

THE N I H R E C O R D

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

At HHS 50th Anniversary

NCI's Isenburg Recognized for Nearly 58 Years of Service

By Sarah Schroeder

For over three decades now, photographer Ralph Isenburg has captured the pathology of cancer cells at the National Cancer Institute through the lens of his camera. His 33 years at NCI, part of almost 58 years of government service, were recognized at the 50th anniversary of the Department of Health and Human Services celebration held Apr. 29. Along with 11 others from various HHS divisions, Isenburg received a certificate and medallion recognizing them as the "longest serving" employees.

At the event, Secretary Tommy G. Thompson praised all HHS employees. "I'm so proud of each and every one of you. I always tell people that HHS has the best

SEE **ISENBURG**, PAGE 2

MIT's Langer To Give NIDCR's Kreshover Lecture, June 16

Dr. Robert Langer, internationally known for his work in the fields of biotechnology and materials science, will present the 2003



Dr. Robert Langer

Seymour J. Kreshover Lecture on Monday, June 16 at 3:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The title of his lecture, sponsored by NIDCR, is "Biomaterials and How They Will Change Our

Lives." Langer is the Kenneth J. Germeshausen professor of chemical and biomedical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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

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'First, Do No Harm'

Device Determines NIH Tree Health With Minimal Damage

By Carla Garnett

When the head of NIH grounds maintenance ran across an article in the local newspaper earlier this year about a "new" tool for tree experts, he had to smile to himself. NIH had been using such a tool with more than fair success for nearly 6 years.

"We saw it at a trade show demonstration in Baltimore back in 1997," recalled Lynn Mueller, chief of the NIH grounds maintenance and landscaping section, Office of Research Services. "Since we do everything we can to save our trees, we were really impressed with how it worked."

The German-made device, called a
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NIH arborist William Scofield determines whether a tree's wood is sound.

Volkow Assumes Post as Director of NIDA

Dr. Nora D. Volkow assumed the duties of director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse on May 1. A leader in drug addiction research, she is the first woman to serve as NIDA's director since the founding of the institute. She replaces Dr. Glen R. Hanson, who served as acting director of NIDA since the departure of Dr. Alan I. Leshner, the previous NIDA director, in 2001.

Volkow comes to NIDA from Brookhaven National Laboratory, where she held concurrent positions including associate director for life sciences, director of nuclear medicine and director of the NIDA-DoE Regional Neuroimaging Center. In addition, she was a professor in the department of psychiatry and associate dean for the medical school at the State University of New York-Stony Brook.

"Over the past few years, there has been a dramatic change in



Dr. Nora Volkow

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public employees of any place in the world.”

The event concluded with the senior honorees cutting a three-tiered birthday cake and with healthy parting words from Thompson: “Just a reminder, this cake is not on your regular diet; get your 10,000 steps on your walkometer.”

Despite his many years of dedicated service and accomplishments, Isenburg is a modest man and



Ralph Isenburg of NCI's Laboratory of Pathology has almost 58 years of federal service, and was honored at the recent observance of HHS's 50th anniversary.

expressed surprise at being selected to represent NIH at the anniversary. Like many young men during World War II, Isenburg began serving his country through the military. A decorated soldier, he served for 5 years. After returning to civilian life, he worked briefly as a clerk for the

Veterans Administration.

In 1953, without knowing exactly what a medical photographer was, he applied to the Rochester General Hospital School of Medical Photography at the suggestion of his future wife, a medical illustrator. He was one of five students accepted and spent the next 3 years learning photography of medical procedures and cells. After graduating, he worked at Johns Hopkins Medical School, followed by a job with the photomicrography section at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

He joined the photography unit in NCI's Laboratory of Pathology in 1969 and continues to work there as chief medical photographer. During his career, he has produced more than 50,000 photos and slides used for publications and presentations. He's seen tremendous technological changes in his field with the advent of digital photography.

“I used to do all my own color developing,” Isenburg said. “Now I don't do it anymore. It's almost all digital.”

Although people ask from time to time, Isenburg has no immediate plans to retire. “I love my job, and I'm in good health,” he said. That comes as welcome news to his many friends and admirers at NCI.

“He is not only one of the very best medical photographers I have known, but also a wonderful person,” said Dr. Alan Rabson, deputy director of NCI. “In his 33 years, he has made many important contributions to the illustration of pathology in numerous publications.” ■



The NIH Federal Credit Union formally cut the ribbon opening its newest branch, on the B1 level of the Clinical Center, on May 22. The credit union has taken over space that had been previously occupied by private banking concerns ever since the Clinical Center opened in 1953. On hand for the ceremony were (from l) Lindsay Alexander, NIHFCU CEO/president; Dr. Philip Chen, Jr., senior advisor to the NIH deputy director for intramural research; John Jarman, executive officer, OD; Charles “Chick” Leasure, Jr., NIH deputy director for



management and CFO; James Norris, vice president of delivery systems, NIHFCU; Cassandra Hairston, NIHFCU branch operations manager; and Sharyn Hartsfield, manager of the new branch. Above, Janet Stephens of ORS's Medical Arts and Photography Branch exults over winning one of the day's many door prizes.

management and CFO; James Norris, vice president of delivery systems, NIHFCU; Cassandra Hairston, NIHFCU branch

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

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Cassell To Give FIC Global Health Lecture, June 12

Dr. Gail Cassell, vice president for scientific affairs and distinguished Lilly research scholar for infectious diseases at Eli Lilly and Co., will deliver the fifth presentation in the FIC Global Health lecture series on Thursday, June 12 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The talk, titled "Global Health Inequities and the Critical Role of Public/Private Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities in the Next Decade," is part of a year-long series on global health issues sponsored by the Fogarty International Center to commemorate its 35th anniversary.

Cassell will describe the potential for public/private partnerships (PPP) to address critical global health issues that cannot be fully addressed by any one sector operating alone. Her experience in creating a PPP focused on multidrug resistant tuberculosis—including measures to improve diagnosis, reduce transmission, provide training in management, and, importantly, to ensure that second-line drugs will be made available by the private sector partner—will serve as the background for an evaluation of the place, role and potential for additional PPPs in the future.

Cassell has been intimately involved in the establishment of science policy and legislation related to biomedical research and public health. She has served as an advisor on infectious diseases and indirect costs of research to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and has been an invited participant in numerous congressional hearings and briefings related to infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance and biomedical research. She served on the advisory committee to the NIH director from 1993 to 1996. She was also a member and chair of the board of scientific counselors of the Center for Infectious Diseases at CDC. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

A graduate of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, Cassell received an M.S. and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB). She began her research and teaching career at UAB in 1973 as an assistant professor in the department of comparative medicine. She was named Charles H. McCauley professor of microbiology in 1994, served as chair of the department of microbiology from 1987 to 1997 and



Dr. Gail Cassell

is now professor emerita in that UAB department. She is also professor in the department of pediatrics and the department of comparative medicine at UAB and is a senior scientist at UAB's Center for AIDS Research, Cystic Fibrosis Center and Multipurpose Arthritis Center.

Cassell joined Eli Lilly and Co. in 1997 as vice president of infectious disease research. In 2002, she rose to her current position.

All are welcome to attend the lecture and to meet with Cassell at an informal reception that will follow her talk. ■

NIH Researchers Elected to AAM

In recognition of their scientific achievement and contributions to the advancement of microbiology, six NIH researchers were recently elected into the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM): Dr. John E. Bennett and Dr. Alan Sher of NIAID; Dr. Paul Kolenbrander and Dr. Sharon K. Wahl, NIDCR; Dr. Robert G. Martin, NIDDK; and Dr. Sue H. Wickner, NCI.

The 1,500-member academy provides honorific leadership to the 43,000-member American Society for Microbiology. The AAM promotes programs of professional recognition and fosters the highest professional and ethical standing of microbiologists. It is the only group of its kind devoted entirely to microbiologists and the science of microbiology.

2003 NIH Director's Awards Ceremony

All employees are invited to the 2003 NIH Director's Award ceremony on Friday, June 27 at 1 p.m. in the Natcher Bldg. main auditorium. Awards will be presented in four categories: The NIH Director's Award, mentoring awards, Commissioned Corps awards and EEO awards. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign language interpreters will be provided. Reception will be held following the ceremony in the Natcher cafeteria. Individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation to participate in the event should contact their IC award coordinators. ■

NIH Director's Town Meeting, June 18

The NIH Director's Town Hall meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, June 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Natcher conference center's main auditorium. Dr. Elias Zerhouni will address issues of importance to the broad NIH community, and be available to answer questions. Sign language interpretation will be provided, as will other reasonable accommodation. The meeting can be viewed from desktop computer at <http://videocast.nih.gov>. For more information about the event, contact Carol Jabir at jabirc@od.nih.gov, or 496-1776. ■

KRESHOVER LECTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Forbes magazine, in 2002, selected Langer as one of the 15 innovators worldwide who will reinvent our future. *Time* magazine and CNN (2001) named him as one of the 100 most important people in America and one of the top 18 people in science or medicine.

Langer has nearly 500 issued or pending patents worldwide, one of which was cited as the outstanding patent in Massachusetts in 1988 and one of 20 outstanding patents in the United States. His patents have been licensed or sublicensed to more than 100 pharmaceutical, chemical, biotechnology and medical device companies; a number of these companies were launched on the basis of these licenses. He served as a member of the Food and Drug Administration's SCIENCE board, the FDA's highest advisory board, from 1995 to 2002 and as its chairman from 1999 to 2002.

The recipient of over 100 major awards, Langer received the \$500,000 Charles Stark Draper Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel prize for engineers and the world's most prestigious engineering prize, from the National Academy of Engineering in 2002. He is also the only engineer to receive the Gairdner Foundation International Award; 50 recipients of this award have subsequently received a Nobel prize. In 1998, he received the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT prize, the world's largest prize for invention for being "one of history's most prolific inventors in medicine."

He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1989, and in 1992 he was elected to both the National Academy of Engineering and to the National Academy of Sciences. He is one of few people ever elected to all three United States National Academies and the youngest in history (at age 43) to ever receive this distinction.

The Kreshover Lecture series was established in 1983 by NIDCR to recognize outstanding accomplishments in basic and clinical research and to honor distinguished scientists who have made important contributions in areas of research directly related to the interests of the institute. Kreshover served as director of the National Institute of Dental Research from 1966 until his retirement from the PHS Commissioned Corps in 1975.

The lecture is open to all and may also be seen via webcast at <http://videocast.nih.gov/>. ■

Employee Needs Organ Donation

An NIDDK employee with type A blood is in need of a kidney transplant. If there is anyone interested in being tested as a possible donor match that has either type A or O blood, call Wanda at (301) 524-7432. Federal government donors can use up to 30 days of donor leave, which is not associated with your sick or vacation leave. ■



The National Institute on Drug Abuse and Scholastic Classroom Magazines unveiled the Grand Prize artwork from the national "Heads Up: Real News About Drugs and Your Body" poster contest on May 16 at Scholastic headquarters in New York City. Ania Lisa Etienne (above), an 8th-grader at Mark Twain School/I.S. 239 in Brooklyn, won Grand Prize for her vivid illustration of a distressed teenager looking at her image in a shattered mirror, a symbol Ania says is the result of bad luck that comes from being involved with drugs. The contest was sponsored by Scholastic as part of the ongoing Heads Up science-based drug education campaign featured in Scholastic's classroom magazines, reaching 8.5 million middle and high school students across the country. Ania's poster, "You Can't Sniff Away Your Sorrows," was chosen from nearly 1,100 entries and will form the basis of a poster to be included in the Heads Up program during the 2003-2004 school year. The campaign was created in partnership with NIDA.

Salutaris Noons-in-June

This year, the NIH Salutaris employee group will celebrate Gay Pride Month by sponsoring two lunch-time programs focusing on health disparities within the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community. The speakers are former HRSA administrator Dr. Claude Earl Fox, and Dr. Katherine O'Hanlan, an OB/GYN from California, specializing in gynecologic oncology.

On June 20, Fox will discuss GLBT health disparity initiatives and the federal government. The program will take place between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Bldg. 40, Conf. Rm. 1201.

On June 23, O'Hanlan will address how civil rights impact GLBT health disparities. Her talk will be in Bldg. 40, Conf. Rm. 1201 between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For reasonable accommodation, contact Shannon Bell at 594-3767. ■

Women's Health IG Meets, June 11

The women's health special interest group will meet on Wednesday, June 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. Guest speaker will be Dr. Nancy Olsen, professor of medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Her topic will be "Autoimmune Disease—Why Female?"

Police Cookout Draws Crowd

NIH held its annual Police Awareness Day cookout on the lawn in front of Bldg. 1 on May 15. Guest of honor this year was NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who donned an NIH Police ballcap and reviewed several public safety exhibits, including a ride up in the NIH Fire Department's lift truck.

A number of local police agencies participated in the luncheon/exhibit. The United States Park Police sponsored K-9 and horse-mounted units; the



NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni (c) addresses uniformed and plainclothes police officers from the NIH Police Branch including (from l) Lt. Mark Knowles, Det. Mike Conto, Lt. Thomas Jensen and Lt. Udon Cheek.

Metropolitan Transit (Metro) police brought a K-9 team; the Rockville Police had a D.A.R.E. vehicle; the Metropolitan (D.C.) Police had a display; the NIH Fire Department parked a fire engine on the site; and Montgomery County Police offered a child safety seat display. Also on hand were

representatives of the ATF bomb disposal squad; the Department of Veterans Affairs; airport police; NIH



Mike Gilroy, NIH FD technician, shows Zerhouni details of fire engine controls.

Parking Office (Transhare Program); crime prevention unit; and NIH Federal Credit Union.

More than 300 lunches were served at the event, organized by Alvin D. Hinton, chief of the NIH Police. Lts. Lawrence Brown and Jody Luke served



as the planning committee coordinators, and Lt. Udon Cheek was the special events coordinator. Several other Division of Public Safety staff members volunteered their time to make the event a success.

All proceeds will be donated to NIH charities.

Joining ORS Director Steve Ficca (second from l) alongside a fire engine are (from l) Joe D'Ambrosio, Ricky Blair, Israel Burch, R. David Myers, Mike Gilroy, Sam Barnett, Frank Smith and Ed Gotthardt, Jr.



Technician R. David Myers of the NIH Fire Department shows Zerhouni how the department's lift truck operates.



Zerhouni chats with fire fighters Gilroy (l) and Burch, along with Ficca (second from r) and Charles "Chick" Leasure, Jr., (r) NIH deputy director for management and CFO.

PHOTOS: LARRY BEVERLY

TREE HEALTH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Resistograph, is roughly the size and shape of a caulking gun and is powered by a hand drill. It takes what amounts to a needle biopsy, leaving a tiny puncture wound in the tree's torso, instead of a big hole. The piercing is self-healing, after a time. What results is a graph printout that resembles the spikes and dips on a heart monitor. A steady period of high spikes indicates a healthy, vital tree; deep valleys on the printout are a sign of inner decay.

