

# THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

## Interested in an 'Adventure in Science?'

No matter how earth-shattering your lab results are, you are not likely to find any audience at NIH more excited about science than the kids who come each Saturday



Dylan Wright examines the insides of a frog.

morning to Bldg. 10 to attend Adventure in Science. The AIS program, beginning its 11th year at NIH this fall, gives local children ages 8-11 an opportunity to explore the fun of science with volunteer NIH staff, from postdocs to institute directors. Whether they are dissecting frogs, constructing electronic circuits, testing for starch in foods or building model rockets, the kids

SEE ADVENTURES, PAGE 4

## NCI Funds Centers of Excellence In Communications

The National Cancer Institute on June 25 announced plans to fund four Centers of Excellence in Cancer Communications Research (CECCR). The CECCR initiative is the centerpiece of NCI's Extraordinary Opportunity in Cancer Communications (EOCC), a broad initiative that supports research and outreach aimed at increasing the knowledge about, tools for, access to, and use of cancer communications by the public, patients, survivors and health professionals. The goal of the EOCC is to understand and apply the most effective communications approaches to maximize access to and use of cancer information by all who need it. The EOCC has been the launching pad for initiatives such as NCI's

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## HIGHLIGHTS

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New Research Approaches Explored

## Seminar Examines Cancer in Women

By Carla Garnett

From body size to pathology standards, from high-tech advances to potential vaccine policy, a recent Women's Health Seminar looked at new ways of looking at cancers affecting women.

Its role in diabetes established, obesity is also being examined as a cancer risk factor. Dr. Rachel Ballard-Barbash, associate director of NCI's Applied Research Program, discussed anthropometrics—the study of body measurements—and how body size and shape may increase women's chances of getting cancer.



Dr. Ballard-Barbash

"Why are we concerned about this? I think most people are aware that the United States is leading the world in its epidemic of obesity, with the exception of a few small islands in the Pacific," Ballard-Barbash explained. "In that regard, women in particular are at increased risk."

More than 35 percent of U.S. women can be classified as obese; more than 60 percent of U.S. men and women are said to be overweight.

SEE CANCER IN WOMEN, PAGE 6

## Parking Relief on Horizon for NIH'ers

The raft of new construction, renovation and security projects that will eventually claim some 1,700 parking spaces on the Bethesda campus (see July 8 *NIH Record*) in coming months is planned to be offset, by fall 2004, by two new multi-level parking garages. This anticipated amelioration of an impending parking crunch was announced July 21 at the first meeting of a new trans-NIH parking committee headed by NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman at the behest of NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni.

The 23-member ad hoc parking advisory committee (APAC) met again on July 30 to review other initiatives, including creation of small temporary parking lots in various corners of campus, leasing of additional satellite lots, employee incentives, an increase in the number of employees who "telecommute," or work from home via computer, and erection of more bike racks around campus buildings, to encourage more bicycle commuting. The committee also toured campus by bus on July 24 to scout potential grounds for temporary parking and identify specific parking

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NCI CENTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health Information National Trends Survey and projects to bridge the "digital divide."

"The launch of the \$40 million CECCR initiative," said Dr. Robert Croyle, director of NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, "exemplifies NCI's leadership role as one of the nation's primary supporters of cutting-edge scientific research on health communication." The four centers' projects will produce new knowledge about and techniques for communicating complex health

information to the public, with the potential for achieving reductions in the U.S. cancer burden.

The CECCR initiative solicited applications for specialized center (P50) grants that include three or more individual, hypothesis-driven research projects, small pilot projects and a program for training cancer

communication scientists. After receiving approval in June 2003 from the national cancer advisory board, NCI announced that each of the four awarded centers will receive \$10 million over 5 years.

The centers are: the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, St. Louis University and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Projects will focus on topics such as information-seeking related to prostate, breast and colorectal cancers; decision aids concerning tamoxifen use among women at high risk for breast cancer; and development and evaluation of an intervention to increase fruit and vegetable intake among African Americans.

It is expected that the centers' efforts will result in new and improved theories, methods, communication tools and interventions. The centers also will provide training for students and young investigators in multidisciplinary team environments. For more information visit <http://dcccps.nci.nih.gov/eocc/index.html>.—Kelly Blake ■

### Stopping Your HRT? Worried About Mood?

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is investigating whether mood, anxiety and irritability accompany hormone replacement therapy (HRT) withdrawal. Participants should be ages 45-55, with a past history of perimenopausal mood symptoms responsive to estrogen therapy (ET) or HRT, who are currently on ET or HRT and in good physical health. For information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

### Little Theater Announces Auditions

The Bethesda Little Theater announces auditions for its fall musical, *A Salute to Hollywood*. Auditions will be held Sunday, Aug. 10 from 2 to 5 p.m., and Monday, Aug. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Johnson Rm. of North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Rd. Interested persons are asked to prepare a ballad and an uptempo number and be prepared to dance. An accompanist will be provided. The production will take place Oct. 17-19, and 24-26, at the Writer's Center in Bethesda.

For more information call (301) 589-0720. For directions to the church, visit <http://www.northbethesdaumc.org/>. The Bethesda Little Theater is an NIH R&W organization that raises funds for NIH charities. ■

### FEW Conducts New Member Training

Federally Employed Women (FEW), Bethesda chapter, is conducting new member training at its meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 12 from noon to 1 p.m., Bldg. 31, 6th floor, Conf. Rm. 6. Membership opportunities in career training, updates on legislative issues, and a briefing on the role of the special assistant to the president on women's health issues at national FEW are scheduled.

Chapter President Rudene Thomas will discuss Women's Equality Day and the history of the chapter. Attendees of the 2003 National Training Program in Chicago will bring activity highlights and reports from national FEW. All members and people considering membership are welcome to attend. For reasonable accommodation, contact Allyson Browne at 451-0002 or [abrowne@mail.nih.gov](mailto:abrowne@mail.nih.gov) by Aug. 11. ■



At the ceremony announcing the new NCI centers are (from l) principal investigators Dr. David Gustafson and Dr. Victor Strecher, who greet NCI's Dr. Robert Croyle and Dr. Alan Rabson.

## NIH RECORD

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### Veterinary Students Spend Day at NIH

Twenty-eight veterinary students from such countries as Australia, Canada, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Scotland and the United States spent a day at NIH recently. They were participants in an annual event organized by NIH's Office of Education that is part of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine's summer leadership program for veterinary students, established in 1990. The program's goal is to facilitate the career progression of individuals with the ability and motivation to become independent research scientists.



*Sandra Barnard (Sydney, Australia) and Michael Krahn (c, Hannover, Germany) receive guidance from Dr. Richard Wyatt (r), executive director, NIH Office of Intramural Research, and longtime supporter of the Cornell visit to NIH.*



*Veterinary students (from l) Amy Corder (Cornell), Fernando Fukuzato (Oregon State) and April Koich (Cornell) listen to a talk by Dr. Susan Wray, NINDS, on "GnRH-1 Neurons: Nasal Placode to Reproductive Control."*

### Trauma Survivors Needed

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). ■



*Shown here are John Baker (r, Cambridge, England) and Christiane Wrann (c, Hannover, Germany) with speaker Dr. Robert Donahue, director of the Simian Gene Transfer Program, NHLBI. Other speakers included Dr. Lance Pohl, NHLBI; Dr. Susan Wray, NINDS; Dr. Karl Pfeifer, NICHD; and Dr. Brenda Klaunberg, NINDS.*

### CC Customer Service Honored

The Clinical Center Customer Service faculty was presented with a Distinguished Service Award at the Training Officers Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 10. The conference provides a forum for federal training professionals to network and benchmark with their peers. Established in 1938, a series of nine monthly programs and an institute conference are offered annually. At the recent conference, an award was presented to project leader Deborah Gardner; Denise Ford, deputy chief of organizational development and planning; clinical research nurse Larry Bauer; and Karen Kaczorowski, chief of ambulatory care services.

Two years ago, the CC identified customer service as a key initiative in its strategic and annual operating plan. The goal was to improve the level of personal care and positive communication between staff and patients as well as among CC employees. Training sessions were designed for front-line employees, clinical/nursing staff, managers, supervisors and senior leadership. The aim was to create a shared vision of excellent customer service, to ensure that all staff maintain skills for effective communication, and to equip CC'ers to deal with difficult customer situations and build strong partnerships.

As a result, 110 training sessions were provided to 2,200 CC employees at every level of the organization in 2002. The courses, designed by Gardner and taught by employees of the Clinical Center with occasional outside consultative assistance, received overwhelmingly positive feedback. ■



*Honored at the recent training conference were Clinical Center employees (from l) Larry Bauer, Karen Kaczorowski, Deborah Gardner and Denise Ford.*

## ADVENTURES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and instructors get a chance to sample scientific concepts in a hands-on way that makes the experience memorable for all.

The AIS program began 30 years ago when a NASA scientist began meeting in his basement with his daughter and her friends to explore different science projects. As more kids and scientists joined the group, the program expanded so that, last year,



*Frank Petricoin adds an iodine solution to test for starch in various foods.*

about 200 children participated at 5 sites in the Montgomery County area. Additional sites have been started in other cities.

Although much of the research conducted at NIH is beyond 8-11 year-olds, NIH staff are often able to share aspects of their research that are understandable by children, or they can present other science activities that they found exciting when they were young. Especially popular are demonstrations in which kids can play an active role and perhaps get to take home a product of their experiments. Volunteer scientists can create their



*Tess Wilkerson (l) and Tanya Chikosi (c) put together their model rockets, which were launched 2 weeks later.*

own sessions based on hobbies, interests, or research experience, or on resource materials and past sessions that AIS has on file. Team or solo teaching is possible. The AIS sessions last from 8:30 to 11 a.m. each

Saturday from mid-October through early March. Instructors can teach a single class on one Saturday, or as many as they like.

If you are interested in volunteering to teach in the program, contact Blanche O'Neill, 435-3726, boneill@niaid.nih.gov or Ed Max (301) 827-1806, max@cber.fda.gov.



*Michael Chen (l) and Joey Kavalauskas connect components to construct an electronic device.*

If you are interested in enrolling your child, you can request enrollment forms from the 4H office at Montgomery County Cooperative Extension office, (301) 590-9638. To keep classes small, the number of children in the program is limited; children are accepted in the order that they are enrolled, so fill out and return application forms promptly. ■

*DeCarlo Gladden, a nurse in the blood services section of the Clinical Center's department of transfusion medicine, has been awarded the 2003 Society of Hemapheresis Specialists award by the American Society*



*for Apheresis (ASFA). The award is given to individuals who have shown a dedication to the field of hemapheresis and who have emerged as leaders among their peers. "This award really says something about the people I work with," said Gladden. "The staff should share in this award, because I could be the best in the entire world, but if the staff doesn't work well together, then it means nothing." Gladden received the award during the recent ASFA annual meeting held*

*in Lake Tahoe, Calif., where she facilitated a workshop. ASFA provides educational programs in apheresis designed for physicians serving as medical directors of blood donation centers, therapeutic and stem cell collection facilities and practitioners of transfusion medicine.*

### Healthy Volunteers Needed

Participate in an ovarian function study. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Compensation is available. Refer to study number 00-CH-0189. ■

## NIMH Outreach Program Meets in Santa Fe

The fourth annual meeting of the Constituency Outreach and Education Program of the National Institute of Mental Health was held in Santa Fe, N.M., recently. Attendees included the NIMH Outreach Partners, representing 51 non-profit organizations, one from every state and the District of Columbia. The mission of the program is to encourage outreach activities that will increase public awareness of the importance of basic and clinical research, improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses and eliminate disparities in mental health related to race, culture, age and gender.

The Dancing Horse Drum Group, which promotes an alcohol and drug-free lifestyle through traditional Native American values, and Frank Fragua, spiritual leader and substance abuse counselor from Jemez Pueblo, provided the opening ceremony for the meeting.

NIMH director Dr. Thomas Insel gave the keynote address, highlighting promising research advances in the area of human genomics, schizophrenia and other mental illnesses.



Musicians Fred Sandoval and Rachel Saiz performed at the meeting in Santa Fe.

Dr. Richard Nakamura, NIMH deputy director, provided an overview of progress in substance abuse research with a focus on neuroscience, and Dr. Robert Glover, executive director of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, defined and discussed co-occurring disorders and illustrated the need for integrated treatment of mental illnesses and substance abuse.

An extensive overview of suicide statistics and prevention resources in the United States was provided by Dr. Jane Pearson, who chairs the NIMH Suicide Research Consortium. Dr. Fran Norris, NIMH grantee at the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Department of Veterans Affairs, presented research on the psychological consequences of terrorism, disasters and mass violence. Glover followed up with a talk stressing the importance of including mental health considerations in every state's "all-hazards" planning.

Reflecting the program's emphasis on eliminating mental health disparities among minority and other underserved populations, several NIMH grantees

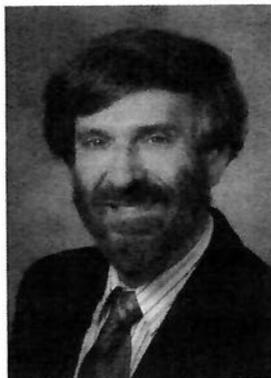
addressed the needs of American Indians and Hispanics/Latinos. Dr. Spero Manson, University of Colorado, and Dr. Tassy Parker, University of New Mexico, provided helpful resources and useful insights for partners working with American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Dr. Ernest Marquez, NIMH associate director for special populations, introduced the topic of overcoming mental health disparities among Hispanic and other populations, and Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, California State University/Fresno, presented results of an NIMH-supported study on mental health among Mexican Americans and Mexican migrant workers.

Patrick Cody, former vice president for communications, National Mental Health Association, and Pulitzer Prize winner Eric Newhouse, a reporter with the *Great Falls (Montana) Tribune*, presented a session on what Outreach Partners can do to improve media coverage of mental health issues, particularly on how to combat stigma and help ensure accurate reporting of scientific findings.

During the meeting, Outreach Partners shared innovative outreach strategies targeting a wide range of audiences, through plenary and breakout discussions, a poster session and informal networking.

Information about the NIMH Constituency Outreach and Education Program is available at [www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov). ■

*Dr. Warren J. Leonard, chief of NHLBI's Laboratory of Molecular Immunology, recently received the 2003 American Association of Immunologists (AAI)-Huang Meritorious Career Award. Created in 1999, the award honors mid-career scientists who have made outstanding research contributions in immunology. The award cites Leonard for his "groundbreaking and continuing work on the interleukin (IL)-2 receptor and other common gamma chain cytokine receptors." The award, which includes a plaque and \$10,000 cash award, was presented by the presidents of the AAI and the Huang Foundation at the AAI's recent annual meeting in Denver. The ceremony included a special lecture by*



*Leonard—"XSCID and Beyond: The Biology of Interleukins 2, 4, 7, 9, 15, and 21." Leonard spoke about his discovery that X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency (XSCID, often known as the "Bubble Boy" disease) results from mutations in the common cytokine receptor gamma chain and discussed his work on the interleukins that share this critical receptor component.*

## Anthrax Vaccine Study Recruits

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 ages 18 and 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.

## CANCER IN WOMEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The relationship of body size and cancer was first considered in the 1930s and 1940s, she noted. The science has evolved from studies of excess energy intake and calories to examining the effects of metabolism and hormones.

"Most recently people have questioned whether being in a state of positive energy balance—where one is eating more than one is burning—leads to a state that may increase risk for cancer," she said. Early research examined weight as a measure of body size, but that did not account for the wide ranges of height. Body mass index, or BMI, a

measure of weight adjusted for height, has been used most commonly since the early 1980s. By the early 1990s, researchers began to look at body fat location, and most recently, weight gain in later years of life has been examined. Muscle mass and bone density are also under consideration.

Ballard-Barbash summarized results from several hundred studies: Heavier women are at increased risk of endometrial,

postmenopausal breast, colon, kidney (renal cell), esophageal (adenocarcinoma) and thyroid cancers. Risks for several of these cancers are also increased among women with increased central body fat (the popularly termed "apple-shaped" body) and with large amounts of weight gain during adult life. Mortality from a number of cancers is also increased among heavier women with most of the evidence related to breast cancer.

Women who are heavier at breast cancer diagnosis and gain large amounts of weight during treatment have poor survival and increased likelihood that the breast cancer may recur. The effect of increased body fat on estrogen production, particularly among postmenopausal women, is being examined as one major explanation of these findings. Other mechanisms being examined in humans include effects of insulin-like growth factors, levels of various hormone-binding proteins, and other insulin-related measures.

In addition, she noted, even moderate physical activity appears to reduce risk for colon, breast and endometrial cancers in women, and for colon cancer in men. The most dramatic reduction of risk was seen in men who reported vigorous physical activity.

"The standard guidance," Ballard-Barbash concluded, "is to avoid weight gain that commonly occurs during adult life by adopting a physically active lifestyle and energy-appropriate eating habits...In terms of physical activity, general recommendations to accumulate 30 minutes a day of

physical activity may not be enough. Many studies suggest we need up to an hour a day of actual exercise."

Dr. James Connolly, director of anatomic pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, suggested setting clearer standards for pathologists who examine mammogram and biopsy results.

Interpretations of test results vary widely in this field, he said, and establishing universally accepted benchmarks may be critical for a cancer such as ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), in which often trace evidence of diseased cells and their locations can determine diagnosis, extent of surgery and prognosis. The problem with the current classification system, Connolly said, is that definitions for subtypes are not uniform and many lesions have mixtures of subtypes.

"With so many varying definitions, looking at the various studies and trying to make recommendations is a nightmare," he explained, showing slides of cancer cells that pathologists can and often do read differently. "Not everyone's low grade is the same...The reason things like definition and classification are important is because in the past all patients with DCIS have been treated with mastectomy. Now we're trying to select which patients can be treated with breast conservation."

DCIS, a precursor to invasive breast cancer, often does not appear as a solid mass in tests, but shows up as tiny tumors along the vein-like ducts in the breast. This presents challenges for determining whether and where disease has spread and for complete removal of tumors via lumpectomy.

Surgeons like to use a pie-chart image of the segments of the breast, wherein they could simply remove cancerous slices without affecting healthy tissue, Connolly said. Unfortunately, the breast ductal system is not nearly that simple. To illustrate his point, he showed a slide of the ductal system that resembled a large number of interconnecting, looping highways, wherein removal of a diseased "road" would be nearly impossible to accomplish without somehow affecting a neighboring road or a road that feeds into it.

"It varies from woman to woman, but there are anywhere from 6 to 11 ductal systems," Connolly explained, "and they branch. They overlap one another. So you could have a pathologic slide that shows normal ducts and lobules, then cancer...The anatomy is very complicated, and varies from one woman to another."

Another complication is deciding whether a DCIS is growing contiguously. In other words, using the roadways analogy, if DCIS is found at two or more



Dr. James Connolly



Dr. Douglas Lowy and his group are researching vaccines to attack the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer.

intersections, has it grown along the road between the points or is removal of the intersections adequate surgical treatment?

“Distribution in the breast, histologic features, size and adequacy of excision seem to be important considerations in selecting appropriate therapy for patients with DCIS,” he concluded. “There are difficulties in assessing each of these factors and the relative importance and interaction among them are not well-defined. We want to find better methods to determine extent of invasion, better methods to assess biologic potential, and agents to suppress progression to invasion.”

Dr. Elise Kohn, chair of the gynecologic malignancies faculty at NCI’s Center for Cancer Research, explained how recent technological advances can aid diagnosis and treatment.

“There’s clearly an issue that we have to understand how to identify patients who have the highest risk of having the worst cancers,” she said.

“Wouldn’t it be great if we could identify those women and men at a time before they have severe disease, maybe even at a time before the cancer has truly transformed? If we start to mix and match our technologies, we’re going to make that progress.”

Defining cancer as “a disease of deranged, dominating or defective protein pathways and networks,” she described the group’s work in proteomics as four-fold: early detection, protein network profiling, individualized therapy and target discovery.

“One of the biggest challenges is finding the correct needle in a haystack,” she said. “Ovarian cancer is a relatively rare disease among rare diseases. One in 2,500 postmenopausal women may get ovarian cancer in her lifetime.”

Using mass spectroscopy with artificial intelligence, the group is trying to find the unique “signature” of ovarian cancer in blood before women have to undergo ultrasounds or biopsies.

Kohn said artificial intelligence programs now allow scientists to teach computers what to look for in tiny blood samples—whether protein patterns appear normal or cancerous. In early results, Kohn’s group was able to detect stage I disease, the most curable stage.

“The goal is to identify patients quickly who are high-risk and move them through to evaluation, to find the disease—whether it’s breast cancer, ovarian cancer or others—at an early and treatable stage,” she said. “In ovarian cancer, early detection has a high frequency of cure and good outcome. It would make a big clinical impact.”

Kohn also briefly described technology scientists are using to monitor how therapies destroy or starve malignancies. By seeing how such drugs as Gleevec

attack cancers, researchers hope not only to design better medicines, but also to explain why some treatments do not work in some patients and why some patients on similar therapies relapse.

“We think these approaches allow us to start personalizing how we approach patients for diagnosis and also therapy,” she said.

Dr. Douglas Lowy and his research group are on a quest for vaccines to attack the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer. It has been shown that virtually all cervical cancers are caused by HPV, a virus that accounts for one-third of all cancers attributable to infectious agents. More than 600,000 cases of cancer worldwide per year can be traced to HPV.

“Cervical cancer is the number two cancer in developing countries, whereas it is a less common cancer in the U.S. and other developed countries,” said Lowy, deputy director of NCI’s Center for Cancer Research. “The principal difference is attributable to having high quality Pap screenings in the developed world, whereas this is not available in developing countries.”

Cervical HPV infection is extraordinarily common, even in the U.S., Lowy pointed out. About 10 million cases per year are estimated in this country, but the large majority are subclinical, or very early stage abnormalities. In fact, only 2 million of the infections ever rise to low-grade disease and only 15,000 advance to invasive cancer. At any point after infection, cure of infection (and thus prevention of cancer that might have resulted) is possible.

Lowy and his NCI colleagues developed the technology for the current candidate prophylactic HPV vaccine, composed of virus-like particles. Overviewing proof-of-principle efficacy trials with this vaccine approach, conducted by pharmaceutical companies Merck and GlaxoSmithKline, Lowy stressed that “these efficacy trials have shown that an HPV virus-like particle vaccine can protect young women from the acquisition of new persistent HPV infection.” However, he added, larger trials and longer follow-up are needed.

“The results suggest that there is safety, immunogenicity and efficacy so far, but there are a lot of other issues that need to be addressed,” he said. Further research is needed, for example, to determine how long the vaccine’s protective effects last.

Realistically, Lowy cautioned, even if vaccination proves widely effective, it will take more than 20 years to reduce incidence of cervical cancer.

“The major benefits of a preventive vaccine in countries with effective Pap screening are a reduction in the number of abnormal Pap results, reduction in follow-up costs in such cases, and fewer cervical cancer cases in women who do not undergo regular Pap screening,” he concluded.

To view the entire ORWH seminar online, visit Past Events at <http://videocast.nih.gov/>. ■



*Health*  
Dr. Elise Kohn

### Need Pointers on ‘Power Listening’?

Almost everyone knows that listening is important but has anyone ever taught you how to listen effectively?

The importance and benefits of power listening are examined in a 1-day course.

Barriers to effective listening are discussed and ways to overcome the barriers are presented. You will be exposed to key techniques

such as preparing to listen, showing an interest, asking questions for clarification, withholding judgment,

listening for key points, listening for both fact and feeling, and using your extra brain power. Class date is Aug. 12. Call 496-6211 for more information.



*NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden was a guest speaker June 11 at Capitol Hill Oceans Week, a 2-day symposium that puts ocean issues and policies before Congress. Olden participated in the panel "Drugs from the Deep," which focused on issues concerning ocean exploration. The third annual event was coordinated by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.*

#### **PARKING RELIEF, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

problems.

The new parking garages will both be located on the north side of campus and will accommodate a total of some 2,170 vehicles. One garage—MLP-9, or the Northwest Parking Garage—will be built on the parking lot near the Clinical Center blood bank. It will have 940 spaces and is due for completion in December 2004. According to Stella Serras-Fiotes, director of facilities planning in the Office of Research Facilities, MLP-9 replaces almost 1,000 spaces lost to the new Clinical Research Center and Bldg. 50 since 1995, allows future removal of a temporary lot at the campus' south side, near Bldg. 41 (this is something NIH promised the community) and will accommodate an electrical vault for Bldg. 10 in its basement level. The award for this construction project is expected in September.

The second garage—MLP-10—is associated with construction of the new Bldg. 33 and will be sited on the northeast corner of the campus, near Bldg. 31 and the new integrated biodefense and infectious disease lab building. This garage will include 1,230 spaces. A construction award is planned for early September as part of the Bldg. 33 site/foundation package. Serras-Fiotes said the garage is integral to the campus-wide master plan and environmental impact statement, as well as NIH's stormwater management plan and parking and transportation plan.

Until these new garages are built, however, the campus will sustain a loss of approximately 20 percent of its parking places, said Gottesman in an all-hands email sent on July 22. "We expect the shortfall will sharply reduce the availability of parking across campus beginning in September. To minimize the inconvenience, we will need the creative ideas and cooperation of every office and lab on campus."

The parking committee endorsed several major principles, including: the critical importance of parking and other transportation alternatives for NIH personnel to be able to perform their work; the need to treat all NIH groups fairly; and the need to identify as much temporary parking on campus as possible.

Gottesman said specific plans to deal with the immediate crisis will be developed quickly. "Some of the best ideas about how to address the parking shortfall will come from the people who have to face the problems of commuting and parking every day," read his note.

More than a dozen suggestions had been received in time for APAC's first meeting, including expanded teleworking and telecommuting opportunities, widened use of alternative work schedules, crack-down on illegitimate carpoolers, and compensation for employees who elect not to drive to work,

regardless of whether they use public transportation. Hundreds of additional suggestions poured in after Gottesman's all-hands email. Suggestions are encouraged and should be sent to parkinginfo@mail.nih.gov.

