THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Astronaut Baker's Talk Inspires NIH Audience

By Gregory Roa

NIH'ers were treated to a close encounter of the inspiring kind when NASA astronaut Dr. Ellen S. Baker spoke on Mar. 26 at a ceremony celebrating Women's History Month. Before a packed audience in Lister Hill Auditorium, she showed breathtaking slides and regaled listeners with her chronicles of orbiting the Earth on three Space Shuttle missions. With candor and humor, she shared one woman's experience of literally being on top of the world at the frontiers of scientific discovery.

Growing up in New York, Baker dreamed not of space flight but of "playing baseball for the Yankees." Instead, she earned a medical degree and went to work at NASA's flight medicine clinic. In 1985, she became an astronaut and joined the Space

NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein (l) and NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady (r) welcome NASA astronaut Ellen Baker.

Shuttle crew. Testifying to NASA's commitment to integrate women into its headline-making missions, Baker said she "never felt any hindrance" to advancing within the program. Rigorous training and meticulous planning prepared her well for every assignment. Moreover, she received

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

April 21, 1998
Vol. L, No. 8

Who Has Clout in Budget Bouts?

Advocacy Groups Learn How To Waltz with NIH

By Rich McManus

Some of the biggest, savviest players in the game of winning more funding for health research visited the Natcher Bldg. recently for a STEP module on "Advocacy Groups: Partners in Research." No one made a bigger splash than closing speaker Sam Donaldson, the ABC-TV White House correspondent who dropped in late in the day to embody a megawatt sermon on grabbing attention for your cause by being wildly entertaining (a notion seconded by an ACT UP founder on the program who boasted "I helped take over this campus once."). Money may make Capitol Hill go 'round, suggested a chorus of speakers, but it tends to dog the trail of tears and laughter.

ABC's Sam Donaldson

There is no shame in scientists' descent from the ivory tower to pitch a story to the press, Donaldson declared. "Do not let your light be hidden under a

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NIH Pain Symposium Reinvigorates Field

By Stephanie E. Clipper

"It has no future but itself," wrote the poet Emily Dickinson about pain. Fortunately, the future is much brighter following a recent symposium called, "New Directions in Pain Research," held at the Natcher Conference Center.

NIDR director Dr. Harold Slavkin chairs a panel on systems and imaging.

The symposium, the first in a series of meetings on pain to be convened annually, served as the inaugural event of the recently established NIH Pain Research Consortium, which includes the participation of 21 NIH components. The meeting was also the first of its kind to bring together experts from the field of pain research with investigators from

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Mini-Med School Visits Hill

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to attend medical school? (Even if you already know all too well, keep reading anyway.) The third NIH Mini-Med School on Capitol Hill began Apr. 20 and runs for four consecutive Monday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Bldg. The school is being sponsored by NIH and the Association of American Medical Colleges, using faculty members drawn from NIH and medical schools.

While aimed at congressional staffers, the school is designed for anyone wanting to know more about modern biomedical and behavioral sciences. Students will gain a basic understanding of some of the serious medical issues facing the nation today. They will get their questions answered by interacting with faculty during and after each class. No formal academic credits are granted, although participants receive a Mini-Med School "diploma."

The curriculum and faculty for remaining sessions are:

Apr. 27, "The Contributions of Transplantation to Patient Care and to Basic Immunology," Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, professor of surgery and director of the Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

May 4, "Aging: Genes, Cells, and Selves," Dr. Richard J. Hodes, director, National Institute on Aging.

May 11, "Genetics of Breast Cancer: What Is Inherited? What Is Not?," Dr. Mary-Claire King, professor of medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine.

Admission is free. To enroll, call the registration line at 496-0609. If space is available, walk-in registrations will be accepted. For more information call the Office of Science Education, 402-2469. ■

Forum on Alternative Dispute Resolution

"Achieving Desired Results," a free, 1-day forum on alternative dispute resolution will be held Thursday, Apr. 30 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Natcher Conference Center. Presentations and interactive sessions will highlight various ADR tools, focusing primarily on HHS practices.

Workshops include "mediation instead of litigation," "dialogue with practicing ombuds," and "roundtable discussion of real life experiences." Participants will also learn about new federal ADR initiatives and how they may affect the way government does business. All HHS employees, as well as other interested federal workers, are invited to attend. Complimentary continental breakfast and box lunch are included for those who preregister. For more information or to register, contact the Parklawn Training Center, (301) 443-6790, (301) 443-6990 (TDD), fax (301) 443-4264. ■

Hypercholesterolemic Men Needed

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting men with a history of elevated cholesterol for a study assessing the effect of a new therapeutic approach to preventing and treating atherosclerosis in men. Participants may have a history of coronary artery disease, but must be in good general health and not be taking any cholesterol-lowering or vitamin therapies for 2 months prior to the study. Volunteers will be paid. Phone 435-4038 or 496-3666.

Sen. Connie Mack (c) of Florida toured a patient unit with NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus (r) and Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg, chief of NCI's Surgery Branch, during a visit on Mar. 23. A long-time supporter of funding for biomedical research, Mack came to NIH for a number of presentations on current intramural programs and to hold a luncheon discussion with the directors of several institutes. While visiting the Clinical Center, he was able to meet a patient from his home state who is benefiting from the latest "cancer vaccine" trials.

High Cholesterol Study Recruits

The Cardiology Branch, NHLBI, is recruiting patients with high cholesterol levels (250 mg/dL or higher) who have no other medical problems to be included in a 1-day outpatient study. Participants will be paid. Call 496-8739. ■

NIH RECORD

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through Sept. 30, 1998.

NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03

Phone 496-2125
Fax 402-1485

Web address
http://www.nih.gov/news/NIH-Record/archives.htm

Editor
Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

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No More DCRT

Graeff Named CIO, Will Head Center for Information Technology

By Joan Chamberlain

NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus has named Alan S. Graeff the first chief information officer (CIO) of NIH. Graeff will work with the NIH community to develop a vision and set of goals for information technology (IT), establish an integrated IT architecture, implement investment planning for IT, and develop long-term strategies for making the best use of IT resources at NIH. In his new role, Graeff will head the newly formed Center for Information Technology (CIT), which combines the Division of Computer Research and Technology, the Office of Information Resources Management in OD, and the Telecommunications Branch in ORS.

By creating the center and appointing a CIO, Varmus implemented two major recommendations of the NIH information technology central committee on the management of NIH's computing, networking and telecommunications resources. The committee recommended appointment of a chief information officer to head a center that would address all existing NIH information technology and related functions and clearly define responsibilities for central leadership and service across all NIH. Varmus will be appointing a board of governors that will work with Graeff to define the CIT mission.

New CIO Alan Graeff

"The CIO appointment and the formation of the Center for Information Technology will facilitate the development of effective strategies, policies and standards for information technology, a resource that is critical to the efficient conduct of NIH research and administration," Varmus said.

Graeff, who headed the interoperability group of the ITCC, has a wide range of experience developing successful IT projects that have a major impact on how biomedical research is conducted at NIH. "This experience gives Al a clear understanding of the needs of both scientists and administrators for information technology. He brings a record of outstanding leadership and management of information systems to his new role as CIO," added Varmus.

Since 1995, Graeff served as chief of the Clinical Center's information systems department, where he oversaw a major IT reorganization that introduced a centralized infrastructure based on technical standards, reliable architecture, and high levels of customer support. He created a unified support structure for IT in the CC's diverse environment of clinical research, patient services and administration.

In his prior position as chief of NIAID's technical systems section, Graeff was responsible for building the institute's first wide area network comprising 12 locations across the country and serving 1,400 computer users. He also designed and implemented an NIAID acquisition workflow system that streamlined the institute's acquisition and planning processes.

In earlier positions, Graeff worked as a biologist for NCI's Metabolism Branch and NIAID's Laboratory of Cellular Immunology. He holds a B.S. in distributed sciences from American University.

"I look forward to the tremendous challenges and possibilities that I know exist for IT at NIH. As we begin the process of merging TCB, OIRM and DCRT into a single organization, I plan to create a center of excellence built upon a positive and constructive partnership with the NIH community, one that provides a high level of customer satisfaction," said Graeff. ■

Use IC Instead of ICD

With the recent establishment of the Center for Information Technology, no divisions report directly to the NIH director. Therefore, the initials "IC" should be used in lieu of "ICD" as the official NIH organizational term used to refer to all research institutes, the National Library of Medicine, and centers reporting directly to the director, NIH, according to Tony Itteilag, NIH deputy director for management.

Karen Ciaschi (second from l) of the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association accepts a check on behalf of the Clinical Center's Patient Emergency Fund. The NIH Community Orchestra raised the $758.18 during its Messiah Concert held last December. On hand for the check presentation are (from l) orchestra members Charles Tolbert, Wendy Williams of R&W, conductor Gary Daum and John Chik. For more information about the orchestra, visit its Web site at http://www.gprep.org/~music/nih.

PAIN SYMPOSIUM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other scientific disciplines, including neurobiology.

The consortium got its start in 1996 and draws its membership from the directors of NIH institutes, offices and centers and their staffs. It is designed to promote pain research and to increase awareness in the various NIH ICs in order to stimulate collaborative research initiatives, to coordinate both intramural and extramural research programs, and to foster and maintain contact with research and patient communities.

"For the first time, scientists within the mainstream of pain research were exposed to the work of investigators who do not normally focus on this area," said NINDS health scientist administrator Dr. Cheryl Kitt, one of the organizers of the meeting. "In this way, we were able to bring new ideas, methodologies and techniques to pain researchers, where novel approaches to understanding and treating pain are greatly needed."

Noted cancer pain specialist Dr. Kathleen M. Foley of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York presented a clinical overview of pain. "We at the bedside bring to you an enormous challenge," she said. "The message to the public is often, 'we can't treat pain.'"

Foley called the under-treatment of pain "a very serious public health issue," and made reference to "a national tragedy that is evolving." The statistics are staggering, she said. Pain costs the country $65 billion lost in work productivity per year and 4 billion work days lost—515 million of them by full-time employees—with 40 million visits per year to physicians for "new" pain and $3 billion in sales each year of over-the-counter analgesics.

Dr. Kathleen Foley

"Pain is often considered a subjective experience but it involves very, very specialized systems that have their own signature," said Dr. Ronald Dubner, formerly with the National Institute of Dental Research and now on the faculty of the University of Maryland's Dental School.

"The field of pain research is poised to benefit enormously from the revolution in modern biology that has occurred over the last few years," said former NINDS director Dr. Zach Hall, who co-chaired the symposium with NIDR director Dr. Harold Slavkin. "We can expect to transform and reinvigorate the field."

"Bedside to bench may be just as important as bench to bedside," said NIDR intramural pain investigator Dr. Mitchell Max, who offered the participants a probing roundup of clinical opportunities in the field of pain research. "Well-designed human experiments are crucial to prioritize the large number of appealing hypotheses developed in animal experiments."

