

N^{THE} I H R E C O R D

October 7, 1997
Vol. XLIX, No. 20

CONTENTS

[Barton To Give
Stetten Lecture](#)

[Foil the Flu with
Free Immunizations](#)

[DCRT's
Touch of Class](#)

[Charity Campaign
Starts at NIH, Oct. 16](#)

[News Briefs](#)

[Appointees](#)

[Awardees](#)

[Retirees](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Study Subjects Sought](#)

[Final Photo](#)

[U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services](#)

[National Institutes of Health](#)

[NIH Record Archives](#)

Shortage of Minority Bone Marrow Donors Proves Obstacle

By José Alvarado

(First in a two-part series on impediments and advances in bone marrow transplantation.)



Bone marrow donor and recipient meet.

Minority patients suffering from leukemia and other blood-related diseases face limited prospects of finding a donor with matching bone marrow tissue type because of the relatively low number of minorities such as Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians/Pacific Islanders represented in the National Marrow Donor Program registry.

[MORE...](#)

'In Their Faces' Photographer-Turned-Psychologist Reveals Human Spirit Through Film

By Carla Garnett

If accuracy alone could tell the whole story, then this article could be summed up pretty simply: A long, winding road led Frank Lucas from dreams of a career in film and television to his current post as a psychologist in NIMH's Laboratory of Clinical Science. But then, a reader would miss a lot of the flavor, and certainly all the color, of a tale told best with pictures, specifically those found in Lucas's debut photo exhibit, which is on display now through Oct. 28 in the Clinical Center Orem Gallery.

[MORE...](#)

Shortage of Minority Bone Marrow Donors Proves Obstacle

By José Alvarado

On the Front Page...

(First in a two-part series on impediments and advances in bone marrow transplantation.)

Minority patients suffering from leukemia and other blood-related diseases face limited prospects of finding a donor with matching bone marrow tissue type because of the relatively low number of minorities such as Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians/Pacific Islanders represented in the National Marrow Donor Program registry.

Continued...



Jaime Oblitas runs NIH's Marrow Donor Center in Bldg. 10.

"Minorities, in general, are very poorly represented in the NMDP," said Jaime Oblitas, manager of the NIH Marrow Donor Program, which participates in the NMDP. "For a patient to have a successful transplant, donor and patient must be compatible genetically, which sometimes only happens when they both come from the same ethnic or racial group."

NMDP was established in 1987 to facilitate bone marrow transplants between unrelated people. It operates under a contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration and maintains a regional donor center in the Clinical Center department of transfusion medicine. The NMDP registry has information on 2,817,058 volunteers willing to donate about 3-5 percent of their marrow to save the life of a person whose own marrow stops producing the correct amount of various blood cells, the main agents of the body's immune system. At any given moment, there are an average of 3,000 active searches of the NMDP registry. As of July 27, NMDP had facilitated 5,924 unrelated bone marrow transplants in the United States and in several other countries. Of these, 727 have been for minority patients.

Recruiting minorities to be donors is an urgent aim for NMDP, said Oblitas. The program has organized registration drives at NIH during African American history month, and Hispanic heritage month. But these efforts have yet to satisfy the demand among minority patients for donors of similar ethnic or racial backgrounds. Only about 20 percent of the volunteer donors on the NMDP registry are from minority groups, while more than 40 percent of those awaiting transplants are minorities, Oblitas reported.

The level of match for bone marrow must be closer than that for heart, liver and other organ transplants since the donated marrow may attack the recipient's body in what is known as graft-versus-host disease, he explained. This is in contrast to organ transplantation, when the patient's body may reject the organ. Generally, survival rates are in the 40-60 percent range for

more than 60 diseases, including several types of leukemia, that would be fatal without bone marrow transplants. NMDP literature says an estimated 30,000 children and adults nationally are afflicted each year with leukemia, aplastic anemia, and other blood-related diseases.

Because the unique characteristics of an individual's marrow are genetically inherited, it would follow that someone from the immediate family would be an ideal donor. But only 30 percent of patients have a family member, generally a sibling, who is suitably matched and able to donate marrow. That makes it crucial for organizations like NMDP to seek out persons of the same racial and ethnic background of the patient, who will most likely have matching human leukocyte antigens (HLAs). HLAs are proteins found on the surface of white blood cells and other tissues that are used to match donor and patient.

Dr. Susan Leitman, head of the blood services section of the department of transfusion medicine, said there is always a need for more bone marrow donors, even among the normally plentiful white donors, who meet the needs of from 75 to 80 percent of all Caucasian recipients searching for a donor. But she pointed out that the low number of volunteer donors among minority groups is made worse by low retrieval and retention rates -- locating and contacting matching donors -- among minorities. While 90 percent of white matching donors can be retrieved, only 70 percent of minority matching donors can be found.

Oblitas says this is a problem when dealing with Hispanic/Latino donors. "The Latino population fluctuates a lot, and it is very difficult to get a hold of people once they have registered. We have many cases of people who have registered in community drives, but when we try to contact them 3 months later, they are no longer living at the addresses they had given. The Hispanic community in the Washington, D.C., area still has not established itself firmly here.

"We should educate minorities in general on the need to register in the NMDP program because many patients from our racial or ethnic groups simply can't find a compatible donor." He says that many minority patients have no choice but to accept transplants from donors with partial HLA matches, increasing the chance of getting the potentially fatal graft-versus-host disease.

The process of registering is as easy as donating blood, according to NMDP literature. A small amount of blood is taken from the volunteer donor at an NMDP-approved donor center or recruitment drive site. The sample is then typed for HLAs and the results are entered in the computerized NMDP registry.

About a year after the transplant, donor and recipient are permitted to meet if they so choose. NIH has hosted many of these grateful occasions. Shown above are (from l) Isabel Couto (donor's wife), Artur Couto (donor), Jeremy Crowe (recipient, also pictured with Artur on front page) and Linda Harris (recipient's mother).



As soon as a doctor finds that a donor's HLA match those of his patient, the donor will be contacted and counseled about the donation process and given a physical examination after a thorough information session. The donor makes the decision to donate and signs an "intent to donate" form.

A simple surgical procedure is used to extract marrow. At an NMDP-approved collection center or hospital, under general or epidural anesthesia, the marrow is removed from the back of the donor's pelvis through a special needle. After collection, the donor is usually kept in the hospital overnight for observation. Donors may experience slight discomfort for a week or so in the lower back. The donor's marrow will replenish itself in 4-6 weeks, according to NMDP literature.

After the donor signs the intent, the patient-recipient undergoes a pre-transplant treatment of chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy to wipe out all disease. Because the treatment also destroys the immune system, the patient will eventually die if he or she does not receive a marrow transplant. The donated marrow is transfused directly into the patient's bloodstream, similar to a blood transfusion. Healthy marrow cells travel to bone cavities, where they begin to grow and replace the old marrow.

All information about the donor is kept confidential. The donor, however, has the opportunity to get to know the patient-recipient about a year after the operation. NMDP arranges such meetings between donor and recipient every year.

For information on how to register or organize a registration drive in your community, call Erika Sparks, recruitment specialist for NMDP, at 496-0572.

[Up to Top](#)

'In Their Faces' Photographer-Turned-Psychologist Reveals Human Spirit Through Film

By *Carla Garnett*

On the Front Page...

If accuracy alone could tell the whole story, then this article could be summed up pretty simply: A long, winding road led Frank Lucas from dreams of a career in film and television to his current post as a psychologist in NIMH's Laboratory of Clinical Science. But then, a reader would miss a lot of the flavor, and certainly all the color, of a tale told best with pictures, specifically those found in Lucas's debut photo exhibit, which is on display now through Oct. 28 in the Clinical Center Orem Gallery.

Continued...

A Picture's Worth...

The faces hit you first. Faces of children. Five photos stand out right away, each with its own spotlight along one Bldg. 10 wall. "Forest Harvest," for instance, shows a grinning youngster, about 12 years old or so, enveloped by a leafy field. Loose-fitting red knit cap cocked over both ears, one long green vine gripped in chapped, work-roughened dark brown hands, the kid -- probably a boy -- looks back over his shoulder. He seems to preen slightly for the camera. You can nearly read his thoughts: For this instant, I'm the show -- and that alone is worth the biggest, toothiest smile.



One of Lucas's personal favorites, "Forest Harvest," finds a child's smile amid an adult's labors.

"I have to be in their faces," explains Lucas. "I have a rapport with each of them. I have to. They are definitely aware that I'm taking their pictures. I don't use long lenses to steal an image. I'm very close when I take these portraits. What you realize is that a lot of people never feel special. Making their pictures made them feel special. I hope you can see that in the pictures."

Looking back, Lucas says he's always sought ways to make folks feel special in his work. Ironically, his search led him back to his beginnings. In fact, he could have ended up on the other side of the camera himself, if he'd stayed on his first course.

Born and reared in Clifton, N.J., Lucas hails from a family rooted in the film and television industry. He began studying in the theater arts briefly, before he decided in the early 1980's to attend university in Italy for language and culture. While there, he encountered numerous African students whose vivid descriptions of their homeland stirred his interest and drew him towards the

Dark Continent.

Dabbling in Art, Life

In 1984, following a fruitless search in the harsh terrain of the Middle East for an old friend, who later was found to have been killed in the war in Lebanon, Lucas finally gave in to the pull of Africa and settled down to life as a watercolor artist in the Seychelle Islands of the Indian Ocean, just north of Madagascar. He met with limited success.

"The first country I visited was Turkey," he says, recalling how his travels began. "I didn't even carry a camera with me on that journey, but the images of the land and the people stayed with me. The colors of the people were so arresting."

It was later, during several week-long trips to Nairobi -- short breaks from his island life -- that he finally began to nurture his passion for photography seriously.

"I found out I was a lousy painter," Lucas admits, smiling at the memory. "But as I look at these photos, I can see now how closely they resemble my paintings. The paintings were figurative portraits, as well, but the images and colors are so much more beautiful than I could paint them." As a protégé of anthropologist Donna Klump, he recorded the life of the urban poor in a Mathare Valley, Nairobi, shantytown through a series of vividly colored photographic portraits. He would spend the next decade or so as a freelance photojournalist based in Kenya, supplying images to the World Health Organization, the British Broadcasting Co. and National Geographic Television.

Human Studies Continue

In addition to requiring travel to such exotic locales as Haiti and Prague, Czechoslovakia, his career often linked him with medical corps and health organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, the Helen Keller Organization and Save the Children Federation, Inc., which along with CC's Patient Emergency Fund, will receive the proceeds from his photo show. By chance, the 17-piece exhibit is being shown on three walls of the CC gallery nearest the hospital's admissions waiting area. Lucas says he couldn't have planned for a better audience for his debut.

"I hope the pictures can give people a sense of calm," he explains. "Here they are, contemplating very difficult situations, serious illnesses, in their lives or their family's. I hope they can see in the photos the lives of other people whose lives are very different and possibly even more difficult than their own. The men, women and children in these photos are among the most adaptive, most creative people I have ever met. I mean, they're undeniably poor and I'm not going to try and gloss over that, but the spirit of the people will have to come through. Maybe people can view these images and get a sense of peace. They may be able to take their minds off their own troubles for a while."

Lucas recalls that seeing women like the one shown in a photo he calls "Transcendence" helped him draw sharp contrasts between the average American life and those of the people in most developing countries. The

Haitian woman is shown close-up in a head and shoulders shot, clad in cream-colored native garb and headwrap, carrying a large woven basket on her head. However, it's her expression, a combination of resignation, pain and -- unbelievably -- amusement, that names the photo.

