

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Nathanson To Direct AIDS Research Office

Dr. Neal Nathanson has been named new director of the Office of AIDS Research. A world leader in viral pathogenesis, he has a broad background in virology, epidemiology and public health, and is a member of the NIH AIDS vaccine research committee.

"Dr. Nathanson brings a powerful scientific intellect, great compassion, and long administrative experience to the task of leading the NIH AIDS research program at this critical time," said NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus, who made the appointment. "He will have a central role in our continuing



Dr. Nathanson

efforts to develop an effective vaccine, improve treatments for HIV disease, and

SEE OAR DIRECTOR, PAGE 5

## Poet Robert Pinsky To Give Director's Cultural Lecture

By Celia Hooper

The Wednesday Afternoon Lectures for this season will come to a close—a day late, take note!— with an exciting flourish: a poetry reading with commentary by Robert Pinsky, 39th U.S. poet laureate. He will present the NIH Director's Cultural Lecture at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 25 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Pinsky is one of the nation's more visible and widely known poets, with appearances on public television and radio, and at the White House. Feature articles and reviews about him and his work have appeared in local and national newspapers hailing him as "the People's Poet." Pinsky's 1994

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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

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Out of Africa

## Research on Rare Genetic Disease Leads to Ancestral African Culture

By Carla Garnett

*"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainment in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness and the most disquieting loneliness."*—Alex Haley

When author Alex Haley revealed his *Roots* in the late 1970's, everyone in the nation, it seemed, wondered about their own great-great-grandfolks. As a result, the genealogical quest fever spread, particularly among African Americans. It took Haley more than a decade to trace back several generations, but as most Black people realize, not many of similar heritage will be able to unearth their lineage even that soon. That's because few, if any, reliable records of the centuries-long Atlantic slave trade remain to help in the search. That's what became all too apparent to NIAMS rheumatologist Dr. Paul Plotz in 1992, when "a chance occurrence" pointed his research on a rare muscle disorder to West Africa and "the greatest undocumented migration of modern times."

As Haley pointed out, people have an inherent interest in

SEE AFRICAN ROOTS, PAGE 6

## Stone House Renamed to Honor Chiles

By Irene Edwards

The Stone House was officially named the "Lawton Chiles International House" at a dedication ceremony May 13 held under a tent on the grounds of the house. The event, naming Bldg. 16 for Gov. Lawton Chiles of Florida, brought together members of Chiles' family and staff, members of the Florida congressional delegation, and representatives of the NIH community to celebrate the



NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus (l), Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles and his daughter Rhea Chiles-MacKinnon visit building's new plaque. SEE CHILES, PAGE 8

### Chamber Music Concert, June 21

The Rock Creek Chamber Players will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 21 in the 14th floor assembly hall at the Clinical Center. Reservations are recommended for this free public concert, sponsored by the recreation therapy section. The program will include Mozart's quartet for flute and strings in D major, songs by Schubert with accompaniment of clarinet and horn as well as piano, and Leonard Bernstein's sonata for clarinet and piano. For reservations and information call (202) 337-8710.



Fifth graders from Baltimore's Hilton and Patapsco elementary schools recently came to NIH to claim awards given in an NHLBI art contest, held as part of African American History Month.

Students had been asked to illustrate how they could become heart healthy; entries hung on banners in GSI cafeterias in February. Besides certificates, the winners got a special tour of NLM, including a visit to its Frankenstein exhibit (above). Below, Dr. Yvonne Bronner, nutritionist and assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, tells students how they can strive to be their best and encourages them to pursue careers in health and medicine. The events were part of NHLBI's celebration of its 50th anniversary. For more about heart health, visit the NHLBI Web site at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/nhlbi/nhlbi.htm>.



### The Faces and Phases of Eldercare

A major issue for many in balancing life responsibilities is caring for our aging parents while caring for ourselves. Caregivers are invited to attend an informative brown bag session and learn to: cope with aspects of aging, deal with moods and depression, alleviate feelings of inadequacy, and involve other family members.

The session will be held on Thursday, June 25 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6. Admission is free. Register by calling the Work and Family Life Center at 435-1619 or by emailing [wflc@od.nih.gov](mailto:wflc@od.nih.gov).

The event is sponsored by the center, the Employee Assistance Program, and the NIH quality of work life committee. Interpreting services will be available. For reasonable accommodation, call the center. ■

### NEI Announces New Clinical Trials Database

A new interactive, searchable clinical trials database has been added to the National Eye Institute's Web site at <http://www.nei.nih.gov>. The database provides detailed information on ongoing and completed clinical trials supported and conducted by NEI since 1970.

Each trial description includes information on the background and purpose of the study, patient eligibility criteria, patient recruitment, current status of the study, results to date, a bibliography and implications for clinical practice. Listings are included for the study chairperson, participating clinical centers, resource centers and NEI staff representatives.

You can search for a trial by keyword, eye disease, or location. Information also is provided on how to participate in a trial as well as how to refer a patient to a trial.

"The NEI Web site is a unique source of information for all audiences," said Dr. Carl Kupfer, NEI director. "From the researcher who wants to know about current NEI intramural studies on uveitis, to the recently diagnosed patient who wants to know more about age-related macular degeneration, to the teacher who wants to educate students about vision, the NEI Web site provides access to a wide range of eye-related topics."

Some highlights of the site include: information on the grant funding process and fellowship opportunities; clinical alerts, news releases, full text of publications, and online ordering; links to NIH and other federal Web sites; information and materials from the National Eye Health Education Program. ■

## NIH RECORD

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♻️ The Record is recyclable as office white paper.

## Ethicist Explores Nazi Medical Abuses

By Carol Clausen

On May 19, Dr. Warren T. Reich, professor emeritus of bioethics at Georgetown University and editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, presented the latest in the series of History of Medicine Seminars sponsored by the National Library of Medicine's History of Medicine Division. The subject was "Betrayal of Care: The Moral Origins of Nazi Medical Abuses."

