

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## NIH Gets Second Major Budget Boost in Row

President Clinton signed an omnibus budget bill on Nov. 29 that gives NIH its second record-breaking budget increase in a row. The FY 2000 appropriation for NIH is \$17,913,470,000, an increase of more than \$2.3 billion from FY 1999, and about \$1.98 billion more than the President's budget, which called for a 2 percent increase for the agency. The 14.9 percent boost for FY 2000 matches the 14.9 increase realized in FY 1999, which represented NIH's biggest dollar increase ever.

However, the bill includes \$3 billion in delayed obligations, not available until Sept. 29, 2000, and an across-the-board budget cut of 0.38 percent; NIH is among the agencies affected by this reduction but will have flexibility in applying the cut, with no program to be trimmed by more than 15 percent. According to Sue Quantius, NIH associate director for budget, NIH's share of the budget cut is in the range of 0.55 percent, or a reduction of some \$98 million.

The bill will result in budget increases at all of NIH's 24 institutes and centers, as well as the Office of the Director. It will also boost to nearly 10,000 the number of new and competing research project grants sup-

SEE FY 2000 BUDGET, PAGE 3

### Celebrate the Season with CFC

In this season of giving, let your generosity reach out to those less fortunate. The Combined Federal Campaign has reached 68 percent of its goal, but the campaign has not yet heard from many of you. If you still haven't made your contribution, now is the time. Celebrate the season with a gift to CFC. We can reach 100 percent of our goal!

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

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Trillions in Philanthropy Forecast

## Choppin Asserts Role for Private Support of Biomedicine

By Rich McManus

The billionaire down the block—the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, barely a mile down Jones Bridge Rd. from NIH—sent an emissary Nov. 17 for the third annual James A. Shannon Lecture sponsored by the NIH Alumni Association. Dr. Purnell Choppin, a virologist who has been president of HHMI since 1987 and who is stepping down from that post at the end of December, assured an audience in Masur Auditorium that HHMI's work "can only be complementary (to NIH's role) and incremental. We are not a substitute."

The \$11.8 billion medical research organization currently supplies about 22 percent of all nonprofit research support in biomedicine, funding some 331 investigators at 71 institutions, said Choppin. It has spent more than \$5 billion since 1985 on its five areas of specialty: cell biology and regulation, genetics, immunology, neuroscience and structural biology; a new field—computational biology—is just emerging. Spending per year has risen from about \$100 million in 1985—the year after HHMI sold

SEE CHOPPIN, PAGE 6

Eight New Udall Centers Announced

## NINDS, Parkinson's Advocates Testify Before Congress

By Shannon E. Garnett

NINDS director Dr. Gerald Fischbach recently joined actor Michael J. Fox and other Parkinson's disease research advocates on Capitol Hill to discuss the explosion of scientific advances in the study of this disorder.

In testimony before the Senate appropriations subcommittee on labor, health, and human services, education and related agencies, Fischbach said that with sufficient funding scientists should be able to cure Parkinson's disease within 5 to



SEE PARKINSON'S, PAGE 4

Actor Michael J. Fox testifies.



Dear Editor,

In this time of giving thanks and giving and receiving, I would like to express my gratitude to a number of strangers who helped me. On Tuesday, Nov. 16, I fell and fractured my patella on the road in front of Bldg. 31A. A number of people came to my aid including the parking lot attendant who called the ambulance, two people who took off their coats and covered me on that cold morning, a woman who sat with me and helped support my back while waiting for the ambulance to arrive, and a man who held his cell phone in speakerphone mode for me so I could call my husband and let him know I had an accident. That man even used his redial feature to get in touch with my husband after I was whisked away in the ambulance since my call to him ended up on voice mail. It was so heartening to receive these gifts. Thank you.

**Andrea Baruchin, Chief, Science Policy Branch, Office of Science Policy & Communications, NIDA**



*The NIH R&W Camera Club and the R&W have produced a year 2000 calendar featuring works from your fellow employees. Also featured are photos from the NIH archives showing the history of NIH's physical expansion from 1939 until the present, and photos of some of the prominent buildings on campus. Proceeds from sales of the special calendars, offered to NIH'ers for the first time, will benefit the Children's Inn at NIH, Friends of the Clinical Center, Camp Fantastic, and the Foundation for the NIH. Calendars are available at all R&W stores.*

### 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. Call 496-8381. **R**

### APAO Elects Leadership, Plans Potluck

The NIH Asian Pacific Islander American Organization (APAO) membership recently elected its new executive board and council members for the new year. The board consists of Lucie Chen, president; Prahlad Mathur, vice president; Joanne Wong, executive secretary; and Sunnie Kim, treasurer. Newly appointed council members are Aftab Ansari, Bill Bunnag, Chong Chung, Molly Eng, Hameed Khan, Lydia Luh, John Morada, Janet Nguyen, Patricia Reyes, Hari Singh, Rashimi Gopal-Srivastava and Sudhir Srivastava. The APAO meets on the third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:30 p.m. The meeting schedule can be viewed at <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/apao/meetings.htm>.

All NIH APAO members and their guests are invited to the annual potluck luncheon to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 21 in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. The menu usually includes a wide variety of dishes representing the various Asian/Pacific Islander American groups: Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese plus Western and Asian desserts. If you can bring food or donations, contact Prahlad Mathur ([mathurp@od.nih.gov](mailto:mathurp@od.nih.gov) or 435-4618) or Lucie Chen ([chenl@mail.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:chenl@mail.nlm.nih.gov) or 496-5684) for details. **I**

### Paid Volunteers Needed

Are you 18 to 35 years old? In good health? You may qualify to participate in a study of commonly prescribed medications. The study involves multiple visits over a 3-month period. Men and women may earn up to \$880 and get free medical tests. Call the Uniformed Services University at (301) 319-8204. **I**

## N I H R E C O R D

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The Record is recyclable as office white paper.

