

THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Spirited Play Highlights Disability Awareness Program

It's been a long time—if ever—since the parking lot in front of Bldg. 1 was cleared to make way for street ball. But it happened



NICHD's Dr. Louis Quatrano conducts the game's tip-off.

Oct. 1 when a team of wheelchair-using athletes from the Maryland Ravens basketball team took on a team of NIH'ers in a full-court game marking NIH's 15th annual Disability Employment Awareness Program, titled "Opening Doors to Disability."

Granted, the NIH squad wasn't used to sitting in wheelchairs, let alone running and dribbling a ball in them, but the Ravens did

SEE AWARENESS, PAGE 4

MIT's Pinker To Give Director's Cultural Lecture

Popular author Dr. Steven Pinker, professor in the department of brain and cognitive sciences at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and director of the McDonnell-Pew Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at MIT, will deliver the NIH Director's Cultural Lecture on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. He will speak on "Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language."

Pinker's research has focused on the psychology of language, including empirical studies of linguistic behavior as well as theoretical analyses of the nature of language and its relation to mind and brain.

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

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More Doors, Fewer Walls

Varmus Convenes Public Meeting, Considers Ways to Open NIH

By Carla Garnett

Eighteen years ago, Theresa Schwantes of South Milwaukee, Wisc., experienced a medical crisis. Her newborn daughter Brianne was diagnosed with a brittle bone disorder called osteogenesis imperfecta. Schwantes was advised that her daughter could not possibly live long with the disorder. One of the best options, she was told, would be to put her in an institution. Schwantes refused. Instead, the family sought help from NIH. After years of clinical studies, the happy mom now reports, Brianne is a freshman this fall at American University, considering a career in law and politics.

Patty Delaney of D.C. works at the Food and Drug Administration. When she was diagnosed 10 years ago with stage IV Hodgkin's disease, she was as scared and in need of reliable guidance as anyone else—notwithstanding a general familiarity with medical research. She, too, sought assistance from NIH.

Bradley Margus of Boca Raton, Fl., described himself as "just another businessman until about 4 years ago." That's when his two sons were diagnosed with ataxia telangiectasia (A-T), a very

SEE PUBLIC ADVICE, PAGE 8

Top-to-Bottom Makeover

With Little Fanfare, Bldg. 37 Remodels

By Carla Garnett

Compared to the other construction projects going on in every campus quadrant, the improvements being made to Bldg. 37 are relatively quiet and disruption-free. That's because the 6-story building is being redone top to bottom, floor by floor, while its occupants work inside.

"We have been well informed in advance of each phase," said Dr. Claude Klee, chief of NCI's Laboratory of Biochemistry, which is currently located on the 4th floor, but will soon move to the newly renovated 6th floor of Bldg. 37. "Aside from a couple of power outages, we have not had any serious problems. However, the major construction has not really started yet, so

SEE REMODELING 37, PAGE 6



Bldg. 37 was originally completed 30 years ago. Current modernization is being conducted floor by floor, pending availability of funds each year.

PINKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His revolutionary theory of how children acquire language specifies the information-processing steps in the child's brain that make language so instinctive to humans. He sees language as a biological adaptation of *Homo sapiens*, and in his book *The Language Instinct* used this idea to synthesize a vast literature on the science of language, including its structure, development, history, neurological basis and relation to the rest of the mind.

In this lecture, Pinker will discuss his model system for studying language and how it illuminates the overall design of language.

Presenting evidence from cognitive psychology, linguistics and neuroscience, he asserts that two distinct cognitive mechanisms underlie the vast expressive power of human language: associative memory and symbol-manipulating rules. Regular inflectional morphology (e.g., "walk/walked", "dog/dogs") is computed by a rule-based system; irregular morphology (e.g. "run/ran", "mouse/mice") is computed by an associative memory system.

Pinker is well known for his lively sense of humor and ability to explain a variety of difficult topics clearly to a general audience. When necessary, he explains technical material with newspaper headlines, jokes and literary texts. His 1994 book *The Language Instinct* was named among the 10 best books of 1994 by the *New York Times*, the *London Times*, and the *Boston Globe*, and won prizes from the American Psychological Association and the Linguistics Society of America. His latest book, *How the Mind Works*, won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in Science, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He has also written for *Time*, the *New York Times*, *Discover*, the *New Yorker*, the *New Republic*, *Slate*, and *Natural History*.

He received a B.A. in psychology from McGill University in 1976 and a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Harvard University in 1979. After serving on the faculties of Harvard and Stanford, he moved to MIT in 1982.

Pinker has received research prizes from the National Academy of Sciences, the American Psychological Association, and a teaching prize from MIT. He was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychological Society.

A reception will follow his lecture. For more information, or for reasonable accommodation, contact Hilda Madine, 594-5595. ■

Group Focuses on College Drinking

In an effort to address the issue of alcohol abuse among college students, NIAAA's national advisory council has created a subcommittee on college drinking.