Dr. Ronald Dubner of the University of Maryland, formerly of NIDR

Max pointed out that because the field of pain research was largely founded by anesthesiologists, oncologists, neurologists and dentists, most clinical research in pain is focused in a few specialty areas, including postoperative pain, cancer pain, headache, nerve injury and facial pain.

"Although surgery can now be painless and cancer patients can be made remarkably comfortable, many chronic pain conditions remain resistant to treatment," he added, indicating a role for NIH in demonstrating feasibility studies and in designing methodology to further research.

Pain costs the country $65 billion lost in work productivity per year and 4 billion work days lost.

"Conditions such as gastrointestinal, urological, gynecological and cardiac pain affect tens of millions of Americans, but as yet receive relatively little study in the clinic," Max said. "Recent discoveries at the bench about the basis of visceral pain offer great opportunities if we can attract specialists in these areas to explore the mechanisms and treatment of these disorders."

The consortium has already given rise on campus to the formation of a Pain Interest Group and an NIH extramural staff work group on pain. The consortium is also expected to launch a Web page and a series of program announcements or RFAs. Summary reports from the meeting are scheduled to appear in the journals *Neuron* and *Science*.

"The time was right to have a meeting like this," said Dubner, who added that the meeting would serve as "the framework upon which the future of all pain management will be based."

In the next issue of the *Record*: "Glimpses into the Future of Pain Relief." ■

Healthy Male Volunteers Needed

The cognitive neuroscience section, NINDS, seeks healthy men age 45 and older with less than a bachelor's degree to participate in a study on how memory changes across the lifespan. Participation requires 3-4 hours and participants will be paid $40 to $50, depending on time involved. For more information call 402-0060 and ask for the lifespan study.

More Focus, Homegrown Music

Research Festival '98 Preparations Under Way

Preparations are under way for the 1998 NIH Research Festival, scheduled for Oct. 6-9. This year's organizing committee, chaired by Dr. Arthur Levine, NICHD scientific director, has already planned a number of major symposia to be coordinated with poster sessions. Registration for the posters begins now and runs until June 5. Authors may submit poster entries online or by fax. Details are available at the Festival '98 Web site, http://silk.nih.gov/silk/fest98/, which can be accessed from the News and Events section of the NIH home page.

"We've made some changes in the Research Festival's format," said Levine, who designed and chaired one of the initial festivals in 1989. "It's a less diffuse program that goes back to its original purpose: To bring together the NIH intramural research community in all of its scientific diversity, but at the same time to focus on a set of research themes that are broadly important and still emerging." The program for this fall, developed also with Dr. Story Landis, NINDS scientific director, and Dr. Scott Whitcup, clinical director for NEI, adds many innovative ideas to the annual celebration.

A principal move is to start the schedule with a day-long Job Fair for NIH postdoctoral fellows on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Spearheaded by James Alexander and Shirley Forehand of the Office of Education, the fair is expected to include many industrial firms as well as academic institutions and other nonprofits seeking to hire fellows for full-time positions.

Following Tuesday's Job Fair, the festival's scientific meetings will be condensed into a new 3-day format running Oct. 7, 8 and 9. Each morning begins with a plenary session focusing on topics of wide interest to the scientific community. Wednesday's session is titled "The Origins of Life," a joint NIH-NASA program, with researchers from both organizations exploring planetary evolution and its implications for prebiotic life, as well as the earliest events in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic evolution. On Thursday, Oct. 8, a plenary session on apoptosis is planned. Friday, Oct. 9 features "From Bedside to Bench," a plenary session on clinical science.

The morning plenary sessions will be followed each day by six concurrent mini-symposia. Hundreds of suggestions for topics were solicited from the NIH interinstitute interest groups and from individuals, and these were culled into crosscutting presentations. The result is a lineup of 18 mini-symposia that are broader in scope than the workshop format of previous festivals, and more engaging to a wider range of researchers than in the past.

On each day of the festival, the Technical Sales Association (TSA) will host a lunchtime picnic complete with musical entertainment provided by some "local talent." One of the featured bands will be a much-touted but seldom seen group, "The Directors," appropriately named after the daytime jobs of band members Stephen Katz of NIAMS, Francis Collins of NHGRI, and NCI's Richard Klausner. In addition to the daily picnics, the TSA will again run its popular Research Festival Exhibit Show with displays from many manufacturers of the latest lab equipment on Thursday and Friday, simultaneous with the scientific program.

As usual, the Research Festival will include poster sessions slated for each afternoon, correlating themes of that day's earlier symposia with hundreds of posters. Researchers from all institutes are invited to submit poster abstracts. Laboratory directors are encouraged to limit the number of posters submitted by combining similar titles or otherwise consolidating entries. Posters displayed during the festival will be selected by the organizing committee and symposia chairs, and some symposia speakers may be selected from the poster submissions. Applicants can submit entries online at the festival Web site (see address above). They can also email the required information to Gregory Roa, gr25v@nih.gov, or fax a printed copy of the form to Research Festival Posters, 402-0601.

The deadline to submit poster applications is 5 p.m., Friday, June 5. To obtain a printed entry form or for more information, visit the Web site or call 496-1776. ■

TDCs Hold Spring Lecture Series

NIH's technology development coordinators are holding a spring lecture series. All talks are held from 2 to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 31's C-wing conference area.

