

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

NIH Gearing Up for 1999 Research Festival

Preparations are under way for the 1999 NIH Research Festival, scheduled for Oct. 5-8. This year's organizing committee, chaired by Dr. Jeffrey M. Trent, NHGRI scientific director, has planned three major and 12 mini-symposia to be coordinated with poster sessions. The program for this fall was developed also with Dr. Story Landis, NINDS scientific director, and Dr. John I. Gallin, Clinical Center director.

"We've structured the event to cover a wide-range of research interests in hopes of offering something of interest to the entire NIH research community. In addition, the epic battle of the bands promises to be exciting as the NIH Directors take on Wild Type," says Trent.

This year's event begins with a Job Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. NIH postdoctoral fellows are invited to attend and meet with representatives from a number of biotechnology and pharmaceuti-

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CFC Kickoff Set, Sept. 30

The annual NIH Combined Federal Campaign will kick off at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30 on the patio behind Bldg. 31A—all employees are welcome to attend. Invited guest speaker is DHHS Secretary Donna Shalala. A pizza luncheon for keyworkers will immediately follow the kickoff ceremony at the same location.

NHGRI will host this year's CFC campaign. For more information about how you can contribute to the NIH CFC, contact your area keyworker. In case of rain, the event will take place at the Natcher Conference Center.

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Film Festival Sets Attendance, Earnings Records

It used to be that the organizers of NIH's annual Outdoor Film Festival pretty much knew how much money the 10-day event collected before the projector lamp grew cold on the final night of the series. This year, however, it took a few weeks for sponsors

Cable TV Montgomery and R&W to tally up proceeds from a variety of food vendors, cash donations and raffle earnings. But money's not the object in this, the festival's third year, when

attendance hit the vicinity of 48,000 people and earnings topped \$17,000, up from \$10,000 last year.

"It's for patients who came from the Clinical Center and the



A family gets into the spirit of NIH's annual Outdoor Film Festival, now in its third year.

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New Electronic Resource Announced

NIH To Establish, Maintain PubMed Central

NIH announced its plan Aug. 30 to establish a repository for electronic distribution of primary research reports in the life sciences. The new NIH-supported site is to be called PubMed Central. It will be integrated with the widely used bibliographic site PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>), and is intended to be one of several repositories in an international system first proposed by NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus last May. PubMed Central will begin receiving, storing and distributing content—including peer-reviewed articles, preprints, and other screened reports from existing journals, new journals, and reputable scientific organizations—in January 2000.

"In the 4 months since we proposed what we then called E-biomed, we have heard from hundreds of people and have had discussions with dozens of interested organizations," Varmus said. "Whether the views support or oppose the proposal, these comments have included valuable suggestions. Our focus remains

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Dr. Arthur Schatzkin has been selected to head the Nutritional Epidemiology Branch in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), NCI. He began work at NCI in 1984 as a senior staff fellow in the Cancer Prevention Studies Branch of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, becoming a senior investigator in 1988. He joined DCEG's Nutritional Epidemiology Branch in 1997. His research focuses on the nutritional causes and prevention of cancer. Schatzkin's ideas on the role of diet and nutrition in the etiology of cancer and his vision for the Nutritional Epidemiology Branch will be presented in the December issue of DCEG Linkage.

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cal firms, as well as government agencies advertising full-time positions. All NIH postdocs are welcome; no preregistration is necessary to attend. For more information, contact Shirley Forehand by email at forehand@helix.nih.gov, or refer to the Job Fair Web site at <http://www.training.nih.gov/jobfair>.

Following Tuesday's Job Fair, the festival's scientific meetings will be condensed into a 2-day format running Oct. 6 and 7, featuring three plenary sessions and 12 mini-symposia focusing on topics of wide interest to the scientific community.

The plenary sessions are Advances in Medical Imaging, chaired by Dr. John Gallin, CC, 8:30 to 10 a.m. and Advances in Transplantation Research, chaired by Dr. Story Landis, NINDS, 10:30 a.m. to noon, both in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Thursday's plenary lecture is Advances in Gene Therapy, chaired by Dr. Cynthia Dunbar, NHLBI, and Dr. Richard Morgan, NHGRI, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Natcher Conference Center's main auditorium.

The mini-symposia will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 6 and Thursday, Oct. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Natcher Conference Center. Six concurrent sessions will run each of the 2 days. Suggestions for topics were solicited from the NIH interinstitute interest groups and from individuals, and these were narrowed down to 12 mini-symposia that are broad in scope and cover a wide range of research topics relating to the plenary sessions and posters.

The first day's plenary sessions and mini-symposia will close with a battle of the bands and dance, featuring NIH's own Directors and Wild Type, a group of well-known researchers from Johns Hopkins University.

As usual, the Research Festival will include poster sessions, with correlating themes of that day's plenary lectures and symposia. This year's list of poster presentations is also searchable on the festival Web site by either the presenter's name or a particular area of interest.

The Technical Sales Association will once again sponsor the scientific equipment show on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 7 and 8.

A complete listing of events is available on the Web at <http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/festival99/>. ■

Biomedical Calendar Available

The 1999-2000 Calendar of Biomedical Meetings and Events, which includes meetings sponsored by NIH as well as those of major medical societies and biomedical research associations, is available from the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, OD. To obtain a copy, call Betty Riley, 496-8855, or send an email request to br3j@nih.gov. ■

NIH BIG Lecture, Sept. 30

The NIH chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) will present another of its educational programs on Thursday, Sept. 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6. A lecture entitled "Issues in the Use of Complementary Medicine in the Treatment of Cancer," will be presented by Dr. Jeffrey D. White, director, Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Cancer Institute.

White has been involved in teaching and mentoring high school and medical students, internal medicine residents and medical oncology fellows at many levels. His office seeks to promote and support research in various disciplines and modalities associated with the field of complementary and alternative medicine as they relate to the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of cancer and the management of cancer patients.

