Nobel Laureates To Speak, June 12

The NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series on June 12 will host a doubleheader with two Nobel laureates as the featured speakers. Drs. Paul Greengard and Eric Kandel won the prize in physiology or medicine in 2000, along with Dr. Arvid Carlsson of Sweden. They will give the Florence S. Mahoney Lecture on Aging for the National Institute on Aging.

Greengard will begin his lecture, "The Neurobiology of Slow Synaptic Transmission," at 2:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Kandel will speak at 3:30 p.m. on "Molecular Biology of Memory and Its Disorders: Some

Children's Inn To Make Room for More Families

By Carla Garnett

Hoping never again to have to say "there's no room at the inn," officials at the Children's Inn at NIH broke ground on Apr. 24 for an addition to the enormously successful 12-year-old temporary residence for families of children undergoing treatment at the Clinical Center.

"Fourteen years ago when many of you were here for the first groundbreaking, you did so with high hopes," recalled John Taylor, executive vice president of the Merck Co. Foundation, which pledged $3.7 million to build the new two-level wing. The recent donation brings Merck's total contribution to more than $9 million for the inn's construction and maintenance over the past decade and a half.

"You dreamed that this unique public-private partnership was going to work well and that the Children's Inn would be a comfortable place that would provide a refuge to

NIH Rocks!

Youngsters Bring Vitality to Workplace

Like a sort of magic bullet pharmaceutical, injected into the veins of a bulky patient, the 1,400-some children who participated in Take Your Child to Work Day 2002 at NIH on Apr. 25 brought smiles and vitality everywhere they went. They could be found working their transformation literally everywhere, from the lobby exhibit at the National Library of Medicine, to the 14th floor of the Clinical Center, to the Children's Inn and points in between. At each stop, NIH employees and volunteers hung out the shingle of openness and affection to a very special group of children—our own. And from most accounts, the kids loved their parents’ and caregivers' workplace.

Sure, there were really special

Children were invited to make TYCW posters at day's end.
tors and canvassers in Wilson Hall.

The theme for this year's campaign, headed by NICHD, is "Save for Your Future." Alexander reminded the crowd that money invested in Savings Bonds not only helps individual investors, but also helps finance the country's borrowing needs, which are growing again in response to terrorism threats. He added that in uncertain financial times, bonds are a safe means to save for a new home, car, vacation, education, retirement, or just for a rainy day.

"Savings Bonds are guaranteed with the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, which will replace them if they have been lost, stolen or destroyed," Alexander said.

Bonds also provide an important tax advantage, he said. Interest earned on them is exempt from state and local income tax. Buyers can defer paying federal income tax on the interest earned until cashing their bonds in or until the bonds stop earning interest in 30 years. In addition, there are special tax benefits available for investors who use bonds to finance higher education.

Alexander provided an overview of the two kinds of Savings Bonds. Series I bonds are sold at full face value at a fixed interest rate that is assigned at the time of purchase. Every 6 months, an inflation-adjusted rate is added to the fixed rate to keep pace with inflation. Series EE bonds—recently renamed Patriot Bonds, after the Sept. 11 tragedy—are sold at half their face value and guaranteed to reach their face value after 17 years. Their interest rate is calculated at 90 percent of the 6-month average of 5 year U. S. Treasury securities.

Alexander told NIH'ers of three easy ways to buy Savings Bonds: Payroll Savings Plan—a set amount can be deducted from each paycheck; Easy Saver Plan—the money can be automatically deducted from a checking or savings account; Direct Online Purchase—bonds can be bought through a secure credit card transaction on the web at www.savingsbonds.gov.

Those who sign up for the payroll savings plan will be eligible for a raffle drawing on July 10. Prizes include $100 Savings Bonds, a gift certificate to Montgomery Mall and more. To purchase bonds, or for more information, NIH staffers should see their bond coordinator or canvasser.

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President Honors NIH Grantees

President Bush on May 9 announced winners of the 2001 National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology, the nation's highest honors in these fields; seven of the 19 individuals recognized have been or remain NIH grantees.

The science medals are awarded in six categories. NIH winners include, from the category Biological Sciences: Dr. Francisco J. Ayala, University of California, Irvine (NIGMS); Dr. Mario R. Capecchi, University of Utah School of Medicine (NIGMS, NICHD); Dr. Ann M. Graybiel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (NINDS, NIDA, NEI, NICHD, NIMH); Dr. Victor A. McKusick, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (NIGMS, NCRR, NHGRI, NIDCR); and former NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus, now president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (NCI, NIAID).

