

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Health Fair Offers Something For All NIH'ers, June 16-17

Question: Where can you find all of the benefits listed below—and more?

Screenings for visual acuity, blood pressure and stroke risk, oral and skin cancer, depression and anxiety; demonstrations on how to access health information by computer; Fitness and Exercise 101; relaxation techniques using therapeutic chairs; displays of ergonomically designed office furniture; tips for reducing risk of repetitive strain injuries in the laboratory; health experts to answer your questions.

Answer: At the "NIH Health Fair: Good Health Begins Here!" on June 16 and 17 in the Visitor Information Center and the lobby level of the Clinical Center. Exhibits are open on Tuesday from noon to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus says, "The
SEE HEALTH FAIR, PAGE 8

NIH Issues Itself Report Card On Quality of Work Life

It's been almost a year since NIH kicked off its Quality of Work Life Initiative, which was launched by Secretary Shalala to improve HHS workforce productivity and morale. Each agency, including each NIH institute and center, was asked to develop a strategy for implementing the five major components of the initiative. They were asked how they planned to craft family-friendly work programs, improve communication with employees, promote diversity management, and enhance training opportunities and Internet access for employees. Recently, NIH submitted a comprehensive report to HHS highlighting some of the best practices adopted in response to the QWL initiative. Here's how the report card shapes up:

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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New Sequencing Center Aids Intramural Science

By Rich McManus

In a low-rise biotech beehive just off I-270 in Gaithersburg, the new NIH Intramural Sequencing Center—a 14-institute consortium that is one of perhaps a half dozen nonprivate centers in the United States dedicated to large-scale sequencing—is quietly parsing all the A's, T's, C's and G's that make up stretches of human and animal DNA of interest to bench scientists. Showing up on the computer screen as rosaries of red, blue, green and yellow, the nucleotides are exposed and decoded so that scientists such as NIDCD's Dr. Thomas Friedman can make discoveries such as appeared in the May 29 issue of *Science*: mutations in an unconventional myosin gene are another cause of hereditary deafness.

The very banality of the architecture at 5 Research Court, where

SEE SEQUENCING CENTER, PAGE 6



Dr. Jeff Touchman, director of the sequence production group at NISC, sits in front of an ABI 377 instrument at 5 Research Court.

Free Pizza a Draw

Ceremony Marks Start of Bond Drive

By Jan Ehrman

It happens every spring. The crack of the bat. The quest to finish your taxes by Apr. 15. And, on a more chipper note, the kickoff for the NIH U.S. Savings Bonds Program. This year's ceremony, the first ever deliberately held indoors, took place May 11 in Wilson Hall before a spirited assembly of coordinators, canvassers and officials.

Sheltered from overcast skies and a water-logged campus, attendees were treated to the jazz music of the Questet Quartet, free pizza,

SEE BOND DRIVE, PAGE 2



U.S. Treasurer Mary E. Withrow

BOND DRIVE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and a visit from the treasurer of the United States, Mary Ellen Withrow. In addition, they heard why savings bonds continue to be an easy, excellent way to save for the future or, as the drive's current theme suggests, "Invest Today—Enjoy Tomorrow."

This year's campaign is sponsored by the National Human Genome Research Institute. Its director, Dr. Francis Collins, told the audience, "The research that we (at NHGRI) are doing today is an investment that involves a lot of long-term planning.

Buying savings bonds is not as complex as unraveling the human genome, but it also takes a lot of long-term planning."

Savings bonds have long been attractive to federal employees for a number of reasons. First, many rely on bonds as a means of "forced savings."

Payments can be taken

automatically from earnings, making it a relatively "pain free," surefire way to save. Another major attraction is their low risk. "There is no safer investment available. Bonds have higher interest rates than savings accounts or money market accounts—and for the investor, they are easily accessible. If needed, you can cash them within 6 months," explained Steve Ficca, NIH associate director for research services. (There is, however, a 3-month interest penalty if you cash in your bonds before 5 years). Also, if the bonds are stolen, lost or destroyed, they can be replaced. In addition, the interest earned on Series EE bonds is exempt from state and local income tax until you redeem the bonds or they stop earning interest after 30 years.

The visit from Treasurer Withrow, who is also the national honorary director of the U.S. Savings Bonds program, was a special attraction. Just back from a trip to Puerto Rico in which she marketed savings bonds, she said, "There are 186 billion savings bond dollars held by 55 million Americans. They are so safe and secure. The full faith and credit of the American government are behind these bonds."

The treasurer believes that savings bonds should be an important part of everyone's investment package. Reemphasizing their tax exempt status, Withrow said that bonds are an ideal investment tool for education. "And again," she pointed out, "you never have to worry about losing money on savings bonds. Meanwhile, every morning when you wake up you own a little more of America."

Savings bond rates change every 6 months, with the last change taking place May 1. Rates are based



After the bond ceremony, Treasurer Withrow signed one-dollar bills for some attendees. Her name already appears in the lower left-hand corner of the bill.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON



The Questet Quartet jazz ensemble entertains a large crowd at the indoor bond kickoff May 11.

on market yields of actively traded Treasury notes and bonds. Series EE bonds are currently paying 5.6 percent.