**FY 2000 BUDGET, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

ported in FY 2000. The National Cancer Institute, NIH's largest, will get an increase of 14.8 percent to \$3.3 billion, while NHLBI, the second largest institute, will realize a gain of 14.5 percent to a total of \$2 billion. The National Human Genome Research Institute budget is set to rise by 25.4 percent, to a total of \$337 million, and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine gets a 37.5 percent increase to \$69 million. The Office of AIDS Research, part of the Office of the Director, gets \$44.953 million and the Foundation for NIH is set to receive \$500,000.

The omnibus bill directs NIH to transfer \$20 million from NIAID to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by Jan. 15, 2000, for study of the safety and efficacy of vaccines used against agents of biological terror. NIH must also set aside \$20 million for a new program of challenge grants—to be funded by the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund—to promote joint ventures between NIH and the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical device industries; the program is to be on a one-for-one matching basis to qualified organizations.

The National Center for Research Resources is slated to receive \$75 million for extramural construction, an increase of \$45 million over FY 1999. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is strongly urged to study the effects of dioxin and Agent Orange in Southeast Asia.

The bill contains a number of specific directions affecting OD:

- Programs including Minority Access to Research Careers, Minority Biomedical Research Support, Research Centers in Minority Institutions, and the Office of Research on Minority Health programs should continue to be supported at a level commensurate with their importance.

- NIH is encouraged to pursue research on all types of diabetes.

- NIH is requested to develop a report to Congress by Mar. 1, 2000, outlining a research agenda for Parkinson's focused research for the next 5 years, along with professional judgment funding projections.

- NIH is urged to establish an Office of Bioimaging/Bioengineering and to review the feasibility of establishing an Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering. The office should coordinate imaging and bioengineering research activities, both across NIH and with other federal agencies. NIH must report on progress achieved by this office by June 30, 2000.

- The NIH director is requested to contract with an independent group to study the overall security situation at the Bethesda campus. The study should include recommendations regarding the appropriate manpower, training and equipment needed to

provide adequate security for NIH employees and all visitors to the campus as well as any recommended changes to the current security policy.

- NIH is strongly encouraged to dedicate more resources to autism research and to intensify these efforts through the NIH autism coordinating committee.

- The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and NIAID are commended for jointly supporting research on foodborne illness; the institutes are encouraged to enhance research on the reaction of the gut to foodborne pathogens.

The omnibus bill was signed after eight Continuing Resolutions kept unfunded federal agencies operating beyond the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year. It keeps NIH on target for a congressional effort to double the NIH budget by 2004. ■



*Dr. Joanna Shisler recently accepted the first annual Norman P. Salzman Memorial Award in Virology, including a plaque and a prize of \$2,500, presented by the Foundation for the NIH. The award honors the memory of Dr. Norman P. Salzman, a pioneer in the field of molecular virology and a noted teacher and mentor. Shisler, a postdoctoral fellow in the*

*Laboratory of Viral Diseases, NIAID, was honored for her work entitled "A human dermatotropic poxvirus gene product functions as a bona fide selenoprotein and protects against ultraviolet- and peroxide-induced apoptosis." She is shown here with mentor and laboratory chief Dr. Bernard Moss, who also received a plaque at a ceremony Nov. 18 at the Cloister. Shisler was selected from 22 nominees by a committee of distinguished scientists from NIH and outside organizations. The committee was chaired by Dr. Clifford Lane, clinical director of NIAID. The memorial award, which will be made annually by the NIH Foundation, recognizes outstanding postdoctoral researchers in virology at NIH.*

### **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. ■

## PARKINSON'S, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10 years. He also announced that NINDS is funding eight new Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Disease Research Centers of Excellence, bringing the total to 11 such centers the institute now funds and representing a total commitment of \$73 million to be spent on Parkinson's disease research over the next 5 years.

"Finding a cure for Parkinson's is not like sending a man to the moon or making the atom bomb, where a resolute effort to apply what is known produced success," said Fischbach. "We still need to learn a great deal before we can stop this disease, but I am encouraged that the pace of discovery is increasing each year, and that we are on the right track."

More than half a million Americans have Parkinson's disease, a debilitating neurological disorder that progressively impairs control of body movement, interferes with walking and talking, and often leads to rigid immobility. Symptoms of the disease—which include tremor, stiff limbs, slow or absent move-

ment, lack of facial expression, a shuffling gait, a distinctive stoop, and in some patients, depression and dementia—result from degeneration of nerve cells in the brain, particularly those involved in the production of the chemical dopamine. Although standard treatment with the drug combination levodopa/carbidopa can restore normal movement to many early in the course of the disease, the treatment loses effectiveness as Parkinson's progresses.

Despite the current dire description of the disorder, according to Fischbach there are several reasons for hope. His optimism is based on recent advances in a number of Parkinson's disease research areas including:

**Cell Death:** Scientists have discovered that nerve cells often follow a "final common path" to degeneration in Parkinson's disease and in many other disorders. Apoptosis, this death program, is often called "cell suicide" because cells participate in their own destruction by activating a cascade of enzymes that disrupt the integrity of genes and normal cell metabolism. Each step in the cascade offers new therapeutic targets to halt the progression of the disorder.

**Levodopa:** When first introduced, levodopa—a drug that helps replenish the brain's diminishing supply of dopamine—seemed to be a miracle drug liberating Parkinson's patients from immobility. Unfortunately the effects of levodopa are not sufficiently lasting, side effects can be serious and, most importantly, the drug cannot halt the underlying death of nerve cells. As researchers learn more

about dopamine and other neurotransmitters in the brain, they are also learning how to prolong and enhance the effects of levodopa and develop new drugs.