"What women do in the developing world is a lesson," Lucas says. "They work tremendously hard, carrying heavy items most of the time. The physical burden alone must be incredible, not to mention the daily spiritual and psychological burdens of poverty and illness borne by people in developing nations. And they just bear it and keep moving forward. They don't even seem to think about the loads they're carrying. It's just the way it is for them. There's a sense of dignity and self-respect that I hope you can see in the photo."

Photographer and NIMH researcher Frank Lucas gives "Christophe" a final inspection before his debut in the Clinical Center Orem Gallery.



About 3 years ago, Lucas decided to continue his studies of the human psyche, this time in a lab setting. He went back to the university for formal training in psychology. Several months ago, he came to NIH as a research fellow in the lab of Dr. Dennis Murphy, whose group is investigating the gene that modulates anxiety and neuroticism. Lucas and his colleagues are mapping personality traits to genes. He says he does not yet miss the hard travels of his former career, yet he's already planning photo shoots in Harlem, Cuba and South America. Next spring, his photo portfolio will be on display in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

"I know a lot of people think the lab work I'm doing now is so far afield from photojournalism," he says of his research career, "but I think what I've been doing all along has been health-related. I've always been looking beyond the surface. These images make you think and ponder.

"I've never had a show before," he concludes. "I've been really shy about showing these photos this way. Friends and associates tried to convince me. I finally decided that these pictures need a wider audience, and that donating the profits to charity would be a way I could help. These people fostered my career and their pictures, their lives deserve to be shown."

[Up to Top](#)

Barton To Give Stetten Lecture

By Doris Brody

A startling new view of the chemistry of DNA will be the subject of the 1997 DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Lecture, an NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series event sponsored by NIGMS. Dr. Jacqueline K. Barton's talk, "DNA-Mediated Electron Transfer: Chemistry at a Distance," will describe her paradigm-challenging recent reports that the DNA double helix can mediate long-range electron transfer reactions. Barton is professor of chemistry at California Institute of Technology. Her talk will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.



Dr. Jacqueline K. Barton

Since graduate school, Barton has designed and used metal complexes that bind DNA with specificity to study the molecule's structure and dynamics. Now, she is using these complexes, which have the ability to insert themselves (or stack) between the base pairs of the DNA ladder and cause chemical reactions, to study charge transport in DNA on the molecular level.

Barton's group has published a series of papers in *Science* and *Nature* reporting that, in the DNA assemblies they construct, damage can be promoted at a site some distance away from the site where a radical is injected into the DNA base pair stack. Barton believes that this damage is promoted through electron transfer mediated by the DNA double helix. Before her experiments, many scientists believed that DNA molecules, like proteins, could not facilitate long-range charge transfer. Although the proposition that DNA can promote charge transport is still not completely accepted by everyone in the scientific establishment, it is becoming better supported with each paper Barton's lab publishes.

"Most intriguing," says Barton, "is whether DNA-mediated charge transport occurs within the cell. We are excited about exploring the biological consequences and implications of DNA-mediated charge transport. We would like to understand how nature takes into account, and perhaps even exploits, the DNA double helix in carrying out chemistry at a distance."

NIGMS has supported Barton's work since 1983.

Foil the Flu with Free Immunizations

Want to escape the fever, coughing, chills and aches caused by the flu? Want to avoid passing the illness on to family, friends or coworkers?

Flu is very infectious and can be passed easily from person to person. Moreover, people infected with the flu are contagious usually 2 days before their own symptoms of fevers, coughs and aches begin. The flu can be debilitating even for healthy people, and is particularly serious for the elderly or patients with chronic medical conditions.

One way to minimize your risk of getting the flu is through immunization. The protection provided by a flu vaccination takes about 2 weeks to develop and lasts approximately a year. However since the flu viruses change each year, immunization is needed every year. Each fall, before flu season, the Occupational Medical Service offers free flu immunizations to NIH employees. Immunization is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for people at risk of getting a serious case of influenza or a complication and for anyone who has close contact with people at risk of a bad case of flu. This recommendation includes many NIH'ers who work in the Clinical Center. Employees can "foil the flu" by choosing to receive a free flu vaccination during one of the convenient times and locations ([see schedule](#)).

More detailed information about the flu, flu vaccine and immunization schedule is available on the Clinical Center home page (www.cc.nih.gov) and on posters throughout the CC. Also check out the NIAID Web site www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/flu.htm and the CDC site at www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/flu.htm.

Influenza Immunization Schedule 1997

October 15 - November 21

(After Nov. 21, flu immunizations are given by appointment only.)

Location: Bldg. 10, Rm. 6C306

| Last names beginning with: | Your date is: | In the morning: | In the afternoon: |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A, B | Oct. 28, Tues. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| C, D | Oct. 30, Thurs. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 2 p.m. |
| E, F | Nov. 4, Tues. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| G, H | Nov. 6, Thurs. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 2 p.m. |
| I - K | Nov. 12, Wed. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 2 p.m. |
| L, M | Nov. 13, Thurs. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 2 p.m. |
| N - Q | Oct. 15, Wed. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| R, S | Oct. 16, Thurs. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 2 p.m. |
| T - V | Oct. 21, Tues. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| W - Z | Oct. 23, Thur. | 7:30 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 2 p.m. |

Any last name. Walk-in... first come, first served:

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Date: | In the morning: | In the afternoon: |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|

Oct. 16 - Nov. 20,
Mon. & Thur. evenings

Evening: 4:30 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 20, Thurs.

7:30 - 11 a.m.

1 - 2 p.m.

Nov. 21, Fri.

7:30 - 11 a.m.

1 - 3 p.m.

Location: Bldg. 13, Rm. G-904

| Last names beginning with: | Your date is: | In the morning: | In the afternoon: |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A - D | Nov. 14, Fri. | 8 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| E - H | Oct. 17, Fri. | 8 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| I - M | Oct. 24, Fri. | 8 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| N - S | Oct. 31, Fri. | 8 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| T - Z | Nov. 7, Fri. | 8 - 11 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |

Off Campus

Location: EPN, Rm. 103

| Last names beginning with: | Your date is: | In the morning: | In the afternoon: |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A - L | Oct. 27, Mon. | 8 - 11:30 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| M - Z | Nov. 19, Wed. | 8 - 11:30 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |

Location: Solar Bldg., Rm. 1A04

| Last names beginning with: | Your date is: | In the morning: | In the afternoon: |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A - L | Nov. 10, Mon. | 8 - 11:30 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| M - Z | Oct. 22, Wed. | 8 - 11:30 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |

Location: Federal Bldg., Rm. 1C05

| Dates: | Times: |
|---------------|---------------|
| Oct. 29, Wed. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| Nov. 5, Wed. | 1 - 3 p.m. |

Location: Poolesville

| Room: | Dates: | Times: |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Conf. Rm., Bldg. 102 | Nov. 18, Tues. | 8 - 11 a.m. |
| Conf. Rm., Bldg. 110 | Nov. 18, Tues. | 12 - 2 p.m. |

Location: Rockledge, Rm. 5054

| Dates: | In the morning: | In the afternoon: |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oct. 20, Mon. | 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |
| Nov. 3, Mon. | 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | 1 - 3 p.m. |

DCRT's Touch of Class

DCRT's 1997 fall term offers more than 90 classes in database, statistics, networks, personal computing, Unix systems, mainframe services and Internet tools and resources.

New classes, "Introduction to Statistics," "Overview of SAS Release 6.12," "Producing Tables with SAS," and "Advanced SAS Tabulate Features," highlight a strong statistics program that includes SAS fundamentals and two classes from the SAS Institute.

DCRT's Windows NT instructors have collaborated on a new two-part coordinated curriculum. Classes for users of NT Workstations include Windows NT Workstation Startup and Workstation Troubleshooting, while classes for Windows NT server administrators cover an Overview for Administrators, Trouble Shooting, NTS Resource Kit, NTS Registry, NT 5.0 Migration Issues, and NTS and NetWare.

New Internet offerings include: an intermediate class in preparing PowerPoint presentations for the Web; a seminar on Internet Explorer 4.0; a hands-on class on NetMeeting, including video conferencing; and a lecture on how to publicize your Website with search engines such as Alta Vista and Yahoo!

Of interest to mathematicians and scientists are seminars featuring presentations on partial differential equations, imaging, and preparing scientific images for publication. In November, "Issues in Simulation of Nucleic Acids" will discuss recent simulation techniques and their application to the structure and dynamics of different forms of DNA and RNA in solution. Toward the end of the term, Prof. M. Muthukumar of the polymer science and engineering department, University of Massachusetts, will give a special three-part series, "Lectures on Polymer Science."

Two lectures will describe the design, engineering, and implementation of the new NIH LoBoS system, a supercomputer built from commodity PCs, and different ways NIH staff can use it.

Two seminars, "NIH Backup and Recovery Service" and "NBARS Administration," describe user and administrator roles in this important automatic service that brings mainframe reliability to data stored from local PCs and servers.

DCRT training classes are free of charge to all NIH employees and registered users of DCRT systems. To receive a catalog or register, call 4-DCRT (301-594-3278), send email to 4DCRT@nih.gov, visit <http://www.dcrn.nih.gov/>, or submit a request via the NIHITS system. Complete schedule information and course descriptions are available on LiveWire, DCRT's new Web-based, online magazine (<http://livewire.nih.gov>), and first-time students can now check their enrollment through the Web.

[Front Page](#)

[Previous Story](#)

[Next Story](#)

NIH RECORD

Warm Hearts, Chili Food Charity Campaign Starts at NIH, Oct. 16

"It All Comes Back to You" is the theme of the 1997 NIH Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which will kick off on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 11:45 a.m. in front of Bldg. 1 (in case of rain, Wilson Hall). Featured on the agenda is chili, traditional jazz music and lots of fun. The Clinical Center will be the host of this season's CFC campaign.

This year, more than 2,500 voluntary agencies will participate in the CFC. NIH keyworkers will be distributing the CFC Catalog of Caring, which lists the many charities to which NIH'ers may designate their contribution.

One of the highlights of this year's kick-off will be the R&W chili cook-off for the CFC. All NIH'ers wishing to enter the cook-off should bring their chili to the front of Bldg. 1 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. The chili judging will take place at high noon. Categories for the judging will be "best," "most original" and "hottest." Hard Times Cafe will also be on hand to sell its trademark chili from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., for about \$4 (don't even think about buying some to enter in the cook-off!) In case of rain, the cook-off will be held on Friday, Oct. 17, during the same hours, on the patio of Bldg. 31A. For more information about the cook-off, contact the R&W in Bldg. 31A.

CFC kick-off raffle prizes will include: two tickets to the Redskins vs. St. Louis Rams game (Nov. 30); dinner for two at the Capitol City Brewing Co. restaurant in Bethesda. In addition, there will be many other great raffle prizes.

Music is by the Federal Focus Jazz Band. There will be a special appearance by Dr. Bear, the mascot of Children's Hospital, and representatives from many of the CFC charities will also be on hand.

Support the CFC and continue the spirit of giving..."It All Comes Back to You."

[Up to Top](#)



Group Invites New Members

The NIH Chamber Singers invite NIH'ers to join them at lunchtime for wonderful vocal music. A concert will take place on Thursday, Oct. 9, at 12:30 p.m. in the Clinical Center's Masur Auditorium. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Abstracts Sought for Lupus Conference

On Nov. 6-8, a conference titled "Novel Perspectives on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: From Basic Research to Clinical Applications," will be held at the Natcher Conference Center. The event is jointly sponsored by NIAMS, NIAID, ORWH, NIDDK, the SLE Foundation, and the Lupus Foundation of America.