Employees who sign up for the popular payroll savings plan will be eligible for raffle drawings to be held on July 8. Included in the drawings will be several \$100 savings bonds. To sign up, or for more information on savings bonds, see your bond canvasser. ■

Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks female volunteers ages 18-45 for a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles with no changes in mood in relationship to menses, be free of medical illnesses and not taking any hormones or medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms and be asked to participate in one of several protocols. Payment depends on duration of each visit and type of protocol. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

N I H R E C O R D

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AAAS Honors Three from NIH

Three NIH scientists are among 146 fellows elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on Apr. 17; they will be formally inducted in ceremonies Oct. 3 in Cambridge, Mass.



Dr. Francis Collins

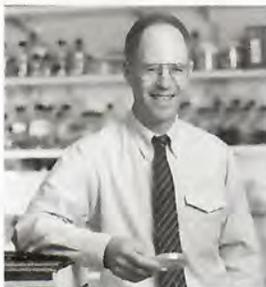
They are: NHGRI director Dr. Francis Collins; Dr. Reed B. Wickner, chief, Laboratory of Biochemistry and Genetics, NIDDK; and Dr. Carl Wu, chief, Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology, NCI.

The academy, founded in 1780 by John Adams and other leaders of the young republic, was created as a learned society to "cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people." It



Dr. Carl Wu

addresses important national issues through interdisciplinary and collaborative projects and publications, including its quarterly journal *Daedalus*.



Dr. Reed Wickner

This year's inductees join a membership of some 4,000 fellows nationwide, including 160 Nobel laureates and 65 Pulitzer Prize winners. ■

Last Call for Research Festival Posters

The deadline is fast approaching to submit applications for poster sessions for the 1998 NIH Research Festival. Registration ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5. An online application form and other details are available at the Research Festival Web site, <http://silk.nih.gov/silk/fest98/>, which is linked from the News and Events section of the NIH home page.

The program for this fall, scheduled for Oct. 6-9, will be less diffuse and marks a return to the event's original purpose, say organizers, "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 festival kicks off with a full-day Job Fair for NIH postdoctoral fellows followed by scientific meetings condensed into a 3-day format. Each morning begins with a plenary session. The morning sessions are followed each day by a round of six concurrent mini-symposia, for a total of 18 cross-cutting presentations.

A special treat for employees will be the daily lunch-time picnics sponsored by the Technical Sales Association, complete with musical entertainment.

To obtain a printed version of the entry form or for more information, call 496-1776. ■

NIDR To Hold 50th Anniversary Symposium

On Tuesday, June 9, the National Institute of Dental Research will hold a symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the institute. Called "Envisioning the Future: Dental and Craniofacial Research for the 21st Century," the symposium will take place from 12:30-4:30 p.m. in the Natcher Conference Center.

Dr. Roger Davis, professor of biotechnology at the University of Massachusetts, will deliver the keynote address on "Signal Transduction by Stress-Activated MAP Kinases." Two sessions will follow—one on "Extracellular Matrix, Mineralized Tissues and Human Disease," and the other on "Infection and Immunity."

The first session will be chaired by Dr. George Martin, vice president of scientific affairs at Fibrogen, and will feature Dr. Gideon A. Rodan, research vice president, department of bone biology and osteoporosis, Merck Research Labs; Dr. John D. Termine, vice president, osteoporosis, Eli Lilly & Co.; and Dr. Darwin Prockop, director, Center for Gene Therapy, Allegheny University of the Health Sciences.

Session two will be chaired by Dr. Max D. Cooper, investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, University of Alabama at Birmingham. The speakers are: Dr. Gail H. Cassell, vice president, infectious diseases, Eli Lilly & Co.; Dr. Nina Agabian, professor of molecular pathogenesis, University of California at San Francisco; Dr. John J. Cebra, professor, department of biology, University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. Joost J. Oppenheim, chief, Laboratory of Molecular Immunoregulation, National Cancer Institute.

The symposium is open to the entire NIH community. For more information, call 496-4261.

TDC Lecture Date Changes

Originally scheduled for May 6, the talk in the Technology Development Coordinators' Spring Lecture Series titled "Domestic and Foreign Patent Law and Procedure," featuring Dr. John Schneller of Spencer and Frank law firm has been rescheduled for June 9, 2-4 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 9. For more information contact Lauren Neal, 402-5579.

REPORT CARD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Improve Communication with Employees

Communication is the key to a successful workplace, and several ICs have devised some creative means for improving communication with their employees. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, for example, has developed a comprehensive orientation package for its new student employees. The National Institute on Drug Abuse has expanded use of teleconferencing to improve communication between its extramural program in Rockville



The NHGRI MOMS support group was started to provide support for working moms. It meets monthly to discuss such topics as nursing, day care and parenting issues. The group began 3 years ago and is evolving to provide lists of kids' items for sale or giveaway, recommended reference books, lists of babysitters, and more. Gathering at a recent lunch are (seated, from l) Raman Sood, Portia Baker and Delphine Ally. Standing are (from l) Farahnaz Forozan, Denise Larson, Christiane Robbins and Michelle Southard-Smith.

and intramural program in Baltimore. The National Human Genome Research Institute has formed a group called the MOMs for employees to discuss child rearing issues and the demands of being a working parent.