**Neurotrophic factors:** An entirely new class of therapeutic drugs—neurotrophic factors—were identified as natural brain chemicals that promote the growth and survival of nerve cells in the development of the nervous system. Scientists are now learning how neurotrophic factors can be used to protect against neurodegeneration in adult brains, with promising results in animal models of Parkinson's disease.

**Surgery:** Years of analysis of the brain circuits that control movement are leading to dramatic advances in the surgical treatment of Parkinson's disease. Pallidotomy, a surgical procedure designed to rebalance the normal interplay of brain circuits that initiate and restrain voluntary movement, is now carried out with exquisite precision, guided by advanced brain imaging and microelectrode recordings from single brain cells. Another new technology is brain stimulation through electrodes implanted deep in the brain. This procedure not only relieves symptoms of the disorder, but may also slow progression of the disease. Researchers will continue to pursue this possibility and determine the long-term consequences of these surgical procedures.

**Stem cells:** Cell implantation offers hope for actually replacing nerve cells lost in Parkinson's and many other diseases. Neural stem cells—cells that have the capacity to renew themselves indefinitely and to specialize to form all cell types found in the brain—offer a potentially unlimited supply of dopamine cells. Stem cell therapy has already produced dramatic success in animal models of Parkinson's and other neurological diseases.

The additional funding would be used to study the environmental causes of Parkinson's disease, and to continue research efforts at NINDS including new surgical therapies such as deep brain stimulation, the genetics of Parkinson's disease, improved animal models for Parkinson's disease, better methods to deliver drugs to the brain and stem cell research.

The centers, which were developed in response to Senate bill 535—also known as the Udall bill in honor of the former congressman who died in December 1998 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease—will play a key role in coordinating and carrying out research efforts in the disorder.

The new Udall centers are located at Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Neurologic Diseases in Boston; Neurological Institute at Columbia University; University of Virginia Health System; the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla.; University of Kentucky; Duke University; University of California at Los Angeles; and Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass. ■



NINDS director Dr. Gerald Fischbach outlines advances in Parkinson's disease research in testimony on Capitol Hill.

## NLM's Howard Ends 41-Year Federal Career

Frances Humphrey Howard, whom many would describe as 85 years young, has retired from NLM after a long and distinguished federal career. Since 1970, she has served as special assistant to the associate director for extramural programs. In that capacity, she has helped draw attention to medical libraries, and served as a liaison between NLM and other federal agencies, the biomedical community, private nonprofit organizations and universities.

Howard was also a driving force behind the creation of NLM's National Center for Biotechnology Information, which creates automated systems for storing and analyzing knowledge about molecular biology and genetics. She was also instrumental in the founding of a private organization, the Friends of the NLM, which supports library projects.



Frances H. Howard

"Fran Howard has been a dynamo," said NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg. "The nation, including the NLM, is much indebted to her for her tireless support of scientific hope for all who need it."

Many have benefited from Howard's advocacy. For a time, she was a foreign service officer at the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development. During her time with AID and the Office of the War on Hunger, she made more than 75 speeches during a 30-country tour on foreign aid.

Frances Humphrey graduated from George Washington University in 1937 with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. Five years later she married a classmate, Ray Howard. Both were intensely interested in health and social welfare issues, and she earned her master's in sociology while he went through medical school.

In 1941, she became First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's assistant for employee activities in the National Civil Defense Office. Mrs. Roosevelt was one of the most influential figures in Frances Humphrey Howard's life. Another with whom she had a special bond was her brother, the late Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Jr. She assisted in his political campaigns and, among other collaborations, joined with him to develop the Peace Corps program while she was an assistant at the International Cooperation Agency (later AID).

After she was widowed in 1967, Howard continued in her civil service and international efforts, receiving numerous citations, awards and honorary degrees. She worked for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now HHS) during the Nixon Administration and finally ended up at NLM.

She was a trendsetter in her time, pursuing a career and having a family. And she continued to break the mold in later life, working long past retirement age. As First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton remarked in a letter of congratulations on Howard's 85th birthday, "Young and old, rich and poor, healthy and infirm have benefited from Frances' strength, wisdom and resolve. She gives new meaning to the term 'the good citizen.'" ■

### Last-Minute Y2K Information

For information about NIH's overall readiness for the Y2K rollover weekend, visit the NIH Y2K Web site at <http://y2k.cit.nih.gov>. Questions may be emailed to [y2k@nih.gov](mailto:y2k@nih.gov).

CIT's customer support desk at 59-GO-CIT (594-6248) will be open the following expanded hours before and after Jan. 1, 2000.

Dates	Open	Close
Dec. 27-30	7 a.m.	8 p.m.
Dec. 31-Jan. 1	7 a.m.	8 p.m.
Jan. 2	8 a.m.	8 p.m.
Jan. 3	6 a.m.	9 p.m.
Jan. 4-7	7 a.m.	8 p.m.

### ORS Support

For police and fire assistance, contact the NIH Emergency Communications Center by dialing 911 for emergencies (on emergency phones with the 214-exchange, dial 115 for NIH Police and 116 for Fire or Rescue) and 496-5685 for nonemergencies. The NIH Police and Fire Departments will have additional staff for New Year's weekend.

Employees are requested to use normal reporting procedures for facilities-related issues over the New Year's weekend. To report facility-related problems to ORS 24 hours a day, use the following numbers:

North Campus & Poolesville	496-5083
South Campus	496-6484
Clinical Center	496-5862
Off-Campus Leased Facilities	496-1966

To learn more about ORS Y2K preparations, visit the Division of Engineering Services' Web site at <http://facilities.nih.gov>.

