

# THE NIH RECORD

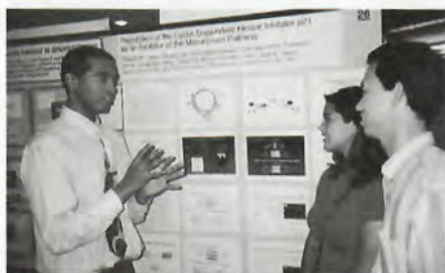
Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Building Blocks of Science Evident at Poster Day

By José Alvarado

The 400 NIH summer interns who exhibited their research projects on Poster Day, Aug. 1, might not have made medical history (at least not yet) and acquired the stature and fame of an Alexander Flemming or a Jonas Salk, but their work is a testament to the reality of science as building blocks and not just sudden, spectacular breakthroughs.

The interns, along with the help of 356 posters they prepared for display at the Visitor Information Center and lobby of



*Raqeeb Haque (l) skillfully transforms his knowledge of cancer research into concepts the layperson can understand.*

Bldg. 10, explained experiments that took countless hours of work in NIH labs. Their summer projects contribute to ongoing research in each of the ICDs. "The work here is essentially to get the students to realize how involved one can get in research. They get a good idea of what it takes to become a researcher," said Dr. Nadim Majdalani from the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, NCI, and a mentor to interns.

Deborah Cohen, who has organized Poster Day for the past 7 years and is coordinator of student programs for the Office of

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

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Magnuson Yields to Hatfield

## Construction Set to Start on New Clinical Research Center

By Rich McManus

If you think the campus is looking carved-up now, you haven't seen anything yet. This fall, construction will begin on the new Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center (CRC), a low-rise addition to the north face of the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center (Bldg. 10). The new CRC will house all of the inpatients currently located in the 44-year-old outmoded and overcrowded facility, and add new research space, a vivarium, and a variety of patient-friendly areas including skylit atria, courtyards, glass bridges linking to Bldg. 10, a bookstore, cafe, and an airy chapel.

Fully as wide as the present Bldg. 10 complex, the new hospital will only be about half as high, encompassing six block-like structures (see diagram, p. 6) arranged four abreast nearest the old building, then two side-by-side, forming a front entry facing the intersection of West Drive and Cedar Lane and the Children's Inn. The central cluster of four blocks will be for 225 inpatient beds and about 100 day hospital stations. These segments, while apparently 8 stories tall, will house only four floors for patient units; the space between floors is an "interstitial" layer of mechanical and utility infrastructure systems that allows routine maintenance as well as remodeling to take place with minimal disruption to the occupied floor. The two blocks at the east and west extremities will house generic lab modules. Again, these will look six stories tall, but only house three usable floors. Roof gardens



*CRC Project Director Yong-Duk Chyun (second from l) is flanked by CRC architects from the design and planning firm of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca. They are (from l) Bart Guthrie, David Esch and Margaret DeBolt.*

SEE NEW HOSPITAL, PAGE 6





Dear Editor,

I read the article in the latest edition of the *NIH Record*, entitled "Bad Air Days." I am thankful for the efforts that NIH is taking to improve our lives, and will seriously consider the suggestions given. However, some proactive measures are in order. For instance, electric vehicles are available and being used by various municipalities and private companies. Likewise, natural gas is much less toxic and polluting than diesel fuel. One would think that if a small city such as Boise, ID, could convert all of its city buses to natural gas, so too could the National Institutes of Health. It would show the rest of the country that the NIH cares.

Dr. Larry Shotland, NIDCD

#### NIH Chamber Orchestra Recruits New Members for 1997-98 Season

The NIH Chamber Orchestra is gearing up for its 1997-1998 season. The group's repertoire includes works written by J.S. Bach, Schubert, Mozart, Handel and their contemporaries. The orchestra is open to all musicians; there are no auditions. Play what you feel comfortable with. Get to know some good music. Rehearsals are held every other Thursday, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Natcher Auditorium. Next rehearsal is Sept. 4. New persons should bring a music stand to rehearsal. For more information, check out the group's Web site at <http://www.gprep.pvt.k12.md.us/~music/nih> or contact its conductor, Gary Daum of Georgetown Preparatory School's music faculty at (301) 897-8184. ■

#### Poverty, Health Status Linked at Diggs Seminar

NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden had to brave the remnants of Hurricane Danny in order to present the 3rd annual John Diggs Seminar on July 24. The title of his lecture was "Research Key to Understanding Links Between Poverty and Health Status."

He began by citing reports that demonstrated a clear correlation between poverty and increased morbidity and mortality from various diseases. For instance, among people ages 45-64, those with an annual income of less than \$10,000 have a 7 times greater risk of getting emphysema than those with income greater than \$35,000. It's also clear that, on average, poor people in the U.S. are exposed to more environmental contaminants than the affluent. The problem is that in almost all cases, there has been no rigorous demonstration of a connection between environmental contaminants and diseases that disproportionately affect the poor. The one exception is lead. It is apparent that the urban poor have higher levels of lead in their blood and bones than wealthier individuals. There is also a link between lead and nerve damage, birth defects and IQ deficits.

Olden said NIEHS-funded researchers have developed more efficient and less invasive methods for detecting lead in bones. They are also testing treatments to prevent the transfer of lead from mother to baby during pregnancy. NIEHS has also created consortia of research hospitals, called Environmental Justice Research Centers, in Kentucky, Louisiana and New York to study links between environmental contaminants and diseases prevalent in local populations. Such studies should lead to the reduction of human suffering and may also lead to reduced health care costs. ■



The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development recently brought together many of its Minority Supplement Program grantees on campus at "Scientists, Tools and Research for the 21st Century: A Conference for NICHD-supported Underrepresented Minority Scientists." It was designed to highlight grantees' exciting research, help them reach the next stage of their research careers, and celebrate the achievements of both the program and its beneficiaries. The program supplements existing grants supporting individuals at various stages of their careers from high school to undergraduate and postgraduate study and into the early stages of the scientific ranks. In the past 7 years, NICHD has awarded almost 200 minority supplements, with last year's additions totaling \$2.2 million.

