

THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

NLM Lecture

Civil Rights Movement's Health Activists Remembered

By Melanie Modlin

When Martin Luther King III spoke at NIH recently at a ceremony marking his father's birthday, he stressed the importance of continuing the late civil rights leader's work for equal rights. King suggested that those included the right to high-quality, affordable health care, and to equal treatment in clinics, hospitals and other medical institutions. He also called for expanded health education and other outreach efforts in minority communities as a way of reducing disparities in the incidence of disease and disability.



Dr. Gerard Ferguson

No doubt King would have enjoyed the National Library of Medicine's African-American History Month lecture, "The Forgotten Radicals: Health Activists and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s." The presentation examined the largely unrecognized efforts to achieve equality and fairness in health care that were under way at the height of his father's civil rights activism.

Dr. Gerard Ferguson, assistant professor of health policy and history at New York University, began his talk by noting that African-American History Month provides "an important cultural space for projects of

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Not So Ancient After All

Trees Recycled for Navy, Parks Restoration Projects

By Rich McManus

While President's Day (Feb. 16) was a holiday for most federal employees, it marked the end of the road for two large, old white oak trees on the former Wilson estate, which were cut down to make way for construction associated with the new Clinical Research Center. In an irony of the calendar, one of the trees dated back some 192 years to post-Revolutionary times, when Thomas Jefferson was in the midst of his White House tenure. Both timbers are slated for reuse in historical exhibits.



Old No. 154, just prior to felling

It had been thought by some community members that the older of the two trees, an 80-foot oak dubbed No. 154 in a census of trees taken on the CRC site, may have been 300

SEE OLD OAKS, PAGE 6

Biotechnology Infiltrates Science Curriculum

By Sharon Ricks

In a biology laboratory 3 miles from Spingarn High School, 10th grader Marvin Bethea watches as a sharp lancet dives into his middle finger, and a drop of blood appears. Under a binocular compound microscope, erythrocytes, leukocytes, and neutrophils emerge 400 times their normal size. Marvin counts the odd doughnut shapes, and with the help of an instructor learns why some cells have a nucleus and others don't.

Marvin is one of more than 4,000



Spingarn student gets intimate with science.

SEE DISCOVERY CENTER, PAGE 4

Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Day

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of the National Capital Area will be on the NIH campus Wednesday, Mar. 11 to assist enrollees who have claims or enrollment problems. A representative will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9, armed with a laptop computer to access directly the enrollee's records at company headquarters.

No appointment is necessary. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Blue Cross/Blue Shield comes to NIH one day each month, usually on the second Wednesday of the month.

International Symposium Honors Salvatore

NIDDK will hold a "Symposium on International Cooperation in Research" in honor of the late Prof. Gaetano Salvatore at Natcher Conference Center on Friday, Mar. 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Discussions will include experimental cancer treatment, transcriptional regulation of thyroid-specific transcription factors, thyroid cancer in Belarus after the Chernobyl accident, and thyroid hormone action. A concert of baroque music from Italy by the Smithsonian Chamber Players will follow at 3:30 p.m. All employees are welcome.

Salvatore was born in Naples on July 28, 1932, and was known in the scientific community for his studies on thyroid physiology and diseases. He performed classic studies of thyroid function in primitive chordates and early vertebrates, analysis of thyroglobulin synthesis in these animals and in mammals and the description of an even larger protein, the 27S iodoprotein. His department at the University of Naples became one of the world's foremost centers of thyroid research, and his work was the impetus for the development of a thyroid cell culture system now used throughout the world.

Salvatore came to NIH in 1962 and again in 1971 as a visiting scientist. In 1977, he returned as a Fogarty scholar-in-residence and hosted many NIH scientists in Naples. He was dean of the Second School of Medicine of the University of Naples from 1981 to 1994 and promoted changes in the curriculum that brought Italy's medical teaching up to modern European standards. In 1987, he was appointed president of the Zoological Station in Naples and modernized the famous institution. He was also chairman of the biotechnology committee of the Italian National Research Council and was one of the founders of the European Thyroid Association. Most importantly, he was a mentor and friend to countless medical students and scientists in Italy, the U.S. and throughout the world. He died June 25, 1997, at age 64. ■



Gaetano Salvatore

FAES Concert Set, Mar. 15

The FAES Chamber Music Series will present Wolfgang Holzmair, baritone, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 15 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Tickets are \$20 at the door; \$10 for students and fellows. For more information call 496-7975. ■

Fogarty Center Offers Tax Help to Visitors

The Fogarty International Center will sponsor a series of tax year 1997 tax preparation workshops to help participants in the NIH Visiting Program complete federal and state tax forms. The workshops will be approximately 3 hours long. Participants should bring copies of their W-2, 1042S, and/or 1099 forms to the workshop.

