

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Martin Luther King III To Address Annual MLK Program, Jan. 16

NIH will hold its annual tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Friday, Jan. 16 at 11:30 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The keynote speaker will be King's son, Martin Luther King III, who was recently unanimously elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a civil rights organization his father cofounded in 1957.

A human rights advocate, community activist and political leader, King has been involved in policy initiatives to maintain fair



Martin L. King III

and equitable treatment of all citizens, at home and abroad. In addition to representing former President Carter in several official delegations to promote peace in foreign countries, he has served on the board of directors of the

Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, visiting five poverty-stricken African nations on a fact-finding mission. The result of that mission was the creation of the Africa Initiative to end starvation on the continent. In 1986, King was elected to political office as an at-large representative of more than 700,000 residents of Fulton County, Ga., on its board of commissioners. Since leaving public office, he has launched, among other civil rights and humanitarian initiatives, Americans United for Affirmative Action, a national coalition of organizations to prevent the dismantling of affirmative action initiatives across the country. His tenure at SCLC begins on Jan. 15, his

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

December 16, 1997
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A Happy New Year

NIH Gets Generous '98 Budget

President Clinton signed another record budget for NIH on Nov. 13, totalling \$13.648 billion, or a 7.1 percent increase over fiscal year 1997, and \$570 million more than he had originally requested in his spending plan for fiscal 1998. Among the most notable items in the budget are \$90 million to continue funding for the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center, \$17 million to build a new Vaccine Research Center on campus, and funding for nearly 7,700 new and competing research project grants.

During the signing ceremony at the White House, Clinton said the FY 1998 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act "significantly increases funding for biomedical research, from cancer to Parkinson's disease...to the astonishing Human Genome Project. This is a remarkable, remarkable bill with an astonishing bipartisan commitment to keep our country on the front ranks of medical research. It will help to make new, very powerful AIDS therapies more available to needy patients."

The NIH intramural programs overall got an increase of more than 5 percent. "This is well above inflation, and reflects sus-

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Next Bids Due in January

Bldg. 50 Progressing Well, If Wetly

By Rich McManus

If you think your job is wearing you down on these cold, dark early winter eves, consider for a moment the men working down in the hole that is Bldg. 50—the new Consolidated Laboratory Facility. During these coldest months of the year, crews are



drilling some 155 "caisson" holes, which plummet another 60 feet or so beneath the pit floor, so that the new 5-story structure will sit solidly upon concrete stilts rooted in the Earth. Even back on Nov. 25, when the weather was still relatively balmy, the muddy hole became, by late afternoon, quite nippy; the site's sunless southwest corner featured the campus' first ice ponds in the week before Thanksgiving. Much has happened here

Standing at the lip of a Bldg. 50 caisson hole are (from l) Frank Kutlak, project director, Brian Temme, construction manager, and Karl Chandler, general inspector. That item at left is the aptly named "headache ball."

drilling some 155 "caisson" holes, which plummet another 60 feet or so beneath the pit floor, so that the new 5-story structure will sit solidly upon concrete stilts rooted in the Earth. Even back on Nov. 25, when the weather was still relatively balmy, the muddy hole became, by late afternoon, quite nippy; the site's sunless southwest corner featured the campus' first ice ponds in the week before Thanksgiving.

Much has happened here

SEE BLDG. 50, PAGE 6



Dear Editor,

I am not very good at expressing my gratitude in person, so I am glad that I have the opportunity to thank so many people by way of the written word. It is so appropriate that we just celebrated Thanksgiving, for my wife Joanne and I have so many things and people for which to be thankful. Over the last few months, we have been the recipients of so much of God's love via the tremendous amount of support from members of the NIH community.

When we were originally counseled to let people know of my illness (see *NIH Record*, Sept. 23) and need for a lung transplant for the purpose of raising needed funds, we were very hesitant, to say the least. We felt some shame in having to ask for monetary help. But there was something that neither of us knew. We had no idea how many truly loving, compassionate individuals we were about to meet. There are so many of you that so generously gave of your time, money, prayers, leave time, and words of encouragement that we can't possibly thank you in person. Please accept this as a humble "Thank You." We could not have made it this far without all of you.

Speaking of making it this far, perhaps I should update you as to how far that is. A few days before the Irish Dancing Concert (Oct. 25), which many of you attended, we learned that I could go on a very short waiting list for a lung transplant. All it required was that we relocate to Louisiana temporarily and wait the average time of 37 days until a donor became available, then remain in Louisiana for 3 months of recovery. Before the generous donations from everyone, we could not have even fathomed being able to afford such an expensive relocation. Well, thanks to you, I am writing this letter from Louisiana where I am next on the waiting list to receive a double-lung transplant. The doctors tells us that it could happen any day now.

We hope that this news is as pleasing to everyone who helped us as it is to us. Again, please accept our gratitude for all of your help. May God bless all of you. He certainly has blessed us.

Henry and Joanne Lancaster, NIDR, NICHD

Do You Sleep A Lot?

