

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Transplanted New Yorker Finds Excitement at NIH

By Michael Vatalaro

"I never thought I would leave New York," said Dr. Deborah Philp with a grin. "I didn't think I would make it—I didn't think I could find the excitement, flavor, or convenience [elsewhere]."

Some outsiders might not think of New York City as convenient, but Philp misses having everything she needs within walking distance.

In talking with Philp, you get the impression that she has worked very hard to get where she is and has enjoyed the journey. She has

SEE EX-NEW YORKER, PAGE 10

## Connecting with Communities

## NIAMS Launches Program To Address Health Disparities

By Kelli Carrington

The health of a nation depends on the health of its communities. Recognizing this, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases is launching the first phase of its "Health Partnership Program—An NIAMS Diversity Outreach Initiative," a new program to address the health disparities in rheumatic, musculoskeletal, muscle, bone and skin diseases that exist in minority communities.

The initial phase of the Health Partnership Program (HPP) has begun as a model community-based program in the African American community in the metropolitan

SEE PARTNERSHIP, PAGE 9

## HIGHLIGHTS

1 Shalala Visits ACD Meeting

5 NIH, Mexico Renew Agreement

6 Health Fair Draws Hundreds

12 Hatfield Visits CRC, His Namesake

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

July 11, 2000  
Vol. LII, No. 14

## 80th ACD Meeting

## Shalala Gives Advisors Frank Summary of Current Events

By Rich McManus

HS Secretary Donna Shalala dropped in on the 80th meeting of the advisory committee to the NIH director on June 8 to offer encouragement and congratulations on a variety of topics including the FY 2001 budget, NIH's effort to bolster oversight of human gene transfer, the progress of the Human Genome Project, and NIH's initiative to reduce health disparities. She also expanded upon and applauded President Clinton's decision, announced that morning, to extend Medicare coverage to participants in clinical trials, and answered questions in a relaxed and freewheeling session. "You've had me as candid as I've ever been," she enthused at the end of a visit in which she also announced her intention "to leave NIH in the best shape this institution has ever been in."

With respect to NIH's next budget, Shalala counseled patience: "The budget process is nowhere yet...We'll negotiate the whole thing in the fall in some smoky room, but at the end, NIH will be satisfied with the mark." She explained, "I've learned that politicians were those people who in college crammed the night

SEE ACD MEETING, PAGE 4

## 'No-Nonsense' School Teams with NIH

## Office of the Director Adopts Deal Junior High

By Gerri Adams-Simmons

NIH's Office of the Director has adopted Alice Deal Junior High School in northwest Washington as part of the agency's commitment to introduce students to biomedical research science at an early age. In partnership with the school, NIH will provide enriching experiences that expose students to a variety of health-related science projects and careers that support such science.

On June 9, Dr. Yvonne Maddox, NIH acting deputy director, toured Deal with Assistant Principal Manuel Dacoba.

SEE ADOPTED SCHOOL, PAGE 8

**Got Mac? Get Mac OS X**

Do you use a Macintosh computer, or want to know more about how they work? If so, did you know that the next generation operating system called Mac OS X (pronounced "ten") will be enlivening a desktop near you very soon? The Center for Information Technology and the Biomedical Researchers Macintosh Users Group will be having a presentation on this new, extremely advanced operating system on Tuesday, July 25, at 3 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Mac OS X will present vast changes for the Macintosh computing platform and everyone who is involved with a Mac should come. If you have any questions, contact Jean-Paul Boucher at boucherj@mail.nih.gov or 402-5563.

### NIA Makes Novel Clone Set Available

Researchers at the National Institute on Aging have distributed a recently established mouse cDNA microarray/clone set containing more than 15,000 unique genes to 10 designated academic centers worldwide. These centers have each agreed to redistribute this microarray/clone set to at least eight additional end users on demand. End users will be allowed to produce and distribute microarrays, but will not be permitted to redistribute the clone set, known as NIA 15K cDNA set.

Nearly 80 percent of the genes in this clone set have never been studied before, said Dr. Minoru S.H. Ko, head of the institute's developmental genomics and aging section, Laboratory of Genetics, in Baltimore.

Ko and his colleagues hope the immediate release of this high-quality DNA clone set to the scientific community will foster institutional collaboration and sharing of resources that could accelerate research of mouse models for human diseases. The NIA 15K cDNA set, which was derived from embryonic and fetal cells and tissues, also may help speed the analysis of changes in the expression of many genes during aging and stem cell differentiation.

"NIA 15K is a very fundamental research tool that will be of benefit to the entire scientific community," Ko said. "It really could be a source of many discoveries."

Distribution schedules will be determined by the centers and subsequent end users. All centers and end users will be allowed to charge nominal fees in order to recover costs of materials, shipping and handling. For details about acquisition of this clone set, visit the web site: <http://lgsun.grc.nia.nih.gov/>.

NIA's intent in making the clone set available is to encourage archiving of microarray studies in a shared database for analysis by many laboratories. The data then can be collated and studied in ways that can provide more insight than can come from a single laboratory. Use of the NIA 15K cDNA clone set carries no collaboration requirement that would constrain usage, so that all laboratories may have unencumbered access to the microarray.—Doug Dollemore ■

### Children Needed for Study

NIMH is studying how the brain controls finger movements, and needs normal kids (or a child with a diagnosis of attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder) ages 6-13. They must be available for 3 hours for a noninvasive study that includes neurological examination, transcranial magnetic stimulation, EMG using surface electrodes and ADHD assessment. Pay is provided. Call Dr. Marjorie Garvey, 496-5323, for more information. ■

### NIAAA Employee Day Draws Crowd

Frisbees, volleyballs, laughter and shouts of "bingo" all filled the air in Veirs Mill Park on June 16 as NIAAA celebrated its third annual Employee Recognition Day. This afternoon of food, fun and fellowship has gained in popularity every year, with more than half of the institute's employees attending the festivities in 2000, the largest turnout ever.

The Employee Recognition Day also featured

NIAAA's EEO awards ceremony, which honored outstanding employees in a variety of administrative and scientific areas. This year, a special award was introduced in honor of a



Benedict Latteri (c) receives the NIAAA Martin K. Trusty Excellence in Management Award from NIAAA deputy director Dr. Mary Dufour and Executive Officer Stephen Long.

recently retired executive officer at NIAAA. The first annual Martin K. Trusty Excellence in Management Award was given to Benedict Latteri in "recognition of outstanding service and dedication to NIAAA in his role as acting deputy director of the institute's intramural program."

For many employees, the best part of the day was the chance to finally meet fellow employees whose names they often see only on organizational charts and memos. For others, it was the commemorative insulated water bottles that everyone received at the picnic. ■

## NIH RECORD

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through Sept. 30, 2000.

NIH Record Office  
Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03

Phone 496-2125  
Fax 402-1485

Web address  
<http://www.nih.gov/news/NIH-Record/archives.htm>

Editor  
Richard McManus  
rm26q@nih.gov

The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes, or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

Assistant Editor  
Carla Garnett  
cg9s@nih.gov

■ The Record is recyclable as office white paper.

## New Study Increases Understanding of Imprinting

By Anna Maria Gillis

**S**cientists at NIDDK have discovered a key mechanism that controls the expression of Igf2, a gene that codes for insulin-like growth factor 2. Drs. Adam C. Bell and Gary Felsenfeld reported in the May 25 issue of *Nature* that a protein called CTCF prevents Igf2 from making the growth factor, which acts in fetal development. Their findings show that the control mechanism for this imprinted gene is novel.

Most of the thousands of genes a person inherits come in two copies, and both function the same way. Imprinting is a process in which one of the two copies of a gene is switched off. Scientists have suggested that this is done to protect organisms that would otherwise be harmed by receiving a double dose of a particular protein. In fact, overexpression of Igf2 in humans is associated with fetal overgrowth and in some cases the development of tumors.

But functioning is different for the few genes that get imprinted, or marked, when eggs and sperm develop. Either the copy from the mother or the father will be active. Which one functions depends on the presence of markers called methyl groups that chemically modify the DNA near the gene. In the case of Igf2, the copy inherited from the father is functional and has methylated DNA nearby, while the copy from the mother is inactive and is unmethylated.

Bell and Felsenfeld had been studying the protein CTCF because it is part of a boundary element between the loosely configured DNA where genes are active and the more tightly packed DNA where genes are inactive. "The protein is interesting because it works as an insulator, or roadblock, in other systems," says Felsenfeld, whose main work is in chromatin structure. The Felsenfeld laboratory had shown that CTCF binds to specific sites on DNA and insulates enhancers (gene-activating elements) from the genes they act on. Bell and Felsenfeld wanted to learn whether CTCF played a similar role in keeping the maternal copy of the Igf2 gene turned off.

In the work described in *Nature*, the researchers report that DNA near the Igf2 genes of mice and humans contain CTCF binding sites. These lie between the Igf2 gene and a distant enhancer. Using cells in culture, they next showed that these binding sites can only block the action of an enhancer on the gene when the binding sites lie between enhancer and gene. This blocking ability is a signature of insulator activity.

The CTCF binding sites are found in the same region of DNA that is usually methylated on the paternal copy of the Igf2 gene and unmethylated on

the maternal copy. In their final experiment, Bell and Felsenfeld showed that adding methyl groups to the CTCF DNA binding sites prevents the binding of the CTCF protein. The finding strongly suggests that methylation abolishes the insulating capability of CTCF on the paternal copy of the gene, says Felsenfeld. As a result, the enhancer can activate Igf2 expression on that

copy. In contrast, insulation on the unmethylated maternal allele prevents Igf2 from being expressed.

Medically, methylation matters. When the insulator is lost because methylation occurs on the maternal copy of Igf2, there is an overexpression of Igf2, which is associated with Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome. This fetal overgrowth disorder predisposes children to malignancies such as Wilms tumor.

Scientists have long known about the importance of methylation, but many of the mechanisms governing imprinting are still being worked out. Felsenfeld's study supports an important hypothesis proposed by Princeton University researcher Dr. Shirley Tilghman several years ago. She suggested that the Igf2 region might contain an insulator that prevented the maternally inherited gene from producing the growth factor for which it codes and that methylation must block this insulator.

"Our work and hers confirms the hypothesis," says Felsenfeld. The Tilghman lab's recent Igf2 inactivation studies also appear in the May 25 issue of *Nature*.

Felsenfeld wants to know what other roles CTCF plays. "The fact that CTCF binding, and therefore insulator activity, can be turned on and off by changing the methylation state of DNA suggests that there may be many other places in the genome which use the same mechanism," says Felsenfeld. His laboratory is continuing studies of the structure and function of insulators and related chromatin boundary elements. ■



Dr. Adam C. Bell (l) confers with Dr. Gary Felsenfeld. The NIDDK scientists are studying a protein called CTCF.