Reich proposed the thesis that Nazi medical atrocities such as forced sterilization, nonconsensual

human experimentation, and euthanasia were the expression of a coherent medico-ethical philosophy, elaborated principally by two physician-theoreticians, Erwin Liek and Karl Koetschau.

Reich described a shift in emphasis that took place in German medical thinking at the end of the 19th century, from Fürsorge (personal, clinical care) to Vorsorge (prior, or preventive, care). The former implied the healing of the individual; the latter, the preserva-

Nazi poster bearing the phrase, translated from German, "A strong and healthy nurse is there only to give care to a dangerous madman. Shouldn't we be ashamed?"

tion of a healthy society. In this view, the common good takes precedence over the good of the individual; hence, priority was given to preventive care, or Vorsorge. Fürsorge was associated with scientific, experimental medicine, which was seen as mechanistic and overly rational, Vorsorge with naturalistic, holistic treatment, and the preservation of physiological equilibrium. Supporters of the latter philosophy advocated such preventive measures as exercise, a healthy, natural diet and herbal remedies.

During the Nazi era, the medical establishment and the government were powerfully influenced by and largely adopted the preventive view as the dominant philosophy of medical care. Healthy people, who could contribute most to the general welfare, were of primary concern. The chronically ill or disabled, mentally or physically, were seen as a drain on society, requiring the healthy and robust to care for

them and consuming a disproportionate amount of the country's resources while contributing nothing themselves. It was this view that allowed programs of forced sterilization and euthanasia to be carried out, with the cooperation of large numbers of the German medical profession, said Reich. He described this manipulation of the meaning of "care" as a threefold betrayal of medicine: a subversion of the moral standards of medicine, a betrayal of the trust and legitimate expectations of patients, and a betrayal of the public responsibility of the medical profession. ■

## IntraMall Ready for Prime Time

After a pilot phase in NCI, the IntraMall—online catalog shopping for scientific supplies and equipment—is currently open for use by all NIH institutes and centers at <http://intramall.nih.gov>. IntraMall simplifies use of IMPAC credit cards and has special features for locating products, identifying specifications and performing comparisons. To promote use of the online mall, Visa U.S.A. will make a donation to the National Foundation for Biomedical Research (the foundation for NIH) for every transaction through the IntraMall using a Visa IMPAC card from June 25 to Sept. 30, 1998.

Also, IntraMall developer CyberSystem Technologies, Inc. will continue to hold orientations for NIH shoppers. To attend an orientation or to receive your IntraMall password for immediate access, contact NCI's Jeff Weiner, 496-7058, or CyberSystem Technologies, 1-888-644-6255. ■



NIH'ers who bike to work flock to a picnic table on the lawn of Bldg. 1 May 22 to celebrate National Bicycle Month. A bagel-and-juice spread was prepared by the NIH R&W Bicycle Commuter Club, which also provided literature, trail maps and other handouts. Among the riders who pedaled up to the table were NLM's Dr. Charles Sneiderman (l), NIDR's Dr. Norman Braveman (second from l), and Jay Miller (r), president of the club. NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus also joined the group briefly after cycling in to work.



Dr. Daniel Berch has been appointed scientific review administrator in the biobehavioral and social sciences initial review group of the Center for Scientific Review. Previously, he was an AAAS science policy fellow at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, where he organized a major conference and was developing a request for applications in the area of mathematical cognition. His areas of expertise include cognitive development, developmental disorders, and mathematical learning; he has published numerous scientific articles and chapters in books in these areas, and is especially well-known for his research in Turner Syndrome. At CSR, he will manage review of research grant and Small Business Innovation Research applications.



Dr. Cheri Wiggs recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as a scientific review administrator in the biobehavioral and social sciences initial review group. She comes from the intramural program at the National Institute of Mental Health, where her research focused on memory and aging as well as other areas of cognition and neuroscience. At CSR, she will manage scientific review of grant applications submitted under the Small Business Innovation Research Program. Wiggs has been an instructor at George Washington, Catholic and Marymount universities, has given scientific presentations in the United States and abroad, and has published extensively, primarily in cognitive neuroscience.

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English translation of Dante's *Inferno* put the Italian classic on the bestseller list. In addition to his appointments as poet laureate and consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress, he is professor of graduate writing at Boston University. He also serves as poetry editor for the weekly online magazine *Slate*.

Pinsky, 57, grew up in a lower-middle class family in Long Branch, N.J. He amalgamates the language and images of his culturally diverse home town with a rich sampling of other bits of Americana as he explores subjects from the lofty to the commonplace. Two recent poems, for example, are about television and a shirt. The lingo, characters, paraphernalia and expressions of religion, fables, Black culture, jazz, city street life—and even biomedicine—weave and permute through his poems. Consider, for example, Pinsky's description of what NIH'ers might call apoptosis and hemopoiesis (from "City Elegies, 'Everywhere I Go, There I am,'" in *The Figured Wheel*): "...All through your body/A steady twinkling of ceasing and being, the cells/That die by millions and replicate themselves..." A classic Pinsky quote from a poetry reading on the Web could become a slogan for NIH (with the minor substitution of "biomedical research" for "poetry"): "The two most interesting things in the world, for our species, are ideas and the individual human body, two elements that poetry uniquely joins together."

Humor is a prominent ingredient in his poems and commentaries. He told the *Los Angeles Times*, "For me, there's a kind of quickness, restlessness, surprise, vividness, and sharpness that characterizes both poetry and comedy." One recent poem, "Impossible to Tell," weaves in two jokes as Pinsky relates the story of the death of a friend through medical malpractice while simultaneously exploring *renga*, a type of Japanese poetry.