The schedule is as follows:

Date/Time	Location	Who Should Attend
Mar. 13/10 a.m.	31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Fellows
Mar. 13/1:30 p.m.	31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Associates/ Scientists/ Special Experts
Mar. 20/10 a.m.	31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Fellows
Mar. 20/1:30 p.m.	31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Associates/ Scientists/ Special Experts
Mar. 27/10 a.m.	31/Rm. 6C6	Visiting Fellows
Mar. 27/1:30 p.m.	31/Rm. 6C6	Visiting Associates/ Scientists/ Special Experts
Apr. 3/10 a.m.	31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Fellows
Apr. 3/1:30 p.m.	31/Rm. 6C10	Visiting Associates/ Scientists/ Special Experts

Postmenopausal Vols Needed

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, needs postmenopausal volunteers for a study comparing different forms of estrogen therapies. Participants must be in good general health and not be taking any medications, hormone replacements or vitamins for 2 months prior to study. Volunteers will be paid. Call 435-4038. ■

NIH RECORD

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'We Were Here First'

New Exhibit Probes Many Lives of NLM Site

The National Library of Medicine has mounted a new exhibit entitled "We Were Here First: The History of the NLM Site, 1000 BC - 1955 AD." Located at the entrance to the History of Medicine Division, just off the NLM lobby (Bldg. 38), the exhibit uses original artifacts and digital reproductions of maps and photographs to illustrate 3,000 years of human activity on the land on which NLM now stands and its environs.

The land has been variously used as a hunting camp, a tobacco plantation, the summer home of a descendent of Martha Washington, and a country club and golf course.

From approximately 1000 BC to 1600 AD, small groups of hunters periodically visited the area, using it as a hunting camp and a stopping place on the route between western Maryland and the Potomac River. Archeological excavations carried out in the area just south of NLM, across the small brook, uncovered evidence of extensive tool-making activity. Some of the objects such as stone projectile (i.e., spear and arrow) points, hammerstones, and daggers, are on display.

The NLM area was part of two landgrants, "Clagett's Purchase" and "Huntington," made to Thomas Fletchall in 1715. By 1783, the land was owned by Robert Peter, one of the wealthiest men in Montgomery County. His son, Thomas, married Martha Washington's granddaughter, Martha Parke Custis. Their granddaughter and her husband, Armistead Peter, a physician who was in charge of a smallpox hospital during the Civil War, inherited the Bethesda land and built a summer home called Winona on this site. While descendants of the prominent Peter and Custis families lived in the house on the hill, a local family named Gingle occupied a house near the stream. Maps from 1865,



Winona, built around 1870 on the site where NLM now stands

1879, and 1894 show the locations of the Peter and Gingle homes.

In 1921, the Town and Country Club, a private club founded by members of Washington's German-Jewish community, purchased the property. It was later renamed Woodmont Country Club. Extensive renovations turned the Georgian brick house into a white columned mansion and the surrounding land into a 9-hole golf course. Posters from this period announce dances on the "Starlight Open Porch" and celebrate the expansion of the golf course. The federal government purchased the land for NIH in 1948 but ran it as the public Glenbrook Golf Course until 1955. Ground was broken for the National Library of Medicine in 1959.

The exhibit will be on display until the end of June. Flyers about the exhibit will be available at NLM or contact Carol Clausen via email at carol_clausen@nlm.nih.gov. —Melanie Modlin ■

Two NIH components—the Office of Research on Women's Health and the Office of Community Liaison—are sponsoring the 1998 Montgomery County Women's Fair at the Natcher Conference Center on Saturday, Mar. 28 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Shown finalizing plans for the event are (from l) Janyce



Hedetniemi, OCL director, Angela Magliozzi, NIAID Women's Health Program coordinator and NIH/women's fair planning liaison, and Dr. Vivian Pinn, ORWH director. The fair will feature four sessions of workshops, luncheon speakers, an exhibit area and networking. For a brochure and registration form, call (301) 949-2055.

'Hexagon '98' Plays Through March

The 43rd annual production of Washington's only all-original comedy revue, "Hexagon '98: Of Thee We Zing!" is playing on Wednesdays through Sundays throughout March at Duke Ellington School of the Performing Arts in Georgetown. Several NIH'ers are members of the all-volunteer theater troupe. Ticket prices for most performances are \$20. As always, all proceeds benefit a local charity; this year's beneficiary is Community Family Life Services. For details, tickets and showtimes, call (202) 333-SHOW or visit its Web site at <http://www.hexagon.org>. ■

DISCOVERY CENTER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students who have stopped by NIDDK's Discovery Center for Cell and Molecular Biology at Catholic University since it opened in 1993. There they learn about blood, DNA fingerprinting, cancer and metastasis, the immune system and AIDS, chromosomes, food chemistry and the biological activity of drugs. Now NIDDK and the Discovery Center have enlisted 30 teachers to build on this success by spicing up the science curriculum in classrooms across the city.

These science educators, including Marvin's teacher and 29 others from metropolitan area schools who have studied biotechnology at NIH, form the Biotechnology Curriculum Institute (BCI). The group is updating the D.C. biology curriculum to



Teachers confer at a meeting last December of the Biotechnology Curriculum Institute.

emphasize molecular genetics, genomics, and biotechnology supported by lesson plans, laboratory protocols, resource lists and alternative teaching formats.

"It is imperative that we expose all students to cutting-edge science like these teachers have studied at NIH and similar to what is taught at the Discovery Center," says NIDDK EEO Director Rose Pruitt, who conceived the BCI. "One way to do that is to incorporate biotechnology into the school science curriculum."



NIDDK's Rose Pruitt addresses BCI class.

Carolyn Kornegay, a science content specialist in the Office of the Chief Academic Officer for D.C. public schools, says NIDDK has given teachers an opportunity to practice thinking and working like scientists.

Now, she says, it's time to train students to do the same thing. Kornegay says the curriculum is in line with D.C. public school content and performance standards and with national science education standards.

