

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

The 'Value of Agitation'

African American History Program Recalls Great Thinkers

By Carla Garnett

What if everybody always played well together and no one ever disagreed with the status quo, never asked tough questions or demanded hard answers? Would problems ever get solved? Those were the queries posed repeatedly during this year's



Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson describes the Niagara Movement.

observance of African American History Month. Held on Feb. 14 in Masur Auditorium, NIH's 2005 program, "Science in

SEE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, PAGE 4

Inventor, Futurist Kurzweil To Speak, Mar. 30 in Masur

One of the nation's leading inventors will deliver the NIH Director's Cultural Lecture on Mar. 30 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Ray Kurzweil's talk, "Biotechnology and Nanotechnology: Two Overlapping Health Revolutions," will discuss how these two fields are beginning to converge and how that convergence may shape the future of health care.

Kurzweil is coauthor of a new book with a provocative premise—that humans may be on the verge of achieving immortality due to unprecedented, exponential advances in science and technology. The book, *Fantastic Voyage: Live Long Enough to Live Forever*, is coauthored by Dr. Terry Grossman.

SEE KURZWEIL, PAGE 2

HIGHLIGHTS

1 Dresses, Pins Carry Heart Messages

2 STEP Forum on Consciousness

3 Changes Coming To NIH Record

7 UCSF's Bourne To Lecture, Apr. 6

12 Science Students, Educators Visit NIH



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National Wear Red Day

NHLBI Enlists Fashion, First Lady in Heart Campaign

By Amy Pianalto and Ann Taubenheim

If you were seeing red on Feb. 4, you were not alone. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute led a national blitz of activities for National Wear Red Day, all designed to raise awareness of heart disease as a critical health concern for women.

On Wear Red Day, First Lady Laura Bush, the national ambassador for NHLBI's campaign for women about heart disease—The Heart Truth—joined Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York and NHLBI director Dr. Elizabeth Nabel at a press event at the Time Life building in New York to kick off the Red Dress Collection 2005



SEE WEAR RED, PAGE 6 *Paula Abdul wears designer red.*

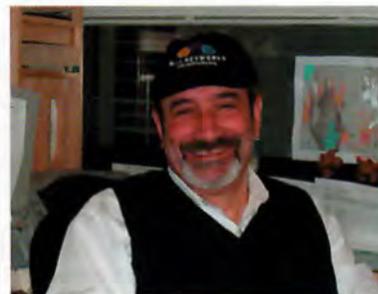
A Return to His Roots

NCI's De Luca Can't Get Enough of the Classics

By Rich McManus

NCI cancer researcher Dr. Luigi De Luca gets a ton of unreported income from an approved outside activity, and finds it so rewarding that he shows up at his moonlighting job 8 times a week—every weekday morning, Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

The income isn't money, though. It's the satisfaction of introducing parochial school kids to the joys of Latin.



Dr. Luigi De Luca

Sure, De Luca gets paid a modest salary by Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in downtown Bethesda, and his work there, he chuckles, is officially copacetic. But pay is not what prompts him to report there so often, sometimes twice a day. He goes

SEE DE LUCA, PAGE 8

KURZWEIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kurzweil's extraordinary claims might be considered overly speculative if they came from a less distinguished source. But his professional career includes many impressive achievements.

He is a recipient of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT prize, which goes to eminent inventors. Indeed, he was inducted into the Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2002. In 1999, Kurzweil won the National Medal of Technology Award.

His previous work has spanned a variety of fields. He invented the first musical synthesizer capable of reproducing the sounds of orchestral instruments. He developed the first commercially marketed large

vocabulary speech recognition system. In 1974, he founded Kurzweil Computer Products, Inc. The company developed the first "omni-font" optical character recognition (OCR) system, which enabled computers to recognize printed or typed characters regardless of type style and print quality.

One of his most significant inventions to date is the Kurzweil Reading Machine, introduced in 1976, which converts print to speech.

The machine made it

possible for blind people to read the text of ordinary (non-Braille) books, magazines and other documents.

Kurzweil is the author of several books, including a highly influential volume about artificial intelligence, *The Age of Intelligent Machines*, published in 1990 by MIT Press.

His recent book is partly a guide, based on solid science, about various measures people can take to maintain and enhance their health. The more controversial parts of *Fantastic Voyage* are reminiscent of the classic science fiction novel by Isaac Asimov, which bore the same title. Here Kurzweil predicts a time when innovations in fields ranging from tissue engineering to nanotechnology will converge to produce radical life extension.

Robots the size of cells, called nanobots, endowed with artificial intelligence, will venture through the human body to repair everything from damaged arteries to deteriorating neurons. Advances in genetics will allow people to reprogram their bodies, turning off the genes that cause disease and contribute to aging.