As a young man, Pinsky saw himself becoming a jazz saxophone player, and this element of his life also threads through his poetry. One recent poem, "Ginza Samba," includes a history of the saxophone as well as the ancestors of the musicians who have played it. Poetry critics see the characteristics of improvisational jazz coursing through his poems. Alan Shapiro, introducing Pinsky at a poetry reading



Poet Robert Pinsky

at the University of North Carolina, commented, "Whether he's moving among ideas or images, meditations or stories, liturgy or slang, Robert Pinsky moves in language the way a jazz musician moves in melody, inventing continuities and harmonies from moment to moment out of the stubbornly disharmonious materials of contemporary life."

Beyond the sheer pleasure of poetry, what can hard-core scientists hope to get out of Pinsky's reading? Maybe a shot of creative energy. In an editorial in the *New York Times* (Apr. 10, 1997), Pinsky says "poetry has served as a mighty taproot of an intellectual as well as spiritual kind. There appears to be a link between the creative power of imagination and the power of what might be called 'mumbo jumbo'—a place where formal intensity and opacity overlap. That is, to conceive of something new seems to be linked to an intimate sense of the mysterious—something that is not immediately reducible to paraphrase."

Following his talk, there will be an informal reception outside the Clinical Center special events office. It will include a poster presentation of poetry composed by pediatric HIV patients and their families during the course of treatment in the CC. ■

#### Web Site on Craniofacial Genetic Disease

NIDR has recently launched a Web site dedicated to the genetics of dental-oral-craniofacial diseases and disorders. From Achondroplasia to Zellweger Syndrome-3, the site offers genetic information on approximately 100 inherited disorders with craniofacial characteristics. Some of the syndromes such as dentinogenesis imperfecta-1 are specific to the dental-oral-craniofacial spectrum, while others, like Marfan syndrome, have craniofacial components as part of a larger set of characteristics.

The Web site contains a table for each disorder that includes its genetic information as well as a description of its craniofacial features. You can search the site by syndrome name, molecule type, and chromosome number. Each disease or disorder is also linked to the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man database by gene and syndrome code numbers.

Visit the site at <http://www.nidr.nih.gov/cranio/index.html> or access it through NIDR's home page at <http://www.nidr.nih.gov>. ■

#### Postmenopausal Vols Needed

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

## Extramural Associates Program Bolsters Research

Three NIH extramural associates (EAs) recently completed a 5-month residency training period at NIH and have now returned to their respective campuses to implement their institutional plan for expanded faculty participation in the nation's biomedical and behavioral research enterprise.

They were succeeded by a summer EA class that began its 10-week residency June 1; in the class are Dr. Claudette McFadden, Bethune Cookman University; Dr. Maria Alvarez, El Paso Community College; and Dr. Ulla Craig, University of Guam.

The EA Program, a component of the Office of Extramural Research, began at NIH in 1978 as part of the then Division of Research Grants. The primary objective was to provide a mechanism to inform research non-intensive institutions about opportunities for increased faculty and student participation in NIH extramural research and training programs. This was accomplished through selection of science faculty and administrators from eligible institutions to participate in a 6-month cost-sharing residency experience at NIH.

After several years of realizing only minimal success in achieving its goal, EA administrators added a grant program to the residency. Because EA-eligible institutions are primarily teaching academies, research infrastructure at most of the schools is nonexistent. The purpose of the grant—the Extramural Associates Research Development Award (EARDA)—is to bolster the research infrastructure by allowing such things as release time for the EARDA principal investigator, support for part-time clerical assistance, purchase of office equipment and supplies, the conduct of faculty pilot research,

membership in professional organizations, travel to conferences and workshops, and support of grant proposal writing workshops.

There are two levels of EA participation: Part A is a 5-month residency at NIH available to those institutions that award masters and Ph.D. degrees in the biomedical or behavioral sciences and professional science related degrees. Upon returning to their home institution, it is expected that EAs will either establish an office of research infrastructure or augment an existing similar unit. Part B is a 10-week NIH summer residency available to baccalaureate degree granting institutions and selected community colleges. The intent of Part B is to strengthen an office of research information and to disseminate information to faculty and students about research and training opportunities.

An in-depth assessment of the program's effectiveness, particularly following addition of the EARDA grant, is set to begin in about 2 years; the results of a preliminary assessment are encouraging.

For more information about the program, call 435-2736; fax (301) 480-0393 or email program director Dr. Matthew Kinnard, mk51q@nih.gov. ■



*Three EAs recently completed their 5-month residency experience.*

*Shown above with Dr. Yvonne Maddox (second from r), NICHD deputy director, they are (from l) Dr. Elaine Davis, Bowie State University, Bowie, Md.; Dr. Stephen Daniel, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.; and Sister Marie Cooper, Immaculata College, Immaculata, Pa.*

### OAR DIRECTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prevent transmission of HIV.”

The previous OAR director, Dr. William E. Paul, returned last November to the Laboratory of Immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to continue the search for an effective HIV vaccine. Dr. Jack Whitescarver has been serving in the interim as OAR acting director.

OAR is responsible for coordinating the scientific, budgetary, legislative and policy elements of the NIH AIDS research program, as well as the promotion of collaborative research activities in domestic and international settings. OAR conducted the first comprehensive evaluation of the NIH AIDS research program. The final report, known as the “Levine Report,” provided a blueprint for restructuring the program.

OAR has made HIV vaccine development a high priority. Varmus said, “The recruitment of Dr. Nathanson will further enhance our deep commitment to vaccine research.”

Nathanson received both a B.S. and an M.D. degree at Harvard, followed by clinical training in internal medicine at the University of Chicago and postdoctoral training in virology at Johns Hopkins University. Early in his career, he spent 2 years at the Centers for Disease Control where he headed the polio surveillance unit. Later he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, where he became professor and head of the division of infectious diseases in the department of epidemiology. He then moved to the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, where he chaired the department of microbiology for 15 years, finally serving for 2 years as vice dean for research and research training.