"Biotechnology is the hottest field in science," says Marvin's teacher, John Buchanan, who was in the midst of teaching a lesson on protein synthesis. "Average citizens, not just scientists, will have a

greater appreciation for life if they understand it." Buchanan and the other teachers will work on the curriculum on weekends through spring.

The BCI is coordinated by Marlena Jones, who also coordinates the programs of the Discovery Center at Catholic University, and Freddie Brown, who coordinates biotechnology training classes for D.C. teachers at NIH. Dr. Roland Nardone, professor emeritus of biology at Catholic University, directs both programs. The updated science curriculum should be completed by June and the supporting materials by December. After approval by school officials, the curriculum may be tested in some classrooms this fall.

"New times call for a new look at how to teach science," says Brown.

"We're trying to demonstrate that if kids do science and are excited about it, they'll remember it," Jones agrees. "And it will help them in whatever career they choose."

Chigozie Ogwuegbu, a senior from Banneker High School who participated in the gene search project of the Discovery Center, is a good example. "Learning about DNA is the best thing that ever happened to me," he says. He is now scoring high marks on his biology tests and plans to graduate from medical school in 2005. If things work out, Marvin and thousands of other students like Chigozie may not be far behind. ■



NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases was recently honored by the Food and Drug Administration with the Outstanding Unit Citation for PHS Commissioned Corps officers. Civilian team members were honored last year with the FDA 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. Dr. Kathryn C. Zoon, director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) congratulates NIAID's Dr. George T. Curlin (l), acting director of DMID, and Dr. William C. Blackwelder, chief of the Biometry Branch, DMID. The NIAID team's knowledge of the complex data sets assisted CBER in completion of successful and timely statistical and clinical reviews.

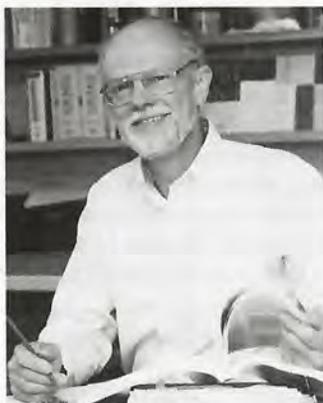
FAES School Gets New Dean

Get ready, postdocs. After 40 years of being a place where senior professors enlighten NIH scientists on the biochemistry of gene replication or the intricacies of reproductive endocrinology, the FAES graduate school has a new dean with big ideas.

Dr. Paul Torrence, chief of the NIDDK biomedical chemistry section, was named dean of the school in January, and he wants to enhance the curriculum, offer more public-interest programs and involve NIH scientists at all levels.

"We'd like to make the curriculum more responsive to the needs of the NIH community and the Washington, D.C., area by including many of the frontiers of NIH research," says Torrence. "We have so much expertise here that we need to share."

He hopes to have more postdocs and others from the front lines of research involved. "This is not [only] a bearded senior professor deal," he adds. "It's a great opportunity for postdocs to gain teaching experience." Torrence also wants to create programs for the public on women's issues, alternative medicine, Alzheimer's, and AIDS.



Dr. Paul Torrence

"The need for mentoring postdocs through advanced courses has become more appreciated at NIH in the last 10 years," explains Dr. Alan Schechter, vice president of the FAES board of directors. He notes that in 1990 NIH opened the Office of Education as a resource for people seeking training at NIH, and in 1994, the fellows committee was formed to promote education and career development among NIH's 2,000 fellows. Torrence is looking forward to working with both groups.

"This is really a challenge to bring this all together," he says, "and it's going to require a lot of assistance from people at NIH."

Dr. Edward Rall, FAES president, says NIH has offered courses since the 1940's, but the Department of Agriculture, which had authority to pay instructors and charge fees, ran them. Since most of the instructors were from NIH, it was more reasonable that NIH run the program, and in the late 1950's a nonprofit foundation was formed.

FAES offers about 100 courses Monday through Thursday evenings, ranging from advanced Russian and Chinese literature to chemistry and molecular biology with laboratories in the Cloister. Although classes have prerequisites, they are open to government and nongovernment employees. Some 2,000 students enroll each year.

Torrence will be the school's second dean, replacing Dr. Louis Cohen, who died in September 1996 after 28 years in the position. Torrence has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a 29-year history with NIDDK. —Sharon Ricks ■

Tabors Win Mentoring Award

The Association for Women in Science Bethesda chapter presented its Annual Award for Excellence in Mentoring to Dr. Celia Tabor and Dr. Herbert Tabor, both of NIDDK, during a recent meeting in the Cloisters chapel at NIH.

The Tabors are senior scientists who have worked as a team in pursuing excellent science, in raising a family of four children, and in mentoring researchers in their own laboratory group. They have served as role models by treating each other and those around them fairly and equally. Importantly, they also mentored and encouraged young, independent scientists in the Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology during the many years that Herb was laboratory chief. Many of these scientists now hold senior positions at NIH and elsewhere. They include Matthew Rechler, Reed Wickner, Achilles A. Demetriou, George D. Markham, Anthony Furano, Robert T. Schimke, David Korn, Claude Klee, Nancy Nossal, Edith W. Miles, Christian R. H. Raetz, Allen Minton, Michael Klagbrun and Deborah Hinton.

