Story Landis Named Director of Neurology Institute

Dr. Story C. Landis, NINDS scientific director, has been named the new director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Her appointment begins on Sept. 1.

As director, Landis will oversee an annual budget of $1.5 billion and a staff of more than 900 scientists, physician-scientists and administrators.

"Dr. Landis is widely recognized for her research on the development of the..."

Olden To Leave Directorship But Remain at NIH

Dr. Kenneth Olden, director of the National Toxicology Program and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, announced his intention on July 29 to step down from both posts, but said he will remain in the positions until a replacement can be found. He intends to remain a staff scientist in NIH's intramural program.

"I want to spend more time with my family and be more involved in directing my..."

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Retiree Adopts Mission of NIH
2. NIH Offers Hope To Minority Youth
3. Thompson Urges Diabetes Progress
4. Police Cookout Pleases Patrons
5. Drinker, Failed and Former Spy

The Man Who Came to Breakfast

By Rich McManus

Sometimes, the mission of the National Institutes of Health is carried out by the most unlikely of emissaries.

About 10 years ago, an older gentleman began turning up on campus, generally in the vicinity of Bldg. 31's cafeteria. Despite his advanced years, and an attire that spoke more of leisure than of employment, he seemed appropriate to the scientific setting, perhaps an ex-researcher or retiree who lived nearby and took his meals here out of simple convenience.

He would typically be alone, and as he made his way along the corridors one could detect an intelligence in him, despite his silence, given away by a habit of inspecting his surroundings.

NIH Hosts Women Instructors from Afghanistan

By Cynthia Delgado

Most NIH employees are well educated. Our daughters, as well as our sons, attend some of the best schools in the nation. Women who are federal employees enjoy equal opportunity, quality health benefits and more. Indeed, of the roughly 19,000 current full-time NIH employees, 11,025 are women, according to the Office of Human Resources. But the women of Afghanistan have not been as fortunate as their American counterparts.

Under Taliban repression, Afghan women were not allowed to obtain an education or work outside the home. They were denied access to health care and their daughters could not attend school. Year 2000 statistics (UNICEF) reveal that a mere 21 percent of women age 15 or over were literate; and, that one in every four children did not survive past the age of 5. Since liberation from the Taliban, the women of Afghanistan are struggling to rebuild their professional lives and educate their daughters. NIH and others are trying to help.

At a recent event, NIH, through its Office of Science Education...
Dear Editor,

I simply want to express my appreciation to the staff of the Bldg. 31A cafeteria. Each morning they stock the food bars and prepare the hot meals so NIH staffers and visitors can find nourishment and comfort to make it through the day. Their shift starts very early. They have to deal with coldness from preoccupied customers, entitlement attitudes over butter and jam and misdirected frustration. On the other hand, I have observed that when customers acknowledge their humanity, these hard-working people respond warmly in return, which makes life more pleasant for everyone. It's so easy to lose sight of the fact that although the cafeteria is a permanent facility on the property, it takes real people to run it. And without those real people faithfully showing up for work, we wouldn't be able to focus our attention on the events of the day as we rush through the food displays and order up what we want. Getting food would become another task on our daily "To Do List."

Although Bldg. 31 has the convenience shop (and they deserve our thanks as well), that isn't enough to meet the daily demand for food in the building. We need the cafeteria staff and it doesn't hurt for us to be reminded of this once in a while. It wouldn't hurt us to say "thank you" as we move through the lines either.

Nina T. Holden, NIAMS

NIH at Black Family Reunion

The National Institutes of Health will be represented at the 18th annual Black Family Reunion celebration Sept. 6-7 on the Washington Monument grounds. The National Council of Negro Women event is one of the oldest and best-known gatherings of African American families, attracting more than 500,000 people. As part of its outreach efforts to address health disparities, NIH will participate by disseminating health care information, providing health screenings and publicizing research protocols. All are welcome to attend, and admission is free. For more information, contact the co-chairs of the planning committee, Joan Lee, NEI, 496-8990, Levon Parker, NINDS, 496-5332 or Michael Chew, OECD/NCAC, 402-3681.

Sons of Italy Invite New Members

The NIH Lodge # 2547 of Order Sons of Italy in America invites new members from the NIH community to join OSIA, especially in time for the group's celebration of its 20th anniversary at NIH. A gala evening is planned on Friday, Oct. 24 to mark the anniversary with music, food and dancing. To learn more about the group contact Cathy Battistone, president (NCI), who can be reached via email through the global directory.