In recent years, his NIH-sponsored work has included studies in the mechanisms by which HIV causes disease. ■

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knowing their heritage. Plotz said our investment in modern science, specifically the Human Genome Project, is poised not only to reveal medical truths about ourselves and our potential for health, but also to help us make that connection to our past.

"This work holds out a promise for the future," he said, during Clinical Center Grand Rounds on May 13. "At the heart of it is the recognition of a deep biological truth: Each chromosome holds within it not just the knowledge of what diseases are in store for us and how to cure or prevent them, but also its whole biological history over endless generations, stretching back almost unimaginably far."

While conducting clinical studies on the rare muscle disease myositis a few years ago, Plotz, who is chief of NIAMS's Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch, and his group were contacted by a physician from Children's Hospital. There was an infant with an enlarged liver, heart failure and abnormal muscle function who had been diagnosed with a rare genetic disease called acid maltase deficiency (AMD, or Pompe Syndrome, as it is more commonly known). After thoroughly reviewing the child's clinical data, the physician had made a connection between the AMD case and NIAMS's myositis work. The baby was African, born to parents working temporarily in the United States. Would Plotz be interested in examining the child? Plotz and his colleagues agreed.

By 1993, two other infants—both Africans born with AMD—had been referred to Plotz. Two researchers in his group, pediatrician Dr. Jeffrey Becker and molecular biologist Dr. Nina Raben, beginning to suspect a pattern, foraged the lab's fridge for other stored samples of AMD patients. Hunches paid off. The Children's Hospital infants—whose parents hailed originally from the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria—were all found to have a genetic mutation identical to one found in the cell line of an African American AMD patient.

Surprised and excited to find such an unlikely match, the scientists contacted the Human Genetic Mutant Cell Depository in Camden, N.J., and requested DNA samples from all the AMD patients on file who had one or both parents who were African American. Dutch researchers and scientists at New York University, who were conducting their own independent studies of the disorder, were also consulted. A dozen more samples were collected. Several more matches were found. In all, genetic material from four African tribes—the Guéré, Hausa, Ashanti and Ovambo populations—showed the mutation. By then, Plotz was wondering about possible familial connections among all these Black families. Of the infants' parents who were interviewed, none knew of any relationship with the others, and none had any definitive way of finding out.



*Interaction among the four African groups seemed unlikely, given the great distances between their lands. However, Vlach suggested, the Hausa were a highly mobile people who were well known traders across all of West Africa.*

"Most of us could bring forth mementos or tales of our forebears in the old country," Plotz acknowledged, holding up a pot made by his great-great grandfather, a coppersmith originally from Lithuania. "Most families have someone drawing a family tree with roots somewhere else in the world—most, but not all. In particular, not the descendants of African Americans who were forcibly brought here in the Atlantic slave trade, which robbed its victims of their memories and severed them from their roots."

Still searching for a connection between African Americans with AMD to their African counterparts, Plotz consulted with a number of experts on African genealogy, including NIDDK's Dr. Griff Rodgers, who conducts such studies related to sickle cell disease, Dr. Michael Blakey of Howard University's African Burial Ground Project (see *NIH Record*, Apr. 22, 1997) and—by virtue of another happenstance—Dr. John Vlach, professor of American civilization and anthropology and director of the folklife program at George Washington University.

At a social gathering, Plotz mentioned in passing his search for links between certain African groups and African Americans. He was referred to Vlach, who for 18 months collaborated with Plotz on several historical and cultural aspects of the AMD study, including the Grand Rounds presentation.

At issue were three questions: Which of the four African groups currently known to have the AMD

**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 "home-work" 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.

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mutation might have carried it to the U.S.? What, if any, connections among the groups existed before the slave trade? What are some tangible trans-Atlantic ties connecting African Americans to their African roots?

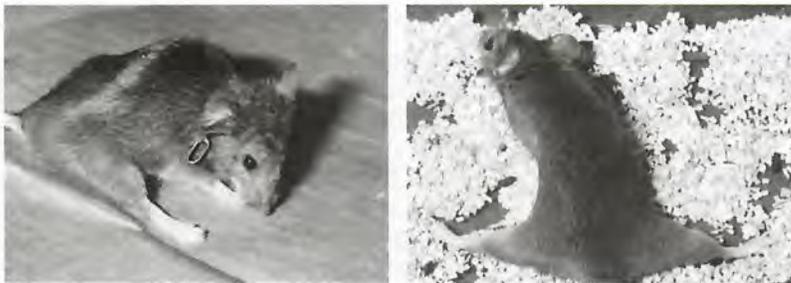
Using historical geographical data, Vlach suggested that, by process of elimination, the Ashanti people of Ghana were the most likely trans-Atlantic carriers of the mutation.

"While individual Guéré, Hausa or Ovambo might have been brought to the United States sometime between 1619 and 1861," he said, "among the peoples we currently know to be carriers of the trait only the Ashanti appear to have been regularly included in the slave cargoes arriving on our shores. Thousands of them can be identified in every decade of the 18th century. Because they were believed by slave owners to be the most intelligent of all the African peoples, and thus thought to make the best servants, they were deliberately sought out at auctions."

The second question posed more of a problem. Interaction among the groups seemed unlikely, given the great distances between their lands: 500 miles of dense rain forest separated the Guéré from the Ashanti; the Hausa lived more than 600 miles east of the Ashanti; and the Ovambo were located nearly 2,000 miles south of the Hausa. However, Vlach pointed out, the Hausa were a highly mobile people who were well known traders across all of West Africa. More than likely, he suggested, the AMD trait originated at least a thousand years ago in or near their traditional homeland of Nigeria and was spread among the other regions during trade and commerce.

As for tangible items that could link African Americans to these African groups, Vlach said artifacts are rare that could show such specific ties. Language, music, religion and cultural customs are among the wide array of tools historical researchers traditionally use to draw general conclusions about a people. As examples, he showed slides of baskets, musical instruments and burial customs that have survived through generations of Africans and African Americans.