"This will get you a look at the inside of the tree without having to cut it," explained William Scofield, the NIH arborist who actually uses the device to reveal whether a tree's wood is sound, rotten in places or completely hollow. "It's also a good tool to give us an indication for possible pruning and for whether a tree is safe and sturdy enough to climb."

Healthy Trees Need Not Apply

What typically happens is that "during our leaf-on and leaf-off inspections, we'll identify trees that have visible hazards and indications of inner decay," Mueller explained. "Either that or an employee or one of our maintenance guys will notice something wrong with a tree—usually fungus, either on

the trunk or on the root flare—while he's mowing the grass or doing some trimming. That's when we call on Bill to use this machine. We only use it on trees that appear to be deteriorating in some way. We'll see dead branches, crown dieback or fungus growing, and realize we need to investigate further. We don't need to use it on obviously healthy trees."

A former employee at the National Park Service, Scofield's expertise is the result of years of experience. "It takes about an hour per tree to get an accurate reading," he said, explaining that the needle-width drill bit is inserted twice for each tree, once from north to south and once from east to west. If the prognosis justifies removal, a photo of the tree is taken before and after.

"The maples around here tend to be the weakest," Mueller said. "We've also noticed that the oaks are beginning to act up, mainly because of soil compaction and many of them were planted in too-narrow spaces, which limits their lifespan."

This weeping willow that lives along the creek-bed at the corner of Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike was recently named a Champion Tree by the Montgomery County Forestry Board.



Nevertheless, Mueller said, sometimes despite efforts to treat or cure it, a tree has to come down—before it falls down and hurts someone or damages property. "Sometimes," he concluded, "we'll leave what's called a 'snag.' That's one of those tall trunks you might see left standing. We do that out of consideration for wildlife that may be still using the tree. In all cases we preserve as much as possible. Using the [Resistograph] helps us without harming the tree."

Flourishes about NIH Flora and Fauna

Another of NIH's trees was recently named a Champion Tree by the Montgomery County Forestry Board. A weeping willow that lives along the creek-bed at the corner of Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike was determined to be the largest tree of its species (salix) in the county. The willow, #2330 on NIH's tree survey, is NIH's sixth winning tree and second champion willow species since 1999. "What's amazing about this champion tree," noted Mueller, "is that it was planted in 1968."

Soon, unfortunately, a one-of-its-kind tree at NIH will have to be taken down to make space for construction related to the new Bldg. 33, which will be erected on what is now parking lot 31F. Tagged #2398, the 17-inch caliper yellow buckeye, the only one of its type on the NIH grounds, will be replaced by three NIH-propagated baby yellow buckeyes in the same vicinity. The new trees will be planted out of future harm's way, Mueller said.

NIH is also planting more trees in the largest wooded area on campus, the Cedar Lane Woods located between the Children's Inn and the new NIH firehouse near Old Georgetown Rd. According to Mueller, there must be 100 trees per acre for a parcel of land to be cited as a forest by the Maryland department of forestry.

"We're repopulating that area in an attempt to get the forest designation," he said. "We're real close, but not there quite yet. It'll take us a few more years of planting young native tree species to reach that designation."



The 17-inch caliper yellow buckeye shown above—the only one of its type on the NIH grounds—will be taken down to make way for construction related to the new Bldg. 33. Three baby yellow buckeyes—homegrown so to speak by NIH's grounds maintenance and landscaping section—will be planted nearby to replace it.

In other news of NIH flora and fauna, Mueller reports that about 17,000 annual flowers, impatiens, petunias and vinca will be planted on the grounds this spring.

"Our guys have about 6 weeks between the last frost and the summer heat to get them all out," he said.

Also, six additional bluebird houses have been erected on campus. The structures are monitored weekly for habitation on the northern portion of campus by employee volunteers Cindy Clark and



Cindy Clark (l) and Theresa Sartori, biomedical librarians at the NIH Library and volunteer campus birdhouse monitors, find evidence of nesting near construction projects for the CRC, the NIH firehouse and the Children's Inn extension.

Theresa Sartori, and along the southern half by retired neighbor Jim Gardner. This is the third straight year of the project that aims to reduce NIH's summer insect population without using pesticides. The effort has been a huge success that is popular with employees as well as neighbors. Last year, 88 fledglings were seen checking out of the NIH accommodations, with 17 bluebird babies among those housed. Also recorded were house wrens, chickadees and tree swallows.

"The bird box monitoring project has allowed us to learn more about the species that frequent the NIH Bethesda campus, including their habitats and behaviors," said Clark, who along with Sartori is a biomedical librarian in the information and education services section of the NIH Library in Bldg. 10. "This is fun and quite exciting when we encounter a new resident. We keep statistics on the number and species of birds fledged from each box each year. We have also gained an appreciation of the efforts that Lynn Mueller and grounds maintenance people make to both the beauty and the health of the campus environment."

Mueller also reported that two purple martin houses erected in March at the NIH Animal Center in Poolesville have already been occupied by new colonies. ■

Jakobsson Is First Director of NIGMS Center

Dr. Eric Jakobsson recently became the first director of the Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

The CBCB supports research and training in areas that join biology with the computer sciences, engineering, mathematics and physics. Examples include computer modeling of biological networks and dynamic processes; quantitative approaches to cellular, molecular and developmental biology; and the development of databases and other analytical tools. Dr. James Cassatt, director of the NIGMS Division of Cell Biology and Biophysics, has served as CBCB's acting director since the center was established in 2001.