Thursday, Apr. 30, Conf. Rm. 6—Dr. George Keller will give a lecture on "Patent License Monitoring at the NIH Office of Technology Transfer." His talk will cover such subjects as patent royalty collection, patent infringement and corporate compliance.

Wednesday, May 6, Conf. Rm. 10—Dr. John Schneller, Spencer and Frank law firm, will give a lecture on "Domestic and Foreign Patent Procedure." He will cover topics such as patent filing deadlines within the U.S. and foreign countries, and patent law terminology.

Tuesday, May 12, Conf. Rm. 10—Attorneys Michael Moore and Richard Sauer, Securities and Exchange Commission, will give a lecture on "The Impact of Insider Trading Laws in the Medical Research Community." The talk will alert researchers and clinicians to the legal ramifications of disseminating nonpublic information about clinical trial results.

For more information, contact Lauren Neal, 402-5579.

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basket. It is not beneath you to be originators, to come to us and say, "Have I got a story for you!," he boomed. "Don't be reluctant to drop your scientific mien. I'd rather be full of cash for medical research and be accused of being 'popular,' than be poor and pristine."

Treated successfully for melanoma at the Clinical Center a few years ago, Donaldson called himself an alumnus of NCI and thundered, "I don't want to see

The panel included (from l) AIDS activist David Barr, lobbyist Michael Stephens, Sue Levi-Pearl of the Tourette Syndrome Association, Fran Visco of NBCC and Mary Woolley of Research!America.

(Surgery Branch Chief Steve) Rosenberg out at the synagogue, or eating at a restaurant on a Tuesday night—get back to the lab!"

Another speaker, Mike Stephens, who for 21 years served on the staff of the Senate appropriations committee overseeing NIH's budget (and who now lobbies on behalf of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology) said "the most powerful thing [in influencing Congress] is patient advocacy. I routinely teared up at 21 years worth of hearings. Putting a human face on a disease is enormously powerful...it's not the analytic that's persuasive, but believing in a humanitarian cause."

Lobbyist Terry Lierman said, "The goal of research is to die young as late in life as possible."

Speaker Terry Lierman, another Hill lobbyist who once worked at NIH and was a management intern, illustrated the importance of evoking emotion with a vignette from his days as a staffer to Sen. Warren Grant Magnuson: "Sen. Magnuson once very gently explained to Ruth (Kirschstein, now NIH deputy director but then director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences), 'No one ever died of general medical sciences.'"

Capable of adopting as ferocious a game face as any coach, Lierman insisted that advocates for medical research display passion for their causes. "It's the people who put a face on the disease who are effective," he declared. "This isn't some 9 to 4 job, though I'm afraid that's what it's becoming for a lot of people."

Like a coach, he was given to aphorism: "Followup is the chariot of genius. More in politics than in anything else, it's the essence of being successful."

Session moderator Diane Wax, director of NIH's Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis (and an MI from Lierman's year, 1971), said Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, namesake of the new Clinical Research Center being built in front of Bldg. 10, once told her and NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus that "'When voters visit their representatives in their district offices, it's the most effective form of advocacy because the member [of Congress] thinks of that person as his or her voting constituency.'"

Laughter and tears were tremendously effective weapons for the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), one of whose founders, David Barr, spoke about media savvy and street theatre as ways of turning "deaf ears" at FDA and NIH into seats at the tables of power.

Almost as forceful a speaker as Donaldson, Barr, a lawyer who helped found the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, told a coming-of-age tale that began with the tantrums of youth (including the May 21, 1990, demonstration at NIH), and continued through the brashness of demanding quick access to unproven therapies (which, he conceded, turned out to be a disaster) to his current state: a hunger for good data that would rival that of any driven AIDS researcher.

"We've come a long way when a patient advocate can head a group (he directs the Forum for Collaborative AIDS Research) composed of drug companies and federal researchers," he joked.

Barr called pentamidine therapy for *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia the most useful breakthrough for AIDS sufferers since the discovery of HIV. "To hell with protease inhibitors," he said, "PCP prophylaxis has done far more to save lives."

Skill at attention-getting—he recounted protests on Wall Street about the price of AZT and drama on the unlikely stage of the Parklawn Bldg. grounds—earned activists seats on community constituent groups (CCGs), where "patients play a direct role in setting priorities for protocols," he said. "If patients are at the table, it will make for better research," Barr said, emphasizing that CCG members are well-informed, not "tokens."

He concluded with a plea for more clinical research, and more long-term clinical data. "I need good data more than anyone else," he said, sounding more like a convert to bench science than a provocateur.

ASCO founder Dr. John Durant

Though there's nothing like having a Christopher Reeve as your spokesman (NIH's Wax called the actor "a magnificent advocate for spinal cord injury—stars

have great influence on the Hill"), another approach combines boardroom savvy with a willingness to throw rocks. "We believe we have been successful at both," said Fran Visco, president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition since the group began in 1991. A former antiwar activist from the sixties who later joined the "establishment" as a corporate lawyer in Philadelphia, she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987 at the age of 38, with a 14-month-old child. The diagnosis returned her to a life of activism. Unlike the other advocates, however, she is loathe to rely on her personal crisis as a motive for action. "At (funding) decision time, we want to be at the table with informed opinion, not my personal story. My own experience is not important in this context."