"While comparisons of this sort clearly illustrate artifactual carryovers from Africa to the U.S.," he concluded, "they do not reveal the precise identity of the African contributor. Careful scrutiny of form, materials, and technique can narrow the list of potential contributors, but artifacts rarely provide the specificity we find in the intricacies of a genetic mutation." Consequently, he continued, there will be considerable interest among students of the African diaspora in the AMD research by Plotz and



*The mouse model of the rare disease AMD was developed by molecular biologist Dr. Nina Raben and colleagues. AMD is indicated by heart failure and abnormal muscle function, as shown above in the animals' hind legs.*

colleagues.

Although the infants whose genetic data helped begin Plotz's quest eventually died from the disorder, and their parents all returned to Africa, their contributions remain a valuable piece of the AMD puzzle. Researcher Raben and others have developed a mouse model of the rare disease—a crucial step toward finding better treatments and perhaps a cure. They also continue to study the gene in AMD patients, and to collaborate with scientists at Johns Hopkins and other institutions working on solving the medical riddle that debilitates a few thousand people worldwide. But what Plotz really hopes is that people begin to appreciate the big picture, far beyond a 1/2-hour Grand Rounds talk on AMD.

"If the collective human genome is the biological history of our species, recording our relationship to all the other species who have ever lived, then for an individual human being, it is a biography, a document of incredible detail and fidelity with the marks of where it has been and with whom," he concluded. "Historians and anthropologists will one day consult it and, with geneticists, reconstruct an important part of the past."

*The findings from the study were published in the April issue of the American Journal of Human Genetics, Vol. 62, p. 991, 1998. ■*

#### **R&W Celebrates Its Members**

The NIH/NOAA R&W Association will hold its member appreciation day on Wednesday, June 24 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 10, 14th floor assembly hall. Awards for outstanding contributions will be made, information about R&W will be available, and refreshments will be served. A discussion of upcoming events and planning for next fiscal year will also take place.

Special discounts for R&W members will be available the week of June 22-26 in all gift shops. Ten percent discounts will be applied those five days, starting with T-shirts (Monday), shorts (Tuesday), jewelry (Wednesday), picture frames (Thursday) and toys (Friday).

If you are not yet a member, now is a great time to join! ■

#### **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.**

occasion. The house is a locus for international activities supported by the Fogarty International Center, other NIH institutes and centers, and HHS.

Now in his second and final term as governor of Florida, Chiles previously served in Florida's House and Senate, then spent 18 years in the United States Senate, where he chaired the appropriations subcommittee for labor, health and human services, education and related agencies. Sen. Chiles was a staunch supporter of NIH, and his tenure on the committee coincided with a period of significant growth at NIH, including the establishment of the Office of Human Genome Research and an increased emphasis on AIDS and mental health research. It was at the end of Chiles' tenure in the Senate that legislation was passed naming the house for him.

As governor, Chiles has dedicated himself to "building a constituency for children" in an effort to promote the well-being of Florida's children and families. His namesake institution, the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for Healthy Mothers and Babies at the University of South Florida College of Public Health, works to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity through community-based programs.

In his remarks to guests, NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus announced that NICHD and the USF Chiles Center have established an annual Lawton Chiles International Lecture on Maternal and Child Health in the Americas. The lecture will be given at NIH and at USF by a leading scientist engaged in research in maternal and child health in Central or South America, selected jointly by the directors of the two sponsoring organizations. Emphasis in selection will be placed on research leading to improved health care or influencing public policy.

"While I'm proud to be recognized here today," said Chiles, "it is the researchers and scholars who are the heroes. They are the ones who will put this house to work—improving and saving the lives of people around the world. Because of your efforts," he continued, "the world we live in today and the world we will leave behind for our children and grandchildren is a truly safer, cleaner and better place." ■

### Do You Sleep A Lot?

Do you almost always sleep 9 or more hours a night? Are you between ages 20 and 30? Do you sleep soundly, with no sleep disturbances or insomnia? If this sounds like you, you may be eligible to participate in a sleep study conducted by NIMH's Clinical Psychobiology Branch. You must not take any types of medication or birth control pills, must have no history of mental illness and must be in good health. You must also be willing to live 4 consecutive days at the research unit. Compensation is available. Call for more details, 496-6981. ■

### FOCC Thanks Benefactors

The Friends of the Clinical Center, a charitable organization that, since 1984, has provided emergency financial aid to patients at NIH, honored its benefactors this spring at two events: a thank-you dinner at a Bethesda restaurant was held in late April, and on June 9, a reception at the Cloister was held for major donors.

Aid from FOCC is handled on a case-by-case basis, and typically helps with necessities such as mortgage payments, utility bills and transportation costs. FOCC received more than 60 requests last year; the average request was about \$750.

Future fundraisers include the WGAY Moviefest, the fall Pumpkin Chase footrace, and a Holiday Bazaar.

To learn more about FOCC, call 402-1093.

### Summer 1998 Hockey Schedule Set

Has the playoff success of the Washington Capitals got you itching to lace up your skates, hop over the boards and join the action on the ice? If so, the NIH Hockey Club is for you. The summer season—all Monday evenings at Cabin John Ice Rink in Bethesda—has already begun. Remaining dates are June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10. Fee is \$190 for the session. This includes insurance, NIH R&W membership and ice time. Make your checks payable to NIH Hockey Club (NIHHC) and send to 8617 Rayburn Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. For more information contact: Guy Wassertzug (301) 299-1197 (h), (301) 417-7171 (w) or Ed Ginns (301) 530-9324 (h), (301) 496-0373 x209 (w).

The NIHHC is a nonprofit volunteer organization that sponsors hockey scrimmages as a community service. The games are friendly intrasquad scrimmages involving minimal contact and no checking. Because some incidental contact will undoubtedly occur in the course of the game, and accidents do occur, full equipment is encouraged. Helmets are mandatory and face masks are urged. All players are responsible for having their own accident/health insurance.