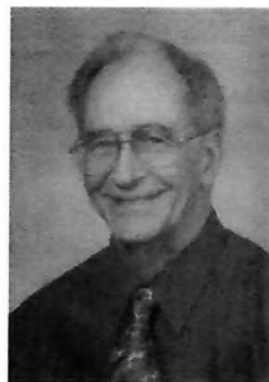
Before coming to NIGMS, Jakobsson was a professor in the department of molecular and integrative physiology and in the programs in biophysics, neuroscience and bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additionally, he was a professor at the University of Illinois' Beckman Institute and a research scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

He recently served as director of the Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also directed and helped establish the bioengineering program there.

Jakobsson's research focuses on the computational and theoretical study of biological membranes. He is also a leader in the use of computers and other technology in education. Among his achievements is a computer system that enables users with a simple interface (web browser) to simultaneously access several databases that would otherwise be incompatible.

Jakobsson earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from the Columbia University School of Engineering in 1960 and a Ph.D. in physics from Dartmouth College in 1969. He has authored many scientific articles and book chapters, is a member of many professional societies and has served as a manuscript reviewer for more than 15 journals or scientific publishing companies.

As the new director of CBCB, Jakobsson will also assume from Cassatt leadership of the Biomedical Information Science and Technology Initiative (BISTI). This initiative brings together senior-level representatives of various components of NIH and other federal agencies interested in the use of computer science to address issues in biology and medicine. BISTI will hold its first symposium, called "Digital Biology: The Emerging Paradigm," on Nov. 6-7 (see details at <http://www.bisti.nih.gov/2003meeting/>). ■



Dr. Eric Jakobsson recently became the first director of the Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at NIGMS.

Anthrax Vaccine Study Needs Volunteers

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research is currently seeking volunteers for an anthrax vaccine study. You may be able to participate if you are healthy and between the ages of 18-61. Participants will be provided a free medical evaluation including blood tests and will be paid for time and effort. For more information call (301) 319-9335 or (301) 319-9320.

VOLKOW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the view of drug addiction," said Volkow. "Research is showing us that addiction is a brain disease, therefore it should be treated like any other chronic disease. As director, I will strive to continue NIDA's efforts to bring researchers, clinicians and providers together to realize the full benefits of science in fighting addiction and improving the quality of care provided for patients. I will work to assure that the institute will continue to nurture quality research in all scientific disciplines, including basic neurobiology and to generate new information to improve the ways we prevent and treat drug abuse."

Volkow brings to NIDA a long record of accomplishment in drug addiction research. She is a recognized expert on the brain's dopamine system with her research focusing on the brains of addicted, obese and aging individuals. Her studies have documented changes in the dopamine system affecting the actions of frontal brain regions involved with motivation, drive and pleasure and the decline of brain dopamine function with age associated with slowing of motor function and changes in cognitive skills. As a scientist, she has been supported by research grants from NIDA, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the Department of Energy.

At Brookhaven, Volkow pioneered the use of imaging to investigate neurochemical changes that occur during drug addiction. Her primary focus was on mechanisms underlying the reinforcing, addictive and toxic properties of drugs of abuse in the human brain. She investigated the neurochemical mechanisms influencing the way different individuals respond to drugs of abuse and the potential link to vulnerability to drug abuse, alcoholism or other impulse behaviors.

Volkow has used imaging to study the rewarding and therapeutic effects of stimulant drugs. By conducting a systematic comparison of the pharmacological effects of cocaine and methylphenidate (a drug to treat children with attention deficit disorder), her studies have highlighted the importance of pharmacokinetics in enabling the reinforcing effects of stimulant drugs. These studies have shown that stimulant drugs, when used therapeutically, amplify dopamine signals in the brain and may result in improved attention and performance while not promoting addiction to the drugs.

Her work includes more than 275 peer-reviewed publications, three edited books and more than 50 book chapters and non-peer reviewed manuscripts. The recipient of multiple awards, she was honored with the Joel Elkes International Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and the Kuhl-Lassen Award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine. She was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine in the National Acad-

emy of Sciences and was named "Innovator of the Year" in 2000 by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Volkow was reared in Mexico City and earned her B.A. from Modern American School, Mexico City and her M.D. from the National University of Mexico, Mexico City. She completed postdoctoral training in psychiatry at New York University. In addition to Brookhaven and SUNY-Stony Brook, Volkow has worked at the University of Texas Medical School and Sainte Anne Psychiatric Hospital in Paris. ■

Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, senior advisor to the NIH director, was honored Apr. 13 with the Howard K. Schachman Public Service Award of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, one of the members of the Federation of American



Societies for Experimental Biology. The award, given at an ASBMB meeting in San Diego, included presentation of "an absolutely fantastic historic microscope, built

in 1837," said Kirschstein, who plans to donate it either to the NIH director or to NIH's Office of History. Kirschstein was the Schachman Award's second honoree; last year it was given to former Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.).

FAES Announces Concert Schedule

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences has announced the performers and dates in the 2003-2004 season of its Chamber Music Series. This is the series' 36th year. The concerts are held at the Landon School's Mondzac Performing Arts Center and all performances will be Sundays at 4 p.m.

Oct. 12	Boris Pergamenchikov, cello, and Kirill Gerstein, piano
Oct. 26	The Brentano String Quartet
Nov. 16	Stephen Hough, piano
Nov. 30	Imogen Cooper, piano
Dec. 14	Concertante
Jan. 11, 2004	The Trio di Parma
Feb. 1	Viviane Hagner, violin, Adam Nieman, piano
Feb. 15	The Takacs String Quartet
Feb. 29	Louis Lortie, piano
Mar. 28	Mihaela Ursuleasa, piano

Tickets for individual concerts may be purchased 2 weeks before the performance, or on the day of the concert. Cost is \$25 for adults; \$10 for students and fellows. A 10-performance subscription costs \$220. For more information call 496-7976 or visit www.faes.org. ■

Getting the Scoop from the Institutes

MEDLINEplus Counts on Input, Insights from NIH Advisors

Have you ever wondered who helps compile the vast contents of NLM's popular and authoritative online health information resource, MEDLINEplus (medlineplus.gov)?

A stalwart and surprisingly small team of NLM staffers constitutes the in-house MEDLINEplus group that scrutinizes and posts that resource's holdings. But another key component is the MEDLINEplus advisory group, composed of representatives from almost every institute that produces information for the public. The group functions as a sort of "board of directors" and a creative wellspring to aid in the database's development. A national network of medical librarians has key input, too.

MEDLINEplus, NLM's consumer-friendly web information service, was created in 1998 to provide up-to-date health information for the public. The easy-to-use resource gleans the best of the Internet from NIH and other reliable organizations.

"We realized early on that a wealth of information was coming from NIH," said Eve-Marie Lacroix, chief of NLM's Public Services Division, which oversees MEDLINEplus. "Bob Mehnert, NLM's head of communications, reached out to communications directors at the various institutes to solicit their input, and our advisory group was born."

The group's charter meeting took place Oct. 1, 2000. Its members are communications directors, assistant directors and other senior communications staffers.

"We also brought in Dennis Rodrigues to serve on the advisory board," Lacroix continued. "Dennis manages NIH's main web site, and his presence has facilitated closer collaboration between the two sites."

In MEDLINEplus, each of the 600+ health topic pages links to the institute with primary responsibility for that topic, where appropriate—for example, the "Diabetes" page links to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Many of the topics feature general information or an overview of the topic from NIH at the top of the topic page. Other NIH information is organized by subtopic, such as diagnosis, research, treatment, etc. "Members of the advisory committee have been helpful in identifying the primary institute," said Lacroix, "and in ensuring there is authoritative content for the health topic page."

Institute representatives advised NLM regarding the creation of a Spanish version of MEDLINEplus, launched in September 2002. It was their idea, for example, to create a special page on MEDLINEplus, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/nihinstitutes.html>, with descriptions of each institute and with links to each institute's home page in

English.

At each advisory group meeting, members report on upcoming programs and events, especially new health information being created for the public. The MEDLINEplus team has created health topic pages in response to institute suggestions or new health information resources.

"Financial Assistance" and "Assistive Devices" are two recent additions.

In addition, the institutes' representatives can email the MEDLINEplus team at any time if they want one of their programs or new health information resources featured on the MEDLINEplus homepage. They can use

this mechanism to let NLM's team know that they have just published a new document for the public on their site, so that MEDLINEplus can quickly link it to the appropriate health topic.

The institutes are collaborating with NLM and the National Institute on Aging on a separate project, NIHSeniorHealth.gov, a special web site for seniors, which is slated for launch this fall.

"We love MEDLINEplus," says NEI's Kym Collins-Lee. "It really helps those of us who work in public affairs to be able to direct people to it, for drug information and other resources. There have been some great strategies developed for consumer health and many of us with the institutes have learned from those."

MEDLINEplus usage has been growing rapidly, doubling in the past year to a rate of more than 200 million page views per year. In addition to "Health Topics," the main features of MEDLINEplus are information about thousands of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia and medical dictionaries, directories of hospitals and health professionals, a daily health news feed from the major print media, 150 interactive and simply presented tutorials (with audio and video) about diseases and medical procedures. Recently, *Consumer Reports* hailed MEDLINEplus as "the best place to find health information on the Web." ■

Pulmonary Sarcoidosis?

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



The MEDLINEplus advisory group includes (front row, from l): Robert Mehnert, NLM; Eve-Marie Lacroix, NLM; Marian Emr, NINDS; Terry Long, NHLBI; and Kym Collins-Lee, NEI. In the second row are (from l) Dr. Marin Allen, NIDCD; Dennis Rodrigues, OD; Joan Abell, NIMH; Sue Feldman, NCI. In the third row are (from l) Chris Thomsen, NCCAM; Kathy Kranzfelder, NIDDK; and Joyce Backus, NLM. In the last row are Jane Shure, NIA; and Naomi Miller, NLM.

Kington Promotes eRA at Annual Symposium

NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington urged 300 participants at the eRA Symposium on Apr. 30 to embrace the new NIH electronic Research Administration (eRA) system and to participate actively in refining it. eRA enables NIH to keep pace with the enormous flow of extramural research-related information, adds efficiency to grants processing and improves communication within NIH and with the grantee community.

In opening remarks, Kington stressed that NIH'ers "will be the pioneers, and our ability to use [eRA] successfully will have great resonance throughout the department." HHS currently is evaluating eRA for department-wide use.

This year's symposium, titled "Progress in Program: Tying It All Together," was dedicated to informing the program community about the growing challenges of grants administration as well as the opportunities offered by eRA. Dr. Ronald Germain, deputy chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Immunology, explained how grant portfolios would become more interdisciplinary and complex as a reflection of systems biology, the new trend in biological research. According to Germain, major advances are likely to come from large teams "comprising expert biologists, computer programmers, mathematicians, engineers, chemists and others...needed to collect and assemble the vast amount of data into predictive models of biological behavior."

Program officials (POs) responded favorably to several new tools that were introduced at the symposium. The program module (PGM), currently in pilot mode, will better connect POs to their institute or center's grants management and budget operations and will enable POs to administer their portfolios using the paperless processes mandated by Congress. Furthermore, the PGM will allow POs to communicate with grantees through the NIH eRA Commons. Web Query Tool, a powerful web-based application for extracting information and reports from the eRA database, also made its debut at the symposium.

eRA project manager Dr. John McGowan emphasized the potential for advancing medical research through the mining of eRA data using knowledge management technology. Expected to grow from 6 to 12 terabytes in the near future, the eRA database is accessed in 300 countries worldwide. Approximately 3,500 HHS extramural staff use the eRA system; more than 50,000 grantees are expected to enroll in the NIH eRA Commons when the system reaches full productivity. In addition, the Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP), which contains information on research projects and programs supported by HHS, is available to the public.



eRA project manager Dr. John McGowan emphasized the potential for advancing medical research through the mining of eRA data using knowledge management technology.

In his presentation on "Future Directions," Dr. Steven Hausman, deputy director of NIAMS and eRA advocate for advanced technologies, gave a summary of major FY 2002 eRA successes, including the scanning of all incoming applications, distribution of proposals to reviewers via CD, support for electronic submission of peer reviews, automated generation of summary statements, and a facility for submitting progress reports through a web interface. By 2004, it is anticipated that 80 percent of principal investigators will use eSNAP to submit their progress reports online.

Hausman also introduced emerging technologies, including Gyricon-based media for electronic paper, improved collaborative technologies for conducting meetings, wireless broadband, BroadBench, Spot technology, Blue-Ray DVD and Augmented Cognition, which offer many possibilities for improving grants administration business practices.

For more information and copies of symposium presentations, visit era.nih.gov/eraworkshop3/. To view the videocast of the symposium, go to <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp> and select "NIH Only Events." ■

Twins, Close Siblings Sought for Study

NIEHS is seeking 400 families with twins or pairs of close brothers or sisters for a nation-wide study seeking to identify the causes of a series of systemic rheumatic diseases. Specifically sought are volunteer families in which one twin or one of a pair of close brothers or pair of close sisters has rheumatoid arthritis, polyarticular juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, systemic sclerosis or idiopathic inflammatory myopathy, an autoimmune muscle disease.

The other same-gender twin or sibling must be free of these and other autoimmune diseases.

Even in the case of identical twins, the likelihood that one twin will have the disease and the other won't is generally greater than 50 percent. The twins or siblings may be children or adults. Their parents are also eligible for enrollment to study the genetic risk factors for these diseases.

Blood and urine samples will be taken to test both for environmental exposures and for minor variations in their genes that might make the volunteer more susceptible, or less, to a disease trigger. The volunteers will be followed for 5 years but will remain under the care of their own local doctors. Washington-area volunteers may enroll at the Clinical Center. Volunteers in other parts of the country can enroll at their local doctors' offices and have their samples sent to Bethesda for evaluation.

To qualify for the study, brother pairs and sister pairs must be within 47 months of each other.

For details visit <http://dir.niehs.nih.gov/direag> or call 1-800-411-1222, TTY 1-866-411-1010. ■

NIAMS Skin Biologist Steinert Mourned

Dr. Peter M. Steinert, chief of the Laboratory of Skin Biology at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, passed away unexpectedly Apr. 7. He was 57.

During his career, Steinert made major contributions to the understanding of structures and interactions of the proteins characteristic of epithelial cells, which cover the external and internal surfaces of the body, and make up skin and connective tissue.

His experimental approach was multifaceted, covering biochemistry, molecular biology, structural biology and cell biology. Steinert wanted to determine how these proteins work together to create a stabilized cell and how different combinations



Dr. Peter M. Steinert

of these proteins account for the respective properties of different kinds of epithelial cells. He was particularly interested in how mutations in some of these proteins give rise to skin diseases. At the time of his death, he was exploring the role of transglutaminase enzymes. When these enzymes don't work properly, the skin suffers from blistering or flaking diseases.

A native of Australia, Steinert came to the United States in 1972. He worked at Boston University Medical School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before joining the National Cancer Institute's Dermatology Branch in 1973. In 1990, he moved to NIAMS, where he became chief of the Laboratory of Skin Biology. He had more than 200 publications and several patents. He collaborated with scientists all over the world, and initiated the first Gordon Conference on Intermediate Filaments, which is still going strong today.

Many will remember Steinert as a dedicated mentor. He invited visiting fellows into his lab often. He coordinated joint projects for his fellows, allowing them to gain as much experience as possible. When the fellows returned home, he established collaborations with them and sometimes invited them back during the summer to work and share their research progress.

Colleagues say that Steinert made them part of his family. He was well known by his friends for planning ski trips and other outings, and welcoming colleagues into his home for holiday gatherings.

Steinert is survived by his companion, NCI's Dr. Mario Anzano, and two brothers.

Anticonvulsant Tested for Fibromyalgia

A new study funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases will measure the effectiveness of gabapentin, an anticonvulsant medication, in reducing symptoms of fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS). Fibromyalgia is a chronic disorder characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain and fatigue. Gabapentin has been found to relieve chronic pain caused by nervous system disorders, and was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of persistent, severe pain that can follow an episode of shingles.

The new study will be conducted by Dr. Lesley M. Arnold and her colleagues at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and two Boston-area sites, McLean Hospital of Harvard University and Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Approximately 150 study participants with FMS will be assigned randomly to take either gabapentin or placebo for a 12-week period. The medication's effectiveness will be measured using questionnaires that assess the participants' fatigue, stiffness, sleep, mood, "tender-point" pain threshold and quality of life. Tender points are specific places on the body—located on the neck, shoulders, back, hips and upper and lower extremities—where people with fibromyalgia often feel pain in response to slight pressure.

Treatment of fibromyalgia usually requires a comprehensive approach. Patients may benefit from a combination of exercise, medication and physical therapy.

Currently, there are no medications specifically approved by the FDA for the treatment of FMS. Many people with FMS take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and some physicians prescribe muscle relaxants and antidepressants to treat the symptoms of FMS. Depending on the results of this study, gabapentin may become another treatment option.

Available data suggest that 3 million to 6 million Americans are affected by FMS. It primarily occurs in women, but children and men also may be affected. ■

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>.

Introduction to Perl for Biologists	6/10-13
mAdb Intermediate Informatics	6/11-12
OMB 300 (Business Case) Preparation	6/18
Bringing Data Files into SAS	6/18
mAdb Basic Informatics	6/25

Lymphoma Patients Needed

If you or someone you love has lymphoma, call today for study information: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).

ORS Launches Worksite Wellness Lectures

"As NIH employees, you are all 'ambassadors for health' when you interact with your families and people in the community," said Dr. Griffin P. Rodgers, deputy director of NIDDK, at the recent kick-off of the first worksite wellness lecture concerning the benefits of healthy eating and regular



Dr. Griffin Rodgers, NIDDK deputy director, addresses a crowd gathered in the Bldg. 31 cafeteria.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

physical activity. The lecture was sponsored by the Office of Research Services, in collaboration with NIDDK.

Speaking in the Bldg. 31 cafeteria, Rodgers praised the more than 100 employ-

ees in attendance for taking time out of their busy schedules to hear the premiere lecture. He briefly discussed NIDDK's research efforts in diabetes, obesity and physical activity. "This is a wonderful opportunity for NIDDK and other institutes to offer employees access to information that could improve their health," said Rodgers. "We hope that you'll share the information about the life-long benefits of healthy eating and daily physical activity with people you know."

Following his comments, Karen Regan, a program analyst for NIH's Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, talked about weight loss and nutrition myths. "Fad diets such as low-carbohy-

drate, high-protein diets work, but only for short-term weight loss," she explained. "Controlling how much food you eat by carefully reading nutrition labels and exercising regularly are the best ways to lose weight and keep it off."

These pilot lectures are designed to provide NIH

employees with information about various health topics, many of them central to NIH's biomedical research portfolio, according to Dwayne Parris, of ORS's Worksite Enrichment Programs Branch. Parris is a food service manager and coordinator of the lecture series.

In addition to the talks, ORS and NIDDK raffled away T-shirts, pedometers, fitness memberships to R&W and coffee mugs. Complimentary refreshments were also provided. Other ICs interested in working with ORS on future events should contact Parris at 402-8180 or email parrisdw@mail.nih.gov.—Leslie Curtis ■



Dwayne Parris of ORS coordinates the wellness lecture series.



Karen Regan (l), a nutritionist for NIDDK, speaks with an audience member after the wellness seminar.



Daniel Mahoney (l) and Helen Pardoe join National Institute on Aging director Dr. Richard J. Hodes at the Apr. 23 memorial service for Mrs. Florence Stephenson Mahoney, who was Mahoney and Pardoe's grandmother. Mrs. Mahoney, who died last November at age 103, was instrumental in the founding of the NIA.

Female Smokers Needed

Female volunteers age 18 and older are needed to participate in a study being conducted at American University. The study is investigating mood and smoking. Compensation is provided. If interested call (240) 994-0268. ■