**Dr. J. Carl Barrett recently joined the National Cancer Institute as scientific director of the Division of Basic Sciences. He comes to NCI from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C. He started his career at NIEHS in 1977, became chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis in 1987, and served as the scientific director of NIEHS since 1995. Barrett is a world-renowned scientist and will continue his research on cancer progression and the relationship between aging and cancer as chief of the Laboratory of Biosystems and Cancer in DBS. He has published over 385 research papers and review articles in leading scientific journals and books. He is editor-in-chief of Molecular Carcinogenesis, associate editor for Cancer Research, and serves on the editorial boards of a number of other journals.**

#### ACD MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

before the final exam."

She said NIH has made "enormous progress—I couldn't be more pleased" with steps taken to improve the quality of oversight in clinical trials involving gene therapy. "We have put an enormous amount of money into NIH, and all of it is at risk from a series of incidents...Cumulatively, they look like a pattern to the public, while to us it may look like an acceptable amount of risk." To address shortcomings, her office on May 23 announced a new series of protections for human research subjects, and on June 6 she announced the appointment of a new director for the Office of Human Research Protection, which supersedes (and lifts out of NIH into the Office of the Secretary) the Office of Protection from Research Risks. "We need a much more refined office, not just one that closes down institutions and gives them a slap on the wrist."

Shalala predicted that Medicare's readiness to pay medical expenses associated with clinical trials will "coax millions more participants into research trials," and estimated a cost for the program of some \$350 million.

Vowing to finish up her term as secretary "with a lot of enthusiasm," Shalala said a new office of oversight of scientific fraud is set to open with "an absolutely first-rate" person as director. She said NIH "is taking seriously the issue of health disparities," noting, "We can have the best health care in the world, but it isn't sufficient if it doesn't reach every one of our citizens. Insurance does not equal quality health care."

She said she "couldn't be happier with the Human Genome Project," adding that she gives a copy of *The Double Helix* to anyone who mentions the controversy between publicly funded and private genome hunters.

Asked by Dr. William Brody, president of Johns Hopkins University, how financially distressed academic health centers around the country can solve their problems, Shalala embarked on a frank discussion of political values and economic realities. Her busy schedule, however, overtook the debate and she left to a standing ovation (she had served on the ACD from April 1991 to January 1993). "Madame Secretary, we want to thank you for 7½ wonderful years," said NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

The 15 of the 18 advisors who were on hand heard presentations on several topics:

- Dr. Alexa McCray of the National Library of Medicine gave an update on NIH's new clinical trials database, which debuted on Feb. 29. "Response has been incredible," she said. The web site has logged 6.6 million hits so far, averaging 3,000 to 4,000 users per day (which generates some 42,000 pages of information daily). "Tuesday is our busiest day," she disclosed, "although we don't know quite why."

The database is in phase 1, which includes 5,000 mostly NIH-sponsored trials; phase 2 will involve the private sector and other sponsors. "This is just totally cool and amazing," enthused ACD member Rebecca Eisenberg of Stanford Law School.

- A working group on NIH oversight of clinical gene transfer research issued an interim report on review of gene transfer protocols. The group proposes two pathways for review, depending on whether the protocol presents novel scientific, ethical or safety issues, or not. The group concluded that "there must be assurance that subjects will not be enrolled in a gene transfer protocol until NIH's Office of Biotechnology Activities and the recombinant DNA advisory committee (RAC) has determined whether the protocol requires full RAC review and, in the case of a novel protocol, until after that review has occurred." A proposed method of RAC review envisions open lines of communication involving the many parties to the protocol, including FDA, OBA/RAC, institutional review boards, institutional biosafety committees, research institutions, sponsors and patients themselves.

- As of June 8, the federal Human Genome Project was "within a whisker" (88.5 percent done) of achieving the working draft of the human genome that was promised for spring 2000, said Dr. Francis Collins, NHGRI director. "I can say without reservation that the sequence of the human genome is largely in hand, and up there on the web (at the GenBank site sponsored by NIH) for study." He added, "Working draft is great stuff, but finished sequence is better." More than 20 percent of the sequence is finished, he said, showing a slide illuminating disease genes (including BRCA2) whose discovery was aided by access to draft or finished sequence.

Dr. David Lipman, director of the National Center for Biotechnology Information at NLM, which hosts GenBank, said GenBank gets 175,000 visits per day, in addition to hundreds of daily emails and calls. "Gene products are what most scientists are interested in, then genomic structure. Mostly, scientists want as complete and accurate information as possible on gene products." To demonstrate the value of his treasure trove, Lipman ordered up a discovery just for the ACD meeting; a colleague found a novel BRCT domain protein conserved only in humans and *Drosophila*. "We're very excited that, on demand, we can make discoveries with this data," Lipman said.

- Dr. Yvonne Maddox, acting NIH deputy director, reviewed the agency's health disparities initiative, which by 2010 aims to eliminate disparities in six major health areas. A formal Center for Health Disparities can be established administratively by Kirschstein, said Maddox. She forecast that such a center might be up and running by the

end of the fiscal year in order to help meet the initiative's six goals.

- Dr. Stephen Straus, director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine for the past 8 months, offered a "mature approach to a somewhat controversial undertaking," in his outline of NCCAM's draft strategic plan. "The public needs better guidance about which CAMs are effective," he said. Some 40 percent of Americans, and perhaps 2 of 3 people worldwide, practice CAM, he said. The center intends to start an intramural clinical research program.