Do you almost always sleep 9 or more hours a night? Are you between ages 25 and 31? Do you sleep soundly, with no sleep disturbances? If this sounds like you, you may be eligible to participate in a sleep study at NIH. You must not take any types of medication or birth control pills, must have no history of mental illness and must be in good health. You must also be willing to spend 4 consecutive nights at NIH. You will be paid for your time. Call for more details, 496-6981. ■

Dear Editor,

Please allow the beautiful trees around the NIH campus to be cultured and not destroyed. I write specifically to preserve several trees marked for cutting to make way for construction of the new Clinical Research Center and Center Drive. The awe-inspiring white oak tree marked number 154 and several other majestic oaks in the vicinity of number 154 as well as several stately tulip-poplars along the proposed swath of cutting should remain standing. Their beauty stimulates the imagination and is, therefore, part of what makes the NIH campus a unique and valuable site to conduct biomedical research. They provide an irreplaceable natural sanctuary for quiet reflection. These trees symbolize the power of life and inspire us to solve problems with the living. The trees, furthermore, imbue pride and honor in the wider community. In the final tally, these trees may provide more immeasurable value for the NIH mission than the structures that replace them. Please revisit the trees and make every effort to allow their survival. I hope that you will inform the NIH community of plans to cut the trees so that they may offer further input to what I see as a proposed diminution of our NIH.

Dr. Brian Lowe, NHLBI/LBG

Correction

On p. 3 of the Dec. 2 issue of the *NIH Record*, Dr. Edward A. Berger's caption included an incorrect title. He is chief of the molecular structure section, Laboratory of Viral Diseases, NIAID. ■



Dr. Jean Paddock recently became director of the Division of Clinical and Population-based Studies at the Center for Scientific Review (formerly DRG). She will supervise five initial review groups, which contain 39 scientific review groups, or study sections, in the areas of AIDS and related research, biobehavioral and social sciences, health promotion and disease prevention, oncological sciences, and surgery, radiology and bioengineering. She comes to CSR after nearly a decade of administrative and review experience, first at NCI and then at NIMH. During the last 3 years at NIMH, she was chief of the Clinical Review Branch. She is also an EEO counselor.

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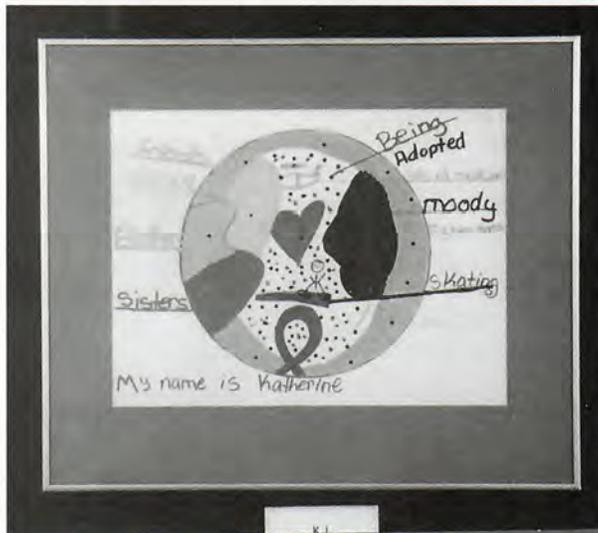
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To commemorate World AIDS Day, the Office of AIDS Research sponsored an exhibit Dec. 1-12 on the first floor of the Clinical Center. The theme this year was "Children Living in a World with AIDS." On display was artwork created by children and adolescents from across the United States who are participating in the AIDS clinical trials program of the National Cancer Institute. The art took the form of "mandalas," reflecting the uniqueness of each child's feelings and experiences living with AIDS. Passersby (above) seemed captivated by the bared emotions of the kids, as shown in "Katherine's" mandala (below).

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



Asian Heritage Program Planning Starts

The first planning meeting for the 26th annual NIH Asian/Pacific American Heritage Program at NIH is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 5, 1998, at noon in the Little Theater, Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10. The program will be held in May 1998. All interested parties are invited to attend the planning session. For more information, contact Victor Fung by email: vf6n@nih.gov.

NICHD Gets Grant from AMA

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development will receive a \$500,000 grant from the Education and Research Foundation of the American Medical Association (AMA), to be used for pediatric research.

"The award will be used primarily for pediatric pharmacology research, an area of great potential benefit for both children and the physicians who care for them," said NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander. He noted that three-quarters of all medications marketed today do not carry FDA-approved labeling for use in children and that only five of the 80 drugs most frequently used in newborns and infants are labeled for pediatric use.

The grant is being made as a complement to AMA's Dr. Nathan Davis Awards program, which honors public officials who have provided outstanding service to the public. NICHD will use the funds to support studies in its pediatric pharmacology research unit (PPRU) network. The PPRU was established 4 years ago to provide pharmacology researchers with facilities to conduct their research, scientific expertise, and access to pediatric patients.

Alexander explained that for new drugs or drugs that have been patented, drug companies provide the funding for PPRU network studies that gather the information needed for pediatric drug labeling. However, drug companies do not have the financial incentive to conduct the necessary testing on drugs that are not patented, a category that includes some of the drugs most frequently prescribed to children. The AMA grant will be used to support the testing of as many nonpatented pediatric drugs as possible. Priority will be given to those drugs most often prescribed or most in need of study. Information gained from these studies will be provided to the FDA for pediatric drug labeling.

NIAMS Publishes Lupus Booklet

NIAMS has published a comprehensive booklet, *Handout on Health: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus*, for people who have lupus (an autoimmune disease), their family and friends, and others who want to understand more about the disease. It contains information about diagnosis, treatment and current research supported by NIH. It defines lupus, and talks about health care, pregnancy, medical treatment, quality of life, and hope for the future.

Many more women than men get lupus—the ratio is 9:1. It is three times more common in Black women than in white women, and is also more common in women of Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent. Lupus can affect many parts of the body including the joints, skin and internal organs. Copies of the booklet are available by calling (301) 495-4484.

See Wizards' New Home

The R&W has tickets to the Washington Wizards vs. Vancouver Grizzlies basketball game in the new MCI Center downtown on Friday, Jan. 16. Tickets are specially priced at \$20 (regularly \$40). Visit the R&W activity desk in Bldg. 31 or call 496-4600.



Dr. Gwendolyn C. Davis recently joined the National Institute on Aging as its EEO officer. She will develop programs to recruit and retain a diverse work force as well as address employees' EEO concerns, and keep abreast of national trends in her field. She holds a Ph.D. in research evaluation and policy studies from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in measurement and evaluation from the University of North Carolina. Before joining NIA, Davis served as health careers administrator for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

1998 BUDGET, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tained confidence by the Congress in our on-campus research programs," said Tony Itteilag, NIH deputy director for management. "All institutes and centers received at least 6.5 percent more funding, and NHGRI received a 14.9 percent increase in recognition of its high-priority endeavors." He said there is a 1 percent increase in Research Management and Support, "which means that we will have to continue to administer our growing program portfolio more efficiently."

The Office of the Director received an overall 3.6 percent increase, which includes 7 percent boosts for research on minority health, research on women's health, and the minority health initiative. Funding for the Office of Alternative Medicine has been increased to \$20 million.

Some \$443 million is provided for areas of emphasis designated by NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus, including the biology of brain disorders, new approaches to pathogenesis, new preventive strategies against disease, therapeutics and drug development, the genetics of medicine, and developmental and advanced instrumentation. "These are NIH priorities that the Congress has also recognized as being worthy of special attention," said Itteilag.

The budget legislation also: calls for an Institute of Medicine study of how NIH determines its research priorities, which is a complex issue that must satisfy many constituents; permits NIH to extend, for at least a year, Transshare vouchers for public transportation to trainees; and not only continues the prohibition against human embryo research, but also broadens its definition.

"Overall, conference action on NIH appropriations has shown remarkable respect for the scientific

"All institutes and centers received at least 6.5 percent more funding, and NHGRI received a 14.9 percent increase in recognition of its high-priority endeavors."

priorities identified by Dr. Varmus and the institute and center directors," observed Itteilag.

He noted that no NIH amounts were subject to "line-item" veto action by the President; the deadline for such action passed Nov. 19, leaving the package intact. "Some NIH items were under consideration for veto, but energetic defense by Secretary Shalala, Deputy Secretary (Kevin) Thurm and Dr. Varmus succeeded in preserving all items funded by the Congress."

Itteilag also credited such key Congressional supporters as Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.), Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.) and Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Tom Harkin (D-Ia.).

"It is clear that the Congress and Administration have very high confidence in NIH to spend this money on a wide variety of potential research advances that will improve the health of the American people, and people around the world," said Itteilag. "Dr. Varmus has indicated that we are on the brink of stunning new insights into the mechanisms of diseases and an increased ability to treat devastating illnesses and disabilities. These appropriations will be used to advance these insights as rapidly as possible. The Congress has also shown that it believes we will spend this money well to give the taxpayers full value for the resources it provides to us. It is up to NIH scientists and administrators to live up to these expectations." ■

Theatre Group Presents Holiday Program

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, at noon in Masur Auditorium Bldg. 10, the Bethesda Little Theatre (formerly the NIH R&W Theatre Group) will present their annual holiday program. The hour-long show will include performances by group members and end with the traditional sing-along. Show coordinator Alice Smyth is happy to have her husband Michael Terence at the piano and Ben Fulton back as master of ceremonies. Come join the fun and get into the holiday spirit! ■

National Institutes of Health FY 1998 Appropriation

(dollars in thousands)

NCI	\$2,547,314
NHLBI	1,531,061
NIDR	209,415
NIDDK	873,860
NINDS	780,713
NIAID	1,351,655
NIGMS	1,065,947
NICHD	674,766
NEI	355,691
NIEHS	330,108
NIA	519,279
NIAMS	274,760
NIDCD	200,695
NIMH	750,241
NIDA	527,175
NIAAA	227,175
NINR	63,597
NHGRI	217,704
NCRR	453,883
FIC	28,289
NLM	161,185
OD	296,373
B&F	206,957
CRC Replacement	(90,000)
HIV/AIDS Vaccine Facility	(16,957)
Infrastructure	(100,000)
TOTAL	13,647,843

NIH Communicators Swathed in 'Blue, Gold'

NIH information office staff and their contractors were winners in the recent annual Gold Screen and Blue Pencil competition held by the National Association of Government Communicators.

Gold Screen awards honor messages conveyed by film, video, radio, even Web pages. NIH winners in this category included: a third place finish for the National Institute of Mental Health Website; first place for NIMH's educational program "Glass Guns"; second place for the news release "NIMH Anxiety Disorders Education Program Launch"; a first place tie between the National Institute on Aging's public service announcement "Looking for the Fountain of Youth?" and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's "Reasons"—NHLBI also finished third among PSA entries with "Grandma's Excuses."

Blue Pencil awards go to high-quality print media efforts. NIH entrants won in the following areas: tie for first place in the brochures/booklets for a general audience category between the National

KING PROGRAM. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

father's birthday.

Also featured on the program is the Aurora Dance Company, a touring troupe founded in 1994 by Dr. Dawn Cooper Barnes, associate professor of performing arts at Howard Community College. The group will perform "Songs of Sorrow and Jubilee,"



The Aurora Dance Company will entertain at NIH's observance of Dr. Martin Luther King.

a special tribute to the legacy of Dr. King choreographed by Barnes.

For reasonable accommodation, contact Carlton Coleman of the Office of Equal Opportunity, 496-2906 (v/tty). For more information about the program, contact Jackie Dobson, 496-3670; O.H. Laster, 496-6302; or Mary Langford, 402-6415. ■

Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism's "Drinking and Your Pregnancy," and NHLBI's "Bilingual Latino Educational Materials Series." Taking first place in the category of publications for a general audience was NHLBI's "Platillo Latinos Sabrosos y Saludables!-Delicious Heart Healthy Latino Recipes." Finishing third was the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' "The Digestive Diseases Dictionary." Taking third place in the category of publications for a technical audience was NIAAA's "Alcoholism Health & Research World, Vol. 20, No. 1." In the annual report category, the National Cancer Institute's "Making a Difference" tied for second place.

Winners were invited to an awards dinner last month in Old Town Alexandria, Va. ■

NIAMS Awards Grant for First Specialized Center of Research in Scleroderma

The first Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) in scleroderma has been established at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston through a grant from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. Total funding for the 4-year grant is \$3.5 million, which includes support from the Office of Research on Women's Health. SCOR will be directed by Dr. Frank Arnett, professor and director of the division of rheumatology and clinical immunology at the university.

"We are very excited about this promising new research center," said Dr. Stephen I. Katz, NIAMS director. "Our ultimate goal is to gain vital new knowledge about scleroderma in order to develop innovative and effective treatments for patients with this distressing disease." He added that a specialized center of research allows for concentrated, coordinated basic and clinical research and can be an effective mechanism for the rapid translation of advances in basic science into clinical application and improved health care.

More women than men suffer from some forms of scleroderma, and it usually begins in middle age. Thought to be an autoimmune disease, scleroderma involves connective tissue and blood vessels and may cause widespread hardening of the skin. Scleroderma may also cause hardening of tissues in the lungs, heart, kidneys, intestinal tract, muscles and joints. Although the cause of the disease is unknown, researchers believe that both environmental and genetic factors may play a role in scleroderma.

'Messiah' Sing-Along, Dec. 21

Do you hate fighting traffic to get to a downtown Messiah sing-along? Then come to one right here at NIH! On Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m., the new NIH Community Orchestra and the Bethesda Little Theatre (formerly the NIH R&W Theatre Group) will present a Messiah sing-along in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Join the fun and sing along with the chorus and orchestra! Scores will be available for audience members who do not have their own. For ticket information call (301) 897-8184.

BLDG. 50, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

since a groundbreaking was conducted July 17 under searing, and now sadly unimportable, heat. "We're basically at our schedule," said Frank Kutlak, an architect in the Division of Engineering Services, ORS, who is also project officer for 50. He is happy to be shin-deep in mud, treading from precipice to precipice within the excavation to point out new bypass storm and sanitary sewer lines, and peer down caisson holes not just 60 feet deep and barely 5 feet wide, but also shrieking with compressed air hoses working ceaselessly to suck water out of the holes (the whole site was once a V-shaped stream valley, and still supports much underground water).

Have you ever noticed that the people at NIH most enthusiastic about their jobs are almost invariably natural teachers? "Whenever you approach a piece of heavy equipment, be sure to catch the attention of



A new storm sewer (l) replaces the old one (r), whose opening is visible at lower right.

lated at the bottom since the hole was dug by giant drilling rigs earlier in the day.

"All the loose sediment must be removed because it could eventually be compressed by the weight of the building, and it would be bad later on if any part of the building settled even an inch or two," notes Kutlak.

Holding a makeshift mirror made of sheet metal, Kutlak guides sunlight down the shaft to illuminate the sandhog's labors. Knowing he has an audience, the hog, in high boots and rain gear to ward off the continually seeping water, bellows and sings to the amusement of his topside peers. "Heeellp!! Get me out of here!!" he calls with comic desperation, then begins hollering a song whose words fracture against the metal sides of the caisson. He almost certainly cannot hear himself because, in addition to wearing earplugs, he is engulfed in the catastrophic noise of the water pump.

Steel casings in segments from 20 to 40 feet long are set in the hole to keep the earth from filling in as the hole is drilled deeper. Really just open cylinders, the casings (or "cans" as they are called by the drillers), when stacked below ground, look like



A rigger seats a drill head over the mouth of a caisson on the excavation floor. Some 155 caisson holes will be dug this winter.



This architect's model of Bldg. 50 shows the front of the 5-story Consolidated Laboratory Facility, with its building number logo at upper left.

the operator first," he advises as we walk past roaring trackhoes, bulldozers and drilling rigs on the floor of the excavation. "These are not, technically, caissons," explains Kutlak, who frankly relishes the outdoors, deskless, muddy, heavy-equipment life, and its camaraderie of roughneck workers far from the pallor of bureaucracy. "They are really drilled piers. In effect, they are concrete stilts that go down to [load] bearing rock. They vary in depth and diameter, depending on the geology of the soil and the particular portion of the building that they support." The heavier concrete stairwells and elevator shafts require the largest piers, he points out, but foundation piers underlie all supporting columns of the building. No hole seems more than a 10-foot putt from its neighbor.

It will take eight trucks to deliver some 70 cubic yards of concrete to fill a single caisson yawning 66 inches in diameter this afternoon. A workman has already been lowered by crane to the caisson floor to clean up any sediment that may have accumu-

water glasses stacked on your kitchen shelf, except they have no bottoms—each telescopes into the next. When the hole is filled with concrete, a crane slowly lifts the sleeve-like casings out so that the concrete is no longer confined by metal but adheres to the surrounding soil. Six hours after the drilling began, the hole is full—there’s no halfway in this business—and the concrete has set, permanently.

“Not many people get to see this up close,” enthuses Kutlak as two big concrete trucks slog, with blaring back-up alarms, through the mud to the mouth of the caisson. Workmen arrange the concrete truck chutes directly over the heart of the hole. Their goal is to drop so much concrete so fast—the “free fall” method—that the incoming water at the bottom is sealed by the weight of the concrete. This happens with a breathtaking roar as

feeders that carry 13,000 volts—the cable’s as thick as a linebacker’s wrist; a foot-long piece of it weighs over 5 pounds), dug the basement and are in the midst of 4 months’ worth of caisson drilling.

Bid package 2, timed to succeed the first one seamlessly next February, is “basically the rest of the building,” said Brian Temme, project director for CRSS, a construction management firm hired to help NIH manage the building of 50. “It includes casting the concrete



The new storm sewer comes in segments about 10 feet long by 8 feet in diameter. Huge cranes place the segments on gravel seats, where workmen attach them sequentially.

PHOTOS: RICH MCMANUS, ERNIE BRANSON

“Not many people get to see this up close,” enthuses Kutlak as two big concrete trucks slog, with blaring back-up alarms, through the mud to the mouth of the caisson.”

basement walls and floor slab, backfilling the excavation, completing the 5-story concrete superstructure, enclosing the building, installing the mechanical and electrical systems and fitting it out for final delivery.” The overall construction is scheduled to be complete in late summer of 2000, and 50’s final phase, a period of coordinated occupancy, will move users in by autumn of 2000.

“The first bid package design and procurement went very well,” Kutlak noted. “And construction has been going pretty good. We had a few problems when the excavator nicked a chilled water line and when the tie-back drillers hit a sanitary sewer, but we responded well. Although these repairs diverted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



A view down a caisson hole, illuminated by Frank Kutlak’s hand-made stray sunlight collector.

the mixers disgorge their contents. A surprisingly dry dust from the caisson’s innards rises as 18 tons of concrete pound down like test-tube Armageddon in 60 seconds; air, too, along with water, is forced up by the tumult.

Kutlak knows he’s not the only one fascinated by such scenes: “We can tell by how many slats have been removed from the perimeter fence that people get a kick out of seeing what’s going on down here.”

Back in the Bldg. 50 trailer, which is perched on the hole’s edge, and warmed by coffee, Kutlak shows off the slick new ORS Bldg. 50 Website, with its daily updates of construction photos and diary-like narratives explaining the construction activities to novices. You don’t need Wellingtons to navigate this terrain, just a Web browser (visit http://des.od.nih.gov/building_50.)

In a nutshell, bid package 1 work has involved, on average, 25 workers on-site daily since July, working for the general contractor and four subcontractors. They have “sheeted and shored” the perimeter (those earth-restraining boundaries constructed of wooden “lagging”—and vertical steel beams), relocated utilities (including storm sewers, sanitary sewers, steam and chilled water lines and electrical



Giant drilling rigs create the caisson holes, which are then carefully cleaned before being loaded with concrete.

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the contractors' resources, we pretty much maintained schedule. We had excellent weather all summer, but the rainy October and November have hurt our caisson drilling progress. We have had to pump out rainwater after all of these storms and the muddy site is difficult to work on." He adds, "The design team is completing the documents for bid package 2, which we hope to award in February."

Kutlak credits a slew of non-hardhat-wearing folks who have supported the project, especially Contract-



The rear of the architect's model shows that the facility has an offset-Z design. Seen from the side, the building's two main segments look almost like giant toasters caught in a neck-and-neck race.

ing Officer Barbara Taylor of AB-C procurement, Kristy Long, DCAB program manager, and the many other NIH'ers who form the Bldg. 50 executive committee, process action team, principal investigators, veterinarians' committee, design consultants and, lastly, on-campus neighbors, who send him emails inquiring about what's going on outside their office windows. Kutlak explains, "We have established email listservs and send out weekly status updates to over 200 people."

Even though it is not yet built, 50 has already garnered awards: Kutlak displays a framed certificate from HHS bestowing the "Energy and Water Conservation Award," which recognizes 50's energy efficient design features (see first Bldg. 50 story in *NIH Record*, June 17, 1997), and says a study prepared by the project's engineering consultant for a Pepco rebate shows that Bldg. 50's design will save 40 to 50 percent in utility costs as compared to typical labs designed in the past decade—some \$1.25 million annually.

Striding the scene of his greatest professional accomplishment thus far, Kutlak makes no secret of his preference for mounds of dirt over mounds of paperwork. "It's fulfilling to come out here and be with the construction workers every day," he says. "It's great to watch Building 50 emerge from our designs and grow from the ground up." ■

Guaranteed Ride Home

NIH is a participant in the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Program sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The program provides commuters who vanpool, carpool, bike, walk, or take transit with a reliable alternate ride home should one of life's unexpected emergencies occur.

Guaranteed Ride Home benefits such as a rental vehicle, taxi, train ride, bus transportation, etc., will be given free of charge (excluding taxes, fuel and gratuities) up to four times a year to qualified commuters in the event of: personal or family emergency; personal or family illness; unscheduled overtime, with supervisors' verification. The GRH cannot be used for weather emergencies or natural acts of God.

To qualify to use GRH, commuters must: be registered with COG's Commuter Connections database; carpool, vanpool, take public transportation, bicycle or walk to work at least three times per week; use one of the above modes on the day they request GRH; work in the Washington metropolitan area.

Should an emergency arise before you have registered, you may still use GRH one time. However, you must register before you are eligible to use it again.

For more information or to register, contact the Employee Transportation Services Office at 402-7433 or contact COG at 1-800-745-RIDE. ■

Public Service Announcements Honored

New TV public service announcements (PSAs) from the National Institute on Aging about the dangers of so-called anti-aging hormones were recently honored with three national awards. At ceremonies held in mid-November, NIA received the Aesculapius Award from the Health Improvement Institute for best PSA of the year, the Gold Screen Award from the National Association of Government Communicators for first place in its TV PSA competition, and the first place Gold Award from the Mature Media National Awards for best TV PSA.

"Looking for the Fountain of Youth?" are TV PSAs that were first aired in April of this year and have met with tremendous national response. One PSA involves a wandering man's encounter with a fortune teller, Madame Eterno, who advises him to learn more about the possible downsides of hyped over-the-counter hormones by calling NIA's 800 number information line for a fact sheet. The PSAs generated more than 10,000 calls in a 3-day period after news stories about them were carried on CNN and in the *Los Angeles Times*. The PSAs continue to run on many stations throughout the nation and are eligible for Emmy Awards in 1998.



Barnes Named Editor of OSE's 'Snapshots'

The Office of Science Education recently welcomed Deborah Barnes as new editor of "Snapshots of Science and Medicine," a component of OSE's Web site. Barnes, who oversees the section's editorial and graphic content, started work on "Snapshots" in September.

"It's very exciting to help develop an Internet resource for science educators and students," says Barnes, who worked previously as editor of the *Journal of NIH Research*, as a laboratory scientist, and as a high school biology teacher.



Deborah Barnes

She has set high goals for "Snapshots," which integrates news about NIH-sponsored research, profiles of people who work in science-related careers, and other information into a diverse educational resource. Her immediate aim is to broaden the scope of the articles and associated visuals, and to keep the information in "Snapshots" up-to-date. The topics addressed in the section, Barnes says, will provide a balance of subject matter that reflects the broad range of research activities funded by NIH. A team of freelance writers and artists will help her achieve these goals.

"This part of the OSE Web site will focus on the ideas and people in science and medicine," says Barnes. "We're in start-up mode right now, and the site is still evolving. Ultimately, a visitor should be able to learn about new research findings and also gain some understanding about the process of science."

Barnes has worked as a science writer and editor for 12 years—first at *Science* and then at the *Journal of NIH Research* (which recently went out of business). She earned a Ph.D. in biology at Georgetown University, and did postdoctoral research in neurobiology at the Children's Hospital at Harvard Medical School. Recently, she has helped various organizations, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, develop materials for the Internet.

Although the articles in "Snapshots" are written primarily for high school students and teachers, Barnes says, the information is also tailored for the public. In its present form, the site is divided into three sections. "Research in the News" articles describe current events, discoveries, and developments in science and medicine. The profiles in "People Doing Science" are based on interviews

with people who have a wide range of educational backgrounds and experiences—not just those earning a Ph.D. or M.D.—and who work in science-related jobs. "Cool Links" provides connections to other science-related Web sites.

Barnes plans to expand the content of "Snapshots" to include a section of material that teachers can use for classroom activities or as a curriculum supplement, a glossary that will grow as new information is added, and commentaries written by scientists.

Funding for the site is provided by the Office of Research on Women's Health. "Snapshots of Science and Medicine" can be accessed at <http://science-education.nih.gov>.—Peter Lalos ■

Health for Sale?, Forum Asks

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee is sponsoring a Science for All session entitled "Can You Buy Health Over the Counter?" on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1998, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

Consumers' use of a variety of herbal, vitamin, and mineral supplements to improve health has been widely publicized in the media. How much of this information is based on scientific testing and how much of it is hype? This presentation will review the current state of knowledge about the contribution of herbal and mineral supplements for improving health, as well as important information about the extent to which these substances are currently regulated for safety by the federal government.

Featured speakers will be: Dr. Jerry Cott, chief, Adult Pharmacology Program, National Institute of Mental Health; Dr. Forrest Nielsen, Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. Bernadette Marriott, director, NIH Office of Dietary Supplements; and Dr. Elizabeth Yetley, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration.

The event is free and open to all NIH staff 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 Dec. 30. For more information call STEP at 435-2769. ■

Director's Seminar Set, Dec. 19

The NIH Director's Seminar Series of Friday noontime lectures in Bldg. 1's Wilson Hall continues on Dec. 19 with Dr. S. Patricia Becerra of NEI's Laboratory of Retinal Cells and Molecular Biology speaking on "Structure-function Studies on Pigment Epithelium-derived Factor: A Serpin with Neurotrophic Activity." Continuing medical education credit is available. ■

TSP Forms on Web

The NIH Electronic Forms Users' Group recently placed some Thrift Savings Plan forms on its Web site for employees' use during the TSP open season that ends Jan. 31. Check out the information at <http://mantis.dcrf.nih.gov/nihforms/>. For more information about the site, call Joan Kraft, 496-4305.

Radiation Biology Branch's Anne Marie DeLuca Retires

Anne Marie DeLuca is widely known on campus for her exceptional love for research animals and her untiring efforts to design and conduct safe and humane experimental animal research protocols. A biologist in the Radiation Biology Branch, National Cancer Institute, she will retire at the end of the year after 17 years of government service and more than 40 years of research with animals.

The early part of her career was devoted to neurological research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1980, she came to NCI and continued a distinguished career in the radiation oncology and biology branches, exploring new radiation delivery techniques for clinical applications, combined modality studies, and the impact of novel antioxidants developed as radiation protectors and cancer preventive agents.

DeLuca was a driving force in NCI's preclinical trials of intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT). Her work significantly contributed to development of IORT as a cancer therapy.

She has taught numerous radiation oncology residents, postdoctoral fellows, technicians, animal caretakers, and principal investigators correct and humane laboratory procedures for animal research. William Hinkle, chief of the laboratory animal resources section, NCI, recalls working with DeLuca: "Animal caretakers often lack training in basic laboratory animal anatomy. Recognizing this deficiency, Anne Marie volunteered her time to instruct the animal caretaker staff on rat anatomy, conducting a complete necropsy, with detailed explanation. The caretaker staff was most appreciative. This was one of the first times that I recall a researcher actually taking the time to conduct a training session for our staff. She will truly be missed. It will be difficult to replace an individual who has such dedication to experimental animal research."

Her compassion for research animals led DeLuca to develop techniques to enrich the lives of laboratory animals housed for long periods. In 1992, she published a paper entitled, "Environmental enrichment in a large animal facility," in the journal *Laboratory Animal*. This publication has had a significant impact on how long-term animal studies are conducted. "Anne Marie is the quintessential animal lover," says veterinarian Dr. Victoria Hampshire, chief of the carnivore and ungulate building. "Although she is not responsible for providing daily enrichment to animals in Bldg. 28, she visits the facility on a daily basis in just about any weather. She doesn't just talk about enriching the lives of animals, she is passionate about providing for them and understanding their role in serving as models for human disease. We are certain that the dogs can

hear her leave her office in Bldg. 10 and know that she won't forget them on her walk home each day. She visits mice, rats, dogs, cats, sheep and pigs each day, often bringing home-baked treats, a new collar for a favorite research dog, or another picture to illustrate an improved method of humane restraint. Well ahead of her time and the experts, she was the first to start an enrichment program to provide TLC, treats and toys to animals held on some of the nation's most highly visible animal research protocols. She has pioneered rodent and rabbit enrichment, massaged dogs and pigs who are recovering from demanding procedures, and offered hours of time outside of work to make the quality environment for animal research one we can all be proud of. Thanks to Anne Marie, our animals all have names, our employees have begun to consider them as individuals, and our programs have come up in quality by orders of magnitude in providing a humane care and use program. NIH was extremely fortunate to have had Anne Marie here."

DeLuca is moving to Tucson in January. She plans to devote some of her spare time to working with animals at the Reid Park Zoo.—Dr. James Mitchell ■

New Service for Those Needing, Offering Leave

A new service is available to all HHS employees as part of the secretary's ongoing Quality of Work Life Initiative. A Web site has been constructed that allows an employee who is in need of leave for a personal or family medical emergency and who has been approved as a recipient under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP) to have his/her name placed on the Web to announce a request for donations.

Additionally, employees interested in donating leave may search the site for the name of an employee requesting leave; view a list of those employees requesting leave in a particular agency within HHS or view a list of all HHS employees on the site; or search by key words (such as cancer) in the text of the requests.

The service is strictly voluntary for both approved leave recipients and leave donors. You can explore the site on the Internet through the HHS home page at <http://www.os.dhhs.gov> by clicking on Employee Services, then on Work/Life Information and then on the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Or you can access the site directly at <http://domino.psc.dhhs.gov/Voluntar.nsf?OpenDatabase>.

If you have questions, need more information regarding VLTP, or want to announce your request for leave, contact the VLTP representative in your ICD. The list of NIH representatives can be found on the Web site. ■



NCI Biologist Anne Marie DeLuca, widely known for her exceptional love for research animals and her efforts to design and conduct humane experimental animal research protocols, will retire at the end of the year.



DWD Training Tips

The Division of Workforce Development, OHRM, offers the courses below. Personal computer training is also available through User Resource Center hands-on, self-study courses, at no cost to NIH employees. Additional courses are available by completing the "Training by Request" form in the back of the DWD catalog. For more information call DWD on 496-6211 or consult DWD's home page at <http://www-urc.od.nih.gov/dwd/dwdhome.html>.

Courses and Programs Starting Dates

Management, Supervisory, & Professional Development

Supervision: New Skills, New Challenges	1/13
Budget Formulation	1/13
Conversational American Sign Language - Level I	1/13
The Best Program: Building Effective & Successful Teams	1/16
Dynamic Mentoring: How to Be an Effective Mentor	1/21
Introduction to Working at NIH for New Admin. Support	1/21
Break the Smoking Habit	1/21
The Merits of Having A Mentor	1/23
How to Deal With Frustrating Situations	1/26
Effective Writing II	1/26
Creating Distinctive Customer Service	1/28
Effective Listening and Memory Development	1/28
Speaking Across the Gender Gap	1/29
Ten Secrets to Powerful Writing - Letters, Memos and Proposals	2/3
Introduction to Strategic Planning	2/3

Administrative Systems

Delegated Acquisition Training Program	1/12
Domestic Travel	1/20
Time and Attendance for Supervisors Using TAIMS	1/23

Human Resource Management

Basic Employee Benefits	1/12
Introduction to Staffing	1/21

Computer Applications and Concepts

WordPerfect 7.0 for Windows 95 Introduction	1/13
Introduction to Windows 95	1/14
Welcome to Macintosh	1/15
MS Word 7.0 Intermediate	1/22
Introduction to Excel 5.0	1/27
Web Page Design - Advanced	1/27
Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows 95	1/27

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 20-60, seen by a physician within the past month and currently working. Call (301) 295-9659. ■

DCRT Courses and Programs

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-3278 or consult DCRT's home page at <http://livewire.nih.gov/>.

Lectures on Polymer Science	1/6, 1/29
Understanding JCL	1/6-7
Genetics Computer Group (GCG) Sequence Analysis	1/7-9
Electronic Forms Users Group	1/7
SAS Fundamentals I	1/8-9
SAS Fundamentals II	1/12-13
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	1/13
MATLAB - Matrix Laboratory	1/14-15

Former Associate Director Topping Dies

Dr. Norman H. Topping, 89, who was associate director of NIH from 1948 to 1952, died of pneumonia after a long illness on Nov. 18 at his home in Los Angeles. He helped develop a typhus vaccine still in use today, and also helped craft an antiserum treatment against Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

At the time of his death, Topping was chancellor emeritus of the University of Southern California, where he had obtained both his bachelor's and medical degrees. As president of USC from 1958 to 1970, and chancellor from 1971 to 1980, he is credited with transforming the university into a prominent research center, especially in science, engineering and medicine.

Topping began his research career in 1937 as a PHS scientist in Bethesda, where he headed a team that developed a typhus vaccine used by millions of Allied soldiers during World War II. He was especially interested in viral and rickettsial diseases. He was assistant chief of the NIH Division of Infectious Diseases from 1946 to 1948. When he rose to NIH associate director, he also served as assistant surgeon general.

After leaving NIH in 1952, Topping served as vice president for medical affairs at the University of Pennsylvania until joining his alma mater in 1958. At USC, he was a skilled fundraiser; a seven-story addition to the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center—the Dr. Norman Topping Jr. Tower—pays tribute to his dedication to the furtherance of cancer research.

He is survived by a son, Brian, of Baltimore, a daughter, Linda Topping Badgley of Puerto Rico, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A collection of his memoirs, *Recollections*, written in collaboration with Gordon Cohn, was published in 1990 by the USC Press and can be perused at the NIH Historical Office in Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B09.

Smokers, Brothers Needed

Male cigarette smokers and their brothers are sought for a family study of smoking and human behavior at NCI. Volunteers must be at least 18, and at least one of the two brothers must be a smoker (at least 1 pack a day for at least 5 years). You will be interviewed and asked to complete several questionnaires. You must also be willing to donate a small blood sample. Pay is provided and travel expenses are available for out-of-town brothers. For more information, call Cindy Brody, 496-2979.

Fated Bldg. Used for Fire Training

Though fated for demolition any moment now, Apartment Bldg. 20 gave its last full measure of devotion on four Saturdays in November when the NIH Fire Department invited fire fighters from several local jurisdictions to participate in high-rise fire fighting and rescue exercises. A series of blackened windows in the building—once home to a distinguished cadre of foreign fellows, trainees, nurses and hospital administrators—testified to its utility even in demise.



Fire fighter scrambles up ladder to enter upper-story window in Apartment Bldg. 20.

“It’s very rare to get a high-rise building that you can burn in,” said Chief Gary Hess of the NIH Fire Department, who coordinated the full-day training that included nearly 100 fire fighters for each session. “These kinds of exercises are usually confined to condemned houses in the way of road construction, or at special fire training facilities.”

When Hess learned almost a year ago that 20 was scheduled to come down to make way for the new Clinical Research Center, he recognized a golden training opportunity. At the end of October, he learned the site would be available every weekend of the following month. “We held the sessions on Saturdays to minimize disruption to campus traffic,” he said. And there were no worries about accidentally burning the place down: “It’s basically non-combustible,” Hess noted. “It’s mostly cinder block, concrete and brick.”



Special buckets on the end of tower truck ladders enable fire fighters to shoot water from aerial cannons into the building.

Conducted on the building’s first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors, the training involved controlled ignition of wooden pallets and straw set afire by flares. Fire companies from Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Charles counties participated, along with other federal fire fighting teams.

The training included entering the smoke-filled scene from ladder trucks, hoisting out a 200-pound rescue dummy, and testing equipment such as a high-tech visual heat-sensing device that enables fire

fighters to “see” hot spots. “That can be useful in finding people trapped in smoky conditions, when you otherwise wouldn’t be able to find them,” Hess explained.

The nearly 400 fire fighters who practiced at Bldg. 20 were videotaped, photographed and debriefed to make the exercise as useful as possible, said Hess. Almost like a football practice, the teams discussed first what to do at the scene, then went out and performed, and returned to critique their efforts.

As mid-month approached, wrecking crews were removing the interior walls from the venerable old apartment house to make wrecking-ball demolition easier. The landmark proved useful right up to the last moments of its 44-year term.—Rich McManus



Special visual sensing equipment enables fire fighters to “see” hot spots in smoky conditions.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—takes a holiday break Dec. 24 and resumes on Jan. 7 with Dr. John N. Abelson, professor of biology, California Institute of Technology, whose topic is “The High Resolution Crystal Structure of an Archeal tRNA Splicing Endonuclease Provides New Insights into the Mechanism of tRNA Splicing in Eukaryotes.”

On Jan. 14, Dr. Richard P. Lifton of Yale University will lecture on “The Molecular Genetics of Human Hypertension and Its Consequences.” He is professor of internal medicine and genetics, and HHMI associate investigator.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 594-5595.