Celia and Herbert Tabor received M.D. degrees in the early 1940's from Columbia and Harvard, respectively. Herb started working at NIH in 1943, whereas Celia first worked at George Washington University School of Medicine as a research associate and a clinical instructor and then came to NIH in 1952. Herb has served as editor of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* from 1970 to the present and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1977. The Tabors are foremost authorities on the microbial biosynthetic pathways of polyamines, the enzymes that catalyze steps in these pathways, and the functions of polyamines. Celia and Herb have jointly received two prestigious prizes for their research: the 1986 Hillebrand Prize from the Chemical Society of Washington (a division of the American Chemical Society) and the 1996 Rose Award from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



Dr. Edith Miles (l) presents the AWIS mentoring award to Drs. Herbert and Celia Tabor of NIDDK. Miles is one of many scientists who benefitted from the Tabors' guidance.

OLD OAKS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years old (though an arborist retained by NIH estimated a range of 175-300 years). An effort was mounted to spare the tree, but a variety of options to do so were considered too costly and disruptive by NIH. The National Capital Planning Commission reviewed the debate and concluded last December that NIH could go ahead and remove the oaks. In an effort to respect nature's endowment of old trees, however, NIH amended the design of Center Drive to retain one old oak that had been scheduled to fall, save another dozen trees by realigning a construction fence and preserve a third of the trees affected by CRC construction by replanting them elsewhere on campus.

Large cranes arrived on campus Saturday, Feb. 14 to delicately cart away the two oaks' massive trunks, whose bulk had to be preserved intact in order for them to fulfill their new roles: a 35-foot segment of No. 154 weighing more than 14 tons was claimed by the U.S. Navy for use in restoration of two historic battleships—the U.S.S. Constitution and the U.S.S. Constellation. A 20-foot piece of the second tree, about 92 years old, went to the Friends of Pierce Mill, an historic old structure in Rock Creek Park in need of a new waterwheel shaft. Crews from the National Park Service, which has jurisdiction over Pierce Mill, conducted removal of the lesser oak.

"NIH is really pleased to have found a way to ensure that these oak trees will retain a place in history through their use for restoration of projects important to the community and country," said Jan Hedetniemi, director of NIH's Office of Community Liaison.

"The Navy was thrilled to have the tree," she reported, "because it has such a close grain. It will be used to replace worn decking on the ships."

A 12-inch cross-section of No. 154 was sliced out for preservation as a possible heirloom for the future CRC. A highly respected millwright, Derek Ogden of Madison, Va., has been retained to care for the relic, which might one day serve as an historical exhibit; its rings could be indexed to highlights in both medical and NIH history (see sidebar).

It was last fall's controversy over removing the trees that brought the availability of fresh, stout oak to the attention of the Friends of Pierce Mill.

"They heard the publicity, and had been searching for a source for a new waterwheel shaft," explained Hedetniemi. "So we donated that, too."



Timber! Old No. 154 topples after presiding over the Tree Tops portion of the Wilson estate for almost 200 years.

There was another diseased oak in the vicinity of the CRC site, though not within it, that had to be cut down, she added. Pieces of that tree were also given to Pierce Mill for use in millhouse cogs and wheels.

Only the sawdust and small limbs from the three mighty oaks met the same fate as more minor flora on the site, but this, too, was not inglorious—the chips will be reused eventually as mulch.

The reconfigured Center Drive permitted

How To Handle a Wheel of Wood

Four or five years from now, if all goes well, a slice of white oak No. 154 measuring roughly 1 foot high by 5 feet wide will lie within a plexiglas exhibit somewhere inside the new Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center, the preliminary excavations for which resulted in 154's demise.

Envisioned is an index of key moments in the history of medical research, associated with some of the 192 annular rings that testify to the tree's age. It's probably a cinch that ring number 192, counting outward from the core, will say something like, "Ground broken for NIH's new CRC."

Removal of the cross-section was not undertaken recklessly. Rather, it was more like organ transplantation, with great care taken not to impose undue stress on the oaken coin. NIH has retained a highly regarded millwright, Derek Ogden of Madison, Va., to advise on the project. For more than 40 years he has worked with large oaks, and is an expert in the field of historic wind and water mill restoration. A connoisseur of logs, he cautioned NIH that he "does not usually get involved with preserving a cross section of a green slab," but outlined a plan nonetheless, taking care not to guarantee complete success.

Just as time is of the essence when transplanting a heart or lung, Ogden says it's crucial to get the oak slab waxed and bound in chains. "Every hour delay will allow the piece to stress relieve," he warned.

Special cranes remove massive segments of the old oaks. Trimmers removed most of the branches before the trunks were cut down on Feb. 16.





The trunk of No. 154 weighed in at more than 14 tons, and required a crane to move. The oak will be used as planking on two restored Revolutionary War-era battle-ships—the U.S.S. Constitution (“Old Ironsides”) and the U.S.S. Constellation, ported in Baltimore.

groundskeepers here to replant 78 trees, a task Hedetniemi characterized as arduous. She said NIH has been in touch with the Audubon Society about establishing a wildlife habitat somewhere on campus. “There is some hope that we can do it in conjunction with the Navy, across the street,” she

said. “The same experts who advised the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station about their habitats is helping us decide.”

Hedetniemi said that no one showed up on Feb. 16 to protest the trees’ removal, though authorities here anticipated that there could be some opposition. It turns out that not many people could tell tree No. 154 from any number of its distinguished neighbors. “It was tucked behind a tree we call the Elephant oak (so named because of its peculiar shape, with a bough extending nearly over Center Drive), which is set to remain standing.”

Hedetniemi says those who opposed the felling of old No. 154 “did a great service in bringing awareness not to indiscriminately remove ground cover and big trees.”



This vine-bedecked oak is an estimated 92 years old, and will go to Pierce Mill in Rock Creek Park. It will be used to craft a new waterwheel shaft at the mill. Parts of a third oak will also be used in the restoration of millhouse cogs and wheels.



A lumberjack exposes the massive diameter of oak No. 154, a segment of which will be preserved for a planned CRC historical exhibit.

“What we do with large oaks is to coat the end grain immediately with a water soluble wax such as Mobil CER,” he explained in a letter to NIH groundskeeping chief Lynn Mueller. “The reason...is to slow the air drying process on the ends, which is

at a much greater rate than the surface of the wood. I am not sure what might happen with a slab about 12 inches thick and 60 inches in diameter. It would, I am sure, be difficult to keep in one piece unless carefully dried under some sort of controlled conditions for quite a long time.” Ogden guessed this might take 3-4 years. “If you tried to rush the process, it will quickly split with several shakes and probably break into several pieces.”

Made in the Shade

He suggested taking the cut from as low down on the trunk as possible “and immediately hold (it) together around the diameter with two chain binders, (send) to my workshop where I will coat both ends with Mobil CER, and then see what it does for the next 12 months in the shade. We would really have to watch it during the summer, particularly if it were hot. I would also have to treat the piece to prevent woodworm problems.”

Ogden says the slab could be returned to NIH in a year, but would have to be kept out of direct sunlight and remain bound for 2-3 years. He doesn’t get involved in the fine sanding that would be required before final display.

While the slab won’t be ready until after the millenium, the preparation time is but a tiny fraction of the tree’s actual life. What’s 3-4 years when you’ve been around for 192?

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON AND YONG-DUK CHYUN

HEALTH ACTIVISTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

historical recovery." For this topic from the not-too-distant past, recovery of information proved an unexpected challenge. His review of numerous definitive accounts of the civil rights movement yielded "not one reference to community organizing among health workers in the 1960s, the fight for hospital desegregation, protests against racial covenants in medical teaching and research institutions, or the testimony of health workers at congressional hearings on civil rights bills. Simply, there is work to do."

Ferguson is now doing the work, researching a book to chronicle this missing piece of American

Financial and non-financial barriers to health care access are still chronic problems for our racialized and marginalized urban communities.

history. After considerable digging, he discovered "the largely unexplored activism of the Medical Committee for Human Rights," founded in New York City in June 1964. "A multira-

cial organization with roots that intersected with other old health Left, as well as local and national civil rights organizations, MCHR was initially formed in response to a call to provide a medical presence to care for civil rights activists who headed south for the 1964 Freedom Summer Project," Ferguson explained. (Freedom Summer brought droves of northerners, many of them young students, to the south to fight for civil rights.) "Membership in MCHR would remain open to members of the health profession and members of the public during the entire period of its existence," he continued. "By the time that the organization disbanded in 1980, it had been instrumental in many anti-racism and social justice activities in health, including calls for better medical care in Mississippi; national appeals to end segregation in medical care; the design and staffing of health clinics (some providing free care by volunteers); protests to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission to enforce anti-discrimination statutes; the battle for national health insurance; anti-nuclear activities; and, finally, the general fight to combat poverty and race as barriers to occupational and social mobility and access to health care in society." At its peak in 1971, MCHR had some 40 chapters with more than 20,000 members.

Ferguson discussed how the anti-racism agenda of MCHR had a unique influence on the mainstream civil rights movement, "by offering a critique of social and health status, which highlighted the empirical and material conditions under which Blacks and the poor lived." He also made the case for a "new synthesis" of the history of medicine and

the history of civil rights, "to address the important influence of older social and health Left movements on calls for an end to racism and oppression in the health and medical arena."

By early 1965, in the aftermath of Freedom Summer, MCHR had established a firm national foundation for health civil rights work. The organization (and many of its members, who would remain committed champions of equality in the health arena) would embark on a set of significant health activities and social justice projects over the next 25 years, said Ferguson.

And, although the struggle for health equality continues, there are many lessons to be gained from these efforts of three decades ago, he added.

"The need to challenge concepts of governmental intervention, social justice, and racism is perhaps no less pressing in 1998 than it was during the early 1960s," observed Ferguson. "Financial and non-financial barriers to health care access are still chronic problems for our racialized and marginalized urban communities.

"Though the temptation is strong to consign the story of civil rights and health activism solely to the annals of history, because we have won some major battles, we must not give in to this impulse," concluded Ferguson. "The work and legacy of MCHR might provide an inspiration for those who are still concerned with these issues." ■

Director's Seminar Set, Mar. 20

The NIH Director's Seminar Series of Friday noontime lectures in Bldg. 1's Wilson Hall continues on Mar. 20 with Dr. Susan Wray of the Laboratory of Neurochemistry, NINDS, speaking on "From the Olfactory Placode to the Hypothalamus—Development and Regulation of the LHRH Neuroendocrine System." Continuing medical education credit is available. ■

M.D. IPA, GEHA Service Days

Both M.D. IPA and GEHA health plans will be on the NIH campus Thursday, Mar. 19 to assist enrollees who have questions or enrollment/claims problems. Each plan's representative will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9. No appointment is necessary. Assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. ■

Injured on the Job?

Do you have a work-related upper extremity problem or injury, i.e., carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, or repetitive strain injury of the fingers, wrist, elbow or shoulder? USUHS is conducting a study that includes a \$40 payment. Volunteers must be ages 20-60, seen by a physician within the past month and currently working. Call (301) 295-9659. ■



Schlessinger Establishes New NIA Lab

Geneticist Dr. David Schlessinger is chief of the new Laboratory of Genetics at the National Institute on Aging Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore.

During his career, Schlessinger has made landmark contributions to both microbial and human genome studies. As director of the Center for Genetics in Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis for the past 10 years, his research included mapping the human X chromosome (based on mapping in yeast artificial chromosomes) and studying the pathophysiology of X-linked diseases related to human development and aging.

Schlessinger and researchers in NIA's human genetics unit, the transcription remodeling and regulation unit, and the gene recovery and analysis unit view aging as part of a developmental continuum. In their view, aging is dependent on an interplay of processes that begin in utero. "Overall, we want to link the analyses of aging in targeted systems to large-scale genomic study of the genes involved in the development of corresponding organs and processes," he says.

There are three major areas of research in Schlessinger's lab. First is the transition between immortal and mortal cells, particularly based on large-scale regulatory phenomena at the chromatin level. A fundamental feature of the initiation of aging in multi-cell animals is the transition from immortal embryonic stem cells to mortal differentiating cells, which can be analyzed at the level of gene regulation. Second are genes involved in the development of selected "nonrenewable" systems. In order to understand and ultimately try to compensate for loss of cells and tissues during aging, skin appendage and primitive kidney development are being studied as models. Third, genes involved in embryonic events that precede aging-related changes will be studied.

"I think that genomic studies of aging are also a logical extension of the genome approach, moving the analysis from a catalogue of genes to the determination of their spatial expression and function during the course of human development," Schlessinger says.

In addition to his research at NIA, Schlessinger serves as a councilor of the Human Genome Organization. He also served as president of the American Society for Microbiology in 1995.

He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University then took postdoctoral training at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. He joined the faculty at Washington University, where he was professor of molecular microbiology, genetics, and microbiology in medicine until coming to NIA. ■



Dr. Schlessinger

Storing and Preserving in Cyberspace

In some ways, the use of email and the Internet has raised issues of security, privacy and confidentiality never before confronted by modern society. On the other hand, prehistoric man was out searching for food, storing food, protecting it from those who might try to steal it, and deciding who to share it with. Email messages may contain information that has confidentiality requirements or should have access restricted to those with a need to know. NIH email messages are normally transmitted over unsecured data lines, and all email messages are subject to Freedom of Information Act requests and official investigations. Since NIH email is a government resource, there should be no expectation of privacy like you have with a letter sent to your home through the USPS mail. A good rule to follow for email messages is: If you would be embarrassed to see it on the front page of the *Washington Post*, don't send it.



You are responsible for managing your email messages (the subject of a future article) just as you are responsible for managing other records in your office. If your email messages are considered "official records" or if they have information that should have restricted access, you need to consider several security issues.

- What messages should you keep, and how long should you keep them?
- If you delete a message, how long will there be a backup copy available?
- Are there backups of your message other than the network backup?
- How long would it take to retrieve a deleted message from a backup file?
- Should you encrypt your email messages?
- Are your messages on a network drive or your own hard drive?
- Who has access to your email messages?
- Can someone make changes to your files without your permission?
- Can a hacker access your email messages through your network?

Your records management officer or your Privacy Act officer can answer questions about privacy and record keeping requirements. Your LAN administrator, your email administrator or your information systems security officer can answer questions about accessibility and security. More information on IT policy and security can be found at the OIRM Web site, <http://wwwwoirm.nih.gov/>...but don't tell anyone, it's supposed to be a secret.—Robert Lagas ■

NHLBI's Kamisar Retires After 42-Year Career

Sandy Kamisar, team leader of the publications production and tracking team, recently retired from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute after 42 years of service. Dr. Claude Lenfant, NHLBI director, expressed appreciation for her devotion. "Ms. Kamisar has played a significant part in the evolution of the NHLBI, and her dedication shows through her continuous loyalty to the institute. She has been truly committed to the mission of the institute, and her contributions are appreciated."

Kamisar started as a clerk stenographer in 1956 in the then National Heart Institute. Her responsibilities soon grew, however, and her jobs during the next two decades included: helping produce *The Doctor Reports*, a 15-minute TV show featuring former NHLBI director Dr. James Watt; maintaining the patient registry for human heart transplants; and writing and producing various popular publications.

In 1976, Kamisar became chief of the publications and distribution section. She also planned public affairs and conference activities, and designed and staffed NHLBI exhibits. She organized the first cardiopulmonary resuscitation training program for the institute, which nearly 400 staff members took.

Kamisar's supervisor Terry Long recalls Kamisar's commitment as "extraordinary. Her many years as a manager and mentor have given us a legacy of high standards and committed staff. We have much to thank her for." Former NHLBI director Dr. Robert Levy said, "I often ask myself, would I have left the NIH if I had realized that there were not folks like Sandy at every career stop? I will always remember and treasure Sandy Kamisar's commitment and loyalty to the NHLBI and what it stood for. I will also remember her freely speaking her mind (even to the boss) as to what she thought was right or wrong. Clearly Sandy's job slot can be filled, but she can never be replaced."

For nearly 20 years, she also served as mentor to support staff. Past and present employees under her supervision have benefitted from her efforts to empower women in the workforce including Judith Grover, acting director, Division of Extramural Outreach and Information Resources, OER, who notes, "Sandy was proud of her affiliation with the NHLBI and her efforts on its behalf. As a supervisor, she encouraged her staff to work independently, seek training to improve skills, and accept new challenges." Nancy Poole, another coworker, says, "Sandy was on the forefront of promoting job advancement and upward mobility for female colleagues."

Throughout her career, she has received many awards and honors including two NIH Awards of Merit. Kamisar contributed to NHLBI's 10th, 20th and 25th anniversaries, cochaired the 30th anniversary activities, and participated in 40th anniversary

events. She retired in the 50th anniversary year saying, "I have put in my time, and I want to move on to other adventures." As she reflects on her career, she remembers the best times. "I've seen the heart institute mature over 40 years. It's been an absolutely exciting place to be. I've enjoyed what I've done, and I feel I've had a full career."

Future plans include continuing her community service and Judaic studies, participating in elder hostels, enhancing her computer savvy, and enjoying some travel.—Laina Pack ■

Safe Computing in Unsafe Times

Computer security threats come in many guises, ranging from break-ins over the Internet to email spamming and misuse of government computing resources. Nowadays, every NIH computer user and system administrator needs to know safe computing practices that protect the integrity of data and the security of computing systems.

Is my electronic mail really private? What are my legal rights online? Can lawsuits result from online communications? Everyday users as well as those who manage systems will find answers to these and many other questions by attending a 1-day conference on information technology security, to be held Thursday, Apr. 2 from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Natcher Conference Center.

The conference kicks off with a keynote speech by Bob Aiken, network resources and Next Generation Internet program director at the Department of Energy, on "Security Challenges of the Next Generation Internet."

"The problems we now face with securing our networks and online resources will only be magnified by the technological advances introduced by the Next Generation Internet," says Aiken. "To secure or not to secure won't be the question—it will be when, how, and at what cost."

The afternoon keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Boster, deputy chief information officer for the Department of Justice and chair of the security subcommittee of the Federal Chief Information Officers Council, will address future directions in IT security with a focus on training, interoperability, security management, and identification of best practices. Breakout sessions cover firewalls, computer fraud, Internet threats, antivirus software, encryption and PKI technology, Cyber Law, and other topics.

The conference, sponsored by the Office of Information Resources Management, is free and open to all NIH and HHS staff. To register or for details about the program, see the OIRM Web site at <http://wwwwoirm.nih.gov>. Sign language interpretation will be provided for the keynote addresses. To request other accommodations, call IQ Solutions at (301) 984-1471 by Mar. 16.

Questions? Call 402-4459.

Talk on Preconception Health, Mar. 12

Dr. Yvonne S. Thornton will give a talk on "Preconception Health Promotion," on Thursday, Mar. 12, 8:45-9:45 a.m., in Natcher Conference Center auditorium. She is director, Perinatal Diagnostic Testing Center, Morristown, N.J., and a member of the faculty at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. She is author of *Woman to Woman*, and a frequent guest on *Good Morning America* and other national TV programs. All NIH employees are welcome. For more information, contact Kathleen Peterson, (703) 709-0922.



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

Assertive Leadership	4/16
Getting Results in Team Meetings	4/7
How Managers Design Organizations: Practical Guide for Choosing Structure	4/7
Thinking Systemically About Organizational Performance	4/8
Creating Distinctive Customer Service	4/21
Enhancing Interpersonal Relationships in the Work Environment	4/14
Manage Stress to Maximize Effectiveness	4/21
Fostering Creative Thinking and Innovation at Work	4/20

Communication Skills

Writing Skills Review	4/15
Ten Secrets to Powerful Writing	4/9
Power Presentation Skills	4/14
Conversational American Sign Language - Level II	4/7
Scientific and Medical Editing	4/16

Administrative Skills

Developing Positive Assertiveness	4/16
Your Telephone Image	4/17

Administrative Systems

Domestic Travel	4/13
Domestic Travel	4/20
Foreign Travel	4/16

Human Resource Management

Introduction to Human Resource Management	4/13
Qualification Analysis	4/9

Career Transition

NIH Retirement Seminar - CSRS	4/20
Goodbye 171, Hello Federal Resume	4/15

Computer Applications and Concepts

Introduction to Excel 5.0	4/14
Web Page Design - Advanced	4/7
Microsoft Outlook 97 - Fundamentals	4/14
Microsoft Word 97 Intermediate	4/8
PowerPoint 97 Fundamentals	4/13
MS Access 97 Advanced	4/20
Advanced Access 7.0 for Windows 95	4/13
Advanced WordPerfect 7.0 for Windows 95	4/14
Visual Basic 5.0 Advanced Windows 95	4/21
MS Word 7.0 Advanced	4/16
Excel 7.0 for Windows 95	4/15

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/>.