Comprised of college presidents and researchers, the subcommittee will provide expertise and guidance to NIAAA based on a dialogue among university researchers and administrators. Input also will be sought from students, parents, community leaders, corporate executives and others.

The goals of the subcommittee are two: The long-term objective is to advise NIAAA and other policymakers on future research to improve campus prevention and



NIAAA director Dr. Enoch Gordis (c) welcomes cochairs to the first meeting of the college drinking subcommittee; they are Dr. Mark Goldman (l) of the University of South Florida and Rev. Edward Malloy, president of the University of Notre Dame.

treatment programs. The short-term aim is to provide college researchers and presidents with information on the effectiveness of current interventions.

By focusing on research outcomes, the subcommittee seeks to make a lasting contribution to understanding and preventing misuse of alcohol on college campuses. ■

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Bestselling author and scientist Dr. Steven Pinker will deliver the NIH Director's Cultural Lecture on Nov. 4.

OER's Kinnard Extends Legacy Of Achievement

By Myra Northcutt

When Matthew A. Kinnard's parents were struggling in the 1940's to send him to classes at Beechville Elementary, a 1-room school in rural Tennessee, little did they realize their son would go on to lead a program at one of the top health agencies in the world. The Kinnards understood the importance of a good education, and even though money was almost nonexistent at times, they managed to send all nine of their children to college.

Today, Matthew Kinnard serves as health science administrator and director of the Extramural Associates Program in NIH's Office of Extramural Research. He holds a bachelor's degree with honors in biology and a master's degree with honors in zoology from Tennessee State University in Nashville. He earned his Ph.D. with honors in neurophysiology from Georgetown University.

Because of their dedication to higher education, Kinnard and his siblings were honored recently at Tennessee State University, where all nine earned their bachelor's degrees. As the sons and daughters of a sharecropper and tenant farmer, the Kinnards' achievements have been called nothing short of amazing. For 21 years, from 1948 until 1969, at least one of the Kinnard brothers and sisters was attending classes at TSU. Five Kinnards earned master's degrees from TSU and three earned Ph.D.s from other institutions.

"The Kinnard legacy seems to be that education is the key to succeeding," said NIH's Kinnard. "Our parents often told us that if we would get an education, we would be better off than they were. That was the guiding principle we lived by and that's what we've instilled in our children."

His daughter Mary earned her Ph.D. in organizational communication from Howard University and his daughter Lisa is currently pursuing a doctorate in electrical engineering from Howard.

Even though education was of the utmost importance to the Kinnards, getting one often took perseverance and ingenuity. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Kinnard Sr., now deceased, lived most of their lives on a farm in rural Tennessee. When their children were small, the Kinnards lived so far from the local grade school that the children could not walk to and from school in a day's time. Mr. Kinnard would take some of the children to their grandmother's home on Sunday nights and return for them on Fridays. The children would attend school during the week from the grandmother's home.

Several of the Kinnards were also in the same class. Matthew, who attended class with his older brother, says he remembers his mother saying she pushed some of the younger children to get in classes with their older siblings because the family could not afford to buy two sets of books. During segregation,

the parents had to buy most of the elementary school books, he said.

"We were so poor, but I never really considered life a struggle," he recalls. "I was probably in my thirties before I realized that our accomplishments were considered special. I thought all families were educated similarly."

When Kinnard entered college at Tennessee State University, he wanted to study horticulture. In his sophomore year, a beloved teacher suggested biology, and he decided to give it a try.

"I've loved biology ever since. I guess that's what I was supposed to do. I was supposed to be a scientist," he said.

Since that time, Kinnard has distinguished himself as a research biologist with Walter Reed Army Medical Center; a biologist for the National Institute of Mental Health; assistant professor of biology at the District of Columbia Teachers College; at OER, and more.

Kinnard says he believes he is making his greatest contribution to his profession in his current position with the Extramural Associates Program at NIH. His mission is to train faculty and administrators from racial minority and female institutions to serve as advocates of state-of-the-art biomedical and behavioral research at their institutions by being more aggressive in obtaining grant funding.

"Research is important, not only from the standpoint of the breakthroughs it provides for each of us as citizens, but also because it enriches the teaching and learning experience," Kinnard said. "I believe we need to support research at our colleges and universities."

During his career, Kinnard has made his own strides in research. While at NIMH, he developed a metal microelectrode for recording the neuronal activity of single brain cells. This technique was hailed as a landmark achievement and was published in the *Journal of Neurophysiology* in 1966.

Kinnard's advice to others who wish to be successful in their careers is to get a good academic foundation and learn to be a good communicator.

"I am truly thankful for the educational and career opportunities I have been able to take advantage of," he said. "I hope that I can continue to open the doors for others in the area of research and to provide new avenues for garnering the funding to support it. As long as I am working and helping others, I will consider myself successful." ■



Tennessee State University President James A. Hefner (l) presents Dr. Matthew Kinnard with a certificate honoring his dedication to higher education. Kinnard and each of his eight siblings earned bachelor's degrees from TSU.