For more information, or to request reasonable accommodation, contact Hilda Madine at (301) 594-5595 or hmadine@nih.gov. ■



Futurist Ray Kurzweil is coauthor of a new book with a provocative premise—that humans may be on the verge of achieving immortality due to unprecedented, exponential advances in science and technology.

STEP Forum on Consciousness, Brain, Mind

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee will present a Science for All forum on the topic, "Consciousness: How Does the Brain Create Mind?," on Tuesday, Mar. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

What is consciousness? One of the ultimate challenges to biomedicine is to define how the physical brain produces conscious awareness. Research on brain function has given us fascinating insights into the nature of consciousness, but still it remains elusive. What has been learned from abnormal conditions or brain injury about the workings of the mind? How do basic elements such as emotion or language contribute? This forum will explore the current understanding of the biology of consciousness. ■

NIH Golf Association Seeks Members

The NIH Golf Association (18-hole coed league) is looking for new members for the 2005 season. We currently have seven teams of up to 25+ players each and schedule eight spring/summer stroke-play outings, plus up to five match-play outings each year at local courses (all mid-week and play is optional). We cap the year off in October with an outing including golf/cart/food for all members and their guests. Prizes and trophies are awarded and handicaps are maintained from 0-40, so all interested golfers are welcome. For more information contact Howard Somers at somersh@mail.nlm.nih.gov or visit <http://www.recgov.org/nihga/>. ■

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♻️ *The Record is recyclable as office white paper.*

NINR Examines Care at the End of Life

Nearly 1,000 researchers, health care providers, patients and concerned citizens gathered at the Natcher Bldg. recently to participate in a conference to evaluate the current state of the science regarding care at the end of life and identify directions for future research. The National Institute of Nursing Research and the Office of Medical Applications of Research were the primary sponsors of the meeting.

During the first day and a half, experts presented the latest end-of-life research findings to an independent panel. The panel released its findings in a public session on the conference's final day. The group reported that for many Americans, a lack of continuity of care and poor communication between health care practitioners, patients and family members make the end-of-life period a struggle.



Dr. Alexis Bakos, program director for end-of-life research at NINR, addresses the conference.

In light of the projected dramatic increase in the number of older adults who will require end-of-life care, the panel called for rapid development of research infrastructure to improve our understanding of what works and what doesn't in different groups of patients, and enhanced resources to deliver quality care to patients and their families at the end of life.

The panel identified several limitations of the current body of research, which, when addressed in future studies, will advance this relatively young area of investigation.

Among the panel's other conclusions and recommendations: Enhanced communication among patients, families and providers is crucial to high-quality end-of-life care; recruit under-represented populations to future studies and ensure that these studies evaluate subgroup (e.g., race, ethnicity, age, region, gender) differences to aid in understanding health disparities in end-of-life care; create new and support existing networks of end-of-life researchers and well-defined cohorts of patients to facilitate coordinated, interdisciplinary, multi-site studies.

The full text of the panel's statement is available at <http://consensus.nih.gov>.

The CDC, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, NCI, NCCAM, NIMH and NIA were cosponsors. The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality also supported the conference. ■

Rockey Named OER Deputy Director

Dr. Sally J. Rockey recently became the deputy director of the Office of Extramural Research.

She comes to NIH from a position as deputy administrator, information systems and technology management unit, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. In that role, Rockey provided leadership for and managed all aspects of the agency's information technology and software applications, spearheading the successful reconstruction of its IT department and bringing the department into compliance with USDA and OMB directives.

Rockey is also an expert in grants management and the peer review process, noted OER director Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo. "Early in her USDA career, she was a driving force in the development of peer review policies and guidance at the USDA. Her success in scientific review policy led to her appointment as deputy administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management Division, at the USDA, where she oversaw a staff of 120 coupled with 30 part-time scientist panel members." Rockey administered \$250 million worth of competitive programs within a broad range of agriculturally based research and education fields.

Rockey has given talks at more than 100 symposia, seminars and workshops on a wide array of topics. She has also received numerous awards and accolades.

Rockey earned her Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1985, in the field of entomology. ■



Dr. Sally J. Rockey is new OER deputy director.

Editor's Note: Changes Coming to Record

With this issue, the *NIH Record* ends its long history of appearing on Tuesdays. From now on, the *Record* will be distributed to employees on the new official payday, which is Friday. This change assures that the newsletter keeps up with its motto, "The Second Best Thing About Payday." Those who submit copy to us should note that our next issue will be Friday, Apr. 8. Deadline for that issue is Friday, Mar. 25.

Ordinarily, the issue after this one would be Mar. 29. The extra week gives the editorial staff a chance to put finishing touches on a brand new look to the *Record*, which will debut very soon. It also gives us a chance to get used to the occasional use of color artwork in our pages. This issue marks the first use of color photography in the *Record's* 56-year history. We hope you enjoy it. ■

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Motion: The Role of African American Inventors," was a salute to some of the great thinkers—and thought provokers—of the last few centuries.

