

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

NIH Addresses Science Education 'Paradox'

By Cynthia Delgado

How can the same education system produce both scientific elites and illiterates?

That's what David Goodstein—vice provost, and physics professor at Caltech, and coauthor of *Feynman's Lost Lecture*—asks in a recent essay. It's a situation he calls the "science education paradox." He explains that while the United States education system produces a few elite Ph.D.s, "what's lacking is a means to provide the rest of our population with even the most basic understanding of science in an increasingly science-driven world." The situation is "perilous," he says.

The NIH science education resource group (SERG) is working to address this paradox

SEE PARADOX, PAGE 4

'Team NIH' Enters Race for Cure

Grab those running or walking shoes—the first-ever "Team NIH" will be at the 2002 Komen National Race for the Cure starting line on Saturday, June 1 in Washington, D.C.; colleagues, family members, patients and friends are invited to join together in representing NIH.

HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson recently helped kick off Capital Celebration, the opening activity for the National Race for the Cure, the world's largest five-kilometer, or 3.1-mile, run/walk. It is part of a series of 5K runs and fitness walks in support of breast cancer research and breast health initiatives, with more than 1 million participants in at least 100 American cities and three foreign countries.

The national race has grown steadily from

SEE TEAM NIH, PAGE 2

HIGHLIGHTS

1

New Bldg. To Join Bioterror Fight

3

Alcohol Screening Day, Apr. 11

5

Keller Lecture Set, Apr. 11

7

Employee Exercise Campaign Spreads

12

NIEHS Publishes Kids' Book

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

April 2, 2002
Vol. LIV, No. 7

New Facilities To Bolster Anti-Bioterror Effort

By Rich McManus

In order to address the threat posed by biological agents used as a means to spread terror, NIH is building several new research facilities to conduct studies on such pathogens, including a major new structure—Bldg. B—to be completed by 2005 on land that is now a carpool parking lot just east of Bldg. 31's C wing.

The effort to build new laboratory space and upgrade existing research facilities answers not just the need to prepare for the use of such organisms as anthrax, smallpox, plague, botulinum toxin and tularemia as instruments of terror or war; it also is part of a 20-year effort mounted chiefly by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to counter emerging and re-emerging viruses and pathogens worldwide, including hanta virus, Ebola, and multidrug resistant tuberculosis.

On the same day that NIAID made public its counter-bioterrorism research agenda—the fruit of a 2-day meeting at Pooks Hill last February by a blue ribbon advisory panel—the institute's scientific director Dr. Thomas Kindt addressed a

SEE ANTI-BIOTERROR FACILITIES, PAGE 6

NIGMS Director Cassman To Leave for California

By Alisa Zapp Machalek

After 27 years at NIGMS—the last 5 as its director—Dr. Marvin Cassman will leave in early May to become the first director of "QB3," the California-based Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research.

"This is an exciting opportunity that's one of my major interests—developing connections between the physical sciences and biology," says Cassman.

True to his interest in these areas, Cassman created the NIGMS Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology in 2001. This center supports research and training in areas that join biology with the computer sciences, engineering, math and physics.

He expects that such computer-based approaches will intensify in coming years. "There will be more involvement of bioinformatics, modeling and simulation,



Dr. Marvin Cassman

SEE CASSMAN DEPARTURE, PAGE 8

TEAM NIH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

7,000 runners and walkers in 1990 to 26,000 in 1995, to a record number of more than 72,000 last June. That number in 2001 included 720 teams.

This year the Clinical Center is spearheading organization of Team NIH. "We hope all of NIH and its research partners will be part of the team as we show support for this concerted national and international women's health endeavor," said CC director Dr. John Gallin.

Registration will soon be available throughout the community at local merchants. Individuals may register to join Team NIH at any location by using the code "NIH" on their race application form.

Registration tables will also be set up Apr. 22-26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the second floor and B1 cafeterias in Bldg. 10. The registration fee is \$25 per person and may be paid by check, cash or credit card. Online registration and more details are available at <http://www.nationalraceforthecure.org/registration.html>.

Complimentary race day bus transportation from Bldg. 10 to the race site on Constitution Ave. will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Team NIH members registering at Bldg. 10 may sign up for this service. Buses will also be available following the event to return to the Clinical Center. Race participants can also take Metro, which will open at 6 a.m. on race day.

On race morning, like other teams, Team NIH will gather at a pre-designated time and location. Watch for more details about this and race packet distribution. For questions about Team NIH or to volunteer to staff the Bldg. 10 registration tables in April or the race packet distribution tables in May, contact one of the race coordinators: Pat Piringer, 402-2435, ppiringer@nih.gov; Dianne Needham, 594-5788, dneedham@cc.nih.gov; or Georgie Cusack, 594-8128, gcusack@cc.nih.gov. ■

Workshop for Women in Science

HRDD is launching the second in a series of workshops for women in science, "Giving Dynamic Presentations." The 2-day workshop is designed to equip scientists with methods for capturing and holding audience attention and speaking with confidence, poise and enthusiasm. Participants will learn through videotaped presentations, technique review and individual coaching. The workshop will be held Apr. 30-May 1, with a coaching session to follow. For details, contact HRDD at 496-6211 or visit <http://learningsource.od.nih.gov/>. ■

Healthy Males Needed for Studies

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

Dr. Robert W. Karp has joined the NIDDK Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition as director of the Genetics and Genomics Program. He will develop and coordinate animal and human genetic studies in digestive diseases and obesity. Initially, he will help to create one consortium of investigators attempting to identify genes that



predispose people to inflammatory bowel disease, and another attempting to identify genes that predispose people to obesity. Before joining NIDDK, Karp directed the genetics program at NIAAA from 1991 to 2001. From 1991 to 1998, he was associate director of the Eukaryotic and Prokary-

otic Genetics Programs for the National Science Foundation. In this position, his activities led to the establishment of the independent research program on biochemistry of gene expression. Prior to working at NSF, he was a member of the biology faculty at the State University of New York at Albany. Karp has authored journal articles on genome organization of Drosophila melanogaster and genetics of alcoholism in humans. He is a member of the American Society of Human Genetics, Behavior Genetics Association, and Research Society on Alcoholism.

NIH RECORD

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through Sept. 30, 2002.

NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B41

Phone 496-2125
Fax 402-1485

Web address
<http://www.nih.gov/news/NIH-Record/archives.htm>

Editor
Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes, or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

♻️ The Record is recyclable as office white paper.

New Al-Anon Meeting Site

A new Al-Anon meeting has been established as of Mar. 7 on Executive Blvd. On Thursdays, the group meets at the Willco Bldg., 6000 Executive Blvd., fifth floor Conf. Rm. 400 from noon to 12:50 p.m. This is an open meeting. For more information contact Sophia Glezos Voit, NIMH work/life coordinator, at 443-4533 or sglezos@nih.gov.

Interns Get AIDS History Update

The old adage that those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it spurred four management interns at NIH to sponsor a seminar for the intern community and others entitled "The NIH Administrative Areas – Enduring the AIDS Epidemic." The seminar, the third in the Management Seminar Series for 2002, was held Mar. 6 at the Natcher Conference Center.

The presentation stemmed from the interns' desire to show future NIH leaders the important relationship between NIH scientific and administrative areas. Due to its devastating worldwide impact, the AIDS epidemic made an ideal model. The seminar highlighted the roles of communication, budget and legislation during the early years of the AIDS epidemic and resulting unrest on the NIH campus.

The speakers are current NIH leaders who were also employees during the first years of the epidemic. They shared their personal work experiences and explained how the epidemic not only affected NIH but also the nation.

Keynote speaker Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, gave an overview of the epidemic from the first reported AIDS cases in Los Angeles and New York City to the latest reports on NIH's efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine. Donald Poppke, NLM executive officer, took the audience on an historic journey through his experience as a former management intern working in the budget community at HHS from the inception of the epidemic. Interns Keri-Lyn Wall and Walter Mitton presented a 20-year AIDS history overview including video news clips of the May 1990 AIDS activist demonstration on the NIH campus. The NIH historian, Dr. Victoria Harden, summarized the presentation with an overview of AIDS history.

Donald Ralbovsky, media spokesman for NIH's Office of Communications and Public Liaison, presented his first-hand accounts of how the media handled the epidemic and the effect it had on the

flow of information from the communications office to the American public. Roz Gray, deputy director of OD's Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis, discussed two decades of AIDS legislation including the story of Congress embracing the teenage hemo-



Roz Gray discussed AIDS legislation.

philiac and AIDS victim Ryan White, and passing the Ryan White CARE Act that provides emergency funding for those suffering with HIV/AIDS.

Through these accounts, attendees learned important lessons on how rapidly a health crisis can affect and alter the routine functions of administrative areas.

The hosting interns feel strongly that the early ramifications of the

epidemic should not be forgotten. The current figures on HIV/AIDS are staggering: Worldwide, more than 60 million people have been infected since the pandemic began, of whom more than 20 million have died. More than 14,000 people are infected with HIV every day, and AIDS kills 8,000 people a day. ■

Alcohol Screening Day, Apr. 11

Are you concerned about your drinking or a family member or friend's drinking? If so, attend National Alcohol Screening Day on Thursday, Apr. 11. Free confidential screenings and/or consultation with a professional counselor are offered. Alcohol educational materials will be available on a table in front of the Cybercafe on the first floor of Bldg. 10. Screenings will also be held in Bldg. 10, NIAAA Clinic, Rm. 1C254 on the first floor (past the admissions desk, across from the EKG lab). Hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. A sign language interpreter will be on site. Hablamos Español, noon - 1 p.m. y 4 - 5 p.m. Braille copies of the screening form will be available. For information call 496-1992. For other site locations, call the national locator, 1-800-405-9200. Door-prize drawings for participants will be held for dinner and a movie for two or a gift certificate to the R&W gift stores. ■

Have Pulmonary Sarcoidosis?

Call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010) for a study comparing a medication called pentoxifylline and a placebo (sugar pill). Must be on standard steroid treatment. ■



Dr. Gary G. Christoph is the new deputy director of the Center for Information Technology. He will also serve as CIT's chief operating officer, providing both vision and overall technological, operational and managerial leadership. "Having been a researcher and scientist most of my life, I think I appreciate the kind of IT support a scientist wants and needs, and my goal is to make sure that CIT delivers the best world-class IT support to NIH's researchers," he said. Before joining CIT, he served as first chief information officer and director, Office of Information Services, for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration).



Flanking keynote speaker Dr. Anthony Fauci (c), director of NIAID, are management interns (from l) Keri-Lyn Wall, Walter Mitton, Joan Romaine and Candace Deaton.

PARADOX, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by moving NIH resources from the campus to the local community and beyond. At a recent SERG meeting, guest speaker Stacey Franklin described how NIH is making an impact on MdBio's science education efforts through resources, employee outreach and funding. She is director of outreach programs at MdBio—a private, non-profit biotechnology organization in Frederick, Md.

Franklin says many of MdBio's programs are inspired by NIH programs, or incorporate existing NIH materials. She looks to the NIH for "scientific expertise," from which she can extract up-to-date content for her programs. For example, take the lesson Understanding Gene Testing (from the National Cancer Institute), plus *The Cutting Edge* video (from the Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts), add MdBio-produced lesson plans, and you wind up with a dynamic instructional unit. That's just what Franklin did to develop the Bioethics of Genetic Testing educational kit. Students learn the science of gene testing from NCI's slides and coordinating narrative. Then they tackle the challenging bioethical issues that surround genetic testing through BAPA's



Stacey Franklin of MdBio gives presentation at NIH. Institutes such as NCI are happy to provide educational content for distribution by MdBio, as long as it goes out to teachers free of charge.

video and MdBio's accompanying lesson plan. MdBio is in the process of distributing the free kit to all high schools in Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

For NIH'ers who are educationally inclined, one solution to Goodstein's paradox is clear. Send the experts—the scientists—into classrooms so the public can garner NIH's wealth of science knowledge, along with its benefits.

The NIH Speakers Bureau is an example of direct outreach to support public understanding of science. It is a program that consists of a web-based directory of speakers, most of whom are employees, who are available to speak to local schools and community groups on a variety of scientific and career topics. The NIH Speakers Bureau was the inspiration behind MdBio's SpeakerSearch, another web-based program that connects community schools and organizations with local bioscience speakers.

"Anne Baur was extremely helpful," Franklin says of the NIH Speakers Bureau program manager, by giving advice on web site design, speaker recruitment and speaker-training materials.

NIH also supports science education by direct funding through the Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA) supported by the National Center for Research Resources' Division of Clinical Research. SEPA grants fund programs that are intended to give K-12 students, teachers and the public a better understanding of the life sciences. An enormously successful SEPA-funded program was the Boston-based CityLab, essentially a mobile molecular biology lab on a 40-foot-long bus.

Thousands of high school students and teachers have learned the principles of scientific investigation and more through hands-on activities aboard the bus. Franklin says because of its popularity, the model has been replicated in North Carolina, Connecticut, and now Maryland too. MdBioLab is a mobile science-learning center designed for Maryland high school science students and teachers. Its primary function is to raise bioscience awareness across the state. It also features student and teacher training, and career information. MdBioLab is supported by MdBio, the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and the Institute for Genomic Research. It should be on the road by the beginning of 2003.

If you are interested in closing the gap between scientific elites and illiterates, consider joining SERG. It is composed of some 75 representatives from each of the 27 institutes and centers that are interested in science education. The Office of Science Education facilitates the quarterly group meetings, where members exchange information, ideas and resources.

Contact OSE at 496-8475, or delgadoc@od.nih.gov for information about membership and upcoming meetings. To learn more about OSE, visit www.science.education.nih.gov. The MdBio site is at www.mdbio.org/newsite/index.html, and can be reached at (301) 228-2445. ■

Lectures on Health Disparities

The NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities is hosting a series of lectures to explore health disparities and the unequal burden of disease in American society. The first lecture in the series will be held on Thursday, Apr. 11 at 2 p.m. in Natcher balcony A. Featured speaker is Dr. Thomas C. Holt, James Westfall Thompson professor of American and African history at the University of Chicago.

Holt is author of *The Problem of Race in the 21st Century*, published in December 2000 by Harvard University Press. His talk, titled "Reflections on 'The Problem of Race in the 21st Century' After 9/11," will provide insight into the impact of race and racism on the U.S. economy and consumer culture.

For more information, or for reasonable accommodation (beyond sign language, which will be provided) contact Tara Grove at Tgrove@novaresearch.com.

Study Needs Late-Day Eaters

Overweight, pre-menopausal (ages 18-35), non-smoking women who regularly skip breakfast and lunch are sought for a study on eating and metabolism. Call Teresa at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, (301) 295-1498. ■

Kalant To Give Keller Lecture, Apr. 11

Dr. Harold Kalant, a distinguished scientist who has spent four decades exploring the biological response to alcohol consumption, will deliver the Mark Keller Honorary Lecture on Thursday, Apr. 11 at 1:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Kalant's investigations have helped clarify the pharmacology of the response to alcohol and psychoactive drugs, and more broadly, the behavioral and environmental factors that influence this response. His Keller lecture is entitled "Comparison of Mechanisms of Tolerance and Dependence Among Alcohol, Opiates, and Other Psychoactive Drugs."

Kalant is professor emeritus in the department of pharmacology at the University of Toronto, and director emeritus for biobehavioral research at the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario. He entered the alcohol research field in 1959, at a time when very little systematic research was being done in the area. He was one of the first investigators to demonstrate that the development of tolerance—the process by which the brain becomes resistant to the intoxicating effects of alcohol—could be modified by the process of learning, for example, when a subject learned a task while consuming alcohol. Thus, tolerance could be viewed both in pharmacological terms, as a physiological response to alcohol, and in psychological terms, as a learned compensation for alcohol impairment. The insights resulting from this research have contributed to improvements in treatment programs.

Kalant's other research has included investigation of the metabolic aspects of alcohol's actions in the liver. His expertise in the field of alcohol and drug dependence combined with an interest in the formulation of social policy related to addiction has resulted in his playing an important role in public discussion of drug policy and legalization. ■

Tae Kwon Do Beginner's Class

The NIH Tae Kwon Do School is offering a beginner's class for adults and mature teens starting Apr. 8. The class will meet in the Malone Center (Bldg. 31C, B4 level, next to the NIH Fitness Center) from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and will continue for about 2 months until participants can be integrated into the regular school training. Dues are \$40 per quarter and a uniform costs \$30. Interested persons are welcome to watch regular training sessions. For information call Andrew Schwartz, 402-5197 or visit <http://www.recgov.org/r&w/nihtaekwondo.html>. ■

Have Turner's Syndrome (TS)?

If TS is affecting you or someone you know, call 1-800-411-1222 for information on two important studies. There is no cost for study participation, related tests and medications. ■

Two NIGMS minority program directors were among recent recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. The awards, presented annually, recognize influential institutions and individuals who have been leaders in

encouraging minorities, women and disabled persons to pursue careers in the scientific and engineering labor force. The recipients included Dr. Therese Markow (l), a Regents professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona, Tucson, and Dr. Bharati Mehrotra, a professor of biology at Tougaloo College in Mississippi. Markow is

the former Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program director at Arizona State University and is currently the institutional research and academic career development awards director at the University of Arizona. Mehrotra is the MARC program director at Tougaloo College. Markow and Mehrotra were among 10 individuals and 10 institutions who received awards. The awards were established by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in 1996 and are administered through the National Science Foundation. Award recipients attended a ceremony in Washington, D.C., and were presented with a \$10,000 grant and a commemorative Presidential certificate.

Workshop on Mammalian Stem Cells

NIGMS is hosting a workshop, "The Basic Biology of Mammalian Stem Cells," to be held June 9-10 at the Bethesda Pooks Hill Marriott Hotel. The purpose is to promote interactions and discussions between researchers studying embryonic and adult mammalian stem cells and basic researchers working in other areas such as chromatin, gene expression, cell cycle, cell signaling and development. NIGMS hopes to learn how best to stimulate research that will advance knowledge of the basic biology of mammalian stem cells.

Keynote speakers Drs. Jamie Thomson and Marc Kirschner will kick off the workshop at 7:45 p.m., Sunday, June 9. The meeting will continue Monday, June 10, from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. NIHers are welcome to attend the free meeting, but should register by May 10 to reserve a seat. For more information, contact Dr. Judith Greenberg at greenbej@nigms.nih.gov or 594-0943. To see the meeting agenda, list of speakers, and to obtain a registration form, visit <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/stemcellworkshop/>. ■

Blood Samples Needed

An NIH study is recruiting healthy African-American, Taiwanese and Japanese adults to donate 1 teaspoon 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 or older. Compensation will be provided. Those interested should contact D.J. McCloskey, 496-5150.



ANTI-BIOTERROR FACILITIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gathering of young researchers in Lipsett Amphitheater Mar. 14 to give an overview of the threat and how to combat it. "This topic has dominated our thinking for the last several months," he said.

Unlike biowarfare, which is aimed against troops to achieve military objectives, bioterrorism is targeted at civilians, and need not necessarily result in immediate casualties, Kindt explained. "One can instill a lot of terror even without a lot of death and destruction." He gave an overview of historical uses of bioweapons ranging from the Middle Ages, when

the corpses of plague victims were catapulted toward the enemy, to 1763, when British troops used blankets and handkerchiefs to spread smallpox to the Delaware Indians at Ft. Pitt, to World War I, when an animal disease known as glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*) was used, not too successfully, by German soldiers to sicken the Allies' horses, mules and sheep, to the modern era. Within the past 70 years, developed nations have alternately embraced, and then rejected, use of such weapons in war.

Until about 20 years ago, bioweaponry was

restricted to state vs. state warfare, which was a condition worrisome enough. But starting with the tainting of Tylenol with cyanide on store shelves in 1982, there has been a succession of incidents involving the use of pathogens by individuals or small groups to spread terror. Kindt touched briefly on some infamous cases: the Rajneesh cult's use of salmonella to poison salad bars in 1984, the attack by the Aum Shinrikyo group on the Tokyo subway system in 1995, when nerve gas killed 12 and sickened 5,000 people, and the discovery in 1995, based on information provided by defectors, that both Iraq and Russia had large and poorly managed bioweapons programs. With the world already on alert from these incidents, enter the anthrax poisonings of fall 2001, a crime that made bioterrorism a threat that Kindt said was, finally, "too real to ignore."

Focusing primarily on his institute's response to bioterrorism, Kindt first pointed out that NIAID and NIH play complementary roles with sister agencies within HHS in the event of an attack; CDC, FDA

and the Office of Public Health Preparedness are also players in the response. While he conceded that there are "an incredible number of things" a clever and well-trained scientist could do to cook up a dangerous or novel pathogen, Kindt said that so-called "Class A" agents are the most likely candidates to be employed against civilians. These include smallpox, anthrax, plague, botulinum toxin, tularemia, and some hemorrhagic fever viruses, many of which share common characteristics: they result in high morbidity and mortality, they offer the potential for person-to-person transmission, a low infective dose is required to start large damage, and the pathogen can be aerosolized, or spread in a mist. Further characteristics of the most likely agents include an ability to contaminate food and water, a

Medicine's chief vulnerability to date has been a dearth of state-of-the-art research on pathogens due to a lack of facilities equipped to study such bugs safely.

tendency not to be treatable, an ability to cause anxiety, and, finally, they can be weaponized.

Key factors in a federal reaction to an incident, said Kindt, include early detection of the pathogen, a rapid public health response, and the availability of vaccines or therapies for those exposed. NIH, he said, is contributing to readiness via basic research including genomics of the organisms and host responses to them, and the development of diagnostics, vaccines and antimicrobials.

Medicine's chief vulnerability to date has been a dearth of state-of-the-art research on pathogens due to a lack of facilities equipped to study such bugs safely, Kindt said. He emphasized that the "same levels of expertise and facilities" are needed to address such unintentional public health threats as MDR-TB and Ebola as are required to answer the deliberate threats posed by terrorists.

He reviewed the escalating series of safety rules governing pathogen research, ranging from BSL-1 (biosafety level 1), which is characteristic of most labs at NIH, to BSL-4, the level requiring the most extensive safety measures, including full-body suits, and sophisticated filtering and decontamination of everything going into and out of the lab.

At NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratories, in Hamilton, Mont., a new BSL-3 facility has just opened, Kindt said; it is focusing on TB and Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*). RML scientists are also studying *Yersinia pestis* (plague), and have recently developed an animal model in which vaccine testing can begin, he reported. Other bugs under investigation within NIAID include strep, pox virus, vac-



The carpool parking lot just east of Bldg. 31's C wing will be the site of the new Bldg. B, which will be dedicated to research on agents used in bioterrorism, and on emerging pathogens.

cinia, anthrax, and tick-borne encephalitis (West Nile virus), for which a vaccine is nearly ready for testing.

"But we need some new facilities to make our program really fly," Kindt added. He said a new BSL 3/4 facility at RML has been funded, and described a new campus building dedicated to counter-bioterrorism and emerging disease research—Bldg. B, which will include BSL-3 labs. "Bldg. B will feature 175,000 gross square feet of space, including six floors and a ground-floor vivarium. We're in the conceptual design phase now." Groundbreaking for the new lab building is expected in mid to late 2003, with completion anticipated in 2005.

Kindt also said that NIAID's Twinbrook III Bldg. is going to get an expanded BSL-3 capacity, which should be available by December 2003, and announced that a BSL-4 facility is in the planning stages for the Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center. He cautioned that it isn't just the recent anthrax attacks that have prompted the new push for facilities. "Two years ago," Kindt said, "the Raub report [written by former NIH acting director Dr. William Raub] and other reports concluded that we were neglecting a large number of infectious organisms, mainly due to a lack of facilities for studying them."

"There are major threats of bioterrorism out there," he concluded. "We must do the research and development necessary to defend against any of the agents that might be used." ■

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>.

Budget Tracking	4/4
Data Warehouse Analyze: Budget & Finance	4/4
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint for the PC	4/4
HTML Topics	4/5
Data Warehouse Query: Human Resources Fellowship Payment	4/8
Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data	4/9-10
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	4/9
Using Photoshop to Work with Scientific Images	4/11
Getting Started with GCG	4/11
Basic Security Principles	4/11
Introduction to FrontPage 2000	4/12
Data Warehouse Query: Human Resources	4/12
WHALES - Web Homology ALert Service	4/15
Statistical Analysis of Microarray Data	4/15
Fundamentals of Unix	4/16-18
Parachute for Windows	4/16
Advanced FileMaker Pro 5	4/16
Advanced Sequence Analysis Using the Wisconsin Package (GCG)	4/17-18
Security Auditor's Research Assistant (SARA) Basics	4/17

Employees 'Wake Up & Walk'

OD Exercise Campaign Catches On

You must have seen the OD employees who decided to "Wake Up and Walk." You couldn't miss the 140 OD'ers stretching and walking their way to improved fitness. They were everywhere—campus, Rockledge and Executive Blvd.

The campaign was established by the OD EEO advisory committee to reach out to employees who do not regularly

exercise. It was a tremendous success. Using pedometers as an incentive and trainers as motivators, employees in the original campaign walked twice each week from Oct. 2 through Dec. 5.

Accolades and gratitude from the employees continue to arrive. Participants report feeling more energetic to confront afternoon work demands. Many indicate that they have lost weight and a few report that it has helped them with their diabetes. Employees from many different organizations walked together. Many did not know each other previously and, as a bonus, new networks were formed. Some workplace assignments will be completed more smoothly because of these new contacts.

The OD campaign was developed because of NIH's interest in the health of its employees. Dr. Yvonne Maddox, NIH acting deputy director, was very encouraging. She presented the concept to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson during his fall visit. He was so enthusiastic that he suggested the "Wake Up and Walk" slogan.

The success of the effort is further demonstrated by the many informal groups that have organized and continue to walk on a regular basis. The camaraderie and energy continue to grow. A plan to expand the campaign is also under discussion. ■

Healthy Women Needed for Study

NICHD is seeking Hispanic or Caucasian women, ages 18-32, to participate in a research study comparing bone density. You may be eligible if you have no medical conditions, or an irregular menstrual cycle, are not pregnant, nursing or planning pregnancy over the next 3 years, do not use oral contraceptives or prescribed medications, smoke fewer than 2 cigarettes per day and drink fewer than 2 alcoholic drinks per day. Participation involves four visits over a 3-year period, blood test, bone density test, urine tests and cognitive testing. Compensation is provided. Call 435-7926 for more information. ■



Participants in the OD exercise campaign high step during warm-up routines.



Dr. William Benzing recently joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator for the brain disorders and clinical neuroscience 2 study section. He comes to CSR from Gliatech, Inc., in Cleveland. He earned a Ph.D. in neurosciences from the University of California, San Diego, where he studied the development of the senile plaques that form in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. He then moved to Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, where he conducted studies that focused upon the neurotransmitter, galanin, including its phylogenetic differences among primates and its expression during human development, aging, and Alzheimer's disease.

CASSMAN DEPARTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and database development. We are only at the beginning of this trend."

Cassman also recognized that solving the most challenging—and interesting—problems in biology often requires wide-ranging scientific expertise. As NIGMS director, he sought to promote such interdisciplinary, multi-institutional approaches through a number of initiatives, including structural genomics, pharmacogenetics, and large-scale collaborations known as "glue" grants.

In their own right, these programs are significant to the scientific community, says Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo, director of the NIGMS Division of Extramural Activities. "But they are particularly noteworthy because they exemplify the 'new' [collaborative] approach to science—multidisciplinary and multi-institutional. Marvin astutely recognized the value of this approach very early and instituted far-reaching programs that took full advantage of it."

"Such thought and insight and action, enabling the scientific community to realize important progress in cutting-edge areas, have [consistently] characterized Marvin's work," says Dr. Michael Rogers, director of the NIGMS Division of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry. He points to Cassman's launch, years before becoming NIGMS director, of a program to determine the molecular structures of AIDS-related proteins. The program advanced the methodology of structure-based drug design; structures determined under the program led directly to one new anti-AIDS drug and paved the way for others.

Cassman also initiated the NIGMS Shared Instrumentation Program that funded major equipment used by several biomedical researchers. This program became a model for similar efforts at NIH and other government agencies.

He is also recognized for inspiring his colleagues. "Marvin has a knack for getting the best out of people. He creates an atmosphere in which people come up with good ideas and then encourages them to turn these ideas into reality," says Dr. Judith Greenberg, director of the NIGMS Division of Genetics and Developmental Biology. Greenberg will serve as acting director of the institute after Cassman's departure.

Cassman's NIH career was spent entirely at NIGMS. He began in 1975 as a health scientist administrator, then founded and directed the NIGMS program in biophysics and physiological sciences, rose to deputy director, and finally became director of the institute in August 1996.

He is very fond of the Washington, D.C., area and says there are just a few places for which he would leave it. San Francisco is one of them. "I like the city, I like the environment and I look forward to interacting with the stellar group of scientists at QB3. It's a very stimulating atmosphere in science.

There is also the opera, the symphony, hiking—all sorts of things to do."

As he leaves Bethesda, Cassman says he will miss "the people who work here, but also the friends we've made." He also looks forward to rejoining other friends. "Both me and my wife lived [in San Francisco] many years ago and we still have friends there."

QB3 is a consortium of University of California schools in San Francisco, Berkeley and Santa Cruz. Its headquarters are at UCSF's new Mission Bay campus, now under construction on San Francisco's eastern waterfront. Established in December 2000, the institute focuses on areas such as bioengineering, structural biology, bioinformatics and the analysis of complex biological systems. ■

AAN Honors NINDS's Moore

Dr. David Moore, a clinical fellow in the NINDS Developmental and Metabolic Neurology Branch, was recently selected to receive the S. Weir Mitchell Award from the American Academy of Neurology. The award is given annually to a junior AAN member who is senior author of a research-based manuscript, and is designed to encourage basic

research in neuroscience by physicians in clinical neurology training programs.

Moore's manuscript, "White Matter Lesions in Fabry Disease Occur in Prior Selectively Hypometabolic and Hyperperfused Brain Regions: A Pathophysiological Model of Leukoaraiosis," describes his recent work on the etiology of leukoaraiosis in Fabry disease.

Leukoaraiosis is a term



Dr. David Moore

applied to abnormal areas of white matter found on computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging scans of the brain. These areas often develop during normal aging, have been associated with decreased speed of thinking and mild memory impairment, and may be caused by impaired blood vessel control and decreased white matter blood flow over a long period of time. A more complete understanding of the mechanisms involved in the development of leukoaraiosis could lead to treatment strategies to prevent the cognitive decline associated with this disorder.

Since coming to NINDS, Moore has also received the 2001 Oldendorf Award from the American Society of Neuroimaging and the NIH Bench-to-Bedside Award in 2001. With the Mitchell award, which is named for a noted neurologist and one of the "fathers" of American neurology, Moore will receive \$1,000 and a medallion. ■

Mayyasi Retires from CSR

By Don Luckett

Though the world is in turmoil, Dr. Sami Mayyasi speaks softly. "I feel very much at peace," he said, as he retired from the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator of its AIDS study section, which reviews AIDS immunology and pathogenesis grant applications. His sense of peace comes with a sense of gratitude. He arrived in this country from Palestine in 1947 just before his family lost their home in the conflict there. "I did my job and, in a way, paid back what this country gave me."



Dr. Sami Mayyasi

Early in life, Mayyasi dreamed of becoming a physician and helping others. He earned a B.A. and an M.S. in microbiology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Circumstances, however, led him to graduate school at Ohio State University. In 1953, he earned a Ph.D. in virology there, studying the effects of temperature and humidity on the infectivity of influenza and polio viruses. He continued his research there with an Eli Lilly postdoctoral research fellowship. He then joined the Army Chemical Corps at Ft. Detrick, where he spent 2 years studying the growth of viruses in tissue cultures and developing methods to detect early viral infections.

Mayyasi went on to help tackle some serious threats to public health. In 1957, he began a 23-year research career with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. As manager of vaccine development at its Terre Haute, Ind., laboratory, he guided the development of the company's first influenza vaccine. He then geared up production of the Salk polio vaccine as head of its virus unit. In 1961, he was called to the Pfizer laboratories in Sandwich, England, where he coordinated the production, testing and licensing of the Sabin oral polio vaccine for children. Mayyasi also coordinated the production and licensing of a live attenuated measles vaccine.

In 1963, he moved to Pfizer Cancer Research Labs in Maywood, N.J., to further research on viruses associated with cancer. He was appointed assistant director there in 1972. His group grew oncogenic viruses in tissue cultures and developed methods to purify and measure them and related antibodies for further research. Much of this work was done under contract for the National Cancer Institute. Between 1973 and 1979, he also served as an adjunct professor of virology at Fairleigh Dickinson

University in Rutherford, N.J.

He briefly served as president of a company that conducted toxicology studies, Biosphere Research Center, Inc., in New York City, between 1980 and 1981. He then was recruited by Lederle Laboratories to head its department of tissue culture in Pearl River, N.Y.

Mayyasi came to NIH in 1983 as an expert in the Training Branch of the National Cancer Institute. Four years later, he was recruited by CSR's predecessor, the Division of Research Grants, to help coordinate the review of AIDS-related grant applications.

When colleagues heard he was retiring, they sent letters of good wishes that filled a notebook. Dr. Glen Gaulton from the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center praised Mayyasi for his "continued kindness" and "generosity of spirit" and Dr. Joseph G. Sodroski of Harvard Medical School summed up the comments of many when he said that Mayyasi's "dedication, integrity and commitment to fairness have been inspiring."

Mayyasi says he may travel with his wife to Hungary, play more tennis, visit with his family, and look for a new opportunity to help others. He has not, however, made elaborate plans. "I want to rest," he said. "I'll just take my time and then decide what I'll do." ■

HRDD Class Offerings

The Human Resource Development Division supports the development of NIH human resources through consultation and provides training, career development programs and other services designed to enhance organizational performance. For more information call 496-6211 or visit <http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov>.

Federal Supply Schedules	4/9
How To Coach Your Employees	4/9
Interacting with Difficult Employees	4/9
Time and Attendance for Supervisors Using ITAS	4/9
Consolidated Purchasing Through Contracts	4/10
How To Delegate Effectively	4/10
IMPAC II Comm Management for GTAs and Review Staff	4/10
Introduction to MS Word 2000	4/10
Buying from Businesses on the Open Market	4/11
How To Foster Creative Thinking	4/11
Position Management	4/11
Basic Employee Benefits for Personnelists	4/15-19
Enhancing Your Management Style	4/15, 16
IMPAC II Peer Review Module	4/17
Professional Service Orders	4/17
Scientific and Technical Writing	4/17, 18, 19
Stressed For Success! Achieving Work/Life Balance	4/18

Personnel Meeting Features Collins

The Montgomery County chapter of the International Personnel Management Association will hold its 2002 training and development conference "Thriving in Change" at the Bethesda Hyatt Regency on Tuesday, Apr. 23. Keynote speaker is Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. Topics include the Role of HR in Emergency Preparedness, Personal Security in the Workplace, HR Best Practices, HR Survival Strategies, and Leadership Strategies in Challenging Times. For registration information, visit <http://www-hrm.info.nih.gov/ipma-mc/impaconference/index.html>, or contact Patti Jennings, jenningsp@mail.nih.gov or Chris Clements, clementc@mail.nih.gov, 402-0508.

Former NHLBI Deputy Frommer Dies

Dr. Peter L. Frommer, former longtime NHLBI deputy director who retired in 1997, died Mar. 7 after a stroke. He had been battling cancer for 3 years.

Frommer was a pioneer in biomedical engineering. He served as NHLBI deputy director for 20 years—the cap to a distinguished 36-year federal career that included an appointment as a Public Health Service assistant surgeon general, or rear admiral.

"I knew Peter for 32 years and he was both a colleague and a friend," said NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant. "He was someone you could always rely on. He was knowledgeable, far-sighted, innovative and dedicated. He was committed not just to getting the job done but to getting it done in the best way possible."

"His achievements are numerous," Lenfant added, "and his influence will continue to be felt for a long time. He was involved in some of the most important research undertaken by the institute. He helped create programs in myocardial infarction and new approaches to research that brought together basic and clinical studies."

"I knew him for almost 30 years and he was wonderful to work with," said Dr. Lawrence Friedman, special assistant to the director. "His contributions to the institute and to science were many and range broadly. A key one was his involvement in the methodological aspects of clinical trials. We had many discussions through the years about the design and interpretation of clinical trials. He also was instrumental in the institute's collaborations with private industry, particularly in clinical trials."

"He was a much-respected colleague. I can't put into words how greatly he will be missed," said Friedman.

"I met Pete in 1960, shortly after I arrived at what was then the National Heart Institute," recalled Dr. Robert Levine, professor of internal medicine and co-chair of the Yale University interdisciplinary program in bioethics. "We were in different laboratories and started out mostly as social friends, playing chess. With time, I left the NIH and he stayed on, but we remained close."

"Pete was always very concerned about getting all the research done in a way that was highly responsive to people's needs," Levine continued. "He was very much a people person and that was one of the reasons why the institute took the lead in the protection of human subjects in trials and the



Dr. Peter L. Frommer

creation of data and safety monitoring boards. Pete wanted to keep ethics involved in research planning and we had many talks about that and other policy issues.

"There were times when he was under a lot of stress but he never complained," added Levine. "He was always upbeat and good-natured."

Frommer was born in Budapest in 1932, and he and his family left Hungary in 1939, moving first to Australia, then to Chicago, and finally to Cincinnati.

He earned a degree in electrical engineering at the University of Cincinnati College of Engineering in 1954 and, 4 years later, an M.D. from Harvard Medical School.

In 1959, he joined the National Heart Institute's intramural Laboratory of Technical Development. In 1961, he returned to the University of Cincinnati for a residency in internal medicine at the medical center. But, a few years later, he rejoined NHI as a senior investigator and attending physician in the intramural Cardiology Branch, where he helped establish biomedical engineering as a tool for research in cardiology.

In 1966, Frommer moved to the extramural side and the next year became chief of the Myocardial Infarction Branch. His achievements there included helping to set up research programs on the prevention of sudden death and to create a program on myocardial infarction that led to the establishment of myocardial infarction research units.

In 1973, he became associate director for cardiology in the newly created Division of Heart and Vascular Diseases. He helped reorient the U.S. artificial heart program from radioisotope-powered systems to focus on electrically energized cardiac assist and replacement devices. He also helped lay the groundwork for the coronary artery surgery study, which compared the long-term results of coronary bypass surgery to those of medical treatment of ischemic heart disease.

In 1978, he became NHLBI deputy director. After retiring in 1997, Frommer continued to be involved in various projects as deputy director emeritus, including the initiation of clinical trials.

He is survived by his wife Ellen, four children and 11 grandchildren. ■

Weight Management Study

The Uniformed Services University is looking for otherwise healthy, overweight women between the ages of 18-60 who are not pregnant or nursing to participate in an ongoing study examining the impact of different diets on taste perception. Applicants should not smoke, have allergies to milk or pudding, or have problems with thyroid, kidney, heart disease, diabetes or uncontrolled hypertension. Program and materials provided at no cost. If interested, call (301) 295-9666. ■

Female Vols Needed

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

NCI Mourns Loss of Epidemiologist Thomas

Dr. Terry Thomas, a senior staff scientist at the National Cancer Institute and a leading contributor to studies of radiation health effects in the former Soviet Union, died of cancer Mar. 3 at her home in Silver Spring. She was 53.

Thomas is remembered for her "natural talent for epidemiology and her deep commitment to public health," said Dr.

Joseph Fraumeni, director of NCI's Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics. "She became a scientific ambassador for NIH over the past few years, working closely with a variety of scientists from several countries on a very complex epidemiological investigation into the Chernobyl disaster,"



Dr. Terry Thomas

he said. "She renewed and invigorated the project at a critically important time, and we are deeply indebted to her."

Thomas began her career at NCI in 1971, shortly after graduating from the University of Colorado in Boulder with a degree in sociology. While employed as a statistical assistant in NCI's Epidemiology Branch, she went on to obtain a master's degree in biostatistics at Georgetown University in 1977 and a doctoral degree in occupational health from Johns Hopkins University in 1986.

"She had a lot of drive," said Dr. Gilbert Beebe, NCI scientist emeritus. "She was a very determined lady and an incredible worker."

Thomas's early NCI research focused on occupational cancer, particularly brain cancer among petrochemical workers and lung cancer related to silica and talc exposure.

"Those were the early days of trying to integrate industrial hygiene and epidemiological studies," said Dr. Robert Hoover, director of NCI's Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program. "Terry was one of the pioneers in integrating better measurements of what people were exposed to on the job. She was tenacious, combining good, sound epidemiology skills with the ability to work with a variety of people to get the job done."

In 1987, Thomas left NCI to join the Department of Veterans Affairs where she studied the effects of Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Four years later, she joined the Department of Energy and began research on the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the former Soviet Union.

"Throughout her career, Terry had a propensity for taking on epidemiology where it's not so easy to do—in submarines and Chernobyl," said Dr. Trisha Hartge, NCI deputy director of epidemiology and

biostatistics. "If the answers demanded you go to the ends of the earth and be uncomfortable getting there, she'd do it. She was profoundly interested in getting answers in a practical and careful way."

Thomas continued to explore the effects of radiation throughout her career, joining several international study groups researching occupational and radiation health issues.

That interest brought her back to NCI in 1999, where she played a vital leadership role in reshaping the Collaborative Chernobyl Research Program.

"Dr. Thomas traveled extensively, investigating leukemia among the men tasked with cleaning up Chernobyl and thyroid cancer among children," Beebe said. "She worked overseas with such spirit; she will be tremendously missed by her many friends and colleagues in Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine. She contributed so much to the program."

Thomas was also a dedicated educator. From 1994 to 1999, she was an associate professor and division director at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda. While there, she conducted research on the health of submariners. She also taught courses at George Washington University and Georgetown University Medical School.

"Terry loved epidemiology and she communicated that enthusiasm to her students," said her husband, Dr. Mike Radtke, of the Center for Scientific Review. "Just days before she died, she was signing off on the thesis cover sheets sent to her by her students. She worked right up until the end. If she said she'd do something, she got it done."

Thomas coauthored or authored more than 30 peer-reviewed journal articles. She was a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. Her private pursuits included travel, gourmet food, gardening and aerobic exercise. She was an aerobics instructor for more than a decade and walked the 60-mile Avon Breast Cancer Three-Day Walk in 2000.

She is survived by her husband, of Silver Spring, Md.; stepchildren Alesia Booth of Sykesville, Md. and Matthew Radtke of Urbana, Md.; her mother, Marjorie Duel of Columbia, Md.; and two sisters, Deborah Padgett of Newport News, Va. and Pamela Herbert of Fairfax, Va. ■

Healthy Women Needed

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is seeking healthy women ages 18-55, or 60 and older to participate in an ovarian function study involving five brief outpatient visits. Blood draws, ultrasound and an injection of a natural body hormone are involved. You may be eligible if you do not smoke or take any drugs including birth control. A past pregnancy is necessary. Compensation is provided. Call 594-3839. ■



Dr. Richard Wyatt has joined the Vaccine Research Center as chief of the structural virology section in the Laboratory of Virology. He comes to NIH from Boston, where he was an instructor and conducted research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard School of Medicine. His research team will focus on the structural and functional relationships of HIV-1 outer coat envelope glycoproteins and their relationship with neutralizing antibodies, one type of the body's defenders against infection. Wyatt's laboratory will investigate how to manipulate gp120 glycoprotein subunits to provoke an enhanced immune response to HIV possessing the capacity for virus neutralization.

NLM Internship Program for Tribal Members

The dictionary defines outreach as "an organized effort to extend services beyond usual limits, as to particular segments of a community." A new initiative adds depth and breadth to the National Library of Medicine's outreach efforts to Native Americans.

In January, two members of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Richard Mayer, management information services director, and Deborah Thompson, health administrator for the Three Affiliated Tribes, began a 1-year internship at NLM's Special-



On hand to welcome new NLM interns are (from l) Gale Dutcher, head of the Office of Outreach and Special Populations, Specialized Information Services (SIS); Kent Smith, deputy director; Marti Szczur, acting associate director, SIS; Richard Mayer, Three Affiliated Tribes; Dr. Donald Lindberg, director; Deborah Thompson, Three Affiliated Tribes; and Cynthia Gaines, technical information specialist, SIS.

ized Information Services Division. The program was created to help representatives of minority organizations learn about information technology, information dissemination and the use of health information resources. It is supported by the

National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities and NLM.

Mayer and Thompson will continue their regular tribal duties during their internship. They will attend orientation and training at NLM and work with staff members involved in a wide variety of programs. They will also advise staff on the development and dissemination of materials to improve Native Americans' access to NLM's information resources.

In addition, they will travel to other parts of the country for conferences, and meet with and learn from others involved in health information dissemination and the application of information technology to improve health. The internship culminates in the development and implementation of a project to improve access to health information on the Ft. Berthold Reservation, North Dakota, home of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

The Specialized Information Services Division, where Mayer and Thompson will intern, is responsible for information resources and services in toxicology, environmental health, chemistry, HIV/AIDS, and specialized topics in minority health. ■

Healthy Families Needed

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

NIEHS Publishes Kids' Book

Sharon, a young girl, sets out on a quest to find the environment, which her teacher, Miss Clark, says people need to keep clean. Herman, a squirrel who seems to know more than he's telling, helps Sharon look.

Sharon is the main character in a new read-along children's book published by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Although the printed version of *Sharon Finds the Environment* is new to bookshelves, Sharon has been tested and praised by young readers on the NIEHS Kids' Page for more than a year, accessible through the NIEHS web site at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov>. In fact, there is a second Sharon story also on the web, along with other stories, games, music and much else.

NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden said, "Young people can begin to grasp the concept of the environment very early, to know that what goes down the drain doesn't just disappear, and that people have to cooperate to keep the environment healthy." He said the booklet is ideal for parents or other adults to read to children, or for children with early reading skills to read for themselves. The book has 14 pages balanced between text and large, colorful art.

Even before the original artwork was added, the text and clip art from the web site received a Department of Health and Human Services Plain Language Award in March 2001. The text was written by NIEHS News Director Tom Hawkins and was field tested on various nieces, nephews, kids, and grandchildren of people in his office, all of whom came up with helpful suggestions.

Copies of *Sharon Finds the Environment* are available at no cost for single copies or in limited quantities for use by schools, clinics, public health departments, pediatric practices, libraries, health fairs, etc., by phoning (919) 541-3345, or by emailing booklet@niehs.nih.gov. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Suzanne R. Pfeffer on Apr. 10, speaking on "Regulation of Receptor Trafficking by Rab GTPases." She is professor and chairman of biochemistry, Stanford University School of Medicine.

On Apr. 17, Dr. Norman R. Pace, professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, University of Colorado, will give a talk on "Molecular Microbial Ecology: In Hot Springs and Human Disease."

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