Strengthen Work and Family Programs

With respect to implementing family-friendly work programs, four institutes are participating in job-sharing programs. Thirty-two employees at the National Library of Medicine are telecommuting at least one day a week. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences has opened additional childcare facilities. Further, three institutes and the NIH Office of the Director recently combined resources to open the NIH Work and Family Life Center, which is devoted solely to providing employees with information on how to balance the demands of work and home.

Enhance Internet Access

Most NIH'ers have computer and Internet access available on their desktops. However, the Office of Research Services has many employees who work in shops, maintenance and other areas without direct Internet access. To address this issue, ORS has provided central computers so their employees can access the Internet.

Enhance Employee Training Opportunities

How are ICs increasing the investment in workplace learning for their employees? ORS, for example, negotiated the Montgomery College tuition

agreement so all of its employees, no matter where they reside, can enroll in classes at Montgomery College at in-county tuition rates. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development sponsored an intensive leadership development course for its extramural managers and supervisors.

Strengthen Diversity Management Programs

NIH was one of the first agencies to recognize the strength of diversity programs. Many ICs have established Diversity Councils to provide or recommend training and strategies for diversity efforts within their organizations. For example, the Clinical Center formally established a core competency for all staff called Diversity Awareness and Communication. NIAID has developed a formal mentoring program for employees who want to help their colleagues achieve their career development goals.

For more information on what NIH is doing to improve the quality of work life year round, visit the Web site at: <http://ohrm.od.nih.gov/ohrm/qwl/index.htm>.—Alison Reinheimer **R**



DES Electrician Roy Scriba reads the headlines from a 49-year-old copy of the old Washington Times-Herald that was recently extracted from the B1 level of Bldg. 10. He and coworker Shane Shamblin found the newspaper during renovations on the B1 level; it had been rolled up lengthwise and used to stuff a hollowed-out bracket to prevent poured concrete from entering the bracket during hospital construction. Headlines of the day from the yellowed journalism included a Bolling Air Force base soldier who set fire to the base chapel "because they wouldn't let me teach Sunday school," and birth in Arlington of a baby whose bladder formed outside his body, an anomaly occurring once in 40,000 births, according to "medical spokesmen." Advertisements said sport shirts could be had two for \$3 at the old Lansburgh's, an "air cooled" store at 7th and E downtown.

Seaman To Present Gorgas Lecture, June 10

By Karen Leighty

This year's Gorgas Memorial/Leon Jacobs Lecture will be presented by Dr. Jill Seaman, a pioneering physician who worked for 9 years in Southern Sudan as a Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) volunteer. Her talk, "Epidemic Kala-azar in Sudan: Tragedy and Treatment," will be given on Wednesday, June 10 at 4 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

In 1988, Seaman accompanied a medical team sent to an isolated community in Sudan, where the population was being ravaged by kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis), a disease not previously seen in the region. This parasitic disease, transmitted by sand flies, is almost invariably fatal if left untreated.

In spearheading a treatment program against this epidemic, Seaman not only saved thousands of lives, but also developed new techniques and procedures that could be applied in other field situations where basic facilities and supplies, including food, are lacking.

Bombings in the immediate vicinity—as a result of the Sudanese civil war—contributed to the medical challenges. Flights of supplies into the area were so limited that Seaman and her team often had to choose between food and medicine. The doctors decided at one point that if the patients were starving, they themselves would eat less. Treatment of kala-azar requires a 20-day course of injections of a potentially toxic drug, during which each patient must be carefully monitored. Patients typically walk for days to reach the clinic, which consists of a tent surrounded by a huge encampment of patients, their families, and sometimes the cattle that the families had to tend for the treatment period. Seaman monitored up to 1,400 kala-azar patients at a time, while also coping with health issues more common to the villagers: measles and meningitis outbreaks, spear wounds, and complicated pregnancies.

The symptoms of kala-azar are persistent fever, enlarged liver and spleen, and wasting. While a blood test can be used for diagnosis, it is very inexact because the lack of refrigeration causes the testing antigen to shift in the fluctuating temperatures. The only method for confirming diagnosis is a bone marrow or spleen biopsy, which, under field conditions, is not undertaken lightly. Seaman is working on a diagnostic field test kit that is less cumbersome.

It is unlikely that patients would undergo the pain and discomfort involved in diagnosis and treatment



Dr. Jill Seaman, a pioneering physician who worked in Southern Sudan as a Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) volunteer, will deliver the 1998 Gorgas Memorial/Leon Jacobs Lecture at NIH.

without complete trust in the doctor. This trust may well derive from the affection Seaman has for these people, their language and tribal culture. The chief of one village announced that he has named many of his daughters "Jill"—and is planning to give the name to his future sons. Such connectedness may be why Seaman's clinic became one of the most sustained of the MSF programs.