### OPM Honors Work/Life Center

NIH's Work and Family Life Center, directed by Corliss Taylor, has won the 1999 Office of Personnel Management Director's Award for Outstanding Work/Life Programs. The award was made Nov. 10 in a ceremony at OPM headquarters downtown. The NIH center was honored along with two other top-rated work/life programs—at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Defense Logistics Agency at Ft. Belvoir. The HHS Work/Life Center in Washington, D.C., won an honorable mention.

### Healthy Married Men, Women Needed

The Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch, NIMH, seeks men ages 56-73 and women ages 51-59 to participate in an fMRI study on the visual processing of faces. Participants must be right-handed and currently married. Volunteers should have no history of medical or psychiatric disorders, and should not be taking prescription medication (except hormone replacement therapy for women). 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.

CHOPPIN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

its main asset, Hughes Aircraft, to General Motors for about \$4 billion—to more than \$600 million in 1999.

“This is small compared to the NIH budget, but substantial in terms of private support,” he said.

While he juggled some lofty numbers—there were 170 billionaires in 1998, compared to only 13 in 1982, and private philanthropists, depending on which economists you believe, are poised to contribute anywhere from teens of trillions to many dozens of trillions to various good causes in the coming half century, he reported—Choppin leavened the dazzlement of sums with colorful tales of the institute’s benefactor, Howard Hughes Jr., who set himself four goals in life: to be the world’s richest man, the world’s most famous aviator, the best filmmaker and best golfer. In pursuit of the latter goal, Choppin reported, he hired helicopters to film his golf swing from above.

Choppin began his lecture on a light note, first thanking NIH profusely for its support of his career (he left multiple roles at Rockefeller University to take the leadership of HHMI, abandoning a grant from NIAID that was in its 23rd year) then exhibiting a tabloid headline from the Dec. 21, 1993, issue

**“The rapid descent (in private support of science) that began in the forties corresponds with the flowering of the NIH. The sense was that the government was doing such an effective job that foundations directed their resources elsewhere.”**

of *Weekly World News* announcing that Howard Hughes had been brought back to life. He then read a witty letter from the IRS, which had taken note of the headline and wanted Choppin to be aware of the tax consequences of such a resurrection.

“The IRS does have a sense of humor,” he observed in an accent giving away his roots in Louisiana.

While NIH is far and away the world’s largest supporter of biomedical research, with a just-won FY 2000 budget of almost \$18 billion, the government has not always been the principal funder of basic science. Choppin noted that in 1930, half of the financial support for medical research came from the private sector. By 1940, the private sector contributed only 27 percent of the total, a figure that dwindled to around 4 percent in 1980 and has remained in that vicinity ever since, he said.

“The rapid descent (in private support of science) that began in the forties corresponds with the



Dr. Purnell W. Choppin (l) accepts plaque commemorating his talk from NIHAA president Dr. William I. Gay.

flowering of the NIH,” he said. “The sense was that the government was doing such an effective job that foundations directed their resources elsewhere.”

The Hughes fortune was built on an innovative drill bit that combined three drill heads on one stem, and proved ideal in smashing through rock to get at oil. Howard Hughes Sr., who raced autos as a hobby, invented the tool and, rather than sell it to drillers, he leased it, assuring maximum profitability. His son Howard Jr. took over Hughes Tool Co. at age 18, and launched a Hollywood career while pursuing an interest in aviation. Two years later, he was prescient enough to dedicate his estate to medical research. At age 25, he made an award-winning film about World War II flying aces called *Hell’s Angels*. He later designed and built the H-1, a jet that introduced flush-rivet construction, and which broke both short course and trans-Atlantic speed records. It was only relatively late in life that the reclusive and mentally ill Hughes gained a darker public reputation among many Americans; Choppin asserts that 50 years from now, history will not recall him as a pitiful victim of “what was almost certainly obsessive-compulsive disorder,” but as the hero who founded HHMI in 1953.

Choppin touched on achievements HHMI is most proud of, including a grants program that debuted in 1987 and which was budgeted in 1999 at \$100 million, with programs reaching elementary schools, high schools, colleges and postdoctoral studies. “We have spent more than \$430 million in grants for undergraduate education, which is the largest private nonprofit initiative in support of education in the history of the United States,” he said. HHMI support of international scientists is particularly rewarding when the Hughes cachet around a given scientist prompts his or her government to commit additional research money to the work, Choppin noted.

Around this time each year, HHMI also holds

"Holiday Lectures," featuring prominent investigators whose talks before a live audience at Hughes headquarters on Connecticut Ave. are broadcast on the Web, Choppin said. "Three years ago, (Nobel laureate) Dr. Thomas Cech gave these lectures, and in January he will take over presidency of the institute."

Choppin said HHMI "will continue to play an important role in private support of biomedicine. But pluralism of support is important in making this country the envy of the world in graduate education and biomedical research."

He said HHMI's flexibility allows it to move more rapidly than the government can in newly emerging fields such as structural biology. In 1985-1986, "within 11 months we got an advisory committee together on structural biology, solicited applications, identified leading laboratories, and funded beamline studies. It's very difficult for any government to move that rapidly."

He said Hughes has staying power in fields that are particularly intransigent, and mentioned 9 years of work on the leptin gene by an HHMI scientist as evidence of the institute's ability "to support people rather than projects."

HHMI also has spent \$270 million since 1984 on new laboratory construction, and \$85 million in renovations. "About 7 percent of the HHMI budget is devoted to equipment now," Choppin added.

He recalled a frightening visit by staff from the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment not long after he assumed presidency of HHMI. "They asked me, 'What is it the federal government can stop doing now that you're here?' I assured them that we were no substitute."

Choppin said he is especially pleased when his institute can work directly with NIH, as in the Cloister program here on campus, or in a program that trains Montgomery County science teachers on campus, or when Hughes money filled a gap in an NIH mouse genome sequencing project at Washington University.

The lecture ended with a brief question session, during which it emerged that more than 70 percent of HHMI investigators also hold NIH grants. ■

### Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Jeffrey Friedman on Jan. 12, 2000. He is professor, laboratory of molecular genetics, Rockefeller University, and will speak on "Leptin and Regulation of Body Weight."

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

### NLM's Spann Retires After 35 Years of Service

Dr. Melvin L. Spann, associate director for specialized information services (SIS) at the National Library of Medicine, recently retired from the library, where he worked since 1976, after 35 years of government service.

SIS is responsible for information coverage and services for several areas, including toxicology and environmental health, HIV/AIDS, and directories to other information resources concerning health and biomedicine.

"During his tenure, Mel Spann was responsible for the evolution of a variety of important computer-based files at the NLM," remarked NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg. "TOXLINE, of course, is the oldest and largest. He vigorously pushed for the development of training aids, both conventional and microcomputer-based."

These two interests came together when Spann was asked to establish and direct NLM's toxicology information outreach project to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). This program was designed to increase the capacity of HBCUs to train medical and other health professionals to utilize NLM's toxicological, environmental and hazardous wastes information resources.

"I couldn't think of an individual who would be better qualified for that assignment than Mel Spann," Lindberg noted. "First, he had the scientific background—he was trained in chemistry, toxicology and information retrieval. Second, he had developed and nurtured the very specialized databases that are being used in the project. And third, he had demonstrated an acute awareness of and concern for the plight of those Americans whose health was most at risk from pollution and environmental hazardous waste."

Spann joined NLM in 1976 as a chemist/information specialist. Two years later, he was appointed chief of the SIS Biomedical Information Services Branch, a position he held until becoming NLM associate director for SIS in 1995.

He received the NIH Merit Award in 1978 and the NIH Director's Award in 1984. He received the Outstanding Manager Award from the NIH chapter of Blacks in Government in 1987 for his "outstanding record of commitment to career mobility for minorities and women, acting as a mentor and role model for the next generation of employees." And he was presented with NLM's Phillip C. Coleman Award in 1995 "for continuing leadership through mentoring, dedication, and commitment to the goals of NLM." ■



*At his retirement party, Dr. Mel Spann (r) accepts a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, and a commendation for his federal service from President Clinton, from NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg (l) as NLM Deputy Director Kent A. Smith signals his approval.*

## NIGMS' Shafer Retires After 25 Years of Service

By Susan Athey

Dr. W. Sue Shafer, deputy director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, recently retired after 25 years of government service, most of which were spent at NIGMS. At the time of her retirement, she was also director of the NIGMS Division of Extramural Activities, a position she had held since 1989.

"Sue Shafer has been an essential part of this institute for so long that it is very difficult to



*Dr. W. Sue Shafer*

imagine life without her," said Dr. Marvin Cassman, NIGMS director. "Her official duties were only a small part of her contributions to NIGMS. Perhaps even more valuable was her ability to deal with problems—any problems—in an intelligent and often unexpected way. We will all miss her presence, both personally and professionally."

Shafer, who identified herself as "the first person hired by Dr. Ruth Kirschstein when she became director of NIGMS," came to NIH in 1974 as a health scientist administrator in the Cellular and Molecular Basis of Disease Program of NIGMS. In 1978, she became chief of the instrumentation section of the NIGMS Physiology and Biomedical Engineering Program. Her section's mission was enlarged in 1980 to include biomedical engineering. During her tenure in this position, Shafer assisted with the development of the NIGMS Shared Instrumentation Program, which provided funds for the purchase or upgrade of major analytical research instruments that might not be justifiable for a single project, but that could serve several projects on a shared basis. This highly successful program has served as a model for similar initiatives at NIH and elsewhere.

In 1983, Shafer joined what is now the National Center for Research Resources as chief of the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation. She directed activities that led to the creation of a new section within the Animal Resources Program to support biological models and materials needed for biomedical research, and she completed evaluations of the Biomedical Research Support Grant Program and the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program, which has since moved to NIGMS.

In 1987, feeling she was moving "too far away from the science," Shafer moved to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, serving first as deputy director of the Division of Basic

Research and then as the division's acting director. While at NIAAA, Shafer assisted with the setup of the Division of Prevention and Treatment and the extramural arm of the Division of Epidemiology. She also helped to launch a major program that examined the genetics of alcoholism.

"All of us at NIAAA remember Dr. Shafer's contributions to our science program, especially her role in shaping our successful 10-year-old Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism," noted Dr. Enoch Gordis, NIAAA director.

Shafer returned to NIGMS in 1989 as director of the Division of Extramural Activities. Under her leadership, the division established a National Research Service Award Payback Service Center that serves several NIH components. In 1997, she was named NIGMS' deputy director.

Throughout her government career, Shafer worked to increase the number of minority and female scientists engaged in biomedical research. She made significant accomplishments in reshaping the institute's minority programs and their funding mechanisms. "Watching other people grow and succeed has been the most rewarding part of each of my jobs," Shafer noted.

During her tenure at NIH, Shafer became widely recognized by members of the NIH community and by her peers in the extramural community for her contributions to both NIGMS, and NIH as a whole.

"Sue Shafer was a very creative scientific administrator, and was highly esteemed by scientists in the academic community and by all of us at NIH," said Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, NIH deputy director. "I will miss her deeply as a colleague, a dear friend, and as one of the nicest people I know."

Shafer represented NIGMS as a member of the NIH extramural program management committee and served on numerous other NIH committees.

Among her numerous honors are a DHHS Executive Management Award, two NIH Director's Awards, an NIH Quality of Work Life Award, and most recently a Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award.

Although she has officially retired from government service, Shafer has not retired from scientific leadership and grants administration. She left NIH for the University of California, San Francisco, where she will serve as assistant vice chancellor for research administration. She said the two things she will miss most about NIH, and NIGMS in particular, as she ventures to a new life on the West Coast are the people she has worked with over the years and a sense of contributing to something important at the national level. ■

### NLM Tour Time Changes

The National Library of Medicine's 1 p.m. public tour (offered Monday-Friday, except on federal holidays) will have a new starting time, effective Jan. 1, 2000. The new time for these 1-hour tours will be 1:30 p.m. Tours of the library originate in the NLM Visitors Center on the first floor of Bldg. 38A (the Lister Hill Center). They include a video-taped introduction to the library and its programs, a demonstration of the MEDLINE and MEDLINEplus databases, and a walking tour of the reading room, computer room and other points of interest. For more information, contact Melanie Modlin, 496-7771, mm354i@nih.gov.

### CSR's Nabeeh Mourad Retires

Dr. Nabeeh Mourad has retired from the federal government after 25 years of service, primarily at NIH. Since 1986, he has been at the Center for Scientific Review, where he was scientific review administrator of special study section 4 in the immunological sciences integrated review group. This section reviews small business innovative research grant applications as well as other specialized applications in the areas of immunology, virology, immunochemistry, oncogenesis, mathematical modeling of immunological systems and regional equipment resources.

Prior to joining CSR, Mourad was scientific review administrator of a contract review committee in the National Cancer Institute from 1983 to 1986; and coordinator of the hematology and pathology section of the Food and Drug Administration's Division of Clinical Devices from 1980 to 1983. Before that, he spent 8 years as director of a clinical laboratory, followed by 5 years as a chemist



Dr. Nabeeh Mourad

with the FDA.

Mourad received a Ph.D. in pharmacy and biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. Then as a postdoctoral student in biochemistry at Brown University, he became the first person to crystallize the alcohol dehydrogenase enzyme from human liver, and published the results. Following his postdoctoral experiences, he worked with the American Red Cross as an independent research scientist. There he discovered that platelet concentrates could be maintained for up to 4 days at room temperature without damage; previously, more than 20 percent of platelets given to patients were damaged during refrigerated preparation.

Mourad has enjoyed his position at CSR, and feels that he has contributed significantly to the scientific community. He leaves NIH with mixed feelings. He will miss the daily contact with colleagues and friends, but can now concentrate on his hobbies and interests in wine making, painting, gardening, swimming, traveling and the stock market. ■

### Record Goes on Hiatus

This is the last *NIH Record* of 1999. Next deadline is Dec. 28 for the Jan. 11, 2000 issue. We wish all our readers the happiest of holiday seasons. ■

### OD's Ed Driscoll Ends Long NIH Career

Edward "Ed" Driscoll, special assistant to the NIH associate director for communications and public liaison, retired Nov. 1 after more than 27 years of federal service. Previously he was chief of the Editorial Operations Branch, OD, since 1986 and assistant branch chief for 10 years before that.

"I found my position in the information field to be most rewarding. NIH is at the forefront of biomedical research and I could keep abreast of the latest developments in medicine," he remarked.

Driscoll began his NIH career in April 1971 as a staff writer on the *NIH Record*. With the exception of a 2-year break in private industry, he was in the same office—Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03—for his entire career. He left NIH in 1974 and returned in 1976 as assistant chief of the EOB.

Previously he served with the U.S. Naval Air Reserves from 1965 to 1970 and spent a year with the U.S. Postal Service from 1964 to 1965.

Driscoll graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970 with a double major—journalism and English. He also did graduate work in public relations at American University. He was an official with the Frederick County Umpires Association for 5 years.

He will settle in southern Maryland near Point Lookout. "I hope to do a lot of fishing—I will be able to walk out my back door and drop a line in the Potomac," he said. ■

### Clinical Teacher Award, Dec. 15

The NIH fellows committee will announce the winner of this year's Clinical Teacher's Award during haltime (around 12:30 p.m.) of Clinical Center Grand Rounds on Wednesday, Dec. 15 in Bldg. 10's Lipsett Amphitheater. The committee believes that the award symbolizes the emphasis of clinical research at NIH and urges all clinical staff and fellows at each institute to attend. ■



Edward "Ed" Driscoll



Newly retired Driscoll and his wife, Pam, enjoy the Potomac, just offshore from their new home.

## NIH Mourns Death of Gail Jacoby

By Vicki Cahan

Gail Jacoby, 50, chief of planning at the National Institute on Aging, died Nov. 26 as a result of injuries sustained in an airplane crash. She was killed along with her husband, Dr. Itzhak Jacoby of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and formerly of NIH, and their 13-year-old daughter, Atira. The family was returning home in a private aircraft after visiting their elder daughter Orit and son-in-law in the New York/New Jersey area.

Jacoby, director of the Office of Planning, Analysis, and Evaluation, headed NIA's ongoing efforts to prioritize and evaluate its research program. At the time of her death, she was directing preparation of a strategic plan for the institute and was working with researchers and interest groups to help forge

a consensus of where the agency's research program should be directed.

Itzhak Jacoby was professor and director, Division of Health Services Administration at USUHS. An expert in health services management and policy, he was deputy director and director of the Office of Medical Applications of Research at NIH from 1981 through 1988.

News of the Jacobys' sudden deaths shocked and saddened their colleagues around NIA and NIH. NIA staffers gathered informally upon return from the Thanksgiving holidays Nov. 29 to remember Gail Jacoby, her professional accomplishments and her ever-positive outlook. Dr. Terrie Wetle, NIA deputy director, recounted Jacoby's efforts "to make more rational the NIA planning process and calendar," noting her talents as a "superb science writer" and analyst of NIA's wide-ranging research program. "Gail Jacoby," Wetle said, "was a good woman. She was generous, patient, tireless and sincerely devoted to NIA and her colleagues here."

Dr. Richard Hodes, NIA director, expressed his and all of NIA's "extreme sorrow" upon Jacoby's death. "Gail earned the deepest respect and affection from all of us who had the privilege of knowing her and working with her. She set the highest standards for herself and was without peer in her energy and her commitment to the mission of NIA and NIH. We will miss her greatly."

In memory of Jacoby, the Office of Science Policy in the NIH Office of the Director is establishing the Gail Jacoby Award, to be made annually in recognition of an outstanding contribution by an NIH staff person to some aspect of planning, policy or evaluation at NIH. Dr. Lana Skirboll, NIH associate director for science policy, in announcing the award, called Jacoby a "trusted colleague and a vital member" of the NIH planning community. "She was a critical thinker, perceptive and always saw the big

picture. We could always count on Gail to provide thoughtful and practical advice on a variety of issues. Gail was also a friend both to me and to many of us in the policy and planning community."

Jacoby began her career at NIH in 1971 as a federal service management intern. She was appointed a year later to program analyst at NHLBI, and then joined NIA in 1975, in the institute's first year of operation. In 1979, she went to what was then NIAMD, where she eventually had primary responsibility for its program planning and development activities as a special assistant and deputy director of its planning operations. For a year, 1984-1985, she was detailed to the Office of the NIH Director to work on the DHHS task force on Black and minority health.

In December 1987, Jacoby returned to NIA, where she became chief of the institute's planning office and supervisor of an expanding staff to manage and define NIA policy and programs. In that role, she touched the working lives of just about everybody at NIA, pulling together information from their programs, making sure that it made sense and was consistent with the goals not only of NIA, but also of NIH, the department, the administration and Congress. All the while, Wetle said, Jacoby "always noted the contributions of her staff and deeply appreciated the unique contribution that each had to make."

The recipient of a number of awards, Jacoby was recently cited by NIA "for improvements and innovations" in the NIA research planning process, specifically for identifying longer range opportunities and analyzing these proposals for scientific merit. In 1992, Jacoby and her planning office team received the NIH Merit Award for their planning efforts within NIA and NIH.

She graduated from Cornell University and received her masters in public administration from George Washington University. She was born and raised in Newark, N.J.

Jacoby was known for her love of music and her involvement in choral activities around NIH and the Bethesda community, where she lived. Gifted with a strong singing voice, she was a leader in the NIH Chamber Singers, involved in regular performances on campus. NIA staffers recall often catching her in a melodious whistle or hum while she moved quickly about the C-wing's 5th floor.

Said Wetle, "Perhaps the thing that gave Gail the most joy was her own music; singing with the NIH chamber group was a gift she gave herself and others. I would like to think that if we could hear angels sing, Gail's voice would now make that harmony just a little bit sweeter."

NIA will announce plans for a public remembrance of Gail Jacoby soon after the New Year. ■



*Gail Jacoby will be remembered at a special concert next spring dedicated to her memory, according to Dr. Jaylan Turkkan, founder of the NIH Chamber Singers, of which Jacoby was a member.*



### HRDD Training Tips

The Human Resource Development Division, OHRM, will offer the courses below. Hands-on, self-study, personal computer training courses are available through the HRDD's User Resource Center at no cost to NIH employees. For details, visit HRDD online at <http://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov/> or call 496-6211.

<i>Administrative Systems</i>	
Domestic Travel	1/24
Foreign Travel	1/27
Basic Time and Attendance Using ITAS	2/7
<i>Communication Skills</i>	
Scientific and Medical Writing	1/25
<i>Computer Applications and Concepts</i>	
Introduction to MS Excel 98 Office 98	1/26
Intermediate Excel 97 Office 97	2/2
<i>Career Transition</i>	
Mid-Career Benefits and Financial Planning	1/24
<i>Financial &amp; Procurement Management</i>	
Budget Formulation	1/24
<i>Management, Supervision &amp; Professional Development</i>	
Congressional Update	2/3

HRDD is also offering the following online graduate courses through the University of Maryland University College. These courses will run from Jan. 29-May 15 and are worth three credit hours.

Research Methods for Managers  
 The Manager in the Technological Society  
 Organizational Leadership and Decision-Making  
 Legal Aspects of Contracting  
 Organizational Communication  
 Financial Decision-Making for Managers

### Chamber Singers Seek Males

The NIH Chamber Singers is seeking more male singers, especially basses. The NIH Chamber Singers is a small *a cappella* singing group that has been serenading appreciative audiences at NIH for almost 10 years. The group sings a wide variety of music from madrigals to jazz and occasionally joins forces with the NIH Orchestra and other local singers to perform classical pieces from opera or other large choral masterworks. Two or three concerts are prepared each year and are generally repeated three times at various locations around the NIH campus from Masur to Natcher to the 14th floor of Bldg. 10.

For more information and audio highlights from past performances, visit the group's Web site, <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/chamber/default.htm>. The group rehearses from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through most of the year. For audition information, contact Esteban Ballestar, 496-4045 or [eb123b@nih.gov](mailto:eb123b@nih.gov). ■

### CIT Computer Classes

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

Incorporating Outlook 2000 into Daily Operations	12/15
Troubleshooting PC Hardware	12/16
LISTSERV Electronic Mailing Lists	12/20
Genetics Computer Group (GCG) Sequence Analysis	12/21-23
MATLAB 5 - Matrix Laboratory	1/4,6,7
Visual Basic for Programmers	1/5
Introduction to Information Systems Security	1/5
Electronic Forms Users Group	1/5
Good Web Page Practices	1/6
Active Server Pages Workshop	1/6-7
Video on the NIHnet	1/7
C Language Fundamentals	1/10-14
SAS Programming Fundamentals I	1/11-12
Java Servlets	1/13
Introduction to JavaScript Programming	1/18
SAS Programming Fundamentals II	1/18-19
Advanced Sequence Analysis Using GCG	1/19-20
Account Sponsor Orientation	1/20
Parachute for Windows 95/98	1/20
Windows 2000	1/21



*Dr. Anne Schaffner, a former biologist in the NINDS Laboratory of Neurophysiology, is now a scientific review administrator in the Center for Scientific Review. In her new position, she is managing the peer review of research grant applications in the molecular, cellular, and developmental neurosciences integrated review group. Her research expertise involves fluorescence-activated cell sorting and analysis*

*of embryonic neurons; astrocyte effects on developing neurons; and chemical signals involved in neuronal migration. In 1984, Schaffner became a member of the NINDS animal care and use committee, and has chaired the committee since 1994. She has also been actively involved in local communities, encouraging students to pursue careers in science, and has participated in the last three NIH Take Your Children to Work days.*

### Overweight Teen?

Parents, consider enrolling your teen in an NICHHD study of a promising weight loss medication. The FDA has approved the study drug Orlistat for use with adults. NIH provides all study tests, medication and weight-control education at no charge. Overweight teens age 12-17 who can attend weekly weight-control meetings may be eligible. Call for more information: 1-800-411-1222. ■

### FasTrac To Come to NIH

FasTrac provides computer-based training for software and professional development skills right from your desktop. Access is through your computer over the Internet anytime, anywhere, at any stage of your career. Select courses from a library of more than 700 programs. Official study guides are available for Microsoft, Netscape, Novell and Oracle certification exams. Selected courses are approved for college degree and CEU credit. Ask a question anytime, anywhere—online subject matter experts are available 24 hours a day. For more information, call 496-6211.

## Community Enjoys Health Forum

Attendees at the second annual "Share the Health: An Exposition of Health Resources from NIH to Its Neighbors" on Nov. 6 were treated to a wealth of knowledge from NIH's many resources at the Natcher Conference Center. The day kicked off



On hand for the health forum were (from l) Dr. Judith Fradkin of NIDDK, Dr. Gilman Grave of NICHD, NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, and Rep. Connie Morella.

with a welcome from Janyce Hedetniemi, director of the Office of Community Liaison, and greetings from NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein. Rep. Connie Morella, the keynote speaker, encouraged participants to take advantage of NIH's resources, which could be found "in their own backyard."

Seminars were offered by Dr. Paul Plotz of NIAMS on arthritis, Dr. Steven Warach of NINDS and Dr. Gene Passamani of Suburban Hospital on the NIH/ Suburban Hospital MRI Stroke Center, Dr. Judith Fradkin of NIDDK on diabetes, and Dr. Gilman Grave of NICHD on nutrition. Exhibitors from various NIH institutes and offices provided useful brochures and



Morella greets visitors Kenneth and Frances Nathanson of Bethesda.

information to event participants. Visitors were also able to engage in dance and movement with the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. An information resources room provided tutorials on NIH Web sites and a demonstration of the new clinical trials database.

The Office of Community Liaison thanks all of the institutes and offices that participated in this event and the many individuals who volunteered their time to make the health forum a success.

Melanie Modlin (l) of NLM assists a health forum participant.



Barbara Rodbell, widow of the late Nobelist Dr. Martin Rodbell, cuts the ribbon to open an NIH exhibit featuring her husband's prize-winning research. The exhibit, located next to the Visitor Information Center in Bldg. 10, is a joint effort of Dr. Allen Spiegel (l), now NIDDK director; Dr. Victoria Harden (second from l), NIH historian; and Dr. Constantine Londos (r) of NIDDK's Laboratory of Cellular and Developmental Biology, who was a colleague and close friend of Rodbell's. While working at NIH in the 1960's and 1970's, Rodbell identified the process of G protein signal transduction, which won him and NIH grantee Dr. Alfred Gilman the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1994. Rodbell died on Dec. 7, 1998, shortly after retiring as scientific director of NIEHS. Spiegel and Londos sponsored the permanent exhibit as a way to explain to the visiting public the significance of Rodbell's long and productive career at NIH. A symposium, "G Proteins and Transmembrane Signaling: A Tribute to Martin Rodbell" in Masur Auditorium, which preceded the Nov. 5 ribbon-cutting, drew a standing-room-only crowd.

### STEP Session on Stem Cells

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) presents "Stem Cells: Nature's Repair Shop," a Science for All session on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000, in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The featured speakers planned are: Dr. Lana Skirboll, NIH associate director for science policy, and Dr. Eric Meslin, executive director of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

It's hard to pick up a newspaper today without seeing a headline about stem cells. What are they? Why are they causing so much interest and controversy? Why are scientists excited about them and ethicists concerned? Attendees at this STEP Science for All will learn the latest developments and the profound biomedical implications of stem cell research as well as the challenging ethical controversies.

All NIH employees are invited to attend. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Inform the STEP office about any need for sign language interpretation or reasonable accommodation by Jan. 6. For more information call 435-2769. ■