

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Ribosome Structure Is Focus of Stetten Symposium, Oct. 18

By Alisa Zapp Machalek

Decades of painstaking research have finally paid off for those studying ribosome structure—and those interested in pushing the limits of crystallographic techniques. Within the last 15 months, four different research groups published crystal structures of all or part of a bacterial ribosome. Leaders of three of these groups will discuss their findings at the 19th DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Symposium, entitled "Revealing the Ribosome" and sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The symposium, which is part of the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Ribosomes, often called "protein factories," manufacture every protein in every

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Research Festival Set, Oct. 10-13

The 14th annual NIH Research Festival will be held on campus Oct. 10-13. The festival organizing committee, cochaired this year by NHLBI scientific directors Robert Balaban and Elizabeth Nabel, has been busy planning a wide-ranging program showcasing the scientific diversity of the NIH intramural research program. This year's festival consists of plenary, mini-symposia and poster sessions; a job fair for postdoctoral fellows; a biomedical research equipment show; special exhibits on intramural resources; and a lunchtime food and music fair.

The NIH Job Fair for postdoctoral fellows will kick off Research Festival events on Tuesday, Oct. 10. The fair is sponsored by the Foundation for the NIH and spearhead-

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Fresh Views of Campus



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

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'Cybercafé' Dedicated to Varmus

By Rich McManus

Nine months after concluding his 6-year tenure as NIH director, Dr. Harold Varmus returned to campus Sept. 18 for a warm homecoming in which the new Cybercafé for graduate students in Bldg. 10 was officially opened and dedicated in his honor.

"I'm very pleased to see this project completed, and very grateful to have this honor bestowed on me, especially while I'm still alive," said Varmus. "I'm also grateful for the speed with which it has happened."

Dressed somewhat uncharacteristically in a suit and tie—a signal that this was indeed a special occasion—Varmus, who is now president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, said he was pleased on three counts to open the café: first, he said he had been obsessed, in discussions of campus master planning, with creating focal points on campus—"places where significant interactions occur." When

SEE CYBERCAFE, PAGE 8

NHLBI Launches 'Hearts N' Parks' Program

By Susan Sagusti

The NHLBI Obesity Education Initiative recently launched a national, community-based program in collaboration with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Called Hearts N' Parks, the program aims to help reduce the growing trend of obesity in the United States by encouraging Americans of all ages to engage in regular physical activity, to follow a heart-healthy eating plan and to aim for a healthy weight.



U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher (second from r) and NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant (r) thank Olympic skater Michael Weiss and Arlington County Board Chair Barbara Favola for participating in the recent Hearts N' Parks program launch.

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Perry Plexico was recently named deputy director of operations for the Center for Information Technology. He now oversees CIT's four service divisions—customer service, computer system services (DCSS), enterprise and custom applications, and network systems and telecommunications. Previously, as director of DCSS, he guided the organization through several transitions, including the successful 1997 DHHS data center consolidation that strengthened the NIH Computer Center and substantially reduced information technology costs. He chaired the NIH architecture management group that was for several years the principal technical advisory body to the interim NIH chief information officer. His accomplishments include publication of scientific and engineering papers and coauthorship of a popular book on object-oriented programming.

RESEARCH FESTIVAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ed by the NIH Office of Education's acting director Brenda Hanning and fair coordinator Shirley Forehand. A new feature of the fair, a keynote address on "Career Decision Strategies in the Era of Biotech: How To Decide What Pathway is Right for You," by Dr. William Schrader, Ligand Pharmaceuticals, will begin activities at 9 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The job fair will follow in the Visitor Information Center and will host more than 45 representatives from industry, government, the academic community and nonprofit organizations. NIH postdoctoral fellows who are completing their research training and seeking permanent employment will have the opportunity to meet with these representatives from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the job fair web site at <http://www.training.nih.gov/jobfair> for a listing of vacancies of the participating exhibitors.

Two days of scientific symposia begin with plenary sessions on Wednesday morning, Oct. 11. "Nitric Oxide: Molecular Physiology, Pathology and Therapeutics," chaired by Dr. Alan Schechter, NIDDK, and "Angiogenesis: Molecular Mechanics and Therapeutic Strategies," chaired by Dr. William Stetler-Stevenson, NCI, will share the morning program. A third plenary session on "Lessons from Whole Genome Analysis," chaired by Dr. Eric Green, NHGRI, will follow on Thursday morning, Oct. 12. All three plenary sessions will be held in Masur Auditorium.

The morning sessions will be followed each afternoon by six concurrent mini-symposia with topics solicited from the IC scientific directors and members of the various special interest groups. Three poster sessions are also scheduled featuring presentations by more than 350 NIH intramural scientists. These activities all will be held in Natcher Conference Center. Program booklets will not be printed this year. Visit the Research Festival web site at <http://festival2000.nih.gov> for detailed program information, meeting times and locations, and a printable schedule of events.

The Technical Sales Association will once again sponsor the popular Research Festival Exhibit on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 12 and 13. More than 400 exhibit booths will display state-of-the art equipment, supplies and services by leading regional and national biomedical research suppliers. Because construction has begun for the NIH Child Care Center on part of parking lot 45, the show has returned to its original venue on parking lot 10D adjacent to the Clinical Center's Blood Bank.

Join your friends and colleagues for the Festival Food and Music Fair on Thursday, Oct. 12, from noon to 2:30 p.m., in the Research Festival tent located behind Natcher cafeteria. Sponsored by TSA and the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association, in cooperation with Eurest Dining Services,

food will be free, and participants will have the opportunity to enjoy selections from area restaurants such as Ledo's, Hard Times Café, Hollywood East Café, O'Donnell's, McCormick & Schmick's and Eurest Dining Services. Lunch tickets will be limited to the first 2,000 NIH employees who register online at the Research Festival web site <http://festival2000.nih.gov>. The David Bach Consort, a spirited electric group of artists whose music is a mix of jazz, new age and world influences will provide the musical entertainment. Rain or shine, bring a blanket and join in the celebration of the 2000 NIH Research Festival! ■



The four tower cranes laboring away over the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center lead a swinging life, but must be careful not to bash one another. In the photo at top, the sun appears to perch atop the easternmost of the structures. Below, a massive crane appears to have taken a vicious bite out of the foundation of Bldg. 10. The new hospital won't be complete for another two years at least.

PHOTOS: DAMON TIGHE



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Fruit Fly Research Illuminates Human Health

By Alison Davis

To many Americans, fruit flies are the annoying consequence of buying too many on-sale bananas.

Yet these tiny red-eyed animals—known to scientists as the species *Drosophila melanogaster*—are essential workhorses in thousands of biomedical research laboratories around the world. Decades of study have revealed that the tiny insects, which bear little resemblance to people, nevertheless share much of our genetic heritage. Fruit flies possess strikingly similar versions of the genes that promote normal human development and, when altered, contribute to disease.

"Nobody would have predicted that an arcane fruit fly that had a leg sticking out of its head would have revealed fundamental secrets about the development of human embryos," said Charles Zuker, a neuroscientist at the University of California, San Diego.

