THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

Zerhouni Bolsters Ethics Oversight At NIH with Committee, Panel

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni established a new NIH ethics advisory committee (NEAC) last fall and in January, 14 members were appointed to that committee. He also announced that, effective Jan. 12, HHS had named NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington as deputy ethics counselor (DEC) for NIH and the Office of the Director.

Kington has DEC responsibility for institute and center directors and their deputies, and for scientific, clinical and extramural directors. All incumbents in those posts were asked to provide Kington, within 30 days, copies of their most recent financial disclosure reports, along with a complete copy of all other ethics-related documents and records.

The NEAC, which is overseen by Kington,

SEE **ETHICS**, PAGE 2

NIAID Researchers Go Nose-to-Nose Against Allergies

By Jennifer Wenger

While NIAID is often linked with current headline-grabbers such as biodefense, AIDS and SARS, it's the "A" part of the institute's name that may mean the most to the more than 50 million Americans who suffer from hay fever, sinusitis, asthma, anaphylaxis and other allergy-related illnesses.

"Allergies are the sixth leading cause of chronic disease in the United States—and the number of cases continues to rise," said Dr. Dean Metcalfe, chief of the Laboratory of Allergic Diseases (LAD). "Their prevalence within the population has made this an all-important area of exploration for NIAID intramural scientists for the past 50 years."

LAD, created in 1995, is one of NIAID's clinical research labs, encompassing

SEE **ALLERGY RESEARCH**, PAGE 4

HIGHLIGHTS

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

February 17, 2004
Vol. LVI, No. 4

Part Yellow Pages, Part Encyclopedia

Intramural Database a Treasure Trove Of Who's Who, Doing What

By Rich McManus

If a historian were to chart the advance of NIH intramural science, there might be no better resource than two yearly publications—now grown to a single web site—once known as the Annual Reports and the *Scientific Directory and Annual Bibliography*, or SDAB. For many years a product of the Office of Communications, OD, where it grew from a slim volume of perhaps 100 pages to massive compendia of many hundreds of pages before the paper versions ceased publication in 1994, the SDAB, along with the Annual Reports, have matured into something called NIDB—the NIH Intramural Database, managed by CIT's Division of Enterprise and Custom Applications. Because it is now an electronic "document," the NIDB, which debuted in 1998, is more robust than anything in print could be; it isn't limited by the constraint of deadline, nor is its size limited by the capacities of a bindery.

Like its paper predecessor, NIDB still contains annual bibliographies, which include all papers produced by intramural scientists each year, and the scientific directory, which lists all scientific staff

SEE **INTRAMURAL DATABASE**, PAGE 6

Fire in Bldg. 30 Basement Injures Fireman, Suspends NIDCR Research

An electrical fire on Sunday, Feb. 1 that began in a high-voltage vault in the basement of Bldg. 30 injured one NIH fire fighter, who was treated for smoke inhalation, and temporarily closed the 5-story NIDCR lab building, suspending research. About 70 percent of the NIDCR intramural effort is housed in the building.

A security guard is posted at the entrance of Bldg. 30, closed due to fire.

The smoky fire drew some 65 fire fighters from NIH, Montgomery County and the National Naval Medical Center, who were on the scene for 4 hours. Few employees were in the building since it was a weekend, and all were safely evacuated, said NIDCR director Dr.

SEE **FIRE IN BLDG. 30**, PAGE 8

Dr. Toby Behar has joined the Center for Scientific Review as scientific review administrator for the neurodegeneration and biology of glia study section. She previously was program director for glial cell biology at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. She earned her Ph.D. in the physiology department at Georgetown University School of Medicine, where she studied neuronal migration abnormalities in the embryonic cortex of the TS16 mouse, an animal model of human Down syndrome. Prior to joining the NINDS Division of Extramural Research in 2000, she was an NINDS intramural researcher in the laboratories of neuroimmunology, molecular biology and neurophysiology.

ETHICS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was given three primary responsibilities: provide supervisory review and, if appropriate, approval for all outside activity and award requests submitted by appointed or acting OD senior staff and IC directors; advise Kington on all outside activity and award requests submitted by IC deputy directors, scientific directors, clinical directors and extramural directors; and advise Kington about requests submitted by any other NIH employee as follows: 1) cash awards where compensation is equal to or exceeds $2,500, including travel reimbursement; 2) outside activities with biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies; 3) outside activities where total anticipated compensation exceeds $10,000, or is expressed as future income stream; and 4) activities for which the compensation proposed is stock, stock options, or other equity position.

The NEAC membership includes cochairs Kington and Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research; NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander; Dr. Lore Anne McNicol, director, Division of Extramural Research, NEI; Dr. Harvey Klein, chief, transfusion medicine, CC; Dr. Nancy Nossal, chief, Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Biology, NIDDK; Dr. Cheryl Corsaro, scientific review administrator, CSR; Dr. Eric Green, scientific director, NHGRI; Dr. Joseph Fraumeni, director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, NCI; Dr. Jeremy Berg, director, NIGMS; Dr. John La Montagne, deputy director, NIAID; Dr. Faye Calhoun, deputy director, NIAAA; and *ex officio* members Holli Beckerman Jaffe, NIH ethics officer, and Gretchen Weaver, HHS attorney.

Additionally, Zerhouni has asked Dr. Bruce Alberts, president of the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Norman Augustine, chairman of the executive committee of Lockheed Martin, to cochair an NIH blue ribbon panel on conflict of interest policies to examine the guidelines governing consulting activities of NIH scientists.

Zerhouni established the blue ribbon panel as a working group of the advisory committee to the director (ACD). The panel will consist of an ACD member, a member of the NIH director's Council of Public Representatives, and distinguished outside experts, who will be selected in consultation with the co-chairs.

In announcing the Alberts-Augustine panel, Zerhouni said, "I look forward to the panel's recommendations on how best to ensure complete transparency, full disclosure, independent review, and continuous monitoring of activities."