- Due to the oceans of data being generated by such efforts as the Human Genome Project, an effort is under way to train a new generation of experts in bioinformatics. Reporting on the initiative to address this need was NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner, who called for "OB-cubed," an Office of Bioimaging, Bioengineering and Bioinformatics. NIH hopes to establish Centers of Excellence in Biomedical Computing, and has asked for \$10 million in planning grants for the effort in FY 2001, he said. In addition to the centers, Klausner said the field needs breakthroughs in information storage, curation, analysis and retrieval, plus investigator-initiated research and more computing infrastructure. Observed ACD member Dr. Larry Smarr, director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois (and cochair of the working group that gave rise to the new OB3 initiative), data management nowadays is "an exponential snowball—you have to run as fast as you can to stay in the same place."

In other news, Kirschstein announced that the NIH Academy, a small pilot program established to train postbaccalaureate students in the understanding and elimination of health gaps among various populations, is accepting applications for fall 2000; noted that Dr. Neal Nathanson, director of the Office of AIDS Research, is leaving NIH on Sept. 1; and announced that Dr. Barnett "Barry" Kramer is new director of the Office of Medical Applications of Research. ■

#### **Malveaux To Give 6th Diggs Lecture**

The sixth annual John Diggs Lecture, sponsored by the NIH Black Scientists Association, will be delivered by Dr. Floyd Malveaux, interim vice-president for health affairs and dean, College of Medicine, Howard University, on Friday, July 28 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10 at 11:30 a.m. His lecture title is "Disparity of Asthma Mortality and Morbidity in Low Socioeconomic Groups." The seminar, cosponsored by NIAID's Office of Special Populations and Research Training, NINDS and NIAID's minority scientists advisory committee, is open to the public, but targets NIH summer students. Sign language interpretation will be provided. ■

#### **NIH, Mexican Agency Renew Agreement**

Acting NIH director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein and Dr. Carlos Bazdresch, director of the National Council for Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) signed an agreement on May 19 at the Lawton Chiles International House to renew for 5 years the Cooperative Biomedical Research Program between NIH and CONACYT. This agreement, in effect since 1994, establishes a bilateral program for cooperation that provides a framework for the exchange of scientists and the support of cooperative biomedical and behavioral research and training. An important element under the agreement is the Pan American Fellowship (PAF) Program that

provides 2 years of research and advanced training in NIH laboratories for selected Mexican postdoctoral fellows. NIH and CONACYT cofund the fellows on a roughly equal basis. Since 1996, NIH has hosted 16 PAF fellows in areas of research that include cancer, infectious disease, neuroscience, molecular biology and child health. Fellows are currently working in laboratories at NIAID, NINDS, NIAMS, NCI, NIDDK, NIDCR and NHLBI.

Using the PAF as a model, the Fogarty International Center is in the process of expanding cooperative research activities to other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. For information regarding the PAF and other opportunities for collaboration with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, contact Dr. Luis Salicrup, program officer for the Americas in the FIC Division of International Relations. He may be reached at 496-4784; fax 480-3414; or email luis\_salicrup@nih.gov. ■

#### **Celebrate NIH IntraMall 2000**

Celebrate IntraMall 2000 in an air-conditioned tent with free food and giveaways. BioSpace.com will host the NIH IntraMall 2000 tent show on Wednesday, July 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in parking lot 10-D, on the north side of the Clinical Center. The event will highlight recent NIH IntraMall enhancements and key IntraMall vendors.

Vendors on hand will include AnaSpec, Biosource International, Brinkmann Instruments, ComDisco, COSH Healthcare, Covance Antibodies, Government Scientific Source, Hitachi Genetic Systems, Hyclone, Invitrogen, Jouan, Life Technologies, Mergen, Norseman, Office Depot, Operon, Origene, Peninsula Lab Products and others. ■



*NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein and Dr. Carlos Bazdresch sign the agreement to extend NIH-CONACYT bilateral cooperation.*



Above, Julie Nelson (l), director of the NIH Fitness Center, gives a kickboxing demonstration to several enthusiastic participants; at right, all the talk about physical fitness, exercise and stretching inspires some participants to strike a pose.



Above, young people step up to the scale at the nutrition/healthy eating exhibit; below, Patrick Hines (l) and Bradley Carthon, who helped organize the weekend's events, discuss their medical school careers.



## NIH/SNMA Health Awareness Fair Draws Hundreds

A health awareness fair hosted jointly by NIH and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) drew more than 500 to NIH's campus on June 3. The fair capped a weekend of activities that represented the first outreach events in connection with NIH's effort to eliminate racial and ethnic health gaps. "Addressing Health Disparities: The NIH Program of Action," the agency's comprehensive and ambitious plan that was announced earlier this year, has six main goals—to recruit and train minority investigators; to advance community outreach activities; to form new and enhance current partnerships with minority and other organizations that have similar goals to close health gaps; to define, code, track, analyze and evaluate progress in ethnic and minority health research more uniformly across the agency; to enhance public awareness of health differences among populations; and the



*Family Affair:* Several entire families took part in the day-long fair that featured interactive workshops and exhibits.



Dr. Arlyn Garcia-Perez, assistant director of NIH's Office of Intramural Research, leads a tour of NHLBI's Laboratory of Kidney and Electrolyte Metabolism.

program's centerpiece, to develop a 5-year strategic research agenda.

On June 2, NIH welcomed more than 40 medical and dental school students to the Stone House for an all-day symposium that ended with lab tours and a visit by former Congressman Louis Stokes. The students heard presentations on the importance of minority participation in clinical and basic research and about recruitment tools such as the NIH loan repayment program.