On Sept. 6 at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute campus in Chevy Chase, Zuker and a distinguished group of researchers joined forces to extol the virtues of the fruit fly as a model system in biomedical research. The meeting, "Drosophila: Direct Flight to Understanding Human Disease and Behavior," was cosponsored by HHMI and three NIH components: the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Coordinating the meeting were Laurie Tompkins, a program director at NIGMS, Gerald Rubin, HHMI's vice president for biomedical research, and Tom Kornberg, a fly geneticist at the University of California, San Francisco.

"The time is ripe now—the tools are there," said Rubin, a recognized leader in the tightly knit fruit fly research community, and collaborator with Celera Genomics' Craig Venter in sequencing the *Drosophila* genome this past spring. "*Drosophila* is the organism closest to humans where it's still possible to do [in-depth] genetic studies."

What kind of genetic studies? The list of human-related topics fruit fly researchers are currently working on is surprisingly broad in scope: cancer; birth defects; development of the respiratory and circulatory systems; cardiovascular development and disease; taste, sight, smell and hearing; learning and memory; brain disease; sleep; drug abuse; aging; and diabetes.

Those were just the topics covered at the meeting. Missing from the list, but currently under investigation by scientists using fruit flies as a model, are eye development, circadian rhythms, blood cell develop-

ment, malaria and Parkinson's disease, to name a few.

Over the years, researchers have learned that even though flies do things very differently from more evolved organisms such as humans, the core signaling pathways in which cells form and carry out their duties as part of functioning organs are remarkably similar throughout the biological kingdom. In so-called model organisms such as flies, often these pathways are much simpler, making them much easier to study.

Take diabetes, for example. Flies don't get this debilitating disease, and their bodies don't even make glucose (they produce a different sugar called trehalose instead). Yet almost all of the insulin-signaling circuits that become disordered in diabetes exist in the bodies of flies, a feature rendering them potentially useful test systems for probing the causes of diabetes as well as for finding potential treatments.

The future already looks bright. "We've gone from a simple insect to three new drug targets in 2 years," said geneticist Geoffrey Duyk, chief scientific officer of Exelixis Pharmaceuticals of South San Francisco, Calif.

Remarkably, despite the fact that flies don't even have hearts (at least not multi-chambered organs like humans), *Drosophila* researchers have begun to untangle the fundamental steps involved in heart development. "The heart is a wondrous and mystical organ, but so little is known about it at a molecular level," said Eric Olson, a molecular biologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. His group has made recent strides in identifying new genes—in flies and mammals—that play a role in this process.

Other talks at the meeting summed up recent progress in researchers' quest to use *Drosophila* to probe the mysteries of the brain.

For example, according to Tim Tully of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, fruit flies are revealing secrets about how the brain processes memories. Tully, who has set up an experimental system he calls "Pavlov's flies," recounted the similarities between the "brains" of flies and those of people. (Tully's fly work is analogous to the classic learning experiments with dogs performed by Ivan Pavlov around the turn of the 20th century, involving so-called conditioned responses to various stimuli.)



Photo of the fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster, by Jay Hirsh, an NIGMS grantee at the University of Virginia.



Dr. Ellen Schwartz recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator of the social sciences, nursing, epidemiology, and methods (SNEM)-1 study section in the SNEM integrated review group. Her section reviews applications involving community-based interventions to improve health outcomes, as well as studies of the socio-environmental context in which health, disease, behavior and normal development are embedded. After receiving her doctorate, Schwartz was first a research associate in the Center for Educational Policy and Management at the University of Oregon; then an assistant professor at the Teachers College, Columbia University, where she specialized in the economics of education. From 1987 until she joined CSR, she was a senior evaluator for the U.S. General Accounting Office.

FRUIT FLY RESEARCH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"Humans have circuits like a Macintosh computer, whereas a fly has a Philco radio," he said, "but there are still transistors and resistors [that make them work]." Tully and his coworkers have unearthed a molecular "switch" in flies called CREB that appears to convert incoming information into long-term memory. The molecule also exists in humans.

The past few years have witnessed an explosion of findings about the inner workings of fly biological clocks, information that has demonstrated a nearly identical set of working parts in higher organisms such as mice and people. Building on the success of these genetic studies, veterinarian Joan Hendricks, a sleep researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, has turned to *Drosophila* to study sleep.

"Some of the most fundamental questions [about sleep] haven't even been asked," said Hendricks, conceding that scientists don't even know whether sleep is something only mammals and birds do. In part because of the legacy of research on circadian rhythms in flies, she is hopeful that insects may be a useful genetic model system for studying normal rest as well as sleep disorders.

Other scientists at the meeting spoke of using fruit flies to study drug abuse and addiction.

Ulrike Heberlein, a *Drosophila* geneticist at UCSF, told the audience about her studies of the molecular roots of drug abuse, particularly behaviors that result from short- and long-term exposure to alcohol in flies. According to Heberlein, fruit flies, just like people, develop a tolerance to alcohol over time—and require higher concentrations of alcohol to produce a behavioral effect.

Also similarly to people, flies lose their balance and postural control after ingesting alcohol, she said, describing previous studies performed with an elaborate laboratory device called an "inebriometer," a vertical series of cones that flies fall through after being exposed to varying doses of alcohol (the ones that fall through fastest are the most affected; they are subjected to further study and genetic analysis).

This approach, and a more recent refinement of the method in which Heberlein exposes flies to alcohol and then places them on a tray connected to a computer that generates a digital tracing of the flies' movements in response to different amounts of alcohol, has enabled her to link certain fly genes with sensitivity to alcohol. In a surprising twist, she and her colleagues have found an astonishing overlap between fly genes involved in sensitivity to alcohol and learning and memory.

In concluding remarks, Rubin echoed the comments of many of the day's speakers.

"No one could have predicted, or appreciated, the incredible amount of [evolutionary] conservation between fruit flies and humans," he said, adding

that armed with the power of *Drosophila* genetics and the recently decoded *Drosophila* genome sequence, scientists using flies "can go after a problem without knowing anything about it."

Veteran fruit fly researcher Matthew Scott, a developmental biologist at Stanford University who has forged links between key molecules in fly development and birth defects and cancer in humans, remains fascinated by the game itself.

"Connecting things we didn't think were connected makes science so much fun," he said. ■

Korean Administrator Comes to NIH

Dedicated students go the extra mile for their education. A really dedicated student traveled over 6,000 miles for his. Inil Lee has come to NIH from Korea to study how the various institutes manage their research budgets, review grant applications and

plan new programs. For the next 18 months, he will train in these aspects of extramural program management with Dr. Anthony René, the NIGMS assistant director for referral and liaison, and other NIH administrators.

Lee is director of the administrative management division of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Korea. One of his division's responsibilities is to provide

management and support to the 14,000 scientists and staff members at Daeduk Science Town, the largest government research complex in the country. Lee has studied abroad before, earning a master's degree in Pacific international affairs from the University of California, San Diego, in the early 1990's.