## N I H R E C O R D

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## NIEHS Enters Investigation of Diseased Fish in Pocomoke River

U.S. Senators from Maryland Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes formally asked NIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Aug. 11 to help investigate a mysterious disorder affecting fish in the Pocomoke River in southeastern Maryland. Since last October, thousands of catfish, perch and other seafood have become infected with red lesions and open sores; most of the infected catch later die as a result of the unknown disorder. In addition, several watermen and others exposed to waterways in the Chesapeake Bay region recently have become ill and/or have shown signs of developing lesions. Although a link has not been established between the fish illness and that suffered by humans, the possibility of a connection has not been ruled out.

Studies of the fish, water quality testing and other marine disease research have been ongoing in the months since the problem's initial discovery, however the possibility of a human health risk prompted the senators immediately to enlist NIH's expertise and resources to find the source of the disorder. About 5 miles of the river had been closed to the public in recent weeks because of the possible health threat; officials reopened the sections Aug. 13. Mikulski and Sarbanes toured the Pocomoke about 2 weeks ago to see firsthand the effects of the disease.

"We ask that you make toxin and human health effects experts available to Maryland and dispatch a team of top scientists to help the state with its investigations," the senators wrote in an Aug. 11 joint letter to NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden. Although Maryland has assembled an investigative team, the letter continued, "additional resources, expertise and equipment are urgently needed to assist with performing medical evaluations, developing the necessary epidemiological information, increasing surveillance efforts, and responding to public health problems."

A number of marine biologists as far away as North Carolina and Florida have been consulted about what is causing the fish ailment, which closely resembles *Pfiesteria piscicida*, a type of toxic algae that was first noted in Chesapeake Bay estuaries about 4 years ago. The same algae has been blamed for killing close to a billion fish—about half the recent mass fish kills—in North Carolina.

According to a July 1996 issue of NIEHS's *Environmental Health Perspectives* journal, the pfiesteria alga is attracted by fish secretions and targets certain kinds of freshwater creatures. Known as an ambush-predator, the alga "puts fish into a narcotic stupor, strips off and eats their skin, then suffocates its victims by paralyzing them," the article said. Prone to thrive in nutrient-laden waterways, the organism has also been identified in coastal waters

of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. Some evidence suggests that such toxic algae blooms are on the increase worldwide.

NIEHS extramural researchers at the University of Miami Marine and Freshwater Biomedical Science Center, working in collaboration with the N.C. State University investigators who first described the N.C. fish deaths, have already identified at least two harmful agents from the extracts of the pfiesteria organism. Both intramural and extramural NIEHS scientists continue to work on the alga investigation. NIEHS plans to sponsor a workshop later this month on marine toxins to examine the possible expanded roles the institute might undertake to evaluate environmental health aspects of algal blooms and related toxins.

NIH and CDC join in this effort with two other federal agencies, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, which were asked by the Maryland senators in June to provide scientists, lab facilities and \$500,000 in emergency funds for research and water testing. ■



From the new walkway ascending toward Stone House, one can peer over the fence along the utility tunnel construction project and view the giant hole in the ground that will become the basement of the new Consolidated Laboratory Facility, also known as Bldg. 50. The former parking lot is now a busy construction site as dump trucks remove dirt night and day. Shoring for the foundation can be seen at the far end of the site, near Bldg. 13. Those who don't want to hazard a stroll to the area can follow construction progress on the Web. ORS has created a site on its home page that includes a camera that regularly refreshes the view of the project. From the comfort of your office, you can check in on progress without getting any dust on your shoes. The Website will also keep NIH'ers apprised of milestones as the building goes up. Completion is planned for June 2000.



## POSTER DAY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Education, says the activity helps students build confidence by giving them the chance to work with scientists to help advance the most recent trends in research.

Many of them showed enthusiasm as they gave sprightly demonstrations of highly complex and technical processes in cell biology, molecular

biology, neuroscience, cancer, and genetics, among others. Some ably translated their knowledge into images and concepts the layperson could grasp.

Raqeeb Haque, a first year student at Harvard, combined both approaches as he described his experiment, which led to the identification of a new target for anti-cancer drug development.

His explanation of the "regulation of the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21 by an inhibitor of the mevalonate pathway" had metaphorical references to "hands grabbing tennis balls called phosphates." This imagemaking will come in handy, since he plans to teach this subject. "At first I was completely blown away, but it's so simple. Everything in the cell involves protein; it's such a basic concept. You have DNA, RNA and proteins, which are making you live. You hear complex-sounding words like 'regulation' or 'cyclin-dependent' and you say 'Ah, jeez, what's that!?' But it makes a great amount of sense!"

Raqeeb started coming to NIH as a high school student and worked 4 hours in the lab every day after school. During the summer, he has worked with mentor Jane Trepel from the Medicine Branch, NCI, up until 9 or 10 o'clock at night.

Laurel Courtemanch from St. Mary's College in southern Maryland, who is working on another aspect of cancer in the Laboratory of Pathology, realizes the complexity of dealing with diseases. She dismisses the idea that there can be one quick, miraculous cure for cancer. "There can't be one cure because each cell uses a different mechanism for how it is going to operate. What works with one cancer cell line may not work at all in a related cell line. You have to look at all different aspects of cells to try to get any idea as to how you are going to cure any cancer."