Just as scientists have little use for anecdote, Visco, adopting the stringency of a corporate boardroom/lab bench hybrid, relies solely on being so thoroughly versed in the latest data on cancer, and so intimately acquainted with the needs of breast cancer patients that scientists would be foolish not to seek NBCC's input when designing clinical trials. "We're partners and collaborators with research scientists," she stated. "We can help design research protocols and proposals. We really do know what we're talking about—we don't just bang the table and scream. We consider ourselves responsible activists."

Fran Visco heads the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

Active is the right word—NBCC is composed of some 432 organizations around the country, claims 52,000 members, runs an array of intensive training programs, holds its own hearings on cancer funding (the "$300 Million More" campaign went cross country to Capitol Hill to garner funds for breast cancer research from the Department of Defense—talking tough, Visco said NBCC will "never forgive nor forget" those who opposed this effort), and is gaining respect from such bodies as the American Association of Cancer Research, Visco said. Another speaker on the program, Dr. John Durant, president of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia and a founder of the American Society for Clinical Oncology, said NBCC members "were very helpful contributors" in DoD peer-review sessions: "They convinced the skeptics in the group that it works (to have advocates on peer-review panels), and they got a better quality of review," he said.

Visco charged, "NIH leadership has not embraced the partnership (with NBCC) to the extent of some individual scientists and DoD." She claimed that "there are many tables at NIH around which people give all kinds of advice, and no action is taken."

Wax countered, "In a way, that may be true," but said NIH is struggling to review how it sets priorities for research, and that "we're looking at new ways of opening doors to let advocates in on the process." NIH, she said, gives advocacy groups technical assistance—"we don't lobby, we educate Congress"—so that the groups can go lobby on the Hill. She said NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus, like Lierman's mentor Mary Woodard Lasker, a famed philanthropist, believes that a bigger overall NIH budget helps all constituents—in other words, a rising tide lifts all boats.

Wax conceded that, even within NIH, NCI has one cancer fighting another type of cancer. "There are some 600 neurological diseases," she explained, "and we have Parkinson's fighting ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). They all want to see more dollars, more program announcements, more RFAs, and earmarks."

She concluded, "NIH couldn't do what it does without advocates. Dr. Varmus always thanks these groups when he speaks to them. You should talk to your program people and bench scientists," she counseled the audience, composed mainly of extramural NIH'ers, "and get them excited about research, and not just at NIH.

OD's Diane Wax says her job description is simple: "I try to keep bad things from happening."

"Each member of Congress has some health issue—we all age, some get heart disease, others get cancer or diabetes. There's a built-in advocacy."

Wax said NIH's partnerships with myriad advocacy groups have Congress seriously considering eight bills to double NIH's budget. "NIH will have (the advocates) to thank if it happens." ■

Have a Work-Related Injury?

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, currently working and available for a 1-hour meeting. Call (301) 295-9659. ■

Little Theatre To Perform Gershwin

"Gershwin, by George!" is the title of the spring musical presented by the Bethesda Little Theatre May 1 through 16 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, celebrating the 100th birthday of composer George Gershwin. Times and dates of the performances are Fridays and Saturdays (May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16) at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees May 3 and 10 at 3 p.m. To accommodate the hearing-impaired, some performances will be signed. Ticket prices are $10 for adults, $7 for seniors, and $5 for children 12 and under. Admission is free for Clinical Center patients and their families. Tickets may be purchased at R&W stores or at the door; group discounts are available. Proceeds will be donated to PEF and Camp Funshine. For information, call Elaine Hughes, (301) 598-0720.

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much encouragement from the women who went before her, including close friend Shannon Lucid, whom she described as being "completely at home" in space.

Despite hours in flight simulators, stated Baker, nothing could have readied her for the awesome vistas encountered hundreds of miles above Earth. Her many slides evoked ooh's and ahh's from the NIH'ers as they viewed some familiar sites from a new perspective: Manhattan Island aglow by night, the Florida peninsula spread out like a miniature clay model, and Chesapeake Bay basking in sunlight. With a clinician's eye for observation and diagnosis, Baker brought home the impact of human activity upon the world's ecosystem with stunning photographs of the perpetual fires from slash-and-burn farming in the Amazon rainforests, and the oil-blackened deserts polluted during the Gulf War. "We take pictures of everything and take them back to the experts to analyze" on the ground, she said. The images from space eloquently conveyed our planet's fragile beauty.

Each shuttle crew tries to gather as much data as possible during the precious few days in space. NASA is studying such flight-related medical problems as bone loss and radiation exposure. The astronauts also face challenges to their sleep cycles, partly due to the constantly changing light—they often see the sun rise or set every 45 minutes in orbit. This phenomenon, combined with the excited pace of mission activity plus the lack of anything resembling a real bed, can cause serious sleep deprivation and fatigue. Getting sleep was easy for Baker, however; her secret, she quipped, was something any mother could understand. "The distraction from sleep in space is nothing like the distraction of children" back home; she has two young daughters.

Baker carried out two special missions. On one flight, the shuttle linked up with the Russian space station Mir for a fascinating but linguistically challenging information exchange. On another voyage, the payload included a mini-biomedical research laboratory. Among other studies, scientists grew protein crystals in micro gravity, resulting in products with structural characteristics nearly impossible to duplicate on Earth. Baker also conducted cardiovascular exams, muscle tissue biopsies and a host of other clinical tests.

Describing some side effects of weightlessness, she pointed out that fluids tend to flow toward the head, meaning "your legs look skinny, which is good, but your face looks fatter, which isn't."

