

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

'Nature's Repair Shop'

Promise, Science of Stem Cell Research Explored

By Carla Garnett

Science magazine called it the "breakthrough of the year" in its Dec. 17, 1999 issue. Within the last 18 months or so, scientists had discovered the promise of human stem cells to treat or cure perhaps hundreds of life-threatening illnesses. Imagine, for example, a person whose heart is so diseased or damaged that an organ transplant is necessary. Donor organs, however, are rare, and donor hearts among the rarest to find in time to save a person's life. In addition, organ transplantation carries the risk of rejection by the patient's body, further diminishing the chances for survival. But what if doctors could somehow use cells to grow the patient a brand new, disease-free heart, and what if that new heart were made of the patient's own cells, thereby lessening chances of rejection? Though scientists say advanced applications like this are years away from being realized, the potential for such therapy is real now—with stem cell research. Human stem cell science, however, comes with a price, and many believe the price is too high, morally and ethically. Recently, a STEP Science for All session presented "Stem Cells: Nature's Repair Shop," which helped explain the science and some of its implications to the NIH community.

The Science of Stem Cells

Stem cell science begins with "sex 101," joked Dr. Lana Skirboll, NIH associate director for science policy, and one of two guest speakers at the STEP session. An egg is fertilized by sperm. From that fertilization, an embryo begins to form; a group of cells begins to divide, producing

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NIH Employees Celebrate Life, Legacy of Martin Luther King

By Sharon Ricks

It was 11:39 a.m. The Masur auditorium was crammed to capacity. Seventy-five students from Prince George's County's Largo High School stood like statues in the aisles. They were draped in blue and gray choir robes. A cue from the director launched their words into the air: "We give alleluia." They sang like Martin Luther King was backstage.

Then it was time to remember, and NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander offered a stirring, first-hand account of segregation in American society. The setting was Baltimore. The time was 1954, and the story of his family's reaction to Brown vs. Board of Education captured everyone's attention, everyone that is, except for the 3- and 4-year-olds from the NIH day care on the first couple of rows.



Former U.S. Congressman Ronald Dellums speaks at MLK program.

They were restless, they had to eat, and they had to use the bathroom. Finally, they took the stage, swaying back and forth. With a little music and lots of personality, they stole the show. But not for long, because Richard Jackson, an actor and HHS employee, was next in the spotlight.

The tall, heavyset African American sat behind black jail bars and brilliantly depicted King writing a letter from Birmingham jail. The Largo

students were partially right: King was on stage, at least for the next 7 minutes, in the person of Jackson.

Then the lights came on, and NIDA's Richard C. Harrison walked on stage wearing the authentic ceremonial dress for the Osage tribe's I-Lon-Schka ceremony. Nine NIH'ers followed. Some wore their own ethnic clothing. On stage they spoke

SEE KING COMMEMORATION, PAGE 6



Dr. Laura K. Moen recently joined NIGMS as a scientific review administrator in the Office of Scientific Review, where she will manage the review of selected research training, program project, and center grant applications. She will also assist in the review of applications to the NIGMS Minority Biomedical Research Support Branch. She is a biochemist who comes to NIGMS from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, where she was an associate professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry. Her research interests revolved around characterizing the mechanisms and function of the HTLV-1, HTLV-2 and HIV reverse transcriptases. She conducted postdoctoral research at Oregon State University and at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine under a fellowship from the University of California task force on AIDS.

2000 Women's Health Seminar Series Marks ORWH 10th Anniversary

The Office of Research on Women's Health will kick off the 2000 Women's Health Seminar Series at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17 in the Natcher Auditorium, Bldg. 45. The seminar will focus on AIDS in women, examining epidemiology and control, perinatal transmission, treatment and prevention. Speakers will include Dr. Neal Nathanson, NIH associate director for AIDS research; Dr. J. Brooks Jackson, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Victoria A. Cargill, NIH Office of AIDS Research; and Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, Family Health International. The program will conclude with a question-and-answer session.

The program will be telecast on the Mbone. For information on how to access the seminar through this venue, visit www.net.nih.gov/video/ipmulticast.html.

This year's seminar series marks ORWH's 10th anniversary and a decade of progress in women's health research. The next ORWH seminars include diabetes in women at 1 p.m. on June 15 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10; stress in women on Sept. 21 and brain and heart attacks in women on Dec. 7. For more information on the seminar series, call 402-1770. ■

Managing Workplace Violence

The NIH director has established CIVIL, a coordinated NIH resource that is now available to help the community prevent and respond to workplace threats and violence. In case of a violent situation involving immediate danger, dial 911, if on campus or dial 9-911, if off-campus.

Call CIVIL (C-I-V-I-L or 402-4845) if: you need help assessing the potential seriousness of a threatening situation; you are experiencing a threatening situation at work and need intervention from trained staff; you become aware of a workplace situation involving intimidating, harassing or other unproductive/dangerous behaviors and need consultation; or a situation involving threats or aggressive acts has already occurred and you need assistance managing the aftermath and its effect on staff. ■

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. ■

NIMH Logo Honored

The new NIMH logo received *Print Magazine's* regional design annual award for 1999. Among the approximately 4,000 submissions for the Washington/Baltimore region, *Print Magazine* selected 72 designs, which were featured in the magazine's September/October issue.

NIMH
National Institute
of Mental Health

"We're very pleased that *Print Magazine* showcased the NIMH design," said Clarissa Wittenberg, director, NIMH Office of Communications and Public Liaison. "This is one of the most prestigious contests in the design and advertising communities, so the award is an honor."