Taplin Joins NCI Division

Dr. Stephen Taplin has joined the National Cancer Institute as a senior multidisciplinary scientist for cancer screening evaluation and implementation with the Applied Research Program of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. He is a recognized expert in the area of cancer control research, specifically in health services and in the development, evaluation and implementation of high-quality cancer screening, including the evaluation of disparities in cancer care.

Taplin will establish a DCCPS/NCI research forum to prioritize research directions in cancer screening evaluation and implementation in practice. He holds a medical degree from the University of California, Davis, and an M.P.H. from the University of Washington, department of health services. Prior to his appointment, Taplin was associate director of preventive care research within the Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, and an affiliate investigator at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Study of Dystonia

Researchers at NIH are conducting a study to determine if amiodipine can improve the effects of botulinum toxin injections for individuals with cervical or focal hand dystonia. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).

Have Premature Ovarian Failure (POF)?

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

Recently, NIAID’s Office of Special Emphasis Programs launched the Intramural NIAID Research Opportunities (INRO) program, which seeks to encourage committed and bright underrepresented minority students to consider pursuing careers in allergy, immunology and infectious diseases.

NIAID brought together a dozen rising young scientists to see first-hand the inner workings of the institute and its current research endeavors. Undergraduates and first-year graduates were selected to participate in the program based on their overall academic record, their interest in NIAID research and its mission and their desire to come to NIH to conduct research. They came from colleges and universities across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to glimpse a possible future as a researcher.

The 3-day program focused on the breadth of research conducted at NIAID and included scientific lectures by intramural researchers, discussions with scientists and tours of the laboratories in the Research Technology Branch and the Vaccine Research Center. Students also discussed training opportunities with scientists who conduct research in Rockville and the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Mont.

The program began with a talk by Dr. John La Montagne, deputy director of NIAID. He spoke of NIAID’s goals and mission for the 21st century and some of the exciting research accomplishments that have been made recently. He also spoke of the importance of biomedical research, reminding the budding scientists that “the work we are doing is important for humanity.”

Dr. Karyl Barron, deputy director of the Division of Intramural Research, discussed some of the focus areas for the institute, including groundbreaking advances in HIV research, biodefense initiatives and other infectious disease studies. She went on to describe unique training opportunities available to INRO participants in the intramural division.

The program also featured current post-baccalaureate and postdoctoral minority trainees. Several trainees gave presentations of their current, and in some cases, award-winning research. Many participated in the entire program, introducing speakers, describing their own experiences and answering questions.

The multi-tiered program was the vision of Dr. Wendy Fibison, associate director of the special emphasis office. Her goal was to develop a program that would not only capture the interest of underrepresented minorities, but also would open the door for these promising young researchers and foster a collaborative relationship with NIAID.

Fibison believes that as we “focus our attention on training, mentoring and nurturing these individuals, we will see many of them seek a professional life within our institute.”

Scientific director Dr. Thomas Kindt strongly endorsed the program and encouraged the entire intramural division to support it. Every lab participated in the effort to ensure its success—from giving presentations to contacting universities to participating on the selection committee.

Already, INRO 2003 is on its way to achieving its goals. The program has led to summer internships at the institute for more than half of the participants. Several are also returning for post-baccalaureate experiences.

Principles of Clinical Pharmacology Course

The Principles of Clinical Pharmacology course, sponsored by the Clinical Center, will begin in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10 on Sept. 4. The course will be held Thursdays from 6:30 to approximately 7:45 p.m. and will run through Apr. 22, 2004.

The course covers topics such as pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and transport, assessment of drug effects, drug therapy in special populations and drug discovery and development. An outstanding faculty has been assembled to present the lectures including Dr. Carl Peck of Georgetown University’s Center for Drug Development Science, Dr. Jerry Collins of the Food and Drug Administration and the Clinical Center’s Dr. Arthur J. Atkinson, Jr., who is also the course director. The faculty has also prepared a textbook, Principles of Clinical Pharmacology, that follows the sequence of the course lectures and is available in the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc. bookstore located in Bldg. 10. The textbook is also available from Amazon.com.

This is the sixth year that the course is being offered. Registration is open to all interested persons free of charge. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the course to students who attend 75 percent of the lectures. More information, including online registration, is available at http://www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/principles.
Nine science and math instructors from major universities in Afghanistan visited the NIH campus in July. A language interpreter and representatives from the Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Montgomery County public school system accompanied them.

As recipients of a J. William Fulbright grant, the women arrived in the United States in June for an intensive summer training program at the SIT in New Jersey. The program focused on professional development and also provided a series of cultural events and tours, including the one at NIH.

OSE hosted the NIH event, and welcomed the visitors at the Cloister. They were given a brief overview of NIH and a summary of its resources for teachers. The Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul identified the women as being lead-teachers, whose professional development could positively influence the other instructors in their country. With that in mind, every effort was made to demonstrate NIH’s successful model science education programs and resources that the women could duplicate back at their own universities.

Following the morning presentation, the group toured the Clinical Center to view first-hand how laboratory research is translated into clinical therapies for human disease. Dr. Jeff Chyatte, a biology teacher at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and an HHMI teacher intern, is spending his summer learning the latest laboratory techniques and more in the NIDDK laboratory led by Dr. Connie Noguchi. He talked to the group about his stem cell research, and emphasized how his NIH experiences could be shared with his students in the classroom.

Dr. Pam Stratton discussed her work on the NICHD clinical study for patients with endometriosis. Her associates—Nancy Kim (high school senior and HHMI student intern), Ninet Sinaii (working toward Ph.D. in epidemiology and biostatistics), Sujata Kelkar (post-doc immunologist/researcher) and Heidi Godoy (medical student)—also addressed the group, and exemplified the various training levels available for people at NIH. Stratton’s staff agreed with Kim, who said of the visit, “It made us realize how lucky we are and how many opportunities we have here as women.”

That realization is even more striking when one considers the daunting circumstances women face as educators in Afghanistan. Unlike many of their peers, these women were fortunate in that they either completed their educations before the Taliban rule, or were educated outside the country. Conversely, the group reported that most of the girls beginning school are illiterate, and that students at the age of 12 are entering the equivalent of the U.S. first grade. The Afghan universities have only a few textbooks and no lab equipment or facilities, making it next to impossible to train young scientists and teachers. They have no graduate-level programs and no medical schools. At present, physicians receive their training by shadowing practicing doctors. Currently, only one of the nine universities the women represent has a connection to the Internet.

Following the NIH tour, HHMI hosted a luncheon, where the instructors learned how HHMI supports international biomedical research and science education. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) sponsored a reception at the U.S. Capitol building that evening. Advocates were present from the United States Agency for International Development, Schools Online and Relief International to discuss aid planned for Afghanistan, which includes rebuilding schools, teacher training and establishing Internet connectivity in schools and universities.
Thompson Addresses Children with Type 1 Diabetes

Finding a cure for type 1 diabetes was the rallying cry of 200 delegates, ages 2 to 17, and their parents, who attended the Children's Congress of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) in Washington, D.C., in June.

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson was the keynote speaker at a town hall meeting that launched the 4-day event organized by the JDRF to call national attention to the urgent need for a cure for type 1 diabetes. Formerly known as insulin-dependent diabetes, this autoimmune disease destroys the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. It often strikes children and young adults, who must then rely on insulin injections or an insulin pump for survival.

Thompson, along with NIDDK director Dr. Allen Spiegel, answered questions and discussed research progress in type 1 diabetes. “We've made meaningful, measurable progress in understanding and treating type 1 diabetes, one of the most common chronic diseases in children,” Thompson said.

NLM Launches Database on Safety of Everyday Products

NLM recently launched a consumer's guide that provides easy-to-understand information on the potential health effects of more than 2,000 ingredients contained in more than 4,000 common household products.

Some household products contain substances that can pose health risks if they are ingested or inhaled, or if they come in contact with eyes and skin. The Household Products Database (http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) provides information in consumer-friendly language on many of these substances and their potential health effects. For more technical information, users can launch a search for a product or ingredient in TOXNET from the Product Page in the database.

Information in the database is provided to NLM under a collaborative agreement and is derived from publicly available sources, including brand-specific labels and information provided by manufacturers and their web sites. The list of products covered will be expanded, and information for products currently in the database will be updated at least annually.

“The Household Products Database is a natural outgrowth of the work that the library has done in recent years, educating the public about environmental risks posed by chemicals in the air, soil and water,” said NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg.

“Last year, we unveiled Tox Town (http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov), a site that introduces consumers to the toxic chemicals and environmental risks they might encounter in everyday life, in everyday places. Tox Town looks at facilities like schools, office buildings and factories and the chemicals likely to be in them. With the Household Products site, we go inside the user's home and provide information about common products and their potential health effects.”

The Household Products Database helps users learn what's in the products under the kitchen sink, in the garage, in the bathroom and on the laundry room shelf.
Do You Enjoy Singing?

The NIH Chamber Singers need men and women in all voice ranges to round out its merry band of troubadours. In September, the group will begin rehearsing for its fall/winter concert for NIH employees and patients. If you are interested in joining the Singers, contact Susan Hauser at hauser@nih.gov for details.

with curious eyes, eyes that looked around faintly bemusedly, as if owned by an alien who was seeing earthly things for the first time.

But there was also a forbidding quality; he never seemed to socialize with or know anyone, and people seemed to give him room.

Told how he appears to others, Allen Anderson curls up in helpless laughter. It is too funny to him that anyone could have constructed such a groundless biography. The retiree part, and the convenience of decent food are true enough, but he's no distracted ex-scientist here simply for the good pasturage. No, as an NIH volunteer substance abuse counselor, he's here to save lives and bring hope. He's a man on a mission.

Goodbye, North Dakota

Anderson was born 74 years ago in Minot, North Dakota, a place he says he had "sense enough to get out of." His parents, he recalls, "were hard-working honest people," and he was raised in the Episcopal church. His dad was superintendent of production at a bakery and his mom worked at Minot Steam Laundry.

Bored by rural life, Anderson was nonetheless an excellent student, and graduated summa cum laude from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., with a degree in languages and history. Offered a Fulbright scholarship to study in France, he turned it down, confident he'd end up in France one way or another.

He enrolled in graduate school at the University of Minnesota, and earned a master's degree in French and Spanish, combined with political science/international relations.

When it came time to look for a job, Anderson sought a government career and applied to the Central Intelligence Agency, which took him aboard in its Clandestine Services side. He almost failed his security clearance interview, however, when he admitted that he had attended meetings of the Communist Party while a student at Minnesota. It turns out he attended at the behest of the FBI; he had called them to complain that Reds were on campus, and the FBI had asked him to turn informant.

Anderson was sent to "isolation" for CIA training and indoctrination, which took place at Camp Perry outside Williamsburg, Va. There he learned to handle a sidearm and was taught "the tradecraft to be a field case officer in France."

Spookdom Exacts a Price

He can't talk about the next 6 years of his life; he swore upon leaving the CIA not to, though other alumni, he observes ruefully, have profited from memoirs they wrote about their experiences. He wrote one, too, but put it aside for fear of retribution.

What he can say about those spy years is this: the stress of clandestine service led to heavy drinking, usually Scotch, usually "the minute I left work." He was a solitary drinker, not a party boy, and would sometimes come to his senses after having roamed all night on foot, with no memory of where he had been. Awakening one morning at the U.S. Embassy, face down, pistol in his hand, and the office safe wide open, he realized that he was out of control. The Russian spies in town "never caught on to the fact that I was a full-blown alcoholic," he says. "Had they known, they could have exploited me easily. But they were deep in their own vodka."

Anderson had begun drinking in his mid-teens, mainly out of boredom, "but maybe also some feelings of inferiority. It was an escape, a buzz." He found later in life that his dad had been a heavy drinker, given to uncontrollable rages while drunk, but who had quit upon marrying.

Anderson had been asked, while applying to the CIA, if he had any problems with drink, but said no, and the polygraph registered an honest answer. He muses, "I thought everyone drank the way I did."

He left the CIA "a full-blown drunk," plagued by blackouts and admittedly out of touch with reality. "They put me on a plane back home, took my gun away, but they didn't fire me," he recalls. Convinced he needed a weapon, Anderson bought a revolver, then took a plane back to St. Paul, where he had friends from grad school days.

"The CIA alerted its domestic security office about my disappearance," he recalls, "and issued a lookout for me, describing me as homicidal, suicidal, armed and dangerous. And they were right."

It turns out that the chief of psychiatry at the University of Minnesota had been an officer in the OSS, the precursor to the CIA, and he had Anderson locked up, twice, in the psych ward at the school's Mayo Center. But Anderson would resume drinking upon release, and eventually wore out his welcome not only with his friends in St. Paul, but also with his exasperated parents in Minot, where he had sought refuge.

The Road to Hell

Anderson returned to D.C., and was again admitted to a locked detoxification facility. Out on the street again, he found himself in a downtown YMCA on a muggy morning in September 1963, jobless and down to his last few hundred dollars. He saw a tavern across the street and yearned for a drink, but found himself uttering to an empty room, "God, I give up." And from that day to this, he hasn't had a drop of alcohol, a transformation he calls miraculous. "Forty years straight," he says, then knocks on the wood of a nearby desk.

He went to his first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in Georgetown—sitting on his hands to
quell their shaking—where a laborer named Frank,
his first sponsor in AA, blasted him with tough love.
"I was so conceited," Anderson recalls. "Here I was
a summa grad of Macalester, a Fulbright, and this
house painter was telling me what to do. I couldn't
stand the [guy]."
"They (the AA's he met) weren't very genteel about
it," remembers Anderson, who despite years of
active alcoholism, followed by a traumatic brain
injury suffered in a car crash in 1973, a heart attack
in 1999, and a long bout with multiple sclerosis that
began in 1976 and is now in its penultimate stage,
remains erudite, lapsing occasionally into French,
and even Yiddish (he had roomed with a Jewish
family while in Minnesota). "The AA's attitude was,
'Do what we tell you and you'll get better.' None of
this sweet talk. And that's what I needed."

Newly sober, Anderson got a job working security
for the Commerce Department; the CIA had never
disclosed the reason for his separation. He attended
near-daily AA meetings for 6 years, then realized
that "if I didn't find something in addition to AA,
my sobriety probably wouldn't last."

He had no use for psychiatrists—he had been to
them in the past and "hell, they couldn't do any-
thing" (though he would later have a long-term
relationship with a woman who
practiced psycho-
therapy). So
Anderson attended
a meeting of Al-
Anon, an organi-
zation founded 16
years after Alco-
holics Anonymous
that, like AA,
relies on a 12-step
recovery process,
but is aimed at the
family and friends
of the alcoholic
rather than the
drinker himself.
The meeting was
at Wheaton's
Hughes United
Methodist Church
on Georgia Ave.,
and Anderson
found, "By God,
this is what I need
in addition to
AA."

Finding a Mission
The Al-Anon
sessions illumi-
nated for him the damage he had done to his family
and loved ones. "I couldn't believe the tragedy I
had caused my family when I was an active alco-
holic," he says. "My parents witnessed the destruc-
tion of my total being. It really struck me and has
stayed with me ever since."

Anderson retired from a successful 32-year law
enforcement career at the end of 1989—he had
topped out at the high end of a GS-14 at the
Department of Justice—and moved to an apartment
building adjacent to NIH on Battery Ln. on the
advice of a friend. "When I moved into the
Whitehall, I knew it was next to a big monolithic
institute known as NIH. I wondered if it had an
AA program, and thought how convenient it would
be if it did." An AA brochure indicated that there
were meetings on campus, in Bldg. 31, so Anderson
began attending, first as a consumer of the service,
then as a provider.

Throughout his working career, Anderson had
attended AA meetings, sometimes as often as 6 times
a week. "I would say to myself every time I went
through that door, 'I need help.' And a tenet of the
program is that you can't keep it unless you give it
away." Today, Anderson attends and helps guide
two noontime AA meetings and two noontime Al-
Anon meetings at NIH (in an NIAAA conference
room, he notes ironically), in addition to sessions he
attends at his "home" Al-Anon group at Montgomery
Hills Baptist Church ("I've been making coffee
there for 25 years") and at the Del Ray AA club in
Bethesda, which now meets on Pearl St.

Between the groups, he has a wide circle of "close,
close friends" with whom he keeps in touch either
personally, or via email, which he only discovered a
few years ago but which has become a lifeline,
particularly as MS has ravaged his body. He
especially credits NIAAA and the Employee Assis-
tance Program as helpful to his stated goal as a
campus volunteer: "My mission is to do what I can
to bring hope to individuals whose lives have been
affected adversely by alcoholism."
Risk Factors for Hip Replacement in Women

Researchers funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases have determined that excess body weight and older age increase a woman's chances of needing a total hip replacement to treat osteoarthritis.

Drs. Matthew Liang, Elizabeth Karlson and Lisa Mandl and their colleagues at Harvard Medical School studied 568 participants from the ongoing Nurses Health Study who received a hip replacement to treat hip osteoarthritis. The researchers examined risk factors—including body mass index, use of hormones after menopause, age, alcohol consumption, physical inactivity and cigarette smoking—for hip replacement. Of these potential risk factors, only body mass index and age were associated with needing a hip replacement.

Body mass index is a standard measure of weight in relation to height and is used to estimate body fat. Participants with a high body mass index showed double the risk of having a hip replacement compared with low body mass index participants. The risk from obesity appeared to be established early in life. Participants who had a high body mass index at age 18 showed 5 times the risk of receiving a hip replacement to treat hip osteoarthritis later in life. Women age 70 and older were 9 times more likely to have a hip replacement compared with those under age 55.

According to the authors, this is one of the first long-term prospective studies to show an association between a modifiable risk factor and osteoarthritis. Results suggest that reducing weight may improve quality of life and decrease health care costs related to osteoarthritis.

The Nurses Health Study, from which data were drawn, is one of the largest studies of risk factors for chronic diseases in women. Over 116,000 women are enrolled.

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease in which cartilage, the slippery tissue that covers the ends of bones in a joint, wears away. This allows bones under the cartilage to rub together, causing pain, swelling, and loss of motion of the joint. Osteoarthritis is one of the most frequent causes of physical disability among adults. It mostly occurs in older people but can also affect younger men and women.

Support for the study was also provided by the National Cancer Institute and the Arthritis Foundation.

Pelvic Pain Relief Study

NIH invites women with endometriosis to take part in a pain relief study of the drug raloxifene (Evista). Call for more information: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).
nervous system and has already encouraged close ties among the NIH neuroscience community,” said NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni in announcing the appointment. “She is a distinguished scientist and a skilled manager who will be an ideal leader for the NINDS’s growing translational research program.”

Landis joined NINDS in 1995 as scientific director and worked with then-institute director Dr. Zach W. Hall to coordinate and re-engineer NINDS’s intramural research programs. Between 1999 and 2000, under the leadership of NINDS director Dr. Gerald D. Fischbach, she led the movement, together with NIMH scientific director Dr. Robert Desimone, to bring some sense of unity and common purpose to 200 laboratories from 11 different NIH institutes, all of which conduct leading-edge clinical and basic neuroscience research.

A native of New England, Landis received her undergraduate degree in biology from Wellesley College in 1967 and her master’s degree (1970) and Ph.D. (1973) from Harvard University, where she conducted research on cerebellar development in mice. After postdoctoral work at Harvard studying transmitter plasticity in sympathetic neurons, she served on the faculty of the Harvard Medical School department of neurobiology.

In 1985, she joined the faculty of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, where she held many academic positions including associate professor of pharmacology, professor and director of the Center on Neurosciences, and chair of the department of neurosciences, a department she was instrumental in establishing. Under her leadership, Case Western’s neuroscience department achieved worldwide acclaim and a reputation for excellence.

Throughout her research career, Landis has made many fundamental contributions to the understanding of developmental interactions required for synapse formation. She has garnered many honors and awards and is an elected fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Neurological Association. In 2002, she was named president-elect of the Society for Neuroscience.

“I am delighted to have been chosen to lead an NIH institute with an outstanding staff, whose investigators have a wonderful history of accomplishments in basic and clinical neurology,” Landis said. “This is a particularly exciting time in neuroscience with many opportunities for rapid translation of scientific discovery into new diagnostics and therapeutics. I look forward to developing strong collaborations between the NINDS, the other NIH institutes that fund neuroscience research, and our most important partners, patient and professional advocacy groups.”

Since February 2001, NINDS has been led by acting director Dr. Audrey Penn, who has served as the institute’s deputy director since 1996.

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OLDEN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

research program," he said. "I have been the NIEHS/NTP director for 12 years—the longest I have stayed in any position. That I have remained this long as director is the best indication of how much I have enjoyed the scientific and public health challenges of leading these great institutions."

Olden, who has been active in laboratory research during his whole dozen years leading NIEHS, will return to more direct involvement in studies with colleague Dr. Steven Akiyama on signal transduction and cell adhesion mechanisms, which he began in NCI's intramural program in 1974. His home laboratory was recently reviewed "with good marks" by the board of scientific counselors, Olden said, and the lab may soon employ one or two more scientists.

"Ken's commitment to the advancement of science has been a model to us all at the NIH," said NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni. "He is known for his vision and his outreach and communication efforts. In addition, Ken has helped young, minority scientists and called attention to the excessive health burdens borne by the poor."

Born in the eastern Tennessee farming community of Parrottsville, Olden rose to become, in 1991, the first African American to head an NIH institute.

Olden conducted town meetings around the country to help inform the scientific community of his decisions regarding NIEHS's future research activities. Under his leadership, the institute's research portfolio broadened from primarily basic biology into such human studies as the 50,000-women Sister Study—the largest study of its type seeking to find both environmental and genetic clues to breast cancer. Olden also developed the NIEHS publication Environmental Health Perspectives as a monthly journal with a section devoted to toxicogenomics.

"I have particularly enjoyed, and been impressed with, Dr. Olden's vision to expand the range of environmental health research and to ensure its relevance toward addressing real-world environmental health problems," said Dr. Sam Wilson, NIEHS deputy director. "It has been an honor and pleasure to work with him. His leadership has shaped the field of environmental health research as we know it today and for many years to come."

Olden also promoted the use of genetic tools to determine our varying susceptibility to environmental hazards—how the environment helps or harms human health. His observation that human diseases are generally the product of a triangle of environment, genetics and age has become widely accepted.

"Dr. Olden's presence will be sorely missed at the NIEHS," said scientific director Dr. Lutz Birnbaum. "He is a very intense man with one of the highest standards of excellence of anyone I have met...During his tenure, the budget of the NIEHS expanded from $241 million in 1991, to the current $614 million, and with it, the division of intramural research expanded. In 1993, he restructured DIR...and paid close attention to the advice that periodic reviews by the board of scientific counselors provided regarding strengths and weaknesses of DIR's laboratories and branches. Existing programs were analyzed, good ones were expanded and lesser ones discontinued. Our current major effort in structural biology, the much-expanded DNA repair mechanisms group, use of genetically modified rodents as sensitized reagents for carcinogen detection, and the National Center of Toxicogenomics, with state-of-the-art bioinformatics to study environmental influences on gene expression, are legacies to the institute about which Kenneth Olden can rightly be proud."

Olden's honors include appointment by President George H.W. Bush to membership on the national cancer advisory board; membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences; the Calver Award from the American Public Health Association; the HHS Secretary's Distinguished Service Award; the President's Meritorious and Distinguished Executive Awards; and the American College of Toxicology's first Distinguished Service Award.

Olden and his wife, Dr. Sandra L. White, and daughter Heather live in Durham, N.C. He also has three grown children.

Nancy Vess was recently appointed chief of the NIGMS Financial Management Branch. In this position, she will serve as the principal advisor to the institute's director and senior management officials regarding all aspects of budget formulation, presentation and execution.

Vess joined NIGMS in 1975 as a grants clerk in what was then known as the Clinical and Physiological Sciences Program and later advanced to a grants financial analyst position. She joined the NIGMS budget office in 1981 as a budget analyst and was promoted to deputy chief in 1984. Vess has served on numerous institute and NIH committees and was a recipient of the NIH Award of Merit in 1991. She earned a B.S. in business administration and accounting from American University.
NCI Lecture Targets Summer Interns

The NCI Director's Lecture, a scientific presentation sponsored annually for summer students, attracted more than 100 interns to Wilson Hall on June 20. The seminar began with a talk by Dr. Alan Rabson, NCI deputy director, who related the rich history of NIH and NCI, bringing the former NCI directors to life. His talk touched on all past directors and included personal anecdotes and stories about each one, giving the audience a sense of who they were as well as their contributions to the evolution of NCI. Rabson noted that Dr. Rick Klausner, the past director of NCI, started as a fellow in Rabson's lab, which inspired the young interns.

The featured speaker this year was Dr. Thomas Conrads, associate director of the Biomedical Proteomics Program at NCI Frederick, who began by sharing NCI director Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach's goal for the institute that, "by 2015, we will succeed in eliminating death and suffering due to cancer."

Conrads' lecture addressed the institute's obligation to public health, emphasizing the importance of "taking research from the bench to the bedside" by helping physicians become better at cancer management. Conrads said the burden of cancer can be made more manageable through new technological advances in the sciences.

He mentioned new techniques to detect and diagnose ovarian cancer using bioinformatics and proteomic analysis. Proteomics involves developing techniques for the separation of cell and tissue proteins to aid in the diagnosis, toxicity monitoring and therapeutic interventions of cancers. There is a great need for proteomic analysis, he said, because at the functional level, cancer is a proteomic disease.

In closing, he shared a favorite quote: "No one of us is as smart as all of us," emphasizing the importance of collaboration and challenging everyone in the audience to be a part of the mission to "eliminate death and suffering due to cancer."

Tae Kwon Do Beginner's Class

The NIH Tae Kwon Do School is offering a beginner's class for adults and mature teens starting Sept. 15. The curriculum combines traditional striking arts, forms and sparring with emphasis on self-defense. No experience is necessary. Class will meet in the Malone Center (Bldg. 31C, B4 level, next to the NIH Fitness Center) from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and will continue for about 2 months until participants can be integrated into the regular school training. Dues are $40 per quarter and a uniform costs $30. Interested persons are welcome to watch regular training sessions. For information call Andrew Schwartz, 402-5197 or visit http://www.recgov.org/t&s/nihtaekwondo.html.

NIH Honored for Travel System Innovations

In June, six agencies were recognized for their success in government travel management. The 2003 Travel Managers of the Year award, sponsored by Government Executive magazine, honored NIH along with the Postal Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Secret Service, Veterans Affairs and the Food and Drug Administration. The award program encourages innovation and celebrates excellence in government travel management.

Historically, the General Services Administration contract provided NIH, like most government entities, with travel management center services. However, given the unique travel requirements at NIH, it was difficult to administer and measure the value and quality of service through this arrangement. Complaints escalated as NIH travel requirements increased and the Travel Management Center was unable to add needed staff and technology due to the structure of the contract.

NIH decided to go its own way for travel services, and sought a travel agency with experience serving patient and government travelers, advanced accounting and reservation systems, multiple methods for making reservations, lowest fare guarantees, upgraded telecommunications systems, 24-hour emergency customer support and other travel amenities. Since May 2001, these services have been provided through a performance-based contract with Omega World Travel.

In fiscal year 2002, 75,000 reservations were processed. That translates into $24 million spent on transportation. NIH will save approximately $150,000 this fiscal year through internal administration and oversight. Omega was also able to track unused portions of electronic tickets, resulting in $225,000 in refunds.

For more information on travel at NIH, contact Ellen Grant, 402-8180.

Volunteers Wanted for Dengue Vaccine Study

Volunteers ages 18-45 are needed for a 7-month research study on the safety and effectiveness of a new investigational dengue vaccine. The study is being conducted by principal investigator Dr. Robert V. Gibbons at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring. Health screening and financial compensation provided. Call 1-866-856-3259 toll free or (301) 319-9335/9320.
NIH Police Celebrate Third Annual Day Out, Host Cookout

Seafood—including fresh fried shrimp, fried fish, and grilled salmon—was the order of the day as the NIH Police celebrated its third annual Police Day Out on Aug. 5 with a Louisiana-style cookout in front of Bldg. 1.

The NIH event is scheduled to coincide with “National Night Out,” a crime and drug-abuse prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. This year was the 20th anniversary of the national event.

Last year, more than 33 million people from 9,850 communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide participated in the largest National Night Out ever, according to the event’s web site, which says the campaign “is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals...that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.”

Although occurring several hours earlier than the national event, NIH’s observance attracted quite a few campus denizens. Of course, the large turnout may have had something to do with the menu: As usual, the food-line portion of the event stretched from the Bldg. 1 parking lot to Center Drive during the lunchtime hours. All proceeds benefit charity.

Also on hand were several representatives from other local, state and federal agencies including the United States Marshal’s Office and K-9 units from the Park Police, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The day got under way with K-9 demonstrations and presentation of newly certified K-9 officers, tours of the Mobile Command Unit and other crime prevention and detection displays.