

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

NINR Celebrates 15th Anniversary

The recent symposium marking the 15th anniversary of the National Institute of Nursing Research confirmed the contributions nursing research is already making to the nation's health. Nursing research is a relatively new scientific field, and NINR's job is to see that it develops and flourishes within the mainstream of NIH science. This is happening, according to speakers at a symposium titled "Advancing Health Through Science: Building Knowledge for Patient Care," and impressive progress continues.

NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, who opened the day's symposium, said that research supported by NINR "makes a real difference in people's lives. It combines biological and behavioral research, and it combines humanism and research."

Originally, NINR's symposium had been

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NIH Salutes Martin Luther King, Jan. 14 in Masur Auditorium

NIH's annual observance of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be held on Monday, Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg.



UMBC's Hrabowski will be the keynote speaker. The UMBC Gospel Choir will also perform.

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HIGHLIGHTS

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ACD Meeting Features Good Grades, Security and Calls for More Resources

By Rich McManus

Two years into her acting directorship of NIH, Dr. Ruth Kirschstein had an exemplary Results Act report card to share with the advisory committee to the director (ACD), and progress to report on making human embryonic stem cells available for research. But she also had sobering news to impart on NIH's need to beef up security, and heard calls for more resources from both a panel representing the extramural community, which wants more money for construction, and from a presidential panel on information technology, which urged NIH and HHS to take full advantage of wireless and other computing technologies to propel biomedicine to world leadership in IT.

The 83rd meeting of the ACD began like its predecessors, with a wrap-up of current affairs from the director's perspective. On the personnel front, search committees are in various stages of success in seeking directors for five institutes—NIDA, NIMH, NIAAA, NIBIB and NINDS, a state of flux that Kirschstein cautioned was completely normal for IC directors. On the budget front, as of the

SEE ACD MEETING, PAGE 6

'New Age of Knowledge' Dawning

NSF Director Colwell Touts Science's Past, Future in Shannon Lecture

By Rich McManus

Dr. Rita Colwell, 11th director of the National Science Foundation, launched her James A. Shannon Lecture on Nov. 27 by reminding the audience in Masur Auditorium that former NIH



Dr. Rita Colwell (l) accepts lecture plaque from NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

director Shannon (1955-1968) was a major advisor to the government during World War II on the topic of tropical medicine—he was decorated after the war for leading efforts to combat malaria among troops in Asia and the Pacific—and emphasizing that post-Sept. 11 America is in equally perilous times demanding Shannon-esque scientific leadership that will both protect citizens and prevent the tools of terror from reaching U.S. targets.

"Science and technology won new status in American life after World

SEE SHANNON LECTURE, PAGE 8

NIGMS Honored for Workforce Development

NIGMS and several other Montgomery County organizations, businesses and individuals recently received Workforce Development Awards. NIGMS was selected for one of the highest awards, Employer of the Year. The institute was honored for its dedication to making workforce development a priority, according to Dr. Marion H. Hull of the Montgomery County Workforce Development Corp., which cosponsors the award program.

NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman said, "It is gratifying to receive an award that recognizes NIGMS' considerable and sustained efforts to support the training, development and advancement of its employees."

Among NIGMS' efforts was creation of a workplace diversity team that implements various activities and programs in support of the institute's Workplace Diversity Initiative. Such activities include employee surveys, training, career development programs and the NIGMS Diversity Book Club. The institute also exceeded its goal for hiring individuals with disabilities through use of the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities. NIGMS continues to encourage its managers and supervisors to mentor more junior staff members and interns.

Other award recipients were cited for leadership in and time commitment to workforce development, the recruitment and advancement of people with disabilities, the development of programs for homeless and at-risk children, and achievements in youth education and training.

The awards ceremony took place at Indian Spring Country Club in Silver Spring, and was cosponsored by the Montgomery Work-Life Alliance, a nonprofit coalition that educates and assists the county professional community in becoming "Excellent Places to Work."

In her keynote address, Pandit Wright, executive vice president of human resources and administration at Discovery Communications, Inc., discussed leadership in a time of crisis. She conveyed the importance of reaching out to employees and helping them re-establish their confidence and motivation. She also discussed the significance of creating a secure work place and recognizing people's needs outside of the work environment.

The award presenters included Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan. Duncan characterized the award recipients as excellent places to work that promote flexibility,

health and wellness, community initiatives and employee volunteering. Townsend commented on the difficulties of juggling work with personal life. She commended Montgomery County for doing great things for employees and businesses, and said that she wanted to see more employee support on the statewide level.

Karen Basnight, NIGMS EEO officer, accepted the award on behalf of the institute. She said NIGMS continues to foster an environment in which all persons have an opportunity to advance to their full potential through a continuing EEO and workplace diversity program.—Jilliene Mitchell ■



Karen Basnight, NIGMS EEO officer, holds Employer of the Year award.

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President of UMBC since 1992, Hrabowski is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and a *summa cum laude* graduate in mathematics from Hampton Institute. He earned a Ph.D. degree in higher education administration/statistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is the coauthor of *Beating the Odds* (Oxford University Press, 1998), a book focusing on parenting and high-achieving African American males in science; a second volume, *Overcoming the Odds*, on successful African American young women in science is due out late this year. Hrabowski was also instrumental in forming the Governor's Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

Attendees are asked to bring a canned food item, for metro area charities. For more information on the 2002 King observance, contact Levon Parker of NINDS, 496-5332 or Kay Johnson Graham of NINR, 402-5790. ■

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Von Eschenbach Named NCI Director

Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach was named 12th director of the National Cancer Institute by President Bush on Dec. 6. In an 11-minute ceremony at the White House attended by top NIH officials, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson and the new director's family, Bush said, "Andy understands personally the importance of our war on cancer. He is a two-time cancer survivor, all too familiar with cancer's



Dr. von Eschenbach

frightening effects. He will bring to his new position not only expertise and talent and dedication, but also compassion for the millions of cancer patients and their families who are struggling with this disease."

Von Eschenbach comes to NCI from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he was director of the Genitourinary Cancer Center and director of the Prostate Cancer Research Program. He has also served as vice president for academic affairs at M.D.

Anderson and as executive vice president and chief academic officer, leading a faculty of almost 1,000 cancer researchers and clinicians.

He thanked Bush for "bestowing on me the greatest honor and responsibility of my life...I will be devoted to nurturing and promoting the paradigm of discovery through basic research." He said that "scientific discovery, although essential, is not sufficient. We cannot rest until we translate our new understanding of cancer into interventions that will detect cancer, new drugs that will treat and even prevent cancer. Only then can scientific discovery result in saved lives and reduced suffering."

A native of Philadelphia, von Eschenbach earned his M.D. from Georgetown University in 1967. He completed residencies in general surgery and urology at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, then was an instructor in urology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps. He went to M.D. Anderson for a fellowship in urologic oncology in 1976 and was invited to join the faculty the following year.

Von Eschenbach has contributed more than 200 articles, books and chapters to the scientific literature. He is an editorial board member of four leading journals and serves on the board of the National Coalition for Cancer Research. He was a founding member and leader of the National Dialogue on Cancer and, prior to his appointment as NCI director, was president-elect of the American Cancer Society. ■

White House Honors Young Scientists

Twelve NIH-supported scientists, including an intramural researcher, are among winners of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers—the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on outstanding scientists and engineers at the outset of their independent research careers.

They are: Dr. Melissa J. Spencer, University of California, Los Angeles (NIAMS); Dr. Marshall S. Horwitz, University of Washington (NIDDK); Dr. David Wotton, University of Virginia (NICHD); Dr. William Martin Usrey, University of California, Davis (NEI); Dr. Jack J. Jiang, Northwestern University (NIDCD); Dr. Leslie B. Vosshall, Rockefeller University (NIDCD); Dr. John A. Klingensmith, Duke University (NIDCR); Dr. Kelly N. Botteron, Washington University, St. Louis (NIMH); Dr. Regina M. Carelli, University of North Carolina (NIDA); Dr. William R. Schafer, University of California, San Diego (NIDA); Dr. Michael P. Rout, Rockefeller University (NIGMS); and Dr. Andrew Arai of NHLBI's Laboratory of Cardiac Energetics.

NIH Management Intern Program Recruits

The NIH Management Intern Program will be open for applications from Feb. 11 through Mar. 11. The 2-year career development program offers outstanding HHS employees the opportunity to explore different administrative career fields, gain invaluable insight into NIH, and to attain future administrative, leadership positions.

NIH will be nominating five participants in 2002 to the program. Positions are offered at the GS-5/9 levels; the program has a career ladder to the GS-12 level.

The program uses rotational assignments as a means of introducing interns to potential career tracks. Participants will be placed in management trainee positions and receive training in a variety of administrative fields including grants and contracts management; general administration; human resources management; budget; information technology; legislation; public affairs and program and management analysis.

To be eligible to apply, you must meet the following criteria: a U.S. citizen; be willing to work full-time; be currently employed at the Department of Health and Human Services at GS-5 or above or wage grade equivalent on a career or career-conditional appointment or on any type of appointment that offers noncompetitive conversion during the application period.

You can also apply if you are an outstanding scholar; the OS criteria are at the Office of Personnel Management's site at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/EI22.htm>.

You can apply online at <http://internships.info.nih.gov>. You may review the information on the web site, but you cannot apply until Feb. 11.

To find out more about the MI program, visit the web site above or attend information sessions held in February. Dates, times and locations are found at <http://internships.info.nih.gov/schedule.asp>. For more information call 496-6211. ■

NINR ANNIVERSARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

scheduled for Sept. 20, but the events of Sept. 11 led to its postponement. Kirschstein said, "Many people are working hard to find meaning, inspiration and comfort at this difficult time in our nation's history. The counseling that nurses provide to patients and the American public is extremely important." To underscore the contributions of nursing research, she focused on such key areas as



Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, acting NIH director, launches the NINR symposium.

health promotion and disease prevention, managing symptoms, and improving quality of life and quality of care.

Dr. Patricia Grady, the present NINR director, and Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw, the former director, shared the podium for a discussion of the first 15 years. Hinshaw, now dean of the University of Michigan School of Nursing, took over the NINR helm from acting director Dr. Doris Merritt. Highlighting events that created and maintained the institute during her 7-year stewardship, Hinshaw

described the strong support both on Capitol Hill and within NIH. "This provided encouragement and bolstered NINR scientific activities in the early years," she said. "Nursing research was primarily behavioral and descriptive in nature before we came to NIH. Our studies then began to address therapeutic actions, and we emphasized interdisciplinary collaborations. We were successful in making scientific progress in these directions."

Grady, the second director of NINR, picked up the story of the more recent years by emphasizing new scientific directions and studies that built upon the early work. "We had a vision that we could demonstrate the essential nature of our science in every institute and center across the campus—that we could tie the science more closely to NIH programs," she said. NINR began partnering with others at NIH, and took the lead in trans-NIH initiatives, including end of life, self-management of chronic illness, and caregiving research. Highlighting a particular challenge, Grady said, "We must also deal with the infrastructure issues—preparing future nurse researchers and creating training opportunities, ones that will be attractive to minorities. This is critical to continue our work to increase the number of minority nurse researchers and to reduce



Dr. Patricia Grady, NINR director, cuts the celebratory cake.

health disparities in our country." The symposium featured NINR-funded scientists discussing studies of symptom management and health promotion. Symptom management presentations included helping family caregivers, improving quality of life following organ transplantation, determining the role of gender in easing pain, and

reducing end-of-life symptoms and stresses. In the area of health promotion, researchers discussed lead awareness campaigns, prevention and care of high blood pressure in African American young men, helping youth maintain control of their diabetes, and assisting Spanish speakers in self-management of their chronic diseases. A poster session highlighting the work of 48 postdoctoral students was a feature throughout the day.

In closing remarks, Grady focused on three major themes for the next 15 years. "We must consider the impact of our science—linking our research to the outcomes of care and to national health trends," she said. "We must also strengthen the research trajectory—to refine what it means to be a career scientist, from early and mid-career to senior mentor. And finally, we must influence policies based on solid nursing research evidence—to improve the health of the American people." ■

Fellows Sponsor 'Survival Skills' Workshops

The NIH fellows committee, in conjunction with the Office of Education and the Office of Research on Women's Health, will be holding a series of Survival Skills Workshops. The first one is titled "Writing Research Articles," and will be held Monday, Jan. 14 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Speakers Beth A. Fischer and Michael J. Zigmond of the University of Pittsburgh will probe the anatomy of a research article, offering step-by-step instructions to a sound report.

The second workshop, "Teaching - Success in the Classroom," will be held Monday, Feb. 25 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Participants will learn the basics of effective course design.

For more information, contact Debbie Cohen (dec@helix.nih.gov) or Margaret Mentink-Kane (mmentink@niaid.nih.gov), 594-2345. ■

'Phases' Series Continues

The Work and Family Life Center's "Faces and Phases of Life" seminar series continues with hands-on personal and professional development sessions:

- Unclutter Your Office, Your Home and Your Mind: A Guide to Personal Organization (2-part series)
- Part 1: Tuesday, Jan. 15, noon - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 31, Rm. 6C6
- Part 2: Tuesday, Jan. 22, noon - 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 31, Rm. 6C6

Preregister for any session by calling WFLC, 435-1619. For more information about the seminar series, including full schedule and workshop descriptions and how to "tune in" if you can't attend in person, visit the web site at <http://wflc.od.nih.gov>. Sign-language interpretation is provided, unless otherwise indicated. ■

Volunteer Work Pays Off for NIMH Diversity Chief

The phone rang, displaying an unfamiliar Virginia number on the caller ID. The NIMH diversity director, whose office walls are already heavily laden with awards, plaques and photos, picked up the receiver. "John Miers," he answered.

"I'm calling from the Washington Redskins," the woman said. Miers was thrilled, thinking he won free tickets to a football game. But, as it turns out, he won \$3,500 instead, as one of two runners-up for the Redskins Community Quarterback Award.



John Miers (l) accepts check for St. Luke's House from Redskins backup quarterback Sage Rosenfels.

While the money won't fill his own wallet, Miers, who heads the NIMH Office of Diversity and Employee Advocacy Programs, was happy to learn that St. Luke's House, located in Bethesda, will benefit directly. In 1971, Miers helped found the nonprofit mental health organization—which

provides housing, psychiatric rehabilitation, and other support services—and he has volunteered for them ever since.

Pam Cudahy, president and CEO of St. Luke's House, said they nominated Miers because of his "longstanding commitment and leadership," and for the countless hours he has given them over the past 30 years (and mounting) as a volunteer leader, board member, staunch supporter and advocate. "But more than anything," she added, "he's compassionate and courageous." Miers stood behind the creation of St. Luke's House, she said, when such homes didn't exist. "And John continues to be a mainstay to help us grow and diversify. He understands the population's needs and the rights of people with disabilities."

After getting the Redskins call, Miers said he was stunned. "I'd never even heard of the Redskins award, so I figured someone was definitely playing a joke. St. Luke's House pulled a fast one on me."

Miers was chosen from a pool of nearly 70 people in the Washington area nominated for the Redskins award, for which 10 finalists were selected who "exemplify leadership, dedication, and a commitment to improving the community they live in through volunteerism," said Regan Campbell,

community relations specialist for the football team. Along with his runner-up counterpart, the eight other finalists, and the grand-prize winner, Miers was invited to Redskins Park, in Ashburn, Va., for a tour and recognition luncheon in early December, with backup quarterback Sage Rosenfels bestowing the \$25,000 worth of honors.—Sophia Glezos Voit



Miers visits the locker room at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va.

Dr. Karen Hofman has been named director of the Fogarty International Center's Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis. The division is responsible for analyzing social, economic and public health policies related to international biomedical research, with an



emphasis on disparities in global health, and developing strategies and programs to address global health concerns. Hofman, who has served as acting director of DASPA since December 2000, came to FIC in March 1999 as a science policy analyst. She has published and performed clinical, molecular and policy-related research related to her experience in pediatrics, genetics and developmental disabilities. Prior to joining FIC, she served as acting clinical director for the Center of Medical Genetics at Johns Hopkins University, and as consultant to the Pan American Health Organization, NICHD, NHGRI and the child health policy unit at the University of Cape Town.

Normal Volunteers Needed

The Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine Branch, NHLBI, is seeking healthy female research volunteers between the ages of 20-70 who do not smoke to participate in a one-time outpatient study. If interested, leave a message at 496-9077. Participants will be compensated.

Interested in Chamber Music?

The R&W Chamber Music Club is assembling a new NIH campus chamber music directory of people who play instruments or sing. The directory will include names, phone numbers, comments about music interests, and self ratings, with the goal of permitting people to contact each other for music groups. All musical styles can be included. If you would like to be listed, send an email to Suzanne Epstein at epsteins@cber.fda.gov and you will receive details by return email.



Dr. Weijia Ni is the new scientific review administrator for the biobehavioral and behavioral processes 3 and 7 study sections at the Center for Scientific Review. These sections review grant applications related to language development, processing and breakdown, and speech and motor disorders. Ni comes to CSR from Yale University School of Medicine. He recently led a research team studying reading disability using neuroimaging, eye-movement monitoring, and computational modeling. He also coordinated a long-term epidemiological study of patients with multiple sclerosis. As an NIH fellow at Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Ni showed that aphasic patients, who suffer damages in the classic language cortex region of the brain due to stroke, still retain language abilities.

ACD MEETING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dec. 6 meeting, NIH was still operating under a continuing resolution fixing NIH expenditures at the FY 2001 level, but again Kirschstein counseled that “this is not unusual. Last year, deliberations on the budget did not finish until the end of December.”

The advisors launched into their first opportunity for debate when Dr. Wendy Baldwin, NIH deputy director for extramural research, reported on NIH’s compliance with a request from Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) that the Office of Technology Transfer determine NIH’s role in developing what eventually became blockbuster (sales of a half billion dollars or more) drugs; Wyden was mainly concerned about drug prices for aged Americans, not in recouping NIH’s investment in basic science, explained visitor Dr. David Korn of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Baldwin conceded that tracking NIH’s role in the emergence of new drugs “is very difficult to do,” and announced that in January NIH will begin monitoring grantee and intramural scientists’ invention reports that result in patent issuance and products. But the matter irked some ACD members. “This represents a dangerous attempt to quantify the value of research,” warned Dr. Cecil Pickett of Schering-Plough Research Institute. “The expectation of deliverables (following NIH investment) may lead to expectations that can’t be met by NIH, which could harm programs and funding.” Declared Dr. William R. Brody, president of Johns Hopkins University, “I find this whole discussion very disturbing and dangerous. I understand NIH’s responsiveness to Congress, but this is going to drive behavior in a certain way that is against the mission of both NIH and science... This is a path we don’t want to go down.”

The phrase “NIH has substantially exceeded the goals” characterized the agency’s GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) annual report card, delivered by Hopkins cardiologist Dr. Myron Weisfeldt. The evaluation focused on seven major goals including progress toward an AIDS vaccine by 2007, development of genomic resources, and basic research on stem cells, in addition to advances in disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The report was glowing, particularly in Weisfeldt’s specialty, wherein the mortality rate for patients with acute cases of heart disease dropped from 25 percent to only 5 percent in the past few years, largely due to NIH-sponsored basic research on statins. “In only 5 years, we went from prescribing digitalis and diuretics (for acute heart disease) to prescribing statins. This is a remarkable achievement.”

“This [report] is a remarkable dissertation of achievement,” said ACD member Philip L. Williams, former vice chairman of the Times Mirror Co. “There’s got to be a way to publicize this to the American people.”

NIH’s Baldwin updated members on the new stem cell registry and web site, and explained its workings, declaring that the agency’s theme is to bring the research quickly into the mainstream of typical NIH research support. “Do these cells grow?” wondered Dr. Thomas Cech, president of the Howard Hughes Research Institute. “When you ask for them, do they come in a form that can be propagated?”

“Some are very readily available, and for some we don’t know whether anyone has asked for them yet under NIH support,” said Baldwin. “It’s not like Amazon.com; the whole field is very variable, but fast-moving and fast-changing.” NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman noted that in the spring, NIH will convene a major conference to understand the fundamental biology of human embryonic stem cells, chaired by Dr. James Thomson, the University of Wisconsin researcher who pioneered this field.

Next came tales of flood and terror as Baldwin recounted the harm to studies and research animals that followed the 36 inches of rain that fell on Houston over several days last June. She said a 5-foot wall of water hit the Texas Medical Center, killing some 30,000 animals and ruining whole careers’ worth of work at the University of Texas Health Science Center, University of Houston and at Baylor College of Medicine. NIH answered the disaster with major construction awards to rebuild or repair damaged facilities; NIH also extended receipt dates for applications from scientists at harmed programs, and learned to coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on future disaster response.

Closer to home, Kirschstein reported on campus security in the post-Sept. 11 world, and declared, “Life at NIH will never be the same again as it was before Sept. 11—there’s just not any doubt about that.” She recounted how, in the past, NIH “had tried, without much success, to have people wear ID badges. Scientists are a very independent group, and some resisted. But Sept. 11 changed absolutely everything.” The General Services Administration decides how federal facilities are to be made secure, and NIH has had to comply with its directives, she said.

With obvious reluctance, she said “a perimeter fence will have to be built around this beautiful, open campus. We’ll try to make it attractive and not too difficult to manage. It will take some time to do. But there is no question we’re an attractive target—we’re the world’s premier biomedical research institution.”

She acknowledged traffic delays in the neighborhoods around NIH, and a lack of funds to boost security measures, but emphasized that NIH is coping. “It has been a very big change. It did make use of identification badges mandatory—because you’re not going to get anywhere if you don’t have

them. But it's not something that we like. The campus atmosphere was wonderful."

Kirschstein noted that there were two NIH grants active in the World Trade Center, and 27 in close proximity, totalling some \$14.6 million. "The people were safe," she reported, "but everything they were doing was lost."

Following the lunch break, the ACD heard calls for more resources in reports presented by the heads of two panels: Dr. Larry Smarr and Hopkins' Brody.

Smarr, who is director of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology at UC, San Diego, reviewed a report of the President's information technology advisory committee presented last February that stated the U.S. lacks a national vision of how IT will transform health care.

"You're predigital," he said. "Biology and medicine haven't yet fully made the transition to a digital science. There are not enough, by one or two orders of magnitude, cross-trained professionals in public health and information science...IT is still a cottage industry as applied to medicine...I really think that NIH is moving more slowly than it ought to for its own good."

Citing NLM and CIT as bright spots in NIH's IT efforts, Smarr urged the agency "to hire more people as first rate in IT as they are in science and medicine," and concluded by asking audience members to "wave your Blackberrys [palm-size wireless computers], if you have them."

Brody decried the underfunding of "bricks and mortar" for the nation's academic medical centers. The meeting ended with his diagnosis that extramural construction funding needs a boost. "We are tremendously underfunded in capital facilities for the national research infrastructure," he said, estimating a shortfall of \$5 billion to \$15 billion. "There needs to be a significant investment in research facilities...NIH is going to have to step up to the plate." He offered three recommendations: direct grants, including money for emerging and minority institutions; federal loan guarantees for institutions that borrow money to build facilities; and accelerated depreciation schedules on loans used for construction. ■

Expert on Competitive Sourcing To Speak

Jack Kalarvritinos, associate administrator for competitive sourcing at the Office of Management and Budget, will speak on A-76 and the FAIR Act and their impact on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at a meeting of the NIH chapter of the Federal Managers Association to be held in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 6 starting at 11:30 a.m. Membership in FMA is open to all involved in management and supervision roles. For more information, contact chapter president Howard Hochman, 594-0463. ■



New Stride Interns Welcomed—A new group of interns was recently selected for the NIH Stride Program, a competitive 3-year program offering employees an opportunity for career change and advancement from a nonprofessional to a professional position. The program provides on-the-job training, academic courses and selected short courses to prepare individuals for professional positions. The new interns include (from l) Chrissy Shaw, NINR, a management assistant training for a management analyst job; Carla Floyd, NCI, an administration technician training to become an administrative officer; Karen Carter-McLeod, NIMH, Felice Harper, CIT and Tracey Childress, CIT, all of whom are training to become computer specialists. To learn more about the Stride Program, visit <http://learningsource.od.nih.gov> or call the Human Resource Development Division, 496-6211.

Capitals Support NIH Charities

NIH Charity Awareness Night will be held Saturday, Jan. 19 at the MCI Center. The R&W-sponsored event offers a fun night out for NIH employees as well as the families and children who are a part of the Special Love/Camp Fantastic program. Game time for the Capitals vs. Canucks is 7 p.m. For R&W members, tickets are only \$22. Tickets for all other NIH'ers are \$24 (regularly \$38 with service charges). In addition to great seats at an inexpensive price, the Caps will be giving away hats to all who attend the game (while supplies last). To purchase tickets call 496-4600 or stop by the activities desk in Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W30. Tickets ordered will be delivered to the R&W gift shop closest to you for pick-up. ■

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 who complete the study will be paid. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

PTSD Study Recruits

NIH is seeking individuals over 18 years old for an outpatient study that will determine if a combination of medications can rapidly improve post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. Study participation includes thorough mental health assessment and treatment with medication. For more information call 1-866-627-6464.



Dr. Ann Hardy has joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator of the social sciences, nursing, epidemiology and methods 5 study section, which reviews grant applications in the areas of biostatistics and research methods. She earned a doctorate in public health from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. She conducted epidemiological research on Epstein-Barr infections in hospital patients and on opportunistic infections in kidney transplant recipients receiving immunosuppressive therapy. In 1983, Hardy entered the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service training program, enlisted in the PHS Commissioned Corps and was the first EIS officer assigned to AIDS surveillance. In 1988, she moved to CDC's National Center for Health Statistics in Hyattsville, Md.

SHANNON LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

War II," she said. Society learned that a "vibrant research enterprise could equally serve the nation's needs in peacetime...Today we are entering territory that's new and relatively unfamiliar. There are great opportunities, but also great danger...We face new times of crisis. September 11 has abruptly changed our national climate."

That war or its likelihood threaten many parts of the globe at a time of unparalleled human discovery—Colwell mentioned the Human Genome Project, advances in nanotechnology, and in high-speed computing as leading a cavalcade of achievements—only underscores the urgency she feels for both deeper scientific, and human, understanding. Such junctures of threat and promise led her to title her remarks, "Crossing Borders: Science, the Public and New Policies."

Basic research, she argues, "is the reason why the 21st century is so different from the way things were only 15 years ago...It is the driving force of our economy and the key to social stability. Your research has brought us this far," she said to an audience that included many alumni; the talk was sponsored by the NIH Alumni Association.

Echoing remarks made last spring by physicist Ahmed Zewail in an NIH Director's Lecture,

Colwell noted that "the core physical sciences undergird all of the biological sciences," and that recent "very broad and deep discoveries" in those fields predict

continued prosperity. "We are on the frontier where the living world meets the physical world, an era that will be at least as profound as the IT (information technology) revolution.

"New knowledge is the principal source of wealth creation, not manufacturing," she said. "It's the knowledge industry that's leading the way. Our nation's future prosperity depends on maintaining our momentum, now more than ever."

As examples of the new speed and depth with which research is conducted, she reported that NSF almost immediately provided funding for sequencing the genome of the anthrax strain used in recent bioterrorism incidents, and that her own research on cholera need not be hindered by her inability to be with her colleagues doing field work in Bangladesh; they are in constant touch via the Internet.

"We are standing at the threshold of new degrees of understanding of our planet and ourselves," she continued. Paraphrasing the poet Robert Frost's *Mending Wall*, she said, "Scientific enlightenment doesn't love a wall"; it tends to overcome impediments through ingenuity. As examples she cited the Internet, which in its early stage was known as NSFnet and had not yet evolved into a common

communications tool. She said that computer modeling of routine protein-folding that takes place, *in vivo*, in only 20 milliseconds used to require 40 months of computer time, and now takes only a day as machines capable of completing 1 trillion operations per second are introduced. We are in the era of nano (billionth) and tera (trillion) in a century that will be marked by increasing complexity, she said.

We are just beginning to understand such complex phenomena as atmospheric modeling (to predict hurricanes), brain functions involved in cognition, and the structure of galaxies. "We are finding patterns that persist throughout living systems...The challenge is to be able to forecast the outcomes of complex interactions." Synthesis, the ability to find "a common groundwork of explanation," will improve our ability to make predictions and reduce uncertainties, she said.

Reporting on advances in her own field, Colwell said epidemics of cholera that occur "with depressing regularity in India in the spring and fall," have recently been tied to fluctuations in water temperature at the sea surface. "We're at the point where we can use satellites to predict epidemics."

Linking NSF's mission to NIH, Colwell empha-

"The world of vast differences and distances is shrinking. We are all becoming next door neighbors...Science and technology can help us solve problems that seem intractable now."

sized that "biology, chemistry, physics, math, computer science and engineering—all of these have contributed to the growth of the biotechnology industry. We need to work even more closely with NIH in the future." She confided, "My laboratory has been funded by NIH; I think I'm the only NSF director that has been. I call that true partnership!"

Colwell explained that "scientific research and technological innovation drive one another," but warned that we must attend to the borderland where "social, political and economic realities interact with science." The natural sciences have been preeminent for a long time, she suggested; now it is time for the behavioral sciences to ascend. No less is at stake than national security, she cautioned; a recent national security report (the Hart-Rudman Commission) ranked loss of scientific leadership as second only to city invasion as a source of concern.

"We need to cross borders in a more literal sense," she said, calling for "more international collaboration...We need ideas from a broad range of specialties, and from more regions and cultures. It has never been more important to work together.

"The world of vast differences and distances is shrinking," she observed. "We are all becoming

next door neighbors,” especially with the advent of video teleconferencing and wireless communications. “Science and technology can help us solve problems that seem intractable now.”

Colwell urged appropriators to stay the course in science funding. “We cannot waiver in investing in basic research, even as we divert resources to security needs,” she said. “We’ve learned that tomorrow comes very quickly.”

She finished her lecture with three recommendations: ensure that our science policies remain robust, and embrace interdisciplinary science—

“That’s where the action is, especially for the social sciences”—in an atmosphere of international collegiality; promote not only education worldwide, but also the “science of learning”; and increase public understanding of and support for science.

“We ignore the steep learning curve that the public has at considerable risk,” she said, citing the recent need for citizens to be educated that anthrax is not a communicable disease.

“As we become attuned to a new age of knowledge,” she concluded, “we will be better prepared for the events that may befall us in the future.” ■

Health Disparities, Grantsmanship Addressed

Aloha State Warmly Receives NIH Group

A 15-person NIH delegation led by NIH acting deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox and NCCAM director Dr. Stephen Straus recently traveled to Hawaii for a 5-day regional workshop that was initiated by Doug Yee, a member of NIH’s Council of Public Representatives and vice president of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in Honolulu.

Acknowledging that the visit gave NIH an opportunity to “share ideas and information with the biomedical and health research professionals at Hawaii’s universities,” Governor Benjamin Cayetano issued an official proclamation deeming the visit Biomedical Research Week in the state.

Workshops on grantsmanship and the availability of other funding opportunities were also presented in an effort to help Hawaii compete better for more of NIH’s medical research dollars. NIH funds are

distributed via contracts, grants and other mechanisms to each of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. Hawaii received just under \$40 million in fiscal year 2001, an increase over the \$30 million in grants the state received in 2000. Hawaii ranked 41st among states and territories in total NIH support in FY 2000.

In addition, Maddox spread the word about NIH’s strategy to address health disparities. The death rate from stomach cancer is substantially higher among Asians and Pacific Islanders, including Native Hawaiians, than among other populations. Also, Native Hawaiians are among several groups including Native Americans, Hispanics, African Americans, and other Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders such as Japanese Americans and Samoans, who are at particularly high risk for development of type 2 diabetes.

“We are going to work with faculty at the Univer-

sity of Hawaii and in the community to make people aware of NIH and of the federal dollars we have available for medical research,” explained Maddox, during an interview with one of Hawaii’s morning news programs. “Also, as part of our health disparities initiative, we’ll be providing educational messages about disease prevention strategies and how people can take better care of themselves.”

Along with Maddox and Straus, members of the delegation included representatives from nearly every aspect of NIH’s biomedical enterprise, from IC director to procurement specialist to grants officer to clinical research advisor. Speakers from the NIH group addressed public assemblies at the local colleges as well as smaller settings of state legislators, business leaders and policymakers, and focus groups. In addition, NIH made plans to adopt the public elementary school that some of the delegation visited on the trip’s final afternoon.

The group’s itinerary was arranged by Jennifer Gorman, NIH public liaison coordinator. ■

Winter Blues Study Recruits

Do you hibernate in the winter? If you notice that you feel fatigued and down and that your sleeping and eating habits change in the winter, you may be eligible to participate in a research study on seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Diagnostic assessment and treatment consisting of light therapy, psychotherapy or their combination will be offered. There is no charge for participation in the study. Interested volunteers, 18 or older, are invited to call the Uniformed Services University seasonality treatment study for more information, (301) 295-9718. ■



NHGRI’s Dr. Alan Guttmacher gives remarks at a public forum in Hawaii.



Dr. Anthony Coelbo of NIH’s Office of Extramural Research and NIH acting deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox (c) are welcomed to the University of Hawaii by its director of grant development, Dr. Leslie Isaki.

PHOTOS: JENNIFER GORMAN

News Branch's Stern Retires, Leaves 'Em Laughing

By Rich McManus

If laughter turns out to be the best medicine after all, then NIH lost one of its leading apothecaries on Jan. 3, when longtime Office of the Director News Media Branch maven Marc Stern called it quits after 34 years of deadlines and punchlines.

His genius was in combining a sort of hugely solicitous helpfulness in any matter requiring his assistance with a compulsion to entertain, to make—sometimes of airy nothing—something amusing and uplifting. Though physically a large man, with gestures to match, his gift was lightening any company he kept. Even his gravity, in solemn times, bore traces of barely suppressed gaiety. He was like a compulsively honest character actor who could never bring himself to fake the inhuman sobriety expected of the Good Worker.

That's why, in the days leading up to his retirement, the buzz in NIH's information community was a mixture of real regret that NIH was losing one of its large personalities, and a desire to do something

for this giver of goodwill: go to his Wilson Hall sendoff, appear in a tribute video, add his beaming and rotund visage to archival photos as a gag slide show.

Stern came to the campus in March 1967 to be founding editor of *The Pulse*, a newsletter published by NIH's Recreation & Welfare Association. A native of Cleveland and graduate in journalism and English of Western Reserve



Stern and hero Dr. Albert Sabin enjoy a White House Correspondents Dinner, one of Stern's favorite nights out.

he prepared articles about the agency for publications of general interest. Stern eventually became assistant chief of NIH's News Branch, then chief in March 1980,

topping out at a post within a reorganized News Media Branch in OD's Office of Communications and Public Liaison. He spent his entire career in OD news offices in Bldg. 31.

Two kinds of news especially appealed to him: research advances from NIH that would result in better public health, about which he could crow with sometimes comedic earnestness, and any sort of news at all that dealt with celebrity; Stern had an undisguised admiration for famous people. These two streams merged in the person of Dr. Albert Sabin, a hero whom fate delivered literally to Stern's doorstep.

Stern remembers SOS—Sabin Oral Sundays—when families lined up at elementary schools in 1961 to take their polio vaccines via sugar cube. “I had a neighbor who died at age 5 of polio,” he recounts. “I could easily have been a victim. I’ve always been terrified of polio. I can remember beach closures on Lake Erie: ‘Okay, everybody out of the water!’” he bellows authoritatively.

“Twenty years later, in Room 2B37, the very same Albert Sabin comes to NIH as a Fogarty scholar-in-residence, just a few doors down from my office,” Stern marvels. “I would see him lots of times and talk to him, and tell him how impressed I was with his work.”

It turns out that Stern's grandmother escaped, during World War I, from Sabin's home town of Bialystok, Poland. “We talked about that,” Stern continues, “and I ended up taking him as my guest to the annual White House Correspondents Dinner.”

Those dinners would become prime hunting



The News Media Branch's Marc Stern was at his most charming when he very nearly believed something he was telling you. His skits at OD gatherings and irreverent wit at regular meetings of OCPL in Bldg. 1 will be missed.

University's Adelbert College, he had a slew of freelance work behind him, including having been a teen columnist for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, editor of *Central Ohio Bowling News*, and contributor, along with his wife Jessie, of photos and feature stories to the *Washington Post's* old Sunday rotogravure magazine, *Potomac*. Immediately prior to joining R&W, he was director of information for Washington's B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

As a young man, he yearned for the world of work. He rushed through high school in three years, and completed college in another three. “I was very anxious to get into a professional field,” he says. “It was just impatience to start working.”

While at *The Pulse*, which was only a part-time job, Stern covered a story that both launched his NIH news career and left a lasting impression. The lead story of his third newsletter in May 1967 was a photo and article of then President Lyndon Johnson arriving by helicopter to the front lawn of the Clinical Center, where he was met by NIH director

ground for photo ops with celebrities; Stern has pictures of himself and Jessie with a galaxy of stars including Christie Brinkley, Christopher Reeve, Elizabeth Taylor, and a Miss America (Maryann Mobley) from Mississippi. In other venues he met actresses Mary Tyler Moore and Victoria Principal, actor Pierce Brosnan, and scientific luminaries including Christiaan Barnard, Jonas Salk, NIH'ers Robert Gallo, Marshall Nirenberg and Francis Collins, and breast cancer research advocate Rose Kushner. "I could believe in many of the things these people were doing," he says. He is also proud of having helped out at visits by Presidents Johnson, Ford, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton.

For years, Stern was NIH's point man for the annual announcement of Nobel prizes, a job that entailed coming to work in the wee hours of Columbus Day, a federal holiday, and checking—on behalf of reporters—whether winners in any of the categories either worked for or were funded by NIH.

In addition to the routine of clearing press releases, giving campus tours, helping reporters do their jobs more accurately, and acting as overall ambassador for the NIH information community, Stern traveled to many extramural sites. "I went to 62 of the 125 grantee medical schools in the U.S.," he reports. Those sojourns merged nicely with his penchant for travel; Stern and his wife have been to all 50 states, and have visited 30 countries on six continents, a habit that will continue in retirement.

He also plans to lavish attention on his three grown kids, four (and soon five) grandchildren, and resume hobbies of photography, coin collecting, and reading stories to children at county libraries.

"I was on a weekly radio show in Cleveland when I was in high school called 'We're Pretending,' which was a play on the station's call letters, WERE," he recalls. "I did the deeper male voices, and performed with a local theater troupe. I was on the radio every Saturday for three years during high school." His scripts adapted everything from *Macbeth* to *Peter Pan* for an elementary school audience.

"I'd say things like, 'Out, out, brief incandescent lightbulb,'" he chortles. "So I'll continue reading stories to kids. That will fulfill my wish: trying to entertain in a friendly, safe way."

Just like he did for decades at NIH. ■

Blood Samples Needed

An NIH study is recruiting healthy African-American, Taiwanese and Japanese adults to donate 3 cc of blood. The samples will be used to test for a platelet membrane glycoprotein (CD36) that is absent from the platelets of a small percentage of individuals from these populations. To be eligible you must be 18 years of age or older. Compensation will be provided. Those interested should contact Donna Mayo, 496-5150. ■

CIT Computer Classes

All courses are on the NIH campus and are given without charge. For more information call 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

Making Movies of Molecules	1/9
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000 for the PC	1/9
Expediting Your Request for Telephone Services at the NIH	1/10
Creating Composite Images with Photoshop	1/11
Intermediate FileMaker Pro 5 for the Mac	1/14
Using Secure Email in the Exchange Messaging Environment	1/13
Advanced Sequence Analysis Using the Wisconsin Package (GCG)	1/14-15
mAdb Basic Informatics	1/15
Macintosh OS X - What's New for Users	1/16
PowerPoint Topics: Graphs, Links and More	1/16
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2000 for the PC	1/17
Tools for Genome Analysis	1/17
Avoiding Pitfalls in Statistical Analysis	1/18
Data Warehouse Orientation	1/22
BRMUG - Macintosh Users Group	1/22

Beethoven Class Moves Off Campus

A lecture-performance course on all 16 Beethoven string quartets was given spring and fall semesters, 2001, through the FAES graduate school at NIH. Increased campus security meant the course had to move off-campus. While the series may return to NIH in the future if circumstances permit, it will be offered during the spring semester, 2002, by the Washington Conservatory of Music (WCM) housed in Briggs Baptist Church, 5144 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda. All 16 quartets will be performed live during the course, which will start Feb. 4. The course is intended for those who cannot read music as well as for experienced musicians. For more information, call (301) 946-2311. To register, call WCM at (301) 320-2770. ■

Earl Johnson, a physical science technician in the Radiation Safety Branch, retired on Jan. 2 after a 34-year federal career. He began in the federal workforce in 1967 as a security guard at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1969, he came to NIH as an industrial washer system operator. He worked in the Bldg. 14 animal complex until July 1981, when he transferred to RSB as a motor vehicle operator. Many purchasing agents remember Earl's smiling face as he delivered radionuclides throughout NIH labs for medical research. In 1992, Johnson became a physical science technician in RSB and performed the inspection, ordering and inventory duties for the branch. He and his wife Marie have purchased property in North Carolina where they plan to build their retirement residence. His fellow branch members, who wish him a healthy and happy retirement, will miss Johnson's jovial presence.



'Bowl' Game Success

Poodry Discovers a Passion for Wood Turning

By Jilliene Mitchell

There are three things in life that Dr. Clifton Poodry is passionate about: his family, his job as director of minority programs at NIGMS, and creating art from wood. Wood turning can take many years to perfect. Poodry is striving toward perfection in each piece he creates. He has been turning wood since 1995 and describes his introduction to the art as a "process of discovery at the lathe."

In a sense, Poodry stumbled on the hobby when he purchased a lathe for his wife—needless to say, she never did get a chance to use it and wood turning has been a hobby of his ever since. "I was turning a piece of scrap wood from the yard and was amazed by its beauty," he recalled. "It became a challenge to create a graceful curved form that would bring out the beauty of the wood."

Poodry took a wood turning class, where he improved his skills and learned to value the craft. He says that he appreciated the class because the instructor was a master wood turner as well as an excellent teacher. "My instructor

showed me how to sharpen the tools and how to hold them for best effect," said Poodry. He says the class helped to take him to a new level of craftsmanship.

Poodry's specialty is bowls. He creates functional bowls, such as salad bowls, as well as bowls that are decorative art. One can infer that this is definitely not a hobby for the impatient. The entire process can take several months to complete.

The first step is to select a piece of wood. Poodry looks for several different characteristics such as the age of the wood, the grain and the color. He even chooses wood with termite damage because it can be more interesting. He roughly cuts the wood with a chainsaw, shapes it with the lathe, finish shapes it, sands it finely, finishes it with a food-safe oil and waxes it with a light furniture wax. The piece is then set to dry.

Poodry finds wood locally for his creations. Often, he uses wood that he finds in his own Bethesda neighborhood. "I prefer fruitwoods such as cherry,

pear, apple and crabapple, and nut woods such as walnut and pecan," he said. Maple and beech are among his favorites. Poodry even gets a good portion of his wood from contractors who cut down trees on the NIH campus.

His finished products are often sold at the Audubon Fair in early December and at the Gallery of Mountain Secrets in Monterey, Va. He donates the proceeds from bowls made from NIH wood to the Children's Inn. He gives the remaining bowls as gifts to family members. He has even entered his bowls in competitions and won awards, including the Juror's Choice Award in a competition sponsored by the Chesapeake Wood Turners Association in 1999.

Although Poodry's bowls are already winning honors, he is constantly trying to improve his art. In fact, he recently spent a week taking an advanced wood turning class where he learned carving techniques and how to add artistic shapes to turned vessels. With practice and training, Poodry continues learning how to creatively tackle new challenges. "I like to envision a form that complements the wood and then make it. Of course there is also the joy of perfecting a fine craft, something on which I have a long way to go and therefore years of enjoyment," he declared. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Carla J. Shatz on Jan. 16; she will speak on "Brain Waves and Immune Genes in Brain Wiring During Development." She is Nathan Marsh Pusey professor and chair, department of neurobiology, Harvard Medical School.

A special Friday lecture takes place Jan. 18 at 3 p.m. in Masur, when Dr. Hartmut Michel speaks on "Crystallization, Structures and Mechanisms of the Membrane Protein Complexes from the Respiratory Chain." He is director, department of molecular membrane biology, and director, Max-Planck Institut für Biophysik, Germany.

On Jan. 23, Dr. James S. Jackson, director, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, Daniel Katz distinguished university professor of psychology, director, Research Center for Group Dynamics, and director, African American Mental Health Research Center, University of Michigan, will talk about "Race and Ethnic Disparities in Physical and Mental Health: The National Survey of American Life."

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



Dr. Clifton Poodry's wood crafts can be both works of art and functional objects. Some are made of wood downed at NIH.