The program is open to all NIH employees. If anyone requires special accommodation, contact Tor Moore at 496-8980 or O.H. Laster at 496-6302 by Sept. 23. ■

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. ■

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Khoury Lecturer Tjian Unravels Secrets of Gene Expression

Two of the hottest topics in science today are HIV research and functional genomics. Ultimately, both require an understanding of how information encoded in genes gets translated into the proteins that become the building blocks of a virus or a cell, or helps them function.

Dr. Robert Tjian, professor of molecular and cellular biology at the University of California, Berkeley, has played a major role in elucidating how genes are activated. On Wednesday, Sept. 29, he will present the George Khoury Lecture at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The title of his talk, "The Biochemistry of Eukaryotic Transcription: More Surprises and Complexities," hints at the unanticipated turns his research has made over the past



Dr. Robert Tjian

two decades and projects a sophisticated process yet to be understood in the area of gene expression.

Tjian received his A.B. in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1971 and his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Harvard University in 1975. As a Harvard junior fellow at Cold Spring Harbor, he purified a protein, called the SV40 large T antigen, involved in regulating viral replication. This experience led to a lifetime focus on how cells control the expression of genes during development and cellular differentiation.

Many diseases arise when gene activity is not tightly controlled. Often gene activity is left to specific regulatory proteins that determine the rate at which the DNA "message" is copied or transcribed. For example, HIV uses the protein Tat to redirect cellular processes to obey instructions from HIV genes to make copies of the virus. If it can be specifically inhibited, replication of the virus might be halted without affecting production of normal cellular proteins.

Early in his career, Tjian realized that eukaryotic cells such as those in humans rely on complex DNA-protein interactions to control gene activity. His group successfully isolated the first human transcription factor, Sp1, and later discovered that helper proteins called coactivators work with transcription factors. Multi-subunit complexes are responsible for mediating gene activation. The different subunits help the complex recognize and control expression of the estimated 80,000 to 100,000 genes in the human genome.

Understanding the molecular machinery that determines gene activity can help explain how the same DNA in each cell can generate cells with separate functions, from an insulin-producing islet cell in the pancreas to a vision-enhancing rod cell in the eye. Ultimately, knowledge of how genes are expressed could provide a rational way to develop compounds that will fight breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and even the aging process.

Since 1979, Tjian has been at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1987, he became an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1991 and has received numerous honors, including the NAS Monsanto Award, the Rosenstiel and Passano Awards, the Louisa Gross Horwitz Award, and this past April, the Alfred P. Sloan/General Motors Cancer Research Award.

The Khoury Lecture is part of the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 594-5595. ■

Hip, Wrist Fractures Linked To Chromosome 19 Gene

Osteoporotic hip and wrist fractures—a common feature on the landscape of older Americans—may be partially rooted in a gene on chromosome 19, according to a study funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. Scientists led by Dr. Jane A. Cauley at the University of Pittsburgh have found that older women with the gene for apolipoprotein E (APOE*4) are at increased risk for hip and wrist fractures. Previous studies of this gene have also shown its association with common, late-onset forms of Alzheimer's disease and with osteoporosis in patients on dialysis.

The study (*J Bone Min Res.* 1999;14(7):1175-1181), cofunded by the National Institute on Aging and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, showed that the risk of hip and wrist fracture for women age 65 and over with the APOE*4 gene was nearly twice that of those without the gene, even after making adjustments for bone density, cognitive level or tendency to fall. Women with at least one APOE*4 gene were more likely to have a maternal history of fracture after age 50.

"We have long suspected that these types of fractures are due to more than a single factor," said NIAMS director Dr. Stephen I. Katz. "Here we have evidence of a specific genetic influence at work even when weak bones and balance problems are not at issue." ■



Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo was recently appointed deputy associate director for extramural activities at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. She will assist in setting grant funding policies and procedures and will serve as the institute's liaison to the Center for Scientific Review. Ruiz Bravo, who has worked at NIH for the last 9 years, has served as deputy director of NCI's Division of Cancer Biology since 1997 and acting director of the division since 1998. She first came to NIH as a scientific review administrator in the NIGMS Office of Scientific Review and later became a program director in the institute's Division of Genetics and Developmental Biology, where she administered grants related to the molecular mechanisms of gene control. She has been active in the NIH STEP committee and served as its chair.



Dr. Maria Turner, chief of the Dermatology Branch Consultation Service, NCI, was honored by being chosen to receive the Everett C. Fox Memorial Lecture Award of the American Academy of Dermatology recently in New York City. After her lecture, entitled "Medical Dermatology Is Alive and Well," she was presented with a commemorative plaque and a \$10,000 check.

Day Care Board Seeks Members

The NIH day care board seeks volunteers to serve a 3-year term commencing in September 1999. The board currently meets every 6 weeks for about 2 hours in an NIH conference center.

Its functions are to serve as an advocate for quality day care, to communicate day care information to NIH employees, and to serve as a forum for discussion of day care issues. The board also provides recommendations to the NIH director regarding such matters as the status of existing programs and the need for new child care services, and/or modification of existing services.

Recently, the board has accomplished the following: received clearance from the General Services Administration and NIH to process criminal background checks for our child care workers in a more timely manner; initiated a task order to hire a management assessment contractor to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness and communications of the various management components of the NIH Day Care Program; assisted with the allocation of one FTE to hire a professional day care coordinator who will have oversight and management responsibility for the NIH Day Care Program; and worked closely with the Work and Family Life Center to initiate a dependent care resource and referral service for

NIH'ers. Participation on the board is an official duty and may be included as a noncritical element on an employee's performance plan. Members are selected to reflect the varied interests of employees and their dependents and should represent the diverse cultural and ethnic population of the NIH community. Since meetings are held during the workday, supervisory permission should be obtained prior to submitting your nomination to serve on the board.

Membership is open to all federal employees who work at NIH. If you are interested in serving, you may self-nominate by sending a letter to the Director, DSFM, EPS - Suite 200. Include your name, NIH mailing address, IC, branch/section, job title, brief biographical sketch and your supervisor's concurrence. Letters should describe why you wish to serve on the board and specify any special concerns or interests you have related to day care. Limit nomination applications to 2 pages. For more information, contact Lori Thompson at 496-1967 or Deborah Henken, day care board chairperson, at 496-5541. To learn more about the board and day care at NIH, visit <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/dsfm/chintro.htm>. **R**

Esmail Torkashvan recently joined NCRR as a general engineer in the research infrastructure area. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Maryland who specializes in administering and evaluating construction and renovation grants. Previously, he was the senior mechanical design engineer and project manager for the in-house design team at the Division of Engineering Services at NIH, where he was responsible for a variety of renovations and new construction of biomedical research, vivarium, and clinical center facilities. He was also the lead mechanical engineer responsible for review of research infrastructure programs at NCRR. He has reviewed construction documents for universities and research facilities in



both the U.S. and abroad to ensure accuracy. He is a senior, voting member of the NIH Design Guidelines, a document that sets and updates design guidelines and standards to be adopted nationally for design of biomedical and vivarium facilities. At NCRR, he will work primarily on the Research Facilities Improvement and Animal Facilities Improvement Programs.

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as it was: to make important research literature available without barriers on the Internet, and we now have a plan for a system that ultimately will enrich the reading experience, deepen discussions among scientists, and enhance information flow from the world's investment in life sciences research."

The NIH mission is to conduct and support medical research and to disseminate the results of that research widely to the public and the scientific community. NIH will make use of electronic-publishing technology to fulfill the dissemination goal by establishing and maintaining PubMed Central, a Web-based repository that will archive, organize, and distribute peer-reviewed reports from journals, as well as reports that have been screened but not formally peer reviewed. Screening and peer review of manuscripts will be the responsibility of scientific publishers, professional societies and other groups independent of NIH. As a result of the interest in this proposal and the comments from the scientific community, the scope of the content has been expanded to include the life sciences in general, including plant and agricultural research as well as biology and medicine.

A summary about the e-publishing venture can be found at <http://www.nih.gov/welcome/director/pubmedcentral/pubmedcentral.htm>. **R**

New Day Care Center for NIH Preschool Planned

The NIH Preschool (also known as Parents of Preschoolers, Inc., or POPI) has been working closely with the Division of Space and Facility Management and the Division of Engineering Services in the design and development of its new day care facility, slated to open in January 2001. The new 22,000 gross square foot center will be located on the southeast side of the NIH campus, east of the Natcher Bldg. and north of Center Drive.

The interior layout of the new center will incorporate the latest child care amenities such as cable and computer connectivity, skylights, built-in lofts within classrooms, a multi-purpose room and a full service kitchen. The facility will have a fan-shape design that will allow for direct access from each of the five new large classrooms to a playground. The exterior of the facility will be constructed in light-colored stone similar to the Natcher Bldg., with large green-tinted windows. The groundbreaking for construction is set for late December 1999 or early January 2000.

The NIH Preschool has resided on the NIH campus in Bldg. 35 since June 1973 and was established through the efforts of parents and other NIH employees to offer high quality care to children of NIH'ers. Many employees are familiar with the

NIH Celebrates Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, NIH will commemorate Fire Prevention Week with a number of displays and demonstrations. The event will be held in front of Bldg. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., sponsored by the Emergency Management Branch, ORS.

This year's NIH theme is "Fire Prevention—A Matchless Goal." Fire prevention/fire safety is important because the risks of fire are real, both in the home and at work. Everyone needs to be vigilant to identify potential fire hazards and correct them immediately. The good news is that most fires can be prevented.

Staff from the Division of Public Safety will present an array of fire detection and suppression devices; fire, rescue and hazardous materials response vehicles and related emergency equipment; severe weather and fire-safety brochures; and crime prevention and police displays. High-angle rescue techniques will be demonstrated by NIH Fire Department staff. On hand will be specially trained dogs and their handlers from NIH and the Federal Emergency Management Agency who will demonstrate bomb detection, drug detection and search and rescue techniques; representatives from the Montgomery County bomb squad; and staff from the state fire marshal's office. There will also be a residential sprinkler demonstration trailer and a fire safety house, used to show children how to react in

little day care program located in the 1-story building near Old Georgetown Rd. that originally began with 18 children and through the years has grown to the present capacity of 65 children, ages 2 to 5 years. The program received recognition in 1997 from the quality of work life committee for its efforts and dedication toward improving the quality of work life for NIH employees.

The new center has been designed to accommodate the NIH Preschool's current enrollment of 65 children and provides an additional 35 spaces, bringing total enrollment capacity to 100 children. The program will be designed to accommodate four preschool classes and one accredited kindergarten program. The new center will be recertified by the Maryland state board of education as a nonpublic program - nursery school and accredited kindergarten. The program will also be reaccredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the state child care administration.

For more information about enrollment, applications and waiting list, contact Mary Haas, center director, at 496-5144. To learn more about the NIH Preschool and other child care programs, visit <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/dsfm/chintro.htm>. ■

fire emergencies, so children are certainly welcome. Drawings for a number of door prizes such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, home fire escape ladders, gift certificates and tickets to local sporting events will occur during the day for those attending the activities. Winners need not be present to claim their prizes. Special hosts will be Sparky the fire dog, and Ronald McDonald, who will greet visitors at the event.

The winner of the Year 2000 Fire Prevention Week slogan contest will be announced during the day's activities. The winning slogan and the winner's name will be featured on next year's Fire Prevention Week posters, which will be prominently displayed throughout the campus. The 1999 slogan contest winner was Ellen Vaughn, who works in NIDDK, and her name appears on this year's poster bearing her slogan.

Ledo Pizza will provide food from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Remember, by participating in this event, you can learn about ways to protect yourself, your family and your coworkers from the tragedy of fire. Your presence also demonstrates your support for the firefighters who are prepared each day to risk their lives to protect the NIH community. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be Thursday, Oct. 7. Contact the Emergency Management Branch on 496-1985 for more information. ■



On Wednesday, Oct. 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, quality of life expert Michael Scott will present a workshop titled "Enough Is Enough! Practical Tools for Regaining Control of Your Life in Today's Fast-Paced World." The workshop promises inspiration and empowerment. In 1997, when Scott came to NIH to conduct a workshop on managing life, the response was excellent. His presentation is being cosponsored by the NIH Work and Family Life Center, the NIH Employee Assistance Program, the NIH Federal Credit Union, and the Recreation and Welfare Association at NIH.

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Children's Inn, as well as a contingent from Gallaudet College, and for the people in the community," says R&W President Randy Schools. "That's why we did it, not for the money."

Taking advantage of its site in a natural bowl-like amphitheater between the Medical Center Metro stop and Natcher Bldg., the festival has become a rite of summer for many attendees drawn to a mix of kiddie fare, classic drama and action thrillers that did well at the box office.

"We had more than 10,000 people each night for *Casablanca* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*," estimated Schools. "The place was packed from the subway to Natcher. *Rugrats* and *Willie Wonka* did well, also." *Rocky*, he reported, was marred by rain, "as was *Titanic*, appropriately enough," he said. "But people sat through it."

"Each evening, there was a different audience," he continued. "*Casablanca* drew a different crowd than *Rugrats*. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was different from *When Harry Met Sally*."

Schools credits heavy promotion by local media with the festival's burgeoning attendance. The *Washington Post* weekend section touted the series, as did *Washingtonian* magazine,

and all of the local television news stations sent reporters; Fox 5 even led the 10 O'Clock News one evening with a feature on the festival as a great thing to do when it's hot and dry in D.C., according to Schools.

"We got lots of positive comments back," he continued. "People just enjoy it. It brings back the feeling of the old open-air drive-in theaters. People said it was great they could celebrate outside with their families. We had birthday parties, anniversaries and other celebrations. Many said it's one of the best things about summer around here."

In addition to the films, shown on a giant screen 40 feet wide by 22



The raffle box makes its way through the crowd.

Kids enjoy an impromptu rug-cutting session prior to the start of *The Rugrats* Movie. Said event organizer Bob Deutsch, "It's like throwing a party for 40,000 of your friends."



On hand to choose winners in the raffle contest held in conjunction with the recent Outdoor Film Festival are (front, from l) Lisa Strauss, chair of the R&W board of directors, and Ivana Pacakova, director of operations and member services at R&W and (at rear) Steven Griffin, facility manager in charge of R&W's Bldg. 31 space, and Claudia Nieves, R&W intern. The top raffle prize—a 3-day/2-night vacation—was won by Cheree Peterson; 19 other people won prizes. A full list of winners is posted on the film festival Web site at <http://www.filmfestnih.org/>.

feet high, guests enjoyed dinners and desserts supplied by Hard Times Café, Cone Zone, Potomac Pizza and Fun Foods. Chevron Corp. sponsored games, including a basketball toss, for the kids, and door prizes were offered each night. One evening, NHLBI's Dennis Askwith led 200 people in a country line dance prior to the movie. "Almost the whole crowd got involved—it was great," said Schools.

"People really look forward to the festival," he said. "We got lots of calls ahead of time, asking when it would be. And the timing is wonderful—before the kids go back to schools and colleges. It's like date night for a lot of people."

Schools and event organizer Bob Deutsch served as emcees most of the 10 nights; other special guests included Ron Gabriel, president of the Brooklyn Dodgers Fan Club, who introduced *Field of Dreams*, and NIH's own Camille Lewis, reigning Miss Montgomery County, who appeared before *West Side Story*.

The event's earnings will go to NIH-related charities including the Children's Inn, Camp Fantastic/Special Love, Inc., and Friends of the Clinical Center. More than 100 volunteers pitched in to make the series a success, including additional corporate sponsors HBO, PaxTV, Nickelodeon and AMC.

The annual event is so well received that Schools says a fourth year for the Outdoor Film Festival is planned for Aug. 18-27, 2000. As Humphrey Bogart once said, "Play it again."—Rich McManus **R**

Pinch Hitter Hits Home Run

Diggs Lecturer Francis Explores AIDS, Other STDs

By Dr. Roland Owens

Dr. Henry L. "Skip" Francis, director, Center on AIDS and Other Medical Consequences of Drug Abuse, National Institute on Drug Abuse, delivered the fifth annual John Diggs Lecture recently to a standing-room-only crowd in Wilson Hall. Based on the lively question and answer period following the lecture, his seminar, titled "Beyond AIDS: STDs in the New Millennium," clearly struck a chord with the audience, many of whom were NIH summer students. The scheduled keynote speaker, Dr. Helene Gayle of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was forced to cancel, due to a personal emergency.

Francis enthralled the audience as he explained that he was part of a team in Zaire in the early 1980's that determined, based on the age distribution of AIDS patients, that AIDS was probably a sexually transmitted disease (STD), rather than one spread by insects. He stunned the audience with statistics such as the estimate that 60 percent of young women ages



Dr. Henry Francis

18-25 in the U.S. may have chlamydia and many do not know it. Francis stated that STDs other than AIDS cause more morbidity worldwide than AIDS, costing hundreds of millions of health care dollars for things such as antibiotic and antiviral treatments, liver transplants (for sexually transmitted viral hepatitis) and infertility treatments (for STDs that damage reproductive

organs). The saddest thing, he said, is that most of this misery and expense can be prevented. Francis said STD prevention messages promoting either abstinence or "safe sex" are most effective when delivered to 8-12 year old children, but there is often community resistance to sex education at such a young age.

Following Francis's seminar, approximately 60 students formed discussion groups led by NIH scientists on such topics as "Training and Research Opportunities in Infectious Diseases" (led by Dr. Milton Hernandez of NIAID), "Basic Research on the Herpes Simplex Virus" (led by Dr. Rona LeBlanc of NIAID), "New Frontiers in AIDS Research" (led by Dr. Patricia D'Souza of NIAID), "STD's Education and Prevention" (led by Michelle Johnson, NIH Scholar, Howard Hughes Medical Institute), and "Infectious Etiology of Chronic Diseases" (led by Dr. Christopher Taylor of NIAID).

The event was cosponsored by the speakers bureau of the NIH Black Scientists Association, NIAID's

Office of Special Populations and Research Training, the NIAID minority scientists advisory committee, NINDS, the NIH Office of Equal Opportunity, the NIH Office of the Director, and the Recreation and Welfare Association. The Diggs Lecture was started in 1995 to celebrate the life and legacy of the late Dr. John W. Diggs, former NIH deputy director for extramural research. ■

STEP Offers Fall Program of Activities

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee recently announced its Fall 1999 program of activities. Since 1963, STEP has made major contributions to continuing education at NIH by offering timely and innovative programs of broad interest to the extramural community.

Consistent with this spirit of innovation, STEP is making several changes in style and format. First, the STEP catalog has been redesigned and information on programs will be provided in two installments. The fall '99 catalog will announce activities offered between October 1999 through January 2000. A second catalog will be issued later this winter providing descriptions of the spring 2000 activities.

In addition, STEP will launch several new course formats this year. One of these, Current Controversies in Medicine, is designed to provide an opportunity for lively exchange of information on current topics of interest and debate within the NIH community. These events usually will last 3 to 4 hours and will require no advance registration. The topic for this fall is "Informed Consent" on Thursday, Nov. 18, in which a moderated debate will be held on three key ethical issues faced in today's research with human subjects.

A second new format, Workplace Strategies, was created to provide opportunities for scientific and nonscientific staff to improve effectiveness in the workplace. These events usually will last 1 to 2 hours and will not require advance registration. To launch this new format, STEP will offer a 90-minute session on "Humor in the Workplace: Laughing Matters," on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

STEP will continue to offer the popular Science for All series designed to provide opportunities for all staff to learn about recent scientific advances as they relate to contemporary health issues. These events usually last 2 to 3 hours and require no advance registration. Two programs will be offered this fall. The first, "Science Fiction to Science Fact: Predicting the Future of Medicine," on Thursday, Dec. 9, will explore how the "science fiction" of the past is being used in medicine today and is shaping the future. The second, "Stem Cells: Nature's Repair Shop," on Wednesday, Jan. 12, will provide information on stem cells and their potential for treating disease.

Also, stay tuned for the release of the spring 2000 STEP catalog where the mix of new and familiar formats, together with exciting topics, will continue. Topics for the catalog include: Science Communication: Give It to Me Straight!; NIH and Universities: Common Interests, Contrasting Worlds; Addiction: Old Problems, New Science; and Current Issues in Food Safety: Food for Thought. NIH extramural staff at all grade levels and job categories are encouraged to participate. STEP will post the times and locations on the Web and by fliers about 2 weeks before the event.

Volunteers Needed for Study

Researchers at NIH seek healthy adults, 18 to 50 years old, to take part in an outpatient study of a new vaccine for leishmaniasis, a tropical parasitic infection. People with extended visits to the tropics are not eligible. Study requirements include routine lab work, a single vaccine injection and several followup visits over 6 months. This vaccine contains no live infections. Compensation will be provided. For information call 402-0980, ext. 616.

Free Flu Vaccine Available to NIH'ers

Flu can be debilitating even for healthy people, and is particularly serious for the elderly and patients with certain chronic medical conditions. Flu is very infectious and can be passed from person to person through casual contact as well as through direct patient care. Moreover, people infected with the flu are contagious usually 2 days before their own flu symptoms develop.

This year's vaccine protects against both influenza

A and B. NIH employees can "foil the flu" by choosing to receive a flu vaccination during one of the convenient times and locations.

More detailed information about the flu vaccine and immunization schedule is available on the Clinical Center home page (<http://www.cc.nih.gov/cc/99flu/>) and on posters throughout the CC. Also check out the NIAID Web site <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/flu.htm>.

Influenza Immunization Schedule 1999

Oct. 4 - Nov. 24 Bldg. 10, Rm. 6C306

Times are: 7:30 - 11 a.m. 1 - 5 p.m.

By last names:

N, O, P, Q	Oct. 4, Mon.	R, S	Oct. 5, Tues.
T, U, V	Oct. 6, Wed.	W, X, Y, Z	Oct. 12, Tues.
A, B	Oct. 18, Mon.	C, D	Oct. 26, Tues.
E, F	Oct. 27, Wed.	G, H	Nov. 3, Wed.
I, J, K	Nov. 1, Mon.	L, M	Nov. 16, Tues.

Off Campus

EPN, Rm. 103, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.
A-J: Oct. 19, Tues.; K-S: Nov. 2, Tues.; T-Z: Nov. 15, Mon.

Federal Bldg., Rm. 1C05, 1 to 3 p.m.
Oct. 20, Wed. and Nov. 17, Wed.

Walk-in (any last name, Nov. 19, Fri. Nov. 22, Mon.
first come, first served) Nov. 23, Tues. Nov. 24, Wed.

Poolesville, Conf. Rm, Nov. 12, Fri.
Bldg. 102, 8 to 11 a.m.; Bldg. 110, noon to 2 p.m.

Bldg. 13, Rm. G-904, 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Rockledge, Rm. 5054, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
A-J: Oct. 13, Wed. K-S: Oct. 25, Mon. T-Z: Nov. 9, Tues.

By last name:

EFGH	Oct. 8, Fri.	IJKLM	Oct. 15, Fri.
NOPQRS	Oct. 22, Fri.	TUVWXYZ	Oct. 29, Fri.
ABCD	Nov. 5, Fri.		

After Nov. 24, flu immunizations given by appointment only.

'Faces & Phases of Life' Seminar Series

The NIH Work and Family Life Center, in conjunction with the NIH Employee Assistance Program, presents the following free seminars. Call the WFLC to preregister. Sign language interpretation is available. For reasonable accommodation, call the WFLC at least 48 hours prior to the seminar at 435-1619, TTY/TDD: 480-0690. Visit WFLC online at <http://wflc.od.nih.gov>.

October

- ◆ Home Alone: Helping Your School-Age Child Be Safe (Oct. 5, 12-1:30 p.m., 31/6C6)
- ◆ *Enough Is Enough! Practical Tools for Regaining Control of Your Life in Today's Fast-Paced World (Oct. 6, 1-3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10) *Cosponsored by the NIH R&W and the NIH Federal Credit Union.
- ◆ Trinity College: Graduate Program Options (Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 31/2C19)
- ◆ Legal Issues Concerning Older Relatives (Oct. 21, 2-3:30 p.m., 1/Wilson Hall) □



Dr. Charles G. Edmonds has joined NIGMS as a special expert in the Division of Cell Biology and Biophysics, where he will administer grants in analytical chemistry and mass spectroscopy. He will also assist in the development of two NIGMS initiatives—one for the development of protein crystallography synchrotron

beamlines and one for structural genomics. Edmonds is a chemist who comes to NIGMS from the Department of Energy, where he served as a physical scientist in the medical science division of the Office of Biological and Environmental Research. While at DOE, he managed programs in genome instrumentation research and computational structural biology. His research interests include the application of mass spectrometric techniques to the study of the structure and function of biological macromolecules.

Depression Screening for NIH Employees

Have you been experiencing "the blues" for more than a couple weeks, even months or years? Have you lost interest in ordinary activities? Has your ability to feel pleasure diminished? Or, do you swing from a low mood to a high one, where you become more sociable and talkative than usual, or perhaps irritable? If so, you may be suffering from major depression, dysthymia (low-grade chronic depression), or bipolar disorder—depressive illnesses that can be effectively treated with certain medications and/or types of psychotherapy, according to NIMH research.

To find out if symptoms you experience may be due to a depressive disorder, attend the free, anonymous, walk-in, depression screening for NIH employees on National Depression Screening Day, Thursday, Oct. 7, sponsored by NIMH and the quality of work life committee, with the support of the NIH Employee Assistance Program. Employees will have the opportunity to view a short video, complete a brief questionnaire, discuss their results privately with a mental health professional, and gather free brochures on depression and information about treatment resources. Screening will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at three NIH locations, two of them on the Bethesda campus and one in Rockville, on Executive Blvd. The campus sites are at Occupational Medical Services, Bldg. 10, Rm. 6C306; and the Employee Assistance Program, Bldg. 31, B2, Rm. B57. The Rockville site is at Executive Plaza North, Rm. 103.

Employees who are not within walking distance of the sites on campus but prefer that location are encouraged to use the NIH shuttle or another form of public transportation because of limited parking. Paid parking, however, in addition to shuttle access, is available at Executive Plaza North. For the shuttle schedule, go to <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/shuttle/shuttle.htm>.

If you are suffering from a mood disorder, you are not alone. More than 19 million American adults each year suffer from depressive illnesses, but only one-third seek help. Without treatment, mood disorders can worsen, become disabling, and, in some cases, lead to suicide. But most people who do get help feel good again. Effective treatments include the use of antidepressant and/or mood-stabilizing medications, short-term psychotherapies such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, or a combination of both.

For more information about depressive disorders, their symptoms and treatments, visit the NIMH Web site at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/depression/index.htm>. People unable to attend the screening

may contact the following organizations for referrals to local treatment specialists: the National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association (<http://www.ndmda.org>, 800/826-3632); the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (<http://www.nami.org>, 800/950-6264); and the National Mental Health Association (<http://www.nmha.org>, 800/969-6642). ■

Fraumeni Retires from Commissioned Corps

Rear Adm. Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr., assistant surgeon general and director of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, NCI, retired earlier this year from the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. During his 37 years of service, he distinguished himself as a scientist, administrator and role model for countless officers in the Commissioned Corps as well as members of the federal civil service. Under Fraumeni's directorship, DCEG has become the premier research program for population-based studies on the genetic and environmental determinants of cancer. Also as a scientific director at NIH, he has made significant contributions to the mission of PHS. He will continue to serve as the division's director and as a scientific director under a Title 42 appointment.

Fraumeni is recognized as one of the world's leading authorities in cancer epidemiology and genetics. Among his pioneering studies of genetic and familial cancers are the discovery and delineation of Li-Fraumeni syndrome, an inherited condition predisposing susceptible family members to a diversity of cancers. This work serves as a paradigm for interdisciplinary studies in cancer etiology and prevention.

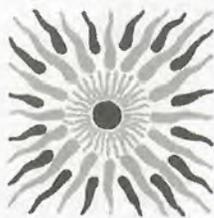
In the area of environmental carcinogenesis, he was instrumental in the development of computer-generated color-coded U.S. cancer atlases displaying geographic variations in cancer mortality at the county level, and providing clues for a series of in-depth NCI studies aimed at identifying specific causes of unusual patterns. This landmark accomplishment has been emulated by countries around the world. Fraumeni's productivity as a researcher is reflected in a bibliography approaching 700 publications, which include important books on the cause and prevention of cancer.

Fraumeni has also received numerous honors and awards. Among them are the PHS Distinguished Service Award, the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal and the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation's Charles S. Mott Prize. In addition, he is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

At a recent party, the division staff and NIH senior leadership paid tribute to Fraumeni for his contributions. Joining the well-wishers were Fraumeni's wife, Trisha, his niece, Julie, and other friends and former division members. In a formal ceremony including a PHS flag detail, Fraumeni received several PHS mementos including a sword, commemorative coin, lapel pin and an American flag, which had flown over the U.S. Capitol Building. ■



RADM Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr. (l) is greeted by Capt. Robert Hoover.



OMAR's Longest-Serving Director Ferguson Retires

By Carla Garnett

Every 10 years, Dr. John Ferguson moves his career in another direction. Before he came to NIH in 1988 as director of the Office of Medical Applications of Research, he spent a decade in private practice neurology in Waco, Tex. Before that, he concentrated on academia, serving as an associate professor of neurology at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. Now, after 11 years at NIH, he says it's time to switch gears once again. He retires from NIH on Sept. 30.

"I had a lot to learn when I came to NIH," he said. "This has been a fantastic job that has taught me so much. NIH is a tremendous intellectual environment. That and all the wonderfully competent people I have worked with are what I will miss most about retiring.

Looking back, I also realize that I will miss being at the center of some of the controversial and political issues that surface from time to time in the Consensus Development Conferences. Interacting with the press, people writing letters, executive correspondence from Congress—it was enervating. And although I wouldn't have said it then, it was fun."

Located in the Office of the Director, OMAR's role is much like a pipeline. The office works with the institutes and centers to help translate the results of biomedical research effectively into knowledge that can be used in health care practice. One mechanism OMAR uses is the Consensus Development Conference, which brings together scientists to present their expertise on a topic and a group of independent panelists who act as jurors and assess the debate. Also usually attending the conferences are patient advocates, news reporters and, sometimes, protesters. At the conference's close, a consensus statement is delivered by the panel.

"Working with the institutes and centers," Ferguson explains, "we try to choose topics about which there is a debate in the field. We then try to gather enough science to resolve the controversy."

Among the most storied conferences Ferguson recalls are the session on treatment of destructive behaviors in 1989—not long after he answered the *New England Journal of Medicine* job vacancy ad that eventually brought him to NIH—and age guidelines for mammography, a 1997 issue that still garners debate in the medical community.

"Having recently ended an 18-year tenure at NIH, one of the things I miss the most is working with John on a daily basis," said HHS Deputy Press Officer Bill Hall, who worked with Ferguson for nearly 10 years as OMAR communications director. "While I know he's looking forward to retirement, it's a great loss for NIH. He was the perfect person to head OMAR and the CDC program. Nearly every consensus conference we did together seemed to generate controversy, some much greater than

others. It never ceased to amaze me how John has always been able to remain cool and stand as the voice of reason amidst the criticism and chaos of these conferences. Clearly, John was the calm during the storm. He's going to be hard to replace."

Ferguson, who at 11 years on the job is the longest-serving OMAR director in NIH history, said his proudest accomplishments at OMAR include the steady improvements that have been made to the Consensus Development Program. In addition to having reviewed the program at national and international meetings and having the critiques published in peer-reviewed journals, he established a program to measure the impact of the CDP on health care.

"John has always wanted to know whether our program is making a difference in health care," said Dr. Charles Sherman, deputy OMAR director. "Many program managers use intuition and anecdotes to guide their decisions. John always seeks data and evidence. Under his leadership, OMAR has engaged in a continuing series of process- and impact evaluations, both of individual conferences and of the entire Consensus Development Program."

Ferguson has also written several papers on the use of science in the courtroom and taught judges how to evaluate scientific evidence.

"I've been in this office longer than anyone," said Jerry Elliot, OMAR program analyst, "and I've seen many directors come and go. The thing that John lent to the program—in my opinion his most outstanding legacy—is integrity. You always knew where he was coming from and his responses were always based on fairness and honesty."

OMAR Program Analyst Elsa Bray said she admired Ferguson's intellectual curiosity and his enthusiasm and courage to navigate uncharted waters. "He saw a need and felt an ethical responsibility to find a way to immediately get clinical alerts to physicians and the public about findings from clinical trial results to prevent morbidity and mortality," she recalled.

Over the years, Ferguson has never entirely abandoned any of the different positions he has held: He continues his clinical neurology practice, seeing patients at National Naval Medical Center once a week; and he remains in academia, serving as a clinical professor of neurology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences since 1995. From 1989 to 1991, he also served as acting NIH associate director for disease prevention. As is his custom, when he retires from NIH, he won't be going far away from federal service or even HHS for very long: He will serve out a 4-year term as chair of the panel on laboratory and diagnostic services of the Health Care Financing Administration's medical coverage advisory committee. ■



Recently, Dr. John Ferguson asked for a panel review of the consensus conference program. Upon recommendation from the panel, OMAR plans to lengthen the preparation period before conferences convene, and extend the deliberation time of the panel. Also, higher-level advisors will be appointed to CDP's oversight committee. "It's been a remarkable 11 years," he says. "I've learned a huge amount about health policy. NIH has a great deal of admirable science going on here and it was great to be associated with it. My experience has given me a new appreciation for science, politics and the public. I know I'll be using some of these experiences in my jobs as a consultant."

NINDS's Hambrecht Retires After 30 Years

By Shannon E. Garnett

Dr. F. Terry Hambrecht, a pioneer in the field of neural prostheses and director of the NINDS Neural Prosthesis Program, recently retired after 30 years of government service, all with NINDS.

"I always felt honored to be at NIH and to be able to work with so many creative people," said Hambrecht. "I think that together—the scientists, the contracting officers and the secretaries—we were able to develop some truly useful devices for neurologically disabled individuals."

For 27 years Hambrecht has stood at the helm of the prosthesis program, guiding it from a few scientists and engineers sharing ideas at a meeting, to a premier program that plays a major role in restoring function to the injured nervous system and in helping individuals with disabilities regain some degree of normal function.

Many disabilities such as deafness, blindness and paralysis occur when the connections between nerves or between muscles and nerves are lost. The Neural Prosthesis Program—which combines studies of the neurophysiological principles of the nervous system with advances in artificial implant materials, technology, and electronic engineering—directs research on the development of devices to provide substitute signals for these lost nerve connections.

Investigators working in the program have produced a number of implantable devices, including a hand prosthesis that gives some paralyzed persons the ability to use their hands to grasp objects. Perhaps the most well-known of the program's devices, however, is the cochlear implant—an electronic device that is now restoring a degree of hearing to more than 30,000 deaf people.

"It is hard to leave a program that you feel is your 'baby,' but I know it is in good hands and will continue to thrive," said Hambrecht.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in 1961 from Purdue University, and a master of science degree in 1963 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both in electrical engineering. In 1968, he earned his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University, and trained at Duke University in the department of surgery until 1969.

Upon completion of his internship, he began his research career in the NINDS Laboratory of Neural Control, and continued there until he retired. In

1970, he served as assistant project officer of the Sensory Prosthesis Program. With his medical and engineering background, Hambrecht was a natural leader in bioengineering. Thus, in 1972, he was chosen to head the new NINDS Neural Prosthesis Program.

Throughout his career, Hambrecht has garnered many accolades and honors including the Goldenson Technology Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, the U.S. Public Health Service Commendation, Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Medals, and the DHHS Secretary's Distinguished Volunteer Service Award. In 1990, because of his volunteer activities with disabled individuals, he was invited to the White House as a Point of Light to meet President and Mrs. Bush. Additionally, in 1992, he was elected as a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Aside from his professional duties, he has developed several hobbies that include studying the history of medicine during the American Civil War and collecting antique medical instruments. In fact, Hambrecht—who owns more than 500 such devices—cofounded the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Md., and currently serves as its senior technical advisor.

Hambrecht became interested in collecting antique instruments while developing neural prosthetic devices. "It was obvious that many of the ideas behind the devices have been around for many years but lacked the technology to realize them," he explained. "I began searching for the historical origins of the biological discoveries as well as the physical principles upon which the needed technology was based. In pursuing the history, I became fascinated by the early attempts to apply the research findings and by tools such as early stethoscopes, ophthalmoscopes and hearing aids."

He bought his first antique instrument, an amputating saw, in a used book store in Maine about 25 years ago. "It was easy to find them in flea markets and antiques shops because few people recognized them," he said. "I found that the desire to collect an item didn't stop once I found one example, because it seems like there are endless varieties of each."

In retirement, Hambrecht wants to travel with his recent bride, the former Maureen Volz, a program analyst at NINDS. He will continue to search for old medical devices, and to work as a volunteer with disabled individuals and at the museum. And, from time to time, he can still be found on the NIH campus serving as a special consultant on auditory prostheses for NIDCD. ■



Dr. F. Terry Hambrecht

Need Help Finding Dependent Care?

The NIH Work and Family Life Center recently began working with a contractor who can help NIH employees find child, elder and adult dependent care resources in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area as well as nationwide. The contractor will provide NIH employees with resource and referral information on several topics including: child care and schooling; before- and after-school care; care for special needs children and adults; college and financial aid; and care, housing, transportation, meals and financial aid regarding these resources for aging relatives and dependent adults. For more information, employees may contact WFLC, 435-1619.



Alexander I. Rosenthal was recently named director of the new Division of Enterprise and Custom Applications for CIT. He joined NIH in 1995 as a special expert for the Office of Technology and Information Systems at NIAID and helped create its Management and Information Systems Branch. Later, as chief of the branch, Rosenthal helped implement NIAID's migration from a mainframe environment to a more modern client/server system. He received the 1998 NIH Director's award for designing and developing NIAID's electronic review administration initiative. Before coming to NIH, he worked as a senior systems analyst for ROW Sciences, Inc. He is also a former champion chess player.

NIDA To Mark 25th Anniversary with Day of Activities

A full day of activities, including an evening event for the public and an afternoon scientific symposium, will be held by the National Institute on Drug Abuse on Monday, Sept. 27 at the Clinical Center. The commemoration of NIDA's 25 years of leadership in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction will be hosted by Dr. Alan I. Leshner, NIDA director.

Dr. Floyd Bloom of the Scripps Research Institute and editor-in-chief of *Science* magazine, will speak at the program for the public at 7 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. He will discuss substance abuse research, its challenges and opportunities. Also featured at this public event will be Dr. Jose Szapocznik, director of the Center for Family Studies at the University of Miami School of Medicine, who will discuss the future of prevention and treatment of adolescent drug abuse.

An afternoon scientific symposium, "NIDA: Celebrating a Quarter Century of Scientific Progress," in Masur Auditorium from 1 to 5 p.m., will bring together prominent scientists from such leading research centers as Stanford University, the University of Michigan and the University of

Antibiotic Helpful in DMD Mouse Model

NIAMS-funded scientists at the University of Pennsylvania have successfully applied the common antibiotic gentamicin to restore function of the protein dystrophin in mouse models of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). It is the absence of dystrophin that is responsible for this genetic muscle-wasting disease that affects 1 in 3,500 boys. The discovery, say the scientists, may pave the way for a treatment in some human patients with DMD.

The work (*J Clin Invest.* 1999;104(4):1-7), cofunded by the Muscular Dystrophy Association and carried out under the direction of Dr. H. Lee Sweeney, took its cue from the known ability of a class of antibacterial antibiotics called aminoglycosides to suppress certain gene sequences, called "stop codons," that inhibit protein production. The scientists tested a specific aminoglycoside, gentamicin, on cultured muscle cells from the *mdx* mouse—an animal model for DMD that has a stop codon in the gene for dystrophin. The resulting restoration of dystrophin in cultured cells encouraged the researchers to try the antibiotic on the mice themselves. The result: dystrophin was restored to the cell membranes of all the striated mouse muscles they examined. Furthermore, the treatment afforded the muscles protection against injury.

"It appears that we may be witnessing the unfolding of a translational triumph in medical research—from culture dish to mouse and, hopefully, to human treatment," says NIAMS director Dr. Stephen Katz. ■

California at Los Angeles to present and discuss the latest research findings on drug abuse and addiction. It will feature presentations on emotions and vulnerability to addiction, the history and future of addiction treatment research, the contributions of neuroimaging to our understanding of addiction, and the prevention and progression of HIV infection, which is often spread among injecting drug users.

The afternoon event is designed primarily for clinicians, researchers, policy makers and all others interested in better understanding the roots of drug addiction, and the new approaches, medications and technologies being developed to prevent and treat it.

The evening event is targeted to the public, including students, teachers, parents and anyone with an interest in learning more about the scientific facts about drug abuse and addiction.

A poster presentation will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

There is no charge for any of the events. For more information, call 443-1124 or check the NIDA Web site <http://www.nida.nih.gov>. ■

Y2K Awareness Day on Oct. 29

The approaching millennial transition makes it more important than ever to address public concerns over Y2K readiness. Toward that end, CIT is sponsoring a "Y2K Awareness Day," on Friday, Oct. 29 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. All NIH employees and Clinical Center patients are invited.

The event will feature several interactive panel discussions with speakers from NIH and representatives from utility companies, local government and community organizations. Audience members can participate in question and answer sessions with the panel members. In addition, visitors can browse through information booths located outside the auditorium to pick up free literature and other items that will help convey the message about Y2K readiness to friends and family.

'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 Café 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.bethesda.org>. ■