AWARENESS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than open doors. They opened minds as well by whupping the NIH team with such élan and ease that it seemed unfair to label any Raven "disabled." Time and again, Ravens players stripped hapless



A cadre of NIGMS employees including (from l) Dr. Jim Deatherage, George Gardner, Dr. Jean Chin and Dr. Anthony Rene cheers on participants in the hoop contest. Players hailed chiefly from NIGMS, NCRR and OFM/OD.

NIH'ers of the ball and raced downcourt for uncontested lay-ins. As a small crowd cheered from the sidelines, Ravens executed no-look passes, behind-the-back dribbles, and exhibited a reckless, careening, athletic joy that proved infectious.

Though it might have been the smallest crowd ever to attend the disability program, it was easily the most spirited as NIH'ers both marveled at the skill of the Ravens and mocked the ineptitude of their coworkers.

NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein opened the exhibition, calling the annual observance "extraordinarily valuable in increasing awareness" of employees with disabilities. She noted that NIH last year won an Employer of the Year Award for hiring and training workers with disabilities, but conceded "you know and I know there is much more that could be done."

Also offering brief remarks was Francine Little, director, Office of Financial Management, who was credited with finding last-minute funds to hold the program, which was sponsored by eight IC's, as well as OFM. Both she and Kirschstein wished that more NIH'ers had shown up to mark the day. A second game pitting the Ravens against another squad of NIH'ers was held Oct. 7 in the 14th floor gym of the Clinical Center; this event exposed more employees to the talents of athletes with disabilities.

The Ravens have been promoting handicap awareness in the metropolitan area for more than 25 years, Kirschstein said, "thereby educating us all to the abilities and capabilities of people with disabili-

ties." They play ball, give lectures, visit schools and do other sorts of community service.

There was no bitterness or vengefulness in their play, either. They laughed, hustled, show-boated and had as much fun as any group of hoops lovers in town—only they were rolling instead



OFM'ers Mary Crilley (l) and Donna Adderly react to spirited play.



The occasional crack-ups produced no animosity, only more opportunity for good sportsmanship.

demonstrated—more than the ability to play ball—a talent for having fun. Not even the undisciplined are so good at that sometimes.—Rich McManus



Sue Thompson of NIGMS lofts ball toward goal.



Above, OEO's Carlton Coleman wheels and deals with the ball on a fast-break to the basket; there were too many to count in the lopsided contest.

Below, the Ravens' No. 21 gets a shot off despite the close defense of NCRR's Sean Stroud.



PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

NINDS, NIMH Hold Joint Council Meeting

On Sept. 18, in what may become a precedent-setting event at NIH, NINDS director Dr. Gerald Fischbach and NIMH director Dr. Steven Hyman hosted a joint session of the institutes' advisory councils.

As part of his opening remarks to the assembly, Hyman spoke of the importance of setting the tone for new cooperation between NINDS and NIMH. He went on to describe the resources shared by the two institutes, including buildings on and off the main campus, as well as joint leadership for such important programs as B-MAP, the brain mapping project that will establish a new platform for neuroscience research.

Fischbach acknowledged that the two institutes have "different missions and certainly different constituencies," but called upon everyone "to work hard to find ways to work on what we have in common" and "to overcome years of administrative barriers to collaboration." Citing opportunities for intramural partnerships in particular, Fischbach described the programs currently led by Drs. Story Landis at NINDS and Robert Desimone at NIMH as "a tremendous force for discovery" in neuroscience.

In the discussion that followed the directors' statements, council members generated a range of ideas for collaborative projects, including those designed to attract talented young physician/scientists to the fields of neurology and psychiatry, and to disseminate the latest results of research to health care professionals.

In general, the tenor of the group mirrored the enthusiasm and camaraderie displayed by Fischbach and Hyman. NIMH council member Dr. Myrna Weissman, a professor at Columbia University's New York Psychiatric Institute, was one of several who lauded the efforts of the directors. After all, she quipped, "genes don't segregate by institute."

As he called the session to a close, Fischbach said that he was thrilled and energized by the get-together. "If we can get this much said in an hour, imagine what we can accomplish if we talk all year long."—Marian Emr ■

Men with High Cholesterol 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. ■



Fogarty International Center advisory board member Dr. Thomas Malone (l) presents Dr. Philip Schambra with a crystal globe in appreciation of Schambra's 10-year tenure as FIC director. At the Sept. 23 advisory board meeting, Schambra's last as director, members praised him for his vision and commitment and for his role in establishing FIC as a leader in the promotion of global health.

Computer Classes Enhance CIT's Fall Semester

CIT's fall semester offers more than 90 classes and seminars to NIH staff, including 15 new computer classes. The new classes range from an introductory level personal computing course, Using Illustrator in a Scientific Environment, to a more advanced Web course, Abstract Data in Java 1.2. Other new classes include NIH Data Warehouse Research Contracts and Grants, New Computational Programs for Molecular Biology at NIH, and Chemical Reaction Rate Theory.

Reflecting the growing interest in Web development are three new courses: Introduction to Active Server Pages, Visual Basic, and Learn Web Application Development with Tango. Of special interest to those working in a Mac/PC cross-platform environment will be the Dec. 14 seminar, Macintosh and Windows Integration, conducted by CIT's Scientific Computing Resource Center.

Topics in S-PLUS, a special presentation by statisticians and software specialists from MathSoft, focuses on topics of interest to the NIH research community. This new offering joins a strong program in statistics, including Introduction to Statistics, Applied Statistics and the SAS Programming Language, and Producing Tables with SAS.

CIT training classes are free to all NIH'ers and registered users of CIT systems. To request a catalog or register, call 594-3278, or visit <http://livewire.nih.gov>. ■

'Anastasia on Ice' Tickets

The R&W has tickets for a performance of *Anastasia on Ice*, Saturday, Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. at MCI Center in downtown Washington. Tickets are \$16 (regularly \$17.50). Call the activities desk for more information, 496-4600.

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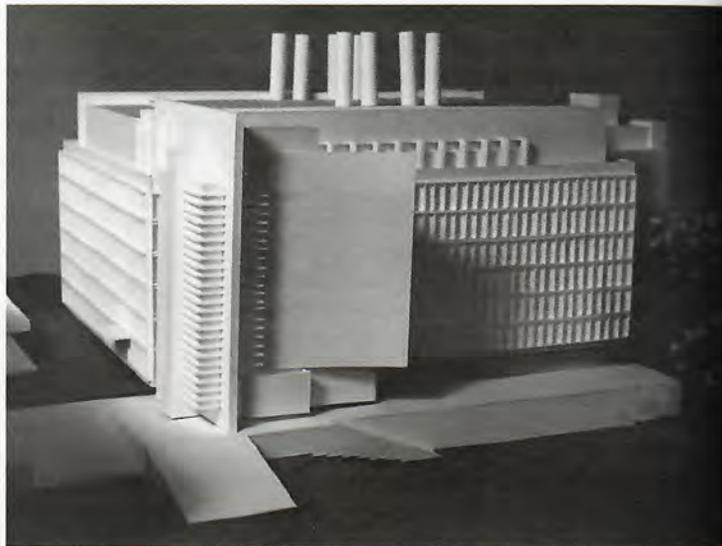
it may be too early to say. So far, interruptions have been minimal.”

Over the next 8 years, the building will be completely modernized, transforming all of its 30-year-old labs into top-notch research facilities for the National Cancer Institute. Originally completed in 3 years as part of a 3-building construction medley in November 1968, Bldg. 37—at about 262,500 square feet—was the largest of the 35-36-37 triangle-shaped complex to be finished that year. Its price tag was a little more than \$9.9 million.

Keeping in mind the nature of research and its fluctuations, current modernization will stress flexibility, according to the project's architect.

“The laboratories will be updated to provide a flexible, modular space that will allow easy alterations based on changes in user requirements and technological advances,” explained Paul Grzeszczak of Flad & Associates architectural firm. In addition, all utilities will be updated, and health, safety and security issues will be addressed. “The lab environment will have access to natural light,” he noted, “and promote creativity and productivity through increased opportunities for communication.”

Estimated cost of the project is expected to top \$80 million by its fall 2005 completion date. Although early yet—the project officially began last December, but really swung into high gear in June—building planners have already met for general consultations with researchers who occupy Bldg. 37. As individual floors are prepared for construction, lab users on those floors will join discussions on ironing out



This 3-dimensional model shows the building's new southeast corner. Weeks ago, a temporary parking lot was paved and the shuttle bus stop was moved—two of the relatively painless changes caused by the remodeling project so far.

An artist's rendering of the future Bldg. 37 shows one of two new towers that will flank the structure.



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“We are getting completely renovated labs,” said Klee, whose area will be among the first to experience renovations firsthand. “They are going to be open labs, which is supposed to give us a bit more space. We won't really be able to tell until we put all the furniture and things in the rooms whether we will have any additional space. We are interacting well with the architects now, working on the plans.”

According to Project Officers Solange Rangel and Maimon Levy of the Division of Engineering Services, Office of Research Services, building planners hope to complete one floor per year. Most of the first few months will be spent updating and relocating the utilities systems. Current utilities systems—located in the basement—will continue to serve throughout the renovation, Rangel said, but new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are being installed in a new rooftop mechanical room, as well as an improved electrical system. As each floor is remodeled, it will be disconnected from the basement and integrated into the new mechanical system above.

Replacing offices in the basement of the building will be animal research facilities currently housed on the 6th floor, said Rangel. Construction workers were putting the finishing touches on the animals' new dwelling in the basement—which will feature 9



DES Project Officer Solange Rangel



Preparing to excavate for the new north tower, construction workers on the Bldg. 37 renovation project install pilings to shore up the site.

holding rooms, 3 procedure rooms and several other support areas including reception and quarantine rooms—in mid-September.

Bldg. 37 is also gaining a few improvements to its outside, with the addition of two exterior towers to house restroom facilities, stairwells and elevators. Groundbreaking for the phase occurred in August. Rangel is also quick to credit other key players in the modernization: the White-Turner Contracting Co., with Scott McMahon serving as project manager, and Charles E. Smith Management Construction, which has been retained as the development manager, with Project Manager Frank Piatkowski.

The newly redone building will also share with its nascent neighboring project—the Vaccine Research Center being constructed directly northeast—a cleverly redesigned driveway and shuttlebus turn.

“This project has elements of both new construction and phased renovation—each of which has its specific challenges,” concluded Grzeszczak. “The new construction challenges have been in coordinating a vast network of existing and new utilities and tying into an existing building aesthetic that is very modern and simple.”



The temporary parking lot is located on the west side of campus, closer to Old Georgetown Rd.

NICHD's Haseltine Honored

Dr. Florence P. Haseltine, director of the Center for Population Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, is being honored this fall with three national awards.

On Oct. 10, she received the 1998 Kilby Foundation award for “changing the course of medical history through her dynamic influence on public policy and the funding of medical research to include women in critical clinical trials, saving countless lives in the process.”

The Kilby awards recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to society through science, technology, invention, innovation and education.

This month, Haseltine is also being honored by the Mayo Foundation in a permanent “Women in Medicine” exhibit housed in Rochester, Minn., that will periodically travel to conferences throughout the United States. The exhibit honors women who have contributed in areas of public health, allied health, research and medical practice.

In September, Haseltine was named a Women's Health Hero by *American Health for Women* magazine for her “groundbreaking efforts to thrust women's wellness into the national spotlight, and for helping to ensure that women receive the specialized medical attention they deserve.”



Dr. Florence Haseltine

'Extramural' Flu Shots

While NIH employees can get their flu shots at work, their families and friends also need protection against the illness. Many organizations in the Washington metropolitan area are sponsoring flu immunizations. The Division of Safety has compiled information on some of the major programs—public and private. This information will be updated as appropriate on the flu Web page: <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/flu>.

Stetten Lecture Reminder

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture on Oct. 21 will feature Dr. Susan L. Lindquist of the University of Chicago. Her talk, “Mad Cows Meet Psi-Chotic Yeast: The Expansion of the Prion Hypothesis,” is NIGMS's 1998 DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Lecture.

Seminar on Performance-Based Contracting

The Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association is hosting a brown-bag lunch seminar Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in EPN, Conf. Rm. H. The topic will be “Performance-Based Service Contracting,” led by Stanley Kaufman, deputy associate administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy. The seminar is open to all. For more information call Sharon Miller, 496-8611.

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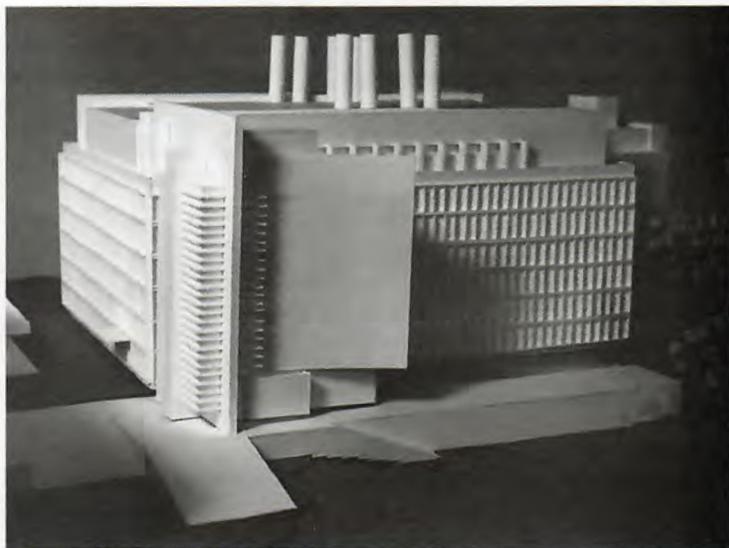
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PUBLIC ADVICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rare disease "with a name that's hard to pronounce." Now, he has more than a vague idea about NIH, and he finds himself president and executive director of the A-T Children's Project.

Schwantes, Delaney and Margus were three of the 24 individuals invited by NIH Sept. 23 to discuss "Enhancing Public Participation in NIH Activities." The all-day meeting was spurred by a 5-month independent study of NIH requested by Congress and conducted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), National Academy of Sciences. IOM reported its study results to Congress this past July; it made 12 recommendations—9 to NIH and 3 to Congress—on how to improve the way the agency sets its priorities in funding medical research. Among the report's recommendations were these two: NIH should establish an Office of Public Liaison (OPL) within the director's office and within each institute to "document their public outreach, input and response mechanisms."

NIH should also establish a director's Council of Public Representatives (COPR, pronounced "copper") "to facilitate interactions between NIH and the general public."

Public Input Sought

Immediately getting into the spirit of seeking more public input on agency matters, NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus convened the Sept. 23 meeting to collect ideas and suggestions from a broad spectrum of individuals on potential functions and structure of OPL and COPR, and on methods of selecting future COPR members. First, though, he wanted to hear from the meeting participants about themselves.

"I'm a farmer's wife from Illinois," said Mary Kaye Richter of Mascoutah, Ill., "and I drive a real mean tractor." Executive director of the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias, Richter described briefly her 17-year association with NIH and how her family has dealt with rearing a child with a rare disorder. "I used to explain to people," she joked, "that I have three children—a son, a daughter and a special order. My son has been part of two NIH clinical trials and I want you all to know that I am passionate about NIH."

Richter and the other meeting participants hailed from across the nation. They are business people, homemakers, lawyers, educators, health care providers and judges. Many are also survivors or family members of survivors of life-threatening and chronic disorders. Some are what Margus called "professional public people," those who—usually due to firsthand experience with both medical crises and the benefits of advocacy—are now more savvy than they ever imagined being about getting things accomplished in Washington.

All of the participants, however, came with at least two things in common: some knowledge of NIH, and a keen desire that everyone else in the country have at least a basic familiarity with the nation's leading supporter of medical research. But how to make that happen? What do Jane and John Q. Public in Middle America do when told their child has an ailment few have ever heard of, much less treated? Medical schools and facilities in every state in the nation receive NIH funds for research, but do people make the connection between their tax dollars and the availability of NIH medical research and information?

Spreading the Word

"NIH is the best kept secret in the U.S.," remarked Dr. Mary Lou de Leon Siantz of Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, suggesting that NIH is far less known to most Americans than it should be. Several others at the table nodded in agreement. The prevailing sentiment was that NIH ought to be more fully appreciated and better recognized than it is.

Anne Thomas, NIH associate director for communications, gave the participants a primer on how NIH tells the nation about its mission, its work and about health and science in general. Every institute has a public information office devoted to passing along its individual health and research messages to the public that funds it, she pointed out. "Bringing new research findings and advances to the public" and "providing the public with health messages based in science" are the two main goals of NIH's communication efforts, she said.

Aside from the issue of NIH becoming more familiar to the nation's heartland, most of the participants also championed a deeper and broader role for citizens in NIH decision making. How can the public learn more about the way NIH decides how much funding should be devoted to individual diseases? Can and should the public have more of a voice in these priority-setting discussions? At issue was a more recently publicized perception among some in Congress and in several health advocacy groups that diseases, disorders and populations with the loudest public outcry receive the largest portion of research dollars from NIH. Why, for example, do AIDS and breast cancer appear to receive more NIH funding than other disorders that are as life-threatening, but may have less well-known advocacy groups?

Putting Passion Into Practice?

The IOM report suggests that establishing an advisory group—the COPR—that has the ear of the NIH director may be one way "to elevate public input into the priority-setting process to the highest level of NIH in a systematic and periodic manner..."



NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant recently received the Nathan Davis Award of the American Medical Association. Named for AMA's founder, the award recognizes government officials whose contributions promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health. Lenfant is one of 10 honorees for 1998. He was cited for his "oversight of groundbreaking research and clinical trials that have revolutionized the prevention and treatment of heart disease, stroke and other pulmonary and blood disorders."

"The assumption seems to be that if the public were more involved in the priority setting, then the outcome would be different," said meeting participant Dr. David Rosenbloom, director of Boston's Join Together organization, which advocates a reduction in substance abuse and gun violence. "Perhaps there is some way to put that assumption to the test."

Another voice in the discussion, Alan Brownstein, president and CEO of the American Liver Foundation, acknowledged, "For each person around this table, there is a story to be told, but" NIH must begin to "address this fundamental fairness issue."

To provide examples of how the public is already involved in many levels of NIH priority setting, four institute directors—NIAID's Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIEHS's Dr. Kenneth Olden, NIDA's Dr. Alan Leshner and NCI's Dr. Richard Klausner—gave brief presentations on how citizens give input to their organizations.

Describing how representatives of the public already have a voice in many advisory boards and

"All of us are committed to making NIH seem less like a wall and more like a series of doors."

committees of most institutes, Klausner encouraged a move from "passion-based advocacy to information-based advocacy."

"The remarkable success of NIH is due to the fact that this is where science touches people," Brownstein countered. "It is really not time to abandon passion. It's important to develop a partnership of business, science and the public to manage that passion with better outcomes."

Making Ideas Concrete

That perhaps is where COPR steps in. But what exactly would COPR do? Varmus asked, seeking ideas for specific tasks for the proposed council.

"Help the director interpret information from the public's point of view," suggested Debra Lappin, a lawyer who said she stopped practicing 10 years ago due to her debilitating bout with arthritis. She now chairs the Arthritis Foundation in Englewood, Colo.

Emphasizing the need to increase NIH's accountability to the public, Dr. Steve McConnell, vice president for public policy of the Alzheimer's Association in Washington, D.C., proposed three activities for COPR: Establish criteria for evaluating NIH performance, review each IC for how well it gets its message out and help review NIH against the performance criteria.

Varmus gave the participants more food for thought: Who should sit on the COPR, and how

should NIH go about finding these people?

COPR should be diverse, bringing together not only different races of people, but also those with varied education and income levels, noted Delaney. Schwantes said people with a stake in their own communities—especially within small towns—would be assets to COPR, because their participation would provide built-in, word-of-mouth publicity for NIH and for the council's work. Dr. Gerard Buckley, an associate dean at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, suggested "coalition-minded individuals," who know how to build teams and organize large efforts. McConnell described three kinds of people he'd like to see on COPR: "Big-picture thinkers" with analytic ability who can understand both the science and the public's view, "people who have a personal stake in" COPR, and "those with credibility to the outside world."

Other considerations for potential council members included perhaps tapping healthcare providers, members of the news media and community outreach experts, and assuring a good geographic representation of the country.

"I just hope that we'll have folks leaving their disorders at the door," Richter stressed, explaining that COPR would not work if it were composed of people concerned only with lobbying for more research money for their individual causes.

Only the Beginning

The individual offices of public liaison recommended in the IOM report have already been identified in most ICs, Varmus reported. As suggested by IOM, the OPLs' three-fold purpose is to provide an easily identifiable contact point for people with an interest or concern, offer a place of referral where Congress can direct their constituents and "conduct an active program of outreach to and interaction with constituency groups."

Participant Robert Abendroth, a lawyer whose wife died of Lou Gehrig's disease and whose children and grandchildren remain at risk for the disorder, questioned the need for changing NIH's current system of liaison with the public.

"I've always experienced outstanding assistance from the public liaison office at the neurology institute," he said, suggesting that revamping a system already in place, and functioning well, would be counterproductive.

"This is just the beginning of the discussion," Varmus concluded. "It gives us a starting point. For the most part, it is a measure of NIH's success that we are having this meeting. NIH's success has invited additional scrutiny. The IOM report has given us recommendations—not mandates—to consider. We're just feeling our way here. All of us are committed, however, to making NIH seem less like a wall and more like a series of doors." ■



NIAID's Vincent A. Thomas, Jr., has been named assistant director for small business innovation research programs and for division operations within the Division of Extramural Activities. In this position, he provides guidance to the NIAID extramural community on research and training opportunities and policies governing the preparation, review, award and management of extramural SBIR programs. Prior to this appointment, he headed the institute's Management Services Branch for 11 years. From 1980 to 1988, he was chief of the management analysis section in NIAID. He joined the institute in 1977 as equal employment opportunity manager.



Dr. Sam Zakhari has been named director of the Division of Basic Research at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. He will be responsible for the research portfolios of two branches: the Biomedical Research Branch and the Neurosciences Branch. In addition, he will oversee the National Alcohol Research Centers Program, which supports multidisciplinary research that focuses on aspects of alcohol abuse, alcoholism or other alcohol-related problems. Since 1990, Zakhari has served as chief of the Biomedical Research Branch. His NIAAA association started in 1987 with scientific review administration of the neuroscience and behavior review committee.



Workshop on Chromatin, Transcription and DNA Replication

The Center for Scientific Review is hosting a workshop Feb. 2-3, 1999, on "Chromatin, Transcription, and DNA Replication." It will bring together top intramural and extramural scientists, including study section members, and allow interaction and discussion. The workshop will be held at the Natcher Conference Center. There is no registration fee and registration is not required. However those interested in attending should email Ramesh Nayak at nayakr@drg.nih.gov so organizers can keep track of attendees.

The theme of the meeting is the role of chromatin and nuclear structure in the function of basic cellular processes including aging and cancer. Speakers include Bruce Stillman, Gary Felsenfeld, Richard Hodes, Fred Winston, Sankar Adhya, Carl Wu, Elizabeth Blackburn and Thomas Cech.

Long, Short Sleepers Needed

The Clinical Psychobiology Branch, NIMH, is looking for volunteers ages 18-31 who either routinely sleep 9 or more hours, or 6 or fewer hours. Volunteers must have no sleep disturbances or insomnia, plus no history of mental illness. Volunteers must be in good general health and not taking any medications or birth control pills. The study requires living on the NIH research unit in Bethesda for 4 consecutive days. For more information call 496-6981. ■

DWD Training Tips

The Division of Workforce Development (DWD), OHRM, will offer the courses listed below. Hands-on, self-study, personal computer training courses are available through the DWD's User Resource Center at no cost to NIH employees. For details, visit DWD online at <http://www-urc.od.nih.gov/dwd/dwdhome.html> or call 496-6211.

Administrative Systems

Foreign Travel	11/16
Basic Time & Attendance Using TAIMS	11/18
Time & Attendance for Supervisors Using TAIMS	11/23

Career Transition

NIH Retirement Seminar - CSRS	11/18
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Computer Applications and Concepts

Introduction to Personal Computing for New Users	11/18
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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>.

Developing Data Entry Applications with SAS/FSP	10/21
Introduction to Statistics	10/22-23
Windows NT Startup	10/23
NIH Data Warehouse Personnel Costs (Human Resources)	10/23
NIH Data Warehouse Research Contracts and Grants	10/26
SILK Web Technologies	10/26
Overview: The Power of Tango	10/26
BRMUG Macintosh Users Group	10/27
Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data	10/27-28
Disaster Recovery	10/28
Avoiding Pitfalls in Statistical Analysis	10/28
NT Workstation Troubleshooting	10/29
Relational Database Design	10/29
Windows NT Server Overview	10/29-30
VBScript for Interactive Web Design	10/30
Preparing Scientific Images for Publication and Display	11/2
Introduction to HTML	11/2
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 97	11/2
Fundamentals of Unix	11/2-5
Introduction to HTML	11/3
The NIH Contractor Performance System	11/3
NIH Data Warehouse Budget and Finance Mini Session	11/3
MATLAB 5-Matrix Laboratory	11/3-4
NIH Data Warehouse Property Management Mini Session	11/4
Electronic Forms Users Group	11/4
Using SAS/STAT Procedures to Perform Categorical Response Data Analysis	11/4-6

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) 295-9660.

Can You Garden with Cactus?

Ever tried to grow a cactus? Did you ever kill a cactus? Want to learn more about the care of cacti indoors and out? The NIH Garden Club's next meeting will feature Robert Stewart, a Maryland extension agent and expert in the field of cacti. He has a slide presentation offering a bigger picture of the world of the cactus. The meeting is Thursday, Nov. 5 in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 7 from noon to 1 p.m. Club meetings are open to all. Check its Web page at: <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/garden>.

WHO Chief Brundtland To Speak at NIH

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general of the World Health Organization, will speak on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. She will discuss "The New WHO and Partnerships for the Future."

Brundtland was prime minister of Norway for more than 10 years. She was first appointed to that position at age 41, becoming the youngest person, and first woman, to head Norway's government. She stepped down from the post in 1996 and was elected director-general of WHO last May.



Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland

Brundtland's ascendance in the government of Norway resulted from a lifetime of political activism in the nation's labor movement, along with her career in medicine, public health and environmental issues. She earned an M.D. from the University of Oslo, followed by a master of public health degree from Harvard. She served for many years in Norway's public health system and was the director of health services for Oslo's school children prior to her appointment as Norway's minister of the environment in 1974.

In 1983, she chaired a key international committee on sustainable development, known officially as the World Commission on Environment and Development, but more widely called the Brundtland Commission. The commission's recommendations led to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Speaking at the World Bank in March, Brundtland called on countries "to unleash resources—intellectual, political and financial. We cannot allow health to remain a secondary item on the international political agenda."

Dr. Wendy Baldwin, NIH deputy director for extramural research, says, "This is a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand about Dr. Brundtland's aspirations for the WHO and how NIH can play a part." ■

Moody Teenage Girls Sought

You and your 12-16-year-old daughter may be eligible to take part in a study at the National Institute of Mental Health about how young people experience emotions, and how bad moods can cause problems. Payment will be provided. For details, call Barbara Usher, 496-1301. ■

NIDA Council Gains Four

NIDA recently welcomed four new members to its National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse. They include: Dr. Hortensia de los Angeles Amaro, professor of social and behavioral sciences at Boston University School of Public Health and commissioner of the Boston Public Health Commission; Dr. Andrea Grubb Barthwell, president of the Encounter Medical Group, P.C., Oak Park, Ill., and medical director of the Treatment Alternatives to Special Clients Foundation, Chicago; Dr. Rand D. Conger, professor of sociology and psychology at Iowa State University and director, Institute for Social and Behavioral Research, Ames, Iowa; and Dr. Gerald H. Friedland, director of AIDS Programs at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale School of Medicine and professor of medicine, epidemiology and public health at Yale School of Medicine.



New NIDA council members include (seated, from l) Dr. Gerald H. Friedland, Dr. Hortensia de los Angeles Amaro and Dr. Rand D. Conger. At rear are (from l) NIDA director Dr. Alan I. Leshner and NIDA Deputy Director Richard A. Millstein.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—normally held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—switches to Monday on Oct. 26 when Dr. Leon Rosenberg gives the second James A. Shannon Lecture, "The Medical Research Enterprise—Only as Strong as Its Clinical Links." Time remains 3 p.m., as does venue, Masur. Rosenberg is professor, department of molecular biology, Princeton University.

On Oct. 28, Dr. Peter Mombaerts, assistant professor and head, laboratory of vertebrate developmental neurogenetics, Rockefeller University, presents "Targeting Olfaction."

The NIH Director's Cultural Lecture follows on Nov. 4 (see story, p. 1).

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