

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Exhibit on Women's Health Opens

The Office of Research on Women's Health and the Washington Area Women's Foundation cosponsored an evening celebration on women's health at the National Museum of Health and Medicine on the campus of Walter Reed Army Medical Center on June 7.

The event marked the opening of "The Changing Face of Women's Health," an interactive traveling exhibit dedicated to



Children examine exhibit artifacts.

health issues experienced by women at every stage of life, which will remain open at the National Museum of Health and Medicine through Aug. 31. The exhibit features interactive and multi-media displays, educator outreach materials, companion programs and a complementary



ORWH director Dr. Vivian Pinn (l) visits women's health exhibit.

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

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## 'Abolitionist' Angell Calls For Clinical Trial Reform

By Rich McManus

Dr. Marcia Angell is a compact reddish-haired woman in whom a certain ferocity resides; perhaps it is the arch of her eyebrows that contributes to this perception. Formerly editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*—with which she was associated for 21 years—and currently senior lecturer in the department of social medicine at Harvard Medical School, she was able to confer arched brows on an audience assembled for the fourth annual James A. Shannon Lecture May 22 in Masur Auditorium.

Speaking on "The Ethics of Clinical Trials," she argued that the ethics that used to prevail when many in the audience were in the prime of NIH careers (the event was sponsored by the NIH Alumni Association, many of whose members attended) no longer obtain, having been corrupted by investor-owned businesses whose principal interest is financial gain rather than patient care or the advance of medical science.

"James Shannon [NIH director from 1955 to 1968] was a great

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*Learning from Bedside's Best*

## New Lecture Series Celebrates 'Great Teachers,' Physicians

By Carla Garnett

Dr. Paul Plotz, chief of NIAMS's Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch, recently made a discovery that had little to do with his research as a rheumatologist: He found that he was...hungry. Not for food, but for the rush he had as a physician just beginning his practice. There is an interaction with patients and with other doctors that belongs uniquely to clinicians, Plotz notes, and as he became more involved with his narrow corner of medicine and research, he found himself farther and farther from general clinical practice.

Coincidentally, Plotz was asked to chair the NIH/FAES continuing medical education (CME) committee that was seeking to enhance CME on campus. Plotz and his committee conducted an NIH-wide survey of physicians and identified several clinical topics of immediate interest to physicians. Based on the survey results, the committee went in search of the best physicians to handle the topics. Now, with the NIH Office of Education and the strong support of NIH deputy director for intramural research

SEE GREAT TEACHERS, PAGE 8

*Enterprise, Extension Systems***Workshop Prompts New Ways of Thinking for Extramural Community**

On May 10, the Natcher Conference Center was alive with ideas, vision and learning when more than 500 NIH extramural staff attended the first workshop dedicated to IMPAC II modules and institute and center extension systems. The workshop provided an opportunity for users from all ICs to view demonstrations of existing electronic research administration (eRA) systems as well as those in development for the future.

Dr. John McGowan, eRA project manager, said eRA intends to capitalize on developments in computer technology to dramatically improve the productivity and efficiency of extramural systems. eRA's vision for the 21st century is the paperless

transfer of application and administrative data to reduce cost and effort, to speed up operations and to provide better quality information. This initiative is also in compliance with a congressional mandate to migrate from paper-based to electronic systems.

At present, the processing of approximately 45,000 biomedical research and training applications each year generates hundreds of millions of pieces of paper.

Among the technical innovations introduced at the workshop were e-grants and grant folders, e-progress reports, virtual meetings and web-based review. Portal technology, which by 2003-2004 will enable NIH extramural staff and partners to access all authorized applications from a single, personalized screen, was enthusiastically received. Concurrent with the eRA portal initiative, the Center for Information Technology is developing an NIH "umbrella" portal to provide a standardized web interface to NIH-wide applications.

Under eRA purview, NIH's Office of Extramural Research currently supports the IMPAC II and NIH Commons information systems. IMPAC II is used by NIH staff to process and manage grant application metadata. The NIH Commons, scheduled to be seamlessly integrated with IMPAC II, is the communications vehicle to partners in the extramural research community. To add functions or to satisfy unique requirements, several ICs have developed their own extension systems. The keen interest expressed by users in some of the workshop presentations has led to an active exploration by the

eRA project team of incorporating several extension systems (or selected features) into the enterprise IMPAC II system.

The success of the eRA initiative to take NIH's extramural business into the fully electronic age depends on intensive community engagement and collaboration. By introducing users to current and planned capabilities in other modules/extension systems and enabling them to identify useful functions they would like incorporated into their own business modules, the workshop served as a forum for collecting valuable feedback for the development of a system that reflects the needs of the extramural community. Group advocates for each business area, developers and lead system users were all present for one-on-one exchange of questions and ideas.

Organized and chaired by Dr. Thorsten A. Fjellstedt, a member of the eRA project team and deputy director for program operations in the Division of Extramural Research and Training at NIEHS, the workshop promoted wide participation and active involvement in eRA planning. In her concluding remarks, Dr. Wendy Baldwin, NIH deputy director for extramural research, commended Fjellstedt and the rest of the team for being exemplary citizens of NIH. She encouraged workshop participants to help realize the great potential of the project. "Everyone has to be a change agent in his [or her] own institute, office or cubicle."

Video of the workshop plenary sessions may be viewed at <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp>. To track the progress of workshop outcomes, visit the eRA web site at <http://era.nih.gov>.—Paula J. MacLellan

**Fire Prevention Slogans Sought**

Fire up your imaginations and think up a nifty slogan for NIH's observance of National Fire Prevention Week. If you win the contest, open to everyone (except members of the sponsoring Emergency Management Branch), your idea appears on next year's commemorative posters at NIH, along with your name. You can enter as often as you like, and entries should be snappy one-liners about fire prevention. Be sure to print (legibly) or type your slogan on a sheet of white paper. If you submit multiple candidates, rank them in order of preference. Entries are due by Sept. 4. Send or fax entries to the fire prevention section, Bldg. 15G, Rm. 2. Fax number is 402-2059. For more information call 496-0487.



Participants in the recent eRA workshop included (from l) Dr. John J. McGowan, eRA project manager; Dr. Thorsten Fjellstedt and Jim Cain.

### Awards Made to IT Contributors

The NIH automatic data processing-extramural program coordination committee recently held its annual awards ceremony to honor employees who have made exceptional contributions to the extramural community's use of information technology. Chairperson Greg Fischetti, NCI, made the presentations.

Certificates of achievement were awarded to: Dr. Thorsten Fjellstedt, NIEHS, for leadership in initiating and organizing the NIH workshop on extramural enterprise and extension systems; Dr. John J. McGowan, NIAID, for demonstrated leadership in the coordination and consolidation of Electronic Research Administration requirements and priorities; and Donald Tiedemann, CIT, for extraordinary effort and expertise in the continued development of the NIH Electronic Council Book System and the NIDA Extramural Projects System.



Honored at the NIH ADP/EP coordination committee's recent annual awards ceremony were (front, from l) Dr. John J. McGowan, Carol Martin, Sherry Zucker, Robert Fay and (rear, from l) Donald Tiedemann, Donna Frahm, Dr. Thorsten Fjellstedt.

Certificates of appreciation went to: Robert Fay, OD, for exceptional high quality IMPAC II help desk services; Donna Frahm, OD, for outstanding leadership of the ADP/EP coordination committee during her tenure as chairperson; Carol Martin, NHGRI, for outstanding contributions as advocate for IMPAC II reporting requirements; Sherry Zucker, OD, for sustained interest and effort in instructing the extramural community on use of new and existing IMPAC II modules and in keeping the community advised of module status and development.

Following the presentation of awards, committee members and guests had an opportunity to congratulate the recipients and enjoy refreshments. ■

### Society for Biological Therapy To Meet

The 16th annual scientific meeting of the Society for Biological Therapy will be held Nov. 9-11 in the Natcher Bldg. It will assemble leaders in the field from the United States, Europe and Japan to discuss the latest basic, preclinical and clinical observations in the discipline. Participants will include investigators from NIH, the extramural academic community, industry and regulatory agencies.

Keynote speakers will include Dr. William A. Haseltine, CEO and chairman, Human Genome Sciences, Inc., and Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg, chief of the Surgery Branch, NCI. The meeting will include sessions on cytokines, angiogenesis, gene therapy, vaccine/dendritic cells, antibodies, pharmacogenomics/discovery and new agents in development.

Abstracts are due by Aug. 17. Six abstracts selected by students, postdoctoral fellows-in-training, or junior faculty (instructor or assistant professor) with 3 or fewer years on staff will be selected for presentation during the presidential session on Nov. 10. One will be selected as "best of the best" and will receive the 2001 Presidential Award and a check for \$1,000. Program information is available at [www.socbiother.com](http://www.socbiother.com). To receive a meeting program or registration materials, contact Laura Morrone, (414) 271-2456. ■

### NIH Record Office Moves

The *NIH Record* office, which has been located in Bldg. 31, Rm. 2B03 since April 1969, is moving to the fifth floor of Bldg. 31's B wing. The new address is 31/5B41. The phone and fax numbers remain unchanged. ■

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**UCLA's Birnbaumer Named NIEHS Scientific Director**

Biochemist Lutz Birnbaumer, a pioneer in the discovery of how the body's cells communicate with each other to regulate organ and muscle function, has been named scientific director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

"Internationally well known and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Birnbaumer will further enhance the outstanding programs developed under the leadership of Dr. Carl Barrett," said NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden. "Under Lutz's guidance, I am confident that our commitment and pursuit of excellence will continue. He is just the right person to 're-stock' the institute with the kind of scientific talent needed to be competitive in the present scientific climate. Dr. Birnbaumer has the right combination of vision, intellect and administrative skills needed to move NIEHS to the head of the class."



*Dr. Lutz Birnbaumer*

Birnbaumer is professor and chair of the University of California, Los Angeles' department of molecular, cell and developmental biology, professor of anesthesiology and biological chemistry, and a full member of UCLA's Institute of Molecular Biology, Brain Research Institute and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

He was a postdoctoral fellow under a former NIEHS scientific director, Dr. Martin Rodbell, when both were at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases. Under Rodbell's direction, the young Birnbaumer carried out many of the experiments on cell communication that brought Rodbell the 1994 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology.

An author of 250 research articles, Birnbaumer has been a member of the NIEHS board of scientific councilors, which peer reviews the institute's intramural science. He has also had associations with the Salk Institute, the American Heart Association and the Pew Charitable Trusts. He has taught graduate courses in cell biology in Belgium, Argentina and Sweden and has been a visiting professor at nearly 60 teaching institutions, including the Cleveland Clinic, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Harvard University, Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Duke and UNC are located near the NIEHS' laboratories, which are in

Research Triangle Park, N.C., and have several cooperative programs with NIEHS.

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1939, Birnbaumer went to primary and secondary schools in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his father, an engineer, and mother had fled under threat of deportation from Austria to the Soviet Union by the occupying Soviet forces. He studied biochemistry at the University of Buenos Aires, where he was awarded his master's degree and doctorate. He speaks English, German and Spanish, and reads French and Italian.

"Early on, as a fellow in Martin Rodbell's laboratory, I found that the hormones that stimulate the enzyme adenyl cyclase interacted with receptors that required GTP, a cellular metabolite, to function. Subsequent work from many laboratories, including my own, showed this 'GTP-dependent' step to be due to regulation of a separate group of proteins, now called G proteins."

What does this mean to non-scientists? Birnbaumer answered, "Signaling through G proteins regulates such cellular functions as odor, taste and light perception. It regulates liver, fat and kidney function. It regulates muscle contraction and nerve cell activity."

Birnbaumer's laboratory has continued to discover cellular signaling processes, sometimes using genetically modified mice. ■

**NCI's Kashmiri Honored by APAO**

Dr. Syed V. Kashmiri, a senior scientist in NCI's Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Biology, won the 2001 outstanding achievement award from the Asian/Pacific American Organization at its annual ceremony on May 25. He was cited for his contributions in mentoring young scientists, especially those drawn from minority communities and overseas.

He was credited with helping his research trainees establish themselves as independent researchers. A number of his former trainees have now developed their own research programs at various institutions in this country and abroad, and are recognized as productive investigators.

Besides postdoctoral fellows, Kashmiri has also encouraged high school students, especially those belonging to minority communities, to work in his laboratory during summer vacations. Many of his former trainees and students have developed enduring ties with him and his laboratory.

A molecular immunologist, Kashmiri pursues a variety of hobbies and interests in his spare time, including poetry in his native language, Urdu. ■



*Dr. Syed V. Kashmiri*

## WOMEN'S HEALTH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

website, [www.whealth.com](http://www.whealth.com).

The exhibit is organized into four central themes: detection, prevention, risk and control. It explores such topics as women and cardiovascular disease, women and cancer, osteoporosis, and what women can do to protect their health and that of their families. It also examines societal pressures and patterns, attitudes toward the medical community and personal beliefs about biology and behavior.

The exhibit was developed by ORWH, CDC and the National Health Sciences Consortium, a collaborative entity of nine science centers

across the country. It debuted in Baltimore in 1999 and will travel to 10 major metropolitan areas across the country over a 4-year period. After

closing in Washington, D.C., the exhibit will travel to the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia.

The National Museum of Health and Medicine, founded as the Army Medical Museum in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the American Civil War, is part of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

The museum opens daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. and Elder Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., phone (202) 782-2200. Admission and parking are free. ■



Visitors pass by frontispiece of new exhibit on women's health at Walter Reed.



An interesting sculptural representation is part of the exhibit, on view through the end of August in Washington, D.C.

## NIGMS Holds Diversity Workshop

NIGMS recently held a workshop that brought together scientists and educators from across the country to meet with NIH staff to exchange information and discuss strategies for the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students in biomedical research careers.

The workshop, "Achieving Scientific Excellence Through Diversity," included administrative officials from institutions with funded NIGMS predoctoral training grants, the program directors of these grants, minority students and staff from NIH and philanthropic foundations. Almost all of the 75 institutions that have NIGMS predoctoral training grants were represented.

The workshop, chaired by Dr. Richard I. Morimoto of Northwestern University, included a keynote address by Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He challenged participants to raise their expectations and examine their approaches for encouraging minority students to pursue research careers. He described the highly successful strategies of the Meyerhoff program at UMBC, which has convinced large numbers of minority undergraduate students to complete majors in science and pursue graduate education. Hrabowski emphasized that a combination of pragmatic approaches with a "fire in the belly" for research is the key to success.

Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, NIH acting director, welcomed the workshop participants and exhorted them to "return to your institutions with fresh ideas, strong expectations, and a renewed determination to create a community of scientists that truly reflects the full talent of this nation."

The concluding address, "Learning from the Past to Plot a Future," was delivered by Dr. David R. Burgess, a biology professor at Boston College and former president of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. He noted that nationally, only 3 percent of Ph.D.s in biomedical science graduate programs are from underrepresented minority groups, despite a large investment on the part of NIH and private organizations.

Meeting organizer Dr. Marion Zatz of NIGMS said the meeting "reflected the energy and commitment of our grantees to be more successful in recruiting and training underrepresented minority students. There was a sense of optimism that NIGMS training programs can learn from each other's successes and failures, and move beyond frustration to new strategies at their institutions.

"But there is a limit to what NIH can do," Zatz added, noting that "ultimately, individual and institutional commitment is what it will take to be successful."—Susan Athey ■

BECON Honors Baldwin

### Bioengineering Consortium Holds Symposium

NIH's Bioengineering Consortium (BECON) recently held a 2-day symposium titled "Reparative Medicine: Growing Tissues on Organs" at the Natcher Conference Center. Reparative medicine represents a critical and highly visible frontier in biomedical and clinical research, and is a field marked by recent scientific advances and optimism.

The symposium attracted almost 500 scientists, engineers and clinicians with interests in tissue engineering and reparative medicine. Goals of the meeting were to develop a vision for reparative medicine, identify the challenges and opportunities in the field, generate short- and long-term research needs and strategic goals, and recommend ways to achieve the goals.

There was a keynote address, five plenary talks, 10 breakout sessions, posters, and vendor exhibits. The keynote talk was titled "Repair and Replacement: From Lab Bench to Market" and was given by Dr. Gail Naughton of Advanced Tissue Sciences, Inc. The plenary topics included tissue repair and replacement, biomaterials and scaffolds for tissue repair, sources of cells for repair, *in vitro* systems for tissue engineering, host response, and functional assessment. A report summarizing the proceedings and recommendations will be issued in the near future.

During the symposium, Dr. Wendy Baldwin, NIH deputy director for extramural research, was recognized for her leadership and dedication as chair of BECON since its establishment in 1997. A crystal vase engraved with the BECON logo and commemorative text was presented to her by Dr. John Watson, director of the Clinical and Molecular Medicine Program, NHLBI. Accepting the award, Baldwin said, "I have so enjoyed my time with the BECON. The members all work so hard and are so committed to supporting the best in bioengineering, that it has truly been a pleasure. BECON will always be a high point in my career at the NIH." Watson commented that although Baldwin is not a bioengineer by training, she recognized the benefits that could be



Dr. Wendy Baldwin receives award recognizing her leadership of the Bioengineering Consortium from Dr. John Watson of NHLBI.

realized from applying engineering and physical science principles and techniques to address problems in biology and medicine. Further, she used her strong administrative and technical skills to increase the importance and visibility of bioengineering at NIH, he said.

The conference was the fourth in a series of annual BECON symposia on emerging bioengineering topics. This year's symposium was notable because it was the last one that will be coordinated by BECON. During 2001, the consortium will be administered by the new National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. ■



NIH and extramural co-chairs for the Reparative Medicine Symposium included (from l) Christine Kelley, NHLBI; Lore Anne McNicol, NEI; Robert Nerem, Georgia Tech; and Helene Sage, Hope Heart Institute.

### Li Gives Cancer Prevention Lecture

The annual Advances in Cancer Prevention Lecture, sponsored by NCI's Division of Cancer Prevention, will be held Thursday, Aug. 2 at 3 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A. The speaker will be Dr. Frederick P. Li, vice chair for population sciences, department of adult oncology, Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, professor of clinical cancer epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, and professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School. His presentation, "Identification and Care of Those at Highest Risk of Cancer," is open to the public and registration is not required.

Li's research focus includes cancer risk and prevention, community-based research and education, epidemiology of cancer, medical ethics, end-of-life issues and molecular genetics.

A reception will follow the lecture. For reasonable accommodation needs, call 496-8640. The event is sponsored by the Division of Cancer Prevention's Office of Preventive Oncology. ■

### Healthy Males Needed for Studies

NIAAA is seeking healthy males, ages 40-59, to participate in cognitive/psychological studies. No medication is involved. Call 594-9950. Compensation is provided. ■

## TRIAL REFORM, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

man who came to a great institution at exactly the right time," Angell began, "...but Dr. Shannon wouldn't even recognize today's clinical research enterprise." Two of the bedrocks of trial ethics—

informed consent and "an important reason for doing the trial"—are threatened by three factors, she

charged: the size and competitiveness of the modern enterprise; the strings attached to industry funding; and the "pervasiveness of financial conflicts of interest throughout the system."

Not blind to therapeutic advances wrought by the new industrial colossus, Angell warned that "without major reforms, the harms may soon outweigh the benefits."

Clinical trials are now "a multibillion

dollar enterprise, with millions of participants," she said. "More than 40,000 trials are now actively seeking subjects. Less than one-fifth of these trials are sponsored by NIH—most are sponsored by drug companies." Because of the way patent law works, companies regard time spent conducting trials as a delay in bringing new drugs to market, so they are hasty and indiscriminate when recruiting patients, Angell said. Over 4,000 enrollees are needed to test a single new drug, she explained. Companies pay bounties of anywhere from \$500 to \$15,000 per subject ("more than enough to cover costs") to load their trials, plus bonuses for rapid enrollment. Angell is concerned that researchers may stretch eligibility criteria to enroll more subjects faster.

Entities called contract research organizations (CROs) have sprung up to recruit subjects and organize community doctors into a neophyte research cadre, Angell continued. "There is an army of amateur researchers out there; more than 50,000 are registered with the Food and Drug Administration, and most of them are conducting their first trials."

Overseas, the recruitment effort is particularly aggressive. "In Africa, South America, and parts of Asia, and also eastern Europe and parts of the former Soviet Union, the bounties paid to physicians (to recruit subjects) may amount to many times the salaries of these foreign doctors," Angell reported. "In 1991, there were only two registered researchers in Africa; now there are 266."

Academic medical centers in the U.S., which traditionally conducted clinical trials, "are losing out to CROs, and now they want their business back." Financed by big pharmaceutical companies, the academic centers are now "establishing new clinical research institutes, which are really for the convenience of drug companies who want easy access to trial participants. It's an enormous, high-stakes enterprise."

Overseeing the conduct of these trials are the FDA and the HHS Office for Human Research Protections (for PHS-funded work), but both bodies delegate patient protection authority to IRBs—institutional review boards, of which there are some 3,000 to 5,000, "but no one really knows because they're not registered," Angell said. These agencies rarely conduct inspections of IRBs. Many IRBs, she charged, are investor-owned businesses whose only clients are drug companies or their agents.

Because of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992, FDA's drug review operation is now half-funded by industry, Angell said. "Drug companies are exerting influence over the evaluation of their products either directly or indirectly...FDA is beholden for its existence on companies it is supposed to regulate, and that should never be the case with a regulatory agency."

Angell said that the agreements forged with industry by many in academic medicine "compromise their scientific independence." She described

**"I am aware that my position is considered unrealistic. But the price of accommodating ourselves (to conflicts of interest—in terms of scientific quality and the welfare of human subjects) is just too high. That is what is really unrealistic."**

three sequelae of the proliferation of such ties: Industry unduly influences the kind of research that gets done, emphasizing not new approaches to treatment, but acquisition of patents on blockbuster drugs. "Not much of real scientific or clinical value is coming out of many of these trials," she argued. "Rather, we're getting a flood of copycat drugs and fewer novel agents...This isn't so surprising when you recall that the CEOs of four of the major pharmaceutical companies are former marketing directors."

The second outcome is that "drug companies are determining how and what trials are published." In her 21 years at *NEJM*, Angell said it was her impression that "company-supported work was far



Dr. Marcia Angell (l) accepts plaque commemorating her Director's Lecture from NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

more likely to be biased in design and analysis than NIH-supported work." The bias can be "extremely difficult to detect," she noted.

"Finally," she said, "the system is so ridden with financial conflicts of interest that the rights of human subjects may be compromised." In the much-publicized death in 1999 of research subject Jesse Gelsinger, Angell noted that the principal investigator held a 30 percent stake in the company whose drug was on trial, and his institution held a 3 percent stake.

"What we have is a system badly in need of reform," she stated. She offered several prescriptions: Take the rush out of trial enrollment by amending patent law so that patent protection starts after FDA approves a drug, not before trials even begin. "That way, trial time wouldn't cut into marketing time." Separate drug company funding from clinical testing—they should be completely independent. Ethical oversight should be separate from both testing and funding. "There should be no investor-owned CROs," she continued. "An independent public agency could function much as the CROs now do. Or, we could return trials to the academic centers, with arm's-length funding by industry. The academic centers should never have strayed from this model in the first place."

Angell asked whether the current volume of clinical trials is reasonable or defensible. "Should we ask humans to enroll in trials of trivial drugs?" Many of today's trials yield tiny differences in compounds that drug companies can exploit financially, she said. "We should be concerned that drugs have real medical value, not just marketing value."

IRBs, she continued, "should not be the creatures of any interested party—they should serve the public. It's certainly inaccurate to refer to them now as 'independent.' Regional, public IRBs should be set up, and have much the same standing as NIH study sections. Service on such panels should count in promotion decisions and tenure."

Angell urged that, in 2002, when the Prescription Drug User Fee Act comes up for reauthorization, it not be renewed; "It's the camel's nose inside the tent." She conceded that her reform suggestions will take money. "FDA needs much better funding. The regional IRBs with their increased role will also need resources. But these issues are vital public health issues. The validity of the human research enterprise must be made less vulnerable to private financial pressures."

Noting that her views have resulted in her being labeled an "abolitionist," Angell said, "I'm guilty as charged. I am aware that my position is considered unrealistic. But the price of accommodating ourselves (to conflicts of interest—in terms of scientific quality and the welfare of human subjects) is just too high. That is what is really unrealistic." ■

### Blackman Is First NCCAM Clinical Director

Dr. Marc R. Blackman has been appointed the first clinical director of the new Division of Intramural Research within the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Establishment of the new division allows NCCAM to develop a research program within the Clinical Center. As clinical director, Blackman will oversee the activities of clinical scientists he will recruit to conduct studies of the safety and efficacy of widely used complementary and alternative medical practices, as well as studies of their underlying mechanisms of action.

A native of Boston, Blackman received his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* in 1968 from Northeastern University. He received his medical degree in 1972 from New York University School of Medicine, where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He trained in internal medicine at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and then undertook clinical and research fellowship training in endocrinology and metabolism at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Board certified in internal medicine, endocrinology and metabolism, he served as chief of the division of endocrinology and metabolism and program director of the NIH-funded General Clinical Research Center at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, and remains a professor of medicine at Hopkins School of Medicine.

Blackman is an authority on and the recipient of numerous research grants to investigate age-related alterations in various neuroendocrine and other hormonal systems, both in health and disease. The recipient of many academic honors, including several for outstanding teaching, Blackman is widely sought as a lecturer and participant in research conferences. He has published more than 250 original articles, book chapters and abstracts.

"Given the prominent roles assigned to various CAM approaches in sustaining health and treating age-related degenerative illnesses, Dr. Blackman brings vital insights to the design and implementation of NCCAM's new clinical research enterprise, as well as a rigorous scientific background, and an exceptional track record in the design and conduct of clinical research programs," said Dr. Stephen E. Straus, NCCAM director. "He also has the proven ability to lead and inspire young scientists."

During the next several months, Blackman intends to establish the administrative, scientific, clinical and training priorities and infrastructure for the new division, and to build a web of intramural and extramural collaborative relationships. ■



*Dr. Marc R. Blackman has been appointed the first clinical director of the new Division of Intramural Research within the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.*

## GREAT TEACHERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Michael Gottesman, the scientific directors, Clinical Center director Dr. John Gallin, the medical executive committee and FAES, the CME committee will cohost the first annual "Contemporary Clinical Medicine: Great Teachers" series, a new component of Grand Rounds at the Clinical Center. Speakers



*The tableau—ailing child, concerned parent and intrigued physician—in this late 19th century oil painting The Doctor by artist Sir Luke Fildes, provides the perfect illustration for "Great Teachers," a new Grand Rounds lecture series on contemporary clinical medicine that begins in September. Permission to borrow the image for series flyers was granted by Tate Gallery.*

from across the nation and even abroad were selected based on their expertise in clinical management as well as their effectiveness as teachers and presenters.

A more informal survey among Plotz's peers revealed

that he was not alone in missing the practice of medicine: Many other physicians who had come to NIH fresh from clinical environments now find themselves immersed in their studies at the bench or in increasingly specialized clinical practice, and feeling far removed from the daily requirements of attending at the bedside.

Plotz says he and many of his colleagues would

enjoy refresher sessions on the latest in clinical practice. "A lot of us in the labs miss the vigor and energy associated with seeing patients," he explains. The new lecture series will be one way such researchers can get back in the swing of it.

"The viewpoint will be from the bedside and the emphasis on the practical," according to Sylvia Scherr, executive director of CME in NIH's Office of Education. "There will be some novel teaching techniques, including those that engage the audience in a participatory interaction."

In one such lecture, neurologist Jay Preston Mohr, Sciarra professor at Columbia University's Neurological Institute, will examine a patient and discuss the findings, says Plotz. In another, physician-teacher Dr. Faith Fitzgerald, assistant dean, office of medical education at the University of California, Davis, will be presented with several difficult and perplexing cases; she will lead the audience through her reasoning process.

Plotz and his committee hope the series will accomplish at least three goals: deliver current practical medical advice to the hospital's physicians, preserve the tradition of great teaching lectures at NIH and help excite physicians who may have strayed far from their original clinical interests.

"I'd like to fill the auditorium every time with enthusiasm," Plotz declares. "I want this series to make non-clinical people sit up and take notice too. Clinical practice techniques move very fast. In 6

### What Makes a Great Teacher?

Dr. Paul Plotz, chief of NIAMS's Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch, and members of the continuing medical education committee he chairs spent several months on a mission: Find the best physician-teachers outside of NIH and offer them an opportunity to address the audiences that gather for the Clinical Center's Grand Rounds every week. But how did the committee determine what makes a good teacher? Ask 10 people and you're guaranteed to get 10 different answers, Plotz found.

"Oh, it's many different things to many different people," he explains. "Good teaching is an interaction between the audience and the instructor."

Sylvia Scherr, who directs continuing medical education in NIH's Office of Education, had another idea. "I think a great teacher is one who leaves you changed by the encounter," she says. "Forever after, you are a little bit different because of that experience. You may have a different viewpoint, a deepened understanding or a new interest in the topic. You will be inspired to want to learn more. Great teachers have a

variety of styles and presentation methods, but they all share several qualities: they all are extremely knowledgeable in their area of expertise, both in depth and in breadth; they all can synthesize complex information into clear and easily comprehended material; and they all have energy and enthusiasm for the information and a strong desire to communicate it to others. Learning is a journey and we all learn incrementally. Certainly there are 'teachable moments' when we are most open to learning; a great teacher has a knack for creating those teachable moments more frequently and in more people."

Committee member Dr. Robert Adelstein, chief of NHLBI's Laboratory of Molecular Cardiology, agrees that a great teacher is defined by the impact he or she has on the student. "In my mind," he says, "a great teacher is one who raises your aspirations."

Another CME committee member, Dr. John Hurley, director of the Clinical Center's pediatric outpatient service, made a 6-item list: A good teacher, he begins, is "one whose own personality is compelling—these are individuals who have the skill

months or a year, there's a new way of doing this or that. The content of these lectures may go out of date quickly, but what will last is the great teaching. The subject matter will be gone in 5 years; the great teaching will still be true."

Besides Plotz, Scherr and committee deputy chair Dr. John Hurley, other members of the CME committee who helped put the series in place include Ione Lagasse, Fred Gill, Art Atkinson, John Hallenbeck, Steve Marks, Ron Gress, Alan Schechter, Bob Adelstein, Douglas Brust and Clair Francomano.

The fall 2001-spring 2002 monthly series opens at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 12 with world renowned cardiologist Dr. Eugene Braunwald, the Hershey distinguished professor of theory and practice of physic at Harvard Medical School, and former clinical director of NHLBI. He will be introduced by NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

The series continues in October with neurologist Jay Mohr; November—Dr. Richard Wenzel of the Medical College of Virginia, lecturing on hospital-acquired infection; December—Dr. Norman Kaplan of the University of Texas Southwestern, lecturing on hypertension; January—Dr. Samuel Katz, Wilbert Davison professor emeritus at Duke University, lecturing on immunization; February—Dr. Robert Kreisberg of University of South Alabama, lecturing on diabetes; March—Dr. John Bartlett of Johns Hopkins, lecturing on HIV infection; April—Dr.

Irwin Merton Braverman of Yale, lecturing on skin signs of systemic disease; and May—Dr. Anthony Miller of the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg, lecturing on screening for cancer. The 10-lecture series concludes June 12 with Dr. Faith Fitzgerald discussing mysterious cases. ■

*Dr. Elaine Sierra-Rivera has joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator for the new pathology C study section in the oncological sciences integrated review group. This section reviews grant applications related to events that initiate malignancies, tumor suppressor genes, cell cycle and apoptosis. She earned her Ph.D. in radiation biology from the University of Iowa, where she studied the role of radiation in oncogenic transformation. After postdoctoral work at Brown University, Sierra-Rivera moved to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She was a research assistant professor in the Center for Radiation Oncology and the department of obstetrics and gynecology before becoming an assistant professor in the department of radiation oncology. She and a colleague were known for cloning two genes for enzymes in the glutathione pathway that influence how tumor cells respond to chemotherapy. Sierra-Rivera also developed a program to teach medical students how to speak and relate to Spanish-speaking patients.*



#### Summer Students' Seminars Continue

The Office of Human Resource Management will continue its series of brown bag seminars for NIH summer students with two upcoming events. Topics, dates and locations are listed below. Interested persons should RSVP with their name, IC and topic by dates shown.

**Taking Charge of Your Career**—Define the career development concept and learn steps in developing a career strategy, Bldg. 31, 6 fl. Conf. Rm. 10, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., RSVP Michelle Krever, 435-1619 by July 27.

**Mentoring/Networking**—Learn characteristics of good mentors and mentees, and get an overview of networking objectives, approaches and common mistakes, Bldg. 31, 6 fl. Conf. Rm. 10, Wednesday, Aug. 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP Krever at number above by Aug. 3. ■

to engage a learner. The learner wants to listen to them. [Great teachers are] knowledgeable—they possess the information and the experience to speak with authority. Great listeners—they possess the skill to elicit what the learner needs, rather than assuming they know what the learner wishes to learn. Interactive—they enjoy the chance to dialogue, and they are comfortable admitting their lack of knowledge. They don't bluff. Succinct—they set achievable learning outcomes. They don't try to teach 3 hours of material in 1 hour. Likeable—they come across as a respected colleague, who is respectful of the learner."

Plotz, who enjoyed the quest for great teachers and is already eagerly seeking illustrious instructors to fill the 2002-2003 series, explains that he comes by his love of great teachers honestly; his interest in preserving the tradition is only natural, he says.

"I was a student of some wonderful teachers," Plotz concludes. "I'm married to a wonderful teacher and I'm the father of a wonderful teacher, so I deeply value good teaching."

#### Urologic Oncology Meeting Set, Dec. 1-2

The second meeting to discuss current topics and strategies in urologic oncology, jointly sponsored by NCI's Urologic Oncology Program and the Society of Urologic Oncology, will be held Dec. 1-2 in the Natcher Conference Center. The meeting will discuss state-of-the-art topics on prostate, kidney and bladder cancer as well as strategies in urologic oncology. Meeting abstracts are due Sept. 15 and all research topics in urologic oncology are invited. Residents, fellows-in-training, and attending staff (1-5 years from completion of training) are invited to submit abstracts for the poster session. For more information, contact Linda Gaskill, (301) 348-1628.

## Marjam Behar Retires from CSR

By Don Luckett

"I've been at the right place," said Dr. Marjam Behar, looking back on her 21 years at the Center for Scientific Review and the Division of Research Grants. She recently retired as a scientific review administrator of a study section (SSS-6) in CSR's biophysical and chemical sciences integrated review group. "I've enjoyed my work tremendously."

Behar seems to have always been at the right place at just the right time. "I've have been very lucky," she explained. "I was born in Poland, and in 1930 without knowing what was coming, my family immigrated from anti-Semitic Poland to Portugal. When political conditions deteriorated there in 1939, we were able to immigrate to Cuba."

She was fortunate to find educational opportunities there, and her interests in science flourished. She received a bachelor's in science from the Instituto Santiago and a D.Sc. in physical and chemical sciences from the University of Havana. After postdoctoral work at the University of Havana and a branch of Villanova University in Havana, she spent 4 years in industry. She worked as a research chemist at the Virginia Smelting Co. in Havana and then at a local pharmaceutical company, Laboratory Giol. After the birth of her first child in 1953, Behar taught math, physics and chemistry at local high schools. Her family was spared the turmoil of Castro's revolution when her husband was recruited by the Garden State Tanning Corp. in Pine Grove, Pa. Behar, her husband and 2-year-old son immigrated to the U.S. in 1955. She soon joined the company too as an analytical control and research chemist. Three years later, she went to Philco Corp. in Lansdale, Pa., where she refined processes for manufacturing transistors. In 1962, she began a 17-year association with the department of anesthesia at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. After working as a research laboratory associate and instructor, she became the director of the core facility for analytical chemistry at the Center for Research in Anesthesia there.

An interest in the activity of histamine in the brain led Behar to spend a week at NIH in 1979. She worked with Dr. Michael Beaven, who had developed histamine antibodies at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. She also learned more about NIH and soon became interested in scientific



Dr. Marjam Behar

review administration. Villanova University made a career change possible by awarding her the required Ph.D. based on her D.Sc. and subsequent work. Before she knew it, she was recruited to oversee the metallobiochemistry study section in the Division of Research Grants, which is now CSR. Four years later, she became the scientific review administrator for the SSS-6 study section.

Having overcome so many barriers to become a successful scientist, Behar made significant efforts to help others do the same. She was a mentor for the American Chemical Society's Project SEED (Summer Educational Experience for the Economically Disadvantaged), and she served as chair of the local SEED chapter. In recognition of her commitment to the project, she was awarded an EEO Special Achievement Award in 1997. Since she also successfully raised three children, she was the perfect role model for young women seeking both a scientific career and a family.

CSR director Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld summarized the thoughts of many when she said Behar has garnered tremendous "respect and gratitude for her relentless commitment to science, her study section, CSR, NIH and the peer review system." Indeed, she has become a legend for recruiting and retaining top-notch reviewers no one else could. In 2000, she received a CSR Director's Award "for her superb ability to recruit the ablest reviewers to her committees, for her dedication to successfully dealing with heavy review workloads, and for her unceasing promotion of the scientific review process."

Behar's current and former study section members honored her in 1997 with a special symposium on advances in bioanalytical and bioinorganic chemistry at the 213th meeting of the American Chemical Society. When her study section members heard she was retiring, they gave her a farewell party and a notebook filled with letters and photos that illustrated the appreciation they had for her and the work they did together.

At her retirement luncheon, Behar said she "still feels young and strong." She is looking forward to celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary and serving on the women chemists committee of the American Chemical Society. With plans like these, she will surely discover that she is still "at the right place." ■

### Healthy Families Needed

NIAAA is seeking healthy parents and their adolescent children, ages 12-17, to participate in a study involving an interview and a brain scan. No medication is involved. Compensation is provided. Call 594-9950 for information. ■

### Postpartum Depression Study

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking volunteer mothers ages 18-40 who have had one or more past episodes of postpartum depression following a full-term pregnancy, but are not currently depressed. Participants must be free of medical illnesses, medication-free and currently not breastfeeding. Volunteers may be asked to participate in a 6-month protocol investigating the effects of hormones on brain and behavior. All participants who complete the study will be paid. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576.

## 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>.

LISTSERV Electronic Mailing Lists: Workshop for List Owners	7/26
Introduction to the Macintosh Operating System	7/26
Data Warehouse Analyze: Human Resources	7/26
Real World XML: Usage in Bio-Tech Applications	7/27
Cost-Benefit Analysis	7/27
Data Warehouse Query: Staff Training & Development	7/30
Hands-On Web Animation	7/31
Introduction to Partek Pro 2000 for Microarray Data Analysis	7/31
Introduction to Programming	7/31-8/3
Installing and Using VirusScan	8/1
Experience the New Technology of Office XP	8/1
Data Warehouse Query: Research Contracts & Grants	8/1
Genome Analysis via the Web	8/2
Introduction to the Bluetooth Protocol	8/2
Account Sponsor Orientation	8/2
Parachute for Windows	8/6
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint	8/6
Getting Started with Molecular Graphics	8/7
Fundamentals of Unix	8/7-9
Introduction to FrontPage 2000	8/8
Macintosh OS X - What's New for Users	8/9
Remedy - Customer Service Tool	8/9

### Memorial Service for NICHD's Wolfe

There will be a memorial service for Dr. Alan P. Wolfe on Thursday, Aug. 23, at 10 a.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A. Wolfe was chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Embryology, NICHD, from 1990 to 2000. The service will honor his memory and recap his many contributions to the institute. All are invited to a reception in the foyer outside the auditorium immediately following the service.



The 19th annual Camp Fantastic Barbecue on June 12 drew a large crowd of NIH'ers to the patio of Bldg. 31A, where the band Street Life entertained guests and food was provided by Outback Steakhouse. The event raised some \$3,000 for Special Love Inc./Camp Fantastic. Enjoying the luncheon were (above, from l) Orioles Bird mascot; Homer, the mascot of the Bethesda Big Train college league team; a young visitor; Looie, the mascot for the Bowie Baysox; and Randy Schools, president of R&W, which helped organize the event. Below, the Orioles Bird dances with a guest at the luncheon. There were demonstrations of country line dancing at the event, and raffle prizes that included a VCR and two roundtrip airfares.



### Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks healthy female volunteers ages 40-50 to participate in longitudinal studies of the perimenopause. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles and be medication free. Periodic hormonal evaluations, symptom rating completion and occasional interviews will be performed. Subjects will be paid. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576.

### Course on Clinical Pharmacology

The Principles of Clinical Pharmacology course, sponsored by the Clinical Center, will begin in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10 on Sept. 6. It will be held Thursdays from 6:30 to approximately 8 p.m. and will run through Apr. 25, 2002. The course covers such topics as pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and transport, assessment of drug effects, drug therapy in special populations, and drug discovery and development. The faculty includes Dr. Carl Peck of Georgetown University's Center for Drug Development Science, Dr. Jerry Collins of the Food and Drug Administration and the Clinical Center's Dr. Arthur J. Atkinson, Jr., who is also the course director.

This is the fourth year the course is being offered. Registration is open to all interested persons free of charge. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the course to students who attend 75 percent of the lectures. More information about the course, including the registration form, is available at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/cc/principles/>. ■