Originally from Moscow, Idaho, Seaman earned her B.A. at Middlebury College in Vermont. She received her medical degree from the University of Washington School of Medicine at Seattle in 1979 and studied at the London School of Tropical Medicine, where she earned her diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene in 1989.

During the 1984-1985 Ethiopian famine, she worked for the International Refugee Committee as a physician in a makeshift refugee hospital and also at a therapeutic feeding center. It was this experience that inspired her to further her training in tropical medicine. She had previously been working in Bethel, Alaska, for the regional Indian Health Service, where she served as a general medical officer for a 50-bed bush hospital. She received a PHS citation for this work in 1986. In 1994, the British Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene awarded her the Donald MacKay Medal, which recognized outstanding work in tropical health in rural areas.

As a result of her extensive community service, *Time* magazine profiled her work in 1997 in a special issue devoted to medical heroism. ■

Feeling Down in the Dumps?

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking men and women ages 40-65 who are medication free and experiencing the following: feelings of sadness or feeling down or emotionally flat, fatigue, loss of motivation and enjoyment and decreased sexual interest. Eligible candidates may participate in evaluation and treatment studies with estrogen and/or DHEA. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576.

SEQUENCING CENTER. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NISC is temporarily located before moving later this summer to quarters roughly twice as large, announces that things of great importance are going on. Tucked amid a Quality Inn for executives on the run and neighboring low-rises with discreet signs designed to give away little about what's happening within, 5 Research Court is the postmodern equivalent of the senates and cathedrals of yesterday. Unlike those antediluvian temples of consequence, however, NISC and its peers announce a world in a hurry, the frothy leading edge of a breaking wave. The preoccupations of hot-field progress do not permit ornament.

On the morning after a private venture led by an ex-NIH scientist announced that it would scoop the

federal effort to sequence the entire human genome, NISC was an optimistic, hungry, undeterred place.

"We think that [private efforts to sequence genomes] will expand interest in our program," said Dr. Jeff

Touchman, director of the sequence production group at NISC and a former postdoc in the NHGRI laboratory where the center got started. "It's going to create more of an appetite for the kind of work we do. In the post-human sequence era, a lot of resequencing will be performed, plus studies of the genomes of model organisms. This will add value to the work in human genomics. There are numerous human cell types whose genes are still unsurveyed, despite the efforts of TIGR [The Institute for Genome Research, an NIH-bred biotech group] and other centers, and the slope for technology development is sharply upward in this field."

Opened last September, NISC "is the brainchild of Dr. Eric Green (chief of NHGRI's Genome Technology Branch)," Touchman said. "He and I were approached by a number of investigators on campus to do sequencing for them. Eric had two sequencing instruments at the time, and began to think there may be a place at NIH for a high-throughput sequencing center, capable of producing multiple megabases per year.

"Many institutes have their own sequencing machines, and analyze maybe 100 to 200 reactions per week,"



Nicole Dietrich loads small-volume DNA sequencing reactions onto an automated DNA sequencer using a custom 8-channel syringe device.

he observed. NISC currently boasts six ABI 377 sequencing instruments and routinely uses them to analyze 3,000 reactions per week, or upwards of 6 megabases of sequence a year. A new instrument expected this summer—a capillary electrophoresis machine—"will increase throughput even farther," Touchman predicted. "Our goal at NISC is to do something that individual labs on their own can't do, by taking advantage of the economy of scale gained by our dedicated, larger operation."

NISC offers three basic services, said Touchman, a 4-year NIH veteran who was busy with genomic mapping of human chromosome 7 before branching out into sequencing:

Finished Genomic Sequencing—"We take a large clone and sequence the whole thing to high accuracy. This could be upwards of 100 kilobases of DNA or more," he explained. NISC has completed half a megabase of "finished" sequence in the 8 months since it opened.

EST (Expressed-Sequence Tag) Sequencing—"Basically, gene surveys. It's a very common intramural request," Touchman said. "What genes are expressed in a given tissue or organism? We can sequence a large sample of the RNA to begin to find



Michelle Walker selects bacterial clones that contain DNA samples and arranges them in a format necessary for the high-volume experiments performed at NISC.

Top NISC Achievements So Far

▲ A novel unconventional myosin gene (*MYO15*) was recently found to be associated with a form of hereditary, non-syndromic, congenital deafness in humans. This work was reported in the May 29 issue of *Science* magazine by Dr. Thomas Friedman of NIDCD. NISC facilitated the identification of this gene by sequencing the region of the human genome known to contain the mutated DNA.

▲ Nearly 2,000 ESTs have been sequenced in association with the Skeletal Genome Anatomy Project (SGAP) with Drs. Libin Jai and Clair Francomano (NHGRI).

▲ The complete mouse cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator gene, spanning >150 kb, was sequenced and carefully compared with the human gene. The latter is mutated in cystic fibrosis.

out. That can lead to all sorts of interesting downstream biology." NISC has generated 12,000 EST sequences so far.