Serras-Fiotes reported that single drivers account for 52 percent of NIH's commuting population, which is 10 percent lower than the Montgomery County average, 16 percent below the Maryland average and 17 percent below the U.S. average. Transshare is NIH's largest alternative transportation success, drawing some 23 percent of commuters who receive up to \$100 commuting subsidy for use of public transportation. Only a combined 5 percent either car- or van-pool, and 4 percent bike or walk. At the moment, there are 0.45 parking spaces for each employee; that number will plunge to 0.36 once construction projects get under way, but will rise again to about 0.48 once the garages are built in late 2004, Serras-Fiotes predicted.

Members of APAC, in addition to Gottesman and Serras-Fiotes, include: John Burklow, NIH associate director for communications; Carlton Coleman, OEO; Dr. Orna Cohen-Fixe, NIDDK; Stephen Ficca, NIH associate director for research services; Dr. Howard Gadlin, director, Office of the Ombudsman; Dr. Thomas Gallagher, director, Office of Community Liaison; Maureen Gormley, executive officer, CC; Dr. Eric Greene, scientific director, NHGRI; Susan Harrelson, chief administrative officer, NIDDK; Valerie Harrington, ORS facility manager; Dan Hoepfner, chair of the fellows committee, NINDS; Camille Hoover, executive officer, NCCAM; Robert Hosenfeld, director, Office of Human Resources; Steve Rivero, representing the American Federation of Government Employees; Barbara McGarey, Office of General Counsel; Charles Palmer, OD; Dan Sullivan, extramural program director, NCI; Dawn Walker, head of the NIH lab manager group, NCI; Dr. Robert Wenthold, scientific director, NIDCD; Peggy Whittington, assistant to NINDS scientific director; and Dr. Robert Wurtz, chief of the Laboratory of Sensorimotor Research, NEI. ■

#### **Healthy Children Needed**

Healthy children are needed for a volunteer study # 99-N-0045 at NIH. One visit required, and compensation is available. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

#### **Healthy Mothers Needed**

Healthy mothers are needed for a volunteer study # 99-N-0045 at NIH. One visit required, and compensation is available. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

### Medical 'Roundtables' Get FNIH Help

A group called World Medical Leaders and the Foundation for the NIH recently announced the online publication of the first of what may become a series of broadcast roundtable discussions on pressing medical matters led by NIH physicians.

The pilot program, "Stroke: Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment," is jointly presented by FNIH and World Medical Leaders, a multimedia distance learning company. It is available for viewing, at no charge, at <http://www.wml.com>. The NIH/FAES designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.5 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

The stroke program was moderated by Dr. Steven Warach, chief of the section on stroke diagnostics and therapeutics and senior investigator at NINDS, and included three other scientists. The discussion is aimed at neurologists, internists and emergency physicians interested in learning about new advances in the prevention, identification and treatment of stroke, but will be of interest to any physician who deals with stroke.

The initial discussion will be used to build awareness of the prospective series in the physician community. If enough interest is generated, more roundtable discussions on other key subjects will follow.

World Medical Leaders is an Internet-based, multimedia medical communications company created by and for physicians. It was founded with the goals of enhancing the practice of medicine and improving healthcare worldwide. ■



Shown at the NIH Alumni Association's recent annual meeting are (from l) Dr. Thomas Gallagher, head of NIH's Office of Community Liaison, who spoke to the group; Dr. Donald A. Henderson, distinguished service professor at Johns Hopkins University and director of research and development for the Office of Public Health Preparedness, who received the 2003 NIHAA Public Service Award; and Randy Schools, president of the R&W Association, who received the NIHAA 2003 Award for Service to NIH. The NIHAA is now in its 15th year and has enrolled more than 2,500 members. For more information about the group, call (301) 530-0567 or visit [www.fnih.gov/nihaa/nihaa.html](http://www.fnih.gov/nihaa/nihaa.html).

### Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation Visits

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and the Office of Research on Women's Health recently hosted a visit of members of the board of the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation (WWHF), which was founded by Sue Ann Thompson, wife of HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, in 1997 to educate women on important health topics. In attendance were health activists and health practitioners who met with a number of representatives from the NIH community.

Zerhouni, Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, senior advisor to the NIH director, and Dr. Vivian Pinn, NIH associate director for research on women's health, greeted WWHF board members who were interested in not only women's health, but also other research at NIH.

Dr. James Battey, director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, gave an overview of current and future stem cell research. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, spoke about the evolution of the SARS epidemic and vaccine development.

Dr. Barbara Alving, deputy director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and director of the Women's Health Initiative, discussed the latest results on combination hormone therapy and menopause, and heart disease, which is a major killer of women. Dr. Ted Trimble, head of surgery at NCI's Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, provided statistics on cancers in women and current cancer research.

WWHF board members said they appreciated the many contributions of ORWH and NIH in bringing increased attention to women's health through research.—Gallane Dabela and Susan Hahn ■



Thompson and Zerhouni



NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni (l) meets with Sue Ann Thompson (r), wife of HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, and members of the board of the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation that she founded.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

### Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks healthy female volunteers ages 40-50 to participate in longitudinal studies of the perimenopause.

Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles and be medication-free. Periodic hormonal evaluations, symptom rating completion and occasional interviews will be performed. Subjects will be paid. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, 496-9576. ■

On hand for a recent COPR meeting were (front row, from l) Bill Novelli, Ruth Kirschstein, Elias Zerhouni, Raynard Kington, Zelda Tetenbaum, Dawna Torres Mughal. In row 2 are (from l) Ellen Sigal, Evelyn Bromet, Larry Sadwin, Len Tamura, Rodrigo Munoz, Frances Dunston, Barbara D. Butler, Debra S. Hall. In row 3 are (from l) Ted Mala, Ellen Grant, Nancy Buelow, Ruth Browne, John Shlofrock, Jim Armstrong, Jim Jensen, Rafael Gonzalez-Amezcuca, Don Tykeson. Not shown is Kim Hinton.

### New Members Join Director's Council

Nine individuals have been selected to serve as members of the NIH director's Council of Public Representatives. COPR advises the director on broad issues of public interest such as health disparities, public input and participation and human research protections. Members also participate in numerous NIH initiatives, work groups and review panels, as well as take part in public outreach activities around the country. They join 12 current members of the council.

"These new members bring a wealth of knowledge and professional experience in the areas of medicine, public service, journalism and public affairs as well as a strong commitment to the advancement of public health and medical research," said NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni.

The new members include James J. Armstrong of Cleveland, who works in public affairs and health education; Dr. Ruth C. Browne, a clinical professor from Brooklyn; Barbara D. Butler, a lupus patient advocate from St. Louis; Dr. Frances J. Dunston, a pediatrics and public health professor in Atlanta; Dr. Rafael Gonzalez-Amezcuca, physician, clinical instructor and TV host in San Francisco; Jim Jensen, state senator from Lincoln, Neb.; Dr. Dawna Torres Mughal, a dietician and professor from Erie, Pa.; William D. Novelli, AARP executive director based in Washington, D.C.; and Dr. Ellen V. Sigal, a cancer research advocate from Washington, D.C.

The new members attended COPR's April 2003 meeting on campus. During the meeting, COPR heard from two new institute directors: Dr. Ting-Kai Li of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and Dr. Roderic Pettigrew of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering spoke about their institutes' activities and plans. It was also Zerhouni's second meeting with COPR, which he chairs.

Five new members are sought for 3-year terms starting in April 2004. Applications are due on Sept. 15, and can be found online at [http://copr.nih.gov/application\\_process.shtm](http://copr.nih.gov/application_process.shtm).

The next COPR meeting will be in October on the NIH campus.

### 7th Outdoor Free Film Festival, Aug. 15-24

The NIH R&W Association is hosting the seventh annual Outdoor Film Festival at Strathmore Hall, as a benefit to various NIH charities. The series runs Aug. 15-24 and each evening's movie is preceded by a concert beginning at 7 p.m.

Bring your family and friends and camp out under the stars, eat movie snacks such as popcorn and candy, or plan to have dinner from onsite restaurants such as Timpano Italian Chophouse, Baha Fresh, Potomac Pizza, Hard Times Café or Cameron's Seafood. Bring your blankets or low beach chair, sit back, relax and watch a movie that's guaranteed to entertain.

Movies are free but donations to NIH charities are greatly appreciated. Restaurants open at 6:30 p.m., music begins at 7 and movies start around 8:30. See [www.filmfestnih.org](http://www.filmfestnih.org) for more information. Take Metro to the Grosvenor/Strathmore stop on the Red Line.

The lineup, including musical acts, includes: **Friday, Aug. 15, *Sound of Music***, preceded by Alte Kameraden (Austrian Band); **Saturday, Aug. 16, *Lord of the Rings***, preceded by the salsa flamenco sounds of Dan Young and Lawson Rollins; **Sunday, Aug. 17, *E.T.***, preceded by Last Train Home, fronted by former *Washington Post* Weekend writer Eric Brace; **Monday, Aug. 18, *Jurassic Park***, preceded by Robert Jospe's Inner Rhythm, percussion-driven jazz, R&B and Afro-Cuban/Brazilian music; **Tuesday, Aug. 19, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory***, preceded by guitarist Bob Perilla's Big Hillbilly Bluegrass; **Wednesday, Aug. 20, *Vertigo***, preceded by Mahala (South African Township Sound); **Thursday, Aug. 21, *Spiderman***, preceded by country swing group Ruthie & the Wranglers; **Friday, Aug. 22, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding***, preceded by the tropical rhythms of Havana Son; **Saturday, Aug. 23, *Titanic***, preceded by Jeff Ball Band, Native American music and dance; **Sunday, Aug. 24, *Harry Potter II—Chamber of Secrets***, preceded by British Invasion hits by the English Channel.

Volunteers are needed to make each night's show go smoothly. Call Julie at the R&W, 496-6061. ■

### Normal Volunteers Needed

The Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, NIMH, is looking for normal volunteer college-educated men and women between the ages of 30 and 55 for a 2-day outpatient study of variables that might be related to the cause of schizophrenia. The study includes MRI, neurocognitive testing and a neurological exam, among other things. A stipend is available. Call 1-888-674-6464 for more information. ■





**Training Branch Class Offerings**

The Training and Development Branch 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>.

Advanced Project Management	8/7-8
Intermediate MS Excel 2000	8/7
Administrative Officers Seminar	8/12-14
Delegated Acquisition Training Program	8/12-15
Intermediate MS Word 2000	8/12
Power Listening	8/12
Speaking on the Job-Part II: Presenting Yourself	8/12-14
Budget Formulation	8/13-14
The Credible Leader	8/15
NIH Correspondence: Letter and Memo Preparation	8/18
Developing Editing Skills	8/19-21
Scientific and Technical Writing	8/19-21
Strategic Thinking	8/19-20
Intermediate MS Access 2000	8/20

**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>.

Securing Your Home Network	8/6
VPN for NIH Home Networks	8/6
Wireless Security	8/6
Budget Tracking	8/6
Data Warehouse Analyze: Budget & Finance	8/6
NCBI's Blast Quick Start	8/7
Network Security and Firewalls	8/7
Creating Presentations w/PowerPoint for Mac	8/8
NBS Domestic and Local Travel Refresher Workshop	8/11
NBS Foreign Travel Refresher Workshop	8/11
Introduction to Cascading Style Sheets	8/12
ADB/VPS Printing	8/12
Understanding the Grants Process	8/12
Data Warehouse End-of-Year Processing	8/12
JMP Software: Statistical Data Exploration	8/13
NIH Enterprise Directory (NED): Administrative Officer & Technician Training	8/13
JMP Software: Introduction to the JMP Scripting Language	8/14
Looking Ahead to nVision	8/14
Expediting Your Request for Telephone Services at NIH	8/14
Creating Presentations w/PowerPoint for PC	8/15
Using Photoshop to Work w/Scientific Images	8/18
NIH HUG - Handheld Users Group	8/18
Using SQL to Retrieve DB2 and Oracle Data	8/19-20
Introduction to Remote Access @ NIH	8/20
DSG - Desktop Support	8/20

**ORS's Rushbrook Is Mourned**

Craig Rushbrook, an NIH building engineer, died July 9 of lung cancer at Washington County Hospital in Hagerstown. He was 48. Rushbrook joined the north maintenance unit in May 1987.



*Craig Rushbrook*

The majority of his time at NIH was spent as the senior building engineer for Bldg. 31. "Craig was always there with a smile to provide whatever service was needed by the building occupants," according to a tribute flyer produced by several of his coworkers. "As a first line supervisor, Craig was well liked and respected by the employees he supervised. He was always willing to share his knowledge and help with the daily duties required to operate each building. Craig will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Part of Craig will always be at NIH in the employees he trained during his years of service."

A donation for his family is being collected at Parley's Place, the concession stand in Bldg. 31.

**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 more information visit <http://dir.niehs.nih.gov/direag> or call 1-800-411-1222, TTY 1-866-411-1010.

**Learn To Speak on Job, Present Yourself**

Professional men and women at all levels are often challenged to make formal and informal presentations both within and outside the organization. Frequently, career success is linked to an ability to speak to others. A 3-day workshop will help you prepare to speak confidently and effectively in any platform, such as a conference table, panel interview or face-to-face interaction. The course will provide as much speaking practice as time will allow, offer in-depth feedback and help build skills. The class will be presented Aug. 12 and 14. Call 496-6211 for more information.

## A-76 Process Protested at Rally

Led by union officials of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2419, more than two dozen picketers and many other NIH employees gathered in front of Bldg. 1 on July 17 to protest the A-76 process. The rally was the second of three planned within the last few weeks to demonstrate dissatisfaction among many employees about the policy that is reviewing hundreds of job categories for potential competitions with outside contractors. Of particular concern, according to

union representatives, is the manner and speed with which the policy is being carried out at NIH.

"This is a new experience for us," noted Richard Laubach, president of AFGE Local 2419, in opening remarks at the July 17 rally. "We've never had to go to this extent to protect our jobs."

In addition to the Bldg. 1 picket line, a similar protest was held along Rockville Pike, the street on which NIH is located, the week before. Another rally was planned on July 22 in front of HHS headquarters, the Hubert Humphrey Bldg. in downtown Washington, D.C.

Local union members were joined by members of NIH's chapter of Blacks in Government and BIG Region XI Council President Rawle King, an employee of the Library of Congress, as well as members of the Fraternal Order of Police local chapter and the firefighters union. Offering a brief history of the union, Laubach said AFGE, founded in 1962, represents hundreds of NIH employees in such positions as librarian, cook, electrician, carpenter, plumber, pipe fitter, locksmith, graphic designer and photographer.

"We're going to fight A-76," he said. "We're building our constituency."

In support of the union's efforts, Jacque Ballard, president of the NIH chapter of BIG, said, "The A-76 study at the NIH is being conducted in an unfair and untimely manner. We agree that the process has been 'fast tracked' and this is not allowing the federal



Protesters believe A-76 competition studies are unfair to federal workers.

PHOTOS: JOHN CRAWFORD

Clyde Bartz, president of NIH's chapter of the FOP, addresses assembly.



Pickers protest A-76 process on Bldg. 1's lawn.

employees sufficient time to properly and accurately document the vital services they provide to the National Institutes of Health. This may cause the federal employees to ultimately lose the Most Efficient Organization (MEO) competition for their positions."

King congratulated the picketers for organizing the demonstration.

"This is exactly what is needed right now," he

said, addressing the assembly. "You all are making a difference. The folks on Capitol Hill know what you are doing...All federal workers want an opportunity to compete fairly for our jobs. This policy of outsourcing doesn't care who you are. They just want your jobs."

"We stand behind you in your fight against A-76," said Clyde Bartz, president of NIH's chapter of the FOP. "Keep federal employees here. Keep A-76 out of our workplace."

Following an opening prayer and flag salute, remarks were made by Laubach, NIH BIG President Ballard, King and Bartz. Afterwards, about 25 people carrying picket signs marched on the lawn in front of the main NIH administrative building, chanting various slogans, including, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, A-76 has got to go."—Carla Garnett



Union shirts and picket signs mark second rally.



Bartz rallies supporters.



Jacque Ballard, NIH BIG president, and Richard Laubach, union leader, speak.