Specifically, the panel's charge is to: 1) review the existing laws, regulations, policies and procedures under which NIH currently operates regarding a) real and apparent financial conflicts of interest of NIH staff where compensation or financial benefit from outside sources is received, including consulting arrangements and outside awards, and b) requirements and policies for the reporting of NIH staff's financial interests, including which interests are subject to public disclosure, and what portion of NIH staff file public disclosures; 2) make recommendations for improving existing laws, regulations, policies and procedures as appropriate; 3) complete the review and development of recommendations within 90 days; and 4) provide recommendations to the ACD, for deliberation and final recommendations to the director, NIH. ■

Dr. Brian R. Murphy (l), co-chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Infectious Diseases (LID), recently received the first Robert M. Chanock Award for Lifetime Achievement in RSV Research at the Biennial International Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Symposium. Murphy received the award for his world-renowned research on RSV, as well as on other viruses. RSV is a leading cause of serious respiratory disease in infants and children. Murphy and other LID scientists, including Drs. Peter Collins and Robert M. Chanock, have been working on developing a vaccine against the virus. This award was established in 2003 to honor Chanock (r) for his discovery of RSV and his subsequent commitment to RSV research. After 33 years of serving as chief, LID, Chanock recently stepped down to become a senior investigator in the lab.

NIH RECORD

Published biweekly at Bethesda, Md., by the Editorial Operations Branch, Division of Public Information, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available on request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through Sept. 30, 2004.

NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B41

Phone (301) 496-2125
Fax (301) 402-1485

Web address
http://www.nih.gov/news/NIH-Record/archives.htm

Editor
Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes, or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

The Record is recyclable as office white paper.

Upcoming Forums Invite Participation

NCCAM Marks 5 Years, Plans for Next 5

By Catherine Law and Michelle Bolek

With a look at the past and an eye to the future, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine recently celebrated its fifth anniversary by launching its second 5-year strategic planning effort. The announcement, made at the Jan. 30 meeting of the center's advisory council, marked the start of a year-long planning effort that invites the involvement of the public, researchers, health care professionals, NCCAM staff, NIH colleagues and others with an interest in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) research.

Dr. Stephen Straus, NCCAM director, announced the strategic planning effort during his annual state of the center address, which served not only as a retrospective of the 5 years since NCCAM's establishment, but also as an invitation to help chart the center's future. Straus recounted the role the center has played in creating a strong foundation for rigorous scientific CAM research and the importance of collaborations with other NIH components.

"As an NIH center," said Straus, "we have been responsive to our mission, mindful of the resources committed to us, and have been fully integrated into the NIH. NCCAM has changed the dialogue about what's possible and important in CAM research."

Straus discussed NCCAM's science portfolio, which now includes more than 300 projects, ranging from basic research using powerful brain imaging techniques to help understand how acupuncture works, to the largest-ever, placebo-controlled clinical trials of popular dietary supplements such as glucosamine for degenerative arthritis and *Ginkgo biloba* for dementia.

"Most importantly," he pointed out, "a body of data is emerging from NCCAM's investments in research that is informing public policy and helping guide practices."

NCCAM's mission—to explore CAM in the context of rigorous science, train researchers and disseminate information—has been guided to date by its first strategic plan, Expanding Horizons of Healthcare. In developing the first plan, NCCAM staff of about 12 at the time cast a broad net to identify scientific priorities. The document focused on a vision and goals to help lay a much-needed infrastructure for CAM research. That infrastructure developed successfully into an intramural program on campus, research centers across the country and groundwork for international collaborations.

Now, with 5 years of experience and about 90 staffers, the center is ready for the next phase of planning. NCCAM seeks guidance in refining its goals and identifying areas in which its investments can have the greatest impact. The center is committed to providing opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to the planning process.

NCCAM director Dr. Stephen Straus and deputy director Dr. Margaret Chesney celebrate the center's first 5 years.

NCCAM will host two strategic planning stakeholder forums to give the public an opportunity to voice opinions about future directions for research, training, outreach and integration in CAM. The forums will be held on Monday, Mar. 22 at the Natcher Conference Center and Monday, Apr. 19 in Seattle. To learn more, to register to attend or speak, or to submit written testimony about NCCAM's future directions, visit nccam.nih.gov/about/plans/2005/. Comment on the draft strategic plan, which will be posted on the NCCAM web site in fall 2004, is also invited.

"Maintaining an open and objective approach to CAM research and disseminating those research results to our stakeholders continue to be our primary goals," said Straus. "We are particularly interested in hearing our stakeholders' views regarding future directions for CAM research to aid us in making the most effective use of the resources that Americans have entrusted to us." ■

Dr. Henry Khachaturian has joined the Office of Loan Repayment and Scholarship, OD, as director of policy and liaison activities. He will administer the policy, legislative, public relations and outreach and recruitment activities related to the Extramural Loan Repayment Programs. Before that, Khachaturian served as NINDS training and career development officer. From 1988 to 2000, he served in a variety of positions at NIMH, including training director, associate director for research training and research development, chief of the Neurotransmission and Neuroregulation Program, and chief of the Neuroscience Centers Program. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the department of psychiatry at the University of Michigan and assistant professor of neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Tennessee prior to joining NIH. He has authored numerous papers in his specialty area of opioid peptide neurobiology. He also serves on a variety of NIH committees, including the training advisory committee, and has received many awards for his service to science and biomedical health.

Heart Failure and Diabetes Study

If you or someone you know has heart failure/diabetes, call today for study information: 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

ALLERGY RESEARCH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

facilities in Rockville and the Clinical Center, and housing approximately 45 employees. Researchers there strive to understand how and why the body wages war against perceived intruders—not bacteria, viruses or other germs, but the seemingly benign materials found in carpets and couch cushions, in foods, or wafting through open windows. Materials that can provoke an allergic reaction—commonly referred to as allergens—include pollen, animal dander, dust mite and cockroach droppings, insect stings, mold spores, latex, certain drugs, and some foods such as milk, peanuts and shellfish.