In case of inclement weather, call the rink at (301) 365-0132. If the rink is open, the club is skating! ■

*Dr. Robert S. Langer, an NIGMS grantee for 20 years, was recently awarded the 1998 Lemelson-MIT Prize—the world's largest single prize for invention and innovation. He was honored for discoveries in controlled drug delivery and innovations in tissue engineering. He is a professor of biomedical and chemical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Harvard Medical School researcher at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston. In addition to co-developing the first FDA-approved treatment for brain cancer in 20 years, Langer has done research that led to the development of artificial skin to treat burns and synthetic cartilage to treat joint injuries. The Lemelson-MIT Prize, established in 1994, is awarded annually for outstanding inventiveness and creativity that significantly benefit society. Langer received this year's award and its \$500,000 prize at a ceremony at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. He has also received support for shorter time periods from NEI, NIAID and NIAMS.*



### NIH Celebrates Daly, Roots of Chemistry

"Roots of Chemistry at NIH," a symposium dedicated to Dr. John W. Daly, former chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, begins at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 21 in Natcher Conference Center with "John Daly: Chemist in a Biological Environment," by Dr. Phil Skolnick of Eli Lilly and Co.

On June 22, "Ion Channels and Disease," will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Speakers will discuss: Specific Ligands Isolated from Amphibians: Natural Products and the Remarkable Contribution of John Daly to the Study of Chemosensitive Receptors and Excitable Membranes; Batrachotoxin, Ion Channels, and Epilepsy; The NIH Shift and Arene Oxides; The Recent Years, Alkaloid Sources and Activities; and Mechanism-Based Treatment of CNS Disorders.

The afternoon session, "Receptors and Second Messengers," will run from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Topics include: Novel Adenylyl Cyclases and Novel Functions; Forskolin, A Prototype for Design of Drugs Which Moderate Adenylate Cyclase; Purine Receptor-Based Therapeutic Concepts; Sphingosine Kinase-Mediated Signaling; Biogenic Amines as Fluorinated Probes for Receptors; and Signal Transduction Mechanisms Elicited by Lipopolysaccharide in Mammalian Cells.

For 40 years, Daly has studied the molecular basis for the biological activity of hormones, drugs and natural products. He is particularly well known for his explorations of the Central and South American rain forests to find poisonous neotropical frogs whose skin is filled with biologically active compounds.

His work has led to the isolation of 400 new alkaloids that divide into more than 20 structural classes. One of these alkaloids, epibatidine, is 200 times more effective than morphine. Recently, researchers at Abbott Laboratories found an experimental drug with a chemical structure similar to epibatidine. A new painkiller is now in early human safety testing in Europe.

Daly served as chief of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry from 1978 to 1997. It is one of the oldest laboratories at NIH, dating back to 1905. Initially, it was called the Division of Chemistry of the Hygienic Laboratory of the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. It was the only governmental agency where public health problems requiring expertise in chemistry could be referred. Since 1920, the chiefs of the lab have continuously been recognized by the National Academy of Sciences.

"Roots of Chemistry" will honor Daly on his 65th birthday. All are welcome to attend. For more information or to register call Tracy Morgan, (301) 493-9674. ■

### NHLBI Art Poster Contest Celebration

As part of NHLBI's 50th anniversary celebration, the institute and the Friends of the NHLBI sponsored an art poster contest in three states: Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina. The intent was to raise public understanding of cardiovascular disease, particularly among kids. High school students were given an opportunity to create a poster design that would increase the visibility of the cardiovascular disease problem confronting the American people and highlight the importance of medical



research. Representatives from university art departments, the medical community, local politicians and community leaders were invited to be

judges. The top 10 posters from each state were on exhibit in the main lobby of the Clinical Center during May 13-29. They can also be seen on the Web at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/personal/condonvt1/html/apc.htm>. ■

NHLBI recently was host to first-prize art poster contest winners from three states: Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina. Pictured above are (from l) Donte Hiley (Ga.); Mollie Mills (Miss.); Dr. Claude Lenfant, director, NHLBI; and Elizabeth Little (N.C.).

### CIT Courses and Seminars

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

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| NIH Data Warehouse Budget and Finance           | 6/18     |
| Database Technology Seminar                     | 6/19     |
| Web Sponsor Features and Capabilities           | 6/22     |
| NIH Data Warehouse Property Management          | 6/22     |
| Java  | 6/22-26  |
| Parachute Startup for Windows 95                | 6/23     |
| LAN Services and Email from Parachute           | 6/23     |
| BRMUG Macintosh Users Group                     | 6/23     |
| Using Photoshop for Acquiring Scientific Images | 6/24     |
| Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 97       | 6/30     |
| Fundamentals of Unix                            | 6/30-7/1 |
| The NIH Contractor Performance System           | 7/1      |
| Electronic Forms Users Group                    | 7/1      |

### 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. ■

## NINDS's Lauter Retires after 42-Year Government Career

By Shannon E. Garnett

After 42 years of government service, 41 at NIH, Carl J. Lauter, a biochemist at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, has turned in his lab coat. He recently retired.

"I have always been fortunate in working in labs with friendly, cooperative people, and have learned much in return for my niche of time and service to the progress of scientific research," he said.

Lauter began his career in 1955 as chemist in the

Division of Chemistry at the National Bureau of Standards. In 1956, he joined NIH as a biochemist in the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Metabolism, National Heart Institute (now NHLBI), where he assisted in research on the composition and dietary responses of mammalian serum lipoproteins.

In 1960, Lauter moved to the Laboratory of Neurochemistry, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Blindness (now NINDS)—where he has remained for 38 years. Working with Dr. Roscoe Brady and the late Dr. Eberhard Trams, Lauter became independently involved in a collaborative research project on the lipid components of mammalian tissues. His project specifically dealt with the development of techniques for isolating and elucidating gangliosides in the brain.

"Carl Lauter is an extraordinarily talented and down-to-earth biochemist," said Brady, chief of the Developmental Metabolic Neurology Branch, NINDS. "While he was in my laboratory, one of his main functions was to develop useful laboratory confirmations of experiments conceived by my coworker Dr. Trams, a gifted scientist with far-ranging ideas. Many of Trams' innovations were reduced to useful science by Lauter. Together, they published many valuable contributions."

In 1968, on a leave of absence from NIH, Lauter went to the University of Oslo, Norway, where he worked as a postgraduate research fellow and a graduate research assistant, studying protein synthesis. Although he returned to the DMNB 17 months later, he continued to pursue independent studies, traveling to the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Fla., to study protein synthesis and ectonucleotidase enzyme activity using sea urchin eggs and embryos.

"I feel a special kinship with Carl dating from my first days as a staff fellow at the NIH in the 1970's. His work was always characterized by precision and careful controls," said Dr. Norman Salem, Jr., acting NIAAA scientific director, who worked alongside



Carl J. Lauter

Lauter for many years. "He has been a real resource within the NINDS and has continued to train postdocs as well as perform his biochemical duties in a most expert manner. Many of us will miss his presence in the lab but wish him great happiness in his retirement."

Lauter spent the last 13 years in the myelin and brain development section of NINDS's Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology, working with postdoctoral fellows and the laboratory chief, Dr. Richard H. Quarles, on research involving myelin composition and molecular structure.

"The most notable aspect of Carl's role as a NIH scientist over the years has been the very careful and conscientious manner in which he approaches all aspects of his job, whether it is actually doing experiments or maintaining the laboratory," said Quarles. "In the past dozen years or so that he has worked directly with me, I have become very dependent on him for the smooth operation of my lab, and he will be greatly missed."

Lauter coauthored 30 published articles. He holds memberships in several professional organizations including the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, where he served as president of the Washington section in 1994.

Throughout his years at NIH, Lauter has witnessed many changes on the campus. "I remember when the area in back of Building 10 was an 18-hole municipal golf course," he recalled. "I used to watch the golfers as I sat in the cafeteria in the evenings."

He said what he will miss most about NIH, is "the opportunity to feel like a part of a team—as small as my part might be—that is accomplishing a research project for the betterment of life, to mingle with people in all aspects of research who are willing to talk at any level of understanding, and in general to associate with the friendly lab personnel in our daily work area."

In retirement Lauter, who is married with two adult children, plans to travel with his wife Astrid, work in his garden, and continue working as a volunteer with the Chesapeake chapter of the National Ataxia Foundation, where he currently serves as president. ■

### 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. ■

### Postmenopausal Women Sought

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking women who are postmenopausal (no menstrual period for at least 1 year) and medication free to participate in a study investigating the effects of hormones on behavior. Hormonal evaluation will be performed and payment is provided. For information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576.

## Retired NIDDK Biochemist Sidney Chernick Is Mourned

Dr. Sidney S. Chernick, a retired captain in the PHS Commissioned Corps and a biochemist with NIDDK for 35 years, died of a heart attack on Apr. 21 at Bethesda Naval hospital. He was 76.

"Dr. Chernick was a distinguished scientist in NIDDK for many years," remarked Dr. Phillip Gorden, NIDDK director. His studies of dietary liver necrosis in rats demonstrated an early biochemical lesion in this condition. He also analyzed hormonal regulation of lipid metabolism during diabetes, pregnancy and lactation; researched obesity and the action of insulin on adipose tissue; and studied the regulation and synthesis of lipoprotein lipase, an enzyme that removes fat from the bloodstream.

"Chernick was one of the first scientists to use radiocarbon-labeled sugars in metabolic research," said Dr. Robert Scow, an NIDDK scientist emeritus and a friend of Chernick's for 55 years. Chernick isolated these sugars from starch produced by tobacco plants while working on the Manhattan Project at the University of California, Berkeley. The plants were grown in the lab with C14-labeled carbon dioxide obtained as a cyclotron byproduct. He used C14-glucose to show that liver can form carbon dioxide and fatty acids from glucose and that diabetes greatly reduces glucose utilization in the liver.

Scow met Chernick in 1943 at UC-Berkeley and again 10 years later at NIDDK, where they began a productive scientific collaboration in 1956. "As a colleague, he was talkative, inquisitive and often argumentative, but never in a personal way," said Scow. "Sometimes I would come to work on Monday morning hoping to outsmart Sid with special knowledge on some subject I acquired over the weekend by reading the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Invariably, I lost."

Chernick was also a mentor of 1994 Nobel

Laureate Martin Rodbell. He taught him how to study hormone action using radioisotopes. He also trained scientists from the United States, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Japan and Yugoslavia. "Sid was a very interesting man," said Scow. "He liked to be on

center stage, whether in a discussion, singing or playing the piano, but he never seemed to seek glory for himself."

Chernick augmented his professional career with a special interest in cystic fibrosis. He constantly scoured the journals and frequently gave good ideas on treating patients to his wife, Milica Chernick, a doctor in the Clinical Center. Mila, as she is known informally, says that during their outpatient visits, her cystic fibrosis patients always asked first about him.

"I first got to know Sidney when I was a patient of his wife, Mila," said Charles Tolchin. "I was on ward 9-D at NIH, and he would stop by late each afternoon to pick up Mila. He always made time to schmooze and regale me with stories from his early days."

Chernick received an A.B. in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1943. He received an M.A. in 1945 and a Ph.D. in 1948 from Berkeley. In 1951, he became professor of physiology and pharmacology at North Dakota State University. He retired from NIH in 1987.

"Sid Chernick was a delight, a knowledgeable and committed scientist, a dependable optimist and a concerned and kind person," added NIDDK's Dr. Jay Hoofnagle.

