

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Student Scientists Look to the Future at School Science Fair

By Gerri Adams-Simmons

Alice Deal Jr. High School invited its NIH partners to participate as judges in the school's science fair; the event let us know that, indeed, our future is in good hands. NIH judges for the 316 exhibits were Drs. William Harlan, NIH associate director for disease prevention; Joannie Shen, NIAAA; John Stewart, NCI; along with Judit Camacho, NCI and six NIH Academy post-baccalaureate students.

As Harlan completed his round of exhibits, he concluded, "Several things impressed me about the science fair: the projects



Tarice Barnes of NIDDK (l) judges poster by Deal student Andrea Gray.

were generally well-planned and included a testable hypothesis; appropriate data were collected; and the students used the data to arrive at a conclusion. It is gratifying to see the interest and excitement in science nourished by actual experience."

Shen commented, "It was an exciting and enjoyable experience being a judge at the science fair. I was impressed by the diversity of students' interests, from the efficacy of herbal remedies to the hyperactive effect of coffee-drinking in mice. This experience reminded me that good science is defined by its rigorous methods and not by the complexity of the subject matter. In

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

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Transfusion of Optimism Takes

## Secretary Thompson Gets Impressive Look at NIH

By Rich McManus

Calling himself both humbled and deeply impressed by the breadth and scope of NIH research, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson spent the morning of Feb. 28 touring laboratories, visiting patients, and getting updates on cutting-edge research here before wrapping up his visit with a half-hour press conference in Wilson Hall at which he repeated President Bush's intention to boost NIH's budget in 2002 by \$2.75 billion, "the largest single year increase ever for NIH."

The gabbling hall fell silent as the new secretary, formerly governor of Wisconsin, walked in and mounted the podium with several NIH officials led



HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson meets press during first NIH visit.

SEE SECRETARY THOMPSON, PAGE 6

'Repress or Repair?'

## Black History Keynoter Robinson Warns Against Repeating the Past

By Carla Garnett

Echoing the oft-cited caveat coined by Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it, the keynote speaker at NIH's 2001 Black History Month program implored the audience to connect the past to the future in meaningful and practical ways.

"I invite you to make Black History Month more than a ritual, something more than a ceremonial occasion that we sit through every year," said Randall Robinson, president of TransAfrica, an organization he founded to promote and inform United States policy toward Africa and the



Randall Robinson

SEE RANDALL ROBINSON, PAGE 4

### NIAAA Council Gains Four

Four new members were recently named to the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. They are Dr. Sandra Ann Brown, professor of psychology and psychiatry at the University of California San Diego, La Jolla; Dr. Raul Caetano, professor of epidemiology and assistant dean of the School of Public Health, University of Texas Health Sciences Center, Houston; Dr. George F. Koob, director of the division of psychopharmacology in the department of neuropharmacology, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla;



With NIAAA director Dr. Enoch Gordis (c) are new advisory council members (from l) Drs. Raul Caetano, George F. Koob, Sandra Ann Brown and Steven M. Mirin.

and Dr. Steven M. Mirin, medical director of the American Psychiatric Association and professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Brown's areas of research expertise include etiologic factors in alcohol and drug abuse, and cognitive and pharmacologic reinforcement characteristics of alcohol and other drugs.

Caetano is an authority on the epidemiology of alcohol problems, especially among blacks and Hispanics.

Koob, who directs the Alcohol Research Center at the Scripps Institute, is a behavioral neuropharmacologist and a leading expert on reinforcement, reward and behavioral mechanisms of action of alcohol and other drugs of abuse.

Mirin is a leader in the field of alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and research, and is a member of the Council on Neuroscience and Behavioral Health of the Institute of Medicine. ■

### Crohn's Disease Disrupting Your Life?

If so, consider taking part in a study to test the safety and effectiveness of a potential new Crohn's disease treatment against a placebo (a substance that neither harms nor helps). The study takes place at the Clinical Center. If you are age 18 or older with moderate Crohn's symptoms, call for more information. There is no charge for study-related testing or medicine. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 866-411-1010). ■

### NIH-NASA Astrobiology Institute Symposium

NIH and the NASA Astrobiology Institute will hold a joint symposium on Monday, Apr. 2 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

The two organizations share the common goal of understanding the fundamental processes of living systems, including such areas as the origin and evolution of microbial populations, the mechanisms of adaptation to stressful environments and the development of new technology to advance these and other areas of research. The goal of the joint symposium is to initiate a dialog at the scientist-to-scientist level that may lead to new collaborative research on cosmic aspects of life. Areas selected for initial consideration at the symposium are biofilms, oxidative damage/biological forms of iron, and extremophiles. Future interactions are certain to touch on areas ranging from remote sensing to the role of water in life.