A University of Michigan medical student who works with the AIDS virus in the Laboratory of Immunoregulation, NIAID, Hillary Cohen is very modest when divulging the findings of her work.

"There aren't any definitive results here that I could really comment on. Everything here is so preliminary. The significance is that there are two different results and we don't know what exactly is going on." But she added, "I have learned a tremendous amount of information about working in the laboratory, a lot about HIV, working with people and how science works. On top of it, the work this summer has raised more questions."

Cindy Lutz has given a humanistic spin to her work on "localization of cell cycle regulatory proteins during lens fiber cell differentiation" at the Laboratory of Molecular and Developmental Biology, NEI. She attends St. John's College in Annapolis, a strong liberal arts school that emphasizes the classics. Her interest in medicine was awakened by history of science courses, particularly her reading of embryologist Hans Driesch's work, *The Philosophy of the Organism*. Now she is trying to understand

the role of different genes and proteins in the development of the eye during the course of embryogenesis. "My high school biology classes consisted of memorizing things out of a textbook. And I think that to get people, especially young people, excited

by biology, it's crucial to show them what is amazing about the way organisms develop and grow. The fact is that we all begin as a single cell and yet here we are, with terminally differentiated parts that work in such a magnificent way. That alone should be enough to incite amazement in people and get them wanting to learn more."

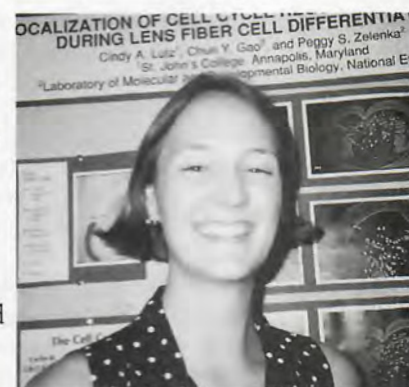
She concluded with this quote from Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher from the sixth century B.C., from his work, *Nature Loves to Hide Herself*: "Behind details lurks the essence of what we are seeking." ■

### Down Syndrome Study Recruits

Adults ages 18 and older with Down syndrome are sought for memory and aging studies conducted by NIA's Laboratory of Neurosciences. For more information call 6-4754, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours call 6-4273. ■



*Still searching: After studying the AIDS virus this summer at NIH, Hillary Cohen (r), a medical student at the University of Michigan, says she has more questions than answers.*



*Cindy Lutz from St. John's College in Annapolis examined the role of different genes and proteins in the developing eye.*



## Two Directors To Depart

The directors of two institutes—NIDCD and NINDS—have announced plans to leave NIH this year.

Dr. James B. Snow, Jr., who became the first director, in February 1990, of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, will retire on Sept. 15. He guided the institute through its formative years, establishing a national infrastructure for research and training in hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech and language. He plans to "enjoy life, science and family to the fullest."

Dr. Zach W. Hall, who has been at the helm of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke since Sept. 1, 1994, will leave in December to become associate dean for research at the School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco.

"UCSF has just been given a large plot of land on the bay, and I have been asked to play a leadership role in the development of a new research campus on this site," said Hall in a memo to employees. "It has also recently become clear that leaving San Francisco would represent a significant sacrifice for my wife, a talented English horn player with the San Francisco Symphony. Given these considerations, the decision to rejoin my wife in San Francisco seems clear and incontrovertible."

Hall presided over reorganizations of both intramural and extramural programs at NINDS, and successfully recruited leaders for top institute posts. "Although I look forward to the challenge of a new job, I feel a deep sense of regret as I leave the NIH," he said.

A search committee for a new NIDCD director has been created. NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus said he would move swiftly to find a successor to Hall, who was the first institute director he recruited from the extramural community. ■

## Fire Prevention Slogans Sought

Fire up your imaginations and think up a nifty slogan for NIH's observance of National Fire Prevention Week. If you win the contest, open to everyone (except members of the sponsoring Emergency Management Branch), your idea appears on next year's commemorative posters at NIH, along with your name.

You can enter as often as you like, and entries should be snappy one-liners about fire prevention. Be sure to print (legibly) or type your slogan on a sheet of white paper. If you submit multiple candidates, rank them in order of preference. Entries are due by Sept. 30.

Send or fax entries to the fire prevention section, Bldg. 15G, Rm. 2. Fax number is 2-2059. For more information, call 6-0487. ■

## Korsmeyer To Give Dyer Lecture

Dr. Stanley J. Korsmeyer will present "Cell Death and the Regulation of Homeostasis," at the NIH Director's R.E. Dyer Lecture on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Korsmeyer is professor of medicine and pathology, chief, division of molecular oncology and a Howard Hughes investigator at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis.



Dr. Korsmeyer

Korsmeyer has made some of the most germane observations in the arena of cell death and apoptosis. In 1985, he and his colleagues identified a cancer-causing gene, called Bcl-2 because of its role in B-cell lymphoma development.

Korsmeyer is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, has won numerous awards and is the author of

more than 175 scientific articles. He joined the National Cancer Institute in 1979 as a clinical associate, and was named an NCI senior investigator in 1982. He left NCI in 1986 to join Washington University.

The Dyer lecture is the first in a series of talks presented in conjunction with the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lectures. The lectureship was established in 1950 in honor of former NIH director Dr. Rolla E. Dyer, a noted authority on infectious diseases. All interested individuals are invited to attend. For more information, contact Hilda Madine, 4-5595. ■

## Human Genetics Exhibit Opens Sept. 9

"Revolution in Progress: Human Genetics and Medical Research," an exhibit that explains how genetics has become central to the science of medicine, opens on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, will celebrate the opening in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, with a noon lecture titled, "Where We Are and Where We Are Headed: The Current Status and Future Direction of Research into Genetics."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception will immediately follow the lecture. The exhibit will be located on the balcony over the Visitor Information Center in Bldg. 10 and is sponsored by the DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research, NHGRI, NIAID, NCI, NHLBI and NIGMS. For more information contact the museum at 6-6610. ■



*The department of surgery at Baylor College of Medicine recently appointed Dr. David Robinson, director of the Vascular Research Program, NHLBI, as distinguished visiting professor of the year. A research symposium was held in his honor this summer in Houston. At NIH since 1980, he also teaches at Georgetown University. He lives in an 18th century settler's cottage in Shepherdstown, W. Va., where he serves as town councilman and is a folk musician. He commutes to NIH daily.*

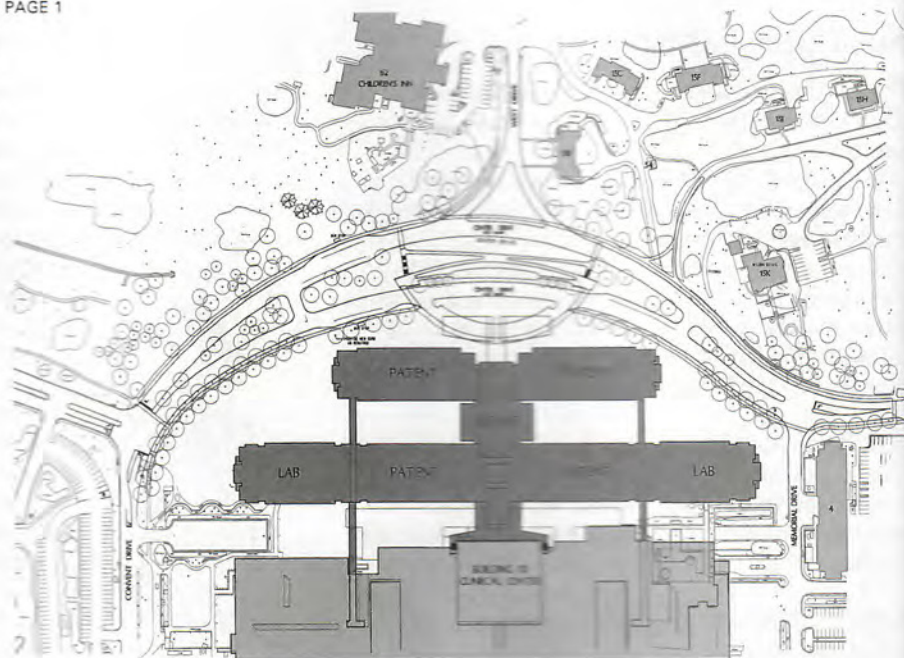


## NEW HOSPITAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and solarium will top these outermost blocks.

The rank of four blocks closest to the ACRF will sit roughly atop what is now Center Drive, explained Yong-Duk Chyun, CRC project director. What is now the front entry of the Clinical Center along Center Drive will eventually be demolished, he said, as the three phases of CRC construction progress.

Center Drive will loop dramatically around the perimeter of the CRC, dividing, parkway style, into eastbound (inner loop) and westbound (outer loop) lanes separated by a median. At the suggestion of landscape architects, the two lanes in front of the CRC will be at different elevations with a wide median, owing to the way the land drops off



toward the inn. The median will be specially landscaped and serve as the front terrace of the CRC entrance.

"That solution was a stroke of genius," enthuses

### Whither 'Sky Horizon'?

Sharp-eyed readers will realize that if the CRC is built on the front of Bldg. 10, something's got to go—namely the large black metal sculpture called "Sky Horizon," by Louise Nevelson. The artwork must relocate, at least temporarily, and the most likely site at the moment seems to be the Natcher Bldg. environs. It may eventually migrate back to the CRC, but that hasn't yet been decided. Keep your eye on the sky...

### An Energetic Project Director

The project director for the new Clinical Research Center says it isn't that rare for him to awaken at 3 in the morning to toss and turn over some facet of the \$333 million hospital he is getting ready to build. But any qualms he may feel about such responsibility are dwarfed by two assets—a palpable energy and enthusiasm to do something demonstrably beneficial for the public, and a track record of successfully delivering big-ticket projects to his clients.

Yong-Duk Chyun—no one ever calls him anything but Yong-Duk—, 51, is a registered architect who was drafted 2 years ago by the Office of Research Services to head what was then going to be a public-private partnership charged with building a new Clinical Center.

Before Congress generously decided to appropriate \$23 million in fiscal year 1996 for design of the CRC, and \$90 million the following FY for actual construction (with the assurance that NIH could contract for the full scope of the project), NIH had explored many funding options to build the research hospital it so desperately needed in the face of Bldg. 10's failure to age gracefully. NIH retained Boston Properties, a private developer, to help draft a 50-page "business plan" outlining how it could finance construction of a hospital initially estimated to cost \$380 million by leveraging a dizzying array of assets

ranging from fundraising, third party collection and intellectual assets (patent royalties) to "disposing" of underutilized property in Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and Florida. So hungry was NIH to get a replacement hospital that it considered such measures as building a natural gas-powered cogeneration plant to provide steam and electricity on campus in order to save money that could be used for the CRC.

All of that dime-counting proved moot when Congress okayed funding for the whole shebang, but meanwhile, NIH had retained Yong-Duk, who is an expert in public/private partnerships.

Born in Japan of Korean parents, Chyun came to the United States at age 16, settling in Washington, D.C. His father had been Korea's ambassador to France and Germany. Chyun attended Cooper Union, graduating with a degree in architecture, then went on to Harvard to get master's degrees in city planning and architecture. His first post-grad school job was with the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corp. in Washington, D.C., which redeveloped Pennsylvania Ave. between the White House and the Capitol. He rose through the ranks there, becoming director of design and planning, before leaving to work for a private developer, then on his own as a one-man consulting firm.

Just prior to joining NIH in February 1995, he was project



Chyun. "We said to ourselves, 'Gosh, why didn't we think of this?'"

To make way for realignment of NIH's Main Street during phase 1, some 200 trees will be felled this fall, along with Apartment Bldg. 20 and five cottages/outbuildings, including Bldg. 15A, which belonged to the old Wilson estate that predated NIH's Bethesda location. Ironically, 15A is where Chyun and his team from the Division of Engineering Services have worked for the past few years on this project; they will relocate eventually to Bldg. 13.

"While pedestrian and motor traffic in the vicinity won't be affected much during construction, visually the impact will be humongous," said Chyun, who hopes the tree-felling occurs late enough in the fall that the leaves are already gone and barrenness has already set in. He emphasizes that landscaping around the new hospital will include at least as many trees as must be taken down. They will be arranged in progressively less regimented fashion the further one gets from the hospital, consistent with the master plan for the campus.

Phase 1, the shortest of the three phases at 2 months, includes fencing-off the Bldg. 20 demolition site. Some 90 parking spaces, virtually all of which had been reserved for residents of Bldg. 20, will be taken, and workers will remove hazardous material,

chiefly asbestos, from the buildings to be demolished.

Phase 2, stretching from the latter part of October through May 1998, includes fencing off the east and west sides of West Drive to accommodate the new alignment of Center Drive, relocation of utilities and creation of two small temporary ponds to detain storm runoff during construction. Another 200 parking spots—roughly half the big lot opposite Bldg. 10 near the inn—will be lost at this time. Toward the end of this phase, the current entry to Bldg. 10's ACRF will close permanently.

The third phase commences in June 1998 and lasts until the building is up in spring 2001. During this period, the grand total of 900 parking spots (combined from all phases) will be lost as a portion of the parking garage in the ACRF is closed. Also, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



*This architect's model of the CRC isn't what the actual building will look like, but shows roughly how it will appear, with Center Drive bowed out around the front entry, and Bldg. 31's A wing in the lower left corner.*

*ORS' Chyun is an energetic veteran of some major public-private partnerships in downtown Washington, including the Pennsylvania Ave. Development Corp., and the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Bldg. near Union Station.*



director for the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Bldg. near Union Station downtown. Like the PADC post, this was another public/private venture, conducted under the auspices of the Architect of the Capitol. As is the case now with the CRC, Boston Properties was project developer for the Marshall Bldg.

"I heard George Williams (director of ORS' Design and Construction Branch) wanted to venture a [public/private] approach, and I just fit right in, I suppose," recalls Chyun. "My experience at PADC really led me to NIH because that's where I learned to work with private contractors on public projects. I worked on drafting the PADC master plan

and developed the design guidelines for the developers."

Once on board at NIH, Chyun set to work overseeing the drafting of a business plan by Boston Properties. Half a year after the plan was completed, Congress made it obsolete with an appropriation.

Though he is "very pleased with how Pennsylvania Ave. has turned out," in spite of complex financial and legal restrictions, Chyun is delighted to be working on a big job with broad public benefit.

"It's not just a regular job," he enthuses, "it's associated with some public good. This is health care! There's something noble about it!"

Even though Congress didn't quite reach the \$380 million NIH was looking for at first, Yong-Duk is thrilled to be working on the CRC, even within budgetary constraints. In order to save \$47 million, NIH will leave some of the CRC research space unoccupied and pursue other economies. Too, there will be an oversight committee from several major U.S. medical centers advising Congress on whether the CRC budget is appropriate and the project is managed properly.

Meanwhile, there's enough to keep Yong-Duk busy, even if it means losing a little sleep.



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permanent stormwater detention pond will be dug near the corner of Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike on what is now a Bldg. 31 parking lot for 300 cars. The pond was foreseen several years ago in NIH's 20-year master plan, which calls for buffer space around the perimeter of the campus.

"During the initial phases of construction, there's going to be lots of dust, and lots of noise," warned Chyun, but the result is both badly needed and hugely satisfying for the new occupants, patients and visitors. "There has been a great deal of emphasis placed on patient well-being," said Chyun. "Each patient room will have a couch near a window

where patients' family members can sleep. More and more families are staying with patients these days. Many foreign patients expect to stay with the patient all day long." There will also be a supervised play area for kids whose parents or guardians are receiving medical attention—sort of "like the playland at Ikea," chortled Chyun.

Allocation of patient care space among the ICDs—always a source of internecine struggle—

should be determined by mid-September; dibs will be placed on research space on a more leisurely schedule, according to Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research. He, along with CC director Dr. John Gallin, steer the CC renewal group, which meets monthly to oversee progress on the CRC. The group has solicited advice and recommendations on features for the new hospital from hundreds of NIH's and consultants, who were interviewed extensively.

What will become of Bldg. 10 once the CRC is online? Chyun says master planning and money are sorely needed for the facility, now undergoing infrastructure repairs designed to keep it functioning primarily as a lab facility for the coming decades. It will continue to house most of the diagnostic and treatment functions of the new hospital, including radiology, the second floor surgical suite (which will have its own dedicated passageway to the new CRC), and nuclear medicine. Old Bldg. 10 will continue to house conference and cafeteria space (expanded by the migration of the nutrition department to the CRC), and the ACRF, completed in 1981, will maintain its role as an outpatient clinic. Each floor of the CRC will connect directly with the ACRF, but the underground parking garage and first

few floors must be drastically reworked to allow easy passage between old and new portions.

