

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

RML Scientists Win Salzman Award in Virology

Dr. Sonja M. Best, a Fogarty visiting fellow at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Mont., recently received the fourth annual Norman P. Salzman Memorial Award in Virology. Best's mentor, Dr. Marshall E. Bloom, associate director of RML, also received the Salzman award in recognition of their collaborative research on Aleutian mink disease.

The Salzman award and presentation is a part of the Norman P. Salzman Symposium in Virology organized by the NIH virology interest group and administered by the Foundation for the NIH. The group, composed of researchers from NIH, the Food and Drug Administration, Rockefeller University, Rutgers University and Vanderbilt University, selects the award

SEE SALZMAN AWARD, PAGE 2

NIH Black History Month Program To Feature Alexis Herman

Former Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman will be the keynote speaker at "Reflections from Our Past: Building for Our Future," the NIH 2003 African American Heritage Month Celebration on



Alexis M. Herman

Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Also, the D.C. chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers will share historical perspectives. The Buffalo Soldiers were black men from across the country who joined African American regiments established after the Civil War. For more information or reasonable accommodation, call Kay Johnson Graham, 496-3403 or Michael Chew, 402-3681 (voice) or (301) 480-3122 (TTY). ■

Heritage Month Celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Also, the D.C. chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers will share historical perspectives. The Buffalo Soldiers were black men from across the country

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

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FY 2004 Budget Roll-Out

President Bush Announces 'Project BioShield' at NIH During Visit

By Rich McManus

President George W. Bush visited NIH on Feb. 3, touring the Vaccine Research Center and delivering a 20-minute address before a packed Natcher auditorium on Project BioShield, a roughly \$6 billion, 10-year effort described in his FY 2004 budget



President George W. Bush at NIH on Feb. 3

that aims to protect the American public from various weapons of bioterrorism. He repeatedly hailed the intellectual power and dedication of the NIH workforce, and earned a particularly robust ovation when he announced his administration's intention to bolster funds addressing HIV/AIDS in Africa: "We weep for those who suffer on the continent of Africa, and we intend to do something about it."

The President, accompanied on the dais by HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson and by Tom Ridge, new secretary

SEE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, PAGE 4

Varmus Portrait Dedicated in Bldg. 1

By Rich McManus

Three years after leaving directorship of NIH to head Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, Dr. Harold Varmus returned on Jan. 15 for the formal unveiling of his portrait—a tradition observed by all past NIH directors. At a Wilson Hall ceremony attended by many of his former colleagues and recruits, Varmus gave an art history lesson explaining the portrait, which includes him in the foreground, seated and looking gregarious in an open-collared shirt, and a prominent backdrop featuring a famous painting, executed by Jacques Louis David in 1788, of French scientist Antoine Laurent Lavoisier and his wife Marie Anne Pierrette Paulze.

The Varmus portrait is the work of



Former NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus shares his observations about new portrait in Bldg. 1.

SEE VARMUS PORTRAIT UNVEILED, PAGE 6



Dr. Alexandra Ainsztein is now the scientific review administrator for the cell development and function 4 study section at the Center for Scientific Review, after participating in CSR's Review Internship Program. She previously was an intramural research training associate at NICHD, where she worked in its section on cell cycle regulation studying the role of SUMO-1 enzymes in cell division. Ainsztein received a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Florida in Gainesville. Her research there focused on the dynamics of microtubule proteins that help form the intracellular substrate or cytoskeleton. Before coming to NIH, Ainsztein conducted postdoctoral studies on the role of centromere proteins in cell division at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

SALZMAN AWARD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recipients.

The two scientists were cited for their research entitled, "Replication of Aleutian mink disease parvovirus requires caspase-mediated cleavage of the nonstructural protein, NS1."

Best has been conducting research at RML since 1999. A native of Australia, she received her bachelor of science degree in zoology with honors from the University of Adelaide, and a doctorate in



NIAID's Dr. Sonja M. Best accepts the fourth annual Norman P. Salzman Memorial Award in Virology from Dr. Alonzo Garcia of the FDA. Last year as a postdoctoral fellow with NIAID, Garcia received the award.

biochemistry and molecular biology from the Australian National University. Her graduate work focused on the pathogenesis of myxoma virus in genetically susceptible and resistant populations of European rabbits. ■

Dr. Theresa Montini is now the scientific review administrator for the AIDS and related research 7 study section at the Center for Scientific Review. Her study section reviews research proposals on behavioral and social science aspects of preventing HIV transmission and infection. Montini holds an M.S.W. from the University of California-Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California-San Francisco, where she studied women's activism for breast cancer informed consent laws. She received a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study community organizing to limit alcohol availability in inner-city neighborhoods. Montini then taught sociology and social work at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Whittier College and the California State Polytechnic University. Before coming to CSR, she conducted tobacco control research at the University of California-San Francisco.



Healthy Volunteers Needed

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research needs volunteers for licensed anthrax vaccine research. Potential participants must be healthy, between ages 18 and 61. Study provides a free medical evaluation and financial compensation for time and effort. For more information, call 1-866-856-3259 or (301) 319-9320. ■

CIT Computer Classes

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

Titan Transition - Where's My Keyword?	2/19
PowerPoint Topics: Graphs, Links and More	2/19
mAdb Basic Informatics	2/19
Introduction to FileMaker Pro 5	2/20
Grants Management Standardized Spreadsheet	2/20
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NIH Biowulf - a Supercluster for Scientific Applications	3/4
RACF on South and Titan Systems	3/4
Using Photoshop to Work with Scientific Images	3/4

Calcium Study Seeks Subjects

An NIH study seeks healthy overweight adult volunteers to examine the health effects of calcium supplementation over 2 years. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY: 1-866-411-1010) or email prpl@cc.nih.gov. Compensation is provided. ■

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Rohrbaugh Named Director of OTT

Dr. Mark L. Rohrbaugh has been named director of the Office of Technology Transfer in the Office of Intramural Research, OD. He will oversee the patenting and licensing of NIH inventions and contribute to intramural and extramural technology transfer policy at NIH and HHS.

"We are delighted that Dr. Rohrbaugh will be taking the helm of the OTT at this critical time for technology transfer, as more and more of our basic science discoveries are translated into effective preventions, diagnostics and treatments for human disease," said NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who made the appointment.



Dr. Mark Rohrbaugh

Rohrbaugh takes the helm of the most successful technology licensing program in the federal government in terms of commercialized products, as well as the lead office for technology transfer within the department. NIH technology transfer efforts have had an increasingly important role in improving the nation's health through licensing and other collaborations that have helped bring the results of NIH and FDA laboratory research to the public.

During the past 10 years, NIH executed more than 1,800 licenses to inventions made by its intramural research program resulting in more than \$350 million in royalties. More importantly, these efforts have resulted in the development, by its commercial partners, of more than 20 life-saving drugs, vaccines and diagnostics and more than 100 other biomedical products.

Rohrbaugh started his career at NIH in 1991 as scientific review administrator for the allergy, immunology, and transplantation research committee, NIAID. In 1995, he moved from NIAID's extramural program to the institute's Office of Technology Development, serving as director of that office from 1997 to 2001. Before joining NIH, Rohrbaugh conducted molecular and cell biology research as a McKnight Foundation postdoctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota and as a research and senior scientist at two biotechnology companies in Minneapolis. ■

Have Uterine Fibroids?

Call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 for information on a study using a new medication for 3 months before hysterectomy. Study-related treatment provided at no cost. Compensation is provided. TTY: 1-866-411-1010, or email prpl@cc.nih.gov. ■

A-76 Process Update

The NIH commercial activities review team (CART) is announcing a change in the "commercial" functions to be studied as part of the A-76 process during 2003 and 2004. Numerous smaller studies of personnel, finance and accounting, grants, general administration, R&D, and facilities and installation services had been scheduled for 2003. IT and information services functions as well as other functions in personnel, grants, facilities and installation services were scheduled for study in 2004. Several factors have led the A-76 steering committee to revise that schedule, including proposed changes to Circular A-76 itself.

The plan now is for the CART to conduct three larger studies in 2003, essentially combining several of the smaller studies that were spread out over 2 years. The facilities and installation services reviews that were scheduled for both this year and next will now be conducted in 2003. The grants technical and administrative support functions in the program, review and grants management areas will all be studied this year as well, rather than spread over 2003 and 2004. These changes are expected to give NIH the opportunity to submit a Most Efficient Organization (MEO) proposal that will allow NIH employees a better opportunity to compete against the private sector for a function undergoing study.

Such changes in the timing of A-76 studies are likely to occur over time. Employees are encouraged to consult with their IC executive officer about studies that will affect them, and should refer to the NIH A-76 web site (<http://a-76.nih.gov>) for more information. The FAQ section of the web site has recently been updated in response to questions received from employees at the November 2002 all-hands meeting. A second all-hands meeting is being planned; employees should watch for an announcement. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Ralph M. Steinman on Feb. 26, giving a talk on "Dendritic Cells and the Control of the Immune Response." He is Henry G. Kunkel professor and senior physician, Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, Rockefeller University.

On Mar. 5, Dr. Stephen J. Elledge, professor, department of biochemistry and HHMI investigator, Baylor College of Medicine, will discuss, "Sensing and Responding to DNA Damage."

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

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Normal volunteers, ages 20 to 55, are needed for a research study run by NIAID. Volunteers will receive an FDA-approved drug designed to increase white blood cell count and then participate in apheresis (a blood donation) to collect the excess cells. Compensation is provided. Interested individuals should call Mary Huber at 496-7935.

The President peers through a microscope in Bldg. 40 at cells transfected with expression vectors encoding specific fragments of Ebola virus or HIV that caused damage to cells, compared to modified versions where the toxicity was removed, as an example of how vaccine safety can be improved. Bush is accompanied by (from l) NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, DHS Secretary Tom Ridge, VRC director Dr. Gary Nabel, and Dr. Ganesh Lakshmanan, a postdoctoral fellow in Nabel's lab.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the Department of Homeland Security, had come to Natcher after touring NIH's premier vaccine research facility in Bldg. 40 with NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni, NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci, and Dr. Gary Nabel, who directs the Vaccine Research Center and whose work on Ebola virus has intrigued not only President Bush, but also Vice President Dick Cheney, who received an update on bioterrorism during an unannounced visit to NIH last December.

President Bush was effusive in his praise of NIH leadership. "I thank Elias Zerhouni for his fine, fine leadership," he said, to loud applause, then quipped, "You know, when I picked him, I thought he would do okay. He's far exceeded my expectations. He's really, really a good man who is honoring our country with his leadership. Tony Fauci, of course, I've known him for a long time...He's one of the generals in the war against HIV/AIDS...Gary Nabel is with us...he just took us on a really interesting tour. I asked him if this is the best in the world, and he said, 'You bet, not only do we have the best equipment in the world, Mr. President, we've got the best people in the world.'" Bush thanked all employees of NIH, FDA, CDC, HHS and DHS—all of whose leaders were on hand in the auditorium: "Thank you for working long hours that enable me to go out to the countryside and say to the American people, 'There's a lot of good folks working long, hard hours to protect you, and do the best we can do to make sure America is safe and secure.'"

Secretary Thompson introduced the President, noting that "all of us today mourn the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and her crew." He underscored an NIH link to the mission: one of the many experiments conducted aboard Columbia was a joint NIH-NASA study of brain structure and function in rats. He also warned of the modern peril of



President Bush's visit on Feb. 3 was the first official visit by a sitting President since President Bill Clinton came to NIH on June 9, 1999, to dedicate the Dale and Betty Bumpers Vaccine Research Center, known as Bldg. 40.

PHOTOS: BILL AND ERNIE BRANSON

bioterrorism: "One vial (of a pathogen) smuggled across our borders could bring a day of horror like none we've ever known."

Bush received a standing ovation, saying he was "delighted to be here at the National Institutes of Health, a center of excellence, a center of the brilliance of the American people. It is a place where so many people do work every day to help save lives...NIH is a great credit to America."

He remembered the Columbia astronauts, but assured "the cause in which they died will continue—America's journey into space will go on. The spirit of modern science embodied in our space program can be found here at NIH."

Turning to the new threat of bioterrorism, he said, "Now our scientists have been called to meet a different kind of challenge: man's efforts to use diseases as weapons of war and terror. This threat has placed research scientists at the center of our mission to defend the American people. It has put NIH squarely in the midst of our war to defend America and to defeat international terrorism. With focus and determination and necessary resources, this government will act before dangers are upon us."

Bush paused to recognize members of Congress in attendance, including Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Reps. Chris Cox (R-Calif., who chairs the select committee on homeland security), Jim Turner (D-Tex., a former member of the Texas state senate) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md., whose district includes NIH). Surgeon General Richard Carmona was also on hand, as were Dr. Mark McClellan, new head of the FDA, and Dr. Julie Gerberding, who leads CDC.

Bush pointed out that since Sept. 11, 2001, America has been reawakened to the evil intentions of its enemies, and that the government's first responsibility is to defend the nation. "The kind of men who would seize planes filled with innocent people and crash them into buildings would not hesitate to use biological or chemical or nuclear





Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) looks on as Zerhouni greets a visiting dignitary.

weapons. They wouldn't hesitate at all. They don't value life like we value life in America," he said. "They don't see every life as precious, like we see every life as precious in America."

He spoke briefly of Iraq, noting that "if the dictator does not disarm, if he doesn't get rid of his weapons of mass destruction, then the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him."

Bush first introduced Project BioShield, a plan for research and production of drugs and vaccines to combat bioterrorism, in his State of the Union address on Jan. 28. "My budget requests almost \$6 billion to quickly make available safer and more effective vaccines and treatments against agents like smallpox, anthrax, botulinum toxin, Ebola and plague... We must rebuild America's capacity to produce vaccines by committing the federal government to the purchase of medicines that combat bioterror."

He continued, "Under Project BioShield, the government will have the spending authority to purchase these vaccines in huge amounts, sufficient to meet any emergency that may come." He predicted a better and safer smallpox vaccine, antibodies to treat botox, and "sophisticated devices that can confirm a case of anthrax infection almost instantly." Spinoff discoveries are also anticipated, he said, as has typically been the case when other large ventures of scientific discovery have been mounted. He pledged to share America's harvest of new knowledge with the

world, as is planned with U.S. gains in the management of HIV/AIDS.

Bush concluded, "I look forward to working with the United States Congress to get Project BioShield out of its committees, onto the floor, onto my desk, so you all can work on behalf of the American people, so you can use your God-given talents, your fantastic brains, your clear vision to better protect America. This is the right course of action. This is what we owe the American people. And this is what we will deliver."

Bush left the stage to another ovation, and passed through the first row of the auditorium, greeting agency heads and politicians. As he left the hall, he looked back and bade, "Thank you all," with a wave goodbye.

More details on Project BioShield are available at www.whitehouse.gov. Among its provisions are that the NIAID director would have increased authority and flexibility to award contracts and grants for R&D on medical countermeasures. The authority would permit more rapid hiring of technical experts, and quicker procurement of items needed for research. FDA also would gain emergency authority to use promising medical countermeasures that have not yet undergone formal review for full licensure.



Above, the President's helicopter and limousine await him at a landing pad on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center. Below, Bush takes the stage with Ridge (l) and Thompson.



VARMUS PORTRAIT UNVEILED. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

artist Jon R. Friedman, whose renderings of former National Academy of Sciences president Dr. Frank Press and of Dr. Maxine Singer, an NCI scientist who now heads the Carnegie Institution of Washington, had impressed Varmus. Friedman spoke briefly at the ceremony, also attended by Varmus's wife Connie Casey, who unveiled the artwork.

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni emceed the affair, and read a letter from former Rep. John E. Porter (R-Ill.), a prominent friend of NIH while on the agency's congressional appropriations committee, who could not attend. Porter's letter hailed Varmus as the model and "gold standard" of an NIH director, and praised his organizational skill—"closely analog-



Varmus chats with NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and former NIMH director Dr. Steven Hyman (c) at the event; Hyman, now provost at Harvard University, spoke candidly about Varmus's tenure as NIH director.

ous to herding cats." Even greater than Varmus's success winning large NIH budgets from Congress, Porter said, was his ability to achieve "vastly increased public awareness of the benefits of science."

Offering more of a traditional roast of the day's honoree was Dr. Steven Hyman, whom Varmus recruited to direct NIMH, and who now is provost at Harvard University. "So what do you say about a man who is truly larger than life?" he began. Hyman said NIH appeared, at least from an extramural perspective, to be in the doldrums prior to Varmus's arrival in 1993. "With Harold's arrival, things really seemed to change quickly and with an upward trajectory that I don't think anyone could have predicted."

Hyman said Varmus's great gift was an insistence on quality science and its benefits for society. "He believed in talking honestly and directly, with no funny business...Nothing is more effective than frank communication.

"The thing about Harold," he continued, "is that he is relentlessly about content." Varmus was rather less tolerant of the minutiae and procedure of bureaucracy, Hyman added. "When that stuff came up, his eyes glazed over and a look of boredom and disapproval swept over his face...If you were so dense that you didn't know your conversation with him was over, he'd give another hint by going over to his desk and reading his email.

"Harold was all about high standards and being honest about what good science was—this, and his integrity, made him a great boss. Harold always protected your back. Even remarkably radical reforms could go forward (under his direction), if they bettered science. He really made the job of being an institute director incredibly rewarding."



Varmus and Zerhouni stand beside the finished work, which features Varmus sitting before a famous old painting by French artist Jacques Louis David.

Hyman praised Varmus's skills as a recruiter, noting that candidates should have interpreted it as a sign of respect when Varmus met them while still dripping wet from exercise, or when Varmus took them to Bethesda's no-frills restaurants for recruitment pitches. He noted that, under Varmus, "the necktie was demoted at NIH as a symbol of polite dress."

Hyman concluded, "Harold was all about substance, content, high quality science, and he was entirely unapologetic about it. He wasn't about marketing or making compromises. His tenure led to enormous morale and camaraderie. That sense of



Just after Varmus announced his intention, in fall 1999, to leave NIH, some colleagues put up a mock portrait featuring artwork that had accompanied a New Yorker feature on Varmus. The proto-portrait only remained on view for several days.

putting science first was such a positive influence, and a spectacular asset for NIH and the American people."

Zerhouni then spoke of how influential Varmus had been in helping him to decide to take NIH's directorship. He divulged that he at first turned down the position, but reconsidered when the White House approached him again. Zerhouni won an exception to the White House rule barring nominees from talking with anyone about their job offer; "I told them I needed to talk to Harold Varmus about it, and they agreed. We met at the Harvard Club in New York, and those hours were very influential,"

PHOTOS: JOHN CRAWFORD

Zerhouni said. "Ninety-five percent of what he told me turned out to be true."

Zerhouni said Varmus's major strength was "winning bipartisan support for NIH. He created a safe harbor for politicians at NIH. They can meet here with no overriding political stress." Zerhouni said one could measure Varmus's status by the number of new buildings he launched, or by his effort to double the budget within 5 years, but posited another way to measure the outcome of his tenure: "What if the director's portrait changed in size, relative to his or her accomplishments?" he

Artist Jon R. Friedman spoke briefly at the ceremony. His portraits of other scientific leaders prompted Varmus to select him for his own official portrait.



wondered. "The portraits would range in size from postage stamps to frescoes. And you, Harold, would cover all the wall downstairs."

Varmus then took the podium, thanking everyone for attending. "This is a very happy event for me, in part because I really like this portrait...I didn't expect to say that. I'm also glad that it hangs here, not me."

He credited NIH with turning him into a scientist, while he served as a clinical associate here from 1968 to 1970 as a way of avoiding the Vietnam war. He then described why the background portrait of Lavoisier—"founder of modern chemistry and reductionist science"—was important to him. "The painting celebrates science in four ways," he said: it emphasizes the connection between science and art; it highlights the relationship between science and words (Lavoisier can be seen working on his *Traité élémentaire de Chimie* or *Elementary Treatise on Chemistry presented in a New Order according to Modern Discoveries*, published on Jan. 17, 1789); it depicts the benefits of science and marriage; and it shows the relationship of science to politics (Lavoisier was a member of the French ruling class).

Varmus concluded that it was important to him that the portrait "puts me in the backdrop of my own image." He noted, ironically, that both he and the original David portrait occupy opposite ends of 84th St. in New York—his apartment is at one end, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which displays the roughly 7x9-foot portrait, is at the other.

After guests enjoyed a reception in Wilson Hall, the Varmus portrait was installed on the first floor of Bldg. 1, just outside the director's office. ■

NIH Computer Pioneer Pratt Dies

Dr. Arnold "Scotty" Warburton Pratt, first director of the Division of Computer Research and Technology (DCRT, the forerunner of the Center for Information Technology), died at the age of 83 on Jan. 4. He retired from NIH in 1990, after 42 years of distinguished service.

Born in Binghamton, N.Y., in 1920, he was an alumnus of Hobart College and received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1946. He served on the staff of New York Hospital until 1947, and as a research associate at Cornell Medical School from 1947 to 1948.



Dr. Arnold "Scotty" Pratt

Pratt joined NIH in 1948 as a member of the Laboratory of Physical Biology. One year later he moved to the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Physiology, where he became head of the energy metabolism section. There he investigated many biomedical research areas where computer technology was applied. He subsequently published several papers on computational analysis of ultraviolet absorption spectra and the use of computers in cancer chemotherapy.

In 1966, he was appointed the first director of DCRT by then NIH director Dr. James Shannon. Pratt's leadership was instrumental in introducing an enduring vision for the application of computer science and technology to NIH programs.

Pratt received many awards over the years, including a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Superior Service award in 1968, an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, N.Y., and a Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award for the Senior Executive Service in 1980.

Upon his retirement from NIH, he remarked, "As fruitful as the past has been, the future promises even more as the ideas and aspirations of computer science are realized in the laboratory and the clinic." His vision of computers becoming an integral part of biomedical research endures at NIH.

Survivors include his wife, Frances S. Pratt, three daughters, Mary H. Grant of Pittsburgh, Susan B. Ahart of Charlotte and Janet S. Oliver of Philadelphia, and five grandchildren.



Dr. Kenneth Roebuck is the new scientific review administrator of the AIDS and related research 1 study section at the Center for Scientific Review. He comes to CSR from Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. As an associate professor of immunology and microbiology there, he studied regulatory mechanisms of HIV gene expression. Roebuck earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of California-San Diego and San Diego State University. His research there focused on the transcriptional regulation of small nuclear RNA genes. In postdoctoral research at UC-San Diego, he studied the role of an activating protein (AP-1) on HIV gene expression and the regulation and activation of HIV in intestinal epithelial cells.

*'Invoking the Spirit'***NLM Photo Exhibit Captures African Worship Traditions**

To celebrate African American History Month 2003, the National Library of Medicine is exhibiting "Invoking the Spirit—Worship Traditions in the African World," a collection of more than 100 photographs by *New York Times* photojournalist Chester Higgins, Jr. The product of more than 25 years of travel and research, this photographic essay documents the vitality and diversity of the global African religious experience. The moving and dramatic works are on display from Feb. 10 to Mar.

7 in the first-floor lobby of the library's Lister Hill Center weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., or other times by special arrangement. They are on loan from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a national research library in the New York Public Library system.

"Invoking the Spirit" is organized around a series of themes that explore worship practices across ethnic, cultural and religious boundaries throughout the African world. Documented are: the kinds of sacred places African peoples—in Africa and the Americas—create or consecrate; the diverse spiritual leaders involved in conducting worship activities; the universal use of prayer as a formal means of communicating with God and the spirits; the ceremonies Africans use to pay tribute to God; and the roles of music and dance in religious ceremonies.

The images presented here have been chosen from Higgins' archive of almost a million photographs that document the broader global African experience. This is the third year that NLM has featured photographs from the Schomburg collection as part of its African American History Month observance.

To arrange a tour of the exhibit or for more information, contact David Nash, 496-1046. ■

NIH Sailing Association Open House

The NIH Sailing Association invites everyone to its open house on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the FAES House on the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Cedar Lane. Would you like to learn to sail? Does the idea of racing sailboats appeal to you? Can you imagine being part of a group filled with skilled sailing instructors, enthusiasts and boat owners? Membership includes instruction, sailboats for charter, racing, cruises, parties and fun. Admission is \$5 at the door and includes pizza and sodas; \$2 for beer or wine. For more information, visit www.recgov.org/sail. ■

Seminar To Discuss Computational Approaches to Biological Systems

An explosion of biological data and dramatic advances in computer technology are providing scientists with the quantitative means to analyze, model and simulate complex biological processes as never possible before. These processes can range from the behavior of single molecules, through cellular processes such as metabolic flux, to the behavior of individual organisms and population dynamics. NIGMS is sponsoring a seminar series featuring scientists on the cutting-edge of these new approaches.

Each lecture will be held in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, from 11 a.m. to noon. The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 27: Albert-László Barabási, University of Notre Dame, "Hierarchical Network Structure of Protein-protein and Metabolic Interactions."

Mar. 27: Bernhard Palsson, University of California, San Diego, "Bringing Genomes to Life: The Use of Genome Scale *in silico* Models."

May 29: Richard Young and David Gifford, both of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Regulation of Genome Expression in Living Cells."

June 5: Leslie Loew, University of Connecticut Health Center, "The Virtual Cell Project."

For information and reasonable accommodation call Kevin Lauderdale at 451-6446.

STEP Addresses Interagency Cooperation

The STEP (staff training in extramural programs) committee will hold an administrative strategies forum on the topic, "Coordinating Research Among Federal Agencies: Biodefense as a Case Study," on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 12:30 to 5 p.m. in the Natcher conference center's Rm. E1-E2.

Recent events have highlighted the need for a rapid, cooperative response among federal agencies, including the response to emerging biological threats. However, each agency has different missions, policies and approaches to science, which can complicate interagency cooperation. How can we capitalize on the strengths of each to best accomplish our shared national goals? Representatives from multiple agencies will describe their differing approaches to science funding. Biodefense against naturally occurring organisms or terrorist actions will be used as a case study to explore creative, coordinated solutions. The forum is offered for ESA credit. ■



Ethiopian Israelites, New York, 1989, by Chester Higgins, Jr.