Sample Sequencing— Also known as low-redundancy genomic sequencing, it is "a very powerful method for positionally cloning a gene. Specifically, this involves generating a collection of random sequences across a broad genomic interval. We've sampled over a megabase to date."

Just 10 people comprise NISC at the moment, though it hopes to add more employees: 7 work on the DNA sequencing production team, and 3 are computational biologists—specifically trained interpreters of the strewn alphabet of nucleotides, guided by Gerry Bouffard and Stephen Beckstrom-Sternberg. "They make sense of the sequences we produce," noted Touchman. "The sequence data needs lots of massaging at the end for it to be meaningful." Most hail from NHGRI. And all face

there," Touchman said. "The rank and file scientist at NIH needs to know we're here."

The minimum project size is 500 sequences, which can take only a few days to read. NISC can process some 3,000 reads a week, or 600 per day. A 15-member scientific review committee evaluates all incoming applications, most of which succeed without amendment, reports Touchman. "It's basically like a grant review," he observes, "a short 2-page research summary. We're averaging about two proposals a month, but would like to double that."

The typical NISC project takes 3-4 weeks, and multiple projects occur simultaneously. Output will increase when NISC moves to a new building in July. "We'll have twice as much space in the new facility, with NCI also having their own sequencing center next door," Touchman said.

NISC has both a Web page (www.nhgri.nih.gov/NISC) and an online submission form. For more information, contact Touchman at 402-5444 or jefft@nhgri.nih.gov. ■

ORWH Seminar Focuses on 'What's Fat?'

The 1998-1999 ORWH Women's Health Seminar Series, Women's Health Research for the 21st Century, continues at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The 2-hour seminar will focus on "Weight: What's Fat? What's Not? What Can We Do?"

The seminar will include information on gender and ethnic differences in fat metabolism; basic biology of obesity and energy metabolism; and future obesity management—nutrition, physical activities, behavior and pharmacology.

Dr. Judith Stern, professor of nutrition and of internal medicine at the University of California, Davis, will open the program with an overview. The biology of obesity in weight regulation will be covered by Dr. Michael Schwartz, associate professor of medicine and head of the section of clinical nutrition at the University of Washington.

A panel will examine future obesity management. Panel members will include: Lynn McAfee, director of the medical project at the Council on Size & Weight Management, providing a patient's perspective of barriers to treatment; Dr. Susan Yanovski, director of NIDDK's Obesity and Eating Disorders Program, providing an update on drug treatment for obesity; Dr. Thomas Wadden, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, examining the current status of obesity programs that combine diet, exercise and behavior modification; and Stern, focusing on consumer protection in obesity management programs.

The Women's Health Seminar Series is sponsored by the Office of Research on Women's Health. For more information, call 402-1770. ■



Dietrich casts one of 16 polyacrylamide sequencing gels that are prepared daily at NISC. The gels are used in conjunction with an automated sequencer.

sore temptation to run down the street to the next tree-shrouded low-rise where private ventures such as TIGR and Human Genome Sciences—outfits roughly 8-10 times the size of NISC—offer higher salaries.

NISC is proud of its record of training young people, he added. "Lots of folks from NIH learn about automated sequencing from us. Pre-IRTA fellows get high-throughput training with NISC."

While the data generated by NISC belongs to whomever pays for it—it's a fee-for-service operation—Touchman says about half its clients hold on to the data until publication of a paper, and another half send the sequences directly to GenBank, an NIH-sponsored repository. "We have no policy on the immediate release of data, but encourage submission to GenBank as quickly as possible," he noted.

So far, NISC has completed 25 large-scale projects for intramural scientists. There is currently a 4- to 6-week queue, but the center would like to bump that up to 8. "We're a little bit underutilized considering all the projects we suspect are out



Dr. Henry McFarland, chief of NINDS's Neuroimmunology Branch, recently received the John Jay Dystel Prize for Multiple Sclerosis Research at the annual American Academy of Neurology meeting in Minneapolis. Sponsored by AAN and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the prize was established by Marion and Oscar Dystel of Purchase, N.Y., whose son developed MS. McFarland, who received a \$7,500 prize and presented a lecture titled "Evolving Concepts of the Natural History of the Lesion in MS," was honored for his outstanding clinical and investigative contributions. Many of his publications serve as guidelines for others conducting research on MS.

HEALTH FAIR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NIH Health Fair gives employees an important opportunity to learn the latest developments in maintaining our health and fitness, as well as receive preventive screenings for various disorders." He will speak at an opening ceremony at 11 a.m. June 16 in Masur Auditorium, with deputy Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

Dr. C.W. Metcalf, author of *Lighten Up: Survival Skills for People Under Pressure*, is next on the program. He heads a Colorado-based training firm that specializes in helping people and organizations thrive in environments of rapid change. His volunteer work with pediatric cancer patients and ongoing efforts as a volunteer for hospice groups led him to develop humor, risk and change seminars.