Allergy Primer

Key to any allergic reaction is an antibody known as immunoglobulin E, or IgE. Usually considered "good guys" in the body's defense system, antibodies are proteins that are custom-built by the body to bind to and help destroy foreign substances such as viruses and bacteria. However, when someone with allergies is exposed to an allergen such as pollen, he or she produces bulk quantities of IgE antibodies that recognize and bind to the pollen. Mast cells—granule-containing white blood cells that reside in mucous membranes and other tissues beneath the skin—have receptors that seek out IgE antibodies and attach them to their surfaces.

Dr. Marianna Kulka, an LAD visiting fellow, examines tissue samples for her research on mast cells.

When that same person encounters pollen a second time, clusters of IgE molecules, now protruding from the mast cell's surface, bind to the pollen grain, signaling the mast cell to release its toxic contents into the surrounding tissues. One such toxin known as histamine makes blood vessels "leaky," allowing fluids to seep out of nearby capillaries and, on cue, causing the eyes to water and the nose to run. Histamine also causes smooth muscle, such as the muscle surrounding a person's bronchial tubes, to contract, leading to shortness of breath. Asthma, a condition in which the airways become inflamed and constricted, is believed to be an allergic reaction to substances breathed through the air.

Once mast cells have emptied their contents, additional players are summoned to the scene. Basophils, like mast cells, are granule-containing white blood cells that link up with IgE antibodies and empty their toxic contents when IgE molecules bind with the allergen. Eosinophils, one of the late arrivals at the site of inflammation, can turn an acute reaction into a chronic one by sustaining the attack as long as the allergen persists in the environment.

What Animal Models Teach

Not surprisingly, IgE antibodies, mast cells, basophils and eosinophils, in addition to a host of other players, are of keen interest to allergy researchers. Once scientists better understand the root cause of allergies and how they can lead to more serious health problems, better ways can be developed to diagnose and treat people who suffer from them.

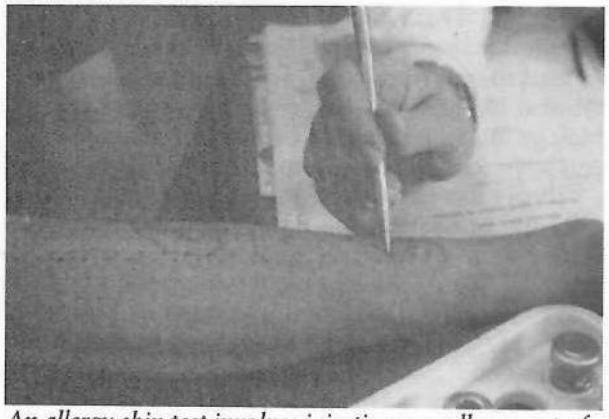
Researchers in the allergic inflammation section are working to understand how a person can develop tolerance to certain allergens naturally. They want to learn how roughly 75 percent of the U.S. population manages to escape an allergic reaction unscathed even though they are exposed to the same environmental substances as the 25 percent who do have allergies. Section head Dr. Andrea Keane-Myers and colleagues are conducting experiments to learn more about an intriguing phenomenon in which people who have parasitic infections, such as those contracted in developing countries, are able to develop immunity to allergic reactions.

"If we can understand the mechanisms by which individuals develop a tolerance to allergens, we can perhaps use these same mechanisms to develop therapeutics for people with allergies," said Keane-Myers.

People with parasitic infections, like people who suffer from allergies, produce large quantities of IgE antibodies, which, in turn, link up to mast cells, eosinophils and basophils. (When mast cells, basophils and eosinophils respond to parasite invasion, the granules released will kill the parasite.) Scientists believe that parasitic infections help ward off allergic reactions to ensure that the parasite's host continues to offer a hospitable environment in which to live. Whether or not allergic symptoms appear, however, is influenced by the severity of the parasitic infection, Keane-Myers has found.

Just as a driver depends on his car's sensors to tell when the engine is too hot or the oil level too low, every cell in the body has receptors on its surface to help it detect what's going on in its environment. How receptors enable a cell to respond to these environmental cues is the focus of two sections of the laboratory.

In the molecular signal transduction section, researchers are zeroing in on chemical signals that direct cellular activities during an asthma attack. Dr. Kirk Druey, head of the section, has identified a protein that may help thwart the sequence of events by which an allergic reaction develops into asthma, a finding that could one day lead to the development of more effective anti-inflammatory drugs.



An allergy skin test involves injecting a small amount of allergen under the surface of the skin to see if there is a reaction.

Natural killer (NK) cells, though not directly related to allergies, are giving researchers added insight into the mechanisms by which cells respond to their environment. One of the first lines of defense against virus-infected cells, bacteria or tumor cells, NK cells have receptors that, if unchecked, could signal the destruction of every cell in their path. But a second kind of receptor on the NK cell—one that interacts with molecules found only on normal, healthy cells—can turn off the killing action of the NK cell, overriding the activating receptor and shielding the normal cell from injury. Dr. John Coligan, head of the receptor cell biology section, and his research team have identified an inhibitory receptor in rats that is continuously recycled to the NK cell's surface. In this way, normal cells are offered a ready supply of inhibitory receptors with which to bind.

Exploring Rare Mast Cell Disorder

Currently, about 10 clinical protocols are being conducted at the CC on various topics related to allergy, immunology and mast cell disorders.

Of compelling interest to clinical researchers in the laboratory's mast cell biology section is a disease known as mastocytosis, a relatively uncommon disorder affecting thousands of Americans. Mastocytosis is caused by an overabundance of mast cells in the skin, bone marrow, gastrointestinal tract, or internal organs such as the liver and spleen. Individuals with the disorder usually have brownish skin lesions, one of the disease's major diagnostic characteristics. Other symptoms can include bone or muscle pain, abdominal discomfort, stomach ulcers, diarrhea, faintness and shock.

"Some people ask why we would dedicate ourselves and laboratory resources to the study of mastocytosis when it affects such a relatively small number of people," said Metcalfe, who also heads the section. "But by studying a disease that is marked by a proliferation of mast cells, we are examining the biology of mast cells themselves, namely how they grow, develop and so on. Such information will provide greater insights into allergies and other related illnesses that affect a much larger segment of the population."

One of the more significant developments from the laboratory's work on mastocytosis occurred this past year when personnel of the section successfully developed several human mast cell lines that can be grown in culture. (Because mast cells live in tissues, not blood, no one to this point had been able to harvest them for study.) Grown from stem cells, these mast cells possess receptors that can be activated by allergens, making them a very promising resource for researchers worldwide.

In the clinical allergy and immunology unit, headed by Dr. Calman Prussin, scientists are exploring how a person's immune system recognizes and responds to certain allergens. Before T cells react to an allergen, they rely on a "go-between" player—called an antigen-presenting cell—to present the allergen to them in a recognizable way, much like a diplomat requires an interpreter to convey information in a home language. Researchers in the unit are studying how special antigen-presenting cells known as dendritic cells present information to T cells to produce allergic inflammation.

Staff, students and volunteers of NIAID's Laboratory of Allergic Diseases

The group is also studying the effects of omalizumab (Xolair), a drug approved by the FDA in June 2003 that reduces the level of IgE antibodies in the blood. Prussin and others are now trying to determine whether the reduction in IgE receptors could ultimately result in the activation of fewer T cells, preventing allergic inflammation.

One of the unit's more noteworthy accomplishments to date is development of staining techniques that differentiate between Th2 cells, T cells that are heavily involved in the allergic response, and Th1 cells, which are not involved.

"These techniques allow us to examine allergen-specific T-cell function with unprecedented detail," said Prussin. As new allergy drugs become more fine-tuned, he says, researchers will be able to directly monitor how to use such drugs to change T-cell responses. And with increased scrutiny comes better control over an allergic response.

"We'll be able to look at different ways to tweak the allergic immune response and develop the means to drive it in the desired direction," he noted. ■

INTRAMURAL DATABASE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the intramural programs, plus the annual reports, which describe each principal investigator's activities, amounting to some 2,500 projects each year. But NIDB also includes an NIH "resumé," which provides NIH research and bibliographic information on all NIH researchers, not just principal and lead investigators.

As a tool for finding out who is doing what on campus, NIDB joins a host of social engineering projects designed to speed the progress of science, essentially by matchmaking. These include the annual Research Festival, which serves to foment collaborations among sundry researchers; the special scientific interest groups, which burgeon in new fields every year; and the "open lab" environments and clever building designs touted with each new construction project on campus, including Bldg. 50, the Clinical Research Center and the Porter Neuroscience Center, whose architects promise veritable hothouses of scientific cross-fertilization. Unlike festivals, interest group meetings and sunny stairwells, however, NIDB permits a scientist, without ever leaving his or her workstation, to mine literal tons of data, beginning with a simple query.

CIT's Dr. Dale Graham was a bench scientist for many years before specializing in computational biology and databases such as the NIH Intramural Database. She is also a llama rancher in her spare time.

"We see the NIDB as a key mechanism to enhance collaborations across ICs and to stimulate multidisciplinary research projects," said Dr. Joan Schwartz, assistant director, Office of Intramural Research, and business manager of the NIDB. "For me, this is a dream come true," says Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research. "It is an enormously valuable tool for accessing the richness of intramural research not only for our own researchers but for the rest of the world."

For example, a researcher can type "NIDDK PCR" in the "Searching NIH Annual Reports" page to find reports combining people from NIDDK with a common lab assay known as polymerase chain reaction. NIDB instantly finds 13 reports, and presents the first 10 hits, listed by relevancy. A click on any given title produces a compact report that lists principal investigator, lab staff, total staff years dedicated to the project, keywords associated with the project, a summary of the work, and lastly, publications generated by the research. Many of these citations contain a further link to PubMed, so that NIDB users can bore their way to the full text of articles.

Particularly for the newcomer to NIH, the NIDB can drastically foreshorten years of information-gathering, networking and schmoozing that commonly precede a scientist's finding his or her intellectual home. That's part of the reason the site's technical manager Dr. Dale Graham likes it so much. "I used to be a researcher," said Graham, a computational biologist who earned a Ph.D. in molecular biology in 1970, taught at Purdue University and was a working scientist from 1973 to 1990.

"There's lots of turnover in research staff at the NIH and by the time you leave, you're often just getting to know where the good stuff is." She concedes that NIDB does require some effort on the part of intramural scientists, who input its bedrock data, "but it lets the world know what we're working on."

Graham came to NIH in 1980 to work at NCI under Dr. Gilbert Smith on mammary tumor virus. "I was a cancer expert," she recalls. She spent 3 years there, then moved to Dr. Matthew Rechler's laboratory at NIDDK, where she studied insulin-like growth factor until 1990. "I was recruited by CIT to do support for scientists. I had already been spending lots of time helping fellow researchers with computers and with sequence analysis—I just loved it," she continues. "I was delighted to go to CIT," where she specialized in scientific software and data presentation, earning an NIH Director's Award (1995) along the way.

NIDB Only Latest Version of Intramural Reporting

The evolution of the NIH Intramural Database from its origins as a bound volume containing the *Scientific Directory and Annual Bibliography* (SDAB) for all intramural laboratories at NIH is actually the second "new and improved" method of accounting for NIH's in-house scientific riches. Back in the old days, NIH used to simply bind up every research paper produced by its intramural scientists in a given year.

"The SDAB was originally started to replace the annual collected and bound reprints of all scientific publications at NIH because that effort had become too large," explains NIH historian Dr. Victoria Harden. "The Bldg. 10 library [the NIH Library] holds all the bound reprints of intramural NIH scientists before the SDAB began publication. That effort largely began after World War II. Until that time, most intramural scientists published exclusively in *Public Health Reports* (PHR) or the *Bulletins of the Hygienic Laboratory* (which became the *Bulletin of the NIH* after 1930). The chemists, pharmacologists and zoologists started publishing in professional journals very early in the century, but their output was small in comparison to the publications on biologics, epidemiology, infectious diseases, etc.

"After World War II," Harden continues, "as the number of institutes grew and lots more scientists

Her expertise in bibliographic software led her to a major project to convert the august bound volumes of the old Annual Reports and SDAB into the new NIDB project, owned by the Office of Intramural Research. The NIDB site today is run by a staff of 3, with input from hundreds of scientists in the intramural research programs, who provide the data contained in NIDB. Though the existence of this site is not well-known to all NIH researchers, the search engine for the site is steadily gaining users, who are quick to remind Graham when any problems arise.

Graham thinks the site is underappreciated, presumably because of its lack of visibility. "I don't think people realize how valuable it is—it seems like gold to me," she said. "It provides a good assessment tool for recruiting, it lets like-minded scientists create their own networks. Anyone can tap into it to see who is working on problems that interest them.

"The senior guys at NIH already know where all the treasures are," she adds, "so NIDB is especially useful to younger, lower-level workers" who are just finding their niche.. "I want to make their experience at the NIH richer and more effective. I remember what it was like to be a young scientist. This is a real research resource, containing very important information."

NIH historian Dr. Victoria Harden displays bound volumes of the SDAB from 1960 and 1992 in her office's archive of the volumes.

began to publish in peer-reviewed journals (PHR became completely a policy-oriented journal in 1952), the reprints were collected and bound until the physical size of the annual reprints just became too large to manage. That is when NIH started the SDAB. The move to a web-based version is just the latest in a series of adaptations."

According to the NIH Library, the SDAB debuted in 1956, skipped 1958, endured until 1992, skipped 1993, published once more in 1994 then began appearing solely on the Internet from 1995 forward. The NIDB was launched in 1998.

Graham emphasizes an advantage NIDB holds over its paper predecessor—you can ask questions of it. "There are lots of different ways to mine these data," she says. "It's a good tool for assessing collaborative efforts, or for tracing the progress of a given project over a number of years. The PubMed links included in the bibliographies often lead to full-text articles." NIDB also allows multiple institutes to share credit for research publications; the paper version only permitted one institute to stake a claim.

When it was first launched, NIDB relied on reports filed by scientists of diverse experience, some of whom were postdoctoral fellows, who might not have been the most authoritative sources of material on a lab's output. Today, "You've got to be either tenured or on tenure-track to file or verify data," said Graham. "That is, while staff scientists or clinicians may file an Annual Report, it must be reviewed by a tenured or tenure-track investigator." She notes that each institute and center has its own peculiar programming requirements, hewing to the grand old NIH tradition of "operation by exception...meaning that no one follows the same set of rules."

It takes a substantial amount of behind-the-scenes geek-work, she divulges, to keep the site working properly. But all the technical improvements have paid off since the site debuted in 1998, because NIDB recently earned status as an NIH "enterprise project," along with such stalwarts as ITAS, NBS, NED, nVision and NIH Login. This means it has passed muster with a variety of boards including the information technology investment review board, the BOG (board of governors) and the FARB—funding advisory review board. "These various blessings assure that we get funding," Graham noted.

Proud of a valued site that is daily gaining new adherents (the search site logs 300-800 hits per day), Graham is perhaps uniquely qualified to milk data from somewhat recalcitrant donors—she has for the past 20 years been a llama rancher; llamas, she notes, "are very intelligent, but not very affectionate." Graham and her husband keep 23 llamas on a 20-acre farm 70 miles southwest of Bethesda in Culpeper County, Va., where they have recently finished building their dream house—a log cabin.

"A llama," she observes, "is like a 300-pound vegetarian cat. Basically, the way they think is, 'If it's their idea, it's good. If it's your idea, it's bad.'" Which equips Graham—who has seen llamas successfully trained to caddy on golf courses and been fascinated for decades with llama "thinking"—to run the NIDB ranch quite nicely. To see for yourself visit http://intramural.nih.gov/search/. ■

Have Kidney Disease?

Call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 for new kidney studies, including lupus nephritis, membranous nephropathy and focal segmental glomerulosclerosis. Treatment provided at no cost. Transportation may be provided. Email prpl@cc.nih.gov (TTY: 1-866-411-1010).

FIRE IN BLDG. 30, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lawrence Tabak.

The fire was caused by "energized high-voltage electrical switchgear and transformers exposed to water from a broken chilled water coil," said the Division of the Fire Marshal, ORS.

Bldg. 30 normally houses about 250 people who work in NIDCR intramural laboratories, and is also home to about 15,000 mice used in research, which had to be evacuated. The animals were taken to the Bldg. 14-28 complex. Veterinarians evaluated the animals after the fire.

Workers remove material from fire-damaged Bldg. 30 on the day after the blaze in the building's electrical vault.

The employee relocation process was more difficult; options included interim housing in NIDCR laboratories and offices in other buildings on campus, as well as in other institutes and centers.

The building was closed for business pending a fire marshal's investigation, assessment and repair of any damage and reactivation of the building's safety systems, which were shut down when power to the building was cut off.

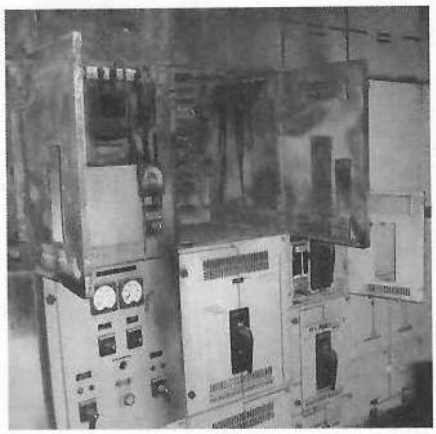
Tabak reported that, according to the NIH Fire Department, the fire was limited to the electrical vault, which was damaged substantially; smoke damage to the rest of the building seemed light. As a result of the fire, regular electrical service was cut to Bldg. 49 and Bldg. 29B. Those buildings relied on backup generator power to run emergency systems, including freezers and animal areas, for several hours.

Because electrical power to Bldg. 30 was shut down, NIDCR ordered dry ice to be delivered every 12 hours to chill freezers within the building and sought freezer space in other buildings, as well as with a contractor that provides this service.

NIH Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations staff worked diligently in subfreezing temperatures to secure Bldg. 30 and restore full power to Bldgs. 49 and 29B. Power was restored to those two buildings before 11 p.m. on Feb. 1.

NIH fire fighter Darryl Lowery was transported to Washington Hospital Center by ambulance and treated for smoke inhalation. He was released later that evening and returned to duty on Feb. 3.

A portion of the high-voltage switchgear for Bldg. 30 that was involved in the fire



Tabak praised his own workforce, as well as NIH's Office of Research Services and Office of Research Facilities, in an email update to NIDCR employees on Feb. 3: "I am very proud of how well our staff has stepped up to meet this extraordinary challenge. Special thanks to the many members of the staff who have worked so extra hard the last few days. The ORS and ORF staff and other emergency workers continue to be very supportive and helpful—please continue to work with them—they are really trying hard to accommodate our needs." ■

Children's Inn To Benefit from Shopping Event

Shop 'til you drop and support the Children's Inn at NIH. Enjoy guilt-free shopping and help seriously ill children and their families at "The Shopping Event" on Wednesday, Mar. 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Bloomingdale's in Tyson's Corner and White Flint. The inn is one of four charities that will benefit. Featured are live entertainment, discounts and fashion events, as well as storewide savings of 15-20 percent for customers with invitations.

Bloomingdale's will donate $5 to each shopper's designated charity for each invitation turned in at the door on Mar. 3. Invitations are available on the Children's Inn web site at www.childrensinn.org, or by calling Suzanne Oberlander at (301) 451-9461 at the inn. Tickets may also be purchased for $10 at the door with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting all participating charities. Organizers hope to raise more than $20,000 to benefit the four community-based non-profit organizations. ■

Malaria Vaccine Study Needs Volunteers

Healthy men and women ages 18-45, without previous history of malaria or receipt of a malaria vaccine, are needed to participate in a study on the safety and effectiveness of a new investigational malaria vaccine 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, or visit www.wrairclinicaltrials.com. ■

African American History Program Set, Feb. 26

The NIH African American History Program will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. The theme for the program is "A Dialogue on Brown vs. the Board of Education Topeka, Kansas: 50 Years Later," derived from the 2004 national Black History Month theme.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court deliberated on a case involving a young black student, Linda Brown, and whether she should be bused 5 miles to school or allowed to attend a school close to her home. The court ruled in favor of Brown, declaring that all children regardless of their race should be able to attend school in their home district, and in effect launching the desegregation of public schools.

At the NIH program, a panel of distinguished scholars will discuss the court's historic decision, results from it in the last 50 years, and implications of it and other court decisions for the future of women and minorities in higher education.

Guest panelists include Laura Murphy, director of the Washington, D.C., office of the American Civil Liberties Union; Dr. Ronald Walters, professor in the department of government and politics, University of Maryland; Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, president and CEO, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; Dr. William B. Harvey, vice president and director, Office of Minorities in Higher Education; Dr. Robert Haynie, associate dean, Case Western Reserve Medical School; and Joseph Williams, director, Student Training Program, Case Western Reserve Medical School.

A cultural food sampling will be provided as well.

For reasonable accommodation or information, call Kay Johnson Graham at (301) 496-3403 or Michael Chew at (301) 402-3681.

NIH Library To Launch Web Site at Open House

Join NIH Library staff as they celebrate the unveiling of a web site redesign with demonstrations that include navigating the new site, using new online resources and document delivery enhancements, and answering your questions on Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Attendees completing a brief survey at the NIH Library Open House will be eligible to win one of three information makeovers. An information makeover is a service in which NIH librarians assess and organize an individual's information requirements for efficient retrieval and use.

Refreshments will be served and the library's new logo will debut. For those unable to attend, the animated tutorial "Introduction to the NIH Library Web Site" will be available on the web site following the open house. For more information, call (301) 496-1080 or visit http://nihlibrary.nih.gov.

Dr. Dushanka Kleinman received the John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award in Dental Public Health at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting held recently in San Francisco. A rear admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Kleinman is NIDCR deputy director and chief dental officer, PHS. She is currently on detail to the NIH Office of the Director as assistant director for roadmap coordination. Kleinman is known for her work on the epidemiology of oral mucosal tissue diseases and conditions and recently spearheaded the first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health. The Knutson award is given to those who "have made an outstanding contribution to improve oral health in the United States." At the ceremony, award committee chairman Dr. John Brown presented Kleinman with a commemorative silver plate. Additionally, she received a check from award co-sponsor Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, which she donated to the APHA oral health section for its educational efforts.

Science Readers Needed

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) is a non-profit organization that provides recorded textbooks for blind and dyslexic students. Currently, the organization has a much greater demand for high-level science texts than it can fulfill. NIH volunteer readers fill a great need by sharing their science and medical expertise. The most critical need is for specialists such as chemists, physicists, doctors, computer scientists and mathematicians.

RFB&D has a recording space at NIH for the convenience of scientists and medical experts who can record college and post-graduate level science texts. All necessary training on recording equipment is provided. A 1-hour per week commitment for a minimum of 6 months is requested. For more information about RFB&D, contact Sarah Scully at (202) 244-8990 or sscully@rfbd.org.

Asian/Chinese Volunteers Needed

The department of transfusion medicine (Blood Bank) at the Clinical Center seeks healthy volunteers (male and female) 18 years of age and older to participate in a research apheresis study that assesses the influence of ethnic background on immune response. Volunteers are needed who were born in China, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore or first generation offspring of parents who were born in these countries. Two visits are required and compensation is available. Call Rose Werden, (301) 402-0757.

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Participate in an NIH study investigating potential signs of Alzheimer's disease. Call 1-800-411-1222 (1-866-411-1010 TTY).

Wong Says Farewell After 46 Years at NIH

In today's fast-paced, job-changing society, it is unusual to find someone who has worked in the same job for even 5 years. Doris Wong is a noteworthy exception, having spent the last 46 years of her career as a microbiologist in NIAID's Laboratory of Infectious Diseases (LID). She is leaving now only because she is retiring.

Doris Wong

Wong, born in Philadelphia, got a B.A. in microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her first job after graduating was at Temple University Medical School, where she taught bacteriology to medical technology students. She later worked at Merck Sharp & Dohme. In 1957, she came to the Washington area with her new husband, who had accepted a job here. After arriving, she took a job at NIAID and never left.

Wong has seen many changes at NIH over the years, not only in administration but also in the field of microbiology. She sees the biggest scientific changes in the fields of molecular biology and virology and the different laboratory techniques associated with them. In moving from large glass test tubes to microtiter plates, everything in the lab became "miniaturized."

According to Dr. Robert Chanock, former LID chief, "Doris was the mainstay of the respiratory viruses section for 6 years before moving to the hepatitis viruses section. She has been unquestionably the most dedicated, credible member of the technical staff, and I would rate her as a technician-plus! I shudder to think of how the respiratory virus and hepatitis viruses programs might have floundered without her."

Dr. Robert Purcell, LID co-chief and hepatitis viruses/molecular hepatitis section chief, has been working with Wong since 1963, "through thick and thin—I have gotten thicker, she has stayed thin!" He said that her work contributed to the discovery of two of the five recognized hepatitis viruses as well as to the development of vaccines for three of the viruses. During her time at NIH, she has co-authored 54 publications and was senior author on three.

Co-workers in the LID hepatitis section say Wong is "an inspiration," "a rare combination of kindness, generosity, and a never-ending source of information and skill." "There are not enough words to say how much we will miss her here at NIAID," they add.

Wong attends the Chinese Community Church in Washington, D.C., and is looking forward to devoting more time to the volunteer work she and her husband already do for the church, such as fundraising. She also designs jewelry, a hobby she will pursue more vigorously after retirement. In addition, Wong plans to take classes and visit the museums at the Smithsonian Institution and get a home computer to keep in touch with her many friends and colleagues still at NIH as well as those who have moved on to institutions across the United States and around the world. ■

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.

CIT Computer Classes

All courses are given without charge. For more information call (301) 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at http://training.cit.nih.gov.

nVision Travel	2/18
Introduction to FileMaker Pro 5	2/19
Elements of Modern Data Analysis II	2/20
MOS Certification: PowerPoint XP Test Preparation	2/20
How to Write an IT Security Plan (SP)	2/23
Introduction to mAdb	2/24
Building Dynamic Websites with ColdFusion	2/24
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2002 for the PC	2/25
Microarray Analysis in GeneSpring - Importing Data & Creating Experiments	2/25
Microarray Analysis in GeneSpring - GeneSpring Overview	2/25
Cortical Surface Bootcamp	2/26-27
Basic Security - Protect Your PC with Available Tools	2/26
Intermediate QVR Training	3/1
Introduction to Image Processing I	3/2-12
NCBI's LocusLink Quick Start	3/2
Budget Tracking	3/2
NIH Data Warehouse Analyze: Human Resources	3/2
Wireless VPN Client Training	3/3
Understanding the Grants Process	3/3

NIH Training Center Classes

The Training Center 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 (301) 496-6211 or visit http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov.

NIH Foreign Travel	2/23-24
Fellowship Payment System	2/25
NBS Travel System	3/1-2
Delegated Acquisition Training Program	3/9-12
NIH Foreign Travel	3/15-16

New Computer Classes Available from CIT

Even though it may be the middle of winter, CIT Computer Training is beginning to enroll students for its spring term. Joining returning favorites are many new courses scheduled for scientists, computer support staff and end users. The classes are free and registration is available at http://training.cit.nih.gov.

Web developers and programmers can attend three new courses. "Introduction to Flash MX 2004" will cover the basics of Flash. "Building Rich Applications with Flash MX 2004" will focus more on the development of Flash applications. "Eclipse Tutorial: Usage, Tips, Tricks and Advanced Features" will help NIH staff already familiar with this tool.

CIT is offering four new classes on new or updated software applications that are widely used at NIH, both in the office and the laboratory. "Practical Applications of Microsoft Office in a Business Environment" will cover the technologies within this package and how it integrates with Sharepoint and Project 2003. "Save Your Time – Learn How to Manage Email" and "How to Get the Most Out of Outlook 2002" will look at more efficiently using email. Lastly, "Basic Skills for Managing Projects with Teamwork.com" looks at valuable resources in developing and maintaining a basic project plan using Teamwork.com.

For scientists, there are many new titles. MathWorks will present two seminars in MATLAB: "MATLAB Fundamentals and Programming Techniques," which will provide NIH staff with a comprehensive understanding of MATLAB as a programming language, and "MATLAB for Image Processing." Another course offering is "Homology Modeling Advances and Applications," which explores basic and advanced concepts of homology modeling.

Dr. Gary Daubresse from Silicon Genetics returns to teach five new GeneSpring microarray data analysis seminars. These topics include: "Importing Data & Creating Experiments," "Data Normalization," "Defining and Interpreting Your Experiments," "Quality Control & Clustering Tools" and "Statistical Analysis Tools." A series of new genetics topics include "NCBI's GenBank QuickStart," "Cluster Analysis: Hierarchical & Partitioning Methods for High Dimensional Gene Expression Data with Partek Pro," and "Browsing Genomes with the UCSC Genome Project."

The previous AFNI (Analysis of Functional NeuroImaging) courses have been combined and expanded into two multi-day seminars: "AFNI Bootcamp" and "Cortical Surface Bootcamp." The "AFNI Bootcamp" will introduce the user to FMRI data analysis and visualization with the AFNI software package. The "Cortical Surface Bootcamp" examines cortical surface creation and analysis of FMRI data on surfaces using SUMA (SUrface MApper).