Registration is free, and is not mandatory. However, if you expect to attend the symposium, register at the symposium web site, <http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/JointSymposium>, as it will help greatly in organizing the event. More information on the meeting can also be found at the web site. ■

### Tennis Club Holds Meeting, Mar. 26

Does spring fever have you yearning to get back out on the tennis court? Come hear what the NIH Tennis Club has to say about its activities at NIH. Learn about league tennis, tennis ladder and flight tennis opportunities sponsored by the club at an informational meeting on Monday, Mar. 26, 5-7 p.m., Bldg. 31, C-wing, 6th floor Conf. Rm. 7. For more information contact Bill Wagner, 435-0115, [wagnerb@nhlbi.nih.gov](mailto:wagnerb@nhlbi.nih.gov). ■

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♻️ The Record is recyclable as office white paper.

### Four Appointed to NIDDK Advisory Council

Four new members were recently named to the advisory council of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Dave Baldrige is executive director of the National Indian Council on Aging and author of numerous articles and monographs on health care for American Indian elders.

Dr. Jose F. Caro is vice president of endocrine research and clinical investigation for Lilly Research Laboratories, and professor of medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, both in Indianapolis.

Dr. Carolyn J. Kelly is a nephrologist and professor of medicine in residence at the University of California, San Diego, and a long-standing NIDDK grantee



NIDDK director Dr. Allen Spiegel (second from r) welcomes council members (from l) Dr. Jose F. Caro, Dr. Vicki Ratner, Dr. Carolyn J. Kelly and Dave Baldrige.

whose research focus is autoimmune disease and immunoregulation.

Dr. Vicki Ratner is president and founder of the Interstitial Cystitis Association. A practicing orthopedic surgeon in San Jose, she has advocated since 1984 for patients suffering from interstitial cystitis, a painful, chronic bladder disease that mostly affects women. ■

### CIT's 'Interface' Offered Online

CIT's *Interface* publication will become a web periodical beginning in March 2001. Published quarterly, with occasional special issues, for more than 30 years, *Interface* is one of the primary means of distributing technical computing information about services and facilities at CIT.

Subscribers to *Interface* whose names are currently on the NIH-STAFF email list will receive email containing a brief abstract of each article and a link to the full article text.

Subscribers whose email addresses are not in the system (mostly individuals who do not work at NIH) will continue receiving the printed version along with instructions on how to join the email list. Subscribers who would like to continue receiving a hard copy may do so by registering online—select "Publications" from <http://www.cit.nih.gov>. ■

### Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—announces cancellation of a scheduled talk by Dr. W. James Nelson on Mar. 28. Contact Hilda Madine at 594-5595 about possible rescheduling of this lecture.

On Apr. 4, Dr. Jasper Rine, Goldman professor of genetics and development, department of molecular and cell biology, University of California, Berkeley, will present "Silencing, the Cell Cycle, in DNA Replication."

For information about this talk, or about the need for reasonable accommodation, contact Madine at the number above. ■

### IPMA Spring Conference Set

The 2001 International Personnel Management Association spring training and development conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 3 at the Bethesda Hyatt Regency. Titled "HR: The Wave of the Future," the conference features Andrea Roane, news anchor from WUSA-TV Channel 9 as keynote speaker. Luncheon speaker is Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan. Topics include telecommuting, retention issues, managing change and diversity in the workplace. For registration information visit <http://137.187.156.2/ipma2001/ipma2001.htm>. Or contact Sandra Murphy, [murphysa@mail.nih.gov](mailto:murphysa@mail.nih.gov), 496-0411. ■

### Want to Learn to Sail?

If you are longing to learn to sail, hurry and join the NIH Sailing Association. The deadline to enroll in the spring training classes is Monday, Apr. 2, and the class is filling up fast. Any NIH employee or contractor, or NOAA employee, is welcome to join. Classes include six Wednesday evenings on campus, 7:30-9:30, with three or four weekday afternoon on-the-water sessions at Selby Bay Sailing Center. Classes start Apr. 11 and end May 16. Cost is \$110 plus \$35 membership fee (must have R&W number to join). Applications are available at the R&W activities desk in Bldg. 31. For more information visit [www.recgov.org/r&w/sailing/sail.html](http://www.recgov.org/r&w/sailing/sail.html). ■

### County Women's Fair Set for Mar. 31

The Montgomery County Women's Fair will take place on Saturday, Mar. 31 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Natcher Conference Center. Fair activities include a day of workshops, exhibits, networking and opportunities for women. Featured speaker is Dr. Elizabeth Morgan, who will speak on the fair's theme: "2001—A Woman's Journey." On-site registration is available with discounts for seniors and students with IDs. For more information, call (301) 949-2055 or visit the web site at <http://www.mcwomensfair.org>.



Dr. Eduardo Montalvo recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator for the AIDS-related research study section AARR-4. He also will coordinate the review of all AIDS-related Small Business Innovative Research grants. After receiving his Ph.D. in microbiology, Montalvo had postdoctoral training in the department of molecular biology at Princeton University. He then went to the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, where he was an assistant professor spearheading research on cellular proteins critical to the life cycle of the Epstein-Barr virus. He also investigated various aspects of human herpesvirus 8, a virus associated with the development of Kaposi's sarcoma in AIDS patients.