Lee wanted to study at NIH because it is one of the largest grant-awarding institutions in the world. "I want to know how NIH handles such large amounts [of the national budget] efficiently," he said. He hopes the knowledge he gains during the next year and a half will help with the Korean government's stated goal of increasing the national research and development budget to five percent of its total spending. ■

R&W Has Horse Show Tickets

The NIH R&W has tickets available for the Washington International Horse Show at the MCI Center, Oct. 24-29. Ticket price is \$10. Ticket is good for any performance except the evenings of Friday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Oct. 28. For more information and schedules visit www.wihs.org. ■



Inil Lee

2000 John Diggs Lecture

Asthma on the Rise in U.S., World

By Roland Owens

There are approximately 17 million asthmatics in the United States, and asthma prevalence, morbidity and mortality are increasing, not only in the U.S., but around the world. That was the theme of the sixth annual John Diggs Lecture, presented recently by Dr. Floyd Malveaux, interim vice-president for health affairs and dean of the College of Medicine at Howard University, in his lecture, entitled "Disparity of Asthma Mortality and Morbidity in Low Socioeconomic Groups." Malveaux has been a grantee of both NIAID and NHLBI, and is a nationally recognized expert on asthma and allergic diseases. He was also a close friend of the late Dr. John Diggs, a former NIH deputy director for extramural research, whom the series honors.

He began his seminar by explaining that asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease of the airways of the lungs. This leads to closure of the airways in response to certain triggers.

These triggers can include exercise, tobacco smoke, air pollutants, odors from paints, certain

medications, anxiety, pollen, cockroach allergens and cat dander; as well as other allergens and irritants. About 80 percent of asthmatics have symptoms by age 4, suggesting a genetic predisposition.

According to Malveaux, since 1980 there has been a greater than 100 percent increase in annual asthma-related deaths in the U.S. Although the reason remains elusive, there appears to be a correlation with urbanization. There is also an increasing disparity in asthma mortality between African-Americans and white Americans. In 1980, the asthma-related death rate for African-Americans was twice that of whites. By 1990, the death rate for African-Americans was about three times that of whites. "African-American males, between the ages of 25 and 34, have a [asthma-related] death rate 7 times higher than their white counterparts."

Although there does appear to be a genetic component to asthma susceptibility, a study of asthma-related hospitalizations, conducted in the state of



Dr. Floyd Malveaux

Maryland, showed that for asthma morbidity, there is a stronger correlation with poverty than race. Malveaux suggested that factors such as socioeconomic status, poverty and access to medical care, especially to asthma specialists, may play a greater role than genetics in asthma-related morbidity and mortality. In spite of the fact that we now know more about asthma than at any other time in our history, Malveaux asserted that "it still remains an under-treated disease." He advocates the use of aggressive intervention strategies to educate patients and their families about how to reduce environmental and behavioral risk factors. There is also a need to inform both patients and health care providers about the importance of following established guidelines for the treatment of asthma. These guidelines include the regular use of anti-inflammatory drugs to treat moderate or severe asthma. As Malveaux put it, "The smart expenditure of resources is in prevention, rather than...managing crises."

The seminar was cosponsored by the NIH Black Scientists Association, NIAID's Office of Special Populations and Research Training, NIAID minority scientists advisory committee and NINDS. ■

Dr. Charles Rafferty is the new scientific review administrator for the safety and occupational health (SOH) study section. This section is chartered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but will now be operated within the Center for Scientific Review through an intra-agency agreement. SOH reviews

applications in occupationally related diseases and injuries, effects of exposure to toxic factors in the work environment, industrial hygiene and engineering, occupational medicine, and workplace risks including stress and psychological factors. Rafferty spent 2½ years as a scientific associate in neurobiology at the Kemforschungsanstalt in Juelich, Germany; 2 years at Cornell

University as a postdoctoral associate in plant biology; and then 2½ years as a research associate in vision research at the National Eye Institute. He was then a research chemist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., where he created a research program on the effects of microwave fields on cellular systems. From 1987 until joining CSR, Rafferty was a senior manager of the EMF Health Effects Program for the Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, Calif., where his fields included health risk assessment of powerline electromagnetic force (EMF), bioengineering, biophysics, cell biology, toxicology and cancer mechanisms.



Dr. Yvette M. Davis recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator of the SNEM-2 study section; SNEM stands for social sciences, nursing, epidemiology, and methods research. Davis' section reviews applications involving behavioral epidemiology and behavioral genetics. She spent 8 years as staff veterinarian at an animal hospital in Philadelphia.

After receiving a master's degree in 1990 from Johns Hopkins University, she became an epidemiology fellow at the Food and Drug Administration. In 1992, she joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer, she investigated the World Trade Center terrorist bombing site in New York City. From 1996 until she joined CSR, she was a medical epidemiologist in CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination.





Dr. Robert Maronpot, chief of the Laboratory of Experimental Pathology at NIEHS, was recently elected president of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology. For the next year, he will be designated president-elect before taking the helm as president in June 2001. After serving as president for a year, he will spend a year with the designation of past-president. Maronpot said the 3-year term provides a wide window of opportunity to make a tangible contribution. He has been a member of the society for more than 20 years.

STETTEN SYMPOSIUM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

organism ranging from bacteria to humans. Each ribosome contains several strands of RNA and more than 50 proteins. Bacterial ribosomes are composed of a large (50S) and a small (30S) subunit. This complexity and the ribosome's large size have complicated efforts over the past 40 years to determine its crystal structure.

With a number of bacterial ribosome structures in hand—and higher resolution structures in progress—scientists hope to glean invaluable insights into the protein factories of all organisms. In addition, the studies may lead to clinical applications. Many of today's antibiotics target ribosomes in pathogenic bacteria. A more detailed knowledge of these critical cellular components may help scientists develop new antibiotic drugs or improve existing ones.

The symposium will begin with a talk by Ada E. Yonath, the pioneer of ribosome crystallography. In her presentation, entitled

"Decoding the Genetic Information on Ribosomes in Molecular Detail,"

Yonath will provide a historical background of the field and will discuss her published structure and continuing studies of the 30S ribosomal subunit. Her research project spans two locations—one at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and the other at the Max

Planck unit of structural molecular biology at DESY (Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron) in Hamburg, Germany.

Venkatraman "Venki" Ramakrishnan will travel from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England, to deliver the next talk, entitled "Insights from the Structure of the 30S Ribosomal Subunit." Last year, Ramakrishnan, then at the University of Utah, led a group that determined this structure and published the work in *Nature*. In this paper, Ramakrishnan's group identified key portions of the RNA and, using previously determined

structures, positioned all seven of the subunit's proteins. Most recently, he published two papers in the Sept. 21 issue of *Nature* that present the 3 Angstrom structure of the 30S ribosomal subunit

and its complex with several antibiotics. These studies provide atomic-level insight into protein synthesis and the antibiotics that block it.

To conclude the symposium, Peter B. Moore of Yale University will present a talk entitled "The Complete Atomic Structure of the Large Ribosomal Subunit from *Haloarcula marismortui*." Moore's most recent publication of this structure, at 2.4 Angstrom resolution in the Aug. 11

issue of *Science*, gives detailed structural information and provides more evidence for a theory that was initially counterintuitive and controversial—that ribosomal proteins are structural scaffolds, while ribosomal RNA is responsible for ribosomal catalysis.

All three of the speakers are long-time NIGMS grantees, with more than 40 years of combined research grant support.

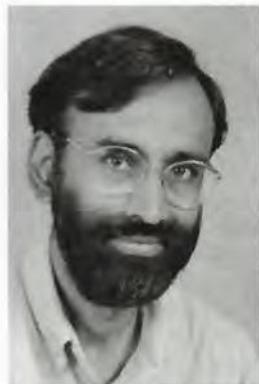
For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine at 594-5595. ■



Dr. Peter Moore



Dr. Ada Yonath



Dr. V. Ramakrishnan

Ski Club Has Meeting, Benefit Dance

The NIH Ski Club will meet on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 7, C wing. Members will discuss plans for the ski trips for 2001: Zermatt, Switzerland, Mar. 9-20, and Banff, Canada, Dec. 22-29.

The NIH Ski Club is also sponsoring a benefit dance and auction for Special Love, Inc./Camp Fantastic on Friday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m.-midnight at the Gaithersburg Holiday Inn. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes a light buffet. All proceeds will go to the Special Love ski weekends. Tickets may be purchased at the R&W activities desk in Bldg. 31. ■

Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking female volunteers ages 18-55 to participate in studies of the effects of reproductive hormones on brain and behavior. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles with no changes in mood in relationship to menses, be free of medical illnesses and not taking any hormones or medication on a regular basis. They will complete daily rating forms and be offered participation in one or more protocols. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

PARKS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"About 300,000 Americans die every year because of physical inactivity and poor nutrition," said U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher at a recent news conference. He added that these behaviors "are second only to smoking as leading causes of death." Overweight and obese individuals are at increased risk for heart disease, diabetes, stroke, some forms of cancer and other serious conditions.

The problem appears to be worsening. Over the past two decades, the numbers of overweight children and adolescents, as well as obese adults in the United States have doubled. Approximately 97 million adults, or 55 percent, are currently overweight or obese. In addition, one in five children over the age of 6 is considered overweight.

Satcher commented that reducing the prevalence of overweight and obesity is not just an individual responsibility. "It's also a community responsibility," he said. "It's a community responsibility to make sure that children develop healthy lifestyles and develop lifetime habits of physical activity."

NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant moderated the news conference, which welcomed the first D.C.-area Hearts N' Parks program and kicked off the national effort. To successfully change the growing numbers of overweight and obese individuals, he said, "there must be a partnership between branches of the government, businesses and community groups."

Exemplifying the spirit of partnerships, the day-long event was hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington, Va., and cosponsored by the Arlington County department of parks, recreation, and community resources, the latest organization to establish a Hearts N' Parks community. Among the businesses and organizations participating in the launch were the Arlington branch of Fresh Fields, the American Heart Association, Arlington County 4-H and Cooperative Extension Service, Arlington Hospital, sports teams from two local universities and the U.S. Tennis Association.

Individuals from ages 5 to 85 participated in activities such as healthy snacks cooking demonstrations; jump rope and relay race competitions; volleyball, tennis and race-walking clinics; and blood pressure screenings. Members of the seniors' group the Merry Makers entertained passersby inside the community center with song and dance.

Hearts N' Parks targets both young and old. "People of all ages need to be physically active and concerned about good diets," Satcher commented. "We know, for example, that older people who are physically active are less likely to fall, to be depressed [or] to suffer heart disease and other forms of illness. And, they are able to deal more effectively with stress."

Olympic champion figure skater Michael Weiss urged parents to teach their children to lead active

lives. "Parents have a huge influence on their kids," he said. The father of two young children, Weiss described how his mother takes his 91-year-old grandfather to a local gym several days a week. "My grandfather had a great influence on my parents, my parents had a great influence on me, and I plan on continuing that tradition with my children...to continue the cycle right on through to their kids."

Plus, he said, "A healthy lifestyle is a fun lifestyle."

"This is the first nationally disseminated health promotion initiative through parks and recreation facilities that will focus on documenting and measuring the impact that a local, health-based initiative can have on improving the health and well-being of the community," said Alice Conkey, NRPA president-elect.

Hearts N' Parks is based on scientific information about lifestyle choices known to lower the risk of heart disease and proven skill-building activities for adopting heart-healthy behaviors. The initiative provides training and resources, including a Community Mobilization Guide for staff of recreation and park departments and other community organizations to help them develop new activities or integrate them into existing programs.

The program was first piloted in 1999 by more than 2,000 participants in 33 North Carolina sites. An evaluation showed that these participants retained information about heart-healthy behaviors and intended to eat healthier. In addition, children reported learning new physical activities and improving their performance in others; seniors reported feeling healthier and experiencing less pain in their daily lives by the end of the program.

NHLBI and NRPA expect the national effort to be far-reaching: according to NRPA, 192 million people visit recreation and park facilities each year, and 75 percent of Americans live within a 2-mile walking distance of a public park. Facilities are widely accessible to individuals from culturally and socioeconomically diverse populations, as well as to persons with disabilities.

In the next few years, 500 Hearts N' Parks communities are expected to be established nationwide. To date, Hearts N' Parks has attracted the interest of nearly 90 recreation and park agencies in more than 35 states. ■



Arlington County jump ropers help launch the NHLBI's Hearts N' Parks program. The Hearts N' Parks partnership will be announced at NRPA's annual congress and exposition, Oct. 11-14 in Phoenix, where a Hearts N' Parks training program will be offered for park and recreational staff. The conference is expected to attract 5,000 participants. For more information about Hearts N' Parks, visit http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/heart/obesity/brt_n_pk/index.htm, or contact Karen Donato, coordinator of the NHLBI Obesity Education Initiative, 496-1051.

CYBERCAFE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he was an undergraduate at Amherst, he recounted, Valentine's Grill served that purpose, offering up a unique ambiance along with burgers and English muffins. Medical school, sadly, lacked any special locus, he noted, but the University of California at San Francisco, where he spent most of his research

career prior to coming to NIH, boasted the Courtyard Café, a "patch of green that had a bakery and coffee." NIH, he said, "is a fairly rambling place, but the Clinical Center is still its heart," so the new café has the advantage of location in its bid to



Dr. Charles Sanders (l), president of the board of the Foundation for the NIH, pulls cover off plaque honoring Varmus (c), as Dr. Paul Montrone, FNIH treasurer, looks on.

acquire charisma.

The second pleasing factor, Varmus said, is that the café "is focused around graduate students primarily, but also trainees of all kinds including postdocs, and high school students. I hope that the faculty will gather to meet here, too."

Finally, he emphasized the "cyber" nature of the place, with its promise—via computers offering Internet connection—of "free access to research literature. The message that's delivered to students is that the world could be at their fingertips." He hoped that authors using the space would contribute only to journals offering free access to their contents. He also acknowledged the importance of coffee: "Good coffee is essential to good science."

"This is a great idea—I'm very happy that (NIH) has finally decided to acknowledge graduate students and foster more of a sense of community among them," said Aviva Jacobs, a grad student

with NIDDK, now in her fifth year of training. She predicted that veterans like herself will probably use the place less than newcomers, for whom it will represent a welcome chance to interact.

"Basically, graduate students hang out in their labs," said Rachel Politove, an NIDDK graduate student who first came as a summer trainee in 1993, then began graduate school in fall 1996. "They're very isolated—the lab is their only interaction. The café will facilitate future graduate student activity."

Deanna Buck, a graduate student at NINDS, lauded the Cybercafé opening as a sign that "gradu-



On the east side of the Cybercafé, a lighted staircase descends the few steps from the coffee bar to the lounge area.

ate students will know that there's a place for them to go. So many people at NIH are unaware that we are here. This will give us a place to meet and share information."

The Cybercafé, an adjunct of the popular coffee bar in the Bldg. 10 lobby, is a short flight downstairs from the bar, and occupies what used to be the Visitor Information Center's Nobel Terrace, which had featured brief biographies of NIH grantees who went on to become laureates. The café is furnished with comfy chairs and sofas arranged around small tables, and has a sequestered nook for more private gatherings. Anyone—not just grad students—can tote a steaming cuppa into the café, but grad students have first dibs on reserving the space for meetings.

"Harold Varmus has done an enormous amount for graduate education at NIH—not a day went by that we didn't discuss some aspect of graduate education, and the need to do more for students here," said NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman, who emceed the ceremony.

Also on the program were Charles Sanders, president of the board of the Foundation for the NIH, who came to honor Varmus' contributions in



View lengthwise down the new Cybercafé shows plenty of room to schmooze.



The attractive new Graduate Lounge opens onto a landing on the staircase from the first floor to B1.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

support of the foundation, and Dr. Paul Montrone, FNIH treasurer, whose company, Fisher Scientific International, Inc., helped pay for furnishings within the café. The FNIH board voted unanimously last March to dedicate the facility to Varmus; Sanders unveiled a dedicatory plaque, stating, "We are very grateful for your services."

While a proposed degree-granting graduate school here was eventually rejected, NIH has established a Graduate Program Partnerships Training Award for people seeking Ph.D. and master's degrees, and this fall launched the NIH Academy, a small cadre of postbaccalaureate research trainees who are motivated to focus on health disparities in the U.S. There are currently almost 200 graduate students on campus, a number that will slowly grow in coming years.

For more information on the partnerships program or graduate education, call 594-9605. ■

NIH-Wide Photography Competition

All NIH or NOAA employees and their families are invited to enter a photography competition sponsored by the NIH Camera Club on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Rm. 6C6. There are three categories: black and white prints, color prints and slides. The subject is open. Up to four entries per category may be entered. Prints must be mounted, may be matted, but may not be framed.

All entries must have the photographer's name and photo title on the back of prints and on the slide mounts. The entry fee is fifty cents per image, and images must be submitted between 6 and 6:50 p.m. on Oct. 10. Cash prizes of \$30 for first, \$20 for second, and \$10 for third place winners in each category will be awarded. Ribbons will be awarded for honorable mentions.

At the meeting, all the images will be shown and the winners will be announced. Pictures will be evaluated by three outside judges.

For more information, call Ellis Gordon at (202) 686-1764 or Margaret Sprott (301) 299-6805. Also visit the site: <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/camera.html>. ■

Postpartum Depression Study

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking female volunteer mothers ages 18-40 who either have no psychiatric history of depression or who have had one or more past episodes of postpartum depression following a full-term pregnancy. Participants must be free of medical illnesses, medication-free and currently not lactating. Volunteers may be asked to participate in a 6-month protocol investigating the effects of ovarian and stress hormones on brain and behavior in an endocrine model of pregnancy. All volunteers will be paid. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

Stanfield Named CSR Deputy Director

Dr. Brent Stanfield was recently named deputy director of the Center for Scientific Review. He will work with CSR director Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld to establish a strategic plan for CSR, develop organizational policies, and plan, direct and coordinate CSR's operations. He will provide broad scientific leadership, and ensure that the center is responsive to the needs of the institutes and centers.

Stanfield was formerly director of the Office of Science Policy and Program Planning at the National Institute of Mental Health. Before that, he ran the NIMH unit on developmental neuroanatomy in the Laboratory of Neurophysiology. His research expertise was in the area of developmental neuroscience. While at NIMH, he spent 8 months at CSR, helping to implement reorganization of the study sections that review neuroscience grant applications.

He received his B.S. with honors from the University of California at Irvine and his Ph.D. in neurobiology from Washington University in St. Louis. After postdoctoral training at Washington University and then at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, he was appointed to the Salk Institute faculty in the developmental neurobiology laboratory and also assistant adjunct professor in the department of neurosciences at the University of California School of Medicine at San Diego. In 1987, Stanfield moved his lab to the NIMH intramural program.

He has published a large number of papers, many on various aspects of the development of hippocampal formation and the cerebral cortex. He has also served as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Comparative Neurology* and as an associate editor of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Ehrenfeld expressed her "excitement and relief to have recruited someone with Brent's outstanding talents." ■

Might You Be SAD?

During the winter, are you like a bear that wants to hibernate all the time? If you notice that you feel fatigued and down and that your sleeping and eating habits change in the winter, you may be eligible to participate in a study on seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Diagnostic assessment and treatment consisting of light therapy, psychotherapy or their combination will be offered. Interested volunteers, 18 or older, may call for more information, (301) 295-9718, Uniformed Services University. ■



Dr. Brent Stanfield

Fund Honors Radiologist Doppman

A fund has been established to create an annual lectureship to honor the late Dr. John Leo Doppman, a pioneer in the field of radiology. Doppman made advances in angiography and developed many now-standard techniques to locate tumors. For 26 years, he led the Clinical Center's diagnostic radiology department. Tax-deductible contributions to the fund supporting the John L. Doppman Memorial Lecture can be sent to: FAES, One Cloister Court, Bethesda, MD 20814. Checks should be made payable to FAES and note that the contribution is for the John L. Doppman Fund.

Governors' Spouses, NIAAA Target Youth Drinking

Youth drinking is commonly considered to be a "rite of passage" to adulthood. It should more accurately be viewed as a public health problem, say the spouses of 28 state governors and more than 20 other concerned organizations that have joined forces as the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free. The leadership campaign, a 3-year initiative, focuses on raising public awareness about drinking among children age 9 to 15 years.

"Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for young people and costs society more than all the illegal drugs combined," said NIAAA director Dr. Enoch Gordis, in remarks that opened the leadership's recent kickoff conference. "While the media have reported extensively on

binge drinking among college students, most people are not aware that nearly 3 million teens aged 14 to 17 are regular drinkers with a serious alcohol problem.

"From NIAAA research, we know that 40 percent of children who begin drinking before the age of 13 will become alcoholics at some point in their lives," Gordis said.

Spearheaded by NIAAA and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free held its first national conference in Washington, D.C. Other federal funding sources include the NIH offices of research on women's health and research on minority health.

Leading scientists at the meeting presented current findings on the prevalence of alcohol use among children, environmental influences on alcohol consumption among children, the role of parents and schools in curtailing underage drinking, community and state prevention efforts, the relative success of alcohol policies in preventing youth access to alcohol, and the effects of the media and the Internet on youth drinking. One session, a roundtable discussion with adolescents aged 10-15, highlighted the adolescents' views on why kids drink and the best ways to intervene.

NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein addressed a congressional reception held in conjunction with the conference. "As governors' spouses, you are in a pivotal position to energize the public, to work toward translating the public's concern about health and family issues into actions that will bring about what is absolutely critical—change," she said.

Many of the participating first ladies already have launched the initiative locally. Formal press kickoffs



After signing the "Pledge to Our Youth," governors' spouses joined with three young people who attended the leadership conference. The spouses are (rear, from l) Martha Sundquist of Tennessee, Sue Ann Thompson of Wisconsin and Hope Taft of Ohio. The youngsters are (front, from l) Logan Evans, a Lakota Native American from South Dakota, Jeanne Nunnallee of Florida, and Tiffany Prue, also a Lakota Native American from S.D.

have been arranged by Vicky Cayetano (Hawaii), Hope Taft (Ohio), Sharon Kitzhaber (Oregon) and Michele Ridge (Pennsylvania). Others have developed public service announcements and campaign-related web sites, and a third group has begun a national speaking tour.

The leadership initiative also was highlighted during the summer at meetings of the western governors and the National Governors Association. A series of regional meetings is planned for the fall, each of which will include presentations by nationally recognized scientists.

Phase two of the initiative will involve the governors' spouses in education efforts to raise public awareness and work toward change. ■



NIAAA and Mothers Against Drunk Driving were joined by governors' spouses from four states in two roundtable discussions with teen and women's magazine editors in New York City. The discussion dealt with research evidence and media messages about the prevention of early onset of alcohol use by children and underage drinking and driving. Participants included (from l) Dr. Vivian Pinn, NIH associate director for research on women's health; MADD President Millie Webb; state governors' spouses from the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, Hope Taft (Ohio), Susan Knowles (Alaska), Martha Sundquist (Tennessee) and Columba Bush (Florida); and NIAAA director Dr. Enoch Gordis. The leadership initiative has already enlisted the support of 28 governors' spouses in a nationwide campaign to prevent drinking in children 9-15 years of age. Cofounders of the effort include NIAAA, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ORWH, ORMH and SAMHSA.

Attention Female Computer Users

Do you experience work-related pain, numbness or tingling in your fingers, hands or wrists? Are you a female between the ages of 21 and 50 who is currently working full time? If so, you are invited to participate in a research study of job stress and carpal tunnel syndrome that can help you learn more about your problem. This study includes a \$100 payment and receipt of ergonomic and job stress self-help workbooks. For more information call (301) 295-3672. ■

Grantees Attend Cancer Control Academy

The National Cancer Institute's Office of Special Populations Research brought together new grantees of the Special Populations Networks for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (SPNs) for an inaugural session of the Cancer Control Academy recently.

SPNs began in April when 18 researchers from 17 institutions received grants totaling over \$60 million to form the networks. NCI created them to address the unequal burden of cancer within specific populations. Many studies show that minorities and low-income populations suffer a disproportionate cancer burden. These studies suggest that minorities and the underserved, especially those with low incomes and less than a high school education, often lack access to, and information about, state-of-the-science cancer prevention, early detection and treatment. The special populations include African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and medically underserved people in both rural and urban areas.

Dr. Otis Brawley, director of the Office of Special Populations Research, initiated the 3-day academy as a way to make the resources and structure of NCI more visible to grantees. The CCA represented a cross-NCI effort, with speakers representing most of the extramural divisions and offices.

The academy provided grantees a forum to begin the background work needed to build relationships between research institutions and community-based programs when they return to their areas. Over the next 5 years, grantees will use these cooperative relationships to foster cancer awareness activities, support minority enrollment in clinical trials, and encourage and promote the development of minority junior biomedical researchers.

"SPNs will help NCI to see that individuals of diverse populations are represented in all aspects of NCI's research enterprise: in populations studies, clinical trials, and in the oversight and conduct of research," said Dr. Richard Klausner, director of NCI. "SPNs will also help NCI to communicate the results of this research effectively to special populations."

"The purpose of the CCA is to unify our resources and maximize our efforts," said Frank Jackson, program director of SPNs and the academy's coordinator. "We want to ensure that the grantees' programs get off to a good start and ultimately are able to reduce the burden of cancer in communities throughout the United States."

Grantees heard panel discussions and interactive presentations about cancer communications research opportunities and model cancer communication programs. Other topics of discussion included NCI information resources such as the Cancer Information Service, Cancer Net (<http://cancernet>).

nci.nih.gov), and CancerTrials (<http://cancertrials.nci.nih.gov>). Later, participants met in breakout sessions to discuss topics dealing with their particular populations.

A total of 220 people attended the academy. This included community group representatives, researchers, academics and some NCI staff. Several members of the NCI director's consumer liaison group (an all-consumer advisory body that advises the NCI director on a variety of research and program issues affecting the public and patients) and the special populations working group (an ethnically diverse group of cancer researchers and advocates that assists NCI with issues involving special populations) also attended.

For more academy information, contact Jackson at 496-8589. To learn more about the networks, visit http://rex.nci.nih.gov/massmedia/pressreleases/special_pop_eng.html. —Jemarion Jones. ■



NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner addresses the inaugural Cancer Control Academy.

Management Cadre Program Recruits

The 2001-2002 NIH Management Cadre Program is now taking applications. The highly competitive program is designed to provide leadership training and developmental opportunities for high-potential NIH employees and prepare them for future leadership positions at NIH. It is an important part of NIH's efforts to develop a diverse group of well-qualified candidates for management positions. NIH is committed to ensuring that women, underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities have access to the program.

Application to the Management Cadre Program is open to successful and highly motivated employees at grades 12, 13 or 14 on a career or career conditional full-time appointment for at least 1 year prior to December 2000. The program is open to employees in intramural and extramural programs, Offices of the Director of the ICs and Office of the Director of NIH.

Application packages can be downloaded from the MCP web site at <http://mcp.nih.gov> or will be mailed upon request by calling 496-6211. Applications must be completed and received by your IC personnel office by close of business on Dec. 1, 2000.

For more information contact Cynthia Winder, 402-3385 email WinderC@od.nih.gov.

New NIMH Office Helps Improve Worklife

By Sophia Glezos Voit

John G. Miers, an NIH employee for the past 31 years and still going strong at NIMH, is proof that you can turn a personal interest into a new job without having to retire.

Until late February, Miers had been working with NIMH research staff in developing program announcements and requests for applications.

While he enjoyed and was committed to his job, working on behalf of people with disabilities was equally important. So, in addition to volunteer work on his own, he sometimes spent nearly as much time on NIH and HHS disabilities-related committees as he did in the office.

Largely because of Miers' expanding capabilities and growing list of accomplishments

in this area, NIMH director Dr. Steve Hyman offered Miers (a Cornell graduate with an M.B.A. in organizational theory) directorship of the new NIMH Office of Diversity and Employee Advocacy Programs. Hyman created ODEAP in place of the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity. Miers accepted, with little hesitation.

While ODEAP will continue to stress the institute's commitment to affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Miers says people tend to associate traditional EEO offices only with grievances. The ODEAP, though, will emphasize the "positive side of the coin," he says, "while still actively addressing EEO issues."

The positive side includes "promoting an excellent work environment," says Hyman, which he hopes to accomplish through ODEAP's focus on support of workforce diversity and quality of worklife activities. "A diverse and high-quality work environment helps people function better in many areas of their lives, including on the job, which is why this office is so important."

ODEAP staff have begun generating ideas and making plans to make NIMH an increasingly "family friendly" workplace, from highlighting the availability of alternate work schedules for employees who would benefit, to offering exercise classes. From Miers' perspective, "as long as you have to work, it may as well be as rewarding and as much fun as possible."

Another function of the office will be community outreach. "We want to stimulate interest in NIMH



NIMH's John Miers stands alongside Paul Junior High students (from l) Marsha Miller, Natalie McDonald and Floyd Davis.

research not only within the broader community, but particularly among members of minority groups who have limited opportunities," said Miers. "The more diverse we are as a community and as an organization—in terms of abilities, gender, race, sexual orientation and cultural background—the richer we are."

One recent outreach effort that Miers helped organize was a research training program on Saturday mornings in April for science students from Paul Junior High, which NIMH "adopted" 2 years ago to benefit minority youth in Washington, D.C. With the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences as the cosponsor, the "Saturday Science Academy" aimed to stimulate students' interest in biomedical research.

Through lectures, class discussion, lab work and homework assignments, the students—who wore NIMH lab coats with their names embossed—attended biotechnology training classes in the Lasker Center, where they learned the properties of bacteria and their use as experimental organisms. Qualified students will participate in the program again this month.

In a recent email Miers sent to all NIMH employees, he promised that ODEAP will be "the catalyst in a partnership" between employees and the director's office. To help catalyze the relationship, the office is establishing the NIMH employee advisory committee, which will focus on recruiting minority staff, as well as advising Hyman on affirmative action issues, policies and practices. The committee will meet monthly and be composed of a "diagonal slice" of 12 employees, Miers says, from GS-5 clerical staff to GS-15 program representatives.

"I expect to make this office one of the leaders among the NIH institutes," he says. "I think the ODEAP approach is the way to go in making work more than just a job." ■

Auditions for 'Messiah' Sing-Along

The NIH Community Orchestra and Bethesda Little Theatre will hold chorus auditions for the Messiah 2000 Sing-Along on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The Messiah Sing-Along performance will take place on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10, also in Masur Auditorium. Participating in this event allows singers to enjoy Handel's music while contributing their talents to a holiday musical event for the entire NIH community.

For more information, contact Gary Daum (301) 897-8184, email gldaum@gprep.org or visit <http://www.gprep.org/~music/nih/>. ■

NIH Marks Fire Safety Awareness Day



J.P. McCabe (l), chief, fire prevention section, greets (from l) NIDDK's Lynell J. Nelson, 2001 Fire Safety Awareness Day slogan contest winner, who coined the entry, "Fire Prevention—A Prescription for Life!"; Sparky the Fire Dog; Gary C. Hess, chief, NIH fire department; and Richard E. Shaff, chief, Emergency Management Branch, NIH Division of Public Safety.



Dangling in mid-air, NIH fire fighters Paul G. Donaldson and Christopher E. Pyles demonstrate a high-angle rescue, using a ladder truck provided by Walter Reed. The annual observance also included exhibits and a barbecue lunch.



Fire Protection Inspector Daniel S. Walther (r) greets visitors to the fire prevention section exhibit.



Sparky the Fire Dog greets children from an NIH day care facility.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

STEP Offers Session on Conflict Management

Does increasing stress in your workplace seem to bring out the worst in you and your coworkers? Are you caught up in expanding workloads, decreasing resources, competing demands and unrealistic expectations? Do you feel like your office has become like a Dilbert cartoon? Perhaps you should attend the offering from the STEP (staff training in extramural programs) committee entitled "Conflict Management and Communication Skills: Gotta Problem with That?" It will be held Thursday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Natcher Conference Center, Rm. E1/E2.

Mark Gorkin, known as the Stress Doctor, will lead a discussion of organizational and psychosocial issues in the workplace. He has advice on avoiding burnout and building team skills. The session will provide strategies for conflict resolution, improved communication, empathy and job satisfaction. To get a flavor of Gorkin's background and style, visit his web site at <http://www.stressdoc.com/stress.htm>.

www.stressdoc.com/stress.htm.

At the session, you will also be introduced to NIH offices that serve as resources to the NIH extramural staff, including: Center for Cooperative Resolution (<http://www4.od.nih.gov/ccr/>); ORS Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution (<http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/od/cadr.htm>); NIH Employee Assistance Program (<http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/eap/index.html>); NIH Office of Equal Opportunity (<http://www1.od.nih.gov/oeo/>); Work and Family Life Center (<http://wflc.od.nih.gov/>); CIVIL and NIH Employee Relations (<http://civil.nih.gov/> and <http://www1.od.nih.gov/ohrm/hrinfo/empl-rel/links.htm>.)

All employees are welcome. No pre-registration is necessary; seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Inform the STEP office about any need for sign language interpretation or reasonable accommodation by Oct. 16. For more information call 435-2769.

Biomedical Calendar Available

The 2000-2001 Calendar of Biomedical Meetings and Events, which includes meetings sponsored by NIH as well as those of major medical societies and biomedical research associations, is available from the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, OD. To obtain a copy, call Betty Riley, 496-8855, or email her at br3j@nih.gov. The calendar is also available at <http://www.nih.gov/news/biocal/index.htm>.

Kupfer Steps Down After 30 Years at NIH

NEI director Dr. Carl Kupfer, the only person ever to hold that position, recently stepped down after 30 years at the helm; he is now concentrating on an intramural project at the institute.

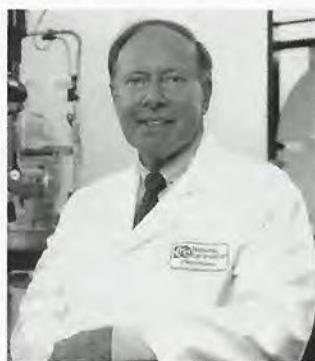
"During Dr. Kupfer's long tenure, the NEI has been critical in the shaping of vision research in this country, and his outstanding leadership has contributed enormously to the fabric of the National Institutes of Health," said Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, acting NIH director. "Due to his leadership, NEI research results have made a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. His leadership has made NEI, today, the largest and most comprehensive vision research center in the world."

Kupfer was appointed NEI's first director in January 1970. He moved quickly to identify the needs and opportunities in vision research. He insisted that the area of central visual processing should be part of the NEI mission, and also stressed the importance of the individual research grant as opposed to the more accepted large, umbrella-type program project and center grants. He established an Office of Biometry and Epidemiology and launched the landmark Diabetic Retinopathy Study, setting a standard for modern clinical trials in vision research. He expanded research at NEI by establishing laboratory programs in molecular biology, immunology, neuroscience and molecular genetics.

During Kupfer's tenure, the number of vision researchers nationwide increased steadily. He also oversaw the development of the National Eye Health Education Program, a partnership of about 60 professional, civic and voluntary organizations and government agencies concerned with eye health.

Kupfer served six NIH directors and six U.S. Presidents, and saw the NEI budget grow from \$24 million in 1970 to more than \$450 million today.

He will not leave NIH entirely; instead, he will devote his time to completing a catalogue of the Cogan Collection, a compilation of clinical cases and pathology reports of more than 50,000 patients. The collection was a major career work of vision researcher Dr. David Cogan, whom Kupfer fondly calls "one of the NEI's greatest supporters and benefactors." Kupfer will also continue to see patients as part of his clinical research activities. ■



Dr. Carl Kupfer, the only director NEI has known, recently stepped down from that position.

NINDS Holds Parkinson's Disease Meeting

The first meeting of the NINDS Parkinson's disease implementation committee was held recently at the Neuroscience Center in Rockville. Its purpose is to advise the institute on research programs and on how best to coordinate implementation of a research agenda published last March.

Discussion focused on such topics as medical and surgical therapeutics research, genetic epidemiology and gene expression and analysis, stem cell research, and attracting researchers to Parkinson's disease.

The committee urged NINDS to place a high priority on phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials of potentially useful drugs. Key needs are to identify compounds for clinical trials and to foster more effective interactions with industry in order to obtain compounds. NINDS will convene a workshop that will bring together government, academic and industry researchers to work toward identifying compounds and appropriate funding mechanisms. One area of special concern and opportunity is the non-motor aspects of Parkinson's disease, including depression, cognitive problems, sleep problems and autonomic disturbances.

The committee also emphasized the importance of genetics research for understanding Parkinson's disease. This includes the search for new genes, following leads generated by the known Parkinson's related genes, and using the emerging tools for gene expression analysis. One crucial aspect of this, which also relates to environmental research, is to continue work on a web-based Parkinson's Disease Patient and Family Registry.

Stem cell research is also crucial for Parkinson's disease. Now that the NIH Guidelines for Using Human Pluripotent Stem Cells in Research are in place, there are proposals coming in for preclinical stem cell therapeutic tests in animal models, which will be essential before studies are attempted in people. NINDS will carefully monitor the need for stem cell repositories and training in stem cell technology, and potential problems related to the evaluation of proposals in this rapidly developing area.

A comprehensive, international congress on Parkinson's disease in the fall of 2001, similar in scope to the recent World Congress for Alzheimer's Disease, is also being considered. ■

Female Paid Volunteers Needed

Are you female, 18 to 35 years old, in good health and not on birth control pills? You may be eligible to participate in a study of commonly prescribed medications. The study involves multiple visits to the Uniformed Services University (next to the Naval Medical Center, across the pike from NIH) over a 3-month period. Earn up to \$880 and get a free medical exam. Call (301) 319-8204 for more information and a preliminary telephone screening. ■

Internships Conclude for Season

Forty-six interns recruited by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) recently ended a 10-week internship in NIH offices and laboratories.



Dr. George Alexander (l) of NCI congratulates Christopher Amijo, an intern with HACU.

In addition to work experience, students participate in networking meetings in which they meet with NIH staffers in various career fields. These staff members serve as role models for students. Career development workshops are also arranged for the interns through the Work and Family Life Center, with Brian Easley as trainer.

At this year's closing program, Jacinta Marshall, director of employee systems and services, Arbitron Co., addressed the students on challenges in the professional world, and certificates were presented by Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health.

HACU provides interns year-round; there are currently 13 interns on board at NIH for the fall semester. All ICs are encouraged to participate by



Dr. Richard Harrison of NIDA (l) and Dr. John Ruffin, NIH associate director for research on minority health, present a certificate to WINS intern Lovel Lewis.

The program is coordinated and supported by the NIH Office of Research on Minority Health. Students are selected and paid for by the various institutes and centers, with about 75 percent of the institutes and centers participating. Twenty percent of the students are paid for by ORMH.



The 10-week internship programs are spearheaded at NIH by the Office of Research on Minority Health, and supported financially by ORMH and nearly every IC. Above, Brian Easley (second from r), a trainer with the NIH Work and Family Life Center, offers a career workshop with several interns (from l) Cesar Vasquez, Alma Fuentes, Maria del Melendez-Leon, Melissa Reddock and Marisol Bengachea.

providing challenging 10 to 15-week internship positions for these promising students. The cost to ICs is in the \$10,000 range and covers administrative costs as well as travel and stipend for the interns. For more information contact Dr. Lorrita Watson, 594-7784. ■



NAFEO intern Jason Brown (l) worked in the NIH Extramural Associates Program with its director, Dr. Matthew Kinnard.

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>.

Getting Started with Knowledge Management	10/10
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	10/10
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000	10/10
NIH IntraMall Reconciliation Refresher	10/10
NIH IntraMall for Purchase Card Holders	10/10
NIH Contractor Performance System Update	10/10
Network Sniffer Workshop	10/10-12
Relational Database Overview	10/11
New Developments in FileMaker Pro	10/12
JIG - Java Interest Group	10/12
Unix Systems Administration Concepts	10/12
NIH Contractor Performance System for New Users	10/12
Introduction to Networks	10/13
LISTSERV: Hands-On Workshop for General Users	10/17
Data Warehouse Query: Training Business Area	10/17
Introduction to the Helix Systems	10/17
LISTSERV: Hands-On Workshop for List Owners	10/17
Avoiding Pitfalls in Statistical Analysis II	10/17
Cookbook Genetic Linkage Analysis, <i>ab initio</i>	10/18
Looking Ahead to Java Web Start	10/18
Data Warehouse Analyze: Human Resources Programming in S-PLUS	10/18
	10/18-19

Intern Captures Fresh Views of Campus

Veterans of employment at NIH can become blind to the campus' reserves of grandeur. Sometimes, it takes the eyes of a summer intern to see the place afresh. These images of NIH buildings—taken by a college student ambitious enough to combine molecular biology with freelance photography—share a perspective of awe, of edifices seen from a posture of humility and wonder. That perspective seems to sneak up only occasionally on people for whom this landscape has become routine. Knocked off schedule by hours worked overtime, or perhaps by a project running late, longtime NIH'ers can sometimes recover their vision. These photos, then, are therapy for eyes that may have become inured to the familiarities of the workplace.



This image of Bldg. 1 makes a pretty good postcard for NIH.



One can get a little dizzy wondering where to put one's foot next in this photo, taken at the center of campus.



Bldg. 10 can seem an assortment of rectangles, assembled by committees of people who never met.



A fanciful view of Stone House (the vulgate), also known as Lawton Chiles International House, or simply Bldg. 16.



NIH's newest almost-done building is the Vaccine Research Center, the ribboncutting for which is scheduled soon. From this angle, the high hopes for the facility are made tangible.

The Lister Hill Center, seen from the lawn abutting parking lot 41, seems to be a monolith rising out of the fairway on some golf course, which, of course, it is. (The Town and Country Golf Club used to own the property.)



PHOTOS: DAMON TIGHE