It will provide a series of workshops to review basic research and how it clinically applies to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Immunologists, cell biologists, geneticists, and molecular biologists will gather to try to understand the events within lymphoid tissues that lead to a breakdown in self-tolerance and the events in target organs that lead to antibody- and/or cytokine-mediated tissue injury. These new insights into immune cell activation and death, into pathways of tissue destruction, and into modulators of lymphocyte or target cell function have suggested new therapies in SLE.

Abstracts and registration information should be submitted by fax or by mail to: The SLE Foundation, Inc., 149 Madison Ave., Suite 205, New York, NY 10016, phone (212) 685-4118, fax (212) 545-1843. The registration fee for NIH employees is waived. Deadline for registration is Oct. 10. If you wish to have dinner at the Natcher Center on Thursday and Friday nights, send \$70 with your registration information. For reasonable accommodation, contact Felecia Taylor, NIAMS, at taylorf@ep.niams.nih.gov. For program details, abstract requirements, and other information about the conference, visit NIAMS's Website at: <http://www.nih.gov/niams/news/sleconf.htm>.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series -- held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10 -- will take a short vacation Oct. 8 in honor of Research Festival, but resume Oct. 15 with a presentation by Dr. Don C. Wiley, professor, department of molecular and cellular biology, and HHMI investigator at Harvard University. His topic is "Structure/Function Studies in MHC/Antigen Recognition and in Viral Entry Mechanisms."

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

Seminar on GWACs, Oct. 15

The Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association is hosting a brown bag lunch seminar entitled "Government-Wide Agency Contracts (GWACs)," on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in EPN, Conf. Rm. H.

Speaking will be Marie Monsees, an NIH project officer. All are welcome. For more information call Sharon Miller, 435-3783.

Create a Compelling Life, Oct. 16

The STEP committee will present a forum entitled, "Creating a Compelling Life" on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon in Natcher Bldg. Conf. Rms. E1-2. The featured speaker will be Bruce Johnson, president, Making It Clear Communications Group. Successful people tend to be those who have defined realistic goals for themselves and work to achieve them. The key may be recognizing important facets of our lives and learning to successfully balance them. Reconnect with yourself, regain control, rediscover your dreams and redirect or reaffirm your lifestyle.

Johnson will help listeners determine what is important for them, how to achieve a balance in life, define realistic goals, and set a game plan in motion to achieve those goals. The forum will offer tools for making a positive change in life and challenge the audience to strive for excellence.

The forum is free and open to all NIH'ers on a first-come, first-served basis. No advance registration is necessary. Inform STEP of any need for sign language interpretation or reasonable accommodation by Oct 7. For more information, call 435-2769.

Director's Seminar Set, Oct. 17

The NIH Director's Seminar Series of Friday noontime lectures in Bldg. 1's Wilson Hall continues on Oct. 17 with Dr. Yoshihiro "Pat" Nakatani of NICHD's Laboratory of Growth Regulation speaking on "Eukaryotic Transcriptional Regulation: Communication Between Activators, TFIID, and Histone Acetylases." Continuing medical education credit is available.

Nominations Open for 'Susceptibility Genes'

In journal advertisements and a new web page, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has invited scientists to nominate "susceptibility" genes for a large-scale study of how these genes vary from person to person, making some people much more -- or less -- susceptible to a chemical or poison.

The large study, known as the "Environmental Genome Project," will determine the variance of about 200 selected genes in some 1,000 people representative of the population -- men and women from major population groups.

Humans have about 100,000 genes. Some are clear-cut disease genes, meaning that variations in those genes carry a strong predilection toward a particular disease.

The Environmental Genome Project will study genes that make people more or less susceptible to natural and man-made chemicals, metals, dietary constituents and other environmental and workplace factors that can cause human diseases. Among these, the project seeks to identify 200 genes whose variations are most likely to have a major role in whether a person gets a disease or disorder following an exposure.

The study is part of the answer to why everyone has a story about an "Uncle James" who smoked, drank, ate too much, and worked in a dangerous industry -- and lived to be 102 -- whereas most other people with this history died prematurely.

Scientists are invited to make their nominations electronically via a Webpage: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/dirosd/policy/egp>. They should include a rationale for including the nominated gene, and/or to participate in a Symposium on the Environmental Genome to be held Oct. 17-18 at Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The nominated genes will be peer-reviewed to determine which should be included. They may include such classes of genes as detoxification genes, DNA repair genes, cell cycle and cell death control genes, and genes mediating immune or nutritional factors.

Piano Concert Set, Oct. 19

The FAES Chamber Music Series will present Eldar Nebolsin, piano, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Tickets are \$20 at the door; \$10 for students and fellows. For more information call 496-7975.

Fundraiser for NIH'er Set, Oct. 25

In our last issue (Sept. 23), we reported on the plight of [Dr. Henry Lancaster](#), a third-year fellow in oral medicine at NIDR who had the unusual distinction of becoming both an employee and a patient in the Clinical Center at the same time. He has cystic fibrosis, which has deteriorated his lungs to the point that he qualifies for a double-lung transplant. He awaits the call for this operation while continuing his work at NIH. He and his wife, NICHD immunologist Dr. Joanne Lancaster, will need more funds than his insurance will provide, so they have, with the help of R&W and others, put together a gala fundraising event: Irish Dancing and Music Festival in Honor of Henry Lancaster Transplant Fund.

It will be held Saturday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Featured are Tir na nOg (Land of the Forever Young), a theatrical presentation with Irish dancers including step, set and ceili; Elke Baker, U.S. national Scottish fiddle champion; Sean Culkin School of Irish Step Dancing, including child and adult dancers and traditional Irish musicians and singers; an intermission featuring refreshments from Sutton Place Gourmet, Fresh Fields, Bruegger's Bagels, and homemade baked goods; and a raffle with more than 20 door prizes.

Tickets are \$10, and are available at all R&W gift shops or by calling 496-4600.

Hispanic Heritage Month Symposium



At the recent Hispanic Heritage Month symposium, NHLBI director *Dr. Claude Lenfant* (l) meets with *John Medina* (c), OEO Diversity Program manager, and *Dr. Elmer Huerta*, cancer prevention specialist at the Washington Hospital Center. Lenfant presented awards to members of the Community Alliance Working for Heart

Health, part of NHLBI's Salud para su Corazon, a cardiovascular disease prevention initiative undertaken in metropolitan Washington, D.C. Huerta helped give results of the project, which included an increased awareness of major cardiovascular risk factors. Respondents to a survey reported being noticeably more aware of overweight, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, and diets high in fat, cholesterol and salt.

Hispanic Health Fair and Culinary Festival

Nancy Sebring (r), a dietitian at the Clinical Center and chair of the OD worksite health promotion committee's nutrition subcommittee, hands out samples as GSI Executive Chefs *Andy Wooley* (l) and *Mark Whalen* (c) demonstrate how to prepare tasty and healthful Arroz con pollo (chicken and rice) during a lunchtime break in the Hispanic Health Fair and Culinary Festival, held recently in Bldg. 10. The lunch also featured a Hispanic band and heart-healthy cooking handouts. The heart-healthy meals will continue throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, as NIH cafeterias serve dishes and distribute recipes and other health materials, all from the NHLBI Stay Young At Heart Program. Many of the recipes are in the low-cost healthy Hispanic cookbook, *Platillos Latinos*, now on sale at the R&W stores.



Imperial Highness Prince Masahito Hitachi



His Imperial Highness *Prince Masahito Hitachi* (c) visited NIH Sept. 18 to meet with leading NCI scientists who have had a history of collaboration with colleagues in Japan. Prince Hitachi, the younger brother of the Japanese Emperor, works regularly in the Cancer Institute of the Japanese Cancer Foundation as a guest researcher. He studies the comparative pathology of tumors of lower animals, which provide useful models for human carcinogenesis. Among those who greeted him were *Dr. Ruth Kirschstein* (r), NIH deputy director, *Dr. Philip Schambra* (second from l), FIC director, *Dr. Michael Gottesman* (l), NIH deputy director for intramural research and chief of the NCI Laboratories of Cellular Oncology and Cell Biology, and *Dr. Tsuyoshi Kakefuda* (rear), Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis, NCI. The prince was briefed on the status of current research by Gottesman, Drs. Ira Pastan, Snorri Thorgeirsson, Harry Gelboin and Peter Shields during visits to each of their labs.

Assisted Parking Begins at Bldg. 31

The next phase of parking mitigation measures went into effect Oct. 1 with attendant-assisted parking for employees at all of the Bldg. 31 parking lots, that is lots 31B through 31H. This measure helps offset the loss of parking spaces in lots 20A/B/C due to the Center Drive realignment for the Clinical Research Center project.

With attendant-assisted parking, first arriving employees will self-park and lock their cars in the striped spaces as they do currently. Once the facility is full, attendants will direct employees to aisles where parkers will leave their car and ignition key, and receive a claim ticket. Vehicle keys will be secured by attendants using key security locks. As self-park spaces open, stacked cars will be moved into available spaces. Departing employees whose cars are stack-parked will present their ticket, and attendants will unlock the key and move any blocking vehicles. Projected attendant operating hours for the employee lots are 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday-Friday. One attendant booth will remain open (and hold any remaining keys) until 1 a.m. Employees can self-park and lock their car at any time there are available spaces in the lots (before, during and after operation hours). Red, reserved and handicapped spaces will not be affected. The carpool spaces in lot 31D will remain reserved for carpoolers until 9:30 a.m., and then will be managed in the same way as all the other

31 lots.

This is one more step in an ORS plan to better manage NIH's limited parking resources. ORS appreciates employees' cooperation and welcomes input. Check the Web site at: <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/parking/parking.htm>. The Employee Transportation Services Office can be reached at 402-RIDE.

Award for Research in Thyroid Cancer

The National Cancer Institute is establishing the Charles Harkin Award for Research in Thyroid Cancer, to be made to NCI clinical and laboratory investigators for the study of the genetics, etiology and treatment of thyroid cancer.

The award's namesake was a patient treated at the Clinical Center by physicians from several institutes. NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner said that Harkin's "courage and humor warmed the hearts of those around him."

The award, established in consultation with Harkin's brother, Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, will be awarded competitively. NCI's Division of Clinical Sciences will oversee review of applications for the award from tenured and tenure-track investigators. The investigator selected will receive \$60,000 a year for 3 years.

Background Survey Form Debuts

A new online background survey form has been developed for use by equal opportunity employment and human resource professionals to collect and analyze, electronically, applicant data involving race, sex, age, disability and national origin. The form will be used in conjunction with the online application technology currently available to applicants for NIH vacancy openings via the Internet. Developed by Demond Bennett of the Clinical Center and Ron Sleyo of NIDDK, the form facilitates tracking and recording of race, gender, ethnic and disability data. The survey information will be encrypted for security and confidentiality and separated from other application materials upon receipt. Completion of the survey form is voluntary. The URL for the survey is:
http://ohrm.cc.nih.gov/CGI/ROFM_CGI/Sample%20Files/ICD/eo/background.html.

NIEHS Graduates 1st Spanish Class

NIEHS graduated its first class in beginning Spanish in September as part of an institute effort to reach out and welcome Spanish-speaking scientists and other employees. The class had 15 participants and was sponsored by the NIEHS Equal Employment Office.

[Up to Top](#)



Dr. T. Timothy Chen



Dr. T. Timothy Chen, mathematical statistician in the Biometric Research Branch, NCI, was recently named a fellow of the American Statistical Association in a presentation ceremony at the annual joint statistical meetings. The designation of fellow has for more than 75 years signified an individual's outstanding professional contribution and leadership in the field of statistical science. This year, 56 members of the association were accorded the honor. ASA, founded in Boston in 1839, is one of the country's oldest professional associations. Chen is also president-elect of the International Chinese Statistical Association.

Dr. Alexa T. McCray



Dr. Alexa T. McCray has been named director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, NLM. She is an expert in the field of informatics and in the development of communications technologies to improve access to biomedical information by health care professionals. She has been with the LHNCBC, where she distinguished herself as chief of the center's Cognitive Science Branch, since 1986. Prior to her career at NLM, McCray was a research staff member in the computer sciences department at IBM's T.J. Watson Research Center.

[Up to Top](#)



Dr. George P. Chrousos



Dr. George P. Chrousos, director of NICHD's Pediatric Endocrinology Program, was recently doubly honored for his pioneering research. He was the recipient of the 1997 Endocrine Society Clinical Investigator Award from the U.S. Endocrine Society for major achievements in clinical investigation, and the 1997 Hans Selye Award from the Hans Selye Foundation for outstanding contributions to stress research. Chrousos' contributions have included research on the regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and the pathophysiologic and molecular mechanisms of the syndromes of glucocorticoid hormone resistance and congenital isolated glucocorticoid deficiency.

NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases was recently honored by the Food and Drug Administration with the Commissioner's Special Citation. DMID was cited for "exceeding the limits of duty" in assisting the review of an NIAID-sponsored acellular pertussis vaccine trial. On hand for the award are (from l) *Dr. Michael A. Friedman*, FDA lead deputy commissioner, and *Dr. Kathryn C. Zoon*, director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), who congratulate DMID director *Dr. John R. La Montagne*, *Dr. David L. Klein*, *Mark J. VanRaden* and *Maria A. Deloria*. The NIAID team's intimate knowledge of the complex data sets helped CBER complete successful and timely statistical and clinical reviews. Without the help, the thorough and punctual review of the pertussis vaccine data could not have been accomplished. The award citation says, "Such spirit of cooperation between two government agencies in the interest of serving the public health needs of children all over the world represents the U.S. federal government at its best and consequently deserves special recognition."

FCRDC Play and Learning Station Receives NAEYC Accreditation

NCI's Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center Child Care Center, known as Play and Learning Station (PALS), was recently granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This recognition has been achieved by only about 5 percent of early childhood programs nationwide. PALS provides child care services for employees of the FCRDC located within the boundaries of Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md. The center serves up to 47 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Opened in 1995, PALS is operated under an NCI contract

with Science Applications International Corp. NAEYC accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they consistently meet national standards of excellence. Child care centers, preschools, kindergartens, and before- and after-school programs are eligible to seek the accreditation.

Small Business Person of the Year



David Giuliani, president and CEO of Optiva Corp. and developer of the first sonic toothbrush for home use, was recently named Small Business Person of the Year. The award culminates nearly a decade of work that was initiated by a grant from NIDR. Beginning with a technology patented at the University of Washington, Giuliani started the Seattle-based Optiva in 1988 with five employees in a one-room office. With the aid of a \$550,000 Small Business Innovative Research grant from NIDR, the first sonic toothbrush came to market in 1992. By 1996, the company had manufactured its 1 millionth sonic brush and was recognized by Inc. magazine as the second fastest growing firm in America. By then, the company had grown to 340 employees occupying a 40,000-square foot building.

NCI Clinicians Named Top Doctors

Good Housekeeping magazine has named *Drs. Edward L. Trimble* and *Michael A. Steller*, both of the National Cancer Institute, to its list of "The Best Doctors for Women." Trimble is head of the surgery section in NCI's Clinical Investigations Branch and Steller heads the section of gynecologic oncology in the Surgery Branch. Both see patients with gynecologic cancer at the Clinical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Doctors on the list, which appeared in the magazine's August issue, were nominated by more than 260 ob/gyn heads at major medical centers around the country.

[Up to Top](#)



NIDDK's John Rinzel Retires

By Sharon Ricks

Mathematician Dr. John M. Rinzel, chief of NIDDK's Mathematical Research Branch, retired Sept. 1 after 26 years at NIH. He has accepted a joint appointment at New York University as a professor in both the Center for Neural Science and the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science.



Dr. John M. Rinzel

"John has made pioneering contributions to the understanding of dendrites in neuronal information processing and to applying dynamical systems theory to give a systematic understanding of complex behavior of neurons and other excitable cells," says NIDDK colleague Arthur Sherman. Sherman has worked with Rinzel for 11 years and will serve as acting branch chief in Rinzel's absence.

Rinzel has been co-managing editor of the *Journal of Computational Neuroscience* since 1993. In 1994, he edited *The Theoretical Foundation of Dendritic Function: Selected Papers of Wilfrid Rall with Commentaries*. He has published more than 100 journal articles, book chapters and papers in conference proceedings, including recent articles in *Trends in Endocrinology* and *Trends in Neuroscience*.

"I think he's an outstanding scientist," says NIDDK Scientist Emeritus Wilfrid Rall, who supported Rinzel's appointment as chief of the branch in 1981, when Rinzel was a postdoc. "He did real pioneering work in terms of mathematics of nonlinear mathematical systems related to excitability properties of nerve cells and all cells." Rall says Rinzel also filled an important teaching function in biological mathematics by training a lot of postdocs from NIH and elsewhere.

Rinzel received a B.S. in engineering science from the University of Florida in 1967. In 1968, he received an M.S. in applied mathematics from NYU and joined NIH for 2 years as a mathematician in DCRT. After receiving his Ph.D. from NYU in 1973, Rinzel returned to DCRT. In 1975, he joined the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases, now NIDDK, as a research mathematician in MRB. He became chief of the branch in 1981.

"His departure is a loss for NIDDK and NIH," says Sherman. "But his new position at NYU is well-deserved recognition of his accomplishments and of the growing importance of computational neuroscience."



NIH's Ophelia Harding Is Mourned

By *Harriet Greenwald*

Ophelia E. Harding, who retired in 1995 after 40 years of federal service spanning both clinical and administrative work at NIH, died from a severe systemic infection on Sept. 12 at Suburban Hospital. She turned 68 on Sept. 11.



Ophelia E. Harding

Widowed at 22 and left with two young daughters after her husband was killed in an accident, she then went to the Burdick School of Nursing in Washington, D.C., and in 1954 graduated first in a class of 50. In 1955, she came to NIH to work as a surgical nurse on the Clinical Center's 10 East surgical cancer research unit. Dr. Alfred S. Ketcham, chief of surgery, wrote in 1965 that she was "loved and respected by all the patients with whom she has contact; she is similarly respected by the ward physicians." Flora V. Moore, now retired from PHS, who worked with Harding at the CC, described her as the best nurse she had ever known because "she took care of the whole patient. She cared so much and showed it."

In 1972, after 17 years in nursing, she became the resident manager of the apartment house (Bldg. 20) at 120 Center Drive. She also oversaw the other NIH living quarters, consisting of three houses and six duplexes on the campus, as well as five houses at the Poolesville animal center. Because of her thoughtfulness, judgment and friendship, she and the campus residents became one extended family. Dr. Alan Rabson, deputy director, NCI, who has lived on campus a number of years, summed up all the residents' feelings: "Ophelia was a truly wonderful woman who helped all with whom she worked."

Harding received numerous citations and certificates in appreciation and recognition of her exemplary contributions to NIH. She retired in 1995 because of health problems.

Everyone who came in contact with her was struck by her indomitable faith in spite of her health problems and her devotion both to her family and to her job. She took great joy in life in good times as well as the more difficult. She will be remembered as a sincerely kind and exceptionally able person.

She is survived by her mother, Hazel Neal; two brothers, Hugh and La Verne Neal and a sister, Othella Butt; two daughters, Nancy Harding and Sharon May; and three grandsons, David Villeta and Brian and Kevin May.

NINDS Mourns Neuroimaging Pioneer Di Chiro

By *Shannon E. Garnett*

Dr. Giovanni Di Chiro, chief of the NINDS Neuroimaging Branch, died of cancer on Aug. 26.



Dr. Giovanni Di Chiro

An internationally recognized leader in radiological research, Di Chiro pioneered the use of advanced neuroimaging methods to study diseases of the central nervous system.

Among his professional accomplishments are his contributions to imaging of cerebrospinal fluid circulation (he was the first to demonstrate, in humans, the circulation of this fluid by imaging), spinal cord arteriography (he was the first to demonstrate a spinal cord tumor using this technique), positron emission tomography (PET) of brain tumors, and nuclear magnetic resonance studies of the central nervous system.

Di Chiro was born in Vinchiatturo, Italy, in 1926. He received his doctor of medicine (summa cum laude) from the University of Naples in 1949, at the age of 23. He went on to sharpen his neuroradiologic, clinical and investigative skills in Sweden and France, and then completed his residency training at Boston City Hospital.

He returned to Naples in 1954 to organize and direct the x-ray department of the Neurological Institute at the University of Naples. In 1958 he became chief of the neuroradiology section at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness (now NINDS). Di Chiro's section was later enlarged to become the NINDS Neuroimaging Branch. His career at NIH spanned a period of nearly 40 years.

Di Chiro helped build NIH's first PET scanner and, under his direction, both PET and MRI became established techniques at NIH. One of his major achievements was devising PET procedures for the study of glucose utilization in humans, a development that opened the door to studies of the functional anatomy of the human brain.

In addition to his extensive research duties, Di Chiro also served as professor of radiology at Georgetown University School of Medicine, and clinical professor of diagnostic neurosurgery at George Washington Medical School.

His scientific achievements were recognized by many honors including the first Distinguished Scientific Medallion awarded by the Institute of Clinical PET in 1994, and the Gold Medal of the American Society of Neuroradiology in 1996.

Di Chiro was the founding editor of the Journal of Computer Assisted Tomography and led the publication to a position of prominence and respect among international radiology publications.

"In addition to his scientific accomplishments, Giovanni will be remembered for his enthusiastic support of young radiologists, his lively discussions with colleagues of research and clinical problems, and his generosity in sharing expertise and establishing collaboration," said NINDS director Dr. Zach Hall.

STUDY SUBJECTS SOUGHT



Injured on the Job?

Do you have a work-related upper extremity problem, 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. Call (301) 295-9659.

Long, Short Sleepers Needed

The Clinical Psychobiology Branch, NIMH, needs female subjects ages 25-30 who habitually sleep 9 hours or more, and men ages 18-24 who usually sleep for 6 hours or less, for a 5-consecutive-night sleep study. Volunteers should be healthy, have no history of mental illness, no sleep disorders, and should not be on any medications, including over-the-counter medications and birth control. Study does not involve taking medication. Send replies to hgiesen@box-h.nih.gov.

[Up to Top](#)



What Is This Spooky Passageway?

This spooky passageway, hung with spider webs and dank with disuse, is built into a hill sloping away from the west side of Bldg. 15K, but no one at NIH appears to know what it is, when it was built, or why. Authorities at ORS and its contractors are stumped, so we go to you, the reader, for help. Is it an old Cold War-era bomb shelter? Or a "document shelter" from the same period? Access to an ancient, unbuilt Metro system? Coin slot for a cosmic Coke machine? Send us your hypotheses, and we'll dig further...



[Up to Top](#)