Dr. C.W. Metcalf

There will be 35 booths covering such topics as mental health, safety, nutrition, exercise, ergonomics, and prevention and control of common diseases; these open at noon June 16 with a ribbon-cutting at the Visitor Information Center. You can chart your own family tree and discuss findings with genetic counselors. Discover the alcohol content of everyday household products. See how certain diseases and deformities look on "Mr. Bones." Examine and manipulate hearing aids. Learn how you can donate blood to NIH patients. Find out what services NIH offers to help employees balance work and family life. Information will be available on numerous subjects from Alzheimer's disease to elder care to eating disorders to drug abuse.

Health screenings will be conducted on a first come, first served basis. The exception is skin cancer screening, which requires an appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 402-3305.

Space is limited, so call early.

An initiative of the worksite health promotion action committee, the health fair is sponsored by the Office of Disease Prevention in cooperation with the ICs, R&W and FDA.

For sign language interpretation services visit booth #1 during the health fair. For reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, call James Hadley, event coordinator, at 435-6045. ■

NIH Health Fair '98 Schedule of Screenings

June 16, noon - 5 p.m.
June 17, 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Depression
and Anxiety Disorder
Visual Acuity
Oral Cancer

Lobby Area
Lobby Area
Nobel Laureate
Balcony
Lipsett Vestibule
Lipsett Vestibule

Blood Pressure
Stroke Risk

*Skin Cancer (by appointment) Clinical Center
*To schedule an appointment, call 402-3305.

Experts on various health-related topics available between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day throughout the Health Fair.

NIGMS Hosts Minority Program Directors' Meeting

The NIGMS Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE) Division recently brought together directors of its research and training programs at minority institutions for a 5-day meeting. Participants were able to network, attend a variety of workshops and demonstrations, and learn about funding opportunities from NIGMS and other NIH components.

The meeting, which hosted more than 450 participants including 45 university presidents, was described by NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman as an "opportunity to exchange information and address concerns and issues" in order to meet the MORE division's goal—increasing the number of underrepresented minorities engaged in biomedical research.



University of Maryland Baltimore County president Dr. Freeman Hrabowski delivered a keynote speech, "Institutional Commitment, Leadership, and Anticipated Accomplishments," focussing on the role institutions play in the success of each student.

Meeting participants took the opportunity to share information during breaks.



Dr. Bruce Alberts, president of the National Academy of Sciences, called for an improvement in science education programs, particularly in grades kindergarten through 12.



NIGMS minority program directors Dr. Americo Rivera (l) and Dr. Ernest Márquez responded to audience questions during a panel discussion.

NIAMS Writer Barbara Weldon Retires

By Janet Howard

If you've called NIH about lupus or arthritis in the past decade or so—whether you are a patient, a reporter, or a congressional aide—chances are good you've spoken to NIAMS writer/editor Barbara Weldon of the Office of Scientific and Health Communications. And chances are very good you remember how helpful she was and the information she sent you. Weldon retired Apr. 3.

Four generations of her family have helped NIH fulfill its mission. Her mother was a social worker here in the 1950's. Her son, Kirby Weldon, a former NIH management intern, works at the Fogarty International Center, and a grandchild is a summer student here.

Weldon began her NIH career in 1977 as a part-time clerk enrolling students for the Upward Mobility College. She later became a secretary at NCI, and was then accepted in 1980 into the NIH Stride Program, working for NIAMDD (now NIDDK) as an editorial assistant. She became a writer/editor there when she completed the Stride Program. In the meantime, Stride and a lot of hard work enabled her to graduate in 1982 from American University with a degree in journalism. In 1986, she joined the newly created NIAMS. She worked in its Office of Scientific and Health Communications (OSHC) as a writer/editor, communicating and working with the public, the press, congressional offices, researchers, physicians, and outside groups about rheumatic diseases.

Dr. John Klippel, NIAMS clinical director, said, "She is a spokesperson for those of us who have no solution to some callers' problems. Barbara cared for each and every one who was suffering. Her contributions will be remembered by those people."

"My job has been exciting and fulfilling," said Weldon. "For many years, I have worked with the public and private sectors, health voluntary organizations, and Congress."

Under NIAMS director emeritus Dr. Lawrence E. Shulman, she helped develop lupus communications programs for many health voluntary organizations. Weldon has written many articles on research about arthritis and rheumatic diseases and how to cope with these chronic problems.

At her retirement luncheon, Weldon stated, "I was privileged to work under two outstanding directors at NIAMS, Lawrence Shulman and Stephen Katz. The institute serves the public well."

Katz remarked, "Barbara has played a very important role in providing health and science information to the public for many years. She has

also been a critical link between many patient advocacy groups and the NIH and has fostered many of the partnerships that we enjoy today. We will miss her very much and wish her well in her retirement."

"She was really the face of the institute with her sense of caring," added Shulman.

"She exudes warmth and personality, and a sense of family. She has always helped the ones that NIAMS is here to serve." NIAMS deputy director Dr. Steven J. Hausman agreed, "Compassion is the one word that best describes Barbara."

Other tributes to Weldon came from her former and current supervisors. Betsy Singer, NIDDK information officer, who hired her as a Stride intern in 1980, recalled, "Barbara was a star pupil of Stride. She is representative of the success of the program."

"Many people have told me over the years how much they appreciated the

help and follow-up that Barbara provided them when they called the NIH," said Connie Raab, OSHC director. "Her dedication to and interest in people are very special qualities that I will really miss—not to mention hearing that melodious Brooklyn accent!"

Weldon says the work she is most proud of is a booklet she wrote, *What Black Women Should Know About Lupus*. Nearly 180,000 copies have been distributed, thousands reprinted, and countless folks have accessed the Internet version.

In retirement, Weldon plans to volunteer her talents to health care organizations. She would also like to edit a newsletter and learn to play golf. She came to Bethesda from Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1950 with her late husband, John Q. Weldon. They reared two children. In 1997, she married Jefferson Lawrence.

"I would like to continue my writing and hope this will, in some way, make a difference in the quality of life for older Americans," she concluded. ■

Stress Study Needs Vols

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is recruiting volunteers for a study requiring approximately 2 hours over two visits, 2 weeks apart, to the lab. There are simple "homework" assignments between visits. Volunteers must 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. ■



Barbara Weldon

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.

Computer Authority Bruce Waxman Dies

Dr. Bruce D. Waxman, 67, a long-time contributor to major developments in biomedical computing, cartography and image processing, died on Apr. 12 after a struggle with cancer.

As executive secretary of the advisory committee on computers in research at NIH from 1961 to 1965, he helped shape computer activities at NIH in the earliest days of biomedical computing. "In the formative early years of NIH-sponsored computing, Bruce was a splendid and encouraging guide to many a young investigator testing the waters of the complex NIH grants system," noted Dr. Donald Lindberg, director, National Library of Medicine.

Waxman was principally responsible for NIH's decision to fund the LINC (Laboratory Instrument Computer) Evaluation Program, which made it possible for LINC computers, then under development at MIT, to be built and placed in the laboratories of more than a dozen distinguished biomedical scientists around the country.

"The real impact of this program was that within each of our laboratories and research institutions, we spawned a whole generation of young scientists and colleagues who began looking at science in a completely different way," said Dr. George Malindzak of NIEHS. "The computer was now more friendly and approachable."

Waxman went on to become chief of the Special Research Resources Branch at NIH from 1965 to 1968.

He later worked at the Defense Mapping Agency,

where he was responsible for innovations in cartography and image processing, with applications that ranged from identifying narcotics production sites to do-it-yourself mapping workstations.

In his last years, Waxman was employed by the University Research Foundation, where he was instrumental in establishing the foundation's Microelectronics Laboratory in Columbia, Md.

Former NIH deputy director and acting director Dr. William Raub said, "I've never known anyone more adept at getting others excited about and working on his vision *du jour*—even when it was not a great idea! Also, as I told Bruce many times over the years, I still carry around and make use of a host of Waxman maxims—e.g., 'If you don't have at least three motives for the action you're about to take, stop; you probably haven't thought it through.'" Added Dr. Philip S. Chen, Jr., NIH associate director for intramural affairs, "Bruce was very willing to respond to help those in need, in both the personal and professional spheres—the former in aiding children in need of a hospitable home, the latter in aiding placement of capable younger scientists. By example, he inspired colleagues to do something that would be of enduring value to humanity."

Waxman is survived by Shirley, his wife of 46 years, sons David, Harold, James, Robert, and Michael, daughter Deborah, seven grandchildren, his mother Ida, and his brother Edward.



About 150 NIH employees and visitors gathered on the lawn in front of Bldg. 1 May 7 for the third annual National Day of Prayer celebration. The observance was sponsored by the Noontime Christian Fellowship, and featured Rev. Kevin Williams, senior pastor at Love and Faith World Outreach Church of Clinton, Md., as guest speaker.

Japan Society Offers Fellowships

Through arrangements made with the Fogarty International Center, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science will award up to 30 postdoctoral fellowships to Japanese researchers currently at NIH. Fellowships must begin on Jan. 1, Feb. 1, or Mar. 1, 1999. This program is designed to support meritorious biomedical and behavioral research projects undertaken in NIH laboratories by young Japanese postdoctoral researchers. Applicants must currently be conducting intramural research at NIH and should have completed no more than 1 year of research and training. The fellowship will provide up to 2 additional years of support. Applications must be received by July 3.

Interested persons should contact FIC immediately to receive detailed program information and application instructions. Requests should be directed to: Dr. Kathleen Michels or Sheila Feldman, FIC Division of International Training and Research, at 496-1653; fax: 402-0779; email: jsp@nih.gov. ■



ORS' Tom DeKorte Mourned

Francis T. "Tom" DeKorte died May 3 after a short illness.



Francis T. DeKorte

He was born in Boston. At age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Naval Submarine Service during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He retired as a chief petty officer after 13 years of active duty and 13 years in the Naval Reserves.

After completing his active naval service, he was employed at the Navy Shipyard in Washington, D.C., as an electrician. In 1970, he transferred to NIH as an electrician in the maintenance engineering section. In 1982, he was promoted to electrical engineering technician in the office of the chief of the maintenance engineering section.

DeKorte had completed 43 years of federal service when he retired on Feb. 1, 1998. He was the first wage grade employee at NIH to receive the NIH Director's Award. He also received Outstanding Performance Awards and many other honors and letters of commendation.

He is survived by his wife Tina, a son Stephen, two nieces and two nephews.

Postdoctoral Training Available in Cancer Genetics, Epidemiology

The NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics is accepting applications for the Cancer Genetics and Epidemiology Training Program. This postdoctoral fellowship program emphasizes interdisciplinary training in clinical, quantitative, and molecular genetics, and genetic epidemiology.

The fellowship provides opportunities to identify genetic determinants and gene-environment interactions conferring cancer risk in individuals, families and populations. It also includes a class and clinical and laboratory rotations. Applicants will be accepted for up to 3 years of training.

Applicants must have an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree in human genetics, molecular genetics, biostatistics, epidemiology, or a related field, and be citizens or resident aliens of the U.S. eligible for citizenship within 4 years.

Deadline is Nov. 15 for a negotiable start date. Send CV, bibliography, three letters of recommendation and a 1-page discussion of the basis for interest in the program to: Dr. Dilys Parry, Genetic Epidemiology Branch, NCI, Executive Plaza North, Rm. 400, 6130 Executive Blvd. MSC 7360, Bethesda, MD 20892-7360. Phone 496-4948, email: parryd@epndce.nci.nih.gov. ■

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>.

<i>Courses and Programs</i>	<i>Starting Dates</i>
<i>Management, Supervisory & Professional Development</i>	
Managing and Valuing Workforce Diversity	7/17
Assertive Leadership	7/7
Writing Skills Review	7/15
Effective Executive Speaking	7/16
<i>Communication Skills</i>	
Effective Writing I	7/13
<i>Administrative Skills</i>	
Management Stress to Maximize Effectiveness	7/8
Voice and Diction Improvement	7/7
Delegation Skills for Administrative Support Staff	7/16
<i>Administrative Systems</i>	
Domestic Travel	7/15
Introduction to NIH Property Management - Overflow	7/13
<i>Career Transition</i>	
NIH Retirement Seminar - CSRS	7/13
Trans-FERS Briefings	7/16
<i>Computer Applications and Concepts</i>	
Deneba Canvas - Advanced	7/6
Web Page Design HTML	7/8
Introduction to Internet	7/9
Advanced Internet	7/9
Microsoft Outlook 97 - Fundamentals	7/8
Microsoft Word 97 Advanced	7/8
Advanced Access 7.0 for Windows 95	7/13
Access 7.0 Programming Fundamentals	7/13
Desktop Publishing with WordPerfect 7.0 for Windows	7/16

BSSR Summer Meeting, June 22

The Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Interest Group will hold its summer meeting on Monday, June 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Natcher Bldg., balcony A. The featured speaker is Dr. Robert Rosenthal, Edgar Pierce professor of psychology, Harvard University, who will discuss "Future Directions in the Analysis of Scientific Data: Doing It Better for a Change."

He will cover the latest approaches and controversies in statistical analysis, including significance testing, meta-analysis and effect size interpretation. He will also discuss recommendations of the task force on statistical inference from the American Psychological Association. All are invited to attend; no registration required. For more information call Angie Chon-Lee, 594-5943.

Garden Club Meets, June 4

The NIH Garden Club's June 4 meeting at noon in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6, will feature Alice Sills speaking on landscape design. Her earlier presentation on winter interests in the garden was so enthusiastically received, she's been invited back. The meeting is open to any interested gardener. The club also has established an email listserv to exchange gardening information, answer questions, and advertise "give-away" surplus plants. Anyone can join the list; go to the Garden Club Web page <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/garden> for information.

NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program Celebrates 26th Year



The NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program began celebrating its 26th anniversary with a lunchtime program of Asian food and demonstrations of Asian arts and crafts on May 15. Korean drummers (r) provided noontime rhythms. Also on hand at the opening event were recruiters from the Asian Pacific Islander Organization (far l) and the NIH Marrow Donor Program.



Luncheon sales (above, below) consisted of food from China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. A percentage of the proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund of the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Organization. At left, midday diners are serenaded by an ensemble of Korean drummers.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held (usually) on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—starts early on June 10 (at 1 p.m.) to accommodate talks by four cancer scientists who will lecture as part of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation annual scientific conference. They are NCI grantees H. Rodney Withers (UCLA), Suzanne Cory (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Australia) and Stanley Korsmeyer (Washington University, HHMI), and NIGMS grantee H. Robert Horvitz (MIT, HHMI).

On June 17, Dr. Gerald R. Crabtree, professor of pathology and developmental biology, Stanford University School of Medicine and HHMI investigator, will discuss “The CA++/Calcineurin/NFATc Pathway in Development and Cell Proliferation.”

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

Communication Study Needs Male Smokers

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

Celebration organizers include (from l) Edwin Sunderland, NLM; Dr. Victor Fung, NCI; Dr. Shuko Yoshikami, NIDDK; John Medina, OEO; and Prahlad Mathur, OD.