In statistics, there are three new course offerings. Dr. James Malley of CIT is following up his "Elements of Modern Data Analysis," with "Elements of Modern Data Analysis II." This new course will review common problems in data analysis. Dr. Terry Cox of NEI is following up his "Statistical Analysis of R" with a new class titled "Statistical Graphics with R," which will focus on creating statistical graphics for publication or presentations. The SAS Institute will be bringing "Statistics I: Introduction to ANOVA, Regression and Logistic Regression." Current SAS/STAT users will benefit from learning how to construct graphs to analyze data, construct confidence intervals and apply multiple comparison techniques.

IT professionals will find end-user certification preparation classes of great interest. The new offerings this semester focus on the Microsoft Office Specialist certifications. Exam objectives will be covered in Microsoft Office Word 2002 Expert, Microsoft Office Excel 2002 Expert, Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2002 and Microsoft Office Outlook 2002.

IT project managers will have many new options. "How to Perform an IT Risk Assessment" and "How to Write an IT Security Plan" are continuation seminars from the Certification and Accreditation at NIH meeting. These classes will further explain the certification and accreditation process. "Security Penetration Testing, a Practical Overview," will explain the penetration testing and analysis methodology (PTAM) with a description of the tools and techniques used.

To obtain full course information or to register for classes, visit the web site or call (301) 594-6248 if you wish to discuss course registration, teaching a class or other training issues. ■

NIH Sailing Association Open House

The NIH Sailing Association invites everyone to its open house on Thursday, Mar. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the FAES House on the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Cedar Lane. Would you like to learn to sail? Does the idea of racing sailboats appeal to you? Can you imagine being part of a group filled with skilled sailing instructors, enthusiasts and boat owners? Membership includes instruction, sailboats for charter, racing, cruises, parties and fun. Admission is $5 at the door and includes pizza and sodas; $2 for beer or wine. For more information, visit www.recgov.org/sail.

Dr. Kalman F. Salata has been named deputy director of the Division of Receipt and Referral at the Center for Scientific Review. For the last 5 years, Salata was an assistant chief in the division. He earned his Ph.D. from George Washington University, studying prostaglandin biochemistry. He first came to NIH as a staff fellow in 1985, conducting immunological and gene expression research in the NIDR (now NIDCR) Laboratory of Oral Medicine and in the NICHD Laboratory of Developmental Pharmacology. He then spent almost 10 years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as chief of its allergy/immunology flow cytometry and immunogenetics laboratories and later as chief of its immunology research section.

NCI Seeks Trial Participants

Participants are needed for a study on quitting smoking in cancer survivors. All participants will receive the FDA-approved medication Zyban along with one-on-one counseling. Cancer survivors may qualify if they: completed their cancer treatment at least 6 months ago; have been a regular smoker for at least 2 years; do not use smokeless tobacco, pipes or cigars; are interested in quitting smoking; and are willing to take Zyban. The study is being conducted at the new Tobacco Intervention Research Clinic at the National Cancer Institute in Rockville. For more information, call the clinic weekdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at (301) 451-5048.

Dr. Vivian Pinn (l), NIH associate director for research on women's health, recently received the Dr. Dorothy I. Height Leadership Award at the 13th annual International Salute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A Man for All Nations. Each year since 1992 the event planning committee has recognized the leadership and contributions of individuals and groups that have positively influenced the national and international communities. Past recipients include United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, former Sen. Bob Dole and former Surgeon General David Satcher. At a breakfast ceremony on Jan. 18 at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, D.C., Pinn and fellow 2004 awardees, including former HHS secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan and French Embassador Jean-David Levitte, heard remembrances of King by Height (r) and musical tributes to his legacy of public service.

Eating Disorder Support Group?

A group of NIH employees is considering starting a support group for people trying to recover from an eating disorder or for families and friends who are trying to support someone with an eating disorder. If others also would be interested, either in a recovery support group or one for families and friends, and if low- or no-cost space can be identified for after-work or lunch time meetings, it may be possible to create a local eating disorders support group. If you are interested, call Nancy at (301) 493-4568 (evenings) or send an email to lstrauss01@yahoo.com. ■

'Roadmap' Briefing for NIH'ers, Feb. 20

The NIH Roadmap for Medical Research will be the topic of a special presentation to NIH employees on Friday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and other key NIH leaders will discuss the implementation and future directions of the NIH Roadmap and take questions from the audience. All are welcome to attend. For more information on the NIH Roadmap, visit www.nihroadmap.nih.gov. ■

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Ari Helenius on Feb. 25; his topic is "How Viruses Enter Their Host Cells." He is professor of biochemistry, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.

On Mar. 3, Dr. Daniel Kahneman will lecture on "The Marvels and Illusions of Intuitive Thinking." He is 2002 Nobel laureate in economics and Eugene Higgins professor of psychology and professor of public affairs, Princeton University.

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Hilda Madine, (301) 594-5595.

Dr. Harry L. Malech was recently appointed chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Host Defenses (LHD). He is also head of the institute's genetic immunotherapy section. Malech's research focuses on immunology and inflammation biology, biology of the blood neutrophil, infectious diseases and medical genetics. His current research focuses on diagnosing and treating inherited disorders of immunity, particularly chronic granulomatous disease (CGD) and other disorders of immune function. In recent collaborative studies, he has applied experience with gene therapy for CGD to developing vectors and methods for genetic correction of X-linked severe combined immune deficiency. Malech received his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine. He came to NIAID in 1986 as head of the bacterial diseases section and in 1992 was appointed deputy chief of LHD.

NIH Training Center Offers Online Learning via 'Fastrac'

The NIH Training Center offers access to more than 1,600 courses through its online solution called Fastrac. Fastrac is delivered through the HHS Distributed Learning Network (D/L Net). You can sign up for a 1-year subscription for $75, and have access to a full catalog of self-paced courses via the Internet. Course categories include administrative support, information technology and management. Take training at your own pace, in your own workspace, without even leaving your desk. For instructions on how to register go to http://learningsource.od.nih.gov/fastrac3.html or call (301) 496-6211 for more information. ■