

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Knudson Gives NCI Partners In Research Lecture

By Robin Cline

As part of NCI's Office of Management series, "Partners in Research," Dr. Alfred Knudson recently presented a lecture on "Hereditary Predisposition to Cancer" to members of the administrative staff.



Dr. Alfred Knudson

Knudson has had a long-standing history with NIH, having been a grantee and having served on many NIH advisory groups since 1964. Within NCI, he has served as acting director of the Human Genetics Program in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, cochaired the cancer genetics working group, and was a member of the executive committee. He

SEE **KNUDSON**, PAGE 2

## MEDLINE Logs Ten Millionth Journal Citation

MEDLINE, the world's largest medical database, covers the medical literature from 1966 to the present. When it began, it covered 239 journals, and the *NLM News* bragged that it had "the capability of supporting up to 25 simultaneous users."

On July 10 of this year, MEDLINE attained a major milestone when the 10 millionth journal citation was added to the database. Today, MEDLINE lists references from about 4,300 of the world's most respected medical and scientific journals. Full text can be accessed for recent editions of several hundred of those publications. And the number of searches? More than half a million each day.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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## She Came for Healing, She Left Inspired

By Sharon Ricks

Susana always knew she was different. She had blue lips and fingernails. She couldn't run. She couldn't play hard. And for her, ordinary childhood diseases



The past meets the present as Drs. Susana Capristo and Julio Panza stand at a picture of the late Dr. Andrew G. Morrow in Bldg. 10.

meant a trip to the hospital. She had a hole in her heart, and the bigger she got and the more she did, the less oxygen she had.

Susana Capristo was born with Tetralogy of Fallot, a congenital heart abnormality associated with four heart defects. As a result, most of the blue blood, which is ordinarily routed to the lungs to

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'Our Three Sons'

## Henningses Board Three Ballplayers for Summer

By Rich McManus

Among the pleasures enumerated in the classic tune "Take Me Out to the Ballgame"—including the title sentiment, the peanuts and Cracker Jacks, the wistful desire that the experience never end, the pleasures of rooting, the survivability, albeit with shame, of a loss, etc.—no mention is made of bringing home a ballplayer to stay under your roof, drink your juice supply and feast upon your deli meats. Yet this is exactly what Marsha and Henry Hennings—two longtime NIH'ers—agreed to this past summer. They didn't host just one hungry, strapping, 19-year-old college baseball-playing kid, but three of them, for 10 weeks.

Like many hardships freely undertaken, they did it for their son, Bill, a 16-year-old novice baseballer who plays for Thomas

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has also been conducting research at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia since 1976. His contributions to the field of cancer genetics have lead to a greater understanding of the genetic basis of cancer.

In his lecture, Knudson reiterated the work with which his name is synonymous, the Two-Hit Hypothesis. While studying retinoblastoma, a rare childhood eye tumor, he developed a genetic model to explain how mutations in tumor suppressor genes play a role in the development of cancer for both sporadic and inherited forms of the disease.

Normal tumor suppressor genes perform like a brake pedal to limit cell growth and division. When this brake mechanism is lost from a cell or inactivated by a mutation, cells are allowed to grow and divide in an unregulated manner, which leads to cancer. Knudson illustrated that the loss of tumor suppressor gene function is involved in the development of both sporadic and hereditary cancers.



Knudson reviews two-hit theory.

For example, in cases of retinoblastoma tumors, two genetic events or "hits" affect the two normal copies of the tumor suppressor gene, RB1. In sporadic retinoblastoma tumors, both mutations accumulate in the retinal cells spontaneously or as a result of environmental influences. In contrast, individuals who develop the hereditary form of retinoblastoma inherit the first defective copy of the RB1 gene from an affected parent.

Knudson's two-hit theory pointed out that because genes come in pairs, the loss of the function of the first tumor suppressor gene in both sporadic and hereditary cancers will not by itself lead to tumor development. Because the other normal copy is still functional the individual still has some cellular braking ability. It is when a second, possibly environmentally induced, mutation inactivates the remaining copy that cancer develops. Knudson's insights from his discovery of the RB1 gene as a tumor suppressor gene continue to serve as a model for other studies of genetic susceptibility to cancer.

His talk also focused on the differences in the genetics of cancers that affect children and those that affect adults. Pediatric tumors are more homogeneous, composed of one or a few clones (genetically identical cells), and usually involve 2-4 genetic

changes. In contrast, adult tumors are heterogeneous and composed of multiple clones, which result from more than four genetic changes. These differences between pediatric and adult tumors help to explain the observation that tumors in children are more responsive to systemic therapy than tumors in adults. However, it should be noted that since adult tumors are the result of multiple genetic changes, prevention efforts are more likely to be successful in adults than in children.

