in Mali and all of West Africa and was visited by NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus in January. Sakai's knighthood recognized his service to the people of Mali and his extraordinary contributions to that nation's battle against malaria.

CLONING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not going to happen overnight.”

Since Feb. 24, when Scotland's Dolly (the sheep that is the first animal ever cloned from the nonreproductive cells of an adult mammal) was introduced to the world in media splendor, Western nations have been struggling to address the difficult legal, moral, ethical, religious and scientific questions the discovery evoked. Soon after the Scottish announcement, Norway's Parliament passed legislation that banned “cloning of humans and other highly developed organisms,” according to *ScienceNOW*, the American Association for the Advancement of Science's online magazine. The Norwegian ban would have prevented the cloning of Dolly and could be the farthest reaching cloning ban on the books, the magazine reported. Britain and Germany had already outlawed all human cloning research, which many feel is the imminent next step after animal cloning. In the U.S., no such all-encompassing law exists, although several state legislatures such as New York had, as soon as 2 weeks after Dolly, introduced bills to curtail or outright ban all human cloning research. Federally, two U.S. legislators have already introduced bills in each chamber of Congress to limit aspects of human cloning. Currently no HHS funds can be used for human embryo research, including embryos derived from cloning, but U.S. private industry is not so impeded.

President Clinton, expanding the government ban on human cloning to the use of all federal funds and responding to public clamor, called on Mar. 4 for a 90-day voluntary moratorium on cloning humans by the private sector while his National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) “conducts a thorough review of the legal and the ethical issues raised by this new discovery.” At the end of May, NBAC is expected to present its findings and recommend to the president possible actions to prevent the abuse of the technology.

In a move applauded equally by members of the scientific and legislative communities, Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.), who chairs a House technology subcommittee, invited Varmus and four other science and science ethics experts to a hearing to respond to wide-ranging congressional questions on the topic.

“Animal cloning has the potential to immeasurably improve our human health condition with radical advances in medical research, the speeding up of new drugs, and the development of animal organs for human transplantation,” Morella said, opening

the heavily attended hearing. “Yet, perhaps no other science issue is as dramatically misunderstood and feared, since cloning comes saddled with lingering and troubling concerns about the very dimensions of our human existence...We must be careful not to outlaw or restrict potentially positive scientific developments with overly prescriptive legislation aimed at aspects of cloning that we don't support or condone such as human cloning.”

The panel fielded queries on nearly everything from the prospect of diminished diversity due to the

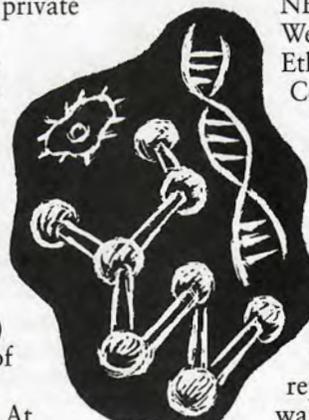
“In recent times, DNA and the science of genetics have come to be, as seen by the public, somewhat over-determining who we are and how we behave.”

—NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus

cloning of so-called superior animals to the possible end to endangered species. Gately, Varmus and his colleagues on the panel—Dr. Caird Rexroad of the Department of Agriculture, Dr. N. Susan Smith of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center (which recently cloned monkeys using embryo cells), NBAC member Dr. Thomas Murray of Case Western Reserve University's Center for Biomedical Ethics, and Jim Geraghty of Genzyme Transgenics Corp.—attempted to provide uncomplicated answers to the variety of questions, some technically complex, others philosophical, and some even humorous.

Was there any way the scientific community could have better prepared the public to address this and other future highly significant, multifaceted research breakthroughs? Morella asked. What's to stop some renegade scientist from flying to a remote island somewhere and replicating his or her rich patron? one congressman wanted to know. Given these uncharted and ultra-deep scientific waters the ability to clone animals now puts us in, another congresswoman wondered aloud, “Should we be legislating the acquisition of further knowledge or the application of it?” “Is there any way to clone a certain insect population and relocate it to another, less populated region?” inquired Rep. George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.), who recalled that 20 years ago this month the impact of another hotly debated scientific topic—recombinant DNA—was being explained and explored with similar intensity within the confines of the House science committee.