Returning to Earth presents other medical concerns. The astronauts' neurovestibular systems usually take 2-3 days acclimating to space travel, but in some cases readjusting to Earth's gravity can take weeks. Longer trips mean more serious disruptions to inner ear balance, a fact significant for space travelers making lengthy voyages on space stations or to distant sites like Mars.

Such projects loom large in both NASA's future and Baker's. She no longer flies missions but still works with the shuttle program and for the development of an international space station, a venture that could provide a stable platform for more experiments in the life sciences. Women such as Baker will continue to advance the space program, furthering our human endeavors and discoveries while exploring the heavens.

In gratitude for her uplifting lecture, NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady awarded Baker with a specially designed plaque that serves as a clock. Etched on its face is this year's celebration theme: "Women: Remembering the Past, Discovering the Future," a mission accomplished very successfully by Baker's high-flying lecture. ■

Gershwin Choral Tunes Concert, May 7

The Congressional Chorus will perform a selection of Gershwin choral tunes at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 in the Clinical Center's 14th floor assembly hall. Reservations are not required, but space is limited for this free public concert, sponsored by the CC recreation therapy section. For more information call Jenny Strasburger, 496-7028 or Jane Millman, 496-5157.

Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program

The National Cancer Institute is accepting applications for the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program, a 3-year program for M.D.s or holders of doctorates in a health-related field that begins in July 1999; applications are due by Sept. 1, 1998.

The program offers master of public health training during the first year at accredited universities followed by independent research opportunities within NCI in the Rockville area. There is also a summer cancer prevention and control academic course, which is part of the fellowship program, but open to physicians and scientists interested in specialized instruction on the principles and practices of cancer prevention and control. It is held for 6 weeks beginning in July at Executive Plaza South; prior experience in epidemiology is recommended.

For more information contact Barbara Redding, 496-8640, or email br24v@nih.gov. ■

Forum on Emerging Infectious Diseases

The STEP Forum series presents, "Outbreak! The Real Story on Emerging Infectious Diseases," Tuesday, Apr. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. It will provide a comprehensive view of emerging infectious diseases from several perspectives, including countermeasures to be taken by government, industry and individuals, and obstacles to successful prevention and control.

Speaking will be: James Meegan, NIAID, moderator; Stephen Morse, Columbia University School of Public Health; Benjamin Schwartz, Centers for Disease Prevention and Control; Dale Morse, Wadsworth Center and New York State department of health; Dr. John LaMontagne, NIAID. For more information call 435-2769. ■

Garden Club Meets, May 7

The next NIH Garden Club meeting will be Thursday, May 7, noon to 1 p.m., in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 8. Plant swaps will resume; if you bring a plant to swap, you can take home a plant someone else brought in. Please attach plant name and nurturing information.

Want fresh, organically grown vegetables this summer and, at the same time, support distribution of vegetables in the inner city? At the February meeting, representatives from the organization From the Ground Up described their program. A pick-up site close to NIH will be established if 15 people express interest. Check the NIH Garden Club Web site for more information: http://www.recgov.org/r&w/garden/info/fgu.htm

Want to keep up with garden news? Join the club's email list at http://hubbabubba.nomius.com:81/guest/RemoteListSummary/NIHGarden and follow directions. You can also send an email message to: NIHGarden-request@list.recgov.org with the word "subscribe" in the message area. Either way, you should receive a welcome message with information about how the list works. ■

NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman welcomes new members to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council. They are (from l) Dr. Eva J. Neer, a professor of medicine (biochemistry) at Harvard Medical School and a senior biochemist in the department of medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston; Dr. Lila M. Gierasch, a professor of chemistry and head of the department of chemistry at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and Dr. Angeline Abraham Lazarus, chairman of the department of internal medicine at the National Naval Medical Center and an associate professor of clinical medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Not shown is Dr. Daniel J. Kevles, the J.O. and Juliette Koepfli professor of the humanities at California Institute of Technology.

'Take Your Child to Work Day,' May 28

NIH will observe "Take Your Child to Work Day" on Thursday, May 28. Look in future issues of the *NIH Record* for details on the schedule of activities. For more information, contact O.H. Laster, NIH Office of Equal Opportunity, 496-6302. ■

Save Steps, Time

Medical Arts & Photography Branch To Centralize Reception, Pick-up Areas

If you have ever had a poster designed, ordered copies of a slide or picked up a videotape, you have probably used the services offered at the campus's Medical Arts & Photography Branch (MAPB). If you have ever needed to do any combination of those things at the same time, you know the challenges of navigating the B2L area of Bldg. 10, where the different sections of MAPB reside. In the example above, you once would have had to visit three different offices. But no more.

MAPB will centralize its reception and pick-up areas on Friday, May 1.

Since reorganizing with the Office of Research Services, MAPB has been brainstorming ways to serve its clients better. One result is to offer "one-stop shopping," beginning May 1. Reception and pick-up for all MAPB services will be operated from one convenient, time-saving location.

"With improvements in technology," notes Ken Ryland, MAPB video section chief, "our sections are not as clean-cut as they once were. Centralizing the reception services makes sense for us and for our customers. MAPB anticipates this consolidation will make things a lot more convenient for our customers."

As Lew Bass, photography section chief, points out: "This has already worked well for two of our sections (photography and visual arts)."

What will change:

- Routine jobs—photo or slide reproduction, poster titles, videotape copies—will be received and coordinated by a centralized professional staff member.
- Before leaving the reception area clients will receive a copy of their request.
- All finished jobs will now be stored conveniently in one location, awaiting pick-up by the client.
- Central reception will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; completed jobs will be available for pick-up until 5:15 p.m.