One drawback of the old building that continually plagued CC management has been slow elevator service within the hospital. The CRC will boast many banks of elevators to assure good "vertical circulation," said Chyun, who noted that even the ACRF will gain a bank of six new elevators as it grafts onto the CRC. "There won't be any long waits," he assured.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the \$333 million CRC has been tentatively set for Oct. 31, which happens to be the 57th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to campus to dedicate Bldg. 1. Sen. Hatfield will be the guest of honor on that occasion.

Three prime contractors are handling CRC design and construction for the General Services Administration, on behalf of NIH. Boston Properties, a development management company, holds all contracts and does all procurement, Chyun explained. "This reduces NIH's management involvement a lot. Boston Properties provides soup-to-nuts services." BP in turn has hired two subcontractors: McCarthy Construction Managers, who hold all construction contracts, and Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership, who are design and planning consultants, and the architects of the CRC.

To follow CRC construction progress in the coming months, stay tuned to both the *NIH Record* and the new CRC Website, debuting soon on the ORS home page. ■

### Fruits, Veggies for Sale

The Farmers' Market at NIH is open from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Oct. 28 on parking lot 41-B behind NLM. Currently featured are nectarines, blueberries, sweet and sour cherries, plums, raspberries, yellow and white sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, green beans, wax beans, and apricots. Organically grown produce is also available, including heirloom varieties of tomatoes and green beans, red raspberries and squashes. They have pies and breads as well. The market is sponsored by the Montgomery County Farmers' Market Association. ■

### Maryland Renaissance Festival Tickets Available at R&W

The 1997 Maryland Renaissance Festival is open now through Oct. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily and R&W has discount tickets. Enjoy a day of entertainment, food, crafts, and attractions. Tickets are \$11 for adults (regular price \$12.95) and \$4.50 for children (regular price \$4.95). Children under age 7 are free. Call 6-4600. ■



*This detail of the CRC entry—again, not what the finished structure will look like—shows more closely how Center Drive will split into two lanes separated by a grassy median. The lanes will be at different elevations, parkway-style. The Children's Inn is at lower right.*





## Study Finds Phenobarbital Fails to Prevent Brain Bleeding in Premature Infants

Phenobarbital—once thought to be a promising treatment for preventing bleeding in the brains of premature infants when given to pregnant women at risk of premature delivery—appears to be ineffective, according to the largest, most comprehensive clinical trial of its kind to date. The study, which appeared in the Aug. 14 *New England Journal of Medicine*, was conducted by researchers in the Neonatal Research Network, which is funded by NICHD. Support for the study was also provided by NCRR.

Bleeding in the brain, a dangerous complication of premature birth, affects 10,000 infants each year. Typically, the bleeding occurs deep in the brain, near the ventricles—the hollow cavities inside the brain. Such bleeding may result in cerebral palsy, mental retardation or learning disabilities.

A few early clinical trials and a recent meta-analysis suggested that phenobarbital would be effective in reducing the frequency and severity of brain hemorrhaging in newborns. Because half of all such hemorrhaging occurs shortly before or at the time of birth, researchers had hoped that giving phenobarbital to pregnant women just before they delivered prematurely might reduce brain hemorrhaging in their babies after birth. ■

## Genome Project Passes Important Milestone

The Human Genome Project passed an important milestone recently with the completion of a map of human chromosome 7, scientists announced in the journal *Genome Research*.

A team led by Dr. Eric Green of NHGRI has spent nearly 8 years developing a physical map of the chromosome, which contains an estimated 5 percent of the human genetic blueprint. The team used bits of human DNA isolated in yeast cells to localize more than 2,000 “landmarks” on chromosome 7. The landmarks are spaced at intervals of about 79,000 base pairs, the fundamental units of DNA.

The goal for the Human Genome Project is to map such a landmark every 100,000 base pairs. Chromosome 7 is the second human chromosome to have exceeded this goal, with the X chromosome being finished a few months ago. Chromosome 7 contains a total of 170 million base pairs.

With a physical map of human chromosome 7 in hand, the NHGRI team is now working closely with scientists at Washington University School of Medicine and the University of Washington to start sequencing the chromosome from beginning to end, base pair by base pair. By sequencing the entire human genome and its roughly 3 billion base pairs, scientists hope to identify all of the approximately 100,000 genes by early next century. ■

## NIDDK Neurobiologist Phil Skolnick Retires After 25 Years at NIH

By Sharon Ricks

After 25 years as an NIH neurobiologist and more than 500 papers, Dr. Phil Skolnick, chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Neuroscience, retired Aug.

1. An expert on ligand-gated ion channels, the principal means of signal transduction in the central nervous system, he has accepted a position as a fellow in neuroscience at Eli Lilly.

“He’s a great man,” says Dr. Anthony Basile, one of the 75 postdocs Skolnick has trained. “He’s made numerous contributions to the understanding of anxiety disorders and developed a new theory on the pathology of depression, which may lead to the development of drugs that have a faster clinical effect.” Basile says Skolnick also made significant contributions to developing pharmacotherapy for stroke and ischemic disorders of the brain.

In 1996, over a cup of coffee with Basile, Skolnick came up with a theory that aminoglycosides, an antibiotic commonly used in developing countries, might be acting on NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) receptors in the central nervous system and causing deafness. Basile and Skolnick found that when NMDA antagonists were administered to guinea pigs receiving aminoglycosides, the hair cells in the cochlea were very well preserved and deafness was prevented.

“His ability to perceive how basic research could be focused towards clinical applications has been the hallmark of his impressive career,” says NIDDK's Dr. John Daly, chief of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, who has been Skolnick's mentor since 1972. Daly says Skolnick's pioneering contributions have also made a major impact on anxiolytics and antidepressants.

Skolnick graduated *summa cum laude* from Long Island University in 1968 and received his Ph.D. from George Washington University in 1972. He joined NIH in 1972 as a staff fellow in the pharmacodynamics section of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases, now NIDDK. After a brief stint at NIAAA, Skolnick returned to NIAMDD in 1978. In 1983, he became chief of the neurobiology section, and in 1986, chief of the Laboratory of Neuroscience. ■



Dr. Phil Skolnick retired Aug. 1 from NIDDK to join Eli Lilly.



## Male Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking male volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must be free of medical illnesses and not taking any medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms and be asked to participate in one of several protocols. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 6-9576.

## NCRR's Mylander Bids NIH Farewell

Maureen Mylander, NCRR's public information officer, is about to experience "life after NIH" as she retires from a more than 20-year career in public information work that spans three ICDs and the OD Office of Communications. Although her service here is ending, several projects she launched—including *NIH Healthline* (now *HEALTHWise*), the *NIH Almanac*, and NIA's Age Page series—live on.

She began writing for NIH in 1961 in the Office of Communications, OD, then left in 1965 to pursue full-time freelance writing. In 1978, she returned as a writer-editor in the NIA information office. A few years later, she moved to NEI and then to the OD Office of Communications, where she managed the monthly "From the NIH" columns for the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the monthly media calendar *What's Happening at NIH?*, *NIH Healthline* and, for a brief period, the daily "current clips" news service for NIH managers. "Maureen shows unusual commitment to see projects through and to continually improve upon them," says Anne Thomas, NIH associate director for communications. A look at Mylander's accomplishments lends credence to that statement.

A prolific freelance author, she's written five nonfiction books. The latest, *Gesundheit: Bringing Good Health to You, the Medical System, and Society through Physician Service, Complementary Therapies, Humor, and Joy*—coauthored with Dr. Patch Adams, is under option to Universal Films and scheduled for filming in February 1998. She has written two book chapters plus scores of articles about medicine and psychology, and during the late 1970's was ghostwriter of 235 of the late Dr. Michael Halberstam's health advice columns for the *New York Times* Special Features Syndicate. Her articles have appeared in *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, *New York*, *Washingtonian*, *Newsday*, *National Observer*, *Nation*, *Self*, and *Ladies Home Journal*.

Mylander has won many writing and publications awards, and in 1990 received the NIH Toastmasters International Communication Achievement Award. An 11-minute video she produced with Trish Evans of the Medical Arts and Photography Branch won the 1994 International Gold Screen Competition of the National Association of Government Communicators in the external communications category.



Maureen Mylander

In retirement, Mylander plans to divide her time between writing, traveling, and her many athletic interests, which include weightlifting, biking, running, swimming, hiking, and a most unusual sport, dragonboating.

"A dragonboat is a 40-foot long teak or fiberglass canoe-like craft that seats 18 people two abreast. We paddle one side or the other to the beat of a drum. A dragon head and tail are added when the boat is fully "dressed" for a race or exhibition," Mylander says. "Most women in our group at the Washington Canoe Club have vastly increased their upper body strength, thanks to this ancient oriental sport. Of course, weightlifting is essential. Our coach tells us that most women over 40 can't lift an 8-pound gallon of milk."

Given her writing aspirations, travel plans, and upcoming dragonboat competitions, life after NIH promises to be busier and better than ever for Mylander. ■

Dr. Rao Rapaka, chief, Basic Neurobiology and Biological Systems Branch, National Institute on Drug Abuse, is the 1997 recipient of the J. Michael Morrison Award. He was recognized by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence in Nashville recently for his



unwavering commitment to science, and its advancement toward providing solutions to the problems of drug abuse in society. Rapaka has demonstrated outstanding leadership and administrative skills, providing enthusiasm and technical expertise to the efforts of investigators. He has been involved in the development of the Drug Research Resource Program, which ensures that chemicals and drugs

are available to grantees to further their research. The Morrison award is given every other year for outstanding contributions in scientific administration related to research on drugs of abuse, and includes an inscribed plaque.

## 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. Volunteers must be ages 20-60, seen by a physician within the past month and currently working. For more information, call (301) 295-9659. ■



## NINDS's Richard Sherbert Retires After 32 Years

By Shannon E. Garnett

After 32 years of government service, 30 with NIH, Richard L. "Dick" Sherbert, NINDS executive officer, has bid NIH a fond farewell. He officially retired on Aug. 1. "I have accomplished what I wanted to accomplish. It is time to move on and let others have a chance," he said.

Sherbert was born in Framingham, Mass. He graduated from St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass., in 1959, earning a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy. He continued his education, spending 1 year of graduate study at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, and earning a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University.

Sherbert began working for the government in 1965 as a placement specialist in the manpower division of the Department of Labor. He joined NIH in 1966 as a personnel management specialist in the Division of Research Services. Since then, he has held many positions, including personnel specialist at NIAID, NICHD personnel officer, NCI management analysis officer, and NCI deputy executive officer.

He became NINDS executive officer in 1977, where he served during all of his 20 years with the institute. In this position Sherbert had direct responsibility for budget and financial management, personnel, management analysis, program planning and analysis, legislative tracking and analysis, technology transfer, and general administrative functions. He also indirectly oversaw grant and contract management functions.

"It has been my good fortune to work with Dick Sherbert over the last 3 years," said NINDS director Dr. Zach Hall. "He has had a major influence in shaping NINDS that will last for many years. To me, he represents the very highest standard of administrative excellence. Dick Sherbert is as outstanding in his own sphere as our very best scientists are in theirs. We will indeed miss him."

Throughout his career, Sherbert has garnered many honors and awards including a Civil Service Commission Career Service Award, a DHHS Superior Service Award, a PHS Superior Service Award, and most recently, an NINDS Special Achievement Award in recognition of his 20 years of service.

Asked what he will miss most, Sherbert said, "The



Richard L. "Dick" Sherbert

people...there is a very fine bunch of people in the institute. I am very proud of the administrative staff and the support they give to the scientists."

Recently, friends, family, and past and present colleagues honored Sherbert at a reception in the Visitor Information Center in the Clinical Center. They presented him with a memory book, and a gift in the form of a monetary donation to the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute, an organization that provides support to people with disabilities.

"The past 20 years working with and for Dick has been an extremely satisfying experience," said NINDS deputy executive officer John Jones.

"During this time I have developed a great deal of respect and admiration for his knowledge of general administration and his management style, which is based on a commitment to fairness and encouraging subordinates to be creative and innovative. Over the years we have developed a very effective working relationship and a lasting friendship. I will miss him."

Sherbert's retirement plans include gardening and volunteering. ■

Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health, recently received the 1997 Samuel L. Kountz Award at a joint conference of the International Transplant Congresses held in Washington, D.C. Transplant experts from more than 50 countries attended the conference. Kountz, the first African American transplant surgeon in the U.S., earned an international reputation for his devotion to patient welfare and strong support of transplantation research. Ruffin was recognized for successful efforts in carrying forward Kountz's vision of the future, including work with NIDDK on the National Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program, which has been successful in increasing the number of minority organ/tissue donors.



## Healthy Volunteers Wanted

The NIA Laboratory of Neurosciences is seeking healthy volunteers ages 18 and older to participate in research studies. Participation involves full medical evaluation, psychological testing, and brain scans (MRI, PET). Procedures require approximately 13 hours and participants will be paid \$300 to \$500 depending on time involved. For more information, call 6-4754, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; or 6-4273, after hours. ■

## Memory Loss Study Needs Vols

Individuals with mild to moderate memory loss who are suspected to have Alzheimer's disease are sought by NIA's Laboratory of Neurosciences. For more information, call 6-4754, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours call 6-4273.



## Science Advisor Gibbons Discusses Environmental Issues

John H. Gibbons, President Clinton's assistant for science and technology, told the NIEHS-sponsored Conference on Estrogens in the Environment IV recently that the White House is making hormone-like chemicals and other endocrine disruptors one of its five top priorities for environmental research investment.

Other priorities, he said, are climate change, followed by environmental monitoring aimed at producing a report card on the health of the nation's ecosystems by the turn of the century (an effort initiated by Vice President Gore), natural disaster reduction to reduce the toll from floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, and reductions in ozone emission.

Gibbons said the White House goal on endocrine disruptors "is to determine whether scientific evidence indicates that humans or animal (domestic and wildlife) populations are affected."

NIEHS has collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test blood and urine samples from a representative group of Americans for environmental estrogens. By showing which of these chemicals people absorb, the



NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden (l) welcomes White House science advisor Dr. John Gibbons to his institute.

tests will provide a priority list of chemicals to test for adverse effects. NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden has proposed that the testing be expanded to cover other chemicals as well, for an initial total of 200, "to make environmental health research findings more applicable to human

risk assessment." He told Congressional appropriations committees earlier this year that this basic information could be gathered through expansion of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. "We can measure chemicals in body tissues such as blood and urine. Such 'real world' exposure assessment would be far more useful than estimations of exposure based on the Environmental Protection Agency's toxic release and production information, as is currently done." ■



**Executive Implosion:** Construction workers clear away the last vestiges of 6001 Executive Blvd. The building at that address was imploded earlier this summer to make way for the new NIH Neuroscience Center, which is scheduled to be built by the Washington Science Center Joint Venture. NIH recently leased the future structure—slated to be ready for occupation by winter 1999—to house some administrative offices of NINDS, NIMH and NIDA, which will relocate from the Federal and Parklawn Bldgs.

## Martial Arts Club Meets

The R&W Chinese Martial Arts Club starts training sessions, beginning Sept. 8, every Monday, Wednesday 1 p.m. and Thursday, 12:45 p.m. at the Malone Center, Bldg. 31, B4 fitness center. Training includes meditation, exercise and traditional kung fu in the jow ga style. All are invited to free introductory sessions Sept. 8 and 10—just show up in comfortable clothing. For more information call (703) 759-9869. ■



The NIH-based Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association recently elected officers for 1997-1998. They are (from l) Janet Mattson, NCI, vice president; Sharon Miller, NCI, president; Cheryl Jennings, NHLBI, secretary; Linda DeGraffenreid, Tascon, Inc., national director. Not shown is Mary Armstead, OD, national director. The chapter meets at lunchtime the third Wednesday of each month in EPN, Conf. Rm. H. It is currently offering a \$500 scholarship for the fall semester for an applicant pursuing education in acquisition management, contract law or business management—contact Cheryl Jennings, 5-0345, for more information. For information on chapter meetings call Zaiga Tums, 6-6014.

## APAO To Meet, Sept. 25

The NIH Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization will hold its annual general assembly on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 1:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. The meeting will include election of officers and seven council members. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. For more information call Prahlad Mathur, 2-8213. ■