Answers to the questions above—not really, nothing, possibly neither, and perhaps—underscored how much more must be learned about this burgeoning field. As a unit, panel members moved to



GWU Health Plan Day

George Washington University Health Plan will be on the NIH campus Tuesday, Apr. 1, to assist enrollees who have claims or enrollment problems or questions. A GWU plan representative will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9. No appointment is necessary. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

reassure questioners. USDA's Rexroad, whose work involves biotechnology with farm animals to produce healthier and more valuable foods and animal products, and Geraghty, whose company does research using animal cloning techniques to develop potential therapies for human disease, said they are interested in Dolly only as a scientific tool to improve quality of life and human health, not as an avenue to human replication.

"We shouldn't underestimate the difficulty of this work and the limited number of people who can carry it out," said Varmus, explaining the requirements—in terms of economic as well as human resources of knowledge, expertise and experience—to set up a facility able to implement the cloning technique that gave birth to Dolly. And even then there is no guarantee of success, he continued, pointing out that only one attempt in hundreds at the Scottish lab produced a viable animal.

"In recent times," Varmus concluded, "DNA and the science of genetics have come to be, as seen by the public, somewhat over-determining who we are and how we behave. I think this offers us an opportunity to put it in a better perspective. It is a fantasy to think that somebody who has the same genes as you have, is you. I think those distinctions are things we can bring up in this debate that will make us respect life history as much as we respect our genes." ■



The Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR) and FDA recently joined to issue guidance to some 5,000 institutional review boards (IRBs) nationwide that protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects. The policy statement clarifies the use of an expedited review procedure by

IRBs. The statement is a step toward streamlining the review of a large number of NIH-funded clinical trials. Signing on behalf of HHS is OPRR director Dr. Gary B. Ellis (seated, l). Seated at right is the FDA signatory, Associate Commissioner for Health Affairs Stuart L. Nightingale. Looking on are OPRR deputy director Capt. Melody Lin and FDA Associate Director for Human Subject Protection Paul W. Goebel.

NIAAA Seeks Volunteers

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism is currently seeking volunteers between the ages of 18 and 60 to participate in studies. The participant must be in good physical health and on no medication. All participants will be paid. For more information, call 6-1993. ■

Conference on Management of Hepatitis C

NIH is sponsoring a Consensus Development Conference on Management of Hepatitis C, chaired by Dr. Donald W. Powell of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, in Natcher Conference Center Mar. 24-26.

The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major cause of both acute and chronic hepatitis in the United States. Hepatitis C, previously known as "non-A, non-B hepatitis," affects between 1 and 2 percent of Americans, and chronic infection with HCV is probably the single most important cause of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer in the Western world. Not all cases of hepatitis C are severe or progressive. Many patients are asymptomatic and are only diagnosed when they are found to have abnormal liver tests following a blood donation or routine evaluation for another problem.

There are presently no specific ways to prevent hepatitis C. Alpha interferon has been approved for treating hepatitis C. The conference will evaluate the existing scientific data and deliberate on how patients should be managed.

The final consensus statement will be presented at a press conference at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 26 at Natcher auditorium. The conference is sponsored by NIDDK and OMAR, with support from NIAID, NHLBI, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information, call (301) 770-3153, or email confdept@tech/res.com, or consensus.nih.gov. ■

Dr. Ira Pastan, chief of NCI's Laboratory of Molecular Biology, received the Special Achievement Award sponsored by Coulter Corp., a research and biotechnology company in Miami. The award was given recently at the company's Nature Biotechnology Winter Symposium in Ft. Lauderdale. The award recognizes "contributions to biological science by way of new knowledge or methodology whose impact was not particularly evident at the time of the first description but which, over the years, has been seen to be a seminal event of outstanding significance." Pastan received the award following his address on "Design of Recombinant Immunotoxins for the Treatment of Cancer." The winter symposium is organized by the University of Miami and Nature Publishing Co.