Knudson emphasized that basic research has given the scientific community a wealth of information about the role of genetics in cancer development. He said there is every reason to expect that an investment in basic research will produce better cancer prevention and treatment strategies in the days ahead. ■

### Healthy Mothers Needed

The Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch, NIMH, seeks right-handed mothers age 20-40 with nonadopted, first-born children age 5-12 to participate in an fMRI study on the visual processing of faces. Volunteers should have no history of medical or psychiatric disorders, and should not be taking prescription medication (including birth control pills). The first-born children of volunteers should have no history of psychiatric illness or chronic medical problems. Volunteers must have normal vision or wear contacts. Participation requires a 2-hour screening interview, a followup visit, and a 3-hour visit for fMRI scan. Participants will be reimbursed. For more information, call Lisa Kalik or Neil Santiago at 496-8381. ■

### New Shuttle Service

Shuttle service between Rockledge and Executive Plaza (North and South) is now provided for employees located at Rockledge and EPN/S. Currently, the service is offered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information about shuttle schedules, check the Web site <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/shuttle.htm> or contact Sara Earl, 496-5077 or email [earls@ors.od.nih.gov](mailto:earls@ors.od.nih.gov).

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### ORMH Closes Out Season's Intern Program

On Monday, July 26 a closing program was held for 31 interns who matriculated at NIH in various intramural and extramural assignments. Each intern was awarded a certificate of appreciation by Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health, whose office coordinated the internships.

The interns were recruited by three community-based organizations—the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU); the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), an organization comprised of Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS), an American University organization that recruits Native American students from tribal colleges and other universities.

NIH supervisors with job vacancies reviewed intern applications matching the job requirements and



*Antwan Porter (l) of NAFEO, Rosa Cazares of HACU and Gyasi Ross of WINS gather at a final meeting of NIH summer interns in programs coordinated by ORMH.*

double the number of interns hired at NIH. The cost to the IC ranges generally from \$7,500 to \$8,500, and in some cases scholarships may be provided. For more information, contact Dr. Lorrita Watson, 594-7784. ■



*Melissa Ann Henry (c), a WINS student, is congratulated by her supervisor for the summer, Christina Bruce of NCI and Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health.*

made selections based upon an essay, reference letters, transcript and telephone interview. Internships spanned 8 to 10 weeks, and interns hailed from around the country.

During the closing program, interns expressed their appreciation for the opportunities afforded them through this program. Many were offered positions for next summer or permanent positions in the future. One student, Wendell Futrell from Winston-Salem State University, received a cash award for his exceptional contribution to the Center for Scientific Review, under the supervision of David Carter and Kathy Cooper.

HACU places a limited number of interns in positions in the fall and spring semesters, and NIH participates in this program as well. Eight interns have assignments here for the fall. Next summer, the Office of Research on Minority Health would like to

### America Races for Strong Women, Sept. 18

On Saturday, Sept. 18, starting at Freedom Plaza downtown, there will be a 5-kilometer run/walk through the streets of Washington, D.C., to raise awareness about the prevention, detection and treatment of osteoporosis. Thousands of mothers, daughters and granddaughters will be joining honorary cochairs U.S. Sen. John Glenn and Mrs. Glenn and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to raise awareness about osteoporosis in the first America Races for Strong Women 5K. A multi-generational, education-oriented Health and Fitness Festival will feature demonstrations of weight-bearing exercises, samples of calcium-rich foods, information booths, free prizes and drawings. For more information contact: [www.nof.org](http://www.nof.org) or (703) 506-8875.



*Stretch at NIH? Sure. Participants of the public seminar "What You Can Do: Preventing Onset, Progression, and Disability of Osteoarthritis" are learning how to reduce pain and disability through exercise. This stretch demonstration was led by Dr. Kate Lorig of Stanford University, a leading researcher in sociobehavioral interventions for arthritis. The seminar was part of the 2-day conference "Stepping Away from OA: A Scientific Conference on the Prevention of Onset, Progression, and Disability of Osteoarthritis," which took place recently at Natcher Conference Center, organized by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.*



NIDDK director Dr. Phillip Gordon was recently presented the American Diabetes Association's Albert Renold Award for a career distinguished by outstanding achievements in the training of diabetes research scientists and the facilitation of diabetes research. The award cites Gordon's efforts "to preserve the integrity of basic research during times of fiscal constraint and to strengthen mechanisms for research training and career development in diabetes. Under his stewardship, clinical research in diabetes also flourished: The NIDDK completed the landmark Diabetes Control and Complications Trial and pioneered the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Prevention Trial-Type 1. The positive effects of Dr. Gordon's commitment to diabetes research have been felt both in NIH's intramural and extramural programs."

#### MEDLINE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The occasion of the ten millionth record in MEDLINE gives us an opportunity to step back and reflect on what a staggering amount of work this represents over the decades," commented NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg. "We owe thanks to a corps of dedicated NLM staff who competently order and receive the journals, create the Medical Subject Headings, index the articles, enter the data into MEDLINE and maintain the database."

In the early days of MEDLINE, NLM staff worked with typewriters and data forms to input citations into a punched card system. Today, computers have streamlined operations dramatically. Input is now mostly done by scanning articles, or by importing electronic data directly from publishers.

And what was the ten millionth citation in MEDLINE? The article, "Particulates from PTFE degradation in terrestrial and microgravity," appearing in *Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine*, 1999 May;70(5):505-10. The article was indexed by an indexer working on an NLM contract using the interactive online indexing system from her home—another example of how things have changed since MEDLINE began. As a result of NLM's cooperation with NASA, another recent development, this citation also appears in SPACELINE, another of the library's family of databases, since it provides information on the possible breakdown of polytetrafluoroethylene-coated wires in spacecraft.

Originally, MEDLINE citations were updated once a month. Today, MEDLINE is updated weekly and the bibliographic information for not-yet-indexed citations is entered daily into PubMed, NLM's retrieval engine for searching MEDLINE.

With the launch of free MEDLINE on the World Wide Web in June 1997, usage has skyrocketed. In the "MEDLINE for a fee" days, the database reached a high point of 7 million searches annually. For "free MEDLINE," the figure has already reached 16 million searches per month, a number that continues to grow.

"Now that so much more medical information is freely available to the public via the Internet and the Web," noted Lindberg, "the MEDLINE core of information takes on new importance and even greater relevance to the health of the public than when the system began with record number one." ■

#### Postmenopausal Women Sought

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

#### Five Named to NICHD Council

Five new members were recently appointed to the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council. They are Drs. Elena Fuentes-Afflick of San Francisco, Mindy Aisen of Washington, D.C., Mary D'Alton of New York City, Kristin Moore of Washington, D.C., and Margaret Hostetter of New Haven, Conn.

Fuentes-Afflick is assistant professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research interests are focused on health policy issues as they apply to minority women and children and in addressing medical effectiveness issues as they affect diverse populations.

Aisen is the Department of Veterans Affairs *ex officio* representative who currently serves as



The five new members of the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council are (seated, from l) Dr. Elena Fuentes-Afflick, Dr. Mindy Aisen; (back, from l) Dr. Mary D'Alton, Dr. Kristin Moore and Dr. Margaret Hostetter.

director of rehabilitation research and development, Veterans Health Administration. She is a leading scientist in the areas of biomedical engineering, spinal cord injury and multiple sclerosis.

D'Alton is professor of obstetrics and gynecology, department of obstetrics and gynecology, and director of the maternal-fetal unit, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Colum-

bia University. Her research interests include assessment of fetal well-being, diagnosis of the fetal patient during the first and second trimester by ultrasonography, amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling.

Moore is president and senior scholar at Child Trends, Inc. Her expertise on the costs and consequences of adolescent fertility has made her a resource to both research and policy development.

Hostetter is director, Yale University Child Health Research Center and head of the division of immunology in the department of pediatrics at Yale University School of Medicine. Her research focus is on *Candida albicans* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and the clinical investigations of health and development in internationally adopted children. ■

## Campaign to Prevent Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Launched

Dr. James F. Battey, director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, reached out over the July 4 weekend (the din of fireworks notwithstanding) by satellite to television stations across the country to launch a noise-induced hearing loss campaign called WISE EARS! He was joined by Dr. Linda Rosenstock,



NIOSH director Dr. Linda Rosenstock meets with NIDCD director Dr. James F. Battey.

director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; NIDCD and NIOSH have become partners in a multi-year campaign to make the public and the worker aware of noise-induced hearing

loss. WISE EARS! has a coalition with 50 national groups, government agencies and private organizations committed to hearing preservation.

Ten million Americans have already suffered irreversible damage from noise, and 30 million are exposed to dangerous levels of noise each day. "It is alarming that Americans are losing their hearing at a younger age," said Battey. "The greatest increase occurs for people 45 to 64 years old. This is almost 20 years younger than we would expect. Noise exposure appears to be the culprit."

Exposure to harmful sounds damages sensitive hair cells of the inner ear, eventually affecting the nerve of hearing. These structures can be injured by noise in two ways: from an intense brief impulse, such as an explosion from a firecracker, or from continuous exposure to noise such as in a woodworking shop or from lawnmowers and leafblowers. Both forms can be prevented by regular use of hearing protectors such as ear plugs or special ear muffs. "Be aware of damaging noise, be prepared to protect your hearing, and help your kids understand how hearing works and how it can be damaged," commented Battey.

Hearing loss in the workplace is a critical safety and health issue, too. NIOSH reports that 44 percent of carpenters and 48 percent of plumbers report a perceived hearing loss. Further, 90 percent of coal miners will have a hearing impairment by age 52 (compared to 9 percent of the general population); 70 percent of male, metal/nonmetal miners will experience a hearing impairment by age 60. "Work-related hearing loss is the most common occupational disease in the U.S.," said Rosenstock.

"We hope this campaign will help make workers, employers and others realize that hearing loss is not an inevitable consequence of earning a living."

The goal of WISE EARS! is to make workers and the public aware that NIHL is preventable. NIDCD's Office of Health Communication and Public Liaison developed the campaign partnership that now includes workers, employers, health professionals, teachers, parents, children, universities, unions, industry and the public. Materials produced for the campaign include fact sheets from NIDCD and NIOSH, sample radio spots, ad slicks, stickers, kids activity page, an educational resource guide for materials about NIHL, decibel level bookmark, and a WISE EARS! pin.

Coalition members disseminate information about preventing noise-induced hearing loss to their constituents and motivate them to take action against NIHL by understanding the problem and providing solutions.

Collaborators in the WISE EARS! coalition are the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, American Academy of Audiology, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, American Association of Retired Persons, Andrews Air Force Base, Ford Motor Co., Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, KIDSNET, Farm Safety 4 Kids, and the Laborers' Health and Safety Fund.

NIDCD's recently redesigned Web site includes materials, programs and information so visitors can learn more about the coalition's activities and resources. News, events and features received from coalition members are frequently posted on the WISE EARS! site at [www.nih.gov/nidcd/health/wise](http://www.nih.gov/nidcd/health/wise).

NIDCD is especially interested in reaching young children. The interactive Web site has a "Kids and Teachers" page with questions and answers, classroom activities and a video section. Look for "dB Owl Asks the Scientist" at the site this fall. This will be an interactive page of questions from "dB Owl" and answers from Battey and Rosenstock about the importance of hearing protection. ■



Biochemist Dr. Richard Ikeda has joined NIGMS as a program director in the Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry, where he will manage a portfolio of grants covering the areas of enzymology and bioenergetics. He comes to NIGMS from Georgia Institute of Technology, where he has been an associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry since 1993. He joined the faculty at Georgia Tech in 1986, and since has been researching the molecular biology of bacterial and viral transcription and replication, areas he began investigating in the early 1980's as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Charles Richardson at Harvard Medical School. Ikeda earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from California Institute of Technology in 1984.



## SUSANA'S STORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

receive oxygen, bypassed her lungs and was diverted to her arteries. This caused low levels of oxygen in her blood.

"I fainted when I was 6 months old," explains Capristo, who is from Lanus, a small town on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. "So they started checking me out at that point. I had normal development, but as I grew, I tried to limit my activity because I couldn't get enough oxygen."

Nowadays, children born with this disorder commonly undergo one operation to correct the defects, but in 1955, that surgery was just being

surgery, operated on Capristo on Jan. 10. He was among the first to do this type of surgery. Capristo says the immediate post-operative phase was very painful, with tubes everywhere, but within 24 hours she was walking around her hospital room. Four days later, she was rolling her wheelchair around the Clinical Center's 14th floor. Two weeks later she did all the big Washington, D.C., monuments on foot.

"I walked through Arlington Cemetery, and I walked all 65 steps of the Lincoln Memorial!" she says. "It seemed like a miracle."

Susana left the Clinical Center inspired. She had always wanted to be a doctor. She was always around doctors. But being at the CC had inspired her even further. She was only 11, but for her, cardiology was more than a passing dream. It was a part of who she was.

Capristo achieved her dream. Today, she's a cardiologist in the suburbs of Buenos Aires. On July 27, she interrupted a vacation in Florida to come back to NIH. She was still holding the plastic identification bracelet she'd worn 32 years before. This time, she was met by Dr. Julio Panza, head of NHLBI's echocardiography section.

Capristo remembered lots of things. She remembered: the blue tile on the walls in the area where

**"When people asked me how I felt, I'd never tell them when I was hurting, because I didn't want to worry my parents..."**

she spent most of her time; the sausage, milk and greens with no salt—her first meal after the surgery; the gift shops, where her parents bought her things; the cafeteria, where she couldn't eat; and the games and crafts. "Being a patient here was always a pleasure, despite the fact that I wasn't feeling well," she says.

But there were hard memories too, like the one about Kathy. The two were the same age and had the same disorder. Kathy spoke English and Susana Spanish, but somehow they understood each other and played together. Susana and Kathy were operated on on the same day. For a year after their operations, Susana wrote letters to Kathy, but never got an answer.

"I was lucky," Susana says, removing the tears. "When I came here, I didn't know if I was going to survive the operation, and I did, and I was just very lucky. And my parents ran into Kathy's father the next day, and they saw that he was just destroyed, because she had died. They didn't tell me for a year."

When asked what she would say to inspire someone with her condition, Susana is emotional. "I've been very lucky in my life," she says. "They have to carry on. They have to go forward, no matter what. Even if you think there's no hope and no possibility, you have to keep going forward." ■



*Panza, Capristo and her cousin and translator, Eugene Vricella, a program officer at the Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C., discuss the NIH campus. Susana explains that since 1966, NIH has changed, "Muchísimo!" Tremendously. She says there were lots of trees and grass and not so many buildings. She still holds the plastic ID bracelet she wore 3 decades earlier. As she tries to put it around her wrist, she smiles. "It doesn't fit."*

developed and was not available to her. So the standard operation was to connect the subclavian artery to the pulmonary artery, forcing arterial blood into her lungs. This was done using the Blalock-Taussig shunt.

It was a temporary solution. Capristo still needed corrective surgery to close the connection between the right and left side of the heart and to enlarge the connection between the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery so blood could more easily get into her lungs.

The family had heard about NIH through an Argentine doctor who had been here before, Capristo explains. "I knew I'd have to come eventually. But I wasn't exactly looking forward to it. When people asked me how I felt, I'd never tell them when I was hurting, because I didn't want to worry my parents and was trying to avoid having to go."

For the next 9 years, Capristo tried to limit her activities. But as she grew, her episodes of lack of oxygen increased. "As I got older, I couldn't walk from here to the door without losing breath," she says, pointing to a spot some 20 feet away.

In December 1966, Capristo and her parents traveled 5,183 miles to the NIH Clinical Center. Dr. Andrew G. Morrow, then NHLBI's chief of heart

**NIGMS' René Honored for Mentoring**

Dr. Anthony A. René, NIGMS associate director for referral and liaison, was recently honored by Harvard University's Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP) for outstanding mentoring. He was recognized for making significant contributions toward assisting students in pursuing careers in biomedical and behavioral research.

The BSCP was founded in 1991 to provide outstanding students—particularly African Ameri-



*Dr. Anthony René, NIGMS assistant director for referral and liaison, meets with Dr. Joan Reede, director of the Minority Faculty Development Program at Harvard Medical School.*

can, Hispanic American and Native American students—with the encouragement, support and guidance needed for the successful pursuit of careers in biomedical science. The program is sponsored by the Harvard Medical School Minority Faculty Development Program, the New England Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

As part of his duties at NIGMS, René oversees programs that offer research opportunities for underrepresented minority students in high school, college and graduate school, as well as opportunities for postgraduates and faculty members. He was honored during BSCP's "An Evening of Hope" awards ceremony recently at Harvard. ■

**Library Announces Fall Seminars**

The NIH Library announces its Fall 1999 Electronic Resources Seminars. Three new courses, in addition to the popular seminars, are being offered: Social Sciences Resources, ProCite (Mac) and Drug Information Resources. Many of the seminars will include hands-on practice. (Note: You may be required to share a workstation.) All seminars are held in the NIH Library training room, Bldg. 10, and are open to all NIH staff. Registration is not required. For seminar descriptions and times, see "Seminars" on the NIH Library's home page at <http://nihlibrary.nih.gov>. Questions about the seminars? Interested in having a seminar at your location? Call 594-6200. ■



*Minister Seiji Kojima (second from l) of the Embassy of Japan and Melinda Kimble (fourth from l), acting assistant secretary at the Department of State, welcome delegates to the NIAID-sponsored 35th annual meeting of the United States-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program held recently at NIH. Other delegates are (from l) Eiji Habu (Embassy of Japan), Dr. Tadao Shimao (Japanese delegation chair), Dr. Charles Carpenter (U.S. delegation chair) and Nancy Carter-Foster (Department of State). The program, organized in 1965, provides an opportunity for scientists from the two countries to cooperate in studying 10 disease-related areas important to the health of the peoples of Southeast Asia.*



*Dr. Melvin L. Spann (c), NLM associate director, Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS), was honored recently when the Minority Health Professions Foundation named its new Public Health Training and Resource Center for him. The Spann Center, in Atlanta, supports the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in providing advanced training curricula to public health educators, community stakeholders and academic leaders in the areas of environmental health, HIV/AIDS, and community outreach and intervention strategies. Spann served as chief of SIS's Biomedical Information Services Branch from 1978 until he became director of the division in 1995. Among many achievements, he established and still directs a toxicology information outreach project to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to train health professionals in the use of NLM's toxicology and environmental information resources. Joining Spann in the ribbon-cutting were NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg (l) and Dr. Henry Lewis, III, president, Minority Health Professions Foundation, and dean, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Florida A&M University.*

**Lecture on Forensic Medicine, Sept. 16**

The Bethesda chapter of AWIS (Association for Women in Science), now in its 8th year, is holding a series of talks for 1999-2000. These are cosponsored by NIH's Office for Research on Women's Health and Office of Community Liaison. The first lecture, titled "Science in Forensic Medicine," will be held in the Cloister (Bldg. 60) chapel at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16. Speakers are Dr. Jerry D. Spencer, medical examiner, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and Jeannie Willard, DNA specialist at AFIP.

HENNINGSES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wootton High in Rockville.

"We thought it would be a neat experience for him to meet boys at a higher level, and learn more about the game from them," said Marsha Hennings, an administrative officer for the NIAMS intramural program.

She and her husband Henry, who is assistant chief of the Laboratory of Cellular Carcinogenesis and Tumor Promotion at NCI, fell into housing one-third of a baseball team by accident. Like many

local residents, they had read in the sports pages last spring of the founding of a new Bethesda-based team for college players on summer break. The Bethesda Big Train, named after famed

Washington Senators pitcher Walter "Big Train" Johnson, who had been a Montgomery County resident, would play in the Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League at a brand new gem of a park built in Cabin John Regional Park.

"We thought it would be nice to volunteer our time and maybe work at a concession stand at the games," said Marsha. Henry, a "fanatical" Cleveland Indians fan (he was born near Cleveland) was intrigued by the 54-year-old Griffith League's insistence on the use of wooden, rather than aluminum, bats. "It just seems more authentic because that's all there was when I was a kid. It's more like the way baseball ought to be."

The Henningses attended a session last May at which the Big Train pitched a recruitment message for volunteers. "The more information I got, the more I realized they needed host families," recalls Marsha. "So we signed on for one player. All that was necessary was to provide a bedroom and bath, and some food, mainly breakfast."

The couple was heartened by the appearance of an old friend at the recruiting session—Randy Schools, president of NIH's Recreation & Welfare Association, who headed the Big Train Booster Club. Henry had known Randy for years, owing to his service as volunteer leader of the R&W Basketball Club, which fields a team in the county recreation league. Still an athlete himself, Henry was ready to help a young player any way he could.

By Memorial Day weekend, 24 of the 25 players

on the Big Train squad were claimed by host families (including another NIH'er, NCI Administrative Officer Larry Chloupek, whose ties to the Big Train include friendship, dating back to their days as varsity baseball coaches at Churchill High School, with Manager Derek Hacopian.) "So we volunteered to take a second boy," says Marsha, "because he had no home."

For June, the first month of the season, things worked out fine. Bill Hennings loved having slightly older role models around the house, and Marsha and Henry were enjoying free passes to thrice-weekly home games. "Bill thought it was great having older 'brothers' to hang out with," recalls Marsha.

In late June, Bill moved to his parents' beach home in Rehoboth to take a job for the summer. That's when the Henningses learned that one of the other Big Train players needed a new place to stay. Since their son's room was newly vacated, they decided to take on relief pitcher James Dawson of Maine. Relieving the reliever, so to speak.

With an infielder (Steve Thomas), a pitcher (Bo Acors, whose name alone holds big league promise) and a closer in the house, food and drink disappeared fast. "We provided a lot of lunch meat," Henry noted dryly.

"I couldn't keep up with the bread and lunch meat," marveled Marsha. "I was at the store buying milk and juice every day. A lot of their friends ended up hanging out at our house."

Given the amenities available in the Hennings' recreation room, it is no surprise that players swarmed there. "We have a pool table, ping-pong table and a hot tub," noted Henry. "They kind of became family," added Marsha. "We got to know at least half the team."

The Henningses only prepared one big dinner a week for the players, who had games or practices the other six nights. The boys would leave for practice around 3 in the afternoon and be gone all evening. During the days, all had jobs, mostly in the sport: Thomas and Dawson were groundskeepers at Povich Field at Cabin John Park, and Acors worked at local baseball camps, teaching pitching.

The Henningses, too, had their Rehoboth house to repair to, which they did often. "We were gone a lot," says Marsha. "Our only request of the players was that they take care of our cat and plants while we were away." Observed Henry, with gratitude, "It's rare that our plants are surviving at this time of summer."

Marsha said the key to enjoying the experience was firm realism. "I didn't expect anything of them," she said. The boys were responsible for their laundry and the state of their rooms. "I wasn't going to act as a maid service," she said. Yes, she admits, they partied. "But there was no destruction. They were very responsible. They were really great kids."

So great that the Henningses want all of them back



*Marsha and Henry Hennings enjoyed hosting three college baseball players this summer, and look forward to boarding more players in the future.*

next summer, if they make the team. "They kind of became sons," said Marsha. "We met all their parents. James' mom brought 35 live lobsters down from Maine when she visited. They were the biggest I've ever seen."

The Henningses grew so close to the athletes that, after working for three games, they scrubbed their game-day volunteer posts (Marsha sold raffle tickets, brochures and commemorative bricks, and Henry directed traffic and cleaned out storage space) to be full-time fans in the 700-seat stadium.

The Big Train finished their inaugural year with 39 wins and 19 losses; the players went back home early in August. "I have a cleaning service at the house today, cleaning top to bottom," laughs Marsha.

Their memories of the boys are sweet. "Someone suggested we put a sign on our lawn saying 'Hennings Inn,'" says Marsha, recalling the times when their own three cars competed for space in the driveway or on the lawn with those of a half-dozen players. "We hope our son will find a family that cares if he's ever lucky enough to be in a situation like this."

Bill Hennings has already secured promises from all three players to host college visits this year, which includes campuses in Virginia and South Carolina. He can use these visits to determine how effective the advice of his cancer researcher father has been; Henry advised all three players to avoid the habit of chewing tobacco.

"We'll keep in touch with them and hope to take Bill to see some of their baseball games at their schools next spring," said Marsha, whose interest in them is more familial than epidemiological. "We have all their phone numbers and addresses." ■

### Retirement Fair Set, Oct. 27

Explore the many dimensions of retirement and learn how to analyze and maximize your retirement financial portfolio at the Quality of Work Life retirement fair on Wednesday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Natcher Conference Center. Retirement, employee benefits, Social Security, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), leisure options, and financial planning are just some of the topics available during the fair. Both Commissioned Corps and civilian employees will benefit from this event, which will include information both for those just entering the federal government and for those days away from retirement. Browse materials from more than 20 exhibitors, learn how to manage and assess your benefits, and explore the myths and realities of retirement.

Four speakers will give 45-minute talks, beginning at 11 a.m., with time for questions after each talk. There will also be four video presentations.

For more information contact Sandy Jones at 496-7700 ext. 285 or Wendy Leech at 402-8676. ■



Dr. Arlym Garcia-Perez (top, second from r), assistant director of NIH's Office of Intramural Research, breaks for lunch with this year's cadre of Latino high school scholars selected to participate in the National Hispanic Youth Initiative in Health, Biomedical Research and

Policy Development. The initiative, under the auspices of the Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons, brings high-achieving Hispanic students from all over the nation to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area where scientists and interns introduce students to a range of careers in health research. This year, the students were welcomed to campus by Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health, and given an overview of research training opportunities by Levon Parker,



director of NINDS's Summer Program in the Neurological Sciences.

Then, Jose Vargas (r), a 1995 NHYI alumnus and current student researcher in NIH's Undergraduate Scholarship Program, gave a firsthand account of his experi-

ences working in NIH labs. Garcia-Perez and Dr. Alberto Luis Rivera-Rentas also talked about life as a researcher and the opportunities at NIH. The scholars' visit on campus ended with several hands-on tours of NIH labs. Above, Bruce Sabbath, a student researcher working in NINDS's Laboratory of Molecular Medicine and Neuroscience, explains concepts to an NHYI scholar. At right, Gabriel Linares (l) of LMMN gives Gustavo Saucedo of El Paso, Tex., a quick demo at the microscope. Before departing for home, the students visited the Health Resources and Services Administration, FDA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of Minority Health and had lunch on Capitol Hill with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.



### Women on HRT Sought

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is looking for women who have experienced depressed mood, anxiety or irritability during hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Free hormonal evaluation and payment are offered to those who complete the study. To be eligible you should be a medically healthy woman between ages 45-65, be medication-free (except HRT), and have experienced mood symptoms during the progestin part of your HRT. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

## Program Promotes Neuroscience Careers

By Sophia Glezos Voit and Debra Henken

The first meeting of students from the nation's top neuroscience research facilities who are participating in the NIH Joint Predoctoral Neurosciences Training Program was held recently at the Natcher Bldg. Extramural programs of eight institutes—NIA, NINDS, NIMH, NIDCD, NIDCR, NICHD, NINR and NIGMS—joined forces in developing the training initiative. The program's ultimate objective is to bolster the future of neuroscience research by offering broad-based training support during predoctoral students' first 2 years, a time when NIH funding is otherwise uncommon. Training includes core and multidisciplinary courses, laboratory rotations, and an emphasis on the molecular, behavioral, psychological sciences, and the neurosciences. More than 100 students, scientists and NIH program staff attended the event.

"One of the main purposes of the meeting," said Dr. Walter Schaffer, research training officer, NIH Office of the Director, "was to enable the students to experience NIH first-hand, to meet each other, and to put these future independent researchers together with NIH staff who might be responsible for their portfolios someday."

In conceiving and developing the program, Schaffer said, NIH wanted to be proactive in helping to shape neuroscience research careers and not just let students find their own way through the maze of choices. "By investing in predoctoral neuroscience students," he said, "we're also investing in the various NIH neuroscience missions at the same time."

Presentations of cutting-edge research by senior scientists in basic and clinical neuroscience were a highlight of the meeting, with the keynote address given by Dr. Floyd Bloom, once an NIH intramural scientist and now chairman of the neuropharmacology department at the Scripps Research Institute and editor-in-chief of *Science* magazine. He briefly described the history of neuroscience, spoke on current aspects of the research field and discussed some of his own work. Bloom also stressed the pleasure of doing research, and praised the predoctoral program as a creative way of bringing people into the neurosciences and giving them a feeling of belonging to a community from the start.

"When you read your journals," he said, "you will find someone who will lay down a little piece of information, and suddenly you recognize that what you are working on relates to what somebody else is working on...So for me, doing neuroscience is like doing a giant jigsaw puzzle with 30,000 of your closest friends hovering in a Goodyear blimp above this great playing field of the neurosciences, waiting for someone to make a breakthrough that can allow you to contribute again."

In addition to scientific presentations given by a panel of distinguished researchers from academia, the students also heard from intramural scientists who discussed postdoctoral opportunities and presented talks on topics ranging from neuronal mechanisms in selective attention and early markers of age-related cognitive impairment to gender-related differences in pain and human pain mechanisms. They later toured several NIH labs.

Among other activities, the meeting featured an overview session on grant-writing and a reception where students could interact informally with presenters and NIH staff. To further promote an interactive environment, each institute also arranged booths where program and review staff could meet one-on-one with students to explain their specific research missions and respond to various questions about career opportunities. These sessions were also designed to foster ongoing relationships between participants and NIH staff.

"The meeting was a tremendous success," reported NIMH's Dr. Walter Goldschmidts, chairman of the joint predoctoral neuroscience training committee. "Our goal was to engage and challenge the students as much as possible, and we succeeded." ■



Frances Humphrey Howard, special assistant to the associate director, Division of Extramural Programs, NLM, has received the Institute of International Education's Duggan Award. She was hailed for the significant contributions she has made toward increasing understanding and ties between citizens of the U.S. and those of other nations. The IIE administers the Fulbright Student and Scholar Programs, among numerous other educational and cultural exchanges. The Duggan Award, named for the institute's first president, Stephen P. Duggan, Sr., is IIE's highest honor.



Dr. Mark A. Klebanoff was recently named director of NICHD's Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research. He has been a senior investigator at NICHD since 1987. He joined NICHD in 1983 as a Public Health Service Epidemiology Training Program fellow. He has conducted epidemiologic research on a wide variety of topics in maternal and child health, with particular focus

on fetal growth and pregnancy complications. Klebanoff has published widely cited reports on the effects of maternal work and physical activity on pregnancy outcome, the familial aggregation of birth weight, and the relationship between genital tract infection and preterm birth. In addition to his accomplishments at NICHD, he has served on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Epidemiology* and *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*.

### 'Come Back to Bethesda,' Oct. 1-2

The ninth annual Come Back to Bethesda, a benefit event for the Children's Inn at NIH, takes place Friday, Oct. 1 (a dance at the Bethesda Theatre Cafe kicks off the weekend) and Saturday, Oct. 2 (when the custom rod and streetcar show is hosted by Chevy Chase Cars). For more information, call R&W at 496-6061 or go to the Web site at <http://www.backtobethesda.org>. ■

## Bursenos Retires as FIC Deputy Director

Stephanie Bursenos, deputy director of the Fogarty International Center since 1994, recently retired after more than 41 years of government service.

She came to NIH in 1983 after a rise through the ranks that began at age 15 with her first job as a GS-2 bookkeeper for the D.C. public school cafeterias and culminated in the position of deputy director of FIC. Forced to leave high school at the age of 15 for family reasons, she began to work full-time at the D.C. Board of Education. While she learned bookkeeping on the job, she helped support her family and, all the while, attended night school to earn her high school diploma. Her decision to take the Civil Service Examination opened the door to her career in the federal government and a position at the Department of Defense. After a stint with a government contractor working on the Polaris nuclear submarine program, she returned to the government in a position with PHS, and never looked back.



Stephanie Bursenos

The PHS that Bursenos joined in 1963 was in a small, 6-story building on Eastern Ave. in Silver Spring. It was here that she first developed an interest in public health issues. Beginning in statistics and reports with the Division of Hospitals of the Bureau of Medical Services—this was a time when the PHS ran hospitals and clinics throughout the United States—she went on to the Bureau of Health Services and its successor organizations working on issues related to food and drugs, environmental health and community environmental management as then organized within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Intent on continuing her education, Bursenos enrolled at the University of Maryland in 1971 as a part-time student. While continuing to work full time at DHEW, and raising her daughter Joanna, she earned a B.S. in political science and economics, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1979.

Her last stop before coming to NIH was the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, where she started in 1973 as a program management officer and ended as deputy director of the Office of Extramural Coordination and Special Projects. At NIOSH she first became involved with international programs when she undertook the coordination of its international activities, in addition to her duties as deputy director of OECSP

and chief of NIOSH regional operations. When NIOSH became part of the CDC and moved to Atlanta in 1983, Bursenos, a native Washingtonian, elected to stay in the area and joined FIC.

Her tenure at FIC followed the successful pattern set over her entire career. Hired as program officer for Europe in the then International Coordination and Liaison Branch, she soon took on additional responsibilities for Japan, the USSR, China and Taiwan. In 1988, she became special assistant to the FIC director and then associate director for program coordination. In 1994, she was named deputy director of the center. With her in-depth knowledge of FIC and how its efforts fit into the larger U.S. international health and foreign relations efforts, Bursenos was instrumental in guiding numerous changes in the center's activities, including services to the NIH intramural program, bilateral programs, and the change in emphasis from fellowships to research capacity building in developing countries and emerging democracies.

Bursenos received the NIH Director's Award as well as many special act or service awards. FIC director Dr. Gerald Keusch, voicing his gratitude for all Bursenos had done for FIC over her tenure, and in particular for delaying her retirement to assist him in his transition to NIH and the FIC directorship, praised "her uncommon ability, her dedication, and her untiring efforts to improve global health. There is no crisis Stephanie can't deal with," he said, "and no challenge that is too great for her. She has been a tremendous asset to the center and will be sorely missed."

While Bursenos may be retiring from the government, her energy and intellectual curiosity will certainly lead her in many new directions. "For one thing, I always loved being in an academic environment given the opportunity," she said recently, "and I plan to take some courses to develop new areas that are of interest to me." Local politics also present a tempting challenge, she indicated. Not least among her many activities, she will continue involvement in the lives of her grandchildren, Maria and Constantine. ■

## Long, Short Sleepers Needed

To complete a sleep study, NIMH is looking for male and female volunteers ages 20-35 who routinely sleep 9 hours or more nightly, or who 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 496-5831 or 496-6981. ■



NIAID's Dr. Albert Z. Kapikian recently received an honorary doctor of science honoris causa degree from his alma mater, Queens College in Flushing, N.Y., in recognition of his outstanding scientific contributions in the fields of epidemiology, virology and vaccinology. He graduated in 1952 with a bachelor of science degree cum laude, and was a star pitcher on the college baseball team. Today he is head of the epidemiology section in NIAID's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases. He has devoted his career to studying the viral causes of disease. Kapikian led an NIAID team that developed and patented an oral vaccine against rotavirus, the first rotavirus vaccine licensed in the United States.



The ninth annual poster day for participants in NIH summer research programs was held Aug. 5 on the first floor of Bldg. 10. This year's program included more than 400 students from 35 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada. Among those on hand to review the work from various intramural laboratories was Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research (top, r) and Dr. Cherie Fisk (below, l), assistant director for scientific affairs in the Office of Research Services.



The new Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center is now about 50 percent complete, says its construction manager. The steel

erection in the penthouse was to be finished by the end of August. The pre-cast concrete



exterior for the building is due for completion by mid-September and the curtain wall (window glazing) will also be done by mid-September, said Nancy Decker of Spaulding & Slye.

"The whole building will be weather-tight by the end of September 1999. We are right on schedule



for completion of the project in May 2000," she said. The top photo is the southeast face of the VRC, also known as Bldg. 40, and the bottom photo is a view of the northeast elevation.

### Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—resumes, after taking a summer break, on Sept. 15 when Dr. Wolfram Schultz, professor and chair of neurophysiology, University of Fribourg (Switzerland), discusses "Reward Processing in Primate Basal Ganglia and Frontal Cortex."

On Sept. 22, Dr. Vilayanur S. Ramachandran, professor and director, Center for Brain and Cognition, University of California, San Diego, will speak on "What Neurology Can Tell Us About Human Nature."

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