

THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Translating the Histone Code: A Tale of Tails at Stetten Talk

By Alison Davis

News stories appearing over the last year would have everyone believe that scientists have—once and for all—cracked the human genetic code. Indeed, two teams of scientists have already published a draft sequence of our 3-billion-unit jumble of DNA “letters.” But the task of thoroughly deciphering the code’s protein-making instructions—something our bodies do

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Dr. C. David Allis to give Stetten Lecture.

Summer Jobs into Permanent Posts

NIH Seizes Opportunity To Boost Minority Employment

NIH often is so pleased with the work of its summer employees from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), and Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) that many are offered repeat internships, fellowships and permanent staff positions.

Such was the experience this past summer of Cyrus Salazar, who recently received a master’s of public administration degree from New Mexico State University. He has accepted a position with NIAMS as a human resources specialist, under the

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Attacks on U.S. Change Life at NIH

By Rich McManus

The transition from peacetime’s reliable routine to wartime anxiety took place in only minutes as NIH employees came to work on an otherwise spectacular late summer morning Sept. 11 and discovered by 9:45—via office televisions, radio, the web, phone calls and hallway conversations—that terrorism on an almost unimaginable scale was taking place in New York City and in the heart of Washington, D.C. The workday froze as workers tuned in to the news—the World Trade Center towers in flames, and smoke rising from behind the Old Executive Office building near the White House.



Flag flies at half-mast in tragedy’s wake.

In the OD Office of Communications and Public Liaison in Bldg. 31, there was a silent and unofficial suspension of activities as

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NINDS, NIMH Mark 50 Years of Neuroscience Research with Symposium, Oct. 9-10

By Shannon E. Garnett

To commemorate their 50th anniversaries, NINDS and NIMH will cosponsor a 2-day scientific symposium—Celebrating 50 Years of Brain Research: New Discoveries, New Hope—bringing together leading scientists and noted researchers whose work spans a diverse spectrum of basic, clinical and translational research on neurological and psychiatric disorders. The conference, which will be held on Oct. 9-10, in the Natcher auditorium, represents 50 years of advances in brain research and treatments for brain disorders.

Many of the profound gains in our knowledge of the brain and treatments for brain diseases over the past 50 years are due largely to research sponsored by NINDS and NIMH. This symposium will be a celebration of the remarkable progress that has been

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Outdoor Film Festival Draws Thousands

The fifth annual Outdoor Film Festival at NIH drew perhaps as many as 60,000 attendees over its 9-night run (Hitchcock's *The Birds* was rained out), raised more than \$18,000 for three NIH charities, provided the venue for innumerable birthdays and other anniversaries, and even made the front page of the *New York Times* on July 30; a feature story about the national resurgence of *al fresco* moviegoing prominently featured the NIH event.

"Everything else (but the rainout) went really hunkydory," said R&W President Randy Schools. "People really enjoy it." He said that, drawn by the

Times article, guests arrived by shuttle from New York City to view films here, and that several businessmen from Long Beach, Calif., came out to see the series in order to plan a similar event for the Los Angeles/Long Beach area. "The film series also made all the local television news broadcasts," Schools added.

He noted one mishap that was funny only in retrospect: a late-arriving guest, thinking the event

was a real drive-in, pulled her car into the parking lot between Stone House and Bldg. 16A, and proceeded to hop the curb and head down the grass before police and organizers halted her vehicle.

"The location is great, plus the movies are good choices," said Seth Coppock. "It's nice to have the vendors—we'll buy dessert. But it's also nice that we can bring in our own food too if we want."

"It's different, a unique alternative to everyday life," said Cory Kenworthy. "It's outside, free, relaxing and a great way to spend a summer evening." Added Carole Berman, "It's fun, convenient, and a great atmosphere. You see all different types of people here." Guest Ellen Mennie said, "It's something the whole family can do together."

Three NIH-related charities—the Friends of the Clinical Center, Special Love, Inc., and the Children's Inn—split proceeds raised from donations and from sales by vendors ringing the grassy amphitheater where the screen was erected. Sponsors of the event included Comcast, Geico, KSI Realty

and Bethesda Court Hotel.

Despite daunting expenses for the giant screen, sound system, a projectionist/projector and movie rental (\$400 per film), Schools said the annual filmfest is so successful that it will likely remain a summer staple on campus. ■



Crowds gather before dusk to claim prime real estate in the viewing amphitheater.



The lights from vendor row illuminate the guests at the Outdoor Film Festival.



Abhh, a moonlit night, a film projector, and thee...



Clutching their teddy bears (above) before the movie one night are guests who gathered to celebrate the 10th birthday of Laura Sheys (second from l). They are (from l) Lacy Leibovitz, 9, of Bethesda, Kristen Rupp, 8, Karen Sheys (kneeling), 7, and Lily Oyler, 9. Below, a picnicking group poses for a shot from their encampment on the lawn behind Natcher Bldg.





Dr. Martin H. Goldrosen was recently appointed chief of the Office of Scientific Review at the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The office is responsible for the peer review of all grant applications assigned to NCCAM. He will help ensure quality, objectivity and accountability in the grants and contracts peer review process. He will also coordinate activities to evaluate the overall performance of NCCAM's grant review processes. Prior to NCCAM and since 1991, Goldrosen was a health scientist administrator within the Grants Review Branch of the Division of Extramural Affairs, NCI, where he was responsible for review of grant applications in the areas of drug development and biological response modifiers.

STETTEN LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with ease all the time—is a complicated puzzle that will keep researchers busy for decades to come. Dr. C. David Allis of the University of Virginia will be narrating the latest chapter on how our cells translate pieces of DNA into a meaningful message at this year's DeWitt Stetten Jr. Lecture. Allis will describe his research untangling the functions of chromatin, structures inside our cells that package genes. The talk will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Allis is a pioneer in research that aims to clarify how cells contain and protect their most precious cargo, DNA, in protein-rich assemblies that are collectively called chromatin. In a sense, chromatin acts as a gatekeeper for our genes, regulating access to DNA by cellular equipment that decodes genes.

His groundbreaking studies have begun to reveal that a key step in how cells interpret their genetic code involves actually finding certain genes inside chromatin. A cell's gene-decoding machinery is drawn to proteins in chromatin that have been "marked" with a variety of natural chemical tags. Putting on these tags and taking them off, Allis has found, is a critical aspect of targeting a cell's gene-reading activities.

In recent years, Allis' lab has helped to discover several of the cellular systems that carefully balance the chromatin-marking chemical tags, called acetyl, phosphate and methyl groups. These units get attached to histones, the principal protein building blocks of chromatin that wind DNA into a protective spool. For example, he explains, the "aurora kinase" enzyme puts a tag called a phosphate group at a particular spot on the ends, or "tails," of histone proteins. According to Allis, this tag somehow tells the cell that it is time to bundle up its chromatin in time for cell division. This process helps to ensure that the cell's genetic material is separated precisely in half during cell division.

By conveying such a message, genes get turned on—or in some cases, off—Allis says. In the case of cancer cells, inappropriate control of certain growth genes can fuel unchecked cell division. According to Allis, the "chromatin link" to cancer is just now beginning to be appreciated. Indeed, his studies have uncovered that several histone-marking enzymes, like the aurora kinase, actually are revved up in cancer cells, making them an important target for developing future cancer drugs.

Allis first got interested in chromatin more than 20 years ago, while working as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Martin Gorovsky at the University of Rochester. Then and now, Allis has remained committed to studying chromatin via model systems such as the protozoan *Tetrahymena*, a single-celled ciliate organism that he refers to as an "offbeat pond-water beast."

Offbeat or not, it's also the organism that netted

another NIGMS grantee, Dr. Thomas Cech of the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the 1989 Nobel prize in chemistry—for figuring out that the genetic material RNA can work as an enzyme.

Scientists like Allis, Cech and countless others use so-called lower organisms like *Tetrahymena* to address fundamental questions that pervade biology. Such systems are simple, but they retain important similarities to the workings of animal and human cells.

"Forget about what you do in the lab, look at what nature did," says Allis, citing the molecules and cellular processes that recur over and over again throughout the biological kingdom.

He says he is extremely grateful for years of NIH funding to work with "offbeat" model organisms. "The implications for human biology and disease are far-reaching," he says.

Allis earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Cincinnati in 1973 and a doctorate in biology from Indiana University in 1978. He was on the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine from 1981 to 1990, at Syracuse University from 1990 to 1995, and at the University of Rochester from 1995 to 1998. Since 1998, he has been the Harry F. Byrd, Jr. professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics, professor of microbiology, and member of the Center for Cell Signaling at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center. He has won several awards for both teaching and research, and is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

NIGMS has supported Allis' work since 1984. ■

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Grantees Win Lasker Award in Basic Medical Research

Two long-time NIH grantees, Dr. Mario Capecchi and Dr. Oliver Smithies, have received the 2001 Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research. The award is “for the development of a powerful technology for manipulating the mouse genome with exquisite precision, which allows the creation of animal models of human disease,” according to the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation. Sharing the award with Capecchi and Smithies was Dr. Martin Evans of Cardiff University in Wales.

The foundation honored two other scientists as well: Dr. Robert G. Edwards of Cambridge University, for a technique for producing “test-tube babies” and Dr. William H. Foege of Emory University for leadership in improving worldwide public health.



Dr. Mario Capecchi

Working independently, Capecchi and Smithies created a method that has become an indispensable tool for genetics research. The method enables scientists to create “transgenic” mice—mice that contain genes from other organisms. If the transferred genes are involved in human diseases, the resulting mice can serve as model organisms for the study of those disorders. Scientists can use transgenic mice to learn about a disease in a mammal that is very similar to people, develop possible treatments and test them with no risk to human patients. Capecchi and Smithies have already created transgenic mice to help them study cystic fibrosis and high blood pressure, and other scientists have used the mice to investigate diseases such as cancer and atherosclerosis.

Capecchi and Smithies’ technique can also generate “knockout” lab mice, which help scientists pinpoint the actions of specific genes. To make a knockout mouse, researchers transfer a defective or altered version of a gene they want to study into a lab mouse. The inserted gene “knocks out,” or displaces, the normal gene, and scientists can examine the modified gene’s effects on the mouse.



Dr. Oliver Smithies

NIGMS has supported Capecchi’s work since 1969 and Smithies’ work since 1973. Capecchi also has current grant support from NICHD, and Smithies has current support from NHLBI.

“The tools these investigators have developed are both elegant and powerful,” said NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman. “They epitomize the goal of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences—to stimulate progress in the treatment and cure of disease through an understanding of basic biological processes.”

Capecchi is the distinguished professor of biology and human genetics at the University of Utah, and Smithies is the Excellence professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

The Lasker Award is one of the most prestigious science prizes in the United States. According to the Lasker Foundation, more than half of those honored with the Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research since 1962 have later received the Nobel Prize.

—Ann Dieffenbach ■

Depression Screening Offered for NIH’ers, Oct. 11

NIH employees who may need help for depression symptoms including sadness, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, changes in memory or sleep, or thoughts of death or suicide are invited to attend free, anonymous, walk-in depression screening on National Depression Screening Day, Thursday, Oct. 11. The service is sponsored by the quality of work life committee, with the support of the Employee Assistance Program and NIMH.

Screening will be held at the following sites, where employees can walk in between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (and 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Clinical Center) to view a short video, complete the anonymous screening tool, meet confidentially with a mental health professional for results and treatment resources, or just gather information on depression and related disorders:

- Clinical Center (Occupational Medical Services, Rm. 6C306) Bldg. 31 (Level B2, Rm. B57)
- Neuroscience Center (6001 Executive Blvd., Conf. Rm. B)
- Executive Plaza North (6130 Executive Blvd., Rm. 103)
- Rockledge II (6701 Rockledge Dr., Rm. 9100)
- NIDA Baltimore Bayview Facility (5500 Nathan Shock Dr., Scanlon Conf. Rm.)
- NCI-Frederick (Library/Conf. Center, 545 Sultan Dr., Rm. B)

If you are unable to attend the NIH screening, you may want to visit www.nmisp.org to access information about privately sponsored sites for yourself or a family member, or you may want to contact the National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association (<http://www.ndmda.org>, 800/826-3632) or the National Mental Health Association (<http://www.nmha.org>, 800/969-6642).

Participants who speak Spanish, Cantonese or Mandarin should use the Clinical Center site. For special accommodations, contact Sophia Glezos Voit (sglezos@nih.gov; 443-4533).

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made in understanding the nervous system and the disorders that affect it, and serves not only as a fitting conclusion to the Decade of the Brain, but

Of special note is a distinguished panel featuring four Nobel laureates—Dr. Eric R. Kandel of the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Stanley B. Prusiner of the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of California in San Francisco, Dr. Paul Greengard of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience at the Rockefeller University and Dr. Torsten Wiesel, president emeritus of the Rockefeller University. This group will speak on the second day of the symposium.



Nobel Laureates (from l) Paul Greengard, Stanley B. Prusiner, Eric R. Kandel and Torsten Wiesel will be panelists on the second day of the anniversary symposium.

also as an appropriate beginning to the first decade of brain science in this century.

Top scientists from all over the country will gather to explore past accomplishments and current excitement in the field, and to discuss the potential for new findings and cures in the future. Topics range from processes such as synaptic transmission and brain plasticity to disorders such as epilepsy, stroke, prion diseases, and AIDS to functions such as memory, emotion and attention.

The following day, Oct. 11, NINDS and NIMH will sponsor an educational program for members of Congress, their spouses and staff to discuss major accomplishments during the last half century, and the scientific opportunities they have made possible.

A web site developed for the symposium—www.50brain.org—includes a complete agenda and online registration forms. For more information call 1-866-50-BRAIN or email 50BRAIN@masimax.com.

A History of Subdivision

NINDS was created by Congress on Aug. 15, 1950, as the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness (the institute has been renamed several times before achieving its current name).

NINDS twice has been divided to form two additional NIH institutes, the National Eye Institute in 1968, and the

National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders in 1988.

More than 600 disorders afflict the nervous system, striking an estimated 50 million Americans each year. Common disorders such as stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and autism are well-known. Others are

rare. Throughout its history, NINDS has directed the course of research on many of these disorders by supporting and conducting a broad range of research on the healthy and diseased brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves.

This extraordinary half-century has seen NINDS-supported scientists develop new diagnostic tools, therapies and models of disease that have significantly expanded our understanding of neurological disorders and translated into better treatments and methods of prevention.

NINDS will continue to explore new avenues in medical science—such as cell replacement and gene-transfer strategies, transgenic models of disease, surgical advances and the development of new therapeutic drugs, and xenotransplantation.



NIMH One of the 'Founding Four'

The National Institute of Mental Health—one of the first four NIH institutes—was formally established on Apr. 15, 1949. Its mission is to reduce the burden of mental illness through research on mind, brain and behavior. According to the landmark study, "Global Burden of Disease," commissioned by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, mental disorders represent four of the 10 leading causes of disability for persons age 5 and older. Among "developed" nations, including the U.S., major depression is the leading cause of disability.

Over the past half century, NIMH research has opened new windows of opportunity in our nation's effort to reduce the immense burden of mental and behavioral disorders. Sustained investments in basic brain and behavioral science have positioned NIMH to take advantage of a wealth of opportunities in neuroscience, molecular genetics, behavioral science and brain imaging. NIMH-funded scientists are making great strides in translating new knowledge about brain function into researchable clinical questions, and are initiating innovative clinical trials of new pharmacological and psychosocial interventions.

NIMH attaches high priority to research that is immediately relevant to public health, including the epidemiology of mental disorders, prevention and early intervention research, and studies designed to seek ways of improving the quality and accessibility of mental health services.

Kolb To Give Pittman Lecture, Oct. 10

Dr. Helga E. Kolb, professor in the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the John Moran Eye Center, University of Utah in Salt Lake City, will deliver the annual Margaret Pittman Lecture on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. In a lecture titled, "The Organization of the Vertebrate Retina," she will describe the neural circuitry and basic design of the vertebrate retina along with the manner in which the various neurons in the pathways "talk" to each other. She will discuss comparisons between the organization of the photoreceptor mosaics and the consequent differences in design of the whole retina in different species as an adaptation to the environment in which they live.



Dr. Helga E. Kolb

Kolb has made valuable contributions to understanding the complex circuitry of the retina. She began her career in eye research with Dr. Geoffrey Arden at the Institute of Ophthalmology, London, in November 1961. In 1966, she came to the United States to work at the Wilmer Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. From 1971 through 1979, she was a visiting scientist at NEI and then moved on to NINDS where she continued studying the functional neurocircuitry of the vertebrate retina. In 1979, Kolb moved to the University of Utah to expand her research opportunities and to work with many collaborators from Europe, Israel and China.

The lecture is being hosted by NEI. For more information or reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine at 594-5595. ■

Men Experiencing Low Moods Needed

NIMH seeks men ages 40-65 who are medication free and experiencing feelings of sadness or feeling down or emotionally flat, fatigue, loss of motivation and enjoyment and decreased sexual interest. Eligible candidates may participate in evaluation and treatment studies with DHEA. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

Adults Needed for Study

College-educated, middle-aged adults are needed for a 2-day outpatient study at NIMH. Involves blood draw and routine clinical, neurological and cognitive procedures. A stipend is available. Inquire at 435-8970. ■

Klausner Leaves NIH to Head New Institute

NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner ended more than 6 years in that position when he resigned effective Sept. 30. While he will still work voluntarily in an NCI intramural lab on occasion, he has accepted leadership of a new philanthropic enterprise—the Case Institute of Health, Science and Technology launched by the Case Foundation, the family foundation of AOL Time Warner Chairman Steve Case and his wife, Jean. The foundation's creation was announced Sept. 11, the day Klausner made public his resignation at a meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board.

Appointed NCI director in 1995 by President Clinton, Klausner created many new programs and initiatives, and oversaw a large budget expansion. In a "dear colleague" letter sent Sept. 11, he said he had wanted "to help make the NCI a place that reflected the wonderful values and ethos of science, and for it to be a place that does and enables great science and is a great place to be part of. I leave feeling that together we have moved far in achieving those goals."

"Rick is the most brilliant and gifted physician scientist I have ever had the privilege of working with," said Dr. Alan Rabson, NCI deputy director. "I have watched with great pleasure as he progressed from a research fellow in my division to become the most creative and imaginative director in the history of NCI."

Klausner conducted research and held leadership positions at NIH for more than 20 years. "Rick has made enormous contributions to the NIH," added NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein. "As NCI director, he transformed the organization while moving the science forward at an exceptional pace. Over the years, he has been a trusted advisor to a number of NIH directors and always brought a 'big picture' view to medical research."

Klausner came to the NCI directorship from NICHD, where he headed the Cell Biology and Metabolism Branch. He retained his post as chief of the section on cancer cell biology in that branch while at NCI.

The new organization he will head is an outgrowth of the Case Foundation, established in 1997. As president of the Washington-based Case Institute of Health, Science and Technology, Klausner is expected to generate new ideas and solutions across the boundaries of traditional scientific disciplines, develop partnerships with academic, philanthropic, for-profit and other organizations, fund pilot projects, and launch and fund new initiatives not specific to any disease.

Speaker on Diversity To Address FEW

The Bethesda chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) will host a talk on diversity at its next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 9 in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 10, from noon to 1 p.m. Helen McNeal from the firm Naria will address the need for employees from diverse backgrounds to come together in the wake of the recent terrorist tragedies. Sign language interpreters will be provided. For other reasonable accommodation, contact Claire McCullough at cm27q@nih.gov or call 435-8601.

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employees mustered near a TV monitor. No one stayed for very long—it was almost too incomprehensible—before walking back to their cubicles muttering, then returning later for confirmation. There was almost nothing said as workers instinctively covered their mouths with their hands. This couldn't have been happening.

At a meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board in Bldg. 31, NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner, who had just surprised the group with news of his intention to resign, was handed a note—which he relayed to the group—about the World Trade Center crashes. The board did manage a standing ovation for his service before dissolving to digest the more astonishing news.

Downstairs in Bldg. 31, the hallway outside the cafeteria was deserted; most NIH'ers must have been glued to the media. What few people you did encounter were grim-faced and self-enclosed. No one exchanged hallway greetings, everyone hurried. There was only pent-up tension.

In the office of the NIH associate director for communications, all hands surrounded a TV set tuned to the disaster. No one spoke except perfunctorily; talking seemed a violation of something private and solemn. Across the hallway in Wilson Hall, a meeting had devolved into bystanding at a TV monitor. Someone ran up the hall saying the government was soon going to shut down. And it did, within 20 minutes.

Over in 31, a supervisor went to each door like a 21st century Paul Revere: "Everyone out of the building within 10 minutes. Take your ID cards and don't come back until you are informed otherwise." In the parking lot, workers took to their cars quickly but gingerly, as if tiptoeing on eggshells. They were wondering how much more violation the beautiful morning could withstand.

On an emptying campus where only essential employees remained, NIH played host to emergency emails, most sent to vacant desks. In an all-hands emergency notification from CIT at 10:45 a.m., new limitations on entry to campus were first posted, along with the requirement to wear ID. Later emails from both NIH and the department clarified security

procedures, but few were here to read them. A call for blood donors went out at 1:23 p.m. Sept. 11, and by 12:56 p.m. the following day, the Clinical Center's department of transfusion medicine was warning donors that its



A guard at the entrance to Bldg. 31A checks all IDs in the wake of the Sept. 11 airliner hijackings.

short-term storage capacity had been exceeded. Almost 400 units of blood had been collected.

The next morning, after President Bush had assured the world that the federal government would reopen without delay, NIH'ers nearing the campus by car were astonished to encounter traffic backups a mile from NIH in every direction. Restricted entryways and vehicle inspections turned the morning commute into a minor ordeal. Using everything from parked vans, to backhoes, to jersey



Jersey barriers block Wilson Dr. at Rockville Pike campus entry.

barriers, NIH security officials blocked all but four entrances to campus. Still, most employees reported to work.

In the hallways, it seemed that every conversation one overheard

was about some aspect of the tragedy. A melancholy preoccupation descended, and only several days later, when you began to hear laughter through a cubicle wall, did you realize how you hungered for normalcy, for warmth and ease.

NIH'ers read emails of concern and support from HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson and NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein. They learned of the availability of grief counselors. On Thursday, Sept. 13, the President declared that the following day would be a national day of prayer and remembrance. NIH observed the occasion with an ecumenical service at noon in Masur Auditorium, offered by the CC's spiritual ministry department.

The prayer service drew a standing-room-only crowd; people were standing six deep at the entrance to participate. Lipsett Amphitheater was supposed to accommodate the overflow from

PHOTOS: RICH MCMANUS, BILL BRANSON, LEW BASS

Plainclothes security officers search under the hood and in the trunk of cars parking under the Clinical Center.



Masur, but the audio feed there failed, so some inspired NIH'ers, including Oscar Sweet, improvised their own prayer service, which was just as moving as the one in Masur. Another overflow site in the Visitor Information Center was jammed; employees in the Cybercafe, too, leaned in to participate.

Even the R&W weighed in via all-hands email with its condolences and support, offering contacts for a Unity Wall in Bethesda, a listing of local prayer services and a link to a Montgomery County roster of attack victims from the area.

Lectures such as the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series, and the first talk in a series dedicated to NIA social scientist Matilda White Riley were postponed, as was NINR's 15th anniversary symposium scheduled for Sept. 20-21. There were

dozens of other cancellations due to both travel restrictions and new security concerns on campus. For example on Sept. 14, NIH officially suspended most after hours and weekend events, including use of the fitness centers.

On Sept. 17, ORS activated a special web page consolidating all of the security information relevant to employees and visitors; this complemented a series of all-hands emails updating workers. A message

that day warned that delivery trucks driving over grass to avoid barriers would be met by "an aggressive response from NIH Police."

"It is my belief that the NIH responded quickly and appropriately to (the) terrorist attacks," said Richard Shaff, chief of the Emergency Management Branch, Division of Public Safety, ORS. "Within minutes after the realization



Oscar Sweet helped lead impromptu Lipsett event on Sept. 14.

that the incidents were, indeed, terrorist acts, the NIH Fire Department and the Police Department immediately recalled all off-duty personnel, and the Division of Public Safety began strategic planning for how to deal with this disaster in consultation with the associate director for research services, the NIH director and DHHS officials. The NIH Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), developed to ensure that the mission-critical functions of the NIH remain operational, was activated and, within 45 minutes, the COOP Operations Center was staffed and



NIH Police checked licenses of drivers at Center Dr. and the Pike.



A service of prayer and remembrance in Masur Auditorium drew a packed house and hallway.

working. This center was staffed overnight on Tuesday, and still remains operational each day during working hours, with people available on an on-call basis after hours."

Shaff continued, "The NIH Police quickly determined how to appropriately enhance the level of security at NIH facilities in response to the attack and received approval from ORS Director Steve Ficca and Dr. Kirschstein to implement those enhancements, with the support and cooperation of many other NIH entities. The Crime Prevention Branch brought in dozens of contract guards to assist the police in searching vehicles entering the campus and in checking identification badges in buildings."

As the NIH Record went to press, the twice-daily conference calls that had been held among Kirschstein and senior NIH staff, other DHHS agency heads and senior DHHS officials had dwindled to one, but daily briefings still were conducted with ORS program managers to discuss issues of concern and strategic planning initiatives.

"The vast majority of the NIH population has been cooperative and supportive of these security enhancements, which are certainly necessary at this time," Shaff said. "I think the NIH acted prudently and expeditiously to protect our employees, visitors and patients, and the facilities, in light of these terrorist attacks."

Overflow crowd from the interfaith prayer service in Masur packed entire Visitor Information Center; people in the Cybercafe (not shown) also watched from their balcony. The half-dozen speakers in the program represented Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions.



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supervision of Christine Steyer. Sara Rosario, a communications major who graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, came on board as a writer-editor in the Public Information and Liaison



Cyrus Salazar

Branch of NIDA, under the supervision of Jan Lipkin. In addition, Nicole Banner, a master's student in information resource management at Central Michigan University, has accepted a 1-year fellowship with the Office of Diversity and Employment Programs, NCI. Banner will render administrative support in the area of database design in support of diversity initiatives, under the direction of Christina Bruce.

Graduate student Christopher Armijo, who is studying public health at the University of Colorado, has been offered a 1-year Cancer Research Training Award by the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

Numerous other overtures related to current or future employment have been proffered for the consideration of interns once their academic preparation has been completed.

From previous classes, Bernadette Estrada, a communications and political science major from San Antonio College, is completing a one-year CRTA fellowship in the Office of the Director, NCI; Yalitzta Moris-Orengo, a biotechnology major from the University of Puerto Rico, is beginning the second year of an IRTA fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Jeffrey Trent, NHGRI. Surgey Melendez-Droz, a secretarial science major from Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, accepted a permanent position as an administrative technician at NHLBI.

This past summer, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities coordinated the placement of 44 summer interns who were recruited by HACU, NAFEO and WINS.

Interns were residents of states across the country and were engaged in various courses of study at the undergraduate and graduate levels. As an adjunct to their professional experience here at

NIH, enrichment activities were organized by NCMHD. These included a role model/mentoring session with Latino, American Indian and African American NIH staffers and a multicultural brown bag session during which interns exchanged views on cultural perceptions and traditions and demonstrated salsa dance steps.

Interns also enjoyed career development workshops led by Brian Easley of the Work and Family Life Center and participated in tours of the Clinical Center and the National Library of Medicine.

Two particularly noteworthy students this summer were Joshua Torres-Cruz, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in biochemistry, and Alicia Permell, a junior at Fayetteville State University majoring in computer science. Torres-Cruz received an Exceptional Summer Student Award from NINDS and was selected to present his work on the

wild-type allele in MEN2-associated pheochromocytomas at the ceremony. He worked in the NINDS laboratory of Dr. Steve Huang and has been offered the opportunity to continue working in the laboratory during the year.



Alicia Permell

Permell received commendations during a presentation to the NIMH executive board of the Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science (NBBS) for her development of a program to capture and analyze NIH funding information for NIMH's Mentored Research Career Development Awardees over the last 10 years. She worked in NBBS's Training and Career Development Office under the guidance of Drs. Walter Goldschmidts and Mark Chavez.

Nearly all ICs participate in the internship program by identifying appropriate positions and funding to bring the students to NIH. Approximately \$9,000 per student covers administrative costs of the sponsoring organization and includes round-trip airfare and stipends for the interns. Housing, which can be a stumbling block for non-local students who want to come to NIH, is also arranged. For more information contact Dr. Lorrita Watson, 594-7784. ■

Healthy People Needed

The National Institute of Mental Health is seeking healthy children and adolescents, ages 9-17, as well as adults ages 25-35, to participate in a study of emotional regulation. An interview, computer tasks and an MRI are involved. Compensation is provided. Call 402-9347 for more information. ■

Joshua Torres-Cruz, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in biochemistry, presents his work on the wild-type allele in MEN2-associated pheochromocytomas.



Media Whiz Foushee Marks 29 Years at NIEHS

After working her way up to head of the NIEHS media unit, Jennie Foushee has mixed up her share of media recipes and doled out her own special blend of media advice. And, she always does it with a smile.

Foushee, who has been working in the media unit for 29 years, inherited the permanent position after filling in since her predecessor retired last fall.

"She is the stalwart of the media unit. She probably knows more about its day-to-day operations than anybody," said NIEHS acting deputy scientific director Dr. Steven Akiyama, Foushee's supervisor.



Jennie Foushee

Working in the media unit requires an eye for detail and knowledge of how chemicals react to each other; each method of sterilization affects the chemicals. It also requires careful record-keeping. A sample of each batch of media that goes out is sent to the quality assurance lab, which independently verifies the accuracy of the contents.

Akiyama said the media unit is a critical part of intramural research. It provides most research groups with cell and bacterial culture media.

There are more than 3,000 kinds of media that range from water alone to media with as many as 100 ingredients, Foushee said. Media falls into one of these major categories: fly, phosphate, bacteriologic dehydrated, defined, complex defined and tissue culture.

"We can do all of them, depending on what they want," Foushee said.

In January alone, the media unit prepared nearly 3,000 liters of media. There are only four people in the media unit besides Foushee. Wendy Montague is her assistant and, along with Sarah Holmes, handles plates and broths. Essie Jones handles tissue culture, and Mitzie Walker handles the fly media, a mixture that includes molasses and cornmeal.

Foushee also works closely with the eight people who provide glassware and ensures that enough supplies are available for the media and for the self-service area. She said the staff in both units are hard working, cooperative people who take pride in their work. That makes her job much easier, she said.

Foushee said she enjoys communicating with people and finds it satisfying to meet people's media needs. She credits her parents with her work ethic and sense of teamwork. With eight brothers and six sisters, she said, theirs was a home where everyone had to pitch in.—Colleen Chandler ■

Exit Surveys Piloted at NIH

Why would anyone want to leave NIH? That's what the Office of Human Resource Management and a number of institutes and centers would like to know. In order to be an effective organization, NIH needs to be able to attract and retain the best people to carry out its mission. As part of a recruitment and retention initiative, OHRM, in consultation with IC human resources consultants, has developed an exit survey to be completed by employees leaving NIH.

In addition to being asked why they are leaving, the employees will be asked what they particularly liked or disliked about working at NIH and what improvements could be made here. Feedback obtained through the survey can increase awareness of the current environment and provide a basis to act on needed improvements.

Employees who are leaving NIH will be provided a web site that supplies the online exit survey. Survey responses are anonymous. The following ICs are participating in a 1-year pilot of the survey: NHLBI, NINDS, NCI, NCRR, ORS, OD, NICHD, NIDCD, NHGRI, NIDCR, NIDDK, NIA, NINR, NLM and FIC. Employees leaving these ICs are encouraged to complete the exit survey on work time on their NIH computer, since the survey cannot be accessed from outside NIH. For more information contact Penney Baile at 594-1462.

Garden Club Meets, Oct. 4

The NIH Garden Club will host Gene Sumi on Thursday, Oct. 4 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 31, Rm. 9A51; he will talk about fall bulbs. A horticulture technical advisor at Behnke's Beltsville location, he has some unusual suggestions for planting to achieve long-term bloom. He will also bring door prizes. To keep in touch with club activities, join its email list at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIHgardeners> or visit <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/garden/>. ■

Healthy Overweight Women Needed

The Uniformed Services University weight management program is looking for healthy nonsmoking overweight women ages 18-55 to participate in a weight management program as part of an ongoing study examining factors affecting weight loss. In addition, applicants should not be pregnant, have problems with thyroid, kidney or heart disease, diabetes or uncontrolled hypertension. Program and materials are provided free. If interested call (301) 295-9664. ■

Volunteers Sought for Vaccine Research

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research is currently seeking volunteers for vaccine research studies. You may be able to participate if you are healthy and between ages 18-50. You will be provided a free medical evaluation including blood tests, and financial compensation. For more information, call (301) 319-9335 or -9320.

Medicine for the Public Lecture Series

The Medicine for the Public lecture series, now in its 25th year, features physician-scientists working at the frontiers of medical research at NIH. The series helps people understand the latest developments in medicine—new therapies, diagnostic procedures and research. The emphasis is on current topics, with speakers who can relate to the lay public.

Sponsored by the Clinical Center, the lectures are held at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Clinical Center's Masur Auditorium.

The lectures began on Sept. 25 and include:

Oct. 2—The Sexually Transmitted Disease Epidemic: A Threat to the Nation's Public Health

Every year, about 12 million people acquire sexually transmitted diseases. These diseases lead to multiple complications, including infertility, ectopic pregnancies, chronic pain and cancer. Most cases can be cured. All of them can be prevented. Dr. Thomas Quinn, chief, international HIV/AIDS and STDs section, Laboratory of Immunoregulation, NIAID, will discuss the incidence, the costs, the impact on society and what can be done to decrease the risk of sexually transmitted diseases.

Oct. 9—New Strategies for the Detection and Treatment of Colon Cancer

Colon cancer strikes 130,000 people a year. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States and has a mortality rate of nearly 50 percent. Dr. Steven Libutti, senior investigator, Surgery Branch, NCI, will discuss how it is detected and treated. He will also discuss what new detection and treatment options are currently under study to increase survival, including local ablative therapy, anti-angiogenic therapy and new ways to deliver

chemotherapy.

Oct. 16—Breast Cancer: Progress and Promise

Dr. Jo Anne Zujewski, senior medical oncologist, Center for Cancer Research, NCI, will discuss the risk factors for developing breast cancer and current treatment options. She will review progress made in this disease and look at promising new research directions.

Oct. 23—Type 1 Diabetes: A Quest for Better Therapies

Sixteen million people in the U.S. have diabetes; 1 million of them have type 1. It is the sixth leading cause of death in this country and often leads to blindness, heart and blood vessel disease, strokes, kidney failure, amputations and nerve damage. Dr. David Harlan, chief, Transplantation and Autoimmunity Branch, NIDDK, will discuss the difference between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, then will focus on advances in how physicians might treat type 1 diabetes.

Oct. 30—The Influenza Viruses and Their Vaccines

About 10 to 20 percent of Americans are infected with the influenza virus each year. For most, the aches and pains associated with the flu come and go within a couple of weeks. However, an estimated 100,000 people are hospitalized, and 20,000 deaths occur annually from the flu and its complications. Dr. Brian Murphy, co-chief, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, NIAID, will explore the latest findings in flu vaccines, including a new influenza virus vaccine undergoing evaluation by the Food and Drug Administration.

For details on the series, call 496-2563, or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/cc/mfp/series.html>. ■

NIH'ers Attend BIG National Conference

NIH had a strong presence at the 23rd annual Blacks in Government (BIG) conference held recently at the Los Angeles Convention Center, which hosted more than 3,900 attendees. The theme for this year's conference was "Retooling for the 21st Century, Setting New Standards of Performance and Productivity." Full participation in this year's conference was endorsed by NIH acting deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox in an all-employee memo. As a result, many NIH employees took advantage of training opportunities designed to enhance career development, communication and leadership skills, and wellness.

The Office of Equal Opportunity and the Office of Human Resources Management assembled an NIH Corporate Recruitment and Health Awareness Team to discuss career and training opportuni-



NIMH EEO Officer Martha Kimbro

ties at NIH as well as information on health disparities. Although NIH was not recruiting for specific vacancies, conference attendees were able to search online and apply for jobs all week during the exposition and at the career fair. OEO supplied an array of publicity materials prominently displaying the NIH web site, logo and job web site. Other

NIH staff exhibiting at the BIG conference included the National Library of Medicine and the Office of Loan Repayment and Scholarship.

The NIH health disparities exhibit was well received. NIH distributed information on diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, stroke, and healthy eating and cooking, and other health areas where African Americans experience access/outcome disparities including infant mortality, HIV/AIDS and child/adult immunizations.

Components that contributed to the success of the outreach activity include NCI, NHLBI, NIDDK, NIAID, NIMH, NINDS and the NIH patient recruitment staff. Also, the corporate recruitment and health awareness team and other volunteers were all instrumental in bringing relevant information to this audience.—Carolyn Hunter

Computer Training Program Opens Fall Term

The CIT Training Program's fall term of computer classes is now available for registration. The term spans October 2001 through January 2002 and will incorporate new topics as well as continue many popular subjects. Highlights include a substantial number of new scientific offerings, a new knowledge-sharing group for desktop support people, and a newly equipped wireless classroom.

New Courses

CIT's Dr. Susan Chacko will present two new courses: Movies of Molecules and WHALES, the Web Homology Alert Service. The latter is a utility provided by CIT that allows NIH scientists to automatically search for matches (sequence homology or text) in newly released sequences of selected nucleic acid/protein databases.

Other new scientific courses include Optimal Analysis of Kinetics Data, mAdb Basic Informatics, and Simplified Difference Equations for Cases of Radial Symmetry. Also, MathWorks, the makers of MATLAB and Simulink, will be presenting topics dealing with their software.

A new collaboration between CIT and the NIH Library brings two classes on EndNotes 5, one lecture and one hands-on. This software can help scientists manage references by creating libraries of references and formatting them to any of hundreds of journal styles.

For people doing desktop support at NIH, an exciting new resource will be available beginning in November. A users group for desktop support will meet regularly to exchange information and keep up-to-date on desktop support issues. The first meeting, to be held Nov. 28, will address Issues in Wireless Support. The training program's new wireless classroom will be used to examine many of the questions that can arise in maintaining users on a wireless network.

You've Asked, CIT Has Answered

In response to many requests, the fall term features several popular classes. Using Photoshop for Acquiring Scientific Images is designed to help a beginner take images from a scanner or the web and manipulate them using Adobe's Photoshop. Creating Composite Images with Photoshop will cover this advanced topic in Adobe Photoshop for the experienced user.

Another popular request is a continuation of HTML instruction, Introduction to Cascading Style Sheets. This class is intended to assist anyone with a working knowledge of HTML who would like to expand their expertise by using Cascading Style Sheets (CSS).

Independent Study

If you would like to pursue computing topics from

your desk or home, the CIT Self Study Library contains close to 500 books on an array of subjects. Many new books have recently been added. Topics range from Microsoft Office for Windows and Mac, to Java programming, to learning the Unix operating system.

You can find a list of available titles at <http://training.cit.nih.gov> by clicking on "Independent Study Courses." If you'd like to borrow a book from the Self Study Library, stop by Bldg. 12A, Rm. 1011 or call TASC at 594-6248 (GOCIT) to see if the book or one like it is available. The check-out period is 2 weeks and may be extended for an additional 2 weeks if no one is waiting.

Of course, no discussion of independent study would be complete without mentioning the FasTrac program. For only \$60 you can get an ID that offers access to over 1,000 online courses for a full year. More information on how to take advantage of FasTrac is available on the training web page.

As always, classes are available free of charge to NIH employees and other users of NIH computing facilities. You can obtain full course information or register for classes at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>. ■



On Friday, Sept. 7, a truck was making a delivery to Bldg. 15K and was parked on top of the steep hill in front of the building. The driver was inside the back of the truck when the brakes failed and the truck started moving rapidly down the hill. The driver jumped from the back of the truck onto the roadway, where he sustained minor injuries and was transported to Suburban Hospital by the NIH Fire Department ambulance. On its way down the hill, the truck sideswiped a pickup truck parked along the road in front of Bldg. 15K, causing minor damage, and uprooted a tree in a traffic island before coming to a stop. "Given the steepness of the hill, it was very fortunate that, other than the truck itself, only minor damage was incurred and no one other than the driver was injured," said Richard Shaff of ORS' Emergency Management Branch.

Knee Injury of the ACL?

No surgery? Call NIH for a study of how the hip takes over the work of the knee. Compensation is provided. Dial 1-800-411-1222. ■

NIH Photo Competition, Oct. 16

The annual photo competition open to all NIH employees and their families will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 16. The NIH R&W Camera Club has sponsored the competition for many years. It provides an opportunity for the NIH community to compete against and meet Camera Club members and for the club to view the excellent work done by non-members.

The competition is open, and there is no restriction on the subject matter of the images entered. Complete entry instructions, as well as the venue for the contest, may be found on the Camera Club web page at <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/camera.html>. For more information contact Margaret Spratt at (301) 299-6805.