What will remain unchanged:

- MAPB staff will continue to schedule appointments.
- If a quick call got the job done before, a quick call will still handle it after May 1.
- Phone numbers for all the sections will not change.
- Jobs transmitted via the Internet will continue.
- The drop-off box located in 31/3B23 will continue.

If you have questions about the new centralized reception and pick-up areas, or any general queries about MAPB, call 496-3221. ■

NEI's Barbara Underwood Retires

By Michael Coogan

Dr. Barbara Underwood, considered one of the world's foremost authorities in the field of nutrition and the biochemical aspects of vitamin A, retired from the National Eye Institute on Feb. 27.

She joined NEI in September 1982 as a special assistant to the director, with responsibility for the nutrition research and international programs. In April 1989, she was named assistant director for international program activities. Underwood helped establish the institute's successful collaborative research program with the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad, India, and other institutions in India. As a result of her research, she wrote several articles related to vitamin A deficiency, cataract and other eye problems in India, which in turn facilitated development of programs that help control and treat eye disease in that country and elsewhere.

Dr. Barbara Underwood

"Largely because of Dr. Underwood's efforts, the NEI's collaboration with scientists and researchers in India and other countries continues today," said NEI director Dr. Carl Kupfer. "Barbara's research has led to identifying the cause of many visual disorders affecting developing countries. She has been a crusader in promoting the importance of improved nutrition in delaying or preventing vision problems. Barbara greatly contributed to the mission of the NEI, and her influence on global nutritional issues is recognized in the international arena."

Underwood earned her Ph.D. in nutritional biochemistry from Columbia University, and throughout her career has been involved with basic and field research in nutrition. More recently, she has been active in policy formulation. Underwood taught and conducted research at the University of Maryland, Columbia University, Penn State, and MIT before joining NEI. "My proudest achievement has been my relationships with students, particularly international students, and working with and supporting them after they have returned to their native countries," she said.

Underwood took a leave of absence from NEI in January 1992 to serve as coordinator of the World Health Organization's micronutritional program, and returned to NEI's Division of Biometry and Epidemiology in October 1996. She has authored or coauthored more than 100 articles in the area of basic and applied nutrition and nutritional biochemistry.

In August, Underwood assumed a 4-year term as president of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.

"We are making progress in controlling vitamin A deficiency, and even more progress with eliminating iodine deficiency disorders," she said. "But we are not doing so well in controlling iron deficiency anemia."

Underwood has accepted an honorary position at the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, where she will be a scholar in residence with the Food and Nutrition Board.

"While I am sad to leave the NEI and NIH, I am looking forward to continuing to contribute to global nutritional issues that can improve health and quality of life," she said. ■

Stress Study Needs Vols

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is recruiting volunteers for a brief research study investigating the value of educational components relating to stress. This study takes approximately 2 hours over two visits to the lab. Also, you will complete some simple "homework" assignments and several questionnaires. Volunteers should have no current or past psychological diagnosis or treatment history. Participants will be paid $50 upon completion of the study. For more information visit http://members.aol.com/anxietylab or call Darin Lerew at (301) 295-9665.

FARE Rewards Research Excellence

The Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE) this year will again provide recognition for outstanding scientific research. The NIH fellows committee will award 130 basic science and clinical fellows with $1,000 each toward domestic travel and other costs associated with a scientific meeting. The money must be used between Oct. 1, 1998, and Sept. 30, 1999.

Applications, including abstracts, may be electronically submitted, starting June 15 via ftp://helix.nih.gov/felcom/index.html. Access to the electronic application is available at the User Resource Center in Bldg. 31. Submissions may also be hand-delivered to the Office of Education, Bldg. 10, Rm. 1C129 by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 24. Winners will be announced by mid-October. Questions should be directed by email to fellows@box-f.nih.gov or to your institute's fellow committee representative.

FARE '99 is sponsored by the scientific directors, the Office of Education and the Office of Research on Women's Health. FARE '98 was very competitive; 605 abstracts were submitted, of which 120 were selected to receive an award. This represents an overall success rate of 19.8 percent. ■

National Day of Prayer

The President and the Congress of the United States have designated Thursday, May 7 as a day to take time out to pray for America and for the people of the nation. NIH'ers are invited to bring a heart full of prayer and a friend, and gather around the flagpole in front of Bldg. 1 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to celebrate the National Day of Prayer. ■

Communication Study Needs Males

The USUHS department of medical and clinical psychology needs healthy male volunteers, ages 18-45, to participate in a 3-hour study on men's communication processes. Volunteers will be paid $30. Call (301) 295-9672. ■

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'ers. For details call 496-6211 or visit DWD online at http://www-urc.od.nih.gov/dwd/dwdhome.html.