Print Magazine, which debuted in 1946, began its regional design annual in 1981 to recognize quality productions across the nation, displayed by locale rather than by category. Their Web site is at <http://www.printmag.com>. ■

Healthy Youngsters Sought

The Child Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, is looking for healthy girls and boys between the ages of 5-15 to participate in an ongoing MRI study. Volunteers must not wear braces or have any psychiatric disorders such as ADHD or learning disabilities. The study will require 2-3 visits to NIH, including the MRI scan on a Tuesday evening. Participants will be paid and receive a souvenir picture of their brain. For more information contact Maureen Tobin at 435-4518. ■

N I H R E C O R D

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NINDS Sponsors Technical Neuro-AIDS Workshop

NINDS recently sponsored a workshop to introduce a new funding mechanism that focuses on the neurological complications of AIDS. The purpose of the workshop was to provide technical assistance to investigators interested in applying for and managing awards from the new initiative called "Specialized Neuroscience Research Programs on Health Disparity: HIV and the Nervous System (neuro-AIDS SNRP)."

The initiative was created to augment and strengthen the research capabilities of faculty, students and fellows at minority institutions by supporting the development of new, or the enhancement of ongoing, basic and clinical neuro-AIDS-related research projects and programs, and by developing their necessary infrastructures.

At the 2-day workshop, held in Baltimore, researchers learned about the new initiative and were encouraged to collaborate with NIH-supported neuro-AIDS investigators, researchers at minority institutions and health-care providers.

"NINDS wants to improve the health status of Americans who are at an increased risk for AIDS and neurological complications associated with HIV infection, and to eliminate the health disparity those affected with AIDS often experience," said Dr. Alfred Gordon, director of NINDS's Office of Special Programs in Neuroscience. According to the lead administrator of neuro-AIDS SNRP, Dr. Joana Rosario, "Focused research and research career development programs such as the neuro-AIDS SNRP are intended to achieve those objectives."

Although awards under this initiative are exploratory and intended to enhance pilot neuro-AIDS research projects, NINDS program directors also expect the funded projects to help advance national efforts to disseminate medical information and



Dr. Alfred Gordon (r), director of the Office of Special Programs in Neuroscience, NINDS, greets workshop speakers (from l) Dr. Allan Noonan, senior advisor in the Office of the Surgeon General, and Dr. John Griffin, chair of the department of neurology at Johns Hopkins University.

technologies that will better serve the health needs of the public on this disease. Institutions that develop successful research programs under the neuro-AIDS SNRP initiative will receive additional support to help them create more intensive and larger research studies aimed at reducing the national burden of HIV and AIDS.

Workshop speakers included Dr. John Griffin, chairman of the department of neurology at Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Allan Noonan, senior advisor in the Office of the Surgeon General, who shared national data on several diseases, including AIDS and stroke; and NINDS deputy director Dr. Audrey Penn, who gave opening remarks.

Attending the workshop were representatives from six minority institutions including the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Florida A&M University, Howard University, Meharry Medical College, the University of Hawaii and the University of Puerto Rico.—Shannon E. Garnett ■

Healthy Mothers Needed

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

Egwuagu To Deliver BSA Black History Month Lecture, Feb. 15

In honor of Black History Month, the NIH Black Scientists Association will sponsor a scientific seminar as part of its "Science Working for Us Seminar Series." The seminar, "Uveitis: Susceptibility and Immunopathogenic Mechanisms," will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 15 in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10 at 10:30 a.m. and will be presented by Dr. Charles E. Egwuagu, a PHS commander and senior investigator, who heads the molecular immunology section, Laboratory of Immunology, National Eye Institute. This seminar is cosponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Sign language interpretation will be available. All are welcome. ■

Volunteers Needed To Record Scientific Texts

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic of Metropolitan Washington is setting up a recording booth in Bldg. 31 for the convenience of NIH employees. Local students who have visual, learning or other physical disabilities urgently need taped versions of their science textbooks. NIH's Broadcast Services Office is providing studio time to RFB&D from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays when NIH scientists, mathematicians and others can come to record. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, contact Chris Smith at (202) 244-8990 or ccsmith@rfd.org for information and to sign up for upcoming orientation sessions.

Hooven Returns to NIH as NICHD Executive Officer

By Robert Bock

Put the talents of the people who work for you to the best possible use. This is one of the guiding managerial principles of Tom Hooven, the new executive officer at NICHD. He learned this principle, however, not in the corridors of industry or government, but on the ball field. An avowed sports fan, Hooven is a founding member of the Washington area Ponce de Leon Baseball League, a weekend league for men over 30.

"Everyone has a talent," said Hooven, who plays shortstop for his team. "Managers need to balance the talents of their employees with their own needs and the needs of the organization."

Although he spent much of his career at NIH, Hooven joined NICHD from the Environmental Protection Agency. There he served as deputy director of the Office of Program Management Operations in the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances. In his former position, he provided management and support services to an organization of 1,500 people in Washington, D.C., and across 10 regional offices spanning the U.S.

Hooven said that a basic fact—either on the baseball team or in the workplace—is that people need to work together to accomplish a goal. Managers' chances for attaining their goals are greatest when they can fit their employees' talents and abilities to the tasks at hand. A large part of assessing employees' capabilities involves simply talking with them, and getting to know them. Similarly, Hooven said he encourages staff members to come to him not only with their problems, but also with their ideas.

"An open door policy is the best policy," he said. "You never know when someone is going to come into your office with a great idea. But you do know that will never happen if your door—or your mind—is closed."

Hooven holds a bachelor's degree in information systems management and a master's degree in public administration, both from the University of Maryland.

After a brief career in private industry as a computer analyst, Hooven returned to the University of Maryland and completed his master's degree, which combined his interests in leisure services, public administration and computer sciences.

After graduation, Hooven both taught at Maryland and ran the university's recreational facilities, while also running a community center in Bowie. Eventually, he joined NCI, where he used his administrative and computer skills to improve management reporting. He also worked with epidemiologists on surveillance data registries. Hooven later advanced to an administrative officer's position at that institute, served in its budget office, and then moved

to the NIH Office of the Director, in grants policy and analysis. He also worked with DCRT (now CIT) staff to bring personal computers into NIH's mainstream operations.

In reflecting on his tenure at NCI, Hooven mentioned an acquaintance he made with Kim Barber, who worked in the NCI administrative office.

"I spent a lot of time asking her about parking permits and anything else I could think of, just to have an excuse to talk to her," Hooven said. Eventually, his efforts paid off. The two later married and now have two daughters, ages 3 and 12.

"A sound management infrastructure is an integrated system," Hooven said. "It's analogous to the heart and lungs of the organization—doing what it needs to do to supply the essentials. The scientists shouldn't be overburdened by infrastructure. They need to focus on and advance our knowledge of diseases and put their considerable energies into reducing human suffering. It's a team approach and a common goal. That's what NIH is about and why I returned." ■

NIAMS Council Gains Four

Four new members were recently named to the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Advisory Council. They are Chris Allen, president and CEO of Family Road Care Centers in Detroit; Dr. John P. Atkinson, professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; Dr. Paul R. Bergstresser, professor and chair of the department of dermatology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas; and Jean Mandeville of Minneapolis, an advocate for increased public awareness of and medical research for bone diseases.

Allen oversees the development of a national outcome evaluation program at each center to measure morbidity and mortality of high-risk maternal and child health populations.

The goal of Atkinson's research is to further understanding of the origins of autoimmunity; for the past decade, his laboratory has focused on characterizing complement receptors and complement regulatory proteins.

Bergstresser's research focuses on the effects of ultraviolet B radiation on immunity in skin. He is a member of many professional societies, and is the former editor-in-chief of *Photodermatology*, *Photoimmunology*, and *Photomedicine*.

Mandeville is the parent of a young adult with osteogenesis imperfecta and has served as president, board member and chairman of the research and advocacy committee of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation. ■



New NICHD executive officer Tom Hooven notes, "You might say I grew up with the information age. I've watched it progress from punch cards to the Internet."

Slavkin To Leave NIDCR in July

Dr. Harold Slavkin, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, will resign his position in July 2000. He joined the institute in August 1995 on an extended leave of absence from the University of Southern California, where he served as director of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology. He will return to Los Angeles to become dean of USC's School of Dentistry, his alma mater.

As NIDCR's sixth director, he spearheaded many advances during his tenure, including the development of an institute strategic plan, "Facing the Future," which formulates several initiatives to be realized over 5 years. Under the plan, the institute has continued to expand its research portfolio, which includes areas of study as diverse as oral cancer, the genetic causes of craniofacial defects, the link between oral and systemic disease, and biomimetics and tissue engineering.

Slavkin restructured the institute's extramural and intramural programs to align their components with NIDCR's major areas of scientific interest, ensuring that the programs are able to take full advantage of new research opportunities. Additionally, he expanded the use of research centers, creating six Centers of Discovery, where multidisciplinary teams of scientists address research problems by integrating basic, clinical and behavioral sciences with



NIDCR director Dr. Harold Slavkin holds the "Freddie" statue awarded to the institute for its film "Openwide: Celebrating 50 Years at the NIDR." Time Inc. Health honored "Openwide" with a first prize—the coveted "Freddie"—in the category of dentistry at the 1999 International Health & Medical Film Competition. Designed to elicit a feeling of excitement about

research, the film presents images in a fast-paced format and features comments by Slavkin; Dr. Robert Ledley, a dentist and inventor of the whole body CT scanner; Walter Cronkite, renowned news anchor, whose father and grandfather were dentists; and Ruth Kanthula, a college student pursuing a career in science. The film premiered at the institute's 50th anniversary celebration held at the National Building Museum in June 1998.

epidemiology, technology transfer, and public and professional education.

He appointed a panel that produced a plan for ensuring the education and training of outstanding oral health researchers for the 21st century, created

an Office of Education within the institute's intramural research program, and, at the NIH level, chaired the trans-NIH committee for recruitment of a diverse workforce in medical research. The committee's final report, dubbed the "Slavkin Report," calls for expanding recruitment, retention and promotion efforts; identifying and removing barriers to full participation in biomedical research; and challenging private industry and nonprofit groups to support education in science for individuals underrepresented in the research arena.

Under Slavkin's leadership, the institute has strengthened its commitment to improving the oral health of underserved populations in the U.S. NIDCR is also taking the lead role in producing the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health, a document that will offer recommendations on improving the oral health of all Americans. ■

NLM Wins Vice President's Hammer Award

The National Library of Medicine has received the Hammer Award for a series of improvements in its information services, including making its popular MEDLINE database of journal article references and abstracts free and easier for the public to use.

The library's systems reinvention team placed more medical information online, improved its format and created a sophisticated integrated library system that reduced processing time dramatically. According to team leader Kent A. Smith, the library's deputy director, the reinvention program involved the efforts of hundreds of library staff in all divisions. As direct spin-offs of basic reinvention activities, the team also put environmental health and hazardous substance information on the Web, made the Visible Humans available, and introduced "Profiles in Science," a Web-based file containing the laboratory notebooks and personal papers of some of the 20th century's greatest scientists.

The team's approach was based on several strategies: the Internet would be used for delivering services; commercially available software would be used wherever practical; industry standards would be adhered to, so that NLM's services would operate smoothly with other information systems; and, through forms and surveys, NLM's users would have a say in the design of the services they receive.

In the case of MEDLINE, NLM made one additional improvement: registration and search fees were removed. In the words of library director Dr. Donald Lindberg, "The increased results in usage were dramatic. Before the systems reinvention, NLM recorded 7 million searches of MEDLINE in one year [FY 1997]. The current rate is about 18 million searches every month, or 216 million searches per year."

The Hammer Award is given by the Vice President of the United States. He recognizes federal government teams who demonstrate innovation by: putting customers first; empowering employees; cutting red tape; or achieving results American citizens care about. The award is the Vice President's answer to yesterday's federal government and its much talked about \$400 hammer. The Hammer Award consists of a \$6 hammer, festooned with a ribbon and surrounded by a sensible aluminum frame.

KING COMMEMORATION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ghanaian, Chinese, English, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Spanish and Hindi, to symbolize the universality of King's message. They led the audience in a litany.

The theme was, "Remember, Celebrate, and Act," and if the performances and remarks helped the audience to remember and celebrate, then NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein and former Congressman Ronald V. Dellums called them to act.

"We have made progress these last 100 years, but surely we have not progressed far enough," said Kirschstein. "We have come some distance since Dr. King began leading the civil rights movement, but we haven't gone nearly far enough. A diverse group took part in the civil rights movement. Their identities are important, and the struggle they initiated is still very much alive today."

Over 30 years ago at the request of Mrs. King, Kirschstein provided a staff member to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

Bestowing an award for the first time in her new position as acting NIH director, Kirschstein presented that staff member—O. H. Laster of NIH's Office of Equal Opportunity—with a plaque in appreciation for planning King programs at NIH for 15 years.

Kirschstein noted that this King program is unique in that it's the first commemoration in 2000 and the best yet.

Then it was Dellums' turn: "If I walked up to this podium and told you in this audience that war is being waged...on the continent of Africa that has killed over 11 million human beings, you would shudder in horror...If I said...that war has created over 10 million orphans, you'd be overwhelmed. If I said to you that life

expectancy...as a result of that war has dropped over 20 years, I am convinced to an absolute moral certainty that a peace movement would emerge in this community...in this country...in this world, the likes of which we have never



Congressman Dellums talks with NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander and Kirschstein before the program.

seen. But the statistics that I laid out to you are indeed true, yet there is no such movement. People in Africa at this very moment are quietly dying...in a war with a virus...and the world has stood by and allowed HIV/AIDS to kill millions of people on the continent of Africa."

Dellums, president of Healthcare International Management Co., explained his role:

"You here at NIH know more about health than I'll ever know. I'm not an epidemiologist. I'm not an expert in AIDS. I'm not a doctor. I'm not a scientist. I'm a big-mouthed political activist who sees my role as making the country and the world uncomfortable with the fact that millions of human beings are dying, and we have a responsibility to challenge it."

To address the problem, Dellums recommended a global strategy and made four suggestions: talk about it, get beyond denial, decide that we must act, and take a leap of faith and invest in the solution.

"I'm talking loudly now for symbolic reasons," Dellums yelled. "You can't whisper about billions of people dying, you can't whisper about millions of orphans, you have to talk loud about it." He added, "If Martin Luther King were here, he would say that it is immoral to stand by and allow millions of people to suffer and die as they are suffering. We have an obligation, on a moral level, to stand up."

Dellums said the world took a quantum step forward when the United Nations Security Council debated the issue of AIDS in Africa as a security issue the previous Monday. Debts should be forgiven for countries fighting the pandemic, he continued, and that money should be put back into solving the AIDS problem in Africa. Now that he's out of Congress, Dellums said, this issue is what gets him up every day. He called it the "fire in my belly."

Dellums concluded: "Martin Luther King, Jr., went a very long journey in a very short period of time. He went from Montgomery where he started, to Memphis where he died. He went from mere



NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein poses with NIDA's Richard C. Harrison, who wears the authentic ceremonial dress for the Osage tribe's I-Lon-Schka ceremony.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

Geun-haeng Lee of the NIH day care was all too happy to take the stage. Wearing a jacket and tie, he and his friends steal the show.



Actor and HHS employee Richard Jackson sits behind jail bars built by Clifton "Tor" Moore of the Clinical Center.



manhood to ultimate martyrdom. He went from the depths of misery to the top of the mountain. If that incredible, brilliant, courageous, Black man could go that distance in such a short period of time, then you and I gathered in this place can join hands across all the lines that divide us, as we now step into the millennium to finish the journey to perfection to take this country and this world...from oppression to freedom and toward peace." ■

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>.

DWQuery: Budget & Finance	2/10
Vector NTI Suite Software Support for the Molecular Biologist	2/15
Java GUI Programming	2/15, 17
Learn Basic Programming	2/15-18
ISPF: Batch and Dataset Overview for WYLBUR Users	2/16
DWQuery: HR Workforce Demographics & Personnel Actions	2/16
Hands-on Unix System Security Administration	2/17
DWAnalyze: Budget & Finance	2/17
Java Servlets	2/18
Developing Information Technology Performance Measures	2/22
BRMUG - Macintosh Users Group	2/22

Get Your Career on the FasTrac

FasTrac provides commercially available computer-based training (CBT) for software and professional development skills. On Feb. 1, NIH's human resource development division made FasTrac's more than 700 CBT courses available at no cost to those who take the classes. Each IC has designated a FasTrac coordinator who will distribute FasTrac accounts to staff in his or her IC. Check the HRDD Web site at <http://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov> to determine who your coordinator is. Visit the Web site at <http://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov/fastrac2.htm> to learn more.

Intern Program Seeks Applicants

Tired of sitting at the same desk day after day? Looking for an opportunity to change jobs, meet new people, enhance your career potential, learn new skills? Well that's what the NIH Management Intern Program is all about.

This year's program will open on Feb. 14 and close on Mar. 14. The application process will be online at <http://internships.info.nih.gov>. The Web site will be available for viewing on Feb. 10; however, applicants may not enter their application until Feb. 14.

To apply you must be a U.S. citizen; be willing to work full-time; be a current Department of Health and Human Services employee at the GS-5 level or above or wage-grade equivalent and currently employed in either a career or career-conditional appointment or be on a veterans readjustment appointment, severely physically disabled (Schedule A) appointment or any other appointment that offers noncompetitive conversion. Positions are offered at the GS-5, 7 and 9 levels. Applicants above GS-9 level will be required to accept voluntary down grades, but may be eligible to retain their salary.

Detailed program information will be provided at the information sessions listed below. Applicants are encouraged to attend one of the sessions before completing their application package.

Management Intern Information Session Schedule

Date	Location	Time
Feb. 8	Natcher, Conf. Rm. C1/C2	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Rockledge II, Rm. 9104	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Feb. 15	EPN, Conf. Rm. C	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	NSC, Conf. Rm. A1/A2 (6001 Executive Blvd.)	noon-2 p.m.
Feb. 22	Bldg. 1, Wilson Hall	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	Bldg. 10, 2C116	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

More information about the program may be obtained by calling 496-2403. ■

Volunteers Needed for Brain Imaging Study

People with Alzheimer's disease who are otherwise fairly healthy and are currently not receiving Aricept, Tacrine, antidepressant or antipsychotic medications are needed to participate in a study involving PET scan, a brain imaging device. To help understand some of the chemical deficits involved in this disease, a special PET tracer will be used that will allow researchers to visualize one of the important brain messengers, the acetylcholine system. Although actual treatment is not being offered with this study, a second opinion about your condition and financial remuneration may be provided. Call 435-6058 if you are interested. ■



Dr. Richard L. Nabin has been appointed the first director of the Division of Extramural Research Training and Review at the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. He will direct the division responsible for fostering, designing and implementing the vast majority of the research and training in complementary and alternative medicine conducted or supported by the center, as well as the administration of all grant applications reviewed by NCCAM. Nabin received his undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of California in 1979, and his doctorate in neuroscience in 1985 at the same university. He joined NCCAM in 1996 as a program officer for extramural activities. He had served as acting director of DERTR since early 1999.



Dr. Sandra L. Melnick has been appointed chief of the Analytic Epidemiology Research Branch (AERB) in NCI's Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. The branch identifies priorities and sponsors peer-reviewed extramural epidemiologic research in cancer etiology and modifying factors, nutritional epidemiology, infectious disease epidemiology, hormonal studies, molecular epidemiology, metabolic/enzymatic pathways, physical and chemical agents, and environmental epidemiology. Since joining NCI in 1996, Melnick has been program director for AIDS and infectious disease epidemiology in AERB, and acting chief of the branch. She previously was project officer of the U.S. Women's Interagency HIV Study at NIAID and coordinating chair for natural history and epidemiology, NIH Office of AIDS Research.

STEM CELLS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

totipotent cells, or "totally potent cells. What we mean by that is: totipotent cells each have the potential to develop into a fetus and a baby," Skirboll explained. Soon, "the totipotent cells begin to differentiate, on their way to becoming the complex organism that human beings are." Next, a blastocyst is formed from the totipotent cells. It is from the inner cell mass of this blastocyst structure that so-called "pluripotent" cells can be extracted. Pluripotent, or "plurally potent" cells are capable of becoming almost all cells of the human body. However, unlike totipotent cells, pluripotent cells cannot develop into humans. This distinction between totipotent cells and pluripotent cells is very important, Skirboll pointed out. Because pluripotent cells can never develop into a human, the HHS Office of General Counsel has determined that federal agencies may legally fund research using human pluripotent stem cells.

It is the derivation—by either of two lab methods—and potential application of pluripotent stem cells that have so excited many in the biomedical research community; it is this science that has also caused concern among and provoked protests by many others who feel the destruction of human embryos for research is wrong.

"Let me be clear," Skirboll said, "when you separate the inner cell mass from the blastocyst, you are destroying that embryo.

"We're all here about disease and disability," she continued. "Disease, and disability in one form or another, is often about the degeneration of cells. It's about cells that are injured. Being able to develop very specific cells—liver cells, neuronal cells, skeletal muscle cells, heart muscle cells—you can imagine the range of possibilities this presents to medical research."

Pluripotent stem cell research holds enormous potential for a host of medical areas including drug development and toxicity testing, gene development and control studies, as well as tissue and cell production for therapy, she continued.

"Every institute at NIH put forward the benefits of this kind of research" in a special report to Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), said Skirboll. In addition, following the report, a group composed of many different patient advocacy organizations formed. "Patient groups came together like never before to support pursuing this research," she said. "However, there are many who do not support this research. There are many who feel strongly ideologically that destruction of an embryo for research purposes, for developing therapies for people who are ill, is not appropriate; they feel it is not ethically appropriate, that it is not moral."

As yet, Skirboll reported, no human pluripotent stem cell research projects have been undertaken nor funded by the federal government, although they are

legally possible. On Dec. 1, 1999, NIH released the first-ever proposed guidelines for conducting human pluripotent stem cell research; a comment period seeking responses to the proposal was opened to the public until Jan. 31, 2000.

NBAC Weighs In

Within a week after the methods to isolate pluripotent stem cells were reported in scientific journals and to the public in early November 1998, President Clinton asked for advice on the issue from the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC), which gathered 17 individuals from various sectors—health sciences, law, ethics—of the American public to conduct a thorough, balanced review of the ethical and medical issues related to human stem cell research. Dr. Harold Shapiro, president of Princeton

"The destruction of the embryo causes tremendous concern by a good portion of society, and NBAC was struggling with this for some time."

University, chaired the commission, which by law conducts all its activities in public. An executive summary of the commission's report, "Ethical Issues in Human Stem Cell Research," was published last September.

Dr. Eric Meslin, NBAC executive director and the second speaker at the STEP session, provided an overview of the commission's deliberations.

"There has been an awful lot of previous thought and commentary in the United States—and indeed elsewhere in the world—on this topic," he began. "There has been an ongoing conversation—about fetal research, embryo research, the use of cell-based therapies in research, the use of IVF [in vitro fertilization] procedures—for now more than 20 years."

The organizing principle for NBAC's current report, he explained, was not to determine the legality or economy of the issue, but "to begin with the science and then to discuss what the ethical and medical implications might be."

The commission examined in depth each source of human stem cells: fetal and cadaveric material, embryos remaining from clinical IVF, and embryos produced purposely for research. Principal issues the commission discussed included the science's association with abortion, and consent and donation of the material from which human stem cells are derived.

Finding even a starting point for formal debate was slow going, reported Meslin. For example, one of the most difficult parts of the deliberations about obtaining stem cells from fetal material, he said, was also one of the most basic: Who is the human subject in this research? Is it the woman who agrees to undergo the therapeutic termination—abortion—of her pregnancy and must decide what to do? Is it her partner, who may help her decide? Is it the

fetus? Is it the cells, the organism? "You can see how this becomes not an easy solution," Meslin said.

Another tough issue was whether there should be a distinction between the destruction of an embryo and the use of the products from that destruction, he said.

"The destruction of the embryo causes tremendous concern by a good portion of society, and NBAC was struggling with this for some time," Meslin said.

As is standard procedure for such federal advisory groups, NBAC gathered reports, testimony and other types of direct and indirect input from hundreds of sources. Last May, for example, NBAC—recognizing that many people obtain their ethical guidance from religious precepts and leaders—heard testimony from 11 scholars in religion and theology representing Eastern Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism, Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. Despite the differences and wide ranges of opinion within and among the individual religions, the group was able to find common ground in several areas. All agreed, for instance, that stem cell research is not inherently immoral and has potential; that if society is to fund this research, then it must do so under conditions of respect for the embryo; and that there should be public oversight of even private stem cell research. The group was unable to agree, however, on the moral status of an embryo, nor the extent—if any—to which federal funds should be used for human stem cell research.

Following several months of reviewing the issues, NBAC itself made 13 recommendations in volume I of its report, which can be read online at <http://bioethics.gov/pubs.html>. Among the recommendations were these: Research involving the derivation and use of human stem cells from cadaveric fetal tissue, and from embryos remaining after IVF treatments, should continue to be eligible for federal funding; federal agencies should not fund research involving derivation or use of stem cells from embryos made solely for research purposes using IVF; embryonic and cadaveric fetal tissue should not be bought or sold; an oversight and review panel should be established by DHHS to ensure that all federally funded human stem cell research is conducted in conformity with the ethical principles NBAC set forth in its report; and private sponsors of stem cell research should voluntarily adopt the same standards and principles in their conduct of the science.

The commission's full report, as well as the source documents upon which the report and recommendations were based, will be posted to the site in the coming weeks, Meslin concluded.

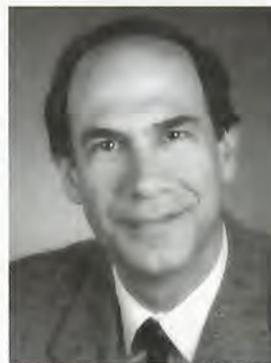
Skirboll reiterated that NIH will not fund research using human pluripotent stems cells until final guidelines are published in the *Federal Register* and an oversight process is in place. ■

Wanted: Talent for Spring Show

Auditions for the Bethesda Little Theater's spring musical production will be held Feb. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Be prepared to sing one song; an accompanist will be provided. Titled *A 'Lovely' Evening in Camelot*, the show will feature songs from musicals by Lerner and Loewe, including *Gigi*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Brigadoon*, *Camelot* and *My Fair Lady*. Performance dates are the first three weekends in May (Friday, Saturday, and two Sunday matinees). All performances will be held in the newly refurbished Masur Auditorium. Additional production assistance is also always needed.

If you have any questions or want to help out backstage, contact Elaine Hughes, (301) 589-0720, eshughes@erols.com. More information is available at the Web site: <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/blt/>. ■

Dr. Mark Hallett, chief of the Medical Neurology Branch and clinical director, NINDS, was recently named the G. Milton Shy visiting professor for the year 2000. The professorship was established in 1971 to honor the memory of Shy, who developed the intramural program of what is now NINDS in 1953 and became the first chief of the institute's Medical Neurology Branch and its first clinical director. Shy's contributions to the field of neurology are numerous. Perhaps his most important contribution was the discovery of five muscle diseases: central core disease, megaconial myopathy, pleoconial myopathy, myotubular myopathy, and nemaline myopathy. Each year members of the Shy Memorial Fund select a neurologist to visit the three institutions—NIH, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania—on which Shy had a great impact.



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. ■



Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr., has been selected as associate director of research infrastructure (RI) at the National Center for Research Resources. He will oversee grant program activities that support the development of state-of-the-art biomedical research facilities, improve animal research facilities, expand and develop faculty research capabilities at predominantly minority institutions, and improve the public's understanding of science. He began his federal career in 1974 with the NIH Division of Research Resources, which became NCRR in 1990. Since 1994 he has directed NCRR's RI grant programs. Before coming to NIH, McNairy was professor of chemistry at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., and guest research scientist at several private and federal organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Charles Pfizer, and Eli Lilly.

Stroke Seminar Honors Career of NINDS' Walker

By Paul Girolami

A gathering of the nation's top neurosurgeons and neurologists joined current and former NIH staff, along with Dr. Michael D. Walker and his friends and family, at the NINDS-sponsored seminar, "Stroke in the Next Millennium," held recently in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Presented by Dr. J. Donald Easton, professor and cochair, department of clinical neurosciences, Brown University School of Medicine, and neurologist-in-chief, Rhode Island Hospital, the lecture was part of the tribute to Walker on his retirement. Walker served as director of the NINDS Division of Stroke, Trauma, and Neurodegenerative Disorders and had a more than 30-year career with NIH.

Presenting a 3-decade overview of research on stroke management, Easton noted that, despite the dramatic increase in life expectancy for Americans in this century (from age 49 in 1900 to age 77 in 1997), the prevalence of stroke is rising. Some 4.4 million people die each year from stroke, with a cost to the U.S. economy alone reaching \$45 billion. Although NIH has been involved in several successful clinical trials regarding the treatment and prevention of stroke, Easton stressed a clear need for NIH to continue to lead and support clinical science, particularly in the areas of neuroprotective agents and the extension of stroke treatment beyond current time limits.

"Clearly, understanding the role and mechanisms of these processes will lead to new therapeutic strategies," he said. "Very many challenges in stroke research remain. The need for training bright and dedicated young scientists has never been greater, and their opportunities will be greater than they have been for the last decade or two. I am very optimistic about the future of stroke research and the fruit it will bear. I hope Mike Walker's successors at the NINDS are as successful as he has been in their stewardship of the institute's resources."

NINDS director Dr. Gerald Fischbach called Walker "a Renaissance man of the neurosciences" for work that has "significantly improved our understanding of oncology, neuro-oncology, traumatic head injury, brain tumors, spinal cord injury, clinical trials, stroke, neurodegenerative diseases, and the mechanisms and complexities of pain. Mike's leadership at this institute has truly made a difference in public health." (The lecture was videocast throughout NIH and made accessible via the Internet. See <http://www.ninds.nih.gov/stroke2000/> for more information about the tribute and speakers.)

Following the lecture, more than 100 friends, family members and others gathered at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda for a dinner tribute to Walker. Speakers included master of ceremonies Dr. Sid Gilman, department of neurology, University of Michigan; Fischbach; and former NINDS director Dr. Murray Goldstein.

Walker began his NIH career in 1965, in the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology. At NCI's Baltimore Cancer Research Center, where he served as director from 1972 to 1977, he concentrated heavily on brain tumor research and helped introduce the concept of treating brain tumor patients with chemotherapy.

In his 20 years as director of the NINDS Division of Stroke and Trauma (which became the Division of Stroke, Trauma, and Neurodegenerative Disorders in 1996), Walker oversaw some of the institute's most dramatic scientific announcements, particularly in the area of clinical trials. He served as its public spokesperson in times of great excitement and challenging public controversies. He also personally recruited and mentored some of the institute's most prominent and successful program directors. He guided the division in four major endeavors of national and international importance:

- ◆ Completion of the pilot study proving the efficacy of tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) when given within 3 hours of the occurrence of ischemic stroke, resulting in the redesign of the strategy for treating victims of stroke in the immediate hours following an episode.

- ◆ Completion of the clinical trial on the use of warfarin or aspirin in the prevention of stroke in patients who have atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke. Warfarin or aspirin was shown to sharply reduce the incidence of stroke in these patients, resulting in the prevention of some 20,000 to 30,000 strokes in the United States alone each year (a savings of about \$200 million a year in medical costs). Nearly 1 million Americans suffer from atrial fibrillation.

- ◆ Completion of the first major controlled, multicenter clinical trial of the drug methylprednisolone, which was found to be effective in treating spinal cord injury when given within 8 hours after injury (some 10,000 spinal cord injuries occur each year). In 1990, this research milestone was proclaimed by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the 10 top medical advances of the year.

- ◆ Management of the North American Symptomatic Carotid Endarterectomy Trial, a 50-site international trial that produced positive findings on the use of surgery to remove fatty deposits from the carotid arteries. Hundreds of thousands of persons at risk of stroke will benefit from this surgery.

"I think the contributions that Mike has made in the past 25 years, particularly those related to



NINDS director Dr. Gerald Fischbach (l) presents an inscribed glass bowl to Dr. Michael Walker on his retirement from NINDS. Gifts from family and friends included a barometer, land telescope, and donation to the Children's Inn at NIH.



neurosurgery, will turn out to be some of the most important contributions in that quarter century," said Dr. Donlin Long, professor and chairman, department of neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Widely admired by his peers, Walker counts among his many awards and honors the Farber Award, American Academy of Neurology (brain tumor research); the Sheline Award (research on brain tumors); and the Wakeman Award (awarded biennially for professional achievement in spinal cord injury research). He is founder and former editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology*; was deputy editor of the *Annals of Neurology*; and has reviewed many of the foremost medical journals on cancer, cancer research, neurosurgery, trauma and stroke.

Walker will continue to be seen around the Neuroscience Bldg., assisting on a variety of projects. Said Dr. James Toole, professor of neurology at Wake Forest, in saluting his good friend, "I think Mike Walker's just getting started. I expect we'll now see fireworks. It's not enough to remember Mike for what he's done; he's going to be remembered for what he's going to do." ■

NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein congratulates Dr. Anne Miller-Chisholm of NIDCR and Jeff Fellows of ORS, two of the dozens of NIH'ers honored recently with 1999 Quality of Work Life Awards, which recognize superior performance or special efforts to advance the quality of work life at NIH, and as a result the quality of science. They reinforce the growing importance of improving the NIH workplace and of helping



employees balance their work and personal lives. Nominations were evaluated according to individuals, teams, and organizations that excelled in one or more of the six areas of NIH's strategy to enhance work life quality: strengthen family-friendly work programs, strengthen



workplace learning and change management activities, improve communication with employees, promote effectiveness of diversity management, and foster overall workplace improvement.

Softball Players, Teams, Umpires Wanted

The NIH R&W Freddie Harris Memorial Co-Rec Softball League is looking for players, teams and umpires for the 2000 season. The season starts Apr. 18 and ends in September. For more information, leave a message at 496-2266. ■

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>Quality of Work Life</i>	
Breaking the Smoking Habit	2/15
<i>Administrative Systems</i>	
Basic Time and Attendance Using ITAS	2/23
Travel for Administrative Officers	2/28
Travel for NIH Travelers - AM and PM	2/29
<i>Administrative Skills</i>	
NIH Correspondence: Letter & Memo Preparation	3/2
<i>Computer Applications and Concepts</i>	
IMPAC II Committee Management Module	2/28
Introduction to Visual Basic	3/1
Advanced MS Access 97 *Office 97*	3/1
Introduction to MS Excel 97 *Office 97*	3/6
<i>Career Transition</i>	
Hire Me! Successful Interviewing Techniques	2/28
NIH Retirement Seminar - CSRS	3/6
<i>Financial & Procurement Management</i>	
Price Reasonableness in Simplified Acquisitions - p.m. (Frederick)	2/23
Price Reasonableness in Simplified Acquisitions - a.m. & p.m.	2/24
Budget Execution	3/6
Delegated Acquisition Training Program	3/6
<i>Management, Supervision & Professional Development</i>	
Supervision: New Skills and New Challenges	2/22
IDP Workshop for Managers	2/29
How to Deal with Frustrating Situations	2/29

Administrative Skills Development Curriculum

The Administrative Skills Development Curriculum is a 3-year program designed to help the administrative support staff who are in a one-grade interval series improve their job skills and form and accomplish their career goals. Participation requires supervisory approval and IC funding approval. Participants are required to attend a preliminary 3-day course, "Planning for Career Advancement for Administrative Support Staff," which is designed to help participants assess their strengths and set career goals. Those participants who successfully complete six training courses in 3 years will be awarded a certificate of completion.

"Planning for Career Advancement for Administrative Support Staff," course #2144 will next be offered at Executive Plaza on Mar. 21-23; tuition is \$566. If you are interested in attending this course, enter your nomination in NIHITS by Mar. 6. To obtain an information packet, visit <http://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov> or call 496-6211. ■



Dr. Michael T. Marron was recently selected associate director of biomedical technology at the National Center for Research Resources. He has an extensive background in both chemistry and physics. He has been with the Office of Naval Research since 1983, first as manager of the Molecular Biology Program, where he oversaw multidisciplinary extramural research programs, and then later as a program manager of laser medicine for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Most recently, he directed the Manufacturing Technology Program and was instrumental in developing the U.S. Navy's long-range strategy for science and technology investment. Marron will head NCRR's grant portfolio, which includes more than 60 Biomedical Technology Resource Centers nationwide, and NCRR's Shared Instrumentation Grants Program.

Healthy Twins Needed

The Child Psychiatry Branch, NIMH, seeks healthy identical and same-sex fraternal twins age 5-16 to participate in an MRI study of the effects of genes and environment on brain development. Volunteers must be free of medical and psychiatric illnesses. Parents will be asked to complete a 15-minute phone screen and some multiple-choice questionnaires. Twin participation requires a 3-hour visit for a neurological exam, cognitive testing and blood draw, and a 1-hour visit for the MRI scans. Participants will be paid. For information, contact Beth Molloy at 435-4515 or emolloy@codon.nih.gov.

STEP Session on Science Communication

The Staff Training in Extramural Programs presents "Science Communication: Give It to Me Straight!" on Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the Natcher Bldg., Conf. Rms. E1-E2, from 1 to 4 p.m. The featured speakers are: Bernard Glassman, special expert in informatics, Office of Science Policy, NCI; Dr. Leslie Lang, information officer, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Sally Squires, science editor, *Washington Post*; and Dr. Jonathan Miller, director, Center for Biomedical Communications, Northwestern University Medical School.

In an age of emerging technology, we are bombarded with information about research findings and health related issues. How do we evaluate the information and know that it is valid? What's the source of the information? This session will address these questions and provide insight into how professional communicators access and evaluate scientific data, and package the information for dissemination.

All 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 Feb. 10. For more information call 435-2769. ■

NHLBI Wins Pyramid Award

NHLBI has won a 13th annual Pyramid Award from Montgomery County for helping to advance full inclusion into the community of people with disabilities.

Twelve of the awards are given each year to individuals and employers. NHLBI received the Government Employer Partnership Award. The institute was cited for making "employment of qualified people with disabilities an essential component of its human resources planning through its partnerships in recruitment, retention and advancement efforts."

More than 60 individuals and employers were nominated for awards.

The award is sponsored by the Office of the County Executive, and the Maryland department of health and human services, Office of Human Resources, and commission on people with disabilities.

NHLBI Personnel Officer Barry Rubinstein accepted the honor for the institute at a special ceremony, held at the Bethesda Marriott. Speakers included Rep. Connie Morella, County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, and Connie Caldwell, chair of the Montgomery County commission on people with disabilities.



Julius Thigpen (l) of the Comparative Medicine Branch, NIEHS, serves up his barbecued pork to celebrate the successful completion of a site visit by officials of AAALAC, the laboratory animal accrediting association that visits every 3 years to evaluate animal use and care. The exit briefing suggested that NIEHS and CMB did well. To celebrate, CMB invited all its staff and scores of other institute site visit participants to its lakeside pig pickin', which was hosted by CMB Chief Diane Forsythe, Mary Goelz and Thigpen.

Meeting Professionals Hold Event

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals' national capital chapter will hold its third annual winter meeting and trade show Wednesday, Feb. 23 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Va. If you are responsible for planning meetings, workshops, conferences or other government functions, you will not want to miss this event. Educational workshops begin at 10 a.m., trade show and lunch from 12:30 to 4 p.m., and a dinner cruise at 6:30 p.m. SGMP is offering complimentary registration to all professional meeting planners who wish to attend. To register, contact D. Bondurant & Associates, Inc., (301) 681-4875. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Joseph Schlessinger on Feb. 16. He is Kimmelman professor and chair, department of pharmacology, and director, Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine, New York University Medical Center. His topic is "Cellular Signaling by Tyrosine Phosphorylase."

On Feb. 23, Dr. David L. Nelson, professor, department of molecular and human genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, will discuss "The Human as a Model System in Genetics: Examples from Fragile X Syndrome and Incontinentia Pigmenti."

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