RANDALL ROBINSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Caribbean. "I'd like you to relate the conditions of the present to a causation of the past."

NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, a longtime vocal supporter of minority issues throughout her more than 40-year career at NIH, said she looks forward every year to the agency's Black History Month observance.

"This year in particular is a time for reflection and a call to action," she said in opening remarks. "Over the years we at NIH have held many celebrations to honor the contributions of African Americans to the rich history of our nation. These contributions include social, economic and—for us—scientific accomplishments that have enhanced the quality of life for everyone. However, we can no longer revel in celebrating the past, unless we also focus on the future. Here at NIH we have initiated a call to action to address health disparities in the African American community."

In addition to establishment of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, another of the accomplishments Kirschstein said was most gratifying was inclusion, with the updating last fall of the Health Care Fairness Act, of a measure to fund the loan repayment program. The program will allow NIH to help thousands of newly graduated minority scientists enter their professions debt-free, instead of saddled by student loans. Loan repayment now can be used as an incentive to encourage students from underrepresented minority populations to pursue medical research as a career.

"While NIH has come a long way," Robinson said, "NIH must meet the challenge presented by the ceremony today by making sure that African American senior scientists are represented within its ranks. Still, on that score, the record at NIH is nothing short of dismal. So, we have a long way to go."

He acknowledged that he has been conflicted by the concept of Black History Month because it seems to suggest that history can be segregated. "Any history of America, of the world that includes a story about California without descriptions of the

role of Latino Americans and Mexicans must be a flawed history," he said. "Any history of America, any history of the world that does not describe the role of Asian Americans in the development of this culture and society must be a flawed history. Any history taught to any child in any school in America that does not start with a history of the first Americans—Native



Keynote speaker Robinson is greeted by veteran program planner O.H. Laster, who is retired from NIH, but returns to consult on planning for special events.

Americans—must be a flawed history. Any history that does not integrate into the story the contributions of African Americans at home and abroad must be a flawed history. If it is flawed, then it is not history. It is a deceit."

Robinson noted that the nation has an income gap between blacks and whites that is "static, structural and longstanding. In good times and bad times, whatever the unemployment rate is in the country, the African American unemployment rate is always twice as high." What's more, he added, the country needs to resolve the wealth gap, and a derivative of that—the health gap—which finds blacks virtually throughout the world at the bottom of all the health statistics.

"One of the things we must do in Black History Month is seek to discover the whole of our story and then understand its implications for the present and the future," Robinson asserted, recalling humorously that he used to regard studying history as meanness inflicted by old people upon young people. "The ground is shifting under our democracy. Our democracy is moving. The democracy of this day is not what it was yesterday and will not be the same tomorrow...These inequities—the health gap, wealth gap—may be affordable now, but 50 years from now America will be a fundamentally different place. African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans and Asian Americans 50 years from now will comprise the new American majority. We will be a majority country of color. That means we will not be able to afford the gaps that we live with now."

Author of *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks* and an advocate for reparations to African Americans for nearly two and a half centuries of slavery in this country, Robinson said the United States is at a crossroads in time.

"Centuries ago," he recalled, "South African

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

NIH/NIDCD  
EEO Officer Kay  
Johnson Graham  
(l) presents  
program poster to  
Janice Jackson,  
director of the  
University of  
Maryland  
Baltimore County  
Gospel Choir.



society had to make a similar choice. When you have abused people, do you honestly seek to repair or to repress? Do you merely pay lip service to repairs, while you continue to repress? Or, do you really commit yourself to a path of equity? South Africa committed itself to the path of repression. Apartheid was the consequence, disaster was the outcome...We must make the decision now in our society, in contemplating the future, whether we will repress or repair."

Noting that 75 percent of the population in American prisons is African-, Latino- and Hispanic American, and that the economies of many U.S. towns are being revitalized seemingly on the uncom-

penensated efforts of minorities who are disenfranchised, Robinson concluded, "The future is beginning to look like the past. It will not be named slavery, [but] in the measure of its exploitation of the people, it will amount to the same thing."

The black history program—planned by Kay Johnson Graham, NINR/NIDCD EEO officer and O.H. Laster, a



Dr. John Ruffin

consultant and longtime NIH'er, and their committee—also included musical tributes to black history by the University of Maryland Baltimore County Gospel Choir, directed by international soloist Janice Jackson.

Dr. John Ruffin, director of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, offered closing remarks: "The new center is charged with supporting and conducting research aimed at eliminating health disparities among minorities and other disadvantaged populations in this country. If we're talking about compensation to African Americans for slavery, there's no better role that NIH can play than to forge ahead and fulfill that mission, so that we can understand the reasons for disparities in health. Once we understand why the disparities exist, hopefully we can begin to wipe them out. We can't change history, but we can change the present to impact the future." ■

#### Chamber Music Concert, Mar. 25

The Rock Creek Chamber Players will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 25 in the Clinical Center's 14th floor assembly hall. The free public concert, sponsored by the recreation therapy section, will include Dohnanyi's second string quartet; Mozart's sonata, K. 497, for piano four hands; and Bach's double concerto for violins, strings and continuo. For information call (202) 337-8710. ■

#### STRIDE Program Offers Fall 2001 Internships

Internships are available this coming fall through the Office of Human Resource Management's STRIDE Program, a 3-year career development program designed to provide employees with an opportunity for career change and advancement, while at the same time helping NIH meet its staffing needs.