"It is hard to know that we will never again see that wonderful smile or hear that infectious laugh," said Tolchin's father, Martin.

Contributions in Chernick's memory may be sent to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.—Sharon Ricks



Dr. Sidney S. Chernick

## NIH Community Orchestra, Chamber Singers Join Forces

Celebrate summer with the NIH Chamber Singers and the NIH Community Orchestra. The joint performance will include excerpts from Orff's bawdy *Carmina Burana*, Mozart's rousing *Chorus of the Janissaries*, Vaughn Williams' *Shakespeare Songs*, Barber's *Easter Chorale*, Faure's *Pavanne*, and other selections. Concerts will take place on Friday, June 26, at noon, and on Saturday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Clinical Center's Masur Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door, and suggested donation is \$5 to benefit the NIH charities. Patients and families are admitted free. A dress rehearsal on Thursday evening, June 25, will also be open to staff

and patients. Check these Web sites for more information: <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/chamber/> (Chamber Singers) or <http://www.gprep.org/~music/nih> (Community Orchestra). ■

## Volunteers Needed for Medication 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. ■

## Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking female volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on measures of cerebral activity and blood flow. 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 studies of cerebral blood flow with positron emission tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576.

Fundraiser for Lung Association

## Shalizi Embarks on Cross-Country Bike Tour

By Rich McManus

Unlike most of us, Ary Shalizi, a 22-year-old pre-IRTA fellow in the dental institute, knows exactly where he will be every moment of the period June 15 to Aug. 1. That's because he's got pavement duty, big time. The Big Uneasy—a cross-country bicycle trip from Seattle to Washington, D.C., via the blue highways, not the interstates.

If a crow were to undertake the journey, it would flap for 2,329 miles. Obligated by geography and road availability to take a more circuitous route, Shalizi will pedal, with about 1,000 other folks participating in The Big Ride, an American Lung Association-sponsored fundraiser, for at least 3,000 miles.

The ALA cheerfully describes the event as “47 stress-free, office-free days,” for which entrants pay a \$150 registration fee and also commit to a marathon nearly as grueling as the tour itself: each rider must secure—from friends, family, whomever—\$6,000 in donations to the ALA. To prepare for this stressless block of time, Shalizi has ridden a clumsy mountain bike to work for the past 6 months and trained in the NIH Fitness Center when the weather's been too foul for biking.

“I ride every day, usually about 25 miles,” he said. “On weekends, I add more miles. Basically, I need to get used to being on a bike for 6 hours a day.”

A graduate of Oberlin College who majored in neuroscience, Shalizi grew up just across Cedar Lane from NIH. His mother works in an NICHD laboratory. “She's the reason

both my brother and I ended up in the sciences,” says Shalizi. “Sometimes she would take us to work with her, and to keep us occupied she'd make us do protein titrations.”

He went to the Barrie School, a small, private high school in Silver Spring, which is where he adopted cycling as a pastime. “They had a Travel Week every spring, where the students took trips with the teachers,” he recalls. “There was a 5-day Pennsylvania bike trip through Amish country, which I did every year I was there.” Shalizi's longest bike ride so far—70 miles—came during a Multiple Sclerosis Bike-a-thon during high school.

A pedaler for the past 9 years, Shalizi says, “I always wanted to bike cross-country.” He saw a full-page advertisement for The Big Ride last year in the Weekend section of the *Washington Post* and

decided to sign on. Only 10 riders from the D.C. area joined the tour, he said. “There must be a lot [of riders] from California.”

Participants must arrange to get their bikes, tents and supplies out to Seattle in time for the tour; Shalizi left NIH on May 29 and flew to Seattle on June 12. “Luckily, I don't have to carry any equipment during the ride,” he said. A truck carrying bikers' tents and food will trail the pack daily. Each rider is expected to complete an average of 80 miles each day. The course for each day is open for 10 hours. Cyclists who overachieve and reach the endpoint early can rest; stragglers who don't complete a segment are swept up by a sag wagon.

“It will be sort of a moving tent village,” said Shalizi. Every seventh day, a rest stop is planned, usually in a college town—Madison, or Missoula, for example—that can accommodate an influx of migrant fundraisers. Breakfast and dinner each day are arranged by the tour management company, the same one that organizes AIDS rides, Shalizi noted. Riders are on their own for lunch, except on those desolate stretches where there are no restaurants.

“I'm pretty sure I'll lose weight during the trip,” predicted Shalizi, who already disappears within his baggy attire, “or at least it will be rearranged.”

Corporate sponsor GTE will donate free telephone and email access to the riders, so they can stay in touch with family and sponsors. Those who drop out of the ride face a strong disincentive—they must find their own way home.

“I'm pretty sure I'll stay with it,” said Shalizi. “After all, every day when we start again, I'll be headed back home anyway.”

At NIH since October 1996, Shalizi hopes to return later this summer to a job as a biologist at NIDR. He plans eventually to attend medical school.

Just before leaving the security of home and campus last month, he confessed to some fears. “Am I scared? Definitely. It's a long trip. It's so far. I haven't ridden consistently, 6 hours a day for 7 weeks. It's going to be like a job—‘Ride your bicycle!’”

His family is concerned, but supportive. “At first they thought I was completely insane, but they've gotten used to it. They're proud I'm doing it, but they still think it's a little crazy.”

Weather's not a worry because he rode all winter to work. What scares him is the possibility of an accident. Two months ago, he was hit by a car that turned, without signaling, in front of him. “It knocked me down, but the bike was hurt more than I was,” he said. “But I'm not too worried this time—I'll have a kind of living cushion around me.”

Shalizi splurged on a new touring bike for The Big Ride (see photo). He's on it now, coming home. The long way. ■



Ary Shalizi is now pedaling from Seattle toward the Mall in downtown Washington, the terminus of a cross-country fundraising bike tour designed to raise \$6 million for the American Lung Association. His first trip across the U.S. “may well be my only time,” he said.