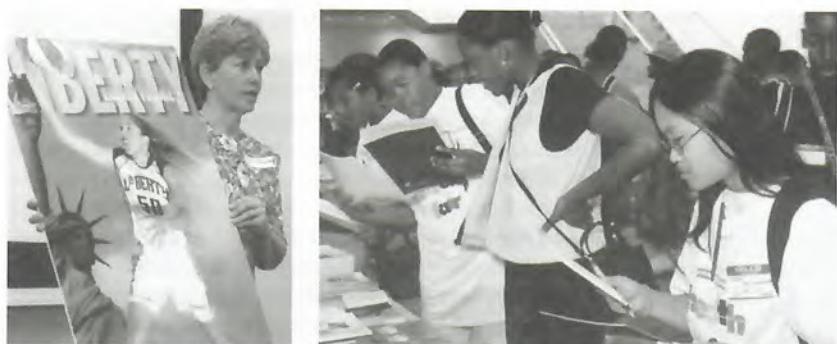
On June 3, middle and high school minority students and their families from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia were invited to the Natcher Conference Center, where health and fitness experts gave interactive presentations on a number of topics including fitness development and maintenance, youth violence prevention, substance abuse prevention programs as well as NIH-sponsored research and research training opportunities. This 2-day event was supported and planned by a committee with representation from each IC.



NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein gives opening remarks at the fair, as the more than 40 medical and dental students from the SNMA line the stage.



An undisputed highlight of the fair for the youngsters was the chance to meet and get autographs from Adimu and Fran of cable TV station BET's Teen Summit. An episode of the show, featuring health topics such as smoking, nutrition and substance abuse, was taped to cap the day's activities.



NIAMS's Dr. Joan McGowan gives a sports medicine workshop.



Youngsters of all ages browse the multitude of health and health career information available at the fair.



Fair participants include (from l) Walter Jones, CC deputy director for management; Dr. Javetta Ordain, National Medical Association president; Dr. Yvonne Maddox, NIH acting deputy director; Dr. Beverly Gaines, a pediatrician at the University of Kentucky; and Dr. David Levine, a pediatrician at Morehouse.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON AND S. DEVONISH



At left, former Rep. Louis Stokes, who while in Congress pushed early and often for more funding for health disparities research, addresses the student symposium at the Stone House; at right, Carthon, a Harvard medical student, and Hines, an M.D.-Ph.D. student at University of North Carolina, absorb symposium presentations.



At left, NCI deputy director Dr. Alan Rabson greets Paul Berry, a student from Washington University School of Medicine, at a pre-event reception. At right, Planning Committee Chair Kay Johnson Graham (l), NIDCD/NINR EEO officer, confers with SNMA Chair Nia Banks, a medical student at Johns Hopkins, during the fair.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

**Deal Home Economics Teacher Ruth Wallace (l) shares a quilting project with Maddox (c) and OD EEO Officer Hilda Dixon; Wallace and her students recently made a television appearance, where they were noted for their outstanding quilt exhibition.**

**ADOPTED SCHOOL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Dacoba, who offered a glimpse of life at Deal throughout three floors of teachers, students, exhibits, displays and the memorable changing of the classes. Later, Maddox met with Principal Reginald Moss.

"Deal has enjoyed a very unique atmosphere, which we feel is conducive to every student obtaining maximum growth—educationally, socially and physically," he said. "Such an atmosphere has been accomplished with a dedicated staff and, foremost, a student body that accepts responsibility." Moss has been the principal at Deal since March 1978.

Maddox observed that "the school has continued its tradition of providing creative and interesting courses while maintaining a progressive structured atmosphere." The school maintains a "Wall of Fame" of students who have excelled in academics and sports, both while attending Deal and after leaving.

Katie Compton, student council president and member of the National Junior Honor Society, who has been selected for a summer job at NIH, was also on hand for the tour.

"Though I know that everyone says that Deal is a no-nonsense school," she said, "I really appreciate the fact that the teachers and principal are very supportive of your interests and in helping you find out what you want to do in life."

Deal is unique among junior high schools in Washington, D.C., with a diverse student population: 46 percent black, 31 percent white, 17 percent Hispanic, and 5 percent Asian/Pacific Islander. Students represent all economic levels. The school is located near Tenley Circle, off Wisconsin Avenue.



*Ana Vasquez (r), humanities and Spanish I instructor, explains to Maddox the meaning behind a Hispanic-themed stained glass display created by students.*



*Deal Principal Reginald Moss and student Katie Compton show NIH acting director Dr. Yvonne Maddox a number of the school's unique features, including the Wall of Fame that recognizes outstanding achievement.*

Deal opened its doors in 1931 and was named for the principal of the first junior high school in D.C. Before World War II broke out in Europe, the west wing was added. The war changed many things at Deal. Pupils assisted in wartime activities by helping teachers with food- and gas-rationing duties. In addition, the region's tower was often manned at night by Deal teachers working as airplane spotters, since nearby Fort Reno is one of the highest spots in Washington. There were frequent air raid drills and emergency supplies were stored in the tunnel beneath the school.

From the beginning, Deal was a school with an international flavor, because many diplomats sent their children there. It was among the first to provide social instruction for youngsters who knew little English. It earned recognition from the United Nations more than 20 years ago for a pageant created by students who were natives of nearly every nation then in the United Nations.

As Maddox toured the school and spent time with teachers, she was regaled with stories and samples of the wide range of courses offered at Deal: John Spearmon, a general science teacher, spoke at length about one project in particular that related to the human genome; Ana Vasquez, humanities and Spanish I instructor, explained the meaning embedded in a Hispanic-themed stained glass display created by students; Dr. Donna Mason, computer lab teacher, presented documents students created using PowerPoint and other desktop publishing software; and Home Economics Teacher Ruth Wallace recounted that she and her students recently made a television appearance, where they were noted for their outstanding quilt exhibition.

Maddox, who was invited to attend the school's annual Thanksgiving Day Luncheon prepared by the students, concluded: "I know that NIH will contribute all its expertise and resources to ensure that this partnership is a long-term success." ■

**PARTNERSHIP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Washington, D.C., area. Presently, the focus of the program is rheumatic diseases. Eventually, the program will address health disparities in musculoskeletal, muscle, bone and skin diseases among African American and other minority communities across the country.

NIAMS staff met with community leaders and representatives in February to gain insight into the community's needs regarding rheumatic diseases. Participants identified ways to provide health education and patient care to the community, as well as ways to increase the number of African American investigators. Already, results have emerged: a draft health promotion plan has been developed to guide local HPP activities for this particular community.

Plans are also under way for a new rheumatology clinic to be located in a centrally accessible area of Washington, D.C. The clinic will provide additional access to quality health care services for patients. Also, it will increase training opportunities in patient care and research protocol development for African American investigators.

Through partnerships with state and local organizations, the HPP expands the institute's public health education, clinical investigation and investigator recruitment efforts to minority communities disproportionately affected by these chronic diseases.

Groups such as African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and Asian Americans experience many of these diseases both in increased numbers and increased severity. Compared to the general population, the prevalence of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), an autoimmune disease that can range from a mild skin rash to major organ failure, is higher among African Americans and Hispanic Americans. These groups also experience more serious complications of SLE. African Americans also have higher rates of hip and knee osteoarthritis: a degenerative joint disease that causes pain and joint damage. Scleroderma, an autoimmune disease that causes hardening of the skin and can affect major organs, occurs with greater frequency in Choctaw American Indians. Asian American women experience rheumatoid arthritis at rates higher than the general population as well.

To address such disparate health conditions, the HPP concentrates on four key areas: public health education, patient care, access to clinical investigations, and recruitment to research careers. Collaboration with state and local organizations that work with or represent minority communities helps to ensure that the program's strategies are designed to meet community needs.

Public education activities increase awareness of the program's targeted diseases. Patient care emphasizes early detection and treatment of the targeted diseases and evaluates subspecialty care

such as rheumatology in the minority community. This also includes assessment of the natural history of disease in the community. Opportunities to participate in clinical investigations expand patients' access to current studies for the treatment and prevention of chronic disabilities associated with the program's targeted diseases. Specific strategies are planned to increase the number of underrepresented minority investigators in the biomedical research fields related to the diseases. These include developing science education curricula as well as training and mentoring programs for students, teachers and researchers.

The patient representatives group, a component of the HPP, reviews a variety of topics including health education information and clinical research protocols. They also support and encourage patients who are new to research protocols. The group is made up of people who are participating in the institute's clinical investigations. Members help ensure that the research and education programs are tailored to the needs of the patients who participate in clinical investigations.

The intramural research program is also establishing a newsletter as a result of the group's activities so far. This will increase awareness of ongoing research activities. The newsletter will include information on clinical investigations, news related to patient care and articles on intramural program staff. Additionally, a new NIAMS bookmark will be designed as a quick, easy reference to the institute's information services.

By working more closely with communities to identify culturally sensitive implementation strategies, NIAMS hopes to reduce the gaps in health disparities for communities disproportionately affected by the diseases in its research portfolio.

The HPP operates under the direction of Dr. Peter E. Lipsky, the NIAMS scientific director. He joined the institute in September 1999. ■

*Dr. Edward Lakatta, director of NIA's Laboratory of Cardiovascular Science, received the American Federation for Aging Research's Irving Wright Award of Distinction on June 3 for his research on cardiovascular diseases in the elderly. The laboratory has made a long-term commitment to unraveling the interactions that occur among the aging process, life style, cardiovascular disease, and more recently genetics; this research is part of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study on Aging. "Aging is proving to be a more powerful contributor to cardiovascular disease risk than other well-defined risk factors such as smoking and lack of exercise," Lakatta said. The award is conferred on those who make exceptional contributions to basic or clinical research and encourage such research in the field of aging.*

**Chamber  
Music  
Concert, July  
23**

**The Rock Creek Chamber Players** will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 23 in the 14th floor assembly hall at the Clinical Center, sponsored by the recreation therapy section. The free public concert will include songs in English accompanied by cello and harp; solo works for oboe by Benjamin Britten; Alberto Ginastera's *Pampeana No. 2* for cello and piano; and Mozart's string quintet in C major, K. 515. For reservations and information call (202) 337-8710.



## EX-NEW YORKER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the air of a hiker who enjoys the walk as much as the destination.

Born in Harlem to parents of Jamaican descent and raised in the Bronx, she earned her doctorate at City University of New York, City College with support from NIGMS' Division of Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE). Philp says she chose City College because it was in Harlem. "I wanted to be another positive product of Harlem," she added.

She chose to major in biology at City College after a high school Advanced Placement biology course sparked her interest. During her senior year at City College, she began working as a technician in a newly formed immunology lab run by Dr. Jerry Guyden.

It was Guyden who encouraged her to pursue a master's degree and who became her advisor and mentor. After she received her master's degree, he convinced her to get her Ph.D there.

During graduate school, Philp got the opportunity to teach. "Initially, I did not think of myself as a role model," she said. But after her third semester as a teaching assistant, her lab sections were routinely oversubscribed. Philp attributes this phenomenon to her habit of giving advice to students who asked for it. "I realized I was a role model to many of my undergraduates."

Part of her growth as a role model came from her participation in a local outreach program while at City College. She and other graduate students mentored seventh graders 2 days a week in the lab, exposing them to science and laboratory techniques with the children interested in science

hope of keeping the children interested in science through high school.

Philp has not lost the urge to teach. Her ultimate goal is to become an academic research instructor. "My parents always taught us knowledge was power and teaching is empowering others," she said.

Currently, Philp holds a postdoctoral position in Dr. Hynda Kleinman's lab at NIDCR, where she is trying to identify the receptor for thymosin beta-4, a protein with anti-inflammatory and wound healing properties. Kleinman selected Philp for the position because her background and experience related to Kleinman's current project. So far, the match has worked well. "She is not afraid to do new things, and everything she is doing is new," said Kleinman.

Much of Philp's work focuses on the functions of

thymosin beta-4, which was discovered by Dr. Allan Goldstein at George Washington University. The protein has been shown to increase collagen deposition and promote skin and blood vessel formation in a variety of species. Kleinman's group is overseeing the use of thymosin beta-4 as an active ingredient in an ointment used to promote wound-healing that should enter Phase I clinical trials by the end of the year.

Philp is also looking for the genes that regulate the production of thymosin beta-4.

"I have my hands in more than one cookie jar," she said. "These are things I have never been exposed to before, and I am really excited about it." ■

## Division of Minority Opportunities In Research

The NIGMS Division of Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE) administers research and research training grant programs in order to increase the numbers of underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral science. MORE's programs include Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), and Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS), both of which have been in operation since the 1970's. Support from both goes to academic institutions with substantial enrollments of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans and natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

In FY 1999 the MORE division supported more than 2,400 students at institutions across the country.



*Dr. Stephen C. Schimpff, chief executive officer of the University of Maryland Medical Center and executive vice president of the University of Maryland Medical System, has been named chair of the board of governors of the Clinical Center. A member of the board and its executive committee since their inception 4 years ago, and currently chair of the finance working group, he will be installed as board chair in July. Schimpff was a clinical associate in the Baltimore Cancer Research Center of the National Cancer Institute from 1969 to 1972. He was a guest worker at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1972 to 1973. He remained with NCI as a senior investigator until 1982, when the University of Maryland Cancer Center was created; he was named director of the center when it opened.*

## 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>.

Color Control for Scientific Images	7/13
Intermediate ISPF	7/13
NT Workstation Troubleshooting	7/17
GCG-Lite and SeqWeb - Two web Interfaces to the GCG Suite of Sequence Analysis Programs	7/18
Account Sponsor Orientation	7/18
Java GUI Programming	7/18, 20
Introduction to Programming	7/18-21
Windows 2000 for System Administrators	7/19
Introduction to HTML	7/19
Data Warehouse Query: Research Contracts & Grants	7/20
Introduction to Networks	7/21
Advanced Features of HTML	7/24
Introduction to HTML	7/24
New Features in SAS Version 8	7/25
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000	7/25
Data Warehouse Query: Travel	7/25
BRMUG - Macintosh Users Group	7/25
An Overview of Latex	7/25



### 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.

#### *Administrative Skills*

Administrative Officers Seminar 8/1

#### *Administrative Systems*

IMPACT for Administrative and Professional Staff 7/27  
IMPAC II Grants Preview Module 7/27  
IMPACT System for HR Staff (a.m & p.m.) 8/9  
Fellowship Payment System 8/1,2

#### *Communication Skills*

Power Listening 8/3

#### *Computer Application and Concepts*

Introduction to Windows 7/26  
Introduction to MS Excel 98 8/2  
Advanced MS Excel 98 8/3

#### *Financial and Procurement Management*

Federal Supply Schedules 7/25  
Consolidated Purchasing

Through Contracts (a.m & p.m.)

Buying from Businesses on the Open Market 7/27

#### *Management, Supervision & Professional Development*

The Invisible Rules of Organizational Culture 7/13  
Transitioning from Scientist to Manager 7/26  
Emotionally Intelligent Leadership 8/7  
Supervision: New Skills and New Challenges 8/22  
How to Manage Conflict: Solving Problems at Work 8/8,9

### Class Offered on Fellowship Payment System

The Fellowship Payment System is an automated system that streamlines the process for documenting, tracking, and paying fellowship training awards for visiting fellows, IRTAs and CRTAs. Oct. 1 is the target date to have the system implemented. HRDD has scheduled classes on how to use the new system. If you perform pay actions for personnel participating in these fellowship programs, you should attend.

Classes held through Aug. 17 have been funded and ICs will not be charged. Tuition for classes held after Aug. 17 will be \$175 per participant. For more information and course dates, visit the HRDD web site. The fellowship payment course is listed under Administrative Systems courses. ■

### NIH University: New Services Available

Assessment testing will be administered at Executive Plaza South, Suite 100 on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m., beginning Aug. 2. Employees will be able to take CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and DANTESTS tests to obtain college credit. Montgomery College will also administer college assessment tests for degree-seeking students or for students who wish to take math or English courses. Call 402-3382 for information or to make an appointment. ■

### NIDDK's Rice Wins Chemical Pioneer Award

Dr. Kenner Rice, chief of NIDDK's Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, received the Chemical Pioneer Award on June 2. Given annually by the American Institute of Chemists, the prize honors chemists or chemical engineers who have made a major impact in science and industry or to the chemical profession.

Considered among the best medicinal chemists in the world, Rice has spent most of his 28 years at NIH synthesizing hundreds of compounds that act on the central nervous system (CNS).

They include chemical probes that aid in receptor mapping in the brain, the study of biochemical functions of the CNS, and medicines with the potential to treat addiction.

In response to a worldwide opium shortage in 1973-1975, Rice also invented the NIH Opiate Total Synthesis, one of his leading contributions to medicine. The process makes it possible to use petrochemicals as the starting material to synthesize all of the morphine alkaloids and derivatives normally produced from opium poppies. Codeine and morphine are among the most important ones. The technology, which is

licensed to Mallinckrodt Inc., remains the only practical procedure available for large-scale production of synthetic opiates critical for patient care and research.

Researchers now can locate and count opioid receptors during PET scans of the brain thanks to Rice's synthesis of (-)-cyclofoxy. This agent is an antagonist that binds to receptors without activating them, enabling scientists to study the brains of normal subjects and people who have abused drugs or suffered some other damage to their opioid receptors. SNC 80, another chemical designed by Rice, is an important tool for researchers who study the delta opioid receptor, which has a role in regulating the immune system and in the development of drug dependence. Most drugs used to study opioid receptors bind to all three types of opioid receptors with similar affinities. SNC 80, however, binds to delta receptors almost exclusively and with ultra-high affinity. This selective binding pattern makes it easier for scientists to understand how drug action varies on the different receptor types.

Rice and his associates evaluated a chemical called GBR 12909, which was originated by the Dutch firm Gist-Brocades N.V., and demonstrated that monkeys would stop taking cocaine when given the drug. By changing the structure of GBR 12909, Rice's group has produced a longer acting drug. One dose was effective for nearly a month in monkeys. The National Institute on Drug Abuse is currently testing GBR 12909 for safety in humans prior to testing in cocaine addicts.

Rice is the author of 30 issued patents and approximately 450 papers.

"Many of us take for granted the technology and tools produced by Dr. Rice and his associates. Clearly, without his sustained design and synthesis of novel tools for biomedical research, progress in many areas could not proceed," said Red Cross senior research scientist Graham A. Jamieson, who nominated Rice for the award. ■



Dr. Kenner Rice

## Hatfield Visits Clinical Research Center Building Site



*Mark O. Hatfield, former U.S. senator from Oregon, shows those qualities hailed in his state's song—health and vigor. He is a member of the National Advisory Council on Aging of the National Institute on Aging.*



*Standing in front of the CRC building site are (from l) Ficca, Gallin, Hatfield and his wife Annette, Wetle (who happens to be a native Oregonian) and Yong-Duk Chyun, CRC project director.*

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



*The new CRC, which is scheduled to open in 2002, will create an environment for scientific and clinical opportunities. On the CRC tour with Sen. Hatfield are (from l) Steve Ficca, director, Office of Research Services; Dr. Terrie Wetle, deputy director, National Institute on Aging; Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, acting director, NIH; Dr. Richard Hodes, director, National Institute on Aging, who hosted Hatfield's visit; and Dr. John Gallin, director, Clinical Center.*



*Margie DeBolt, project architect of the Clinical Research Center, describes details of the building exterior to Sen. Hatfield and his wife Annette.*

## NIH Adopts Computer Sanitization Policy—Prevent Embarrassing Memories!

**H**ave you ever bought something at an auction or garage sale, and when you got home found that it still contained somebody's personal stuff (financial receipts, shopping lists, maybe love letters)? Well, that's somewhat analogous to donating a government computer with a hard disk that still contains scientific databases, sensitive personnel information, or perhaps medical records from that time you were a research study volunteer. In an effort to prevent this from happening, NIH has established a policy that all computer hard disks must be sanitized before they are surplused, transferred or donated. The policy went into effect June 12.

It is important to sanitize hard disks because deleting information stored on our computers doesn't ensure its erasure from the disk. The new policy ([at http://irm.cit.nih.gov/nihsecurity/sanitization.html](http://irm.cit.nih.gov/nihsecurity/sanitization.html)) outlines the sanitization requirements for various systems (including diskettes, tapes, CD-ROMs) and states that systems will not be picked up for surplus or transfer outside of an IC if they do not have a signed certification form attached. In addition, computers being donated to an outside organization must have a complete operating system installed after sanitization to ensure their usefulness.

Contact your information systems security officer (ISSO—a roster is located at <http://irm.cit.nih.gov/security/scroster.html>) prior to getting rid of any computer equipment to get assistance in properly performing the cleansing task and for obtaining an approved wipeout or formatting utility. CIT has provided a sanitizing program, available via the CIT web page at <http://irm.cit.nih.gov/nihsecurity/bcwipe.html> or through TASC at 594-6248, for Macintosh and Windows-based systems. Your ISSO or his/her designee will sign the requisite certification form. The Scientific Equipment and Instrumentation Branch (SEIB) provides sanitization services to the NIH community (on and off campus) for a fee and can be reached at 496-4131. SEIB will respond within 24 hours. This service costs \$79/hour and is charged in 15-minute increments.—Cheryl Ann Seaman