The program combines on-the-job training, academic courses and selected short-term courses to prepare individuals for placement in targeted professional positions. To be eligible, you must: be employed at NIH under a career or career-conditional appointment for at least 1 year; not apply for STRIDE positions advertised by your own IC; be employed in a one-grade interval job series in the General Schedule (GS) grade 5 or above or Federal Wage Grade (WG) equivalent; have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate but not a bachelor's degree; be willing to accept a voluntary downgrade to the maximum grade level announced for the training position, if currently employed at the GS-8 or 9 level; and be willing to assume full-time status, if employed in a part-time position at the time of selection.

Applications are being accepted for the intern positions listed below.

IC	Intern Position	Target Position	Contact
CIT	Computer assistant GS-335-5/6/7	Computer specialist GS-334-9	Diana Rhine 496-6951 Bldg. 12A/Rm. 3013
NINR	Management assistant GS-344-5/6/7	Management analyst GS-343-9	Cherry Earl 402-5490 Bldg. 31/Rm. 5B13
OD	Accounting technician GS-525-5/6/7	Auditor GS-511-9	Lori Thompson 594-8255 Bldg. 2/Rm. 1E16H
NCI	Administrative technician GS-303-5/6/7	Administrative officer GS-341-9	Judy Wongsam 496-6303 Bldg.10/Rm.12N210

For more information or an application package, visit <http://trainingcenter.od.nih.gov/stride.htm>, or contact the people mentioned above. Applications must be submitted by Mar. 30. ■

#### Menopause Study Needs Women

NICHD invites healthy women, ages 45-70, to participate in a study of a new investigational hormonal treatment for menopause. You may be eligible if you are not diabetic, had no menstrual periods for at least 1 year, do not take hormone replacement therapy, do not smoke and have not had a hysterectomy. Participation involves brief weekly outpatient visits. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

## 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.

SECRETARY THOMPSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

"Let me first start off by thanking you, Dr. Kirschstein," said Thompson. "You've done an outstanding job leading this wonderful institution...Thank you for being my friend and for being an outstanding director."

Clearly moved by his encounters with patients and researchers just moments before, he said, "Just to see what we're doing as a country in the area of medical research is very impressive. I don't know if the people really realize it...Most Americans don't realize that the world's greatest doctors are right here at NIH...I am humbled to be secretary of this department."

He thanked Drs. David Harlan, head of the NIDDK/Navy Transplantation and Autoimmunity Branch, and Dr. Clifford Lane, NIAID clinical director and HIV researcher, for briefing him on advances in those fields, and spoke of the patients he had met, including a husband whose wife had donated him a kidney. "What more noble cause could there be than organ donation," Thompson said, adding, "Sixty-one hundred Americans lose their lives each year due to shortages of organs." He

**"Most Americans don't realize that the world's greatest doctors are right here at NIH...I am humbled to be secretary of this department."**

returned to the theme of organ donation repeatedly during his press availability, at one point jokingly suggesting that the doors to the room be locked until everyone had signed a donor card.

The new secretary, though focused and serious, showed an affable, quipping side. "On the drive out here I felt right at home when I realized that NIH was on Wisconsin Ave. It's great to know that NIH is on it."

Before ceding the podium to several IC directors, Thompson said, "I salute all of the scientists who are carrying out research all over the country with NIH funding...I also salute the patients who have placed their faith in this institution...President Bush and I certainly recognize the importance of NIH. That's why the budget we are proposing will be the largest single year increase ever for NIH—\$2.75 billion, or a 13.6 percent increase. This will support the highest number of research projects ever, all over the country."

NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner noted that the current effort in Congress to double NIH's budget over a 5-year period left him sitting in "a very privileged, lucky place. It is a most extraordinary



*Thompson and NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein are greeted by Dr. John Gallin, Clinical Center director.*

time in medicine—the sails are up and the wind remains in those sails...We deeply appreciate what we'll be able to do with this continued support."

Dr. Duane Alexander, director of NICHD, said the new budget "gives us resources to match our opportunities...We can begin applying the discoveries of the Human Genome Project in prevention of birth defects, low birthweight," and other ills.

"We are always asked, 'Can you well use the funds that you are getting?' and the resounding response is 'Yes, we can!'" said NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci. He accompanied Thompson on a tour of the 8th floor HIV unit at the Clinical Center, pointing out advances. "There has been extraordinary progress in the development of drugs, which has turned around the complexion of this epidemic," Fauci reported. "We are very, very happy to be in partnership with you."

Dr. Vivian Pinn, director of NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, had an advantage over everyone else on the dais: Thompson had told her that she is a favorite of his wife, who founded and still runs a women's health organization in Wisconsin. "She told me I had to meet (Pinn) because she's the greatest woman in America," Thompson noted.

"I'm delighted to know that your wife has pointed out the importance of research on women's health at NIH," Pinn said. Echoing delight at the increase in resources, she assured the secretary that ORWH "will focus mainly on prevention of chronic diseases, and emphasize healthy living...We are also addressing the health of men, not just women in isolation. We are investigating disparities in the health of women and men."

NIDDK director Dr. Allen Spiegel, who was also on the tour of the transplant unit, pointed out the ravages of diabetes, and advised Thompson that new drug breakthroughs dramatically cut both the cost and the volume of pills taken by patients who have received a donated kidney.

"We only had time for a few of the IC directors to

report to you today," Kirschstein said, "but I can assure you that we will use (the budget increase) well, we will have appropriate stewardship, and we are delighted to receive those funds."

Some two dozen reporters then posed questions that Thompson handled with an almost disarming directness. Asked whether the new budget will target any specific program, he replied, "It's not up to me to decide. It's up to the institutes. They are the experts. But I did ask for more money for hearing research—I lost the hearing in my right ear and I'd like to get it back."

He displayed an awareness of problems facing the research enterprise: "We've got all kinds...Retention is one. How do we convince these wonderful individuals to stay here and do research? How do we get young people to go into



*Thompson answers query.*

biomedical research? Can we do something more as a government, as a country, to attract young investigators? There's also a huge nursing shortage coming up—how do we deal with that? Also, how do we get more people to sign a donor card? Everyone in this room should sign one before they leave."

Thompson paused in his litany of obstacles to say, "I've got more hope and more optimism than I came out here with. I'm impressed."

Asked the inevitable question about the Bush administration's position on stem cell research, he deadpanned, "I'm shocked!" (at getting the question), but assured the audience that the administration will "review questions of research and legal authority...and we will decide in time to (make decisions about) grants being applied for at this time. There will be no hold-up of dollars."

A math lesson came next as a reporter wondered if the \$2.75 billion increase really kept up with the doubling effort; Thompson said the increase, coupled with a \$4.1 billion increase next year, would achieve the goal.

To questions of science and its priorities, Thompson ceded expertise to others. "Of course I'd like immediate results in the most promising areas, but that's not my decision—it's NIH's," he said at one point. "That's the nice thing about NIH: peer review. You send in your application and it gets expert review."

Thompson joked that when he was governor, if he had a good idea in the middle of the night, there was a good chance of seeing it accomplished the following day. "Now when I get a good idea, I go to OMB (Office of Management and Budget)" to see if he has permission.

Asked where we are in the process of naming a "permanent" NIH director, Thompson said, "I have learned that the process in Washington does not move very rapidly. But this is very high on my agenda, and we'll move as fast as we possibly can. I've gotten some great names (of candidates) from the NIH leadership here today, and we're in the process of interviewing. The White House has some names, too. I'd like to have Ruth's advice as well. But it's just amazing, this process."

Neither the secretary nor Kirschstein wanted to get too deeply into a question about the proliferation of NIH institutes and centers, nor did Thompson care to speculate on how budget largesse for NIH would affect other science institutions. He concluded, "I'm fighting very hard for NIH and CDC to get the dollars they need to carry out their wonderful research...As the days go by, I gain more and more respect for the caliber of people we have working for the department. We have the best doctors, the best scientists, and the best researchers in the world working at HHS. I'm humbled by that." ■

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON, JOHN CRAWFORD

### **Sleep Awareness Day Open House, Mar. 29**

Did you know that Garfield the Cat has been named an official NIH "spokescat"? That's right! He has just signed on as spokescat for the "Sleep Well. Do Well. Star Sleeper Campaign" of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research (NCSDR) of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. This is a national educational initiative designed to tell children ages 7-11—and the adults who influence them—that getting enough sleep each night helps them do their best in whatever they do.

Find out more about this new 5-year educational initiative, as well as other sleep information, at an open house sponsored by NCSDR in the Clinical Center lobby on Thursday, Mar. 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Learn about NIH's growing program of sleep research and education from representatives of NCSDR and other institutes who will be there to discuss their work and answer questions about sleep.

The exhibit is being held in conjunction with National Sleep Awareness Week, Mar. 26-Apr. 1, sponsored by the National Sleep Foundation. "Make Time for Sleep" is the theme and take-home message. For more information, call 496-4236.

### **Chronic Back and Leg Pain**

The NIH Pain Research Clinic is conducting research studies to improve the treatment of chronic back and leg pain. Clinicians are interested in pain resulting from a pinched lumbar nerve caused by conditions such as a herniated disc, a bone spur or arthritis. You may be able to take part if you are age 18 or older and if you have had pain in your back and leg or buttock for the last 3 months. The study takes place at the Clinical Center. All study-related tests and medicines are provided free of charge. For more information, call toll-free: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010). ■

## STUDENT SCIENTISTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

essence, the efforts expressed by the students were similar to what we strive for at our laboratories.”

