

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Gage To Give Mahoney Lecture

In the Laboratory of Genetics at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif., Dr. Fred Gage and his colleagues are investigating the mechanisms of cell death and regeneration underlying recovery of function following brain damage. Advances in understanding how the brain develops have provided a rough blueprint of how regeneration in the damaged brain can occur.

On Wednesday, Mar. 7 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, he will discuss his findings in a presentation titled "Neurogenesis and Regeneration in the Adult Nervous System." The 15th annual Florence Mahoney Lecture on Aging is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and is part of the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series.

Recent findings have challenged the doctrine that central nervous system

SEE MAHONEY LECTURE, PAGE 2

TransAfrica President Randall Robinson will be the keynote speaker at NIH's annual Black History Month Observance on Friday, Feb. 23 at 11:30 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. A bestselling author and Harvard-trained attorney, Robinson is an internationally respected human rights advocate and is widely recognized for his leadership of



the Free South Africa movement that successfully pushed for economic sanctions to end apartheid. Also featured at the program will be the University of Maryland-Baltimore County Choir.

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Major Protein Structure Initiative Launched

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Fine Feathered Friends Courted

## Grounds Maintenance Tries Novel Approach to Pest Control

By Carla Garnett

**W**anted: Residents to occupy a couple dozen brand new homes on the NIH campus. Cost to rent: Really cheep (sorry), although applicants must be willing to work in exchange for housing.

The offer is real, but it is not an equal housing opportunity, according to Lynn Mueller, chief of NIH grounds maintenance and landscaping. Only birds (and small brown bats) need apply, and then only specific types of birds—Eastern bluebirds, chickadees, tufted titmice, nuthatches, warblers,



NIH grounds guru Lynn Mueller examines a newly installed birdhouse.

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## From Genes to Proteins: NIGMS Catalogs The Shapes of Life

By Alisa Zapp Machalek

**N**ow that we have published versions of the human genome sequence, what's next? For many scientists, the answer is proteins.

NIGMS is leading an initiative that focuses on one important aspect of proteins—their three-dimensional structures. While gene sequencing projects identify and arrange all the "letters" in an organism's genetic material, the NIGMS Protein Structure Initiative will harness this genetic information to help identify and group into "families" all the natural shapes that proteins can form.

"The initiative will develop a catalog of all the protein structures that exist in nature," said Dr. Marvin Cassman, NIGMS director. "We expect that it will yield major biological findings that will improve our understanding of health and disease."

Why Proteins?

If genes are the recipes for life, then proteins are the culinary

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MAHONEY LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

neurons are post-mitotic and resistant to regeneration. Evidence now supports the assertion that stem cells reside within the adult brain and may act as a source for neurogenesis in restricted sites of the adult brain.

Gage studies the cellular, molecular, as well as environmental influences that regulate neurogenesis in the adult brain and spinal cord. These adult stem cells from the brain can be genetically modified and

transplanted into the adult intact and damaged brain, and can be a delivery system for therapeutic genes.

Gage was a National Institute of Mental Health predoctoral fellow from 1974 to 1976 while he completed his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University. He went on to become an associate professor at Texas Christian University before joining the depart-

ment of histology at the University of Lund in Sweden. In 1985, he was appointed professor in the department of neurosciences at the University of California, La Jolla, and in 1995 he was named professor of genetics at the Salk Institute.

Regeneration has gained public attention since actor Christopher Reeve's riding accident and paralysis. In 1997, Gage received the Christopher Reeve Second Annual Research Medal for Spinal Cord Repair, and since 1999 he has served as chair of the scientific advisory board for the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation.

His numerous honors include the Fogarty International Fellowship (NSF), 1980; McKnight Foundation Development Award, 1987; Bristol-Myers Squibb Neurosciences Research Award, 1987; IPSEN Prize in Neuronal Plasticity, 1990; Ameritech Prize, 1992; Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Health and Education, 1993; Robert J. and Claire Pasarow Foundation Award, 1999; and Max Planck Research Award, 1999.

He serves on the National Advisory Council on Aging for NIA. He was a member of the NIH working group on guidelines for use of human embryonic stem cells. In 1993, he was presented with an NIH MERIT Award. He is also on the advisory board of the American Society of Gene Therapy and president elect of the Society for Neuroscience. His list of published papers is approaching 300.

The annual Florence Mahoney Lecture on Aging honors her lifetime commitment to shaping national health science policy, particularly with respect to aging. As a charter member of the National Advi-

sory Council on Aging from 1974 to 1978, she contributed time, energy and enthusiasm to help ensure the success of the newly formed NIA. She continues to follow NIA activities with interest.

A reception sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke follows the lecture. For information or accommodation, contact Hilda Madine, 594-5595. ■

*Dr. Raye Litten has been appointed chief of the Treatment Research Branch of NIAAA's Division of Clinical and Prevention Research. Among the areas he will oversee are the development and testing of new medications and psychosocial interventions for alcohol abuse and dependence, and*



*research in such areas as the mechanisms of effective treatments for alcoholism, the factors that influence why and in whom relapse occurs, and treatment of co-existing conditions such as depression, anxiety and nicotine addiction. In his 10 years as a program director in the branch prior to this appointment, Litten's primary focus was medications development, an area whose growth is reflected in*

*the more than 24 pharmacologic trials under way at present, up from roughly a half-dozen clinical studies when he first arrived. For the last 10 years, in addition to his NIH duties, he has taught the pharmacology of drug and alcohol abuse to drug addiction counselors in the Washington area.*



*Dr. Fred Gage will give the 2001 Florence Mahoney Lecture on Mar. 7 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.*

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Real Meaning of 'Survivor'

## Coping Magazine's Hero of the Year

By Mike Miller

Certainly no one tries out to be Hero of the Year, particularly if hero is defined as having survived many bouts with cancer. But many heroes are born of adversity, and there is possibly no greater definition of a hero than Rick Ecalono, who was named *Coping* magazine's hero for 2001 in a ceremony held in Bethesda recently and televised on ABC-TV Channel 7.

Ecalono's hero nomination was submitted by NCI's Dr. Jean Jenkins, a clinical nurse specialist who has spent much time with him. Jenkins works at NCI's



Rick Ecalono

shared Medical Branch facility at the Navy Medical building on the other side of Rockville Pike from NIH. Jenkins says she nominated Ecalono because "Rick is a cancer survivor. He has survived six separate occurrences over an 18-year period while running his own business through all of his illnesses." She also notes that Ecalono was instrumental in encouraging

family members to consider genetic testing to learn more about their risk for cancer so that they would not have to experience the challenges he endured.

Michael D. Holt, publisher of *Coping with Cancer* magazine, presented Ecalono with the magazine's 8th annual Hero award. "Our heroes face each day with courage and determination and inspire others with their strength and ability. No matter how large or small, their achievements set examples for us all to follow," said Holt. As a testament to the power of positive attitudes, 7 of the 8 *Coping* magazine heroes are alive and functioning well today.

Ecalono's cancer story is a scary and remarkable one. In 1982, at the age of 28, he was the youngest person at the time in the state of Maryland to be diagnosed with bladder cancer. That same year his father and brother were both diagnosed with colon cancer and all three family members underwent surgery. Ecalono was cancer-free until 1987, when the bladder cancer recurred; he received chemotherapy but the disease returned again in 1991. After enduring more chemo, he was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1994 and went through more surgery and chemotherapy. Ecalono remained cancer-free for nearly 5 years but in late 1998, doctors discovered that his bladder cancer had spread to his ureter. Additional surgery and chemo-

therapy were administered, and he has survived with remarkable equanimity.

Ecalono has been enrolled in clinical trials at NCI but currently isn't eligible because he recently redeveloped bladder cancer. But in another sign of his stamina, he says he is open to any future trials that may come up. He also didn't expect to be named Hero of the Year because it was a worldwide search with more than 300 finalists. Now that he is the winner, however, he feels his mission is clear. "It's sad that I had to go through cancer after cancer for 18 years to win the award but it has made me realize I've been put on this earth to help educate people about this disease and that's what my main goal in life is now."

Ecalono would be happy to talk to other survivors or loved ones who would like to discuss what it takes to be a survivor. Just drop him an email at [ecalono@aol.com](mailto:ecalono@aol.com). **R**

*Woodrow Wilson High School students (seated, from l) Megan Chamberlain and Brian Smith participated in this year's Groundhog Job Shadow Day. First instituted in 1998, the 4-year-old program, which usually takes place on Groundhog Day, encourages qualified students to spend the day shadowing an experienced technical*



*professional and experience a real workday. This is the second time that the Center for Information Technology, which adopted Woodrow Wilson High School in 1992, participated in the program. Two CIT staff members, Carol Denison (standing, l), computer specialist, Division of Computer System Services, and Anthony Trang, supervisory electronics engineer (not pictured), Division of Network Systems and Telecommunications (DNST), worked with the students to help them gain a new perspective of their course work and to grasp the connection between school and a future career. This is especially appropriate for Smith, who is majoring in computer programming and biotechnology; and Chamberlain, whose major is web design and software development. Also pictured is Renitalynette K. Anderson (standing, r), director of CIT's DNST, who stopped by to welcome the students.*

## Have Allergic Asthma?

NIAID is seeking volunteers, ages 18-50, with asthma made worse by exposure to allergens (dust, pets, pollen) for a research study of allergen immunotherapy (allergy shots). Participants will have allergy and lung function tests and will have blood drawn. Compensation is provided. Contact Mary Huber at 496-7935.



*Dr. Judith E. Fradkin was recently named director of the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. The division manages institute-funded research and research training in diabetes; endocrine disorders such as those affecting the thyroid, pituitary, breast, prostate and bone; and inherited metabolic diseases such as cystic fibrosis and lysosomal storage diseases. For the past 16 years, she has overseen NIDDK-supported research in various roles, directing the institute's research programs in diabetes, cystic fibrosis, endocrinology and metabolic diseases, and most recently serving as deputy and acting director of the division. Fradkin came to NIDDK as a clinical associate in 1979 after an endocrinology fellowship at Yale University.*

#### GENES-TO-PROTEINS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

result—the very stuff of life. Proteins form our bodies and direct its systems. They digest our food, help us fight infections, control our body chemistry, and in general keep us—and every other living organism—running smoothly.

But proteins that twist into the wrong shape, have missing parts, or don't make it to their job site can cause diseases that range from cystic fibrosis to cancer and Alzheimer's.

To examine a protein's role in health and disease, and to explore ways to control its action, researchers often seek to decipher the protein's shape, or structure. This structure reveals the physical, chemical and electrical properties of the protein and provides clues about its role in the body.

For the past 40 years, such structural biology studies have shed light on specific proteins. NIGMS invests heavily in the field, supporting about half of all NIH research grants in structural biology.

But now, through its Protein Structure Initiative, NIGMS has launched an additional, more organized effort in a related field called "structural genomics." As its name implies, structural genomics hinges on the relationship between protein structures and gene sequences.

The new project is designed to group proteins into structural families based on their gene sequences, then solve the structures of representative proteins from each family. While structural biology continues to illuminate details of individual proteins, the Protein Structure Initiative will cast broad light over all the protein shapes that exist in nature.

In September, NIGMS announced its first large-scale awards in structural genomics to seven groups of scientists, including one group cofunded by NIAID. These groups include hundreds of researchers in several countries. Over the next 5 years, they will determine thousands of protein structures; study the relationship between genes, protein structure, and protein function; and develop new techniques to do all of this more efficiently.

#### Ten Thousand Structures in 10 Years

Scientists believe that the millions of proteins in nature fall into a relatively small number of structural families—perhaps a few thousand. Researchers participating in the project strive to peg one or two members of each protein family by solving about 10,000 unique and carefully selected protein structures. And they aim to accomplish this in 10 years—the current 5-year scale-up phase and then 5 more years at full speed.

Currently, of the 14,000 or so protein structures in the Protein Data Bank (a central repository for such data), only an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 are unique structures. All the others are minor, but often important, variations of these. By determining 10,000 protein structures, the Protein Structure

Initiative would at least triple the number of unique structures available.

From these 10,000 new structures, the scientists will develop a library of nature's protein structure families. This library, which will be freely available to the scientific community, will integrate structural and genetic information and any available biochemical information for each protein entry.

#### Why Structures?

A solved protein structure, usually displayed as a computer-generated image, shows the relative locations of all of the protein's thousands of atoms. It reveals how these atoms are arranged to form grooves, ridges and pockets on the protein's surface and spirals and pleats in its inner architecture. These features indicate how a protein functions normally and how tiny changes in its shape or composition—its amino acid sequence—can cause disease.

Unfortunately, determining protein structures is often difficult and time-consuming. It's done using either of two techniques—X-ray crystallography or nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy. X-ray crystallography, which has yielded the vast majority of structures, allows scientists to study atomic details of protein structures. But it requires crystallization of the proteins—a task that is often difficult and, in some cases, borders on impossible. NMR, which relies on proteins in solution (a more physiological condition than crystallization, proponents point out), is usually slower than crystallography and is limited to solving the structures of small and medium-sized molecules. Recent advances in both techniques enable scientists to solve protein structures faster than ever before.

#### Moving a Boutique onto the Assembly Line

The seven centers are seeking to speed up not only these two structure determination methods, but also every other task in structural genomics. This includes choosing which protein structures to solve, cloning and isolating the proteins, determining the structures and depositing the data into a new central online resource that is being constructed for this purpose.

Currently, it takes weeks to years and an average of \$100,000 to solve a single protein structure. NIGMS expects each center to ramp up its operations to solve 100 to 200 structures a year and significantly reduce the cost per structure.

Although it is clearly too early to predict the eventual impact of the Protein Structure Initiative, it promises to open a whole new chapter in biomedical research. ■

### Three Nobel Prize Winners To Lecture At Symposium Honoring Vaughan

On Mar. 8-9, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute is sponsoring a symposium on "Insights into Signal Transduction." Planned in honor of Dr. Martha Vaughan on the occasion of her 75th birthday and 48 years of service to NHLBI, it will be held at Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Vaughan carried out seminal studies that defined the role of cyclic nucleotides and G-proteins in regulation of lipolysis in fat cells and the action of cholera toxin. More recently she has examined the control of intracellular vesicular trafficking by ARFs, a family of low molecular weight G-proteins, and their regulatory partners. Throughout her scientific career, Vaughan has devoted considerable time and energy to understanding the molecular basis of intracellular signaling.

The symposium will focus on the latest developments in lipid metabolism, cell and organelle movement, and signal transduction pathways involving nitric oxide, cyclic nucleotides and G-proteins. It begins at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, Mar. 8 and will adjourn at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Mar. 9. Three Nobel Prize winners will be featured speakers—Drs. Alfred G. Gilman, Joseph L. Goldstein and Ferid Murad. Poster presentations will be given by numerous visiting scientists from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Mar. 8 and from 8 to 9 a.m. on Mar. 9. For more information, contact Dorothy Honemond, 496-9728; email: Honemond@nhlbi.nih.gov. ■

### Sailing Club Open House

Do you think you might like sailing? Have you thought: someday I'll learn to sail? Have you longed to be sailing on the Chesapeake Bay? Does the excitement of racing sailboats appeal to you? Do you need to refresh your sailing skills? Can you imagine being with a group of fun, skilled sailing instructors, enthusiasts and boat owners? All of this and more are open to you through the NIH Sailing Club at low cost. Check it out over pizza and beer on Thursday, Mar. 1 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the FAES House at the corner of Old Georgetown Rd. and Cedar Ln. Admission is \$5 at the door, soda free, beer/wine \$2. ■



Dr. Martha Vaughan

### Celebrating Plain Language at NIH

On Monday, Mar. 5, NIH will pay tribute to the power of clear writing with a special on-campus event titled "Celebrating Plain Language at NIH." Open to all NIH staff, the event will start at 2 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10.

NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein will kick off the event with a ceremony honoring the winners of the first annual NIH Plain Language Awards. More than 100 nominations, including web sites, speeches, manuals, posters, and other written products were submitted in response to Kirschstein's call for entries to the plain language competition. The entries were evaluated by members of the NIH plain language coordinating committee, which includes representatives from every NIH institute, center and OD office.



Michael Dirda

Immediately following the awards ceremony, special guest Michael Dirda—author, critic, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and senior editor of the *Washington Post* "Book World" magazine—will speak about the power of language. The event will wrap up with a reception in the NIH Visitor Information Center at 3 p.m.

Results of the 2000 federal employee satisfaction survey show increasing awareness of the plain language initiative government-wide. The measure of awareness of plain language increased by 8 percent over the previous year, more than any other measure in the survey. NIH has supported the plain language initiative since its introduction.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For all other reasonable accommodation, call 496-1461. For more information about the NIH Plain Language Initiative, visit [www1.od.nih.gov/execsec/plainlanguage.htm](http://www1.od.nih.gov/execsec/plainlanguage.htm). ■

### Healthy Women Needed for Study

NICHD is seeking women, ages 18-42, for a study comparing the bone density of healthy women. You may be eligible if you have no medical conditions, or an irregular menstrual cycle, not pregnant, nursing or planning pregnancy over the next 3 years, do not use oral contraceptives or prescribed medications, smoke fewer than 2 cigarettes per day and drink fewer than 2 alcoholic drinks per day. Participation involves four visits over a 3-year period, blood test, bone density test, urine test and cognitive testing. Pay is provided. Call 435-7926 or 594-3839. ■



Mitchell A. Levine has been named associate director for management in the Office of the Director, Center for Information Technology. Before coming to NIH, he was chief financial officer for the National Transportation Safety Board. There he instituted many improvements to assess financial operations, internal controls and audit ability issues. As assistant commissioner of financial operations at the Department of the Treasury from 1998 to 2000, he headed an effort to begin using the Internet to transact government business. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Presidential Rank Award in 1997 for his many significant accomplishments at the Department of the Treasury. He entered government service in 1964 as a management intern with the strategic systems project office, Department of the Navy.

## PEST CONTROL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Carolina and house wrens, tree swallows, and several kinds of woodpeckers.

About 30 birdhouses, three roosting houses and a couple of bat houses will be installed across the campus in the coming weeks to help attract and keep more native song birds as permanent residents on campus, Mueller says. The project is not just for its aesthetic value to the grounds, either.

"We want to encourage more birds and bats to help us naturally control campus insect pests

including mosquitoes," he explains. "We don't want to spray insecticides on campus, so this is a natural solution to reducing many insect pests."

In addition to possibly controlling the mosquito population at NIH—more of a concern within the last year due to reports of the West Nile Virus

with mosquitoes as the vector—the project to lure more birds here has other practical advantages as well.

"Unfortunately, our required tree maintenance work eliminates a lot of habitat," Mueller says. "Our tree preservation policy requires us to specify whether we're removing trees during nesting season or whether birds may be using the tree as a roost. In most cases, we leave dead trees standing as long as possible if they contain nest cavities or roosts, but we hope these houses will offer an attractive alternative for the birds when we have to take down the rotting trees. That's why we're putting up several houses for woodpeckers. They naturally inspect and remove many destructive insects from our trees every day."

After consulting with the National Audubon Society and other organizations interested in preserving and enhancing urban wildlife habitats, Mueller purchased all the birdhouses and two bathhouses available from local wildlife stores. The unpainted cedar structures are mounted either on poles in relatively open lawn areas around NIH's perimeter or on trees, depending on what species groundskeepers want to attract. Campus pedestrians may come across several of the houses while strolling on footpaths near the front lawn of the Stone House, on the southeast grounds of the National Library of Medicine or along Center Drive near the Children's Inn.

A bird fancier himself (with the Boy Scout merit badge to prove it), Mueller has researched the likes and dislikes of native fowl and adjusted accommodations accordingly. Some of the houses have been

installed so that the 1½-inch entrance holes face east, because bluebirds and tree swallows tend to appreciate the warmth of the morning sun. The houses sit about 5 or 6 feet off the ground to simulate fence posts. Other houses are placed from 6 to 20 feet up along a tree trunk to attract woodland cavity nesting birds like chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and wrens. No birdseed will be offered near the houses; that may cause the residents to become dependent, and it would, after all, defeat the purpose of attracting insect-eaters.

If all goes according to plan, the houses will be in place by Mar. 1, which is when male birds tend to come searching for territories. Houses that will occupy the same general area are installed a few dozen yards apart to prevent turf-fighting by the males.

"If we set the houses too close together," Mueller says, "the males may just fight each other over territory instead of courting females." If successful, more houses will be set out next winter.

Predator birds such as crows, starlings and sparrows—already plentiful on campus—are not welcome in the new houses. "They're destructive by nature," he explains. "They'll tear up the nests and scare away the beneficial birds we're hoping to attract." In some cases, plastic and metal plates have been placed around the holes in the houses to discourage larger birds and other predators such as squirrels and raccoons from gnawing the wood to enlarge entrances to the houses.

Just as all birds are not the same, mosquitoes also come in different kinds. That's why Mueller also bought a couple of bathhouses. "There are daytime and nighttime mosquitoes," he notes, pragmatically. "Bats can eat their weight in mosquitoes per night. Although bats are harder to attract, we hope we can start a few colonies to take care of the evening insects. There's no better natural way to eliminate mosquitoes." ■



*Fran Seymer (l) and driver Dave Brown, both of the NIH grounds maintenance and landscaping section, use a frontloader to tamp a new birdhouse into position. Located on the southeast lawn of the National Library of Medicine, this roosting place is one of about 30 that will offer acres of wide open space to prospective tenants.*

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

#### **BSA To Host Black History Lecture, Feb. 27**

The NIH Black Scientists Association's scientific seminar in honor of Black History Month will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 10:30 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The featured speaker will be Dr. Lauren Wood, senior clinical investigator, pediatric HIV working group, HIV & AIDS Malignancy Branch, NCI. The title of her seminar will be the "Epidemiology and Treatment of Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Infection: Past, Present and Future." The seminar is cosponsored by NINDS and is open to the public. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For reasonable accommodation, contact Roland Owens by email, ro6n@nih.gov or by phone, 496-3359.

## Nutrition Month Observed at NIH

March is national Nutrition Month, and this year's theme—developed by the American Dietetic Association—is “Food & Fitness Build a Healthy Lifestyle.” This theme reminds us that to stay healthy, we need to eat a balanced diet and maintain an adequate level of physical activity. The *2000 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* offers the following ABC's:

**Aim for Fitness:** Aim for a healthy weight; be physically active each day (about 30 minutes of moderate activity/day for adults).

**Build a Healthy Base:** Let the food guide pyramid direct your food choices; choose a variety of grains daily, especially whole grains; choose a variety of fruits and vegetables daily; keep food safe to eat.

**Choose Sensibly:** Choose a diet that is low in saturated fat and cholesterol and moderate in total fat; choose beverages and foods to moderate your intake of sugars; choose and prepare foods with less salt; if you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.

For information about Nutrition Month activities at NIH, visit the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination web site at [http://www.niddk.nih.gov/federal/dnrc/nutrition\\_month.htm](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/federal/dnrc/nutrition_month.htm).

This year's activities include a lecture on “Regulation of Folate Receptor-Mediated Vitamin Transport: Implications for Neural Tube Defects” to be presented by Dr. Victoria L. Stevens, associate professor, Emory University School of Medicine on Thursday, Mar. 1 at Rockledge II, Conf. Rm. 9112 from 1-2 p.m.

The Clinical Center dietetic interns will be hosting an information booth entitled “Sporting a Healthy Lifestyle: Fun with Food and Nutrition” on Thursday, Mar. 15, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 10, outside 2nd floor cafeteria, and on Thursday, Mar. 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, outside 1st floor cafeteria. Stop by to learn about sports nutrition, healthy eating and how to reach and maintain a healthy weight. There will be handouts, interactive games and prizes. ■

## Postpartum Depression Study

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking female volunteer mothers ages 18-40 who: have had one or more past episodes of postpartum depression following a full-term pregnancy, have no current symptoms of depression, must be 6 months post-delivery and not lactating, must be medically healthy and medication-free. Volunteers may be asked to participate in a 6-month protocol investigating the effects of ovarian and stress hormones on brain and behavior. Payment is provided for those who complete the study. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

## Four Named to NIAID Council

Four people were recently named to the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council, the principal advisory body of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

They are: Dr. William Bertrand, executive director of Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer at Tulane University in New Orleans;

Charlotte W. Collins, an attorney with Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy in Washington, D.C.; Dr. Fred Jones, Jr., dean emeritus of the Graduate School at Meharry Medical College in Nashville; and Dr. Gerald L. Mandell, chief of infectious diseases, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville.

Bertrand's expertise covers epidemiology, tropical diseases, economic development, information systems and public health.

Attorney Collins represents public and teaching hospitals, medical colleges, and related associations on health care financing policy initiatives.

In addition to Jones' role as dean emeritus, he is also professor emeritus in the department of microbiology at Meharry. His research interest focused on the pathogenesis of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Mandell is professor of medicine and the Owen R. Cheatham professor of the sciences at Virginia; his research focuses on phagocytic cells, for which he received a MERIT Award from NIAID. ■

## IT Management Training Offered

A 3-part information technology (IT) management training series offered by the Center for Information Technology begins on Thursday, Mar. 1. Information technology management staff, budget analysts, management analysts and program specialists will find these courses particularly relevant.

Noted consultant and lecturer Dr. Thomas Kessler will lead off the series with a seminar on “Developing Information Technology Performance Measures.” The aim of this 6-hour course, to be held in Bldg. 12A, Rm. B51 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is to familiarize NIH'ers with the IT investment review process and to help practitioners reduce their IT performance measurement learning curve.

On Tuesday, Mar. 27, Robert Lagas, senior analyst with CIT, will present “Investment Review.” This 3.5-hour course will cover the concepts of IT investment review, its implementation at the NIH level, and guidelines for establishing an investment review process at the IC level. The class will be held in Bldg. 12A, Rm. B51, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Lagas will also present the final course in the series, “Cost-Benefit Analysis” on Apr. 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the same location. The Cost Benefit Analysis Guide for NIH IT Projects, which will be the basis for this class, can be accessed at <http://irm.cit.nih.gov/itmra/cost-benefit.html>. The courses are offered free to NIH employees. You may register via the CIT Training page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov/>. ■



NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci (l) welcomes new advisory council members (from l) Dr. Gerald L. Mandell, Charlotte W. Collins, Dr. Fred Jones, Jr. and Dr. William Bertrand.

## NIH Receives Awards for Using Plain Language

By Mike Coogan

The National Partnership for Reinventing Government recently presented four NIH components with awards for clearly and concisely conveying important health messages to Americans.

In a January ceremony at the White House Conference Center, the NPR gave "Creativity Awards" to NIA for its exercise guide for older adults; NCI for its clinical trials informed consent template; and NEI for its traveling exhibit on low vision. The NPR also presented the National Library of Medicine with a Plain Language Award for its user-friendly online database of clinical trials.

"These prestigious awards from NPR are a reflection of the NIH community's ongoing efforts to communicate clearly," said Karen O'Steen, director of NIH's Executive Secretariat and chairperson of the NIH plain language coordinating committee. "They are a tribute to NIH and the individual institutes and are well deserved."

**NIA's Exercise Guide for Older People**—For years, information on the benefits of exercise for older people was mostly hidden behind research terminology in medical journals; the "jargon barrier" needed to be crossed. Enter the NIA. Its 100-page, illustrated patient education guide, *Exercise: A Guide From the National Institute on Aging*, tells older people exactly which exercises to do and demonstrates how to do them safely. The free guide can be obtained by calling NIA's toll free information line at 800-222-2225. The document is also available on the NIA web site: <http://www.nih.gov/ni/health/pubs/nasa-exercise/>. An accompanying video is available at the NIH R&W stores.

**NCI's Informed Consent Template**—NCI developed a set of recommendations for simplifying its informed consent documents that has been met with widespread acclaim from patients, investigators, physicians, nurses, ethicists and institutional review boards that oversee clinical trials. "The informed consent template is being used by a majority of cancer researchers funded by the NCI; numerous federal and private research sponsors, such as the pharmaceutical industry; and other institutes at NIH," said Mary McCabe, NCI's director of the Office of Education and Special Initiatives. The template can be found on the web at <http://cancertrials.nci.nih.gov>.

**NEI's Traveling Low Vision Exhibit**—To help



An NIA exercise guide was cited as a model of plain language success by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government.



Visitors stroll through NEI's traveling low vision exhibit, which is on tour for several years to shopping malls throughout the country.

inform people with low vision that there are steps they can take to live full and more independent lives, NEI has introduced the Eye Site: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers that will make its way to shopping malls around the country during the next several years. The exhibit, part of NEI's Low Vision Education Program, includes five colorful kiosks designed to attract a cross-section of the population, from young people to senior citizens. It includes information in Spanish as well as audio presentations. For more information, visit the web site at <http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/eyesite/>.

**NIH's Clinical Trials Database**—NLM has established an easy-to-use comprehensive database — [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)—of both federally and privately funded clinical trials that can be accessed by patients, family members and the public. "The database functions as an informational lifeline of experimental treatments for individuals with life-threatening diseases," said Dr. Alexa McCray, director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, who led a team composed of NIH institutes and centers that developed the database. "It is an innovative tool that makes available to the public a wealth of research information."

She said there are about 5,200 trials in the system, of which about 80 percent are NIH-sponsored trials. "The database will eventually include clinical trials supported or conducted by other government agencies such as the Veterans Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the private sector," she added.

Since its launch in February 2000, "we've had about 19.3 million hits on the site," McCray said. "That represents anywhere between 4,500-5,000 users per day. And we've received good feedback from people using the system and finding what they need." **R**

### CSR's Powers Retires After 22 Years

Dr. Marcelina Powers recently cleared her desk at the Center for Scientific Review. After 22 years of federal service, she was looking forward to retiring. She has been the scientific review administrator for one of CSR's busiest study sections—the metabolic pathology study section of the oncological sciences integrated review group—since its inception in 1984. Powers, however, went about her final duties with a gentle, satisfied smile. Through her many efforts as an SRA, she has helped accelerate important cancer research and bring new investigators into the field.



Dr. Marcelina Powers

She has accomplished much since she and her family survived the occupation and liberation of the Philippines in World War II. She earned her D.V.M. degree from the University of the Philippines, becoming the third female veterinarian in the country. She then made the biggest move of her life, flying to the United States in 1957 to accept a research assistantship at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. After receiving a master's degree in veterinary science there, she became director of toxicology for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. She eventually moved to Hazleton Laboratories in Falls Church, Va., where she was director of toxicology for 15 years.

Powers joined the National Cancer Institute in 1978 as a program director in the Bioassay Program, coordinating the toxicology testing of potential cancer drugs at 3-4 contract laboratories. When a new SRA was needed to develop the metabolic pathology study section at CSR, she accepted the challenge and adeptly managed its increasing workload for 16 years. Dr. Syed Quadri, chief of the oncological sciences IRG, said that Powers will be greatly missed because "she has been a thoughtful advisor to many SRAs in CSR, especially the oncological sciences IRG members." He also praised Powers for her "outstandingly valuable" interactions with the extramural scientific community over the years.

Powers was thus able to count many accomplishments and friends at NIH as she closed her office door for the last time on Dec. 31, 2000. She also could count many enjoyments for her new life ahead. She looks forward to reading more novels, gardening and continuing aerobic classes with friends at the YMCA. She also plans to visit her son in Denver and her family in the Philippines, and travel more with her husband.—Don Luckett ■

### CC Training Program Adds Remote Sites

The Clinical Center clinical research training course, "Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research," began its sixth year in January with the addition of five remote sites that will receive the training by videoconference.

Sites new to the program this year are Children's National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Ft. Detrick, Md.; State University of New York, Binghamton; State University of New York, Syracuse; and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis. Three former sites—National Institute on Aging, Baltimore; Georgetown University; and University of Puerto Rico, San Juan—have joined in the program again this year.

"This program teaches researchers how to design a good clinical trial," said Dr. John Gallin, CC director, who initiated the program in 1995. It covers epidemiological methods and focuses on study design and development, protocol preparation, patient monitoring, quality assurance and FDA issues. It also includes data management and legal and ethical issues, including protection of human subjects.

Twenty-five students participated in the course's first offering as a pilot. This year, 487 researchers, mostly physicians, have registered, including 264 at the remote sites.

"This is an extraordinary era of innovation and progress for medicine and science," notes Gallin. "Clinical research can be beneficial and successful only when physician-researchers have the necessary training and expertise to conduct it. Historically, medical students depended on willing and able mentors to teach the intricacies of clinical research. That approach simply doesn't work today."

The course began Jan. 30 and continues through May 21. Sessions meet Tuesday and Wednesday nights in Lipssett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. ■



Dr. Donna L. Vogel recently joined NCI as director of its new Fellowship Office; she heads an office that serves as a focal point for all intramural NCI fellows and acts, in partnership with existing NCI and NIH components, as an innovator to enhance both personal and professional aspects of their fellowship experience. The Fellowship Office will provide referrals and guidance regarding recruitment, training, mentoring, career development and quality of life issues. Vogel joined NCI in January 2001 after having been associate chief for clinical research and training officer of the Reproductive Sciences Branch, NICHD. She first came to NIH as a clinical associate in endocrinology in 1980. She continues to serve as cochair of the research subcommittee of the Office of Research on Women's Health coordinating committee for research on women's health.

### Stress Hormones, Depression Studies

The Clinical Neuroendocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking people with current or past depression, as well as matched normal controls, to participate in an evaluation study at the Clinical Center. Participants should be 18 to 65 years old; medically healthy; nonsmokers within the past year; and able to participate in studies involving at least one night's stay at the Clinical Center. Eligible volunteers will receive a physical evaluation, metabolic studies and participate in studies for possible heart disease in depression. They will also be paid. For more information, call 496-5831 or 496-1892 voice mail #1 for Dr. June Cai.

### NINDS's Brinley Retires After More Than Two Decades By Shannon E. Garnett

Dr. Floyd John Brinley, Jr., associate director of infection and immunity, NINDS, recently retired after 23 years of government service—all with NIH.

"Jack Brinley has served this institute and the neuroscience community with great distinction," said then NINDS director Dr. Gerald Fischbach. "His overview of the field and judgement were of great value to me when I joined NINDS. He has left his mark on the field."



Dr. Floyd John Brinley, Jr.

For years Brinley was instrumental in helping to lead NINDS's extramural division. From 1979 to 1982, he was head of the institute's Neurological Disorders Program—a large extramural research program that supported studies on a broad spectrum of diseases and disorders. In this role, he was in charge of guiding the institute's research grants, contracts and fellowships that supported basic research in areas such as developmental disorders, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, convulsive disorders including epilepsy and sleep research, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, neuromuscular disorders, infections, neuroendocrine disorders and neurotoxicology.

In 1982, when the program was divided into two smaller components—the Division of Convulsive, Developmental, and Neuromuscular Disorders (DCDND) and the Division of Demyelinating, Atrophic, and Dementing Disorders—he became director of DCDND. Later, in 1995, the divisions were reorganized and Brinley became director of the Division of Convulsive, Infectious, and Immune Disorders—retaining oversight of the epilepsy, sleep, and neuromuscular disorders research grants, adding multiple sclerosis and AIDS grants, and losing developmental disorders grants, which became part of the fundamental neuroscience division. In 1999, he was named associate director of infection and immunity, with special interests in HIV-1 infection and prion diseases.

A native of Battle Creek, Mich., Brinley earned his bachelor of arts degree from Oberlin College in 1951, and his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1955. He then interned at the Los Angeles County General Hospital until 1956. He first came to NIH in 1957 as a senior assistant surgeon in the Laboratory of Neurophysiology—a lab jointly run by NIMH and NINDB (now NINDS). He left in 1959 to continue graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University, where he

earned his Ph.D. in biophysics in 1961.

He began his professional career at Hopkins in 1961, serving as an assistant professor of physiology, and as an associate professor in 1966. Before coming to NINDS in 1979, Brinley taught at the University of Maryland School of Medicine as a professor of physiology.

Despite his busy schedule at NINDS, he continued to impart his knowledge to others by serving as a visiting professor of biophysics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine from 1981 to 1995.

Throughout his career, Brinley has received numerous accolades and honors including awards for his service and participation in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corp. For many years he was commander of the NIH disaster medical assistance team.

He has memberships in many professional societies including the Society of General Physiologists, the American Physiological Society and the American Society of Biological Chemists, and has served on the editorial boards of such journals as the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, *Cell Calcium*, and *Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology*. ■

### Audition for BLT Spring Production

The Bethesda Little Theatre announces auditions for its spring production, "A Century of Broadway." This will be an original revue spotlighting great moments in Broadway's first 100 years, to be performed by a small ensemble. Performance dates are the first three weekends in May (Friday and Saturday evenings and two Sunday matinees). All performances will be held in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Auditions will be Sunday, Feb. 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. and Monday, Feb. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Masur Auditorium. Be prepared to sing an up-tempo song and a ballad and to do some basic movement and dance steps. An accompanist will be provided. Backstage help and production assistance are also welcome. If you have any questions or want to help out backstage, contact Elaine Hughes, (301) 589-0720, [eshughes@erols.com](mailto:eshughes@erols.com).

The Bethesda Little Theatre is an NIH R&W organization, now in its 21st year, that raises funds for NIH charities. More information is available online at <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/blt/>. ■

### Endometriosis Pain Relief Study

There is a new pain relief study for women with endometriosis. Doctors are testing to find out if the drug raloxifene reduces pain from endometriosis. Surgical treatment is combined with either raloxifene or a placebo (sugar pill). Study offers a "whole person" approach that includes quality of life issues. The study is free and takes place at the Clinical Center. Call for details: 1-800-411-1222. ■

**CSR's Sam Joseloff Retires**

By Don Lockett

"Every day is a new day, and I focus on the enjoyable aspects of that day," said Dr. Samuel H. Joseloff, who recently retired from the Center for Scientific Review after almost 22 years at NIH. At CSR, he was a public affairs specialist who also served as executive secretary for the CSR advisory committee, CSR information officer, and the center's Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act coordinator.

Joseloff has lived by his philosophy. Colleagues say he brought a fresh approach to every problem and found adventure and good company wherever he went. Indeed, his ability to try and enjoy new things led him on a most unusual path to NIH.

His surprising journey began in the English departments of Yale University, the University of Wisconsin and Princeton University, where he developed a passion for 18th Century English literature. He earned two master's degrees and a Ph.D. In 1968, he accepted a term appointment as an assistant professor of English at Georgetown University. In addition to teaching the traditional courses there, he developed a program in Jewish literature. He thoroughly enjoyed teaching, but kept his options open.

A chance encounter brought him an unexpected offer to become head of publications for the National Biomedical Research Foundation at Georgetown University Medical Center. The challenge intrigued him, and Joseloff became fascinated with the potential of using his skills in an exciting new field. With a sense of adventure, he went to work editing scientific articles and preparing a newsletter. He even developed an operating manual for the ACTA Scanner, the first whole-body, CAT, X-ray scan machine. He found similar challenges as head of documentations at a consulting firm, CDP Associates, in 1978.

His career path took a defining turn a year later, when he became special assistant to the associate director of referral and review at the Division of Research Grants, which is now CSR. After developing orientation handbooks for peer reviewers, an extensive slide collection, videotapes, a history of DRG, and other projects, Joseloff was "hooked" on the work and people at NIH. In 1984, he moved to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to be executive secretary of its advisory council. He returned to DRG in 1996 to head the Office of Grant Inquiries, and eventually came to the Office of the CSR Director.



Dr. Samuel H. Joseloff

Colleagues and coworkers could always count on him. Joseloff provided just the right words in writing and editing CSR documents. Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld, CSR director, said "he will be sincerely missed by CSR staff and its advisory committee members as well as by the extramural scientific community."

Joseloff now has a to-do list that could occupy three retirees—music, hobbies, volunteer work, and writing and editing. It is hard to say where this new path will take him. One thing, however, is guaranteed: every day will be a new day with something to be enjoyed. ■

**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>.

BRMUG - Macintosh Users Group	2/26
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000	2/27
Overview of Microsoft Office 2001 for the Mac	2/28
NIH Biowulf - a Supercluster for Scientific Applications	2/28
LISTSERV Electronic Mailing Lists: General Users	2/28
KMIG - Knowledge Management Interest Group	2/28
Developing Information Technology Performance Measures	3/1
LISTSERV Electronic Mailing Lists: List Owners	3/1
Introduction to HTML	3/1
Introduction to Networks	3/2
Hubs, Switches, and Routers	3/6
Contractor Performance System for New Users	3/6
New Features in SAS Version 8	3/7
Introduction to the Macintosh Operating System	3/7
Data Warehouse Query: Research Contracts & Grants	3/7

**Recommendations Available for Recruiting Minorities to Trials**

The National Cancer Institute has published "Participation of Minorities and Women in Clinical Cancer Research" in the November 2000 Supplement of the *Annals of Epidemiology*. Based on two NCI workshops, the supplement focuses on identifying best practices for increasing participation of minorities and women in clinical research. It identifies barriers to research participation and how to overcome them, and discusses how outcomes affect clinical research. In addition, the supplement provides recommendations for increased participation. Free copies are available at [www.cancer.gov/publications](http://www.cancer.gov/publications) or by calling 1-800-4-CANCER.

**Pain Relief Study Needs Patients**

NIDCR seeks patients for studies of pain relief medications. Patients with early stage TMD (temporomandibular disorder) will receive either the study drug, celecoxib, a standard treatment drug, naproxen, or a placebo. Patients with later stage TMD will receive either the study drug etanercept or a placebo. If you are between 18 and 65 and have TMD jaw pain, call to find out if you are eligible. There is no charge to take part. Phone 1-800-411-1222.

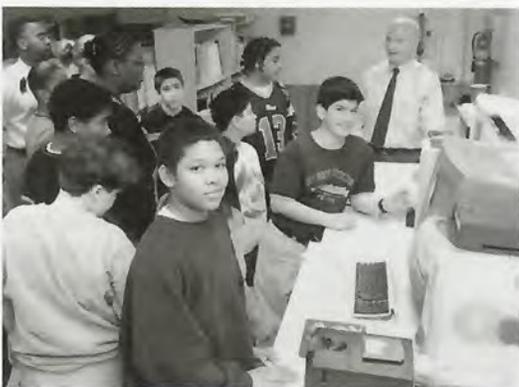
*Students 'Wowed'***MAPB Hosts Junior High Filmmakers****By Gerri Adams-Simmons**

"Wow," was the expression heard most from 45 Alice Deal Junior High School students as they toured Medical Arts and Photography Branch facilities as part of NIH's adopt-a-school partnership with the school. Deal's video and filmmaking classes ventured to NIH to see how the theory of their



*Janet Stephens (c) shows Deal students and instructors around MAPB's photomicroscopy equipment.*

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



*Bruce Geyman (r) of MAPB's design section discusses the importance of teamwork in design careers. MAPB is part of the Office of Research Services, OD.*

lessons was applicable in the real world. The students were surprised to see their areas of interest turn into such exciting work as exhibit design, publications and posters, videotaping, computer slides, medical illustration and photography.

Lem Canady, branch chief, gave an introduction and demonstrated a laptop computer-controlled presentation about NIH and MAPB. "Study hard and get good grades in the core subjects, especially the writing classes, because then you will be prepared for whatever road you take in life," he advised. "Writing is a critical skill to have in this age of new technology."

As the students were engrossed in the variety of designs, Bruce Geyman, chief of design, observed, "Design is helping others to communicate their ideas and information. If the design is just pretty, you are pleasing yourself and not achieving the mission." He also impressed upon the students the importance of working as a team, because "in this line of work, no one person can do the entire project."

In the photomicroscopy section, students viewed demonstrations of how staff create images of experiments to be imported into videos.

Hearing the excitement of the students, Shauna Everett, a scientific photographer who started as an intern while working on her degree at the University of the District of Columbia, said, "I hope you understand the value of this tour, because when I went through school, I didn't have the advantage of actually seeing what I was studying."

The students were really wowed by the international broadcast facilities and studio, and the many combinations of skills needed by staffers: broadcast-



*MAPB staffers Joy Jackson and Ken Ryland (c) facilitate hands-on demonstrations of video equipment by faculty and students from D.C.'s Alice Deal Junior High School, which has been adopted by NIH's Office of the Director.*

ing, transmission, producing, shooting, editing, graphic design and routing. John Bennett, broadcast engineer, said, "While the theory being taught in college is good, the more skills you have, the more employable you are." Student Brandon Lyles said, "I really enjoyed the tour because it involves something I like to do. The tour is a good tool to learn more about video production. I learned a few things about the equipment that is taken on location that I didn't know about before coming."

When the group arrived in the imaging section, they were particularly fascinated by the technology: Wayne Randolph, scientific photographer, held the students' attention as he demonstrated how photographs are enhanced, expertly inserting or deleting people without it being detected.

MAPB producer Alice Hardy and Deal video and filmmaking teacher Robert Simmons have developed a program for the coming months that allows students to gain hands-on experience in working with video production, editing and going on location with NIH. "We are so pleased that our students have been provided the unique opportunity for a hands-on view of their classwork at such an advanced level," said Simmons. "This has certainly inspired a different interest for students after seeing the many avenues by which they can enter the science world, other than being a scientist." ■

**Wednesday Afternoon Lecture**

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Jennifer A. Doudna on Feb. 28, who will speak on "Structural Insights into Signal Recognition Particle Function." She is Henry Ford II professor and associate HHMI investigator, department of molecular biophysics and biochemistry, Yale University.

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