Producing Tables with SAS	3/11
Using Photoshop for Acquiring Scientific Images	3/11
Introduction to the NIH SP Parallel Computer	3/12
Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data	3/12-13
Parachute Startup for Windows 95	3/16
LAN Services and Email from Parachute	3/16
Macintosh Configuration for Parachute Network Access	3/17
Introduction to the Macintosh Operating System	3/17
SAS Macro Language	3/18-19
Database Technology Seminar	3/20
Advanced SAS Tabulate Features	3/23
Introduction to HTML	3/23
NIH Data Warehouse: Budget and Finance	3/24
Fundamentals of Unix	3/24-25
BRMUG Macintosh Users Group	3/24
Creating Composite Images with Photoshop	3/25
Lecture on Polymer Science	3/26
Seeking Information on the Web	3/26
DB2 and Oracle Data Definition, Control, and Advanced Manipulation	3/26-27

NIAID Council Welcomes Four New Members

The National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council recently welcomed four new appointees: Dr. Jorge L. Benach, professor of pathology in the School of Medicine at State University of New York, Stony Brook; Dr. Janis V. Giorgi, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the University of California in Los Angeles; Dr. Thomas J. Lawley, dean of the School of Medicine at Emory University; and Dr. Emil R. Unanue, chair of the department of pathology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Benach chairs the scientific and advisory board of the Tick-Borne Disease Institute of the New York State department of health.

An expert in AIDS immunology, Giorgi serves as director of the flow cytometry facility within UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Center for AIDS Research.

Lawley, formerly a senior investigator in the dermatology branch of the National Cancer Institute, is a frequent contributor to the scientific literature and has given several important guest lectures, including the Von Hebra Lecture at the Austrian Dermatology Society.

A member of the American Association of Immunologists, Unanue is also the Mallinckrodt professor of immunopathology at Washington University School of Medicine. ■



NIAID director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (r) welcomes new council members (from l) Dr. Emil R. Unanue, Dr. Jorge L. Benach, Dr. Janis V. Giorgi and Dr. Thomas J. Lawley.

NIH Computer Training Begins Third Decade

As the 1998 spring semester begins, the NIH computer training program celebrates its 30th anniversary by offering a wider range of classes than ever before. "For 30 years the program has offered cost-free courses designed to help people use their computers effectively," says Leslie Barden, chief of the training program. "This semester we've expanded the program to include 25 new classes on a variety of topics."

Eight new Web-related classes cover: HTML Tips; HTML Editors; Advanced HTML Tips and Tricks; Seeking Information on the Web; Netscape Communicator 4.0; New Features of Internet Explorer 4.0;

VBScript for Interactive Web Design; Using FileMaker Pro 4.0 on the Web.

Last term's expanded Windows curriculum was so popular that courses have been added for PC users: Windows 95 Registry; Eudora Pro for the PC at NIH; Learning Programming with QBasic.

Presentations for scientists offer guidance in: Creating Composite

Images with Photoshop; Designing Effective Scientific Slides; Introduction to Multimedia in Scientific Presentation; Creating Animated Web Presentations with PowerPoint—Advanced; Drawing Three-Dimensional Objects with Mathematica.

Another new course, "Numerical Optimization," emphasizes nonlinear programming and covers the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker optimality conditions for constrained problems.

For Unix users, the program continues to offer ALW (Advanced Laboratory Workstation) classes on several different levels including molecular modeling, DNA sequencing, statistical analysis, and desktop publishing, as well as basic C language and Unix courses.

The NIH Data Warehouse has added several new classes introducing recent software covering travel, workshop, and personnel costs (human resources). In addition, watch for new mini training sessions in travel and personnel.

"We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the volunteer teachers over the years who've taken the time to develop and teach courses in their areas of expertise," says Barden. "These volunteers keep the NIH computer training program at the forefront of new technologies."

Computer training announcements are listed in the

NIH Calendar of Events at <http://altmed.od.nih.gov/iitri/calendar/calendar.cgi>. Students may easily register for classes and check the status of their registration at <http://livewire.nih.gov>.

Classes are available without charge to all NIH staff and registered users of DCRT systems. For advice on selecting classes, or to obtain a printed copy of the training brochure, call 594-DCRT (594-3278). ■

Dr. Robert H. Purcell, head of the hepatitis viruses section at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, received the 1998 King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in a special ceremony in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 14. He shares the prize with Dr. John L. Gerin, director of the molecular virology and

immunology division at Georgetown University Medical Center, who has received NIAID support for many years. The two scientists, working in close collaboration, have devoted much of their research careers to the discovery, identification and characterization of various hepatitis viruses, and to development of diagnostic tests, treatments and preventive measures for hepatitis.



They were key in the development of the hepatitis A vaccine that is in use worldwide and have also developed a hepatitis E vaccine that is now in preclinical studies. Purcell and Gerin continue to collaborate on studies of mutual interest: testing a candidate hepatitis B vaccine in China; discovery of a new strain of hepatitis D virus in the jungles of Brazil; and studies on the epidemiology of hepatitis E virus in Pakistan.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Hazel M. Holden on Mar. 18, speaking on "Carbamoyl Phosphate Synthetase: A 96-angstrom Journey from Substrate to Product." She is professor, biochemistry department, and codirector, Institute for Enzyme Research, University of Wisconsin.

On Mar. 25, Dr. Rudolf Jaenisch, member, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and professor of biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will discuss "Mammalian X Chromosome Inactivation."

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



Leslie Barden, chief of the NIH computer training program