Topics included: the effect of common acidic substances on *E. coli* bacteria; Does Gregor Mendel's theory of dominant trait inheritance still apply to modern day families with four or more children? Does the sense of smell in humans improve the ability to recall previously learned information, and is there a difference between males and females in this regard? Are males or females more likely to give in to peer pressure? Are awareness and performance negatively affected in drivers who use cell phones? What is the effect of second-hand smoke on plants? Do jalapeno, garlic and lemon work as natural pesticides on tobacco hornworms?

How does the aging process affect eye and hand coordination? Does music affect the growth of plants?

NIH acting deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox promoted awareness of health disparities by providing the students with “click pens” that listed the web site and the six ethnic groups that are the focus of the health disparities working group: African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and Latinos, Native Americans, and Native Alaskans. Several teachers said classroom discussions would be held the next morning on health disparities. After admiring the pens, students were curious about the topic. Upon receiving his pen, Silvio Ruprah, an 8th grader, exclaimed, “I'm Asian, Hispanic and Italian,” and then gave a response repeatedly heard from the students, “These pens are cool!”

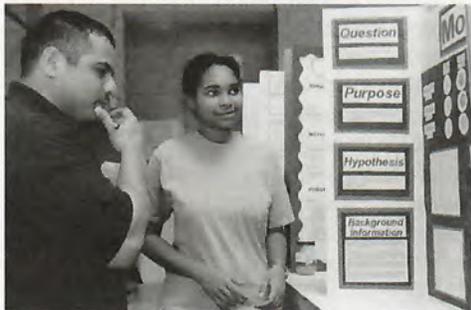
Harriet Dixon, a physical science teacher, said, “We are appreciative of NIH's participation. The NIH exhibit added a special professional touch to the fair. It brought a highlight to the focus on the life sciences of our exhibit which connected with the NIH exhibit theme ‘A Lifetime of Opportunity... Dedicated to a Healthy Nation.’”



Joseph Brown (l) explains his project to Dr. John Stewart IV of NCI.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

Juan Morin of NIAMS and Tiffany Schoolfield go over her work on mold.



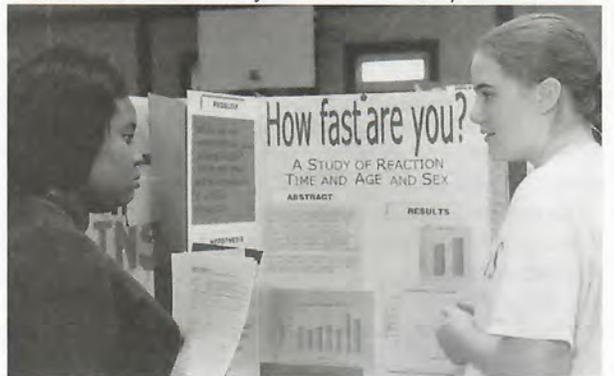
Fair participants included (above, from l) Mulesh Gerima, Salisha Hill and the NIH Academy's Nicole Brown of NINDS; below are student Valentina Assenova and the academy's Macarthur Baker of NHGRI.



Quetzalsol Lopez-Chacon of NINDS views an environmental science poster by Claire Jenkins.



Above, Harrison McKnight points out data to judge Dr. Joannie Shen of NIAAAA; below, Lydia Miller (r) explains her work to the academy's Vanessa Shaw of NCI.



## NLM Hill Perfect for Enjoying Winter's Last Stand



PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON



*A snow holiday for schoolkids on Friday, Feb. 23 turned the southeast lawn of the National Library of Medicine into a sledding paradise. Who knew NIH could be such fun?*



## Alcohol Screening Day

Are you concerned that a family member or friend drinks too much? Are you or others concerned about your drinking? Take advantage of National Alcohol Screening Day for a confidential, free evaluation. It will be held Thursday, Apr. 5 from 6:30 to 9 a.m. and noon to 5 p.m. in Bldg. 10, Rm. 1C254. For more information call Linda Doty, 496-1992.

## 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>.

Understanding Your CIT Billing	3/22
Data Warehouse <i>Query</i> : Procurement & Market Requisitions	3/22
Introduction to HTML	3/26
BRMUG - Macintosh Users Group	3/26
C Language	3/26-29
Introduction to Image Processing II	3/26-30
Network Security and Firewalls	3/27
Investment Review	3/27
Data Warehouse <i>Query</i> : Human Resources	3/28
KMIG - Knowledge Management Interest Group	3/28
Getting Started with Molecular Graphics	3/29
Introduction to XML	3/29
Seeking Information on the Web	3/29
Avoiding Pitfalls in Statistical Analysis II	3/30
Introduction to Programming	4/2-5
Cost-Benefit Analysis	4/3
Outlook 2000 Tips and Tricks	4/4
Office 2000 Overview	4/4

### Healthy Women Needed for Study

NICHD is seeking women, ages 18-42, to participate in a research study comparing bone density in 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. Compensation is provided. Call 435-7926 or 594-3839.

## NIAID Microbiologist Cole Is Mourned

By James Hadley

Dr. Roger M. Cole, a microbiologist who was a distinguished NIAID intramural research scientist for 32 years, died at age 83 of a heart ailment on Feb. 12 at the Marina Health Nursing Home in Bethesda, where he had lived for 18 months after suffering a stroke. He is mourned by family, friends and colleagues.

He retired in 1981 after spending his entire NIH career in NIAID, ultimately serving as chief of the Laboratory of Microbiology and the Laboratory of Streptococcal Diseases. His research focused on the nature of streptococci, with the aim to better understand streptococcal diseases and their sequelae such as rheumatic fever and nephritis.



Dr. Roger M. Cole

Dr. Richard Krause, who served as NIAID's director from 1975 to 1984, remembers Cole as "an internationally recognized research leader in streptococci and streptococcal diseases. He and his colleagues contributed regularly to the best scientific literature in this field. He is noted for his discoveries on the mechanisms of bacterial cell division. Dr. Cole was acting scientific director of NIAID's intramural program from September 1975 to December 1976."

Based on his observations of streptococci, Cole developed widely accepted theories on the possible modes by which new cell walls are formed in growing bacteria. He and his colleagues conducted many other studies of strep, including such "firsts" as investigations of bacterial phages that infect streptococci and the demonstration that phage-mediated transduction supplied the only means known (at the time) for genetic transfer among streptococci causing human diseases. These studies opened new pathways for exploring aspects of streptococcal pathogenicity.

In addition to providing many contributions to the ultrastructure of microorganisms, Cole was instrumental in defining a vast new group of mycoplasmas and in discovering viruses and plasmids; in initial descriptions of the bacillus of Legionnaire's disease; in discovery of a unique bacterium of snails, and of previously unknown bacterium associated with red blood cells in a human disease; and in the finding and description of a new and yet unnamed mycoplasma in human urogenital disease.

In 1971, Cole was awarded the PHS Meritorious

Service Medal for "leadership in basic research on the microbial causes of disease, and his outstanding investigations on characterizations and functions of bacterial ultrastructures."

Cole, in conjunction with other prominent scientists, was a founder and former president of the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences at NIH and played a role in establishing the teaching activities of that organization. He was also a past president of the NIH Federal Credit Union.

After earning his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1943 and M.D. from Boston University in 1947, he joined PHS and came to Bethesda in 1949. He began his long association with NIAID as an epidemiologist and made early contributions to an understanding of sarcoidosis and herpangina (a Coxsackie virus disease of children). In 1951, he became chief of the respiratory bacteriology unit within the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases (LID), and subsequently, in succession, assistant chief of LID, head of the bacterial structure and function section, and chief of the Laboratory of Microbiology. When the Laboratory of Streptococcal Diseases was established in 1973, Cole was named chief.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Margaret Lamson Cole, of Bethesda; three sons: Larry Alan Cole of Rockville, Md., Richard Lamson Cole of Indian Head, Md., and George Michael Cole of Bethesda; two daughters, Susan Cole Booth of Davis, Calif., and Marthe Cole Jones of St. Leonard, Md.; a sister; and six grandchildren. ■

### CSR Announces Review Internship Program

The Center for Scientific Review is establishing the Review Internship Program to provide scientists with training and experience in some aspects of scientific research administration. The program is initially limited to NIH intramural scientists interested in gaining first-hand experience with the peer review process; however, it may be expanded in the future to non-NIH scientists as well.

Applications are now being accepted for positions that will start Aug. 1; the application deadline is Apr. 20. Additional information about the program, application forms and other requirements can be found on the CSR intranet web site <http://csrweb/Internship/internship.htm>. The program coordinators are Drs. Rona Hirschberg and Anita Miller Sostek. A forum to discuss and answer questions about the new program will be held on Monday, Apr. 2 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Rm. 6C-7. General inquiries can be directed to Mary Elizabeth Mason, 435-1114.

## Pioneering NINDS Scientist Gibbs Dies

By Shannon E. Garnett

Dr. Clarence "Joe" Joseph Gibbs, Jr., chief of NINDS's Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies (LCNSS), died on Feb. 16. He was 76 years old.

Internationally recognized for his pioneering work on infectious diseases of the nervous system, Gibbs was probably most famous for his work, in collaboration with Dr. D. Carleton Gajdusek, on slow virus infections and diseases associated with prions—proteins that can cause fatal disease in humans and animals. Together, Gibbs and Gajdusek demonstrated infection as the cause of kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), two subacute progressive degenerative brain diseases that belong to a class of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Their research resulted in the award of the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology to Gajdusek in 1976.

"Dr. Gibbs was highly regarded not only for his seminal role in the investigations of the TSEs and in expanding our knowledge, but also as a wonderful human being," said NINDS acting director Dr. Audrey S. Penn. "All of us at NINDS will miss him."

