

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Diversity Is Theme of Program Honoring Martin Luther King

A celebration of diversity will mark the 1999 NIH observance of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Special guest speakers and performers, along with hundreds of participants, are expected to attend the event Friday, Jan. 15 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. Arranged by the Office of Equal Opportunity, the event's theme is "Diversity: Many Dreams, Many Cultures, One America."

Keynote speaker Paul M. Igasaki is vice chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where he has also served as acting chairman. He is the first Asian American to hold those positions at EEOC. Guest speaker Prof. Mary L. Brown is an educator, diversity consultant and community activist. She is the first woman and community college faculty member to serve as president of the National Congress of Black Faculty. Also speaking will be Dr. Harold Slavkin, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. He is a pioneer in his field and in community service.

This year's performers are from the D.C. metropolitan area. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir hails from the city's premier high school of the arts. The choir has entertained on stages throughout the United States, Europe and the Caribbean.

Also on hand will be Brianna Ebeling, a 17-year-old senior from Fairfax County's W.T. Woodson High School. She will graduate from the school's deaf and hard-of-hearing program in June 1999. She has provided artistic interpretation of contemporary music from the Kennedy Center to the White House. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

1 Director's Advisors Prove Feisty

NEI Road Show A Hit

3 NIH Trainee Named Rhodes Scholar



4 Lactation Program Opens 3rd Center

5 NIAID Honors Wolff's Memory

12 IntraMall Day Draws Crowd



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

January 12, 1999
Vol. LI, No. 1

Late Fall Heat Wave

Lively Debate Warms ACD Meeting

By Rich McManus

Last month's meeting of the advisory committee to the NIH director was a lot like the unusual weather the week it was conducted—a tad hotter than anyone expected. While it included, early in the agenda, a winning synopsis of progress in the Human Genome Project delivered by NHGRI director Dr. Francis Collins, who reviewed the ambitious scope of the institute's new 5-year plan, the next two topics—plans for an "NIH Academy," including a degree-granting graduate school, and a revisiting of last summer's Institute of Medicine report on priority-setting at NIH—provoked passions around the table. Deliberations were further enlivened Dec. 3 by the presence of special invitees including Katherine Graham, chair of the *Washington Post* executive committee.

The meeting always starts with a State of the NIH overview by the director, which ranges from personnel announcements to front-burner policy issues; Dr. Harold Varmus cautioned at the outset that there were "quite a few diverse and controversial topics" on the agenda. Having testified the day before at a Senate hearing on research involving embryonic stem cells, Varmus first had to endure some good-natured ribbing from colleagues who

SEE ACD MEETING, PAGE 6

NEI Exhibit Informs, Delights Visitors

What NIH program has visited 17 United States cities since 1993? What has attracted more than 3.1 million visitors? What is educational, fun and enjoyed by both children and adults?

Step to the head of the class if you said the National Eye Institute's traveling exhibit. This display, called VISION, continues to draw strong crowds in museums and other locations across the country.

The VISION exhibit is the centerpiece of a nationwide public education program, the Celebration of Vision Research, developed to com-



Children check their peripheral vision at NEI's traveling VISION exhibit.

SEE VISION, PAGE 8



The Mastocytosis Survivors Quilt is on display in the Clinical Center's first floor until the end of January. Present at the unveiling were (from l) Kathleen Lindaas, the quilt's creator; Elizabeth Punsalan of the Mastocytosis Society; Dr. Dean Metcalfe, chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Allergic Diseases, and Dr. Cem Akin, a visiting associate who is conducting research on the disease. Lindaas collected panels from members of the Mastocytosis Society, a national support group, in recognition of the children and adults who suffer from mastocytosis and in appreciation of their caregivers. Mastocytosis, a rare disease affecting approximately 20,000 Americans, results from too many mast cells in a person's body. The disease may involve skin, liver, spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow, and symptoms range in severity from itching to life-threatening shock. Research conducted at NIH, in cooperation with patients with mastocytosis, has contributed to a better understanding of the patterns, etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of this illness.

NIH Communicators Win 'Blue, Gold' Kudos

NIH information office staff and their contractors were winners in the recent annual Gold Screen and Blue Pencil competition held by the National Association of Government Communicators.

Gold Screen awards honor messages conveyed by film, video, radio, even Web pages. NIH winners in this category included: first place for NCI's *The Cancer Journey: Issues for Survivors - A Training Program for Health Professionals*; first place for NEI's *Reasons* public service announcement.

Blue Pencil awards go to high-quality print media efforts. NIH entrants won in the following areas: third place for NIEHS' newsletter for employees/retirees *Environmental Factor*; third place for NIDDK's booklet *What Are Kidney Stones?*; second place for the NIEHS brochure *Environmental Diseases from A to Z*; in the news release category, second place for NIMH's "Social Phobia" and third place for NIEHS' "Genetic Variation for Enzyme in Lung Points to Cancer Susceptibility"; and second place in the promotional campaign category for NCI's "Cancer Clinical Trials Education Program."

Winners were invited to an awards dinner last month in Lexington, Ky. ■

Silber Wins Presidential Mentoring Award

Dr. Herbert B. Silber, a chemistry professor and director of NIGMS' Minority Access to Research Careers program at San Jose State University, was among recent recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. He was honored for his mentoring of minority and disadvantaged students at the high school, undergraduate and graduate levels over the past 25 years.

The awards were established by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and are administered and funded by the National Science Foundation. They recognize individual efforts and organizational programs designed to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in mathematics, engineering and science.

Silber was among 10 individuals and 8 institutions honored during ceremonies at the White House. In addition to a certificate, each awardee received a \$10,000 grant to be directed to the mentoring activity. ■

Study of Donors Needs Vols

Male volunteers over age 40 and females over 50 are needed for a study to assess the effects of donating blood on prevention of heart disease. Participants should have donated blood one or fewer times in each of the last 5 years, and given less than 15 units in their lifetime. Blood studies and a carotid ultrasound will be done. Two outpatient visits are required; pay is unavailable. For more information or to participate call Xin Fu, 402-4482. ■

BIG Installs New Officers, Jan. 14

NIH's chapter of Blacks in Government will install its new officers at a special ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 14 from noon to 1 p.m., in Bldg. 31's Conf. Rm. 6 (C-wing, 6th fl.). All are welcome. For more information, call O.H. Laster, 496-6302.

NIH RECORD

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through Sept. 30, 1999.

NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03

Phone 496-2125
Fax 402-1485

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

Editor
Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes, or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

♻️ *The Record is recyclable as office white paper.*

NIH Trainee Vargas Named Rhodes Scholar

Jose Vargas, an NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) participant from Loyola College of Maryland, got an early Christmas present Dec. 5 when he was notified he had won a Rhodes scholarship. The Gaithersburg resident was one of only 32 Americans out of 909 applicants endorsed by 310 colleges and universities nationwide to win this honor. The oldest of international study awards, Rhodes scholarships were created in 1902 by the will of Cecil Rhodes, a British philanthropist. They provide 2 to 3 years of study at Oxford University in England.

Now a senior at Loyola, Vargas was identified for the UGSP in the summer of 1996 based on his



Jose Vargas won both Rhodes and Marshall scholarships; he accepted the Rhodes.

outstanding academic record in college, his financial need and his demonstrated commitment to a career in biomedical research. He had already spent two summers as a high school student in an NIH laboratory through the sponsorship of NIH and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). In the summer of 1997, he joined the Cell

Biology and Metabolism Branch, NICHD, where, under the guidance of mentor Dr. Juan Bonifacino, he mastered several sophisticated molecular biology procedures.

The goal of Vargas' project, which he continued to work on under UGSP sponsorship when he returned to NIH last summer, was to determine whether the mutant protein associated with disease is directed in the wrong destination in cells, a targeting error that might account for many of the symptoms of Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome, a fairly rare autosomal recessive disease.

"I basically started from scratch in the project," he said.

Vargas moved to the United States with his family, which includes an older sister and two younger brothers, when he was 13. He initially felt isolated, especially since his knowledge of English was limited. "I had to work three times as hard at school," he remembers, "just to catch up. I could not take any advanced placement courses in high school because I was still focusing on my English skills."

Despite this, his hard work paid off with a good GPA at Rockville's Magruder High School and his acceptance into the NIH-HHMI summer intern program. In early 1995, Dr. Sharon M. Wahl, a member of the HHMI review panel, was assigned to be Vargas' advisor; she helped him select a position with Dr. Nancy McCartney-Francis in NIDCR for his internship. In McCartney-Francis' laboratory in the Oral Infection and Immunity Branch, headed by Wahl, Vargas did research in cellular immunology and autoimmunity. His summer studies on knockout mice proved so successful that Vargas came back to the lab for a second HHMI-sponsored summer in 1996.

"His work not only provided new techniques that are now being used on a routine basis in the laboratory but also provided an insight into the mechanism of the inflammatory process that ultimately kills the knockout mice," said McCartney-Francis. "Jose excelled in learning new techniques in immunology, molecular biology and pathology which will be important in his goal of becoming a physician. He received recognition for his research from the American Medical Student Association."

His two summers of research experience made him more competitive for consideration by the UGSP, where he was one of six identified for an award from an applicant pool of more than 100. The UGSP awards service-connected scholarships of up to \$20,000 per school year to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who show a commitment to pursuing a career in biomedical research. ■

STEP Series Examines Life at the Extremes

Imagine living in ice water, a volcano, salt water, boiling water, or the great depths of the oceans. Also imagine that some of the more useful products used in science and everyday life come from organisms that make such environments their home. These and other topics will be addressed in the Science for All lecture entitled, "Life in the Extremes: Some Like It Hot" presented by the staff training in extramural programs committee on Thursday, Jan. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

The speakers and topics will be: Dr. Michael W. W. Adams, research professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, University of Georgia, "Life Near the Boiling Point"; Dr. Stephen J. Giovannoni, associate professor of microbiology, Oregon State University, "Squeezing DNA Out of Rocks: Microbial Life Deep in the Ocean Crust"; Dr. Aris Persidis, vice president, business development, Argonex Inc., "Business Development of the Extremophile Industry"; Dr. Jeff Stein, principal scientist, Diversa Corp., "Eukaryotic X-philes: Tales of Metazoan Extremes."

The session is free and open to all on a first-come, first-served basis. No advance registration is necessary. Inform STEP of any need for sign language interpretation or reasonable accommodation by Jan. 19. For more information call 435-2769.

NIH Lactation Program Opens in Natcher

A new lactation room, located in the Natcher Bldg., opened on Jan. 3. This brings the total to three sites where NIH new mothers can collect breast milk for their babies in a clean, private and secure location. Sites are already operational in Bldgs. 31 and 10. Any employee in or near the Natcher Bldg. can use the new room, which is located in space donated by NIDDK and equipped by NIGMS and NHGRI. Visitors attending meetings in the Natcher Conference Center can also use the room with advance registration (call 435-7850).

The NIH Lactation Program was created to meet the needs of female employees who wish to give their babies a healthy start in life by feeding them mother's milk. Prior to this, women had to collect their breast milk in the bathroom or anywhere else they could find a little privacy. Long-range plans include opening a lactation room in the new off-campus Neuroscience Bldg. in February. There are plans to add more sites in other buildings based on need and space availability.

Originally intended to be a 2-year pilot, the program has grown more rapidly than expected. After less than 4 months, more than 70 female employees are already enrolled, representing bench scientists, and administrative and clinical staff. Both pumping stations in the Bldg. 10 lactation room are booked solidly during the day and plans are under way to add a third station to accommodate more mothers.

Jane J. Balkam of the company Babies 'n Business has been hired to develop and administer the program. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner and certified lactation consultant who has specialized in

worksite lactation programs in the Washington, D.C., area for more than 5 years. She offers the following services to all female NIH'ers:

- ➔ Prenatal Education—Classes titled "Is Breastfeeding for Me?" and "How to Get Started with Breastfeeding" will be taught at various locations on campus. The ideal time to attend class is in the third trimester of pregnancy.

- ➔ Telephone support while on maternity leave—A lactation consultant will provide support and problem-solving over the phone during the critical first weeks home for new mothers enrolled in the Worksite Lactation Program.

- ➔ Return-to-work consultation—Approximately 2 weeks prior to returning to work, each program participant will discuss individually with the lactation consultant how to collect and store milk in the worksite, and other issues.

- ➔ Onsite lactation rooms—Rooms are currently available in Bldgs. 31, 10 and Natcher. The rooms are equipped with Medela Lactina breast pumps. For employees not located near a lactation room, breast pumps are available from Babies 'n Business at a reduced monthly rate. Spouses of NIH employees are also eligible to rent pumps for their wives at the reduced rate.

Interested employees can enroll in the program through the Worksite Health Promotion Web page at <http://odp.od.nih.gov/whpp/> or by calling Balkam directly at 435-7850. The program is funded by the Office of Research on Women's Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. ■



Dr. John D. Harding recently joined NCRR as a scientific review administrator in the Office of Scientific Review. He is a molecular biologist who specializes in analysis of gene structure and function, with particular expertise in analysis of nucleic acids including mutation detection and DNA fingerprinting. Previously, he was a principal scientist at Life Technologies, Inc., where he managed a group responsible for identifying, evaluating and commercializing new methods for genome analysis and mutation detection. At NCRR, he will work primarily on General Clinical Research Centers, SEPA Awards and other special emphasis panels.

Info Security Workgroup Lauded

An interagency workgroup of information systems security program managers—chaired by Dorothea de Zafra of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism—recently won the Educator of the Year Award from the Federal Information Systems Security Educators' Association.

The group, centered at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, spent 4 years drafting a government-wide approach to systems security training. The document is now available as NIST Special Publication 800-16, *Information Technology Security Training Requirements: A Role- and Performance-Based Model*. The publication has been sent to members of the Chief Information Officers' Council for implementation throughout the federal government.

The Center for Information Technology is responsible for putting the requirements into practice at NIH. ■



NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein (r) starts off the 1999 R&W membership drive by signing on with Randy Schools, R&W president and chief executive officer, and Lisa Strauss, chairman of the board. Memberships are available at all R&W gift shops.

NIAID Dedicates Room in Wolff's Memory

By Karen Leighty

On Dec. 11, NIAID paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Sheldon M. Wolff, who profoundly influenced immunology and infectious diseases research and served as a mentor to an extraordinary number of individuals who went on to distinguished careers in biomedical research.

Under the sponsorship of NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci, a state-of-the-art conference room in Bldg. 10's 11th floor solarium was dedicated in a ceremony that included Wolff's widow, family and a corps of friends and former colleagues.

"Shelly Wolff was my professional father, my mentor, my closest friend," said Fauci. "He continues to be revered at NIH and throughout the extramural community. His vision, remarkable work ethic, and keen attention to the development of the careers of younger physician-scientists left an extraordinary legacy."



Dr. Sheldon Wolff

Wolff began his NIH career in 1960, when he joined NIAID's Laboratory of Clinical Investigation (LCI) following his medical residency. Within a short time, his strengths as an investigator, clinician, teacher and administrator had infused the lab with a new vigor. He subsequently became NIAID clinical director and chief of LCI. Under his leadership, LCI became one of the most productive and respected clinical research teams in the country.

The thread that tied Wolff's bench science to his work with patients was his dedication to the study of fever. His early investigations stemmed from the fundamental question: why does the body produce heat in response to an invasion of microorganisms? In pursuing this question, he made major contributions in elucidating the causes of fever, the effects of fever on the host, and the role of fever in infectious, inflammatory and immunologic disorders.

Fever of unknown origin also attracted his attention. He not only identified the immunologic defects that caused many such illnesses, but also found effective, often lifesaving treatments for these conditions.

Fauci and Wolff collaborated in dramatically successful protocols with immunosuppressive drugs for treating Wegener's granulomatosis, polyarteritis nodosa, and other systemic necrotizing vasculitic disorders.

Together with another colleague, Dr. Charles

Dinarello, Wolff also made important contributions to understanding human leukocytic pyrogen (now called interleukin-1), a powerful component of the immune system.

Wolff left NIH in 1977 to become professor and chairman of the department of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. He also accepted the position of physician-in-chief at Boston's New England Medical Center Hospital. He maintained a close association with NIAID, however, including service on numerous advisory committees.

Wolff died of complications of a long illness in 1994. His contributions to biomedical research serve as a symbol of both the achievements and the goals of NIAID. ■

NIAID's Dr. Albert Z. Kapikian, along with two other scientists, was recently honored with the 1998 Children's Vaccine Initiative Pasteur Award for Recent Contributions to Vaccine Development. The three were cited collectively for their "outstanding work contributing to development of rotavirus vaccines and their future utilization." Rotavirus is the leading cause of life-threatening diarrhea in infants and young children, claiming more than 870,000 lives each year, mostly in developing countries. Kapikian shared the award,



presented recently in Geneva, with Dr. Roger I. Glass and Dr. Ruth Bishop. Bishop discovered the rotavirus at Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, 25 years ago. Glass, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—who began research on rotavirus under Kapikian—produced the first clear evidence

that rotavirus infections are prevalent not only in developing countries but also in industrialized ones. Kapikian, head of the epidemiology section in NIAID's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, has devoted most of his career to making a safe and effective rotavirus vaccine. The vaccine developed in his laboratory has been tested in nearly 18,000 people in the U.S. and abroad. In August 1998, the Food and Drug Administration licensed the vaccine to Wyeth Laboratories, which helped develop the vaccine under a cooperative agreement with NIAID. In the United States, the vaccine is recommended for immunization of infants at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. Studies indicate that the widespread use of the vaccine would not eliminate the virus but would dramatically reduce the incidence of severe disease.

Teens Needed For Mood Study

You and your 11-16 year old may be eligible to take part in a research study at the National Institute of Mental Health. This is a study about how young people experience emotions, and how bad moods can cause problems. Payment will be provided. For details, call Barbara Usher, 496-1301.

ACD MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had seen news coverage describing the “eloquence” of the testimony at the hearing.

Among highlights from the year-in-review was news that Varmus is “negotiating with what I hope will be the final candidate” to head the new Vaccine Research Center at NIH. “The new VRC building is on a remarkably fast-paced schedule.” He lauded NIH’s appropriation for FY 1999 as a “really extraordinary increase,” but cautioned that the spending plan “is a complex one, and not without controversy.” He limned four deeper budget themes: harnessing genomics, reinvigorating clinical research, engaging other disciplines such as physics, mathematics, engineering, and bioinformatics (to handle the vast amounts of data accumulating, particularly from genome studies), and addressing health disparities both within the United States and internationally.

The average grant size will increase by 10 percent under the new budget, Varmus said, and the 9,200 or so new and competing research project grants to be funded represent “a very dramatic increase from just a few years ago, when the rate fell to below 6,000.” Regarding his 1 percent discretionary fund, Varmus said he is considering investments in synchrotron beam lines to boost structural biology studies, and increased spending on mouse genome research.

“As I learned when I came to NIH, we’re always working on three budgets at any one time, maybe four,” he said, noting that he is negotiating with HHS over the level of the President’s budget request for 2000 and 2001. Two big themes for the FY 2000 budget, he predicted, will be health disparities and bioengineering.

Varmus described his Dec. 2 Senate hearing as “a tremendously upbeat conversation, with Senators (Tom) Harkin (D-Iowa) and (Arlen) Specter (R-Pa.) pitching in,” and briefly outlined the history of the current federal ban on research involving human embryos. He looked back “with unbelievable admiration” at the work of the Human Embryo Research Panel, which advised NIH in 1994 on this issue, but whose recommendations were preempted by Congress in appropriations language forbidding federal human embryo research. Varmus hoped the 106th Congress will take up the issue of whether NIH can fund research downstream of the recent work on pluripotent stem cells. “I’m strongly hopeful that we’ll be able to determine (whether NIH can fund the sequelae to the stem cell work) quickly.”

Varmus pointed out that NIH hasn’t been congressionally reauthorized since 1993, and hoped the next Congress would get to that, as well as the issues of genetic discrimination, confidentiality of medical records, tobacco legislation, and proposals dealing with access to and reimbursement for clinical

research.

There were short updates on two lingering issues—access to research tools (presented by Dr. Maria Freire, director of the Office of Technology Transfer) and computers in biomedicine (given by Dr. Larry Smarr, director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois)—before Collins gave a lively report bookmarked by two quotes: the famous admonition to “make no little plans” by architect Daniel Burnham, and the pithy “Low aim, not failure, is a crime.” Collins says he sees his institute’s work as a “feeder layer” for the rest of biomedical research and said NHGRI’s goal is “sustained sequencing capacity.” The genome project intends to finish the human genome sequence in 2003, coincidentally the 50th anniversary of the double helix discovery. Intermediate goals include finishing one-third of the human DNA sequence by 2001, which Collins said would likely yield half of the human genome, and “achieving coverage of at least 90 percent of the genome in a working draft, based on mapped clones, by the end of 2001.” Genome scientist Dr. J. Craig Venter, whose private firm has a plan to sequence the human genome, was in the audience and spoke briefly in response to a question, but was aggressively low-key.

A discussion ensued about the dearth of people trained in both mathematics/statistical analysis and biomedicine—such folks are hotly pursued by private firms offering large salaries, but there is no defined academic track for training them, said MIT’s Dr. Eric Lander; he suggested adding multidisciplinary genome career-track training to the next ACD agenda, and Varmus agreed.

Clearly impressed by Collins’ presentation, meeting invitee Brad Margus, a Florida businessman who is also president and director of the A-T Children’s Project (two of his sons have ataxia telangiectasia, a genetic ailment), noted, “It’s great to have all this good news about the rate of data collection, but what about meeting the needs of patients now who have genetic diseases? Shouldn’t there be a Human Protein Project as well?”

Maybe it was the coffee break that occurred at this point, but when the advisors returned, some were rather feisty. An overview of improvements to the intramural programs in the last 5 years given by NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman included a proposal to craft an NIH Academy (see sidebar), which would include a small graduate program emphasizing clinical research and drawing from a diverse student pool, including underrepresented minorities.

“Does this country really need another Ph.D. program?” wondered Dr. Shirley Tilghman, professor of molecular biology at Princeton University. “Every graduate school in the U.S. is already straining to improve diversity already. I’m not



Joellen M. Harper recently became NCCR's new chief grants management officer and director of the Office of Grants Management. She began her NIH career in 1989 as a presidential management intern with the Office of the Director. After completing the 2-year program, she joined NIAID as a grants policy analyst. Before coming to NCCR, she spent 6 years in the Division of Grants Policy, Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration, as an assistant grants policy officer, where she had a lead role in NIH's extramural reinvention initiatives. She joined NCCR in May 1998.

persuaded at all that there is a need." The Post's Graham asked if busy scientists would be willing to set aside research to spend time in the classroom.

Gottesman countered that NIH offers unique opportunities for clinical research, a field in which highly specialized training is much needed, and boasts "a fairly sizable number of minority role models." Tilghman suggested a training Request for Applications to accomplish NIH's goals, which she admitted were laudable. Varmus divulged that one model for an NIH Academy, of which the graduate program would be a small part, is the Meyerhoff scholars program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, which intensively trains undergraduate minority students. "(The Meyerhoff program) is the inspiration for this idea," he said. "It's something we're quite well positioned to try to do."

As others weighed in on the focus and size of the grad school, Varmus tabled the discussion until a specific proposal can be made at the next ACD meeting in June 1999.

Next, anticipating some rancor in the discussion of priority-setting, Varmus introduced the topic by

The average grant size will increase by 10 percent under NIH's new budget, and the 9,200 or so new and competing research project grants to be funded represent a dramatic increase from just a few years ago.

noting that budget increases of 6, 7 and 15 percent in the past 3 years have brought heightened congressional and public interest. In 1997, Congress directed IOM to examine NIH's method of setting research priorities, and a 19-member panel led by Princeton's Dr. Leon Rosenberg spent 5 months last year drafting 12 recommendations to improve the process. "We believe there is room for more lay participation in every level of NIH's activities, and that NIH would be strengthened by so doing," said Rosenberg. Recommendations 7 and 9 form the heart of the critique, directing NIH to establish a Council of Public Representatives (COPR) and offices of public liaison in each institute and center as well as the director's office. A COPR with some 20 members selected by Varmus is due to be named later this spring, said Anne Thomas, NIH associate director for communications.

"Of all the government institutions I know, NIH has the most extraordinarily rich interactions with the public," said Varmus, who envisions COPR collaboration on such occasions as his annual budget retreats, major policy discussions on topics such as

embryo research, and in NIH's conformance with GPRA—the so-called "Results" act that Congress passed to monitor the success of federal programs.

Varmus seemed upset that Rosenberg's panel did not evidently appreciate how thoroughly NIH understands the complicated factors influencing priority-setting, and the two clashed briefly over how seriously NIH takes the issue of assessing the burden and cost of disease in allocating research dollars.

"There seem to be two extremes of conception about NIH priority-setting," Varmus explained. "There's the 'King and His Counting House' model, where I push piles of money in certain directions, and the Tolstoyan model, where there are many soldiers and many trenches, each ignorant of the other's battle." Neither extreme does credit to the actual effort NIH makes, he argued.

ACD member Dr. Marc Kirschner, chair of the department of cell biology at Harvard Medical School, chided the IOM report for saying, on the one hand, that NIH's priority-setting is fundamentally sound, but also that it needs fixing. "I consider the recommendations to be quite disappointing," he said.

Varmus concluded, "(The IOM report) is not a blueprint for what NIH is going to do next." He said a letter-by-letter response to the recommendations is inappropriate.

The daylong meeting concluded with a discussion of issues involved in clinical trials, including the effort to assemble a one-stop clinical trials database, housed at the National Library of Medicine. ■

Plan Outlined for 'NIH Academy'

Some months ago, NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus asked Dr. Harold Slavkin, director of the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, to chair a committee for recruitment of a diverse workforce in medical research. The committee was asked to prepare recommendations addressing the underrepresentation of minorities in biomedical careers, and medically underserved populations within the U.S.

The Slavkin committee's first prescription is creation of an NIH Academy "to serve as a nexus for recruiting and training a diverse population of students to pursue careers in the health sciences. The Academy would operate as an intramural program on the NIH campus and as an extramural program within academic health sciences institutions throughout the United States. The recommendation will also require increased funding levels for training to realize the desired outcomes and increase the talent pool engaged in medical research."

A successful academy would depend on five "critical elements": a dedicated cadre of mentors fully supported by the institution; a residential facility to foster community and purpose; continuity of support to nurture trainees, potentially from high school through postdoctoral training; public and private funds to cover various financial needs as trainees make the transition to the extramural environment; and opportunities for work on research problems in communities close to various academy locations.

VISION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

memorate NEI's 25th anniversary in 1993. Instead of hosting scientific symposia and other events for researchers and grantees, NEI decided to embark on a public outreach program that, along with the exhibit, includes education programs for children; vision screenings; public lectures; science writers' seminars; media events; and teacher workshops. And the results have greatly exceeded expectations.

"We are delighted at the VISION exhibit's continuing popularity and thrilled that we can bring a piece of NIH directly to those who support us—the American people," said NEI director Dr. Carl Kupfer.

The exhibit highlights research leading to sight-saving treatments for blinding eye diseases, and

provides health information resulting directly from that research. Targeted to people of all ages, the 2,000-square-foot, 52-panel exhibit includes 10 "hands-on" interactive modules demonstrating how the eye focuses light; how motion and color are perceived; and how the brain processes visual information. Simulations illustrate how vision is affected by eye diseases, supplemented by take-home brochures. It also includes historical artifacts, and a display of "Eyeglasses of the Rich and Famous," with eyewear worn by celebrities such as former Presidents Gerald Ford and George Bush, singer John Denver, and even Miss Piggy.

"The exhibit has broad appeal," said Judith Stein, NEI associate director for communication, health education, and public liaison, whose office developed and manages the exhibit. "One measure of its success is the fact that the NEI originally planned to tour the exhibit for 2 years. Demand has been so great that it is now expected to continue at least through the year 2000—the eighth anniversary of the NEI's 25th anniversary."

More than 90 NEI-grantee institutions, museums, and community organizations have sponsored the VISION exhibit locally, and unprecedented coalitions have formed to host it and plan related events. NEI serves as coordinator and facilitator, loaning the exhibit at no cost and providing promotional and educational materials.

The VISION exhibit is "highly informative for adults, but is particularly educational for school-aged children because they love the exhibit's interactive features," said Linda Valliant, an administrator with the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA in Los Angeles. They cosponsored the exhibit at the California Museum of Science and Industry with the Doheny Eye Institute at the University of Southern

California. "The collaborative effort of NEI's grantee institutions in sponsoring the VISION exhibit showed the community a great deal—that despite our 'competition,' we are able to join hands and do things together," Valliant said.

It was the exhibit's interactive features that initially caught the attention of the McAllen International Museum, a small but vibrant cultural institution in McAllen, Tex. "Because over 50 percent of our visitors are children, we like to have interactive displays for them," said Suzanne Alvarez, the museum's director of education. "At first, the opening of a vision exhibit did not sound too exciting. But soon everyone saw that the exhibit was well designed, and the displays were colorful, bright, easy to read and educational. The hands-on activities really engaged both children and adults."

The exhibit provides local sponsors with opportunities to showcase their institutions within the community. Clem Goldberger, director of communications and development at the Louisiana State University Eye Center in New Orleans, said the VISION exhibit gave LSU the chance to "position itself in the community as a leading eye research, education and patient care center."

Another major component of NEI's Celebration of Vision Research is a school program for students in grades 4-8. The curriculum includes three lesson plans, fun and interactive classroom activities, and handouts. Classroom teachers or guest speakers can use it either with the exhibit or independently. Volunteers and faculty of the Jules Stein Eye Institute have used the school program in more than 63 classrooms, visiting more than 1,000 students. "It was a big hit with students and teachers alike," Valliant said. "We continue to use it, even though the VISION exhibit left Los Angeles in June 1997. The program is strengthening our relationships with the community and has given us good media coverage." Teachers also find the school program valuable. As one teacher put it, "The kids loved the program and now they are aware of blindness and their own eyes. Great teaching tool!"

The VISION exhibit debuted in San Francisco in November 1993. Since then it has traveled coast-to-coast and is currently on display in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1999, the exhibit is expected to travel to Oklahoma City and Durham, N.C.

"We see the VISION exhibit as a way to inform the public how their tax dollars are being invested to produce many sight-saving treatments for eye diseases," Kupfer said. "The exhibit tells the story of how treatments have improved, and are continuing to improve, the quality of life for millions of people. It allows us to tell the story of the research mission of NEI and NIH to those across the country who may be largely unaware of our record of scientific and medical accomplishment." ■



Media coverage has trailed the VISION exhibit across country. Stops on its 8-year tour include Birmingham, Ala., Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Durham, N.C., Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Fla., Houston, Los Angeles, McAllen, Tex., New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Portland, Ore., Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

OAM Director Wayne Jonas Moves On

Dr. Wayne B. Jonas, who served a 3½-year detail as director of the Office of Alternative Medicine, left NIH Dec. 31 to resume his research and teaching career as a medical officer with the U.S. Army.

Formerly director of the medical research fellowship at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and a lieutenant colonel and family practice physician in the Army, Jonas became OAM director on a full-time basis in July 1995, 4 years after Congress created the office. The public's use and interest in unconventional medical practices has grown significantly, according to a recent national survey published in the Nov. 11 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.



Dr. Wayne B. Jonas

Under Jonas' leadership, research supported by the office has moved from exploratory phases to large-scale, evidence-based studies over the past few years. OAM has funded 13 clinical research centers at universities and other health care institutions throughout the United States. These centers have generated over 50 research projects, as well as developed collaborative research ventures with other research institutions. OAM-supported centers represent the bulk of OAM's resources and focus on clinical conditions such as asthma, AIDS, cancer, arthritis, pain, addictions, aging, stroke, cardiovascular diseases and pediatric conditions. OAM also jointly supports several large clinical trials with NIH institutes and centers. One example is a 3-year study on St. John's wort for clinical depression in cooperation with the National Institute of Mental Health. The study is being conducted at Duke University, and patient recruitment has just begun. "These trials will invariably stimulate additional research collaboration in the field, and offer new opportunities for training researchers in alternative medicine studies," Jonas said.

"In 10 years," he predicted, "the office will be a thriving organizational entity—working closely with other NIH components and federal agencies, academic centers, private organizations and the public to facilitate quality research that integrates complementary and alternative healing approaches."

Asked what he considered his greatest accomplishments, Jonas said, "During the last 3 years, I hired new staff and reorganized the office in order to more effectively address the congressional mandate; oversaw a complete turnover and redirection of the Alternative Medicine Program Advisory Council; funded 13 research centers around the country; and

began several major clinical trials in complementary and alternative medicine." He also cited creation of a CAM bibliographic database (accessible through the office's home page); initiation of a research training program; and establishment of OAM as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine. Jonas also noted that a 5-year strategic plan for the office was recently completed and is available for the new director.

Jonas is especially proud of OAM's expanded interaction and integration with other institutes and centers at NIH. "I feel that the office has become an integral part of the NIH's mission and activities, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to that."—Anita Greene ■



The Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association recently awarded scholarships to three federal employees. Deloris Agee (second from l), a contract specialist with HHS who is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in business management at Prince George's Community College, received \$300, as did Suzi Winter (third from l), a business management major at the University of Maryland who is also a procurement assistant at NCI. Joycelyn Bacchus (second from r) received \$100 toward pursuit of her business management degree at Trinity College; she is an NHLBI contract administrator. Looking on are Cheryl Jennings (l) of NHLBI, who chaired the scholarship committee, and NCI's Janet Mattson (r), chapter president.

Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking female volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in a 6-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. ■

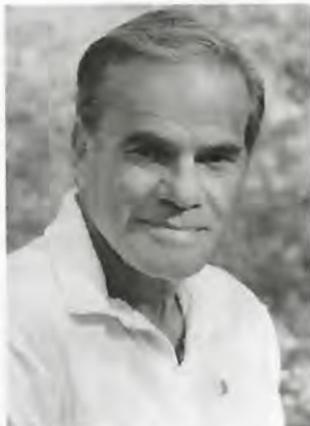


NIAID's Dr. Yoshitsugu Miyazaki was recently honored as one of two recipients of the Merck Irving S. Sigal Memorial Award at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobials and Chemotherapy in San Diego. The award, presented for the first time, recognizes young investigators who have performed significant research in microbiology and infectious disease and reside outside North America. Miyazaki was a Fogarty visiting fellow in NIAID's Laboratory of Clinical Investigation in the clinical mycology section. He is also an assistant professor of medicine at Nagasaki University in Japan. Miyazaki was cited for identifying the molecular basis for mechanisms that confer resistance to antifungal drugs to certain species of *Candida*. Understanding these mechanisms may help scientists devise methods for overcoming antifungal drug resistance.

Nobel Laureate Martin Rodbell Dies

Nobel Prize winner Dr. Martin Rodbell, 73, who discovered a key secret of the communications system that regulates the human body's cellular activities, died Dec. 7 in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he was being treated for cardiovascular problems.

In 1970, Rodbell discovered that signal transmission, or transduction, which is the way the body's cells get their directions, requires a small intracellular molecule called GTP. His finding has had many implications for human diseases, from cancer to cholera, and their cure.



Dr. Martin Rodbell

For his pioneering work, he shared the 1994 Nobel Prize for medicine or physiology with Dr. Alfred G. Gilman of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, who identified the proteins to which GTP binds and called these the G proteins.

Despite heart surgery a decade ago, Rodbell had continued to work on signal transmission from and to cells, completing 42 years at NIEHS and other components of NIH.

He had started at what was then the National Heart Institute, made his key discovery at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, and then left the Bethesda campus to continue work on transduction as scientific director of NIEHS from 1985 to 1989, and thereafter as scientist emeritus.

NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden said, "Dr. Rodbell brought great distinction to NIH and NIEHS. We are proud of his tremendous scientific accomplishments and are honored to have known him."

Rodbell's successor as scientific director of NIEHS, Dr. Carl Barrett, said, "While Dr. Rodbell's scientific genius is justly celebrated, we also remember his generous training of young scientists and intellectual stimulation of his colleagues."

Although he was scheduled for a hospital procedure the next day, Rodbell on Nov. 16 delivered the inaugural NIEHS Rodbell Lecture, a series named in his honor.

He grinned widely as he unveiled a sculpture of his right hand holding a symbol of cell transduction, to be presented to future lecturers. "Now when I am no longer here," he joked, "my hand will still be here."

In his lecture titled "Fifty Years in Science: Zigs

and Zags with a Common Theme," Rodbell recounted his career at NIH with pleasure and emotion. He especially remembered the 1960's as a time when camaraderie and intellectual intensity made the NIH campus an especially good place for young scientists.

He said both close reasoning and bald chance brought along his discoveries, and that many colleagues played a role. At one point he commented, "Nature doesn't always do things the way we expect it to, and we need to have humility about that."

His lecture slides were punctuated with early snapshots, one showing him in the Navy during World War II, when he was a radioman with the Pacific fleet. "All day I listened to Morse code," he said. "If that isn't preparation for looking at cell signaling, I don't know what is."

One of his fondest memories of his NIH career was of relocating with his family on the first of several trips to Europe to do research. He and his wife and four children were sent overseas in style on an ocean liner while he was still a junior scientific staffer (GS-11). He said that would never happen today.

Rodbell was born in Baltimore, where he attended public school and graduated from an accelerated course at Baltimore City College, a highly selective public high school. His subsequent education at Johns Hopkins University was interrupted by Navy service but he was graduated with a B.A. from Hopkins in 1949 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington at Seattle in 1954. He received postdoctoral training at the University of Illinois in the department of chemistry before joining the laboratory of Christian Anfinsen, 1972 Nobel Prize winner for chemistry, at the National Heart Institute.

Rodbell and his wife, Barbara, had lived in Chapel Hill since he came to NIEHS as scientific director in 1985. He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Suzanne Richardson of Cabin John, Md., sons Paul of Silver Spring, Md., Andrew of Bethesda, Md., and Philip of Ringham, Mass., and 7 grandchildren. Memorial services will include a ceremony to be scheduled at NIEHS. ■

Men Needed for Arousal Study

University study seeks healthy men, 18-60, for 3-hour laboratory assessment. The purpose of the study is to gain a better understanding of factors that affect sexual functioning. Two types of volunteers are needed: men with erection problems and men without any sexual problems. A \$40 payment is provided. If interested, call Jay Stone at (301) 295-3672 for more information. ■

Get By on Little Sleep?

To complete a sleep study, NIMH is looking for male and female volunteers ages 20-30 who routinely sleep 6 or fewer hours nightly. 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 research unit for 4 consecutive days. Compensation is available. For more information call 496-6981.



Bruce Maurer Retires from CSR

Dr. Bruce Maurer has retired from government service after 20 years at NIH, the last 15 of which were with the Center for Scientific Review.

He joined the Division of Research Grants (CSR's precursor) in 1983 as executive secretary (now known as scientific review administrator) of the hematology 2 study section. In 1986, he became executive secretary of the virology study section and a referral officer for research grant applications in the general areas of virology and immunology. In 1989, he advanced to chief of the virology, immunology, and pathology review section, which was later reorganized as the microbial and immunological sciences review section. As chief, Maurer supervised 19 study sections responsible for the review of research applications in AIDS, immunological sciences, virology, pathology, bacteriology, microbial physiology, tropical medicine and parasitology. From 1996 until his retirement, he served as referral officer and acting chief of the AIDS and related research review group, and scientific review administrator of two AIDS and related research study sections.



Dr. Bruce Maurer

Before joining CSR, Maurer earned a doctorate from the University of Arizona (1966) in microbiology with an emphasis in virology. He then held a variety of academic and industrial positions where his research and publications were in the areas of virology, cell-mediated immunity, and primate immunogenetics. He entered NIH through the Grants Associates Program in 1978, after which he served as director for the Immunology Program in the National Institute on Aging, then as director for the Tumor Immunology Program at the National Cancer Institute.

Maurer received the NIH Director's Award in 1990 for "effective leadership and sustained high quality performance as executive secretary and referral officer." In 1994, as a member of the Referral and Review Branch management team, he also received a PHS Special Recognition Award for "creative and comprehensive oversight, guidance, and direction in the conduct of the NIH peer review system for investigator-initiated research grant applications." He was a member of the STEP committee from 1988 to 1991.

Maurer's retirement plans remain flexible. He may buy, sell and appraise antiques, which is one of his many interests. Although looking forward to new ventures, he claims that he "will miss his colleagues at CSR and the closeness, the collegiality, and the sense of family that is so special at CSR." ■

DWD Training Tips

The Division of Workforce Development, 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://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov/or> call 496-6211.

Administrative Skills Development

Introduction to NIH for New Support Staff	2/17
Leadership and Management Skills for Support Staff	2/23
Taking Minutes at Meetings	3/2

Administrative Systems

Domestic Travel	2/17
Price Reasonableness in Simplified Acquisitions	2/17
Time and Attendance for Supervisors Using ITAS	2/23
Travel for NIH Travelers	2/23
Travel for Administrative Officers	2/24
Foreign Travel	2/25

Career Transition

Hire Me! Successful Interviewing Techniques	2/22
---	------

Computer Applications and Concepts

Introduction to Web Page Design - HTML	2/17
Introduction to MS PowerPoint 97 - Office 97	2/18
Introduction to Windows	2/18
Introduction to MS Excel 7.0 - Office 95	2/22
Advanced MS Excel 97 - Office 97	2/22
Advanced Web Page Design	2/23
Introduction to Web Page Design with FrontPage 97	2/25
Introduction to CRISP	2/26
Introduction to Visual Basic 5.0	3/1
Intermediate TANGO	3/1
Advanced MS Access 97 - Office 97	3/1

Human Resource Management

KSA Methodology	2/17
-----------------	------

Management, Supervisory & Professional Development

Organizational Learning Series	2/22
The Straight Talk Program	2/22
Supervision: New Skills and New Challenges	2/23
BEST Program: Building Effective & Successful Teams	2/25
Supervision and Group Performance	3/1
Coaching Skills: Coaching for Commitment	3/1

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>.

New Computational Programs for Molecular Biology	1/13
Database Technology Seminar	1/15
NIH Data Warehouse Property Management Mini	1/21
NIH Data Warehouse Budget and Finance Mini	1/26
NIH Data Warehouse Research Contracts & Grants Mini	1/27
NIH Data Warehouse Property Management	1/28

Pelvic Pain Volunteers Needed

This study will evaluate whether surgery followed by a new medical treatment reduces pain for a longer time than surgery alone. To qualify you must have: normal menstrual cycles; a 3-month history of pelvic pain; no recent treatment for endometriosis; not take any chronic medications including birth control pills; not be pregnant or nursing. If interested, phone 402-0851.

'IntraMall' Event Draws Crowd

More than 600 NIH'ers and vendors came together at the Natcher center on Dec. 11 to participate in "A Day at the Mall," an event to showcase the IntraMall, NIH's electronic purchasing system, and the IMPAC purchase card program. Jeff Weiner, program coordinator of the IntraMall, said the high attendance indicated a growing awareness and interest in using purchase cards and the IntraMall to streamline purchasing.

Attendees heard presentations by a variety of IntraMall authorities, and browsed wares displayed by more than 60 vendors, some offering discounts of



IntraMall vendors describe their products during "A Day at the Mall," which drew 600 guests.

up to 20 percent. For attendees who wanted hands-on training or practice buying on the IntraMall, a computerized shopping room for online ordering was available and received heavy use. Representatives from the US Bank/Visa purchase card program were on hand to answer questions about the new credit cards issued to NIH employees on Nov. 30. User controls on the new cards can limit the dollar amount of each purchase and the merchants where purchases can be made.

During the day, US Bank/Visa donated \$10,000 to the National Foundation for Biomedical Research (the Foundation for NIH), which was established by Congress to promote public/private partnership in

support of biomedical research and training. Dr. Anne Alexander, executive director, accepted the award.

The favorable response from both vendors and NIH'ers at the event indicated



Visa representative Corey Gaines (c) presents a check to Dr. Anne Alexander (l) and MaryAnn Guerra.

enthusiasm for electronic commerce as the number of stores and products continues to grow. Those who were unable to attend the affair can still learn about the IntraMall by visiting its Web site at <http://intramall.nih.gov>, or by contacting Jeff Weiner of NCI at 496-7058. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Robert Nussbaum on Jan. 20; he is chief, Genetic Disease Research Branch, NHGRI. He will give the NIH Director's G. Burroughs Mider Lecture on the topic, "The Genetic Approach to Understanding Parkinson's Disease."

On Jan. 27, Dr. Alfred Sommer, dean, Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, professor, epidemiology and international health, and professor of ophthalmology at the Wilmer Institute, will give the Robert S. Gordon, Jr., Lecture in Epidemiology titled, "Epidemiology in the Cause of Vitamin A: Science to Practice."

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

Seminar on Disadvantaged Business Policy

The Bethesda/Medical chapter of the National Contract Management Association is hosting a brown bag lunch seminar Wednesday, Jan. 20 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Executive Plaza North, Conf. Rm. H, to discuss "New Disadvantaged Business Policy and Procedures." Guest speaker is Verl Zanders, director of HHS's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. The seminar is open to all. Contact Sharon Miller, 496-8611, for details. ■

NIH'ers get hands-on training on IntraMall.