Courses and Programs	*Starting Dates*
Management, Supervisory & Professional Development	
Successful Management at NIH	5/19
An Introduction to Strategic Planning	5/19
The General Schedule: Supervisory, Team and Work Leadership	5/28
Communication Skills	
Effective Listening and Memory	5/20
Administrative Skills	
How to Deal with Frustrating Situations	5/20
Creating and Maintaining Filing Systems	5/19
Administrative Systems	
Domestic Travel	5/18
Introduction to NIH Property Management	5/26
Career Transition	
Trans-FERS Train-the-Trainer	5/20, 28
Computer Applications and Concepts	
Excel 7.0 for Windows Overflow	5/28
Introduction to MS Word 6.0	5/19
Front Page: Introduction to Web Publishing	5/21
Introduction to Windows 95	5/20
Windows 95 Intermediate: Customizing Your System	5/27
MS Word 7.0 Intermediate	5/22
WordPerfect 7.0 for Windows 95 Introduction	5/19

CIT Courses and Programs

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

NIH Data Warehouse: Travel	4/27
Using SAS to Publish Web Pages	4/27
LISTSERV Electronic Mailing Lists	4/27
SAS Fundamentals I & II	4/27-29
NIH Data Warehouse: Workshop	4/28
Macintosh Shortcuts and Techniques I	4/28
BRMUG Macintosh Users Group	4/28
Learn Programming with QBasic	4/28-5/1
C ++ for C Programmers	4/28-5/1
Creating Web Presentations w/PowerPoint 97	4/29
Preparing Scientific Images for Publication	4/29
Advanced Web Presentations w/PowerPoint 97	4/30
Account Sponsor Orientation	4/30
Advanced MS Exchange Server	5/1
NIH Data Warehouse: Budget and Finance	5/4
Windows 95 Startup	5/4
Introduction to Information Systems Security	5/4
Macintosh Shortcuts and Techniques II	5/5
An Overview of the ALW System	5/5
An Introduction to S-PLUS	5/5-6
Advanced HTML	5/6
ALW Concepts for Users	5/6
Electronic Forms Users Group	5/6
NIH Data Warehouse: Personnel Costs	5/7
Windows NT Server Overview	5/7-8
NIH Data Warehouse: Procurement and Market Requisitions	5/8

Charter Signed for New Campus Group

NIH Employees Concerned with Disabilities is a new group established recently by NIH'ers who saw a need for an independent group concerned with the special needs of disabled employees, visitors and patients here. A charter officially sanctioning the group was signed on Mar. 5 by NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein. Some ECD members were previously involved with an NIH-sponsored group, the advisory committee for employees with disabilities, which has now been integrated into the NIH Diversity Council.

Newly chartered ECD members include (standing, from l) Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Steven Leblanc, John Miers, Chuck Selden and (seated, from l) Christie Compton, Chuck Sabatos, Virginia Tanner Crocker.

The ECD mission is to function as an independent resource and liaison for employees with disabilities to the leadership and operational components of NIH regarding the following: ensuring an ongoing dialogue with management, improving representation of employees with disabilities in the NIH workforce, eliminating barriers encountered by NIH employees with disabilities, improving general accessibility of NIH programs, research, outreach, education, and community relationships and helping to improve the NIH disabilities program so it can become a model for other organizations.

At its first meeting as a chartered group, ECD elected its executive board: John Miers, chairman; Steven Leblanc, vice-chair; Chuck Selden, secretary; Elizabeth Dean-Clower, treasurer; and three ad hoc members: Chuck Sabatos, Christie Compton and Virginia Tanner Crocker. A general meeting—usually on the fourth Tuesday—is to be held every other month. The next meeting is Apr. 21, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 31, Rm. 7A24. All are welcome. For more information, email: seldenc@gwgate.nhlbi.nih.gov. ■

Volunteers Needed for Drug Study

Healthy volunteers ages 18-35 are needed for a USUHS study of commonly prescribed medications. The study provides free medical tests and involves multiple visits over a 3-month period. Participants will be paid. Call (301) 295-4009 or (301) 319-8204. ■

Not Just Clowning Around

'Greatest Show on Earth' Is R&W's Largest Event Ever

The NIH Recreation and Welfare Association hosted more than 10,000 attendees on Mar. 24 at the premiere evening for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at downtown Washington's MCI Center. "This was our largest event ever," enthused Randy Schools, NIH R&W president. More than 1,000 patients from NIH's Clinical Center and Children's, Georgetown and Fairfax hospitals were guests at the show. Also, R&W provided tickets to several local and charitable organizations including Bethesda Cares, Washington Boys & Girls Clubs, St. Ann's Home, the Montgomery County department of health and human services and Greentree Shelter. The event raised more than $10,000 for NIH charities.

Young circus patron profiles with a Ringling Bros. denizen.

A few "ringleaders" at the circus include (from l) Jan Mayes, director of development at the Children's Inn; Randy Schools, R&W president; Kenneth Feld, chairman of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus; Dave Dabney, chairman of Back to Bethesda and community NIH advocate; clown Al Rios; and Maria Stagnitto, president of the Friends of the Clinical Center.

Above, an impromptu serenade is offered to the masses.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

Above, it was "Katie Bar the Door" as kids mug for the camera, awaiting entrance to circus premiere night at the MCI Center. Among familiar NIH faces attending was Clinical Center Deputy Director for Management and Operations Walter Jones (in photo at left), who gathered his children for the event. Below, Karianne Johnsen (daughter of Kristin Johnsen, who works in the CC recreation therapy department) has a ball at the "greatest show on Earth," assisted by circus employees.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Ronald M. Evans on Apr. 29, speaking on "Nuclear Receptors: A Superfamily." He is investigator, HHMI, and professor, gene expression laboratory, Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

On May 6, Dr. Stephen L. Zipursky, investigator, HHMI, member, Molecular Biology Institute, and professor, department of biological chemistry, UCLA, will discuss "Axon Guidance in the Drosophila Visual System."

A special Thursday lecture will be held May 7 at 3 p.m. in Masur featuring Dr. Michael A. Zasloff, president, The Magainin Research Institute. He will give the 11th Paul Ehrlich Lecture on "Discovery of Antibiotic Systems in Animals."

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