"We look at today's program not only as an educational opportunity, but also as a celebration of achievement," said Lawrence Self, director of the NIH Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management, which sponsored the annual event.

In opening remarks, NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington, referring to Ralph Ellison's groundbreaking 1952 novel *The Invisible Man*, said

the book's title should both "caution and inspire." To be invisible, Kington suggested, means to have no history and to lack full participation in society. "What we're doing today is looking back at our history and making it truly visible...We see this as an investment in our present and future history. We've come a long way, but we are traveling a road that never ends and we can do better."

Kington also discussed the legacy of another great American thinker, Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, professor, philosopher and one of the nation's earliest civil rights champions who penned a popular manuscript on "the value of agitation." Often criticized as an instigator and troublemaker, Du Bois wrote that while agitation—pointing out a society's weaknesses and deficiencies, "shining light on dark places"—is hardly an easy or pleasant task, it is often a necessary duty in order to force improvements and to correct injustices.

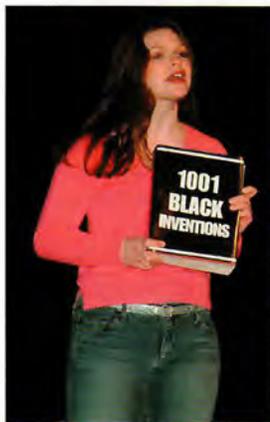
"What we do here at NIH could be called agitation," Kington said. "We shine light on the dark facts of...AIDS, alcohol abuse on college campuses" and on glaring disparities in health. "We have to continue to agitate for a better tomorrow."

In recognition of the month's national theme, "the 100th Anniversary of the Niagara Movement,"



Visting troubadours Pin Points introduce the play, 1001 Black Inventions.

PHOTOS: JANET STEPHENS



The play blended history with hilarity.

Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson of NIEHS gave a slide presentation that recounted the history of the 1905 inaugural gathering of 29 African American activists. Led by Du Bois, the group created an organization to demand voting rights and end discrimination, leading in 1909 to the establishment of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Interestingly, Johnson-Thompson noted, one of the movement's earliest documents—a treatise titled *The Health and Physique of the Negro American*, published in May 1906—described inequitable health conditions suffered by black people in that era. It was one of the first published acknowledgments of what are now collectively



Soloist Darria Reid provides entertainment.



Order in the court? In a Pin Points vignette, Dr. George Washington Carver's research is humorously defended.

referred to as "health disparities," which continue to confound the medical and scientific community nearly a century later.

Local soloist Darria Reid provided musical entertainment at the event, offering Yolanda Adams-

inspired renditions of *I Believe I Can Fly* and *Open My Heart*.

The celebration concluded with a performance by Washington, D.C.-based Pin Points Theatre. Blending satire, song and slapstick humor, the 5-member ensemble delivered three vignettes from an "entertainment" play titled *1001 Black Inventions*. The comic drama combined black history facts with artistic license to engage the audience in the lives and inventions of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, who performed the first successful open heart surgery; Jan Matzeliger, who mechanized shoe-lasting; and Dr. George Washington Carver, who developed hundreds of products from peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes. **R**

Haaga Takes NIA Behavioral, Social Research Post

Dr. John G. Haaga has been named deputy associate director for the Behavioral and Social Research Program at the National Institute on Aging. He will help advance health science administrators' projects, coordinate cross-institutional research efforts and manage a portfolio of health services research and international demography grants.

"Health policy merges my interests in both economics and biology," said Haaga, who has a Ph.D. in public policy from the RAND Graduate School of Policy Studies, an M.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. from Oxford University.

Haaga, a Bethesda native, will draw upon a wide variety of work experiences from the RAND Corp., the Population Council, the National Academy of

Sciences and the Population Reference Bureau. At RAND, he was codirector of the Malaysian Family Life Survey, where he encountered some of his first challenges in demographic research. While supervising pre-tests, he met a man who had been married 17 times, had four current wives and



Dr. John G. Haaga

innumerable children. "He was locally famous, and just happened to turn up in our sample. For a demographer, it was an honor to meet him!" Haaga joked. While at the Population Council, Haaga moved his family to Bangladesh where he worked on family planning, and maternal and child health programs.

During his 4-year tenure at the NAS, Haaga decided to learn more about aging since NIA was one of the largest funders of the NAS committee on population. He immersed himself in a wide ranging course on aging research from *Drosophila* flies to retirement economics at the RAND Summer Institute on the Demography of Aging, which NIA supports each year.