A native Washingtonian, Gibbs earned his A.B., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Catholic University. He carried out predoctoral research in clinical microbiology and virology in the department of hazardous operations at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where he developed a vaccine for Rift Valley fever virus.

Gibbs came to NIH in 1959 as a research microbiologist in the Laboratory of Tropical Virology, NIAID, and in 1960, he became acting chief of the lab's section on arthropod borne viruses. He joined NINCDS (now NINDS) in 1962 as head research microbiologist in the Branch Virus Laboratory. In 1971 he became deputy chief of the LCNSS, and was later named chief of that lab, the position he held at the time of his death.

Along with his dedication to the laboratory, Gibbs often took time to share his knowledge with others. He served as associate professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and on numerous interagency government task forces including the PHS interagency coordinating committee on human growth hormone and CJD, the interagency committee on bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and the interagency animal model committee. He also served as senior scientist and consultant chair on TSEs to the division on emerging diseases of the World Health Organization, and to the division of neurosciences of the Pan American Health Organization. In an effort to establish a breeding program for rare and diminishing species, he once provided gorillas to two metropolitan zoos—in Florida and North Carolina.

According to Levon O. Parker, minority and special concerns program officer and director, NINDS Summer Program, Gibbs was a champion for training students for careers in biomedical research, particularly in the neurosciences. "He was a long-time supporter of the institute's many training and development programs for students and young scientists," said Parker. "Through the years he recruited, trained and mentored more than 500 students—a large percentage of whom were minorities and women—helping them to develop the skills they needed to pursue research careers. Because of his efforts, today many of those students are conducting biomedical research at prestigious institutions across the country."

Aside from the many students Gibbs trained through the NINDS Summer Program, he also participated in two cooperative programs of note—one with students from the University of South Florida and the other with junior scientists from Japan. Upon completion of the USF program—in which the students traveled to Bethesda and worked in laboratories for several months—the students returned home and were graded on their lab work. Under the cooperative program with Japan, Gibbs trained young scientists in his lab and, armed with new skills, the scientists returned to Japan to train others.

In addition to his career in science, Gibbs also led a distinguished military career that began with service in the U.S. Navy during World War II from 1943 to 1946. He then served for more than 40 years in the Naval Reserves until retiring in 1986.

Throughout his career, Gibbs received numerous awards and honors including the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service in the U.S. Naval Reserves, the first NINCDS Equal Employment Opportunity Award, the HHS Gold Medal for research, and a number of honorary degrees. He was twice awarded the Senior Executive Service Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, and was also the recipient of the Ottorino Rossi Award from the University of Pavia, Italy, and the Lifetime Science and Humanitarian Medal of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Immunology and Aging from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Science. ■



*NINDS pioneering scientist Dr. Clarence "Joe" Joseph Gibbs, Jr.*

## Large Magnet Moves in to Bldg. 50

The soon-to-open Louis Stokes Laboratories, otherwise known as Bldg. 50, received one of its first tenants Mar. 1 when a huge magnet used in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy was moved



The 18.8 Tesla magnet looms large (above) on the bed of a trailer on which the machine was transported from Bldg. 13 to almost-completed Bldg. 50. A crane (below, r) hoists the magnet off the trailer for deposit through a roof hatch in Bldg. 50's NMR suite, which is on the building's northeast corner.

out of its temporary home in Bldg. 13, where it had spent the past 2 years, and was lowered literally "down the hatch" into a special NMR suite in the basement of Bldg. 50.

The 5-ton magnet, built by a company called Bruker in Germany, is one of two huge twins that will occupy the suite along with six smaller magnets already scattered at various locations on campus. The second 18.8 Tesla, 800 MHz machine, worth almost \$2 million, is on order for delivery by summer, and will belong to NHLBI and NIDCR spectroscopists.

The powerful, sensitive instruments are expensive to move—some \$300,000 is budgeted to truck the

seven on-campus magnets to their new home in 50. Three of the smaller magnets are now in Bldg. 3, and will migrate to 50 by summertime.

The behemoth moved on Mar. 1 is shared by the heart institute and NIDDK scientists Angela Gronenborn, Marius Clore and Ad Bax, who is chief of the section on biophysical NMR.

Before moving the magnet, scientists had to de-energize it and let it warm up to room temperature during a 2-week period. During operation, the magnet is cooled to 2 degrees Kelvin by pumped liquid helium. At full power, the magnet "has a stored energy comparable to a 15-ton truck barreling down the highway at 70 mph," Bax said.

Bax, whose office is across the street from Bldg. 50 in



Workmen guide the 5-ton magnet through the hatch. The hatch enables machines to be moved into and out of the building with relative ease.

Bldg. 5, said he can "hop over there easily when I need to" to adjust the instrument.

While the 800 MHz magnet was in residence in Bldg. 13, it was not idly waiting for completion of Bldg. 50's sophisticated NMR suite. It was plugged in and working.

"It has been extremely useful to us," noted Bax.—Rich McManus



Workers secure the delicate magnet in the NMR suite. Overhead, a special steel "rolling-beam crane" enables accurate placement of the magnets within the suite.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON