

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Inaugural James Hill Memorial Lecture Features Abrams

The first of a new lecture series dedicated to the memory of Dr. James C. Hill will be presented on Tuesday, May 18 at 3 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Hill, former deputy director of NIAID, was a motivating force in building NIAID's strong AIDS research program in the early years of the epidemic. His efforts helped focus national attention on AIDS and on the needs of people infected with HIV.

While at NIAID, Hill worked closely and tirelessly with institute staff and brought a cohesive energy to NIAID's relations with other government agencies, Congress, activists and other community and political leaders. His clear vision and gentle humor helped steer the institute on its course.

SEE HILL LECTURE, PAGE 2

Lunch Kicks Off Bond Drive

A pizza luncheon will be held for NIH U.S. Savings Bonds canvassers on Wednesday, May 12, in front of Bldg. 1. The lunch is part of the U.S. Savings Bonds campaign kick-off ceremony, which is scheduled to take place in front of Bldg. 1 at 12:30 p.m.

Invited guest speaker is U.S. Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow, honorary director of the U.S. Savings Bonds program.

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases will host this year's bonds campaign. For more information about purchasing savings bonds, contact your area savings bonds canvasser.

In the event of rain, the luncheon will take place in Bldg. 10/B1C218 of the Visitor Information Center.

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Holland's Huizing Cuts Swath Through Maryland Athletics

By Rich McManus

It may come as a surprise to learn that the first language of the Maryland state women's biathlon, cyclocross and cycling champion is not English, but Frisian. But that's only natural for a woman born 31 years ago in a little farming town in the north of Holland. That's where Dr. Marjan Huizing and her little sister would pedal an hour back and forth to school each day from age 6 to 18.

Now a postdoctoral fellow in NICHD's Heritable Disorders Branch, Huizing landed in the U.S. on May 1 last year to begin a 2 to 3-year stay at NIH. A week later she was the first woman across the finish line at the Ivymount School 5K footrace in Potomac, Md., which would



NICHD's Dr. Marjan Huizing

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Results Explain Mysterious Irish Malady

Genetic Mutations Discovered That Define A New Family of Inflammatory Diseases

By Kelli Carrington

An international team of researchers has discovered genetic mutations underlying a newly recognized group of inherited inflammatory disorders. These illnesses, one of which was first described in a family of Irish and Scottish descent, are characterized by dramatic, sometimes month-long episodes of high fever, severe pain in the abdomen, chest, or joints, skin rash, and inflammation in or around the eyes. Some patients also develop a potentially fatal complication called amyloidosis, a disease in which there is deposition of a blood protein in vital organs.

Results of the study were published as the lead article in the Apr. 2 issue of the journal *Cell*. Patients from seven different families with symptoms of these disorders were found to have mutations in a cell surface receptor for an inflammatory protein called tumor necrosis factor (TNF). Normally this receptor plays a role in the

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HILL LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year's talk, by Dr. Donald I. Abrams, a close personal friend and colleague of Hill's, is titled "Mobilization of Community Resources in Response to the HIV Epidemic." Abrams is professor of clinical medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and assistant director of the AIDS



Dr. James C. Hill

Program at San Francisco General Hospital. He also serves as chairman and principal investigator of the Bay Area Community Consortium, one of the pioneer community-based AIDS clinical trials groups. Abrams was one of the original clinician-investigators to recognize and define persistent generalized lymphadenopathy and immune thrombocytopenic purpura as

AIDS-related conditions. He was involved in many of the initial trials of immune modulators and antiretroviral agents conducted by the AIDS Program at San Francisco General Hospital.

A reception in the Clinical Center's Visitor Information Center will be held at 4 p.m., immediately following the lecture. NIAID director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci extends an invitation to all who knew Hill or who wish to honor his contributions to facing the challenges of the AIDS epidemic. ■

FAES Announces 1999-2000 Chamber Series

The FAES Chamber Music Series announces its 1999-2000 program. The location for all concerts is Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Concerts start at 4 p.m. on Sundays (except on Saturday, Apr. 15, 2000, at 8 p.m.). Tax deductible donations are sponsoring the music series.

Tickets will be mailed early in September; subscription to the series is \$165.

Oct. 10	Jonathan Biss, piano
Nov. 21	Michel Dalberto, piano
Dec. 5	Takacs Quartet
Jan. 16, 2000	Artemis Quartet
Feb. 6	Trio Golub-Kaplan-Carr with Toby Hoffman, viola
Feb. 20	Jaime Laredo, violin
Mar. 26	Pamela and Claude Frank, violin and piano
Apr. 9	Richard Goode, piano
Apr. 15	Il Giardino Armonico

For more information contact FAES by email at vloemans@mail.nih.gov. ■

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

The Thrift Savings Plan is having another open season from May 15 through July 31. FERS employees who were hired before Jan. 1, 1999, as well as CSRS employees have an opportunity to change their current election, or make an initial election.

Eligible FERS and CSRS employees may elect to contribute to the G fund (government securities), C fund (stocks), and/or F fund (bonds). FERS employees may contribute up to 10 percent of their salary each pay period and will receive matching agency contributions on the first 5 percent. CSRS employees may contribute up to 5 percent of salary, but do not receive any matching contributions. FERS employees who do not contribute receive an automatic 1 percent agency contribution each pay period. They may choose to distribute this among the three funds.

The features of the plan and directions on how to make a plan election or to change your current withholding are described in the Thrift Savings Plan Open Season leaflet, which will be distributed to eligible employees by their IC personnel office. More detailed information is provided in the *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees* booklet and is available in your IC personnel office. ■

Are You Normal Weight?