Honored from the category of Chemistry was Dr. Ernest R. Davidson, Indiana University (NIGMS, NCRR).

Among the National Medal of Technology laureates for 2001 was Dr. Sidney Pestka, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (NIAID, NCI, NCRR).

The science medals are administered by the National Science Foundation and were established by Congress in 1959. The honor has been conferred on 401 scientists since then. The technology medals are administered by the Department of Commerce and were established by Congress in 1980. Thus far, the honor has been bestowed on 120 individuals and 12 companies.
appointed in 1973 by acting NIH director Dr. John Sherman to cochair a 22-member special committee to review NIH's equal opportunity programs. Thirty years later, Laster continues to consult agency leaders on diversity and minority employment issues, and on planning and development of such special emphasis programs as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday and African American History Month observances, as well as Take Your Child to Work Day activities. Maddox, who also presented Laster with a formal letter of commendation, noted that "NIH owes O.H. a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many years of hard work, creativity and commitment to the advancement of equal opportunity employment issues."

Dr. Roderic I. Pettigrew has been named first director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. He is currently professor of radiology, medicine (cardiology) and bioengineering and director of the Emory Center for MR Research, Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. He is expected to begin his appointment in late August or early September 2002. NIBIB was established in December 2000 and awarded its first grants in April 2002. Its mission is to improve health by supporting fundamental research in bioengineering and bioimaging science and transferring the results to medical applications. The institute also coordinates ongoing efforts of NIH centers and institutes and exchanges information with other federal agencies. Pettigrew is known for his pioneering work at Emory involving dynamic three-dimensional imaging of the heart using magnetic resonance (MR). He also was codeveloper of the first computer software package specifically designed for cardiac imaging using MRI. He has received multiple grants from NIH for his research on cardiac imaging. More information on Pettigrew and NIBIB can be found at: http://www.nibib.nih.gov.

O.H. Laster, who retired from the Office of Equal Opportunity in 2000, accepts a plaque of appreciation from then NIH acting deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox. A fixture here since starting his NIH career as an NCI training officer and conference coordinator in 1972, Laster was appointed in 1973 by acting NIH director Dr. John Sherman to cochair a 22-member special committee to review NIH's equal opportunity programs. Thirty years later, Laster continues to consult agency leaders on diversity and minority employment issues, and on planning and development of such special emphasis programs as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday and African American History Month observances, as well as Take Your Child to Work Day activities. Maddox, who also presented Laster with a formal letter of commendation, noted that "NIH owes O.H. a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many years of hard work, creativity and commitment to the advancement of equal opportunity employment issues."

Academies Induct Four NIH'ers

Four NIH scientists are among an elite class of new inductees to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, both of which announced their 2002 honorees at the end of April. Dr. Adriaan Bax, chief of the NMR biophysical spectroscopy section at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, won membership to both academies. Also named NAS members were Dr. Harvey J. Alter, chief, infectious diseases section and associate director of research, department of transfusion medicine, Clinical Center; and Dr. Joseph F. Fraumeni, director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute.

In all, 72 new members and 15 foreign associates were named to NAS this year. Election to membership in the academy is considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded a U.S. scientist or engineer. NAS is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. It was established in 1863 by a congressional act of incorporation, signed by Abraham Lincoln, that calls on the academy to act as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology. Also named an AAAS fellow from NIH, in addition to Bax, is Dr. Sue H. Wickner, chief, DNA molecular biology section, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, NCI.

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an international learned society composed of the world's leading scientists, scholars, artists, business people and public leaders. Its current membership stands at 3,700 American fellows and 600 foreign honorary members.

PTSD Study Recruits

NIMH is seeking volunteers over 18 years old who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to participate in research studies that include mental health assessment, brain imaging (compensation provided) and/or a medication trial. Call 1-866-627-6464 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).

Chronic Leg and Back Pain?

Take part in NIH research studies to improve the treatment of pain caused by pinched lumbar nerve. For more information: 1-800-411-1222 or 1-866-411-1010 TTY.
Societal Implications.”

Greengard, who is the Vincent Astor professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience at the Rockefeller University, won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of how dopamine and a number of other transmitters in the brain exert their action in the nervous system.

He is also director of the Fisher Center for Alzheimer’s Research at the Rockefeller, and is a neuroscientist whose discoveries have provided a conceptual framework for understanding how the nervous system functions at the molecular level. He has demonstrated that many effects—both therapeutic and toxic—of common antipsychotic, hallucinogenic and antidepressant drugs can be explained in terms of distinct neurochemical actions that affect the transmission of nerve signals in the brain.

A graduate of Hamilton College, he received a Ph.D. in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University in 1953. After postdoctoral studies in England at the University of London, Cambridge University, and the National Institute of Medical Research, followed by a period at NIH, Greengard became director of biochemical research at Geigy Research Laboratories in 1959. In 1968, he was appointed professor of pharmacology at Yale University and was named Henry Bronson professor in 1981. In 1983, he joined the Rockefeller University.

Greengard is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

Among his many other awards are the 3M Life Sciences Award of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in 1987, the Bristol-Myers Award for Distinguished Achievement in Neuroscience Research in 1989, the National Academy of Sciences Award in the Neurosciences in 1991 and the Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar Award in 1999.

Kandel is university professor of physiology and psychiatry at the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and senior investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His research combines behavioral, cellular and molecular approaches to delineate the changes that underlie simple forms of learning and memory in invertebrates and vertebrates. In invertebrates, the focus of his research is on the gill-withdrawal reflex of the sea slug Aplysia. The work has been essential not only for understanding basic processes of learning and memory, but also for highlighting many of the cellular processes that are targets of psychoactive drugs. More recently, this research has extended from simple forms of memory in Aplysia to more complex forms of spatial learning in mammals.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Kandel immigrated with his family to the United States in 1939. He was educated at Harvard College, where he majored in history and literature, and received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. He took postdoctoral fellowship training in the Laboratory of Neurophysiology at the National Institute of Mental Health, residency training in psychiatry at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Harvard Medical School, and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institut Morey in Paris.

Kandel held faculty positions at Harvard Medical School and New York University School of Medicine before going to Columbia, where in 1975, he was the founding director of the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He counts among his many honors the Albert Lasker Basic Research Award in 1983, the Gairdner International Award for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Science in 1987 and the 1997 Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Health, which he shares with Greengard.

For information and accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 594-5595.—Anne Decker

The STRIDE Program recently held its graduation ceremony. A competitive 3-year career development program, STRIDE gives employees in support positions an opportunity for career change and advancement.

Through a combination of on-the-job training, academic courses and selected short courses, participants prepare for professional level positions.

Keynote speaker Dr. Yvonne Maddox (second from l), then acting NIH deputy director, challenged the graduates to ask the question “What now?” She told them they had followed a pre-written script, but that now it is time “to take a bow, exit stage right, and become the writer of a future script” by thinking about their professional goals and developing a strategy to get there.

Shown are graduates (from l) Pat'rina Boome, administrative officer, NIAID; Debra Milans, human resources specialist, CSR; Katrina Pearson, program analyst, OD. Not pictured are Kim Tran, human resources specialist, formerly with NIAID; and Marriam Bright, information technology specialist, CIT.
Watson Directs Chimpanzee Sanctuary Program

Dr. William Watson, a board-certified laboratory animal veterinarian, has been selected as director of the NIH Chimpanzee Sanctuary Program administered by the National Center for Research Resources. With over 35 years experience as a laboratory animal veterinarian, he will direct program activities to provide lifetime care to chimpanzees that have been designated as no longer needed for biomedical research conducted or supported by federal agencies.

The sanctuary program was established under the Chimpanzee Health, Improvement, and Maintenance and Protection Act, which became law in December 2000. A sanctuary will be established through a competitive contract between NIH, acting on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, and a successful nonprofit organization. Proposals to establish and operate a sanctuary are currently under review, and an award is expected to be announced in late summer. Watson also will ensure that the sanctuary carries out the appropriate animal care and enrichment practices and will monitor facility modifications and construction, colony maintenance and technical support.

Watson came to NCRR from Tuskegee University where he directed the Comparative Medicine Resource Center; coordinated the Biomedical Program (Bioethics Center); and taught at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health. He also provided leadership and direction for Tuskegee's Animal Resource Program.

Before his responsibilities at Tuskegee, he held similar positions at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, which supported a multimillion dollar biomedical research program and an animal resources program.

Watson also has served in the PHS Commissioned Corps at NIH, heading the first primate research unit and then the small animal section of the Veterinary Resources Branch. He also served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps.

He is a long-time NIH grantee, has published in many peer-reviewed journals, and has received numerous special recognitions and honors.

NIMH Outreach Meeting Draws Nationwide Group for Research Update

Research updates on key mental health topics by intramural scientists and grantees anchored the third annual meeting of the NIMH Constituency Outreach and Education Program, held Apr. 28-30 in Washington, D.C. More than 125 participants took advantage of many opportunities to network and to share innovative outreach strategies.

Plenary sessions began with a keynote address from NIMH acting director Dr. Richard Nakamura, who discussed the institute's priorities, programs and recent events of interest. A panel then focused on bipolar disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder in children and adolescents, including differential diagnosis and treatment issues. Scientific presenters on the panel were Dr. John March, researcher and director of Programs in Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders and Psychopharmacology at Duke University Medical Center; and Dr. Ellen Leibenluft, chief of the NIMH Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch and intramural investigator with the institute's Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program. The panel continued as NIMH outreach partners from Utah and Ohio joined a representative from the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation to share their outreach experiences to schools, the juvenile justice system, parents and practitioners.

A panel the following day traced core issues in schizophrenia from genetic research through supported employment programs, in presentations from Dr. Daniel Weinberger, chief of the Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, NIMH; and Dr. Anthony Lehman, professor and chair of the department of psychiatry and director of the Center for Mental Health Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

After each day's panel, breakout sessions enabled participants to exchange ideas and experiences. The focus was on transferring research results to health practitioners and the public, and combating stigma. A new feature of this year's meeting was especially successful: poster sessions by outreach partners, illustrating the use of NIMH information and materials to target key audiences. The first poster session focused on outreach to minorities and other special populations: Hispanic/Latino, African American, Native American, Alaska Natives, South Asian, Amish, deaf and hard-of-hearing, and women. The second session displayed outreach to adults who can improve the mental health of children and adolescents, including teachers, parents, primary care professionals and pediatricians, and others, as well as outreach to students directly.

More information about the NIMH outreach program is at www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov.

Study of Heart Disease

An NIH study seeks males 21 or older and postmenopausal women. If you smoke or have high blood pressure, or high cholesterol, or diabetes, call: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010) Compensation is provided.
CHILDREN AT WORK, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

exhibits, such as the tour of the Clinical Center’s department of laboratory medicine, that were instantly oversubscribed the moment employees had access to online registration for the day’s events. And on a day that started wet and rainy, it could be a challenge to travel, in only 10 minutes, from “Webs, Wires and Other Wonders” (an NLM exhibit that is so classy and well done that it rose easily to the level of the best Smithsonian exhibits) to a tour of the Children’s Inn. But the one constant at all of the day’s events was a warm welcome and an accommodating attitude; those who staffed the events went out of their way to make everyone’s visit pleasant.

It was a day when the campus’ snack bars and vending outlets did a good business. At the Bldg. 31 “blind stand,” the manager was giving away candy to kids during the day. In the hallway outside of the building’s cafeteria, children and parents waited patiently for a face-painting station, which was moved indoors due to the weather.

To accompany a child on this day was to see normally rather dour and business-like corridors turned into warmer, friendlier places. It was a reminder that the workplace tends to be sociologically straitjacketed, limited almost exclusively to adults 25–65. The energy, the noise, the bounce of kids was in most instances therapeutic. Undoubtedly, for some parents, it was the most draining and demanding day of the month—a day when some adults probably made mental notes to thank their kids’ teachers at the end of the school year.

One of the most welcome aspects of the day, from the kids’ viewpoint, was the freebies given away at most exhibits. A partial list includes: a tennis-ball-size rubber brain (NINDS); a preprinted diploma-style certificate marking the occasion; band aids; hand lotion; the booklet Know Your Brain (NINDS); toothpaste and brushes; pens from NIDDK and the Work and Family Life Center; NIAMS and fire department pencils; CC EEO office pencil sharpeners; a set of disposable operating-room scrubs (destined to become either pajamas or part of next Halloween’s costume); Division of Public Safety water bottles; fireman hats and stickers; NIAID yo-yo ball; an adhesive 2002 calendar strip (CIVIL); 8 oz. bottles of Medlineplus.gov water (who knew they were in that business?) and samples of NLM fine-art stationery.

Because kids were welcome virtually everywhere, not just at formal TYCW exhibits, some employees chose to expose their youngsters to real live NIH. My own kids sat attentively through the first half hour of a scientific symposium in Lipsett Amphitheater on the topic, “Neural and Behavioral Aspects of
Salutaris Hosts ‘Noons in June’

Salutaris, the NIH gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) employees’ forum, is holding its sixth annual Noons in June lecture series, which features speakers who address issues and events affecting GLBT employees. This year’s key speakers include Maryland Delegate Maggie L. McIntosh, covering pertinent GLBT referendum issues, June 4; Dr. Ken Morgen, author of *Getting Simon*, talks about the story of two gay doctors’ journey to fatherhood, June 13; Elizabeth Toledo, a nationally recognized feminist, considers “Everyday Acts of Rebellion,” June 18; Blake Humphries, director of Free State Justice, will give an overview of the organization whose mission is to promote and protect the rights of all GLBT persons in Maryland, June 20; and Woody Derricks, a financial advisor with a leading securities company, will present “Comprehensive Wealth Management for Domestic Partners,” June 25.

Sign language interpretation is provided. For reasonable accommodation, contact Robert Debellis at 402-8677. For more information about Salutaris, and the times and locations for the lectures, visit the web site at http://recgov.org/glef/index.htm.

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.

**Developing Proofreading Skills** 6/4, 6/5, 6/6

**The Leadership Edge** 6/4

**Advanced MS Word 2000** 6/6

**Purchase Card Processing System** 6/6

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**Intermediate MS Excel 2000** 6/12

**IMPAC II Grants Management** 6/13

**Professional Service Orders** 6/13

**Who Moved My Cheese? Managing & Coping with Change** 6/13

**Giving Dynamic Presentations for Women in Science** 6/17

Volunteers Needed

An NIH study is seeking individuals currently taking an anti-depressant (Wellbutrin). Participants will be asked to donate 4 tablespoons of blood for routine screening and evaluation of platelet function. The visit will be less than an hour and compensation is provided. Call Donna Jo McCloskey for more information and to schedule an appointment, 496-5150.
the children and to their families while they underwent therapy at NIH," he continued. "I would guess that you all felt it was a good place, one that would support these courageous children and their families. But you didn’t know how good it would be. Nobody could have known just how good it would be. Now after 12 years, we have that answer. Not only has the Children’s Inn proved to be a good concept, but it has proven from day one to be a terrific place by all counts."

While the groundbreaking offered an opportunity to bask in the inn’s unqualified success, it also was a time to reflect on the early years when the need for such a place was definite, but the wherewithal to make it happen was not as certain. Dr. Lori Wiener, inn president and coordinator of NCI’s Pediatric HIV Psychosocial Support Program, who was in on the project from the ground up, took the audience on a brief verbal tour of the facility’s infancy.

In the early 1980s, she said, the concept of a sanctuary for seriously ill children and their families was only that—a really good idea by people like Dr. Philip Pizzo, then chief of NCI’s Pediatric Branch. By the mid-1980s, after a lot of finagling and planning, NIH had set aside 2 acres of land, Merck had donated $3.7 million to build, several congressional spouses had formed the Friends of the Children’s Inn and raised $2 million for furnishings, architect Bob Greenberg had designed the building, and Washington area builder and philanthropist Alan Kay had provided services to oversee construction. On July 29, 1988, these principals and many grateful children and their families gathered for the inn’s first groundbreaking.

"Fourteen years have gone by since the original groundbreaking ceremony,” said Wiener. “The fact that we are here to break ground again to expand the inn is a tribute to just how successful the Children’s Inn has been in accomplishing its mission. The inn has broken ground in other ways, demonstrating how well a public-private partnership can work, how supporting families can lead to important advances in the laboratory and clinical research and in terms of being a model center of care for children and families that, we are proud to report, centers are replicating around the world."

In June 1990, the Children’s Inn opened its doors to the first families, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by then President George Bush and First Lady Barbara. Since then the facility has been in continuous operation, 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year. During the past 12 years, Wiener reported, more than 4,000 seriously ill children and their families have made in excess of 23,000 visits to the inn from all 50 states, 57 countries and 2 U.S. territories. “We have met some of the most amazing children and families during this time who have inspired us with their courage and with their resilience,” she said, noting that 570 residents have lost their battles against disease. “Each of them will be remembered and will always hold a very special place in our hearts. Their lives, their fight, their courage allow us to continue our fight and strengthen our resolve to find answers for the diseases that took their lives prematurely. There is no question that the warmth and solidarity of the inn stands in sharp contrast to the isolation of a motel room.”

Introduced as the “matriarch of the inn,” NIH deputy director Dr. Ruth Kirschstein said that as a longtime neighbor of the inn’s, she and her husband, NCI deputy director Dr. Alan Rabson, have watched every brick being put in place, attended the inn’s annual picnics and met many of the families. “In my role as acting director of NIH,” she continued, “I’ve been able to observe how well this very important partnership between NIH and the inn works. The partnership that improves the health of children here improves the health of children everywhere. The inn has had a profound effect in changing the course of medicine.”

Kirschstein reported that although the inn began primarily housing children in NCI protocols, now 12 of the 27 institutes have pediatric clinical research projects from which they refer children and their families to the inn. “No wonder you’ve run out of space,” she observed.
From 1998 to 2001, Wiener said, families were turned away on nearly 300 occasions because of space limitations. “I’m not sure if it’s harder for the staff person who has to share the news or the child and family who hear the news that there’s no room at the inn,” she noted. “You can imagine how difficult it is to add this burden to an already stressed child and family.”

Kirschstein reaffirmed the agency’s lead role in accommodating and supporting the inn.

“NIH’s commitment to reducing the stress on the families of chronically ill children will continue in the years ahead,” she said, “as will our commitment to this public-private partnership. Research has a definite link to family-centered care. It’s been said that NIH heals the body while this inn heals the soul and heart of the children and families. I believe this is true and I’m honored to be a part of a project that brings out the best in our people, our government and our communities.

The benefits of family-centered care are upheld by research, according to Wiener. “Children who stay at the inn are not only less isolated, depressed and anxious,” she said, “but also less resistant to returning for treatment.”

Echoing those words was Clinical Center director Dr. John Gallin, who recalled many of his own patients who have benefitted from the inn. “Patients come here mainly for hope—hope that maybe we’ll do something for them through our research, hope that maybe our research will help their families, and hope that if not for themselves or their own families directly, maybe others with the same sorts of problems will be helped,” he said. “That’s why people come, and come from great distances. My patients often spend months in the hospital, sometimes years. Children 3 years old spending a year or more—one-third of their lives—in the hospital.

Imagine the impact of the stress on their families. What impressed me most before the inn opened was the number of families I saw fractured as a result of this experience. It was really devastating. The Children’s Inn has gone a long way to correcting that. Now the children can be near their families. They don’t worry about the financial pressures of finding a place to stay, plus they have this wonderful home away from home with a community of support.”

The new wing—slated to open in 2003—will provide space for 18 more families, bringing the inn’s total capacity to 55 families.

“Soon the noise will abate from this construction,” Gallin promised, gesturing over his shoulder toward the ongoing work on the new Clinical Research Center. Also under way in the same vicinity on campus are building projects for a new fire station and a Family Lodge, which will offer families of adult patients the same support the inn provides to pediatric patients. “The ugly wall will disappear,” he said, “and it’ll be a nice slope of lawn leading to the new Clinical Research Center, which will have a new pediatric clinic on its ground floor as well as expanded pediatric space.”

Concluded Merck’s Taylor, “Families support families. We know from seeing them and from hearing them that they are far better off in the comfort of the inn. We also know that children at the inn respond far better to their treatment protocols. Ultimately this translates into better research for new medicines to the benefit of all children. On behalf of Merck, I’d like to express my appreciation to all of you who have made the inn so special: the NIH officials and staff, the hands-on board of directors, the excellent inn staff and the hundreds of volunteers and supporters of all kinds. Mostly, though, I’d like to extend our best wishes to the children and their families who bring life to the inn and make it a place of hope and healing.”

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.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation’s 2002 annual scientific conference on June 5. Laureates of the Kettering, Sloan and Mott prizes for cancer research will speak.

On June 11, in a special Tuesday lecture, Dr. Tom A. Rapoport will discuss “Protein Transport In and Out of the ER.” He is professor of cell biology and HHMI investigator, Harvard Medical School. His talk is at 3 p.m. in Masur.

There will be a special double lecture on June 12, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in honor of Florence Mahoney, who helped found the National Institute on Aging. See story, p. 1.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, 594-5595.
NCI's Beebe Retires to Emeritus Status
By Nancy Volkers

Dr. Gilbert Wheeler Beebe, one of the world’s leading authorities on radiation effects, recently retired at age 89 after a 60-year research career. Although “officially” retired, he plans to remain at NCI as scientist emeritus.

Born in Mahwah, N.J., in 1921, he received a B.A. in sociology from Dartmouth College and an M.A. (in sociology) and a Ph.D. (in sociology and statistics) from Columbia University. He has worked for the National Committee on Maternal Health, the Milbank Memorial Fund, the U.S. Army’s Office of the Surgeon General, the Hoover Commission (charged with reorganizing the executive branch of the government), the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, and, since 1977, NCI.

He has been author, coauthor or coeditor of five books and has published more than 130 journal articles and book chapters since 1936. Beebe has received the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award and the NIH Director’s Award.

His involvement in radiation effects started after World War II, when he organized the Medical Follow-up Agency of the National Research Council to study the health effects of U.S. veterans’ special exposures, conditions and experiences during military service. His responsibilities extended to designing follow-up studies of Japanese citizens who survived the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His work as the architect of this pioneering research project laid the foundation for much of our current understanding of the carcinogenic effects of ionizing radiation.

In 1977, Beebe joined NCI as a health statistician in the epidemiology program, and in 1994 he joined the Radiation Epidemiology Branch. When the Chernobyl research unit was formed within the branch in 1999, he was appointed as its head.

Beebe’s work at NCI has focused on the development of a highly complex and multidisciplinary project to study the health consequences of the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear facility in Ukraine. He and staff members, in collaboration with investigators in Ukraine and Belarus and at Columbia University, are studying children exposed to radioiodines, and 88,000 cleanup workers exposed to whole-body gamma radiation. The study should help clarify the risk of leukemia from radiation exposure and provide better estimates of the time lapse between exposure and development of the cancer.

Colleagues remember his sense of humor—which he never hesitates to use on himself—and his underlying respect for others. They also mention tenacity, thoroughness, and “going the extra mile beyond where others are satisfied or just tired.”

“He is a very unselfish person who works hard, accomplishes much, writes well, speaks his mind clearly, and is articulate and careful to acknowledge those to whom credit is due,” wrote Dr. A. Bertrand (Randy) Brill, a research professor at Vanderbilt University. “When asked for his comments he has always spoken out with a directness that I have found refreshing, even when it is something I did not want to hear.”

Dr. Elena Buglova, from the Research Clinical Institute of Radiation Medicine and Endocrinology in Belarus, has worked closely with Beebe on the Chernobyl project. She called him “the father and grandfather of the project, advisor and consultant, expert and supervisor.” She recalled: “Meetings with Dr. Beebe were a practical school in epidemiology. But this school was more pleasant than the usual one because of the kind character of Gil and his sense of humor.” The first time Beebe cracked a joke, Buglova thought she had misunderstood his English; she did not expect “such a famous specialist” to say something funny.

Dr. Scott Davis, chair of the department of epidemiology at the University of Washington, Seattle, first met Beebe when Davis was a newly minted Ph.D., working at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) in Hiroshima. Davis was asked to present at the annual meeting of the Science Council findings from a study he initiated on pancreatic cancer. “This was a big event at RERF, with many dignitaries and experts in attendance,” Davis recalled. “I was scared to death.”

After the presentation, Beebe asked to meet Davis and discuss the work. “You listened intently as I described my projects in more detail, you offered insightful advice and suggestions, and above all you were incredibly supportive and encouraging,” remembered Davis.

His closing words to Beebe capture the feelings of all who have worked with him: “You are greatly admired not only for your insightful scientific work and many contributions, but also for the kindness you show to others and the human touch that transcends all of your work.”

Calcium Study Seeks Subjects

An NIH study is seeking healthy adult volunteers to examine the health effects of calcium supplementation over 2 years. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010). Compensation is provided.

R&W Plans Travel Expo, Annual Camp Fantastic BBQ

On Thursday, June 13, R&W will hold a Travel & Weekend Getaway Exposition in the Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be door prizes and great ideas for vacations long and short. There is no charge to attend.

Then on Tuesday, June 18, plan on lunching at the 20th annual Camp Fantastic BBQ, which raises funds for the summer camp for kids with cancer. The event will be held on the Bldg. 31A patio from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and features food from Outback Steakhouse, dessert by Ben & Jerry’s and music by old friends Streetlife Band. Tickets are $8 at any R&W store.
NINR Cohosts Multiethnic Nursing Conference

The National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations joined the National Institute of Nursing Research, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to convene a key conference recently with the following objectives: increase the cadre of ethnic and minority nurse researchers, prepare minority nurses to compete successfully for NIH funding opportunities, and establish a plan to increase health disparity research conducted by nurses.

More than 40 nurses representing the racial and ethnic minority organizations within the coalition gathered at the Natcher Conference Center for a 2-day workshop to identify and unify resources on health disparities. Although the number of minority and ethnic nurses involved in health disparity research is increasing among those who earn Ph.D.s., their ranks remain small, according to data presented during the conference.

NINR director Dr. Patricia A. Grady cochaired the workshop during which attendees were guided in efforts to identify and match research opportunities for ethnic minority nurses with appropriate NIH research, research training and career development mechanisms. Program directors from NCMHD, NIGMS and NINR invited guest speakers from the Society of Chicanos and Native Americans in Sciences and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students to discuss various ways to reach the goals of the coalition.

The meeting ended with recommendations for action by working groups, including plans to submit proposals to NIH for grants technical assistance, minority faculty development initiatives, and training initiatives for junior-level ethnic and minority nurses in health disparity research.

“We want to give special thanks to Dr. John Ruffin, director of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Dr. Clifton Poodry, director of NIGMS’s MORE Programs, Dr. Alexa Stuifbergen, University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, Dr. Betty Smith Williams, president of the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurses Association, and Kay Johnson Graham, NINR EEO officer and minority outreach coordinator, for making it possible to conduct this successful effort,” Grady concluded.

Leaders of conference cosponsors include (from l) Dr. Clifton Poodry, director of NIGMS’s MORE Programs; NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady; NCMHD director Dr. John Ruffin; and Dr. Betty Smith Williams, president of the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations.

John Paul Jones, 76, an NIH employee, died on Mar. 29 in Delaware, Ohio, where he resided with his niece and sister while recovering from surgery. He had served as a mail clerk with the Division of Support Services, ORS. A World War II veteran, he served in the U.S. Navy as an engine technician and joined NIH in 1968. His combined military and federal government service totaled 45 years. Jones is remembered for his dedication and participation in the NIH Blood Donor Program, having donated well over 100 pints of blood. Of special note was his well-respected service as a volunteer group leader for Alcoholics Anonymous throughout his 34-year tenure with NIH.
NCI, Partners Lauded for Improving Nation's Health

By LaTonya Kittles

HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, and NCI director Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach were among a host of dignitaries, distinguished speakers and guests at the inaugural meeting of the 5 A Day for Better Health National Partnership, held Apr. 25-27 in Washington, D.C.

The meeting, attended by more than 300 people from across the country, marked the first time that all of the partners, advocates and stakeholders of the 5 A Day National Partnership gathered together. Founded in 1991 as a partnership between NCI and the Produce for Better Health Foundation, the 5 A Day Program aims to increase Americans' consumption of fruits and vegetables to 5 to 9 servings a day to promote good health and to reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and other diseases.

“Our National Cancer Institute is leading the 5 A Day Partnership and they’re doing a really great job,” said Thompson. “It’s my pleasure to be here today to welcome our new partners and I’m happy that so many of you have dedicated yourselves to helping us promote the largest nutrition education initiative in the world, because all Americans will benefit from your leadership and commitment.”

NCI, the lead federal agency and health authority for the program, and its private-sector partner, the Produce for Better Health Foundation, are joined by USDA, CDC, the American Cancer Society, the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity, the Produce Marketing Association, and the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association.

“Five A Day is a strong partnership, and everyone here at USDA is proud to work with all of our partners on this initiative that is so important to consumers throughout America,” said Veneman. “We’re also proud to work with all the partners in the industry, in the states, and everyone who is here today, because you are the ones who are making the difference in the lives of so many people.”

Von Eschenbach discussed the nation’s health and the complex economic, social and political problems associated with the ravaging effects of cancer and other diseases. “You are here representing a multidisciplinary group that will help build a solution to the problem,” he said. He went on to discuss the critical role that fruits and vegetables and the 5 A Day program play in prevention.

Both Veneman and Thompson discussed the burden of overweight and obesity in America and detailed how addressing this health concern is a high priority of HHS and USDA. “Over 60 percent of Americans today face the challenge of overweight and obesity, and since 1980, the number of children who are overweight has doubled, and the number of overweight adolescents has tripled,” noted Veneman. “This is more than an appearance problem...it’s truly a health problem in this country. Through our expanded partnership with 5 A Day, we intend to aggressively address many of these issues head-on and tackle the issue of obesity.”

The meeting included panel discussions, presentations and networking opportunities for partners and the 5 A Day coordinators from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the Department of Defense.

The meeting also served as an opportunity to formally announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding between USDA, CDC and NCI to formalize their expanded collaboration to promote the 5 A Day Program. The MOU supports the advancement of comprehensive planning at the federal, state and local level, expanded channels for the delivery of evidence-based interventions and improved availability of high-quality data related to fruit and vegetable consumption.

“It’s going to take everyone working together and sharing resources to accomplish our goal of all Americans eating 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. With a comprehensive national effort that includes federal agencies, not-for-profits, retailers, state and local representatives, and others, everybody wins,” said Dr. Lorelei DiSogra, director of the 5 A Day Program. “Americans benefit from better health, industry benefits from increased sales, and government benefits from reduced health care costs associated with chronic disease...it’s win-win-win for all.”

For more information on the 5 A Day for Better Health Program, visit www.5aday.gov.

Uncontrolled High Blood Pressure?

Interested in participating in an NIH study? Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010) for information on a study to learn more about uncontrolled high blood pressure due to blocked kidney arteries.

Study Recruits Overweight Youngsters

Consider enrolling your overweight child, age 6-17, in a new NIH weight-loss study. There is no charge for participation. Call for more information: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).