Paid Study for Postmenopausal Women

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting volunteers for study comparing estrogen and lipid-lowering therapies and vitamin E. 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 5-4038.

Kaiser Plan Service Day

Kaiser Permanente Health Plan will be on the NIH campus Thursday, Mar. 27 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. 45, Conf. Rm. C. No appointment is necessary. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Golf Tourney Benefits Kids, Patients

The fourth annual Jeff Bostic Celebrity Golf Tournament will be held Monday, Apr. 21 at Lansdowne Resort near Leesburg, Va. Beneficiaries are Special Love, Inc., which puts on Camp Fantastic (a summer camp for kids—many of them from NIH—with cancer), and the Friends of the Clinical Center, which provides emergency financial aid to CC patients and their families. For more information call (301) 340-5775.

ODS STRATEGIC PLAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Prevention, has begun to flourish since its rocky inception a year ago when director Dr. Bernadette Marriott arrived to find the federal government mired in both furlough and deep snow. Overcoming this handicap, ODS rallied to hold a series of six developmental planning meetings involving 83 scientists and professionals from academia and industry in the past year; the draft plan integrated all of that input.

"This has been a really remarkable accomplishment," said ODP director Dr. William Harlan. "It goes beyond that to be truly extraordinary, considering it occurred in less than a year." He credited ODS with soliciting direction from "a broad spectrum of people and views...people at NIH not often tapped for advice.

"The office has built a road map with mile posts establishing a very rigid set of criteria," noted Harlan, adding that the diverse collection of advisors not only managed to settle on some goals for ODS, but also "had a lot of fun working on the plan."

NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein also praised the quick start: "Dr. Marriott and her small staff have done a remarkable job," she said, and have established a plan "built on trust and mutual interest. In the end, we expect that everyone will be receptive to the plan."

Cautioning that "everything (in the draft plan) is open to change," Marriott said the meeting was "a brainstorming session" to help the office achieve its mandate of improving the quality of science in dietary supplement research. Attendees hailed from NIH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, National Center for Health Statistics, the President's Commission on Dietary Supplements Labels, U.S. Army, Health Resources and Services Administration and the Library of Congress. A final draft of the strategic plan, titled *On the Threshold of Discovery: Merging Science and Supplements to Promote Health*, is expected this summer.

Issues within the purview of the office are the stuff of headlines: Can folic acid improve reproductive outcomes? What are the safe upper limits of vitamin B intake? Can amino acids treat psychological conditions? What affect does melatonin have on sleep and aging? What are the effects of caffeine on physical performance?

Hot topics in the field arise almost as quickly as newspaper editions. Since many supplements have never been studied scientifically, it is important for ODS to promote and support the conduct of research to determine the benefits and risks of promising dietary supplements, and to interpret findings for the public.

Marriott, the first ODS director, came to NIH in late 1995 from the National Academy of Sciences

Institute of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board, where she was deputy director. She received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 1976 from King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, then studied comparative medicine at Johns Hopkins. She was a Peace Corps volunteer from 1970 to 1972 at the University of Mashhad, Iran. Marriott has also lived and worked in Scotland and Puerto Rico, and has done field research and taught in Afghanistan, Nepal and Panama. She has been on the faculty at Johns Hopkins, University of Puerto Rico and Goucher College.

Her research has focused on natural food supplementation and micronutrient requirements in human and nonhuman primates. She has studied the long-term feeding habits of nonhuman primates in natural habitats and the laboratory. Much of her work has been conducted in collaboration with scientists at USDA's Human Nutrition Center in Beltsville, Md. ■



NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant (top l) congratulates the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Asthma Guidelines Team for its outstanding work on the new Expert Panel Report: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. The team, with representatives from NHLBI's Office of Prevention, Education, and Control and Division of Lung Diseases, includes (top, from l) Ted Buxton, Virginia Taggart, Ellen Sommer, and (bottom, from l) Michele Hindi-Alexander, and Rob Fulwood. The report, which updates the 1991 guidelines, was released at an American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology meeting in San Francisco recently. It includes new recommendations on such issues as using asthma medications, reducing exposure to asthma triggers, and possibly preventing onset of asthma and its risk factors.

High Cholesterol Study Recruits

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting patients with high cholesterol levels (250 mg/dL or higher) who have no other medical problems to be included in a 3-day outpatient study. Participants will be paid. Call 6-8739. ■

Ready, Fire, Aim!

NINR Holds Managed Care Conference

By Marianne Glass Duffy and Mary Wendehack

Last month, a group of experts in academic medicine, biomedical research, health policy, medical ethics, and corporate health benefits met at NIH to discuss how the changing dynamics of the health care environment may affect scientific innovation and the continued integration of scientific advances into health care.

The conference, titled "Managed Care: Crisis and Opportunity for Biomedical Research," was the first in a series of conferences on "Extending the Horizons of Health Care through Research" to be sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research and the nursing department at the Clinical Center.

During the morning session, which addressed "Managed Care and Scientific Innovation," Dr. Neil R. Powe of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine described the results of the first national survey to determine how decisions about medical coverage are made by managed care organizations.



Dr. Neil Powe of Johns Hopkins and NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady engage in lively conversation at the recent conference on managed care.

Powe and his colleagues found that, for three different laser therapies, decisions to provide coverage were based most frequently on five factors. Three involved clinical

considerations—the treatment was medically acceptable, reasonable and necessary; it increased efficacy; and it decreased complications. One involved regulatory issues such as FDA approval. The last involved the therapy's ability to increase cost effectiveness. Decisions to withhold coverage were based on evidence of increased complications and decreased efficacy, the experimental nature of the therapy, the availability of alternative treatment, and the lack of cost effectiveness.

The survey showed that, in making decisions, individuals in the private sector are looking for national, authoritative sources of information—consensus statements and practice guidelines and comprehensive evidence from meta-analyses and randomized controlled trials.

Dr. Dorothy Brooten from Case Western Reserve University discussed the impact of managed care on clinical research and the value of nursing research. She referred to a model of transitional care that

reduces the length of hospital stays and the substitution of outpatient with inpatient care. The model includes comprehensive discharge planning, post-discharge home visits and telephone contact by advance practice nurses, and daily telephone availability. Quality was assessed in terms of patient and family outcomes and initial and ongoing costs. This model has been examined in many patient populations in different age groups with different medical problems. Extensive cross-cutting analyses have been conducted on all of the patient groups to look at patterns of rehospitalizations and acute care visits, type and frequency of patient concerns, and the amount of resources consumed.

Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch from Vanderbilt University described the benefits and challenges of an innovative managed care demonstration project, called TennCare, introduced in Tennessee in 1994. This program was extended to more than 1 million Tennessee residents, including those previously covered by Medicaid and others who had been uninsurable or underinsured. Two years later, only 5 percent of Tennesseans do not have some kind of health insurance. Positive outcomes achieved by this program include a 42 percent reduction in emergency room visits and a high (and still growing) level of satisfaction among recipients of TennCare services. Negative outcomes tend to be of an administrative nature that can be solved with time and better planning.

One of the highlights of the morning session was an NIH panel discussion by representatives of four NIH institutes who shared their thoughts about the intersection of clinical research and managed care and described a number of activities undertaken by their institutes in this area.

In the afternoon, the focus of the conference shifted to the implications of private sector support for clinical research. Dr. Jeffrey Harris, a staff physician from Massachusetts General Hospital and an economist, discussed private sector incentives to finance clinical research. When no single firm can appropriate the gains from research exclusively to itself, the "free rider problem" arises—every company could benefit from research that one company finances. Acknowledging beforehand potentially significant difficulties, Harris suggested that the solution may lie in novel arrangements between managed care organizations, academic medical centers, and the federal government and the realignment of intellectual property rights and private incentives in the conduct of clinical research. Following his presentation, Harris moderated a panel of corporate health benefit managers—Barbara Brickmeier of IBM, Thomas Cragg of GM, and Charles Newman of GE Power Systems—who offered valuable insights into how corporations view the interrelationship between quality health care and biomedical innovation.

Two additional presentations concluded the conference. In the first, Dr. Madison Powers from the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University discussed broad societal ethical questions posed by managed care and the tradeoffs between equity and innovation. Dr. David Blumenthal of Massachusetts General Hospital closed the conference with a discussion of the problems academic medical centers are facing in today's health care environment and the importance of these centers not only to the research mission of NIH but also to social missions valued by the public.

Earlier in the day, one of the speakers characterized the implementation of a state-wide managed care program as "ready, fire, aim." The program had been introduced before it was planned. This comment applies as well to the arrival of managed care on the national scene, the panel suggested. We are only now beginning to understand the complexities of the paradigm shift in health care and the long-range implications for science. ■

NIDR's Folk Retires After 44 Years; Named Scientist Emeritus

By Mary Daum

In 1952, Dr. John Folk was a newly minted Ph.D. A native Washingtonian and graduate of Georgetown University, he decided to stay in the area and look for a job locally. So he took particular interest in a response he received from NIDR's Dr. Frank McClure, who answered Folk's "position wanted" ad in *Chemical and Engineering News*. "I knew the reputation of NIH and had done some work on campus as I was finishing up my studies at



Dr. John Folk (l) was recently honored for his "outstanding contributions and pioneering work on transglutaminase mechanisms" by organizers of the Fifth International Conference on Transglutaminases and Crosslinking Reactions, held in Cheju, Korea. Pictured with him is Dr. Soo Il Chung, who presented the award to him here on the NIH campus.

Georgetown," Folk said. "I thought it would be the place for me."

After 44 years at NIDR, Folk recently retired. He joined NIDR as an American Dental Association fellow and 13 years later was named chief of the enzyme chemistry section, Laboratory of Cellular Development and Oncology. He retired as the section's chief, but will

continue his affiliation with NIDR as a scientist emeritus.

"I think it's very important to have a place where scientists can follow their own leads, explore on their own," said Folk of NIH and his research experience. "I consider it a privilege to be allowed to continue in this way (as scientist emeritus). Who knows," he added laughing, "maybe I'll accomplish something yet."

Much of his earliest work focused on proteolytic enzymology, the study of enzymes involved in digesting or dissolving proteins. In the 1950's, he described an enzyme he called basic carboxypeptidase (later renamed carboxypeptidase B) and observed that it was responsible for the rapid availability of lysine and arginine, two amino acids essential to life. Other research by Folk and his colleagues led to the discovery of the structural features and catalytic mechanisms of additional enzymes vital to the mammalian digestive process. Folk also was instrumental in the development of techniques for locating enzymes in tissues.

During the past three decades, he has described the metabolism of enzymes called transglutaminases and helped to clarify their role. His studies added new information on the function of these enzymes in wound healing and blood clotting and in hair and skin formation.

Of his long career at NIDR, Folk says he's enjoyed

his work immensely. He does not have any immediate plans for travel or other typical retirement pursuits, but instead will "stay in the laboratory" as long as possible, doing the work that has fascinated him for over 40 years.

During his tenure at the institute, he has been recognized for his accomplishments with many honors and awards and has served on several study sections, subcommittees, and editorial boards. ■

Four Join NIAMS Council

NIAMS recently welcomed four new members to its national advisory council. They are Dr. Eugene A. Bauer, Dr. Victor M. Goldberg, Amye L. Leong and Dr. Morris Reichlin.

Dean of the School of Medicine at Stanford University Medical Center, Bauer is a national and international leader in the field of dermatology and skin biology research.

Goldberg, chairman of Case Western Reserve University's department of orthopaedics, is an expert



NIAMS director Dr. Stephen I. Katz (third from l) and deputy director Dr. Steven J. Hausman (r) welcome new members to the institute's council. They are (from l) Dr. Victor M. Goldberg, Dr. Eugene A. Bauer, Amye L. Leong and Dr. Morris Reichlin.

in the areas of allografts of bone and of orthopaedic implants.

Leong is a health motivational speaker and arthritis patient advocate from San Pedro Peninsula, Calif., who specializes in health promotion, wellness in chronic disease management, self-help attitudes, and family and personal coping strategies.

Head of the Arthritis and Immunology Program at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Reichlin is an international authority on clinical immunology, particularly in the field of systemic lupus erythematosus, and has defined several of the antigenic targets in lupus and other connective tissue diseases. ■



DRG Employees Honored at Ceremony

At the recent Division of Research Grants awards ceremony, Dr. Donna Dean, acting chief of the Referral and Review Branch, presented awards to various staff for their activities on behalf of the division and NIH peer review system.



A group merit award went to the grants technical assistant council, which includes (front, from l) Ronald J. Livingston, Jr., Phoebe B. Allison, Melissa Hinterlang, Christine R. Hayter, Barbara A. David, Kathryn L. Ray-Cook, Sherry L. Ernde. At rear are (from l) Joy A. Pinkney, Lisa C. Klingensmith, Christine L. Cecil, Michael A. Showe, Nena B. Wells, Bonnie L. Ellis. Not shown are Margot Faxton, Deborah R. Lovelace, Leslie D. Littlejohn, Deborah A. Clemons. They were recognized for "leadership in facilitating the transition to a dramatically new work environment for DRG GTAs in the Rockledge Bldg."



The NIH individual merit award went to (from l) Drs. Sooja K. Kim, Gertrude K. McFarland, Gilbert Meier and Suzanne Fisher for superior performance and exemplary service.



A group merit award was presented to (from l) Melanie Showe, Wendy Hicks, Dr. Anita Sostek, Vieda White, Carol Campbell and (not shown) Dr. Robert Weller "in recognition of a team effort in managing an exceptionally high workload under difficult circumstances."

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

Supervision and Group Performance	4/16
The Winning Leader (offsite)	4/23
Conflict Management for Managers	4/28
Project Management	4/30
Reinventing NIH: An Introduction to Work Process Redesign	5/5
Supervision: New Skills and New Challenges	5/6

Communication Skills

Write & Speak Like the News	4/1
American Sign Language II	4/15
Effective Executive Speaking	5/8

Administrative Skills

Understanding and Managing Stress	4/15
Developing Positive Assertiveness	4/24

Administrative Systems

Domestic Travel	4/22
Foreign Travel	4/14
Basic T&A Using TAIMS	4/16
Title 38 and Baylor Plan T&A Using TAIMS	4/21
Federal Wage System T&A Using TAIMS	5/8
Commissioned Officers Leave and Attendance	4/17
Delegated Acquisition Training Program	4/28
IMPACT System for Administrative Staff	5/6
IMPACT System for Professional Staff	5/6

Human Resource Management

KSA Methodology	4/14
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Career Transition

NIH Retirement Seminar (CSRS)	4/28, 5/14
Understanding Federal Employment Process & Writing KSAs	4/10
Researching Job Leads	4/10
Resume Writing & Cover Letter Preparation	4/24
Successful Interviewing Techniques	4/24

Computer Applications and Concepts

Intro to Personal Computing for New Users	4/24
Intro to Windows 3.1	4/3
Excel 5.0 for Windows	4/15
Advanced Macintosh Techniques	4/17
Eudora Mail for Macs	4/15
MS Mail for Macs	4/15
Intro to Internet	4/17
Advanced Internet	4/17

Women Needed for NIMH Study

The Geriatric Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, needs a few good women to serve as normal controls in a longitudinal study of Alzheimer's disease. Criteria are an age range of 50-60 years and a family tree devoid of Alzheimer's disease. The initial evaluation takes about 2 hours and includes a physical examination, cognitive testing, an EKG and some blood work. Phone Judy Friz, 6-0948, to learn more.

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.

Hockey Players Score for Kids at Inn

Four members of the Washington Capitals hockey team have pledged to contribute \$100 each for every point earned by their team this season to a fund benefitting the Children's Inn at NIH and Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C. They have also secured corporate and personal contributions for each point, raising the per-point total to \$864. Organizers hope to boost that total to \$1,000 per point by season's end. (Points, for those unacquainted with the game, are not goals. In the National Hockey League, a team receives 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie over the course of an 82-game season.)

"Scoring for Children!" started with two players, center Michal Pivonka, a native of the Czech Republic, and right wing Peter Bondra, born in the Ukraine but reared in Czechoslovakia. They have since enlisted teammates Calle Johansson and Sylvain Cote. They have established a benchmark of 80 points as a minimum donation following last season's performance in which the Caps registered 91 points.

Unfortunately, the team isn't matching the success of last year's squad. "We wish the team were doing better this year," said a spokesman for the charity.

There is still time to support the program, which ends Apr. 13 at the conclusion of the regular season. Call (703) 724-9098 for more information. ■

Like To Have More Money?

Many people could have more money if they managed it more wisely. Many of us are guilty of impulse spending or letting credit card balances creep up or failing to invest shrewdly—all money wasters!

You can learn to manage your money more profitably at a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) workshop series. This series will cover a wide range of money management issues, as well as how to live more cheaply in the Washington area. All for free!

Four topics will be addressed in this Thursday noontime series:

Apr. 3 "Making 'Cents' of Money Madness: The Psychology of Why We Spend."

Apr. 17 "Getting Out of Debt: How To Clean Up Debt or Credit Problems."

Apr. 24 "Ways To Live Cheaply in the Washington Metro Area."

May 8 "The ABC's of Investing—Investing What You've Learned To Save in the First 3 Weeks!"

No registration is necessary. All presentations will be in the Little Theater of the Visitors Information Center, Bldg. 10, from noon to 1 p.m. For more information call the EAP, 6-3164. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held (usually) on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Osamu Hayaishi, director, Osaka Bioscience Institute, Japan, and adjunct professor, Karolinska Institutet, on Apr. 2. His talk, the 10th Paul Ehrlich Lecture, will be on "Secrets of Sleep: Molecular Mechanisms of Sleep-Wake Recognition."

A special Monday lecture in the series will be held Apr. 7 at 3 p.m. in Masur when Dr. Jacques Pouyssegur, CNRS research director at the Universite de Nice, addresses "Growth Factor Signaling via MAP Kinases: Specificity and Spatiotemporal Action."

On Apr. 9, Dr. Judith Kimble, professor in the departments of medical genetics and biochemistry, and HHMI investigator at the University of Wisconsin, will present "Regulation of Cell Fate in the Germ Line of the Nematode *Caenorhabditis Elegans*."

The following day, Apr. 10, there will be a special Thursday lecture in the series by Dr. Harald von Boehmer, professor of immunology, Descartes University, on "Lymphocyte Survival." Also held at 3 p.m. in Masur, this is the R.E. Dyer Lecture.

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



The African Burial Ground in New York City contains the remains of more than 400 African slaves. Where did the slaves come from and why were they in New York City? What biological and cultural transformations took place then that can now be studied? Are health issues or defects evident from the bones?
Dr. Michael L. Blakey (l), associate professor of

anthropology and anatomy, and director of the African Burial Ground Project at Howard University, will answer these and other questions at an hour-long seminar on Thursday, Mar. 27 at 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6. All employees are invited. For more information, call O.H. Laster, 6-6302.

Hypertension Study Needs Vols

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting patients with high blood pressure for a 3-day outpatient study. Volunteers should not have any other medical problems and should not have a cholesterol higher than 200 mg/dL. Participants will be paid. Call 6-8739. ■