Haaga also spent a lot of time communicating with Dr. Richard Suzman, associate director of the BSR, about the NAS projects on the biodemography of aging and racial and ethnic differences in health. "I knew the program (BSR) and had a lot of respect for what the program is trying to do. When the job came open, I was convinced it was an exciting opportunity and an interesting place to work."

This belief was affirmed late one night when Haaga was walking his Cockapoo "Griff" (named for

baseball player Ken Griffey, Jr.). He encountered a fellow dog walker who happened to be an electrician at NIH. "My neighbor told me that he had just given a lecture that morning to his apprentice electricians about how wiring the new Clinical Center at NIH wasn't just another job. 'This job is for NIH and it means something,'" Haaga remembered. "That's how I feel. It's not that I think I'm important but the work we do at NIH is very important."—Jeannine Mjoseh **R**

Women Urged to Find the Time for Exercise

At a recent meeting of the women's health special interest group, Dr. Patricia Deuster of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences underscored the health dividend to be gained when women find more opportunities to exercise.

She defined physical activity as any movement that results in energy expenditure. Exercise, on the other hand, is a subset of physical activity that is planned, structured and repetitive and carried out to improve or maintain one or more components of physical fitness.

From a clinical perspective, maximal aerobic power (VO₂max) is a measure of cardiopulmonary function, and reflects one's ability to transport and deliver oxygen to skeletal muscle for use by tissues. Deuster showed that there is direct correlation between heart rate and oxygen use.

Deuster discussed key differences in exercise as a function of gender. Prior to puberty, there are no major gender differences in body size or structure. However, with the onset of puberty, physical differences emerge. These include females having broader hips, smaller sizes, more fat mass and lower VO₂max values. "VO₂max is 5-15 percent lower for females compared to men when adjusted for body weight," noted Deuster, adding that females have smaller left ventricles, lower blood volume and hemoglobin content than males. "However, if we adjust for lean body mass, the differences are negligible."

From a performance perspective, Deuster shared data showing that women run slower over most distances compared to men. In addition, she noted that women are 40-60 percent weaker in upper-body strength and 25-30 percent weaker in lower-body strength than men.

Deuster also discussed studies showing the benefit of exercise for improving mood and reducing depressive symptoms in post-partum women. Physical activity and exercise are also of tremendous value for weight maintenance. Deuster said increases in weight and girth of middle age women can be prevented or attenuated by maintaining or increasing physical activity. In addition, research has shown that women who maintain an active lifestyle have decreased levels of inflammatory markers such as serum amyloid-A and fibrinogen.

Deuster also emphasized the need to promote and study physical activity and exercise in minority women. She concluded that physical activity and exercise provide multiple benefits to women and that clinicians must find ways to get more women to exercise.—Abhijit Ghosh

WEAR RED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fashion Show held later that day. Nabel and Dr. Anne Taylor of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) announced the campaign's new partnerships with ABC, *Catalina* and *Essence* magazines, National Black Nurses Association, The Links, Inc. and the National Association of Latina Leaders, which will help reach women of color with critical messages about heart health.

That afternoon, with Mrs. Bush and *Today Show* host Katie Couric in the front row, NHLBI debuted its 2005 Red Dress Collection at Olympus Fashion Week in New York. Twenty-six of America's most influential designers, including Kenneth Cole, Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera, Ralph Lauren, Betsey Johnson and Carmen Marc Valvo created red dresses for the collection. Many celebrities from the arts, theater and sports including Venus Williams, Christie Brinkley, Sheryl Crow, Mariel Hemingway and Paula Abdul modeled the dresses as the audience responded with cheers and thunderous applause.

The fashion show brings to life the Red Dress, which was introduced by NHLBI in 2003 as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness.

"The Red Dress is a powerful symbol to remind women of the urgent message to take action and take care of their hearts. Heart disease remains the number one killer of women. NHLBI's partnerships with the fashion and entertainment industries help drive these messages home to millions of American women," said Nabel.

The Heart Truth campaign also hosted an information booth for the duration of Fashion Week, offering blood pressure and body mass index screenings for fashion show attendees. Throughout



The Heart Truth press event included (from r) First Lady Laura Bush; Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Dr. Anne Taylor, Association of Black Cardiologists; Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, NHLBI director.

the month of February, four dresses from the Red Dress Collection 2004, along with Heart Truth messages, were displayed in a window in Rockefeller Center, just around the corner from NBC's *Today Show* windows.



At the Red Dress Collection 2005 fashion show, supermodel Christie Brinkley wears Calvin Klein.

More than 7 million people a month pass by this window.

Many major news outlets covered Wear Red Day activities. Mrs. Bush was interviewed about the NHLBI campaign by all five national network television morning programs.

Communities across the country have adopted The Heart Truth campaign as their own by hosting numerous events on Wear Red Day and throughout the year. Last year,

more than 30 communities commissