

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Family Lodge Dedicated with Major Gift by Safra Foundation

By Dianne Needham

Personal stories can have a positive public result, as is demonstrated in the case of the family lodge planned for NIH.

A ceremony marking the naming of the facility was held Apr. 17 at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The Foundation for the NIH formally accepted a \$3 million donation from the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation and announced the dedication of the Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge at NIH.

It was a personal story that caught the eye of Lily Safra, wife of the late Edmond Safra, who passed away in 1999. In the FNIH annual report she read the account of a patient with metastatic kidney cancer whose local doctor had told him nothing more could be done, but that NIH was con-

SEE FAMILY LODGE, PAGE 8

New Firehouse Will Replace Aging Facility, Due in March 2003

By Rich McManus

There are such things as oldies but goodies, but the current NIH firehouse—in operation since 1950—isn't one of them; it's



Chief Gary Hess

creaking, cracking walls took additional, albeit verbal, blows on Apr. 23 as NIH officials touted its successor—a new 22,000-square foot facility scheduled to debut in March 2003—at a groundbreaking ceremony held near the pit where work has already begun.

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Zerhouni To Be 15th NIH Director

By Rich McManus

Dr. Elias Zerhouni (pronounced eh-LEE-as zer-HOO-nee) was confirmed, by unanimous voice vote of the full U.S. Senate on May 2, to become 15th director of the National Institutes of Health. Two days earlier, at a 75-minute confirmation hearing before the Senate committee on health, education, labor, and pensions chaired by Sen. Ted Kennedy (which also voted unanimously to confirm), Zerhouni offered a preliminary vision of his plans for NIH, which include relying not only on the creative spark of the individual scientist, but also on a "new science" approach emphasizing multidisciplinary teams working in concert.

A successful administrator, entrepreneur, basic scientist and clinician himself during more than a quarter century at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Zerhouni, who appeared with his



Dr. Elias Zerhouni

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The 'Haves' Still 'Racialize' Have-nots, Says Holt

By Rich McManus

Jazz and blues singer Billie Holiday sang it many years ago, and the Bible said it even earlier than that: "Them that's got shall get, them that's not shall lose," which capsulizes a message given by scholar Dr. Thomas C. Holt at the inaugural talk in a new series launched by NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities on Apr. 11. Wealthy elites of the new global economy still depend, as did their economic ancestors of the 16th century trans-Atlantic slave trade, on the cheap labor of an exploitable workforce. Economic might, Holt argues, determines most facets of the political economy of any historical era; the wealthy, therefore, can "racialize," or stigmatize and exploit, whatever group constitutes



Dr. Thomas C. Holt

SEE HOLT LECTURE, PAGE 4

NIEHS' Robertson Collects Books, Illustrations

By Colleen Chandler

He intended to be a chemist, but it apparently wasn't in the books for him. Then again, maybe it was.

NIEHS library director William Davenport Robertson, better known as "Dav," is surrounded by books these days, both at home and at work.

Since he came to NIEHS as the first professional librarian in 1977, when the institute's book collection numbered maybe a thousand, the library has grown to 25,000 books and 500 subscriptions and has gone from the bookshelves into cyberspace. About 75 percent of the library's journals are now available online, and the library proudly offers its electronic resources to scientists in search of information.

But it is the real thing—the old standby hard-backs—that draws Robertson's attention. In the latter half of the 19th century, printers began printing books on acidic paper. Unless those books are kept away from light and moisture, they deteriorate. In another 50 to 100 years, the literary history of that time period will literally be in crumbles, Robertson said.

His old-book collecting days began years ago when he stumbled across an old Sax Rohmer mystery novel from

the 1930s in his mother-in-law's attic. He found himself looking for—and finding—more of Rohmer's books.

He searches old book stores and other likely sources for first editions, preferably signed by the author. All told, he says he has about 150 books that are "worth something." No doubt he has plenty more with value that cannot be defined in monetary terms.

In addition to Rohmer, Robertson collects mysteries from modern mystery writer Nevada Barr and North Carolina mystery writer Margaret Maron.

A native of Hickory, N.C., Robertson also collects books on the history of western North Carolina. One of his favorites, *Happy Valley*, is a genealogy of the William Lenoir family that settled in western North Carolina before the American Revolution. Lenoir was Robertson's great great great great grandfather. Robertson is named after William Davenport Robertson, who married Lenoir's daughter and built Walnut Fountain, a historic home that still stands today near Lenoir, the town named for the family.

Other Robertson favorites are in the Rivers of America series that also began in the 1930s. Books

in that series provide historical accounts of riverside communities, and give information on natural history, human settlement and geology, he said.

Robertson has always had somewhat of a hankering for history. After he discovered in college that lab work was not for him, he became a history major at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in East Asian history.

He thought he had found his calling, and joined the Peace Corps. He spent 2 years in Korea, teaching English at a university and developed a bond with the people there. He said he realized that he was not interested in studying these people, but he maintains a cultural interest in the art and history of the region.

He returned to the United States and to Carolina to study library science. Recently, he was elected to the position of chapter cabinet chair-elect for the Special Libraries Association, an international association of libraries from 60 countries. ■

Community Orchestra Concert, June 1

The NIH Community Orchestra will perform on Saturday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Figge Theater on the campus of Georgetown Preparatory School, 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Selections will include: Bach—Brandenburg #4; Daum—Psalm 9:11; Verdi—Hymn and Triumphal March from *Aida*; Haydn—Symphony #100; Sibelius—*Finlandia*. For more information email Gary Daum at gldaum@gprep.org. ■



NIEHS library director Dav Robertson collects old books and illustrations such as the artwork by N.C. Wyeth that became the cover of *Treasure Island*. His collection includes children's books, nature handbooks for kids and young adults, mysteries and books on natural history and western North Carolina history.

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Kolb To Give Pittman Lecture, May 29

Dr. Helga E. Kolb, professor in the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the John Moran Eye Center, University of Utah in Salt Lake City, will deliver the annual Margaret Pittman Lecture (which had to be postponed from last October) on Wednesday, May 29 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

In a lecture titled, "The Organization of the Vertebrate Retina," she will describe the neural circuitry and basic design of the vertebrate retina along with the manner in which the various neurons in the pathways "talk" to each other. She will discuss comparisons between the organization of the photoreceptor mosaics and the consequent differences in design of the whole retina in different species as an adaptation to the environment in which they live.

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

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

Rothstein To Give Solowey Lecture

Dr. Jeffrey D. Rothstein will present the 2002 Mathilde Solowey Lecture Award in the Neurosciences on Thursday, May 16 at noon in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. He is a professor of neurology and neuroscience in the department of neurology at Johns Hopkins University. The topic of his presentation will be "Stumbles and Twitches: How Disorders of Glutamate Transporters Contribute to Neurological Disease."

The lecture is sponsored by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences. A reception will follow the talk. For more information, call FAES at 496-7975. ■

Muscular Leg Pain?

If it is caused by blocked arteries and it occurs with activity but improves with rest call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 for more information on a new study. ■

NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program Holds Two Events, May 17 and 28

This year, the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Program will celebrate its 30th anniversary. All are invited to join in the festivities, which consist of two lunchtime programs on May 17 and 28, respectively. Details of the events are as follows:

Friday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bldg. 31A patio: There will be sales of food from China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. In addition, the event will feature a bonsai exhibition and demonstrations of calligraphy, and floral arrangement (Ikebana), and a performance by Korean drummers.

Tuesday, May 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10: There will be a program of classical Chinese, Indian and Japanese music and dances performed by the Hua Sha Chinese Dance Center, Pushpanjali School of Dance, and the Kikuyuki Dancers, respectively, and story telling by Linda Fang.

A reception in the Visitor Information Center will immediately follow the program. Everyone is invited to the reception to meet the artists and to sample Asian pastries and snacks. There is no admission charge for the performance and reception, and no reservations are necessary.

The NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American heritage committee, the NIH Asian/Pacific Islander American Organization, various ICs, NIHFCU and the R&W Association are sponsors for the programs. For information on reasonable accommodation, contact Michael Chew, 496-6301. Sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information about the events, contact Victor Fung, 435-3504, vf6n@nih.gov.

GM Scientific Conference, June 4-5

Some of the world's foremost researchers will present their latest findings on "New Directions in Cancer Treatment" at this year's General Motors Cancer Research Foundation annual scientific conference, June 4-5, in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. In addition, the NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series on June 5 will host presentations by each of the winners of the 2002 General Motors Cancer Research Foundation Awards. NIH investigators and staff are invited to attend the conference, which starts at 8:15 a.m., June 4, in Masur. There is no registration. Program details are available at <http://www4.od.nih.gov/gmcrf/>. For more information, contact GMCRF at (919) 668-8018 or email ruemk001@surgeries.duke.edu. ■



Dr. Ronald Suddendorf has moved to the Center for Scientific Review to become an assistant chief in its Receipt and Referral Division. He comes from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, where he was a scientific review administrator. He received a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Arizona by advancing analytical methods for elemental analysis. He then joined the Food and Drug Administration and developed bioanalytical methods for identifying toxic and nutritional elements in foods, biological tissues, and environmental samples. Before coming to NIAAA, he evaluated data supplied by pharmaceutical companies to ensure the safety of food products from animals treated with new drugs.

HOLT LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the impoverished of the moment.

In United States history, the vulnerable group happened to be of African American heritage, and we are still extricating ourselves from the consequences of their exploitation, 400 years after it started and nearly 140 years after emancipation. Nowadays, however, it is just as likely to be poor women in Thailand or Mexico who form an economic underclass, identifiable not necessarily by physical characteristic but by financial status. Poverty alone, not skin color or other physical quality, tends to determine where people live, how they live and with whom they can freely associate, not to mention how their health fares during the life cycle.

Though his talk was dense and encyclopedic, with references to popular culture (music, sports),



Holt (r) is interviewed following his talk by Dr. Harold Freeman, director of NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities.

economics, history and politics (much time was devoted to deconstructing the meaning of two prominent black lives—Michael Jordan's and Colin Powell's), it

was when Holt, a native of Southside Virginia, spoke more colloquially of his own life, and that of his father and 3-year-old daughter, that the lecture came more vividly alive.

He recalled growing up in a segregated society where blacks were never seen or heard in the media. "When I grew up, it was unusual to see a black person on television or hear one on the radio. When we'd take a drive up Interstate 95, it wouldn't be until we got near New York City that we could hear black people on the radio. In our town, it was a great cause of celebration when a black person made it on TV. It was a big deal, too, in those days to see a black basketball or football player. And you could forget about golf, tennis or ice hockey."

Holt said his father served in a segregated Army during World War II in the Pacific, yet notes that the modern U.S. Army was recently led by Gen. Powell. "Clearly there had been a seismic shift between one generation and another," he said.

Beyond taking note of racism's influence on the everyday commerce of human interaction, which he doesn't scant, Holt framed his talk in terms of a prophecy issued by W.E.B. Dubois in 1903 that the "color line" would be the major problem of the 20th century in America. "What was most striking about this prophecy was not just the recognition that racism was and would continue to be a

problem...but that Dubois perceived the multinational or global dimensions of the problem," including colonialism going on at the time in Asia and Africa. "[Dubois] recognized the insidious, more powerful aspects that lay beneath the violence on the surface," Holt argued, concluding that it was global monopoly capital that was changing the basis of how groups treated one another.

Because he has a young daughter to whom he dedicates his most recent book, Holt, who is James Westfall Thompson professor of American and African American history at the University of Chicago, now asks if race will dominate the 21st century. "It continues to be a problem of extraordinary scope and pervasiveness," he declared.

Racism, he explained, is the meaning that people attribute to different bodies and cultures, not something that inheres in a particular group. "To put it simply, God didn't make races, people do." The meanings of race have changed over the course of modern history, he added. "The meaning of race and the forms racism takes are not innate, primordial or arising from within; they arise from the political economy...Race should be thought of as a verb rather than a noun. It's the process by which people identify, segment-off and stigmatize another group. Any group can be racialized; the Turks now living in Germany are racialized. The Chinese were considered a heathen, unassimilable race in the American West of the 1800s, but not now."

Holt described three historical periods or "racial regimes": pre-Fordist, which coincides with the start of the slave trade, when a "racialized" workforce became crucial to production on a world scale; Fordist (after Henry Ford's invention of the assembly line), when it was recognized that the worker is also a consumer, and Northern cities became industrial centers; and post-Fordist, an era still dominated by multinational corporations that tend to be more dispersed globally and which relies on a "newly racialized" class of workers.

Each era carried with it signature phenomena on the part of subjugated workers who, in the earliest periods, simply ran away to other geographic locations, and later learned to use boycotts, strikes and labor union actions to express resistance. States, too, became more powerful players, arbitrating private-sector conflicts and providing, via welfare, a softening of the impact of the business cycle.

Today, says Holt, "race no longer follows a color line—whites are exploited too in certain cultures, for example if they come from Turkey or Vietnam." The current "postmodern" era is marked by interdependence among nation-states, and is a time when even values and identities have become consumable. "Our existence has never before been so commodified," Holt said.

He noted that blacks are no longer almost solely economic producers, but “are still racialized in a different way and to different purposes. Blacks are today more part of the consumption end of the economy than the productive end—witness Michael Jordan—and serve more symbolic purposes for American life than clear economic exploitation as in former times.”

One of those purposes became evident following the events of 9/11; Holt has noted that the face of American power these days is more black—including Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, a national security adviser to President Bush—which he claims has also made a difference in how America is perceived abroad. He has also noted in the media an “ostentatious embrace of diversity in the U.S.,” a phenomenon that he suspects “has little effect on real issues like affirmative action. It’s easier to do symbolically than on a practical level.” Immigration policy, too, is tightening, and has become more contentious.

He concluded by warning that the era of the slave ships, thought to be long over, is not entirely out of view yet: sweat shops employing Thai and Mexican women were uncovered in the summer of 1995 in Los Angeles, and continue to be found in some of the world’s global cities. “Our fates,” he cautioned, “are linked with theirs, both in an emotional and historical sense.” ■

Human-Machine Interface Explored

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) will hold a Science for All module titled, “Cyberscience: Biomedical Applications of Human-Machine Interfaces,” on Wednesday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to noon in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Cutting edge technology and recent advances in biomedical research are providing a glimpse into the future, with the melding of biology and engineering. These advances sweep across multiple scientific disciplines and applied technologies: neural prostheses, augmented sensory systems and robot-assisted surgery are a few examples from a broad spectrum of research activities.

The module will explore how some of these new technological advances are being used both to augment the performance of the human body and to restore lost function. Attendees can expect to be both entertained and intellectually invigorated by specific examples of what biomedical science has already delivered, and more amazingly, what it promises to deliver in the future, in the evolving story of the merging of man and machine, say organizers. Attendees earn ESA credit.

The Center for Information Technology’s adopted school, Woodrow Wilson High School, held its annual science fair recently; two Division of Computational Bioscience staff scientists, Charles Schwieters and Alex Wang, helped judge the entries, along with volunteers from other federal agencies, including the Department of Energy. After spending hours reviewing more than 95



submissions, the judges handed out 24 prizes, including honorable mentions, during the awards ceremony. The first-place winners are also entitled to enter their winning projects in this year’s District of Columbia citywide science fair, where

they will compete with other local high school science fair winners. Also attending the awards ceremony was Gloria Richardson (l), CIT’s diversity and employee concerns officer; she is the main contact between CIT and Woodrow Wilson High. CIT adopted the school in 1992 to encourage and support area students interested in mathematics, science and technology. With Richardson are a few of this year’s winners.

Tessier-Lavigne Inaugurates CSR Director’s Seminar

All are invited to attend the first annual CSR Director’s Seminar, which will feature a lecture by Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne on the formation of nerve connections in the brain and spinal cord: “The Logic and Molecular Mechanisms of Axon Guidance, Branching and Regeneration.” It will be held on Wednesday, May 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 3087 in the Rockledge 2 Bldg.

Tessier-Lavigne will discuss the different mechanisms that control the growth of neural connections, highlight his recent studies in this area, and discuss the possibility of regenerating these connections following paralyzing injury. Like future CSR Director’s Seminars, this one will provide NIH and CSR staff an opportunity to learn about and discuss an emerging area of science.



Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne

With his colleagues, Tessier-Lavigne has identified the first known chemoattractants and the first known branching factors for developing nerve cells in vertebrates. He has also been at the forefront of discoveries of other brain wiring proteins and receptor mechanisms.

Tessier-Lavigne is the Susan B. Ford professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences and professor of biological sciences at Stanford University. He is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University before earning his Ph.D. in physiology from University College London. He has received grants from NIDCR and NIMH.

For information and reasonable accommodation, call Dr. Marcia Steinberg at 435-1023. ■

ZERHOUNI, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mother, his wife Nadia and three children, as well as with a friend from his native Algeria whom he has known since the sixth grade, fielded mostly compliments from Kennedy's committee, who called him a "rare find," an encapsulation of the American dream, and a man whose trademark humility should not, in the words of Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), prevent him from "going at it with both fists [in Congress] to get everything you can get for NIH."

Committee members Sen. Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, along with Sen. Barbara Mikulski, also of Maryland, offered introductory biographical details about Zerhouni (see below). Establishing a friendly tone from the outset, Sarbanes even told the hearing that his wife, a schoolteacher, had instructed Zerhouni's daughter Yasmin and gained "a very positive impression of the family."

Zerhouni, who was most recently executive vice dean of the Hopkins medical school, chair of its department of radiology and radiological science, and professor of radiology and biomedical engineering, said his experience in Baltimore has taught him that he could not succeed without getting input from

many scientific disciplines, from the most basic to the most clinical. With respect to the former, he declared, "I am convinced that further fundamental discovery will help us face future challenges in health care." He added, "We still have to make discoveries that will facilitate the way we deliver health care." Calling for a more rapid translation of the fruits of basic research to patient care, he said, "Biomedical research in the year 2002 is at a turning point that may require new strategies." He then produced two items: a DNA chip, representing a "revolution in technology that is unprecedented in its rate and scale," and a tiny needle whose point was nonetheless larger than an individual cell, which holds "all human DNA—the entire molecular machinery...While we have discovered the component parts of the human genome, the real challenge for the 21st century is to discover how all the parts work together. That is the biggest challenge for medicine." The quest will require multidisciplinary teams and cross-cutting initiatives, he said, as well as the "creative spark of the individual that leads to new knowledge and progress."

New Director No Stranger to NIH

President Bush's choice to lead NIH is not a stranger either to the agency or government. In 1985, he was a consultant to the White House, and is currently a principal investigator on three NIH grants and coinvestigator on two others. He also holds five patents, one singularly and four jointly. His 35-page curriculum vitae lists 157 publications as author or coauthor, and 11 book chapters.

According to a biographical sketch prepared by Johns Hopkins, Dr. Elias Adam Zerhouni, 51, was born in Nedroma, Algeria, a small mountain town on French Algeria's western border. He was one of eight children and his dad taught math and physics. He came to the U.S. at age 24, having earned his medical degree at the University of Algiers School of Medicine in 1975. He completed his residency in diagnostic radiology at Hopkins in 1978 as chief resident. Except for a 4-year stint in the department of radiology at Eastern Virginia Medical School, he has spent his entire career at Johns Hopkins.

Zerhouni's choice of radiology, says the Hopkins bio, reflects the influence of his maternal uncle, a well-known radiologist who trained in France and



Dr. Elias Zerhouni

Sweden. "He showed Dr. Zerhouni the world's first CT scan images of the brain soon after they were made by England's Dr. Godfrey Hounsfield, prompting his nephew's pursuit of radiology, a

field that combined his interests in physics and mathematics with medicine. (A poignant honor for Dr. Zerhouni earlier this year was his appointment as Hounsfield lecturer at the European Congress of Radiology.)"

Zerhouni is credited with having "led efforts at Hopkins to restructure the school of medicine's Clinical Practice Association; developed a comprehensive strategic plan for research; helped reorganize the school's academic leadership and worked with elected officials to plan a major biotechnology research park and urban revitalization project near the Hopkins medical campus...Zerhouni believes that bringing the fruits of biomedical research to the bedside requires integration of discover-

ies across basic science and clinical disciplines, a departure from traditional specialty 'silos' characteristic of academic medicine. He is known as an innovator with a knack for identifying major trends within complex situations, defining a vision and building consensus for action."

The Hopkins biography concludes, "Married to Nadia Azza, a pediatrician and medical school classmate whom he met when both qualified for the Algerian national swimming team during high school, the couple has three children. Will, 25, is a second-year student at Harvard Law School. Yasmin, 22, just finished her undergraduate work at Columbia University and will pursue a master's degree in education at Columbia. Adam, 16, is a junior at the Severn School in Severna Park, Md., where the family lives. Now fluent in English, French and Arabic, and conversant in German as well, Zerhouni plays lute and piano ('neither very well!' he insists) and shares an enthusiasm for opera and tennis with his wife [who works at the international adoption clinic at Johns Hopkins]." He adds, "Free and scuba diving with the kids is something we love doing, too."

Zerhouni—who has also been vice dean for research at Hopkins, as well as a member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine since 2000, and has served on NCI's board of scientific advisors since 1998—acknowledged that advances in genome and stem cell science have given rise to “deep moral issues” and that the debate over such issues “can be polarizing.” He said he had made a series of personal visits with senators to discuss his views on these and other issues, and concluded, “Disease knows no politics—NIH must serve all of us...it must not be factional, but must remain factual.” NIH's role is to present data to inform debate on moral issues, he said.

One of his greatest recent successes at Hopkins was securing funds to establish an Institute of Cell Engineering, which is expected to take advantage of stem cell research, an area where federal funding has lagged to date, he said.

He completed his opening statement by acknowledging the outstanding service of Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, who has been acting NIH director since Jan. 1, 2000 (she was also hailed by virtually every member of the committee, and was recognized with an ovation) and the advice of NIH's last director, Dr. Harold Varmus. “Both have been very helpful to me during this process,” said Zerhouni.

Echoing a sentiment he expressed at his Mar. 26 nomination ceremony at the White House, Zerhouni concluded, “As an immigrant, I am very touched by being here today. It says about our great country what no other country can say about itself.”

Kennedy began the questioning, asking Zerhouni what he hoped to achieve as director. “I want to reestablish morale and momentum, and provide the vision and energy to recruit a number of institute directors in order to make the agency even more effective than it has been,” Zerhouni said. He added that priority-setting would be a major challenge. “Science is evolving at such a pace that cross-cutting initiatives need to be encouraged,” he continued. He said he would work to enhance interactions among scientists, identify bottlenecks to research progress and address them.

He also said scientists need more resources, and proposed a National Molecular Library, which could quickly provide researchers with biological molecules of interest. “That's my own notion,” he cautioned. “I haven't yet sought the advice of my peers.” He also mused about a National Institute of Emerging Biotechnologies, to take advantage of a broad range of breakthroughs in such areas as nanotechnology.

On other issues, Zerhouni said he would live within established guidelines on stem cells and conduct such research in an “open and transparent” manner; emphasized that NIH should play a major role in “ingraining a culture of safety” in trials involving humans; explained that clinical trials have

their own “ecosystem” that must be managed and understood; and maintained NIH must do more to understand the self-destructive behaviors that lie behind much preventable disease.

Asked a very broad question by Mikulski concerning managing everything from fire trucks to Nobel Prize winners, along with recruiting and retaining minority investigators, Zerhouni calmly admitted that he didn't have a catch-all answer in his pocket. Mikulski laughed, “I'm sure the White House warned you not to break new ground or break any knuckles today.” Zerhouni said the loss of capable minorities was the number-one problem in biomedical training, observing that science does a good job of attracting such trainees, but a poor job of keeping them. “It took me 5 years to break in to being funded by NIH,” he commiserated. “I think role models could play an important role in enticing new scientists to stay.”

Kennedy ended the hearing by congratulating President Bush on nominating such a strong candidate. “I think our country is very fortunate to have Dr. Zerhouni at the helm of the NIH, and the world is, too.” ■

Three NIH'ers—Kay Johnson-Graham (l), Rose Pruitt (c) and Dr. Arlyn Garcia-Perez—were honored recently at the inaugural Women of Color in Health, Science and Technology Awards Conference in Nashville, Tenn. Cohosted by Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology magazine, U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine, Women of Color Conference magazine, Career Communications Group, Inc. and U.S. Alliance Group, the annual award recognizes “exceptional



achievements of distinguished women who have excelled in the fields of health, science and technology.” Johnson-Graham, EEO officer and minority outreach coordinator for NIDCD and NINR, was honored for affirmative action in government; Pruitt, program director in NIDDK's Office of Minority Health Research Coordination, was cited for community service in government; and Garcia-Perez, assistant director of NIH's Office of Intramural Research, earned recognition for advancing health care in America.

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American University is offering free group treatment for smokers who want to quit as part of a research study in the psychology department. To learn more, call (202) 885-1784. ■



Dr. Shen Yang has joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator for the SSS-1 study section, which reviews small business grant applications for the oncological sciences integrated review group. He earned his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Yale University, studying conformational changes of t-RNA. In postdoctoral studies there, he worked on sequencing RNA and purifying aminoacyl-t-RNA synthase for RNA-protein interaction studies. He then studied carcinogen metabolism and the liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry interface at the California Institute of Technology. Yang continued his metabolic research as an NCI senior staff fellow. Prior to coming to CSR, he was involved in metabolic and pharmacokinetic research at DuPont Pharmaceuticals and at Merial.

FAMILY LODGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ducting a clinical study that might help. The patient would undergo an experimental bone marrow transplant at the Clinical Center, which obliged him and his wife to remain nearby for several months.

When that story drew Mrs. Safra's attention, she stepped forward with a contribution to the foundation's Family Lodge Campaign. Her husband had suffered from Parkinson's disease so she knew firsthand about the challenges of being a daily caregiver. Unlike many families dealing with illness, however, she possessed the financial resources to ease the burden. It was her empathy for patients and their families in their most dire moments that inspired Mrs. Safra's gift.

At a mid-day ceremony in the Senate caucus room, she said the lodge reflects "the spirit and values" of her late husband. "When my husband became ill, my world narrowed quickly. Helping Edmond was not my most important goal; it was my only goal," she said.

The lodge is planned as a temporary residence for caregivers of patients taking part in clinical trials. CC director Dr. John Gallin told the audience that patients come from every state in the union, traveling great distances because of the hope that NIH provides—hope that "our research will save their lives, or improve the lives of family members, or the lives of others who have their disease." He noted that patients frequently spend months in the Clinical Center and that it becomes their home away from home. Despite special amenities such as recreation rooms, a gym and a school, he said there was more that could be done.

Gallin expressed concern about two things in particular. "The stress of chronic and severe illness is enormous, especially when far away from home, and too many families fracture. What is missing is a convenient place near the hospital to take a break and get a moment of solitude, or take a nap, or get



Celebrating the dedication of the Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge at a ceremony on Capitol Hill are (from l): Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula; Foundation for NIH board of directors chairman Dr. Charles Sanders; Lily Safra; actor and patient advocate Michael J. Fox; NBC-TV anchorwoman Barbara Harrison; and Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy.

a good night's sleep," he said. "And following intensive therapy patients and family members need a facility where they can transition to home. They need a place where they can gain confidence in home-care procedures in order to gain independence from the hospital."

Offering thanks to Lily Safra and the Safra Foundation, as well as to partners in industry, for their generous gifts, Gallin said the lodge would be a much-needed refuge to welcome and comfort caregivers. He predicts the facility will become an important model for other clinical research centers.

NBC's morning news co-anchor Barbara Harrison moderated the event. The program also included FNIH board chairman Dr. Charles Sanders, actor and patient advocate Michael J. Fox (who also suffers from Parkinson's disease), Ohio Congressman Ralph Regula, Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, and Dr. Patricia Grady, director, National Institute of Nursing Research.

"This is what the American people are all about, helping people help others. As people committed to giving, Lily we thank you," said Sanders. Regula noted, "Mrs. Safra, the Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge will stand as a monument for years. Those who will never know you will realize that your gift says there are those who care."

"I want to thank Lily Safra for the work she does," added Fox. "Her gift here represents the high standard she brings to everything she does."

Both Kennedy and Grady agreed with Gallin that the lodge might become a model for others to follow. "Patients get better more quickly when they have a family member nearby and their treatment is more effective," said Kennedy, adding that he hoped news of the Safra Family Lodge would soon "echo forth, causing it to be replicated throughout the

Residents of the lodge (rendered below) will find amenities that reflect the comforts of home as well as the support and companionship of others facing similar challenges. Groundbreaking will occur this summer with completion projected for 2003.



country and world.”

“Patients are often discharged from a hospital without knowing how to cope with their conditions,” Grady observed. “Their caregivers are challenged, too. Caregivers need special knowledge to deal with many challenging issues and attend to their own health as well. An NIH program to address these issues for Safra Family Lodge residents would provide lasting benefits as they return home and pick up their caregiving responsibilities again. The program could become a model for other research and care organizations to follow.”

Residents will find amenities that reflect the comforts of home as well as the support and companionship of others facing similar challenges. Groundbreaking for the lodge will occur this summer with completion projected for 2003.

A Tribute to Edmond J. Safra

During his lifetime, Edmond J. Safra, considered by many to have been the 20th century’s greatest private banker, quietly conducted a major philanthropic mission. Rarely taking personal credit, he supported thousands of students, underwrote medical research, built and restored schools and synagogues as well as churches and mosques, endowed professorships and contributed to countless humanitarian, religious, educational and cultural causes. He founded the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation in 1999 to carry forward his philanthropic heritage.



Edmond J. Safra

After Safra’s tragic death, the foundation and his wife, Lily, who was a charter member of the foundation and serves on its council, supported many projects consistent with his vision and in his memory. With the dedication of the Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge at NIH, his foundation carries forth Safra’s lifetime commitment to medical research and humanitarian causes.—Dianne Needham

Drug Treatment for INCL

Help doctors at NIH determine if a drug called Cystagon can be an effective treatment for INCL—infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis. For more information call 1-800-411-1222 or 1-866-411-1010 (TTY). ■

Five Join Women’s Health Advisory Committee

Five new members recently joined the NIH advisory committee on research on women’s health. They are: Myrna Blythe, senior vice president, publishing director and editor-in-chief of *Ladies Home Journal* and *More* magazines; Dr. Otis Brawley, associate director for cancer detection, control and intervention, Emory University Winship Cancer Institute; Teri Fontenot, president and chief executive officer, Woman’s Hospital, Baton Rouge; Dr. Martha A. Medrano, director, Hispanic Center of Excellence, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; and Irene Pollin, founder and chairperson, Sister to Sister Foundation.



Blythe has worked with the Office of Research on Women’s Health for many years to bring women’s health research to the public. She was an official American delegate for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and served on the host committee that organized the Beijing Plus Five meeting.

Brawley is an oncologist with a wealth of experience in cancer detection, control and community prevention, particularly among minority populations. As cochair of the Surgeon General’s task force on cancer health disparities and former director of NCI’s Office of Special Populations, he is adept at marshaling federal resources to further research and improve health.

Fontenot brings to the ACRWH many years of experience in hospital and health care administration. Her organizational expertise and financial perspective will provide unique insights into trends in health care that affect women’s health research.

Medrano, a psychiatrist with a degree in public health, is an expert on the effects of childhood trauma on women drug addicts and has worked to develop cultural competence teaching materials at the University of Texas.

Pollin has long been an asset to the Washington, D.C., community; as president and founder of the Linda Pollin Foundation, she works to improve the psychological care of chronically ill patients and their families. ■

On hand at a meeting of the advisory committee on research on women’s health are (front, from l) Irene Pollin, ORWH director Dr. Vivian Pimm, and Myrna Blythe. At rear are (from l) Joyce Rudick, ORWH director of programs and management; Dr. Martha Medrano; Dr. Otis Brawley; and Teri Fontenot.

Have Premature Ovarian Failure (POF)?

NIH offers a variety of studies for POF. If you are 18-42, you may be able to take part. Call 1-800-411-1222 or 1-866-411-1010 TTY. ■

NEW FIREHOUSE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new building, located on a 1.7-acre site near the county firehouse at the corner of Old Georgetown Rd. and Cedar Ln., is actually a two-building, T-shaped complex and will be everything the present NIH firehouse, Bldg. 12—built initially as a garage and maintenance facility—isn't. It will have room for eight vehicles in a drive-thru lane, and a two-story segment with space for administrative offices (the Fire Protection Services office in Bldg. 15G2 will relocate there), the fire station operations office, and plenty of living, dining and sleeping areas for the two platoons that will call it home.

"Chief [Gary] Hess and his staff have done an absolutely outstanding job of protecting the 21,000 people on this campus from a wide variety of hazards," said NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein at the brief outdoor ceremony. "The fire department is especially important to me because I not only work here, I live here [in one of a handful of on-campus residences]."

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



Clifford said the project is a highlight of his 32-year NIH career.

Since the events of 9/11, people have come to realize the important role fire fighters play in our society, Kirschstein observed. "Three hundred-forty three fire fighters lost their lives on that day, which reminds us of the incredible bravery, commitment and selflessness it takes to become a fire fighter... You are and will always be our heroes."

She pointed out that Bldg. 12 was funded during the 81st Congress as part of the original Clinical Center construction budget. Ten years later, it was home to two divisions—the Division of Research Services and the Division of Business Operations. The structure needed modifications as early as 1956, she reported, when electric heat was installed. But eventually it could no longer adapt to the needs of a growing campus.

Although Congress funded the replacement firehouse in 1996, it has taken time to design and site the facility on a campus already burgeoning with new construction, Kirschstein said. "We have come a long way, but construction of this facility will be a major accomplishment for NIH. It will benefit not only our employees and visitors, but also the surrounding community."

"It's a little difficult to find a piece of ground at NIH that hasn't been broken yet," quipped Tony Clifford, director of the Division of Engineering Services, ORS. He said Chief Hess had given him a tour recently of Bldg. 12, and Clifford, an engineer, noticed strain gauges—instruments that measure stress—on the walls. "The living quarters there are very tight, the quality is poor, and the bunk beds are so close to the ceiling that fire fighters have to avoid bumping their heads when they pop up at night to answer the klaxon." Clifford, who called the



Participating in the groundbreaking are (from l) NIH acting director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Associate Director for Research Services Steve Ficca, DES Director Anthony Clifford, Hess, and Dexroy Chism, project officer.

project one of the most important in his 32-year NIH career, noted that fire fighters had converted an old car-wash adjacent to Bldg. 12 into a bunk facility, and that as the fire department bought more apparatus, more vehicles were parked outdoors. "It's tough answering a call on a winter night when the first thing you have to do is scrape ice off the truck's windshield," he said.

Steve Ficca, director of the Office of Research Services, congratulated the fire department's parent Division of Public Service for outstanding service and caring since the events of 9/11 and said he is "looking forward to a strengthened, improved and much-enhanced fire department that will be exemplary in public service." The NIH fire fighters will assist both the National Naval Medical Center across Rockville Pike from NIH, and the nearby county, he added.

Chief Hess, who has been at NIH for 16 years, recalled a stint earlier in his fire-fighting career at Walter Reed Army Hospital: "On my first day on the job, the captain showed me plans for a new firehouse. Well, my son works there now, and it's still not built!" He acknowledged that planning for NIH's firehouse, also known as Bldg. 51, took time, but said, "It's a really good feeling to see it coming out of the ground." He said members of the fire and emergency response section, which is the department's formal title, work 72-hour weeks in rotating 24-hour shifts. "They're basically here as much as they are at home." As in a large family, he continued, life can become contentious, particularly when members are confined to close quarters. "Sometimes it's hard to get along, particularly when the call load runs heavy. This new facility will be such an improvement."

He said the building will house an instrument shop where firefighters can repair and calibrate tools, a self-contained breathing apparatus shop, and a fire



extinguisher maintenance facility, to keep the campus' population of some 4,000 extinguishers in working order. "And the days of scraping ice (off windshields) at 2 a.m. will end," he declared.

Hess noted that his section answered 1,446 calls in 1995, and more than 7,000 calls last year. "Already we are running ahead of last year's rate," he said. "We're running more multiple calls, too. It used to be that you ran fires; now we're running EMT (emergency medical technician), confined-space calls, and hazmat calls (especially during the anthrax scare last fall)."

As guests enjoyed refreshments after the ceremonial groundbreaking, workmen continued to lay footers for the new building. There is no pausing now that the project is under way. ■

Dr. Van S. Hubbard, director of NIH's Division of Nutrition Research Coordination and chief of NIDDK's Nutritional Sciences Branch, is the first recipient of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity's (NAASO) George Bray Founders Award. Presented to him recently at NAASO's annual meeting held in conjunction with National Nutrition Week in San Diego, the award recognized his outstanding contributions in advancing the scientific and clinical aspects of understanding and treating obesity. He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry and his M.D. degree from the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. Prior to coming to NIH in 1976, he completed an internship and residency in the department of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Hospitals, Minneapolis. He currently represents NIH on a number of interagency and interdepartmental committees concerned with obesity, nutritional sciences and food safety. He is the colead for the nutrition and overweight focus area of Healthy People 2010.



BIG Hosts Spring Fashion Show, May 16

The Young Adult Resource Development (YARD) committee will present its first annual spring fashion show extravaganza, "Dressing for Success in the Workplace," on Thursday, May 16 in the Natcher Conference Center, Balcony B from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The YARD committee of the NIH chapter of Blacks in Government addresses the needs of and develops opportunities for African-American young adults employed at NIH. The committee's mission is to promote personal development, professionalism and excellence in government by sponsoring activities that enhance communication and leadership skills and strengthen relationships between generations. For more information or reasonable accommodation, contact Felecia Taylor, 594-2463 or taylorf@ep.niams.nih.gov. ■

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>.

Budget Formulation	5/21, 22
Successful Management at NIH	5/22, 23, 24
Consulting Skills for Human Resources Professionals	5/23, 24
Purchase Card Training	5/24
Intermediate MS PowerPoint 2000	5/28
Advanced Project Management	5/29, 30
Intermediate MS Access 2000	5/29
Processing Personnel Actions: A Refresher	5/29, 30
Price Reasonableness in Simplified Acquisitions	5/30
Introduction to MS Excel 2000	6/3

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>.

Hands-On EndNote 5 for Windows	5/14
WIG - World Wide Web Interest Group	5/14
MapViewer Quick Start	5/14
Building a Secure Home Network	5/15
Data Warehouse Query: Research Contracts & Grants	5/15
IT Investment Review (Capital Planning and Investment Control)	5/16
Data Warehouse Query: Procurement & Market Requisitions	5/16
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint for the PC	5/17
Windows XP - What's New	5/20
Data Warehouse Query: Human Resources Fellowship Payment	5/21
Macintosh OS X - What's New for Users	5/22
Elementary S-PLUS 2000	5/23
Data Warehouse Query: Budget & Finance	5/23
Finding NIH Employee Information on the Web	5/29

NIH Library Offers Training

Learn something new this season at any of the free, hands-on classes applicable to researchers, summer hires, and nurses, among others. A listing of the summer 2002 seminars is now posted on the NIH Library training page at <http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/training/calendar.pdf>. Of special note is the new class, Alternatives in Animal Research. ■



Dr. Mariela Shirley has joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific reviewer administrator for the SSS-N study section, which reviews grant applications for the risk, prevention and health behavior integrated review group. She has studied behavioral interventions to minimize cancer treatment distress and evaluated alcohol use in patients at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo. She also evaluated alcohol use typologies at the Research Institute on Addictions in Buffalo. Shirley then studied health care utilization in comorbid individuals and evaluated brief interventions at the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto, Canada. Before coming to CSR, she was an assistant professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Box Seats to Orioles Games

The R&W has season tickets to see the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards. Tickets are still available for a variety of home games. R&W has first-base line tickets that include a pair of field box seats for \$68 in section 14, row BBB and four terrace box seats in section 12 row NN for \$108. For more information on available game dates or to purchase tickets, call the activities desk, 496-4600 or stop by Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W30. Don't forget about the R&W bullpen party on July 13 when the O's take on the Oakland Athletics.

NIH Holds Health and Safety Expo, June 11

Want to step back from the day-to-day work to see the "big picture" of the National Institutes of Health? Of course, NIH is one of the world's foremost medical research centers, and a lot of exciting work goes on here. But what exactly does that mean to you as an employee or as a health care consumer? What does it mean to your family and friends?

The NIH Health and Safety Expo on Tuesday, June 11 will help answer these questions. It will provide an easy way to experience and understand the range of NIH's research, and to learn about the workplace safety and health programs that exist here to support employees.



Dr. Carole Heilman

The expo will kick off at 10 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, with "Biodefense: The Response and Role of NIH," presented by Dr. Carole Heilman, director of NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

Then from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bldg. 10, exhibitors from various NIH institutes, centers, and programs will host fun and interactive displays in the Visitor Information Center and in the B1 lobby.

The purpose of the expo is to help employees lead happier and healthier lives.

NCI's Freeman Honored by UCSF

Dr. Harold P. Freeman, director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, NCI, is one of four recipients of the UCSF Medal, the most prestigious honor bestowed by the University of California, San Francisco; it is given annually to individuals who have made outstanding personal contributions associated with the university's health science mission. He received the award at the university's Founders Day banquet on Apr. 25.

Freeman, who is chairman of the President's Cancer Panel and medical director of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Prevention and Care in New York City, was described in a UCSF press release as "a national advocate for poor and underserved patients who has focused critical attention and research on their needs and has argued that poverty and diminished access to healthcare are the principal underlying causes of racial disparities in death rates from cancer and other diseases." ■

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is having another open season from May 15 through July 31, 2002. FERS employees who were hired before July 1, 2002, as well as CSRS employees have an opportunity to change their election or make an initial election.

Eligible FERS employees may elect to contribute up to 12 percent of their salary this open season and will receive matching agency contributions on the first 5 percent (once they become eligible for the agency contributions, i.e., the second open season after being hired). CSRS employees may contribute up to 7 percent of salary this open season, but do not receive agency contributions. FERS employees who do not contribute receive an automatic 1 percent agency contribution each pay period (once they become eligible to receive agency contributions).

The features of the TSP and directions on how to make an election or to change your current withholding are described in the Thrift Savings Plan Open Season leaflet, which will be distributed to eligible employees by their IC personnel office. More detailed information is provided in the *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees* booklet and is available in your IC personnel office.

Both the leaflet and the booklet explain how you can allocate your contributions and any agency contributions among the five TSP funds. ■

Cancer Prevention Fellowships Available

The Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP) provides a foundation for clinicians and scientists to train in the field of cancer prevention and control. As part of the program, master of public health training is offered at accredited universities during the first year, followed by up to 4 years of mentored research with investigators at NCI.

In addition to opportunities for cutting-edge basic science laboratory studies, epidemiologic research and behavioral research that have been hallmarks of the program since its inception in 1986, new tracks are offered in clinical cancer prevention and in the ethics of public health and prevention. Other educational opportunities are provided throughout the fellowship period to complement the fellows' training, including the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention, molecular prevention laboratory training, leadership and professional development training, the weekly NCI Cancer Prevention and Control Colloquia Series and weekly fellows' research meeting, as well as a variety of training opportunities outside NCI. The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2002. For more information visit <http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/pob/> or contact Barbara Redding, 496-8640. ■