Individuals ages 18-60 are needed to participate in a study examining eating patterns among nonobese adults. You do not have to be a "perfect" weight to participate. The study involves keeping 2 weeks of an eating diary and completing an assessment for \$50. If interested, call (301) 295-9664. ■

Healthy Volunteers Needed

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, in conjunction with the National Institute of Mental Health, is conducting a study relating to stress, tyrosine and physical and cognitive performance. This study requires: ability to perform at least five pull-ups, maintenance of a normal exercise training schedule, a classification and a maximal exercise treadmill test, and two morning exercise test sessions with physical and cognitive testing. For more information, contact René Beck or Gina Coll at (301) 295-1371.

N I H R E C O R D

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Fellows in Minority Health Policy Visit

Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, deputy director of NIH, recently welcomed the visiting Commonwealth Fund Harvard University fellows in minority health policy. The fellows, all physicians, are completing 1 year of study at Harvard focusing on minority health policy issues. Kirschstein and the fellows engaged in an informal discussion in which she gave an overview of NIH's activities.

The fellows' visit was designed to give an overview of NIH resources that can affect minority health. The visit also sought to spark the interest of the fellows in research, or perhaps in working at NIH after they complete their program. With interests ranging from managed care and Laotian and Viet-



NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein (second from r) welcomes physicians from Harvard (from l) Durado Brooks, Lisa Benton, Nawal Nour, Felicia Collins, Quyen Ngo-Metzger and program director for the Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship Dr. Joan Reede.

namese health concerns to issues surrounding women's health, the five fellows brought diverse viewpoints to their meetings with NIH'ers.

After meeting with Kirschstein, the fellows spent the day visiting representatives of various ICs and NIH offices including Dr. Norman Anderson, NIH associate director for behavioral and social sciences research; Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health; and Dr. Harold Slavkin, director of NIDCR. They discussed critical issues of interest such as training programs and diversity in the health sciences. A highlight of the visit was each fellow's lunch with a selected NIH mentor.

The visit was part of a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., to call on many HHS agencies/offices. ■

Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program Set, May 14, 28

This year, the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program will celebrate its 27th anniversary. Everyone is invited to join in festivities including a lunchtime program of Asian food and demonstrations of Asian arts and crafts on Friday, May 14, and an evening program of Asian music and dance on Friday, May 28.

On May 14, the lunchtime festivities will take place between 11:30 a.m and 1:30 p.m. on the patio of Bldg. 31A. There will be demonstrations of bonsai, calligraphy and martial arts (Taekwondo and Aikido), and sales of Asian handicrafts. Luncheon sales will consist of food from China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Scholarship Fund of the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Organization. Details of the evening program on May 28 will be provided in the next issue of the *NIH Record*.

The program is sponsored by the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American heritage committee, the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Organization, NCI, NHLBI, NIAID, NICHD, NIDCR, NINDS, NLM, NIHFCU and OD/NIH. For more information, contact Victor Fung by email: vf6n@nih.gov or Nancy Wright, 496-6766. ■

Author Bebe Moore Campbell To Visit, May 24

Bebe Moore Campbell, author of several books about contemporary urban life including *Brothers and Sisters* and *Singing in the Comeback Choir*, will visit NIH on Monday, May 24 in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1.

Her visit completes the NIH Workforce Diversity Initiative's four-part Book Bridge Forum series and will include a book signing from 9:30 to 10 a.m., followed by a reading from *Brothers and Sisters* at 10. The reading and discussion session will focus on the concept of managing diversity, and its relevance and impact on the NIH community. Employees who participated in previous forums will be recognized during the event, and the first diversity awards will be presented to NIH individuals and groups for their accomplishments in managing diversity.

All are welcome. For reasonable accommodation needs, call the Office of Equal Opportunity, 496-2906 or 496-9755 (tty). ■



Bebe Moore Campbell

Life Insurance Open Enrollment Period Ends June 30

There is a Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) open enrollment period now through June 30. All eligible civilian employees may elect or increase their FEGLI coverage during this time. The effective date of any elections made during this open enrollment period will not be until Apr. 23, 2000. Employees will receive information from their IC personnel office regarding this period. Contact your personnel office if you have any questions. ■



Anita M. Linde recently joined the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases as legislative liaison in the Office of the Director. She comes to NIAMS from the NIH Office of the Director, where she served as special assistant to the deputy director for management and as a legislative analyst in the Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis. A Bethesda native, Linde began her NIH career in 1994 as a presidential management intern from Vanderbilt University, where she received a master's degree in public policy.

GENE MUTATIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

body's defenses against infectious and foreign agents. The *Cell* article explains that mutations in the receptor are responsible for a predisposition to severe inflammation triggered by daily life events such as emotional stress, minor trauma, or for seemingly no apparent reason. This discovery marks the first time that TNF receptor mutations have been tied to an inherited disease.

The senior author of the report is Dr. Daniel Kastner, an intramural physician-scientist at NIAMS. Almost 2 years ago, he had successfully led an international consortium in the cloning of the gene for familial Mediterranean fever (FMF), another hereditary disorder of fever and inflammation that is common among people of Jewish, Arab, Armenian and Turkish ancestry.

After the FMF gene was identified, it became clear that some families with periodic fevers do not have these FMF mutations. Several of these families have been noted to show a dominant mode of inheritance (FMF is recessive), and are of Mediterranean ancestry. The symptoms most frequently reported by the affected individuals include fever lasting a week or more, accompanied by red and swollen eyes, migratory skin rashes, muscle tenderness, joint pain and sometimes abdominal or chest pain. An unusually high incidence of inguinal hernia has been noted in affected men. Some patients also develop amyloidosis, which can be fatal.

One of the best-characterized families is of Irish and Scottish ancestry, and was first described by a research team at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, England. To contrast this condition from FMF and emphasize the Irish ancestry, they named it familial Hibernian fever (FHF). However, families with similar complaints have now been described in several ethnic groups. Initially, it was not clear whether all of these families had mutations in the same gene or in several related genes.

A key advance came about 1 year ago when two research teams independently identified a region of chromosome 12 associated with susceptibility to this form of periodic fever. One research team was headed by Dr. Michael McDermott of the Royal London School of Medicine, formerly a postdoctoral fellow in Kastner's lab. The second team is in Adelaide, Australia, and subsequently a third team of researchers in Helsinki extended these results to a large Finnish family.

At a meeting hosted by Kastner last year, these research teams and scientists from Cork, Ireland, agreed to collaborate to determine which particular gene on chromosome 12 causes periodic fevers. The target region contained as many as 500 different genes, and the group prepared for a lengthy search. Among the possibilities was the gene for the TNF receptor 1 (TNFR1). This receptor is found embedded in the cell membranes of most cells in the body,

where it acts as the transponder for TNF by receiving and transmitting signals that trigger an inflammatory response. The inflammatory signal can be turned off by removal of the TNF receptor from the surface of the cell, a process called "shedding." The portion that is released can suppress the inflammatory response by absorbing TNF before it reaches cells to transmit its signal. Even before TNFR1 was known to be located in the target region of chromosome 12, the Nottingham group had found low levels of soluble TNFR1 in the blood of Hibernian fever patients.

McDermott worked with Dr. Ivona Aksentijevich in the Kastner laboratory to screen the TNFR1 gene for sequence differences between patient and normal groups. On Thanksgiving Day 1998, they found the first unmistakable changes in the DNA sequence. Ultimately, the consortium found six disease-associated mutations. Because these mutations were

"It is absolutely incredible to live in a time when we have the tools to find the exact molecular cause of a baffling disease, and then to be able to do something about it." —Dr. Daniel Kastner, NIAMS

found in families of several different ethnic backgrounds, the authors have proposed the more neutral acronym TRAPS (TNF receptor-associated periodic syndrome) to include all of the families.

Drs. Jérôme Galon and John O'Shea, colleagues of Kastner's, have studied how these mutations cause disease. In a Louisiana family with TRAPS who were patients at NIAMS, these researchers found that the TNFR1 mutation prevented normal shedding of receptor after cellular activation. This could result in prolonged signaling by TNF at the cell surface, and diminished soluble TNFR1 in the blood to absorb TNF and block signaling.

Based on this analysis, Kastner and his colleagues believe that a synthetic form of TNF receptor might help to suppress the inflammation these patients experience. Fortuitously, a drug recently approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is in fact the shed form of a related TNF receptor. Researchers will now determine the potential usefulness of this drug in the treatment of TRAPS. Currently, many patients are treated with high doses of steroids, which can have serious side-effects and are not completely effective.

The photo on the cover of the journal shows massive deposits of amyloid in kidney of a patient who died of TRAPS. Kastner hopes that the discovery of TNFR1 mutations will help this patient's sister, niece and 8 year-old daughter to avoid a similar fate. "It is absolutely incredible to live in a time when we have the tools to find the exact molecular cause of a baffling disease, and then to be able to do something about it," observes Kastner. "It's such a privilege to have this opportunity." **R**

Reading Statistical Software for Y2K

Have you grown too attached to your statistical software? Your old program may suit you better than a pair of faded jeans, but you might need to switch to a system that's ready for Y2K. The Center for Information Technology's Statistical Support Staff (SSS) strongly encourages statistical software users to check applications and archived data for year 2000 compliance. To protect their systems, users should follow the manufacturer's documentation and upgrade to Y2K-compliant versions currently licensed by the SSS. CIT is prepared to help—call the SSS at GO CIT (4-6248), or search for product compliance status on the NIH Information Technology Clearinghouse, <http://irm.cit.nih.gov/y2000/>.

Avoid Technical Glitches, Human Error

Some users, out of convenience or other factors, prefer their older software, but if it's not compliant for the year 2000 transition, that could result in incorrect data processing. And many manufacturers, rather than providing "patches" or other remedies for older versions, are simply requiring users to obtain the current production releases. In some cases this means that SSS licenses will expire in 1999 and will not be renewed. SSS posts notices about all such changes, but it's wise in any case to upgrade immediately to the current Y2K-ready versions.

Other Y2K problems can result from failing to follow a product's documentation. For example, some conditionally compliant applications specify that the user must input all years as four digits, otherwise two-digit dates are assumed to be in the 1900s.

Data should be made Y2K compliant as well. All archived data that are not already saved as system files should be converted to ensure Y2K compliance.

Get Help Now

How can you tell if your system is OK for Y2K? NIH's Year 2000 IT Clearinghouse lets you search through a compliance database for many commercial off-the-shelf products, including statistical software. Links are provided to detailed information on the SSS site and the manufacturers' own Web pages. Some software vendors encourage cyber visitors to register for regular email updates.

The SSS can also take your questions at GO CIT or by email at dannerr@exchange.nih.gov. By assessing systems now, users can avoid costly back-ordered delays for upgrades, and more importantly, protect their systems and data from the millennium bug altogether.—Gregory Roa ■

Some Y2K-Compliant Versions of Statistical Software

SAS	6.09E on MVS mainframe 6.12 for Windows Macintosh and OS/2
S-Plus	4.5 for Windows 5.0 for Unix systems
IMSL	3.0
SUDAAN	7.5 for MVS mainframe and Windows

Follow Directions—Examples of Conditionally Compliant Software

- SPSS version 4.1 is not Y2K-compliant but its default interpretation of two-digit years can be overridden by using a workaround provided on SPSS's Web site.
- BMDP's releases 1988 and 1990 are not considered compliant but can accurately process date data when executed on the MVS mainframe through SAS.

Web Sites with Y2K Information

- NIH IT Clearinghouse - <http://irm.cit.nih.gov/y2000/>
- SAS - <http://www.sas.com/software/year2000>
- S-Plus - <http://www.mathsoft.com/press/y2k/splus.html>
- SPSS Inc. - <http://www.spss.com/y2k>



Dr. Rona Hirschberg recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as chief of the infectious diseases and microbiology initial review group and also scientific review administrator of the microbial physiology and genetics-2 study section. Before joining CSR, she had been an associate professor in the division of molecular biology and biochemistry, School of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Kansas City. Since 1990, she had also been associate dean in the same school; and from 1995 to 1999, she was director of the metabolic biochemistry program at the National Science Foundation.

Male Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking male volunteers ages 18-45 to participate in a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must be free of medical illnesses and not taking any medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms and be asked to participate in one of several protocols. 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. ■

HUIZING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be the first of many triumphs in the succeeding 12 months.

"It was funny, I didn't know where the race was, so I got out a map. Then I got on my mountain bike, because I didn't have a car yet, and followed the sidewalks to the race site," says Huizing, a Ph.D. from Nijmegen University who is studying lysosomal storage diseases at NIH. Tall, tautly muscled and tanned from a recent trip to Birmingham, Ala., where she qualified for the 1999 World Duathlon (same as biathlon—cycling and running) Championships by placing first in her age group and second among all women in the Powerman Alabama competition, she exudes openness and vitality, a virtual ambassador of health.

Frisian is but one of five languages she speaks; it is the dialect of the northern reaches of Holland. "I have an accent in every language but Frisian," she laughs. She learned Dutch in school, then German because many of the TV broadcasts in Holland originate in nearby Germany, and also studied French.

Meeting and Beating

She claims to love sports because it offers opportunities to meet people; she signed on almost immediately with the Montgomery County Road Runners Club and a cycling group out of Damascus, Md., the All American Bicycle Club, where she is affectionately known as "the Dutch All American." But it's also evident she likes to win. A resumé of her race results—in triathlons, biathlons, cycling and running—for the past 48 weeks includes 34 events, an embarrassing number of which say "1st Woman Overall." Her poorest finish of all was 14th on the second day of a 2-day cycling event in Columbia, Md., last fall.

The resumé states clearly what Huizing does with her weekends—crisscross the mid-Atlantic in search of a race. By car now, not by bike.

Interestingly, she didn't compete in sporting events until she was a university student. She joined the rowing club around age 20 at the agricultural school in Wageningen, a town on the River Rhine, where she studied molecular biology and biochemistry. "The training (for rowing)

involved running and cycling. I found out that I was quite good compared to the other women."

Before that, her only experience with sports was cycling between school and the dairy farm on which she grew up. In the summer she rode horses with other kids in the area, occasionally participating in what Americans would call a rodeo. "We had ponies," she recalls. "Many of the farmers' children had horses, and we held small competitions. In the winter, from when I was a child, we speed-skated. There were all different kinds of levels—I was not that high. That's all the sports I did until I was 18."

During 3 of the 6 years of her combined undergraduate and M.A. training, Huizing rowed from January until June. In the summer, she did triathlons (run, bike, swim) and duathlons (run, bike, run). She took her sixth year abroad, at Australia's Monash University. "I didn't do much sports there. Everything was new, there were sights to see, parks to visit, lots of places to go."

When she got back from Down Under, her friends at home were getting seriously into triathlons. Says Huizing, "I started doing them, and I did very well." She entered many competitions, from local to national level. "The local races I could win, and nationally I was usually in the first 10 women. I did this for 3 years while I earned my Ph.D." During the last year of her Ph.D. work, she quit sports to concentrate on her studies.

One Success Leads to Another

When she arrived in America with her two bikes, a mountain bike and a triathlon model (specially made so that the pedal stroke approximates the leg's movement while running—this helps athletes make the transition between events quickly during biathlons), Huizing was anxious to train again, and to meet people.

"Once I was training again, I got better and better. I got faster and faster on bike and in running." She entered a handful of tri, bi and running events in 1998 and excelled in all of them. "When you do well, you're motivated to train again, which makes you want to race again. It feeds on itself. Success breeds more work, and more races."



Huizing claims plaque and trophy at one of her many wins.

A crucial moment in the duathlon is the transition from biking to running. It involves a change of shoes, and converting from pedaling to striding. Here Huizing dismounts for the running portion of the event. Races can be won and lost at this juncture.



Signal victories in the past year include a win last December on the Eastern Shore in an event called "cyclocross," which is a combination of off-road cycling and cross-country running—occasionally while carrying the bike past a variety of barriers. That earned her the Maryland/Delaware State Championship. By winning last July's Riverwatch Biathlon in North East, Md., she became women's state champ in that event. And in September she became the 30+ Maryland Woman Champion cyclist at the Poolesville Road Race.

Though a Marylander for less than a year, Huizing knows the rolling back roads of upper Montgomery County as well as she knows Wageningen; she trains there Tuesday and Thursday nights with the Potomac Pedalers when the weather is warm. And while she lives near Rock Creek Park, which she uses for long runs to Lake Needwood and back, she is not willing to ride there. "It's very dangerous to ride a bike in the park. I would rather go out of town to Damascus, Laytonsville or Poolesville." Wednesday nights find her at Richard Montgomery High School's track in Rockville, where she does speed training with members of the MCRRC. If it's cold and dark out, she lifts weights in the gym, or works out on her own bike made stationary by a special rig at her fitness center.

"It's fun to exchange sports, and not run every day," she explains. Taking occasional days off from training when she's tired, she looks forward to exercise almost as much for its social value as for the health benefit. "It's more a social thing than to focus on winning races," she insists.

But win she continues to do, and sometimes success means being bumped up a level. Her 3:12 performance in March's Alabama Powerman, which included a 10K run, a 60K bike ride, and another 10K run, automatically qualified her for the World Championships next October near Charlotte, N.C. "You had to come in first in your age group to qualify for the U.S. team," she said. "I came in first in my age group, and second overall." All she'll say of the grueling regimen is, "It was extremely long."

To get ready for the championships, she plans to begin more serious training 2 months prior to the race, which means running, biking and practicing transitions. She credits her gym's trainer with preparing her to do so well in Alabama: "I wouldn't have qualified without him."

A committed amateur, Huizing has no plans to turn pro. Other than a dream of participating at least once in Hawaii's famed Ironman Triathlon, perhaps in 2000, she is unsure of the future, both in sport and medicine. "It's good to have more than a year to decide," she says, sounding genuinely relieved.

She had originally planned to become a clinical geneticist or biochemist, but is now considering

another postdoctoral assignment. "I really enjoy lab work," she said. "Maybe I'll just stay in clinical research."

Though she doesn't know which country or field will eventually claim her, one thing is certain. There better be room for trophies and T-shirts. ■

NIH Hosts Small Business Conference

The Office of Community Liaison and the Office of Contracts Management together with local business leaders will host "Partnering for Commerce: Second NIH Small Business Conference," May 20-21 at the Natcher Conference Center. Registration opens at 8 a.m. on both days. Conference hours are 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on May 20 and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on May 21.

At the meeting, the small business community will be encouraged to establish partnerships by submitting quotes for acquisition requirements through the NIH on-the-spot electronic technology. Bidding hours are Thursday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At the last small business conference, more than \$8,000,000 in contracts were awarded. This year's conference will provide participants an expanded forum for learning to navigate in the electronic commercial environment of the federal government.

NIH has designed software to facilitate the bidding process. Normal bidding procedures will be waived only for this event to allow on-the-spot acquisitions. This procedure will present businesses the chance to submit quotes on purchase requests to satisfy product and service requirements. In general, items will be available for competition that can be awarded on the basis of price, delivery and other price-related factors in accordance with the simplified acquisition procedures. Non-mandatory GSA schedule items, software, supplies and some services may also be available for competition.

In addition to on-the-spot acquisition, workshops will focus on concerns of small businesses eager to engage in streamlined business with NIH and the government and about the variety of small business contracting opportunities. Special attention will be paid to new businesses, disadvantaged, minority, women-owned and disabled-owned firms with one-on-one counseling and community resources available. Prime NIH contractors will be on hand to advise about subcontracting possibilities.

To register and for more information, visit the Web site at: <http://sbconf.cit.nih.gov> or call (301) 650-8660.



Dr. Alfred W. Gordon is head of the new Office of Special Programs in Neuroscience, NINDS. Key objectives of the office include developing a diverse, highly trained national workforce of neuroscience research and health professionals; helping minority institutions sustain competitive research programs; and developing effective programs to better serve the needs of regions that rely on minority health institutions. Gordon most recently served as the NINDS special initiatives and developmental programs officer and spent 6 years managing the institute's training grant and career development review committee.

ORS Executive Officer Topalian Says Farewell

By Carla Garnett

Intramural, extramural, central services—Joan Topalian has worked them all over the course of her 34-year career at NIH. Now, she says it's time to bid farewell to the only workplace she has ever known. Topalian retired on Apr. 1 as executive officer of NIH's Office of Research Services.

"Leaving NIH is bittersweet," she admitted. "I will certainly miss all the wonderful people, but I will be glad not to have to wake up every morning at 5:15. The good thing is that I won't be moving out of town, so I can still get together with old friends and occasionally stop by the campus."

Looking back, Topalian said the administrative management that became her career probably seems like a great departure from her early career goals. A 1965 graduate in fine arts and art history from American University, she and a friend had just received their sheepskins when—instead of seeking jobs like most of their

classmates—they borrowed money and set off on an 8-week tour of Europe to see firsthand the masterpieces they'd been studying in college.

"People thought we were out of our minds for doing that," she recalled with a grin, "but it was such fun. What an opportunity! It was an incredible experience."

When she returned from her trip, her first job interview was in downtown Washington, D.C., near Dupont Circle with a "new publication just starting up," she recounted. "They wanted me to do layout design and copy paste-up, which was more commercial art than fine art. It really wasn't what I was looking for, and I thought 'How long is this little magazine going to be around?'" Turns out, the little startup publication was *Washingtonian* magazine. Who would've thought? she laughed, ruefully.

Since then, Topalian has seized every opportunity to learn something new. During her first interview at NIH, at a grants office, she was told she had all the skills and qualifications they were looking for, "but," she was asked, "how do I know that once I hire you, you won't run off and get married and have children," leaving the position in the lurch?

"Wasn't that just terrible?" she said, with good humor. "But that was typical of the times back then." She was eventually hired as a grade 3 clerk-typist in the neurology institute, where she stayed for 8 years before being accepted into the Management Intern Program. "I'm so grateful for the MI program, which just turned my world around," she said. Her first rotation assignment was at the Parklawn Bldg. with the mental health institute, just

before it split with NIH to form one-third of ADAMHA.

By 1976, she had learned several aspects of grants administration and management. She applied for a job at NCI in the Landow Bldg. She was hired by Damian Crane as an AO in the Chemical Carcinogenesis Program at NCI, where she stayed for 12 years, rising to the level of deputy division administrative officer.

"As Joan seemed quite comfortable with numbers," recalled Crane, "I quickly designated her as the AO in charge of the program's budget. The program was quite large and the budget, which had both intramural and research contract components, was complex. Chemical carcinogens, particularly those related to occupational or environmental cancers, were very much in the news. There were frequent requests for budget data related to our program's efforts in these areas. As the budget contact, Joan was often asked for financial data, many times on very short notice. On one especially hectic day, I was being pressured for a response that Joan was preparing. Somewhat frustrated, Joan told me that she 'was doing the best she knew how.' Surprised by her statement, I asked where that came from. She told me she once worked for a supervisor who told her whenever she felt unreasonably pressured for a response that only she could provide, she should just tell them she 'was doing the best she knew how.' [Over the years], I have remained friendly with Joan. I remember during her early days with ORS and its seemingly endless reorganizations when she seemed sometimes overwhelmed. I would just tell her to do 'the best she knew how.' It was always good for a laugh."

By 1989, Topalian had been appointed ORS's first executive officer, following several months she'd spent on a detail to the office's Division of Engineering Services. In her new capacity, her first task was to hire an entire staff from scratch—in 6 months. She's stayed at ORS for the last 10 years.

"I have worked with Joan for almost 20 years," said Dinah Huffer, who was just out of the Stay-in-School Program in 1977 when Topalian hired her at NCI. In 1989, her former boss hired her again—this time as ORS AO. "She was always very supportive of me and served as a mentor for furthering my career. She is not only a colleague, but a very good friend. As she is moving into a new chapter of her life, I wish her a happy and healthy retirement."

"The people in ORS are very dedicated," Topalian said, pointing out that most NIH'ers don't realize ORS is the third largest NIH organization. "They have a genuine interest in what they do. I'll really miss working with them. Thinking about leaving, I'm beginning to feel a little emotional. But I want to retire while I'm fairly young and in good health."



In her newfound leisure hours, Topalian said she will enjoy the outdoors more, travel—already she has a European tour scheduled to southern France, Italy and Malta this fall, rededicate herself to her avocation in the fine arts, and continue her lessons in classical guitar.

Frederick Center Holds Festival, May 13-14

All NIH'ers are invited to the third annual Ft. Detrick NCI-Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center Spring Research Festival on May 13-14. Events of interest to scientists and the public are planned from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Poster sessions and special exhibits of scientific research, technology and safety will highlight the diverse biomedical projects under way at the Frederick facility. More than 200 commercial exhibitors will display equipment, instruments and services for use in areas such as AIDS research, DNA synthesis, genetic engineering, electrophoresis, cell culture, chromatography and more.

The Research Festival also includes a health fair featuring free health information, health risk appraisals, body fat analysis, seated massage, aerobics and Tai Chi demonstrations, as well as employment and educational information.

A "Careers in Science" Seminar designed to inform students, teachers and the public about career opportunities in science will be featured May 13 at 4 p.m. Professionals will discuss their job responsibilities, educational requirements, opportunities for advancement, what they like about their jobs, and why they chose their career.

A Career Fair offering job opportunities at NCI-FCRDC in research and administration will be held on both days between 3 and 7 p.m. Hiring managers will be on hand from all areas of lab research, technical computing and administrative support services.

The festival is free and takes place on the Ft. Detrick parade grounds inside the main entrance. NIH employees may ride the daily shuttle to Frederick. For more information about festival events, contact Dr. Howard Young at youngh@ncifcrf.gov or visit <http://www.ncifcrf.gov/conference/99springfest/>. ■

FAES Grad School Directorship Open

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences announces an opening for a part-time position as director of the Graduate School at NIH. As the school enters its 40th year, it offers almost 200 courses, has an enrollment of more than 2,500 students, and has the use of a modern molecular biology teaching laboratory in the Cloister. The current director, Dr. Paul Torrence, is leaving NIH to join Northern Arizona University as professor of chemistry and chair of the chemistry department.

The director must be a scientist who is familiar with the NIH community and its science education needs; however, applicants need not be employed by NIH. The director will be responsible for organizing a new curriculum for the graduate school. Interested scientists should call Lois Kochanski, 496-7975, for more information. ■



Dr. Jorge Flores has been named chief of the Clinical Development Branch in the Vaccine and Prevention Research Program of NIAID's Division of AIDS. Since 1995, he has served as medical officer in the Efficacy Trials Branch, VPRP, where he made several important contributions to AIDS vaccine research, including bringing plans to initiate the first AIDS vaccine trial in Africa to fruition; formulating and implementing plans to expand AIDS vaccine research in Southern Africa; and contributing to a better understanding of antigenic epitopes shared among various clades of HIV.

New Management Cadre Class Welcomed

NIH recently welcomed 14 new participants to the Management Cadre Program. They attended a week of orientation that included a 3 1/2-day leadership development seminar. Guest speakers included Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, NIH deputy director; Stephen Benowitz, director, OHRM; Naomi Churchill, assistant director for management, NIDDK; Martha Pine, chief executive officer, NIGMS; and Dr. Louise Ramm, director, OEA, NCRR.

This competitive 18-month program was established in 1994 to enhance the career growth and potential of employees in grades GS/GM 12, 13, or 14. The program is an important component of NIH's efforts to develop well-qualified candidates to help meet its future leadership needs.

The 1999 Management Cadre participants are Vivian Auld, NLM; Robert Bock, NICHD; Gladys Melendez-Bohler, NINDS; Dr. Diane Case, ORS; Serena Coleman, OD; Dr. Rebecca DerSimonian, NICHD; James Hadley, NIAID; Christine Hollingsworth, NIAID; Joseph Januszewski, CIT; Myrna Lopez, ORS; Patrick Miller, NCI; Yvette Porter, OD; Barbara Wingrove, NICHD; and Judith Wortman, NIAMS.

Tickets Available for 'Best of Times'

There are still two more weekends to see *The Best of Times: with Jerry Herman*, the Bethesda Little Theatre's spring musical production, featuring songs from Jerry Herman's Broadway hits *Mack & Mabel*, *Mame*, *Hello Dolly*, and *La Cage Aux Folles*.

The show opened Apr. 30 and is being presented weekends through May 15. Friday and Saturday evening performances start at 8. There is also one more Sunday matinee on May 9 at 3 p.m. All performances will be held in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Ticket prices are \$10, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased at NIH R&W stores or at the door. Group discounts are available. For ticket information, call Elaine at (301) 589-0720. Clinical Center patients and their families are invited to all performances free of charge. The Bethesda Little Theatre is an R&W organization whose proceeds benefit NIH charities. ■

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>.

Advanced Features of HTML	5/6
Running Windows 98	5/7
Seeking Information on the Web	5/7
Security for Server Administrators	5/7
NIH Data Warehouse Research Contracts & Grants Mini Session	5/7
Introduction to TCP/IP	5/10
NIH Data Warehouse Personnel Costs (Human Resources) Mini Session	5/10
PC Hardware Concepts and Usage	5/11
Troubleshooting PC Hardware	5/11
NIH Data Warehouse Property Management	5/11
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	5/11
Creating Maps with SAS	5/12
Advanced Macintosh Techniques	5/12
Disaster Recovery	5/12
Creating Composite Images with Photoshop	5/12
Using Email Effectively	5/13
Designing Effective Scientific Slides	5/13
SAS Macro Language	5/13-14
Using SAS to Publish Web Pages	5/17
VBScript for Interactive Web Design	5/17
Using PROC FREQ in the SAS System to Perform Categorical Data Analysis	5/18
Using Network Sniffers at NIH	5/18
Parachute for Windows 95/98	5/18
NIH Data Warehouse Research Contracts & Grants	5/19
Windows NT Server Overview	5/19-20

CSR's LaRue Davis Killed in Auto Accident

LaRue Davis of the Center for Scientific Review was killed in an automobile accident on Thursday, Mar. 18, on her way to work. For the past 18 months, she had been an administrative technician in the CSR Administrative Services Branch. She also served CSR as property custodial officer, and was a member of the NIH property board of survey. Previously, she had been a grants technical assistant for two study sections.

Davis was well liked and respected by her colleagues. In February 1999, she had received a cash Staff Recognition Award for her vital role in the area of property management. Her most recent supervisor, Nadel Griffith, noted that Davis was a quick learner who was dedicated to completing every task quickly yet professionally.

She is survived by her son, Ronald G. Davis, her mother, brother and two sisters, a special friend, Paul F. Jack, and nieces, nephews and cousins.



LaRue Davis

CSR's Ashe Dies After Long Illness

On Apr. 3, Marion Ashe died of breast cancer. Coincidentally, Apr. 3 was the day following her birthday as well as the day, 16 years earlier, when she began working at NIH.

She started as a secretary in the Clinical Center's nutrition department, where she received a cash award for voluntarily providing competent and in-depth time-keeping training for new clerks. Ashe trained the newcomers while continuing to complete her other responsibilities.

In 1987, she moved to the Division of Research Grants (now the Center for Scientific Review), where she worked for several individuals in the Referral and Review Branch until she retired. These included Nicholas Moriarty, Jr., program analyst; Dr. Raymond Bahor, deputy chief for review; and Dr. Elliot Postow, director of the Division of Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms. She was also an active member of the NIH Toastmasters Club.

Moriarty noted that Ashe was extremely dedicated, persistent and hard-working, "always willing to take on new tasks or to help other people or offices where needed." Another colleague remembered that Ashe had endured 38 radiation treatments for cancer with a positive attitude, and had arranged her schedule so that she never missed work. She was also always interested in self-improvement, and had taken courses at George Washington University and Montgomery College toward a degree in accounting. As Moriarty remarked, with Ashe's "caring ways, hard work, and persistent smile despite her trials, she had many friends at CSR. She will be deeply missed."

Ashe leaves her husband, Edward, son, Edward Jr., daughter-in-law, and grandson, Bradford. Another son, Robert, died at the age of 8 in an automobile accident.



Marion Ashe

Strayer University Rep Speaks

Strayer University welcomes purchasing agents and the NIH community to a presentation on May 24 in Natcher Conference Center, Rms. A & C 1-2 from 10 a.m. to noon. Guest speaker will be Milton Lawler, campus coordinator, who will discuss making learning through prior work and life experiences pay off for you with a bachelor's or master's degree. For more information call Tina Tyler, 402-0773, or email tylert@ors.od.nih.gov.



CBER's Finbloom Is Mourned

Dr. David S. Finbloom, 50, director of the Division of Cytokine Biology in the Office of Therapeutics Research and Review at FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, died Mar. 5 following a 2-year struggle with glioblastoma.

During his 10 years at FDA, he advanced from a senior investigator to division director. He was a member of the medical branch in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and a professor of medicine at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. In this capacity, Finbloom served as a mentor to several hundred medical students, interns, residents and postdoctoral fellows.

"David was a highly intelligent and generous colleague," said Dr. Warren Leonard, chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Immunology, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. "I will also remember his sharp wit and delightful sense of humor. His passing is a substantial loss for the FDA/NIH community."

Finbloom's most recent research focused on the interaction of cytokines with cells of the immune system. He was the first to show that interferon-gamma binds to specific receptors on human monocytes resulting in the internalization of receptor-ligand complexes and induction of new proteins. He showed that a brief exposure to interferon gamma activates or modifies a pre-existing protein within monocytes that can bind to a defined promoter region of an interferon-inducible gene, and that this interaction correlates with gene expression.

"David was truly an outstanding immunologist, physician and mentor," recalled Dr. Kathryn Zoon, CBER director. "He will be missed very much, but remembered for his sense of humor, his quiet wisdom, and his commitment to improving the public health."

Finbloom received many honors for his research including the William R. Felts Award for Excellence in Rheumatology Research Publications and the CBER Director's Targeted Research Award. He was also the first recipient of the FDA Outstanding Scientist of the Year Award in 1994. Finbloom served as an associate editor and a section editor for the *Journal of Immunology*.

Finbloom, however, will be missed for far more than his contributions to science, according to Dr. Henry Metzger, chief of NIAMS's chemical immunology section. "There is a non-coincidental correlation between success in science and a strong (if not inflated) ego that may translate into unpleasant behavior," Metzger said. "David was a scientist who was able to be productive in a highly competitive field without sacrificing his naturally generous nature and gentle demeanor. That made him a very precious member of our community and his loss, therefore, all the more painful." ■

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> or call 496-6211.

<i>Management, Supervisory & Professional Development</i>	
Project Management	6/10
Effective Executive Speaking	6/10
Federal Budget Process	6/14
Dynamic Mentoring: How to Be an Effective Mentor	6/21
Creative Thinking & Innovation on the Team	6/22
<i>Administrative Systems</i>	
Professional Service Orders	6/9
Basic Time & Attendance Using ITAS	6/14
Domestic Travel	6/14
Buying from Businesses on the Open Market	6/15
Consolidated Purchasing Through Contracts	6/16
Federal Supply Schedules	6/17
Foreign Travel	6/21
<i>Administrative Skills Development</i>	
Organizational Tools for the Office	6/8
Making the Most of Your Memory	6/9
Increase Your Word Power	6/16
Leadership and Management Skills for Support Staff	6/16
<i>Career Transition</i>	
Mid-Career Benefits and Financial Planning	6/10
<i>Communication Skills</i>	
Fundamentals of Grammar	6/7
Voice and Diction Improvement	6/21
<i>Human Resource Management</i>	
Overview of the Thrift Savings Plan-TSP	6/14
<i>Computer Applications and Concepts</i>	
Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3 97	6/7
Introduction to FileMaker Pro 4.0	6/8
Introduction to Corel WordPerfect 7.0	6/8
Introduction to Adobe Illustrator 7.0-Mac	6/9
Intermediate FileMaker Pro 4.0	6/10
Introduction to Windows	6/10
Advanced MS Excel 97	6/14
Advanced MS Word 7.0 -Office 95	6/15
Introduction to MS Access 7.0 - Office 95	6/16
Introduction to MS Word 97	6/17
Introduction to Visual Basic 5.0	6/21
Introduction to MS Excel 7.0 - Office 95	6/21
Advanced MS Word 98-Mac	6/22
<i>Quality of Work Life</i>	
Understanding and Managing Stress	6/15

R&W Has Variety of Trips

Visit the R&W today to find out about discount vacations to such places as the Canadian Rockies, Hawaii, Grand Canyon, and Tournament of Roses Parade. Packages include air transportation and accommodations. Make your reservations now! ■



Dr. Robert H. Purcell was recently honored with the Scientific Research Achievement Award by the Hepatitis Foundation International for outstanding contributions to the understanding of viral hepatitis. He heads the hepatitis viruses section of NIAID's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases. He has dedicated his research career to the discovery, identification and characterization of various hepatitis viruses such as hepatitis A, D and E, and to the development of diagnostic tests, treatments and preventive measures for hepatitis. Purcell and others were key in the development of the hepatitis A vaccine used worldwide and have also developed a hepatitis E vaccine now in clinical trials.

Mickey Mouse Pays Call at Clinical Center, Inn

Mickey Mouse was in town Mar. 25 for a visit to pediatric units in the Clinical Center and the Children's Inn. Flying up from DisneyWorld in Orlando, Mickey's visit was sponsored by the Disney Channel and Cable TV Montgomery, and coordinated by NIH's Recreation and Welfare Association.

According to R&W President Randy Schools, Mickey stayed for about an hour, then got hot inside his uniform and left for cooler climes. One of Mickey's accomplices took Polaroid snapshots of each kid visiting with Mickey and gave them to the children as a memento.



PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Lynn M. Matrisian on May 12. She will discuss “Complex Roles for the Matrix Metalloproteinase Matrilysin in Tumor Progression.” She is professor and interim chair, department of cell biology, associate director of education, Vanderbilt Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

On May 19, Dr. Jan-Åke Gustafsson, professor and chairman, department of medical nutrition, and director, Center for Biotechnology, Karolinska Institute, Huddinge University Hospital, will speak on “New Dimensions in Nuclear Receptor Signaling.”

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



Above, Mickey meets with Alison Thiel at the 11th floor outpatient clinic. At left, Nora Leitner of 9 West rubs noses with the friendly mouse. Below, Kelly Meiser (r), 18, at NCI's Pediatric Oncology Branch, flanks Mickey with a visitor to the unit.



Coming Next Issue...

The May 18, 1999, issue of the *NIH Record* marks the 50th anniversary of this publication. Founding editor Alexander Adler is still an active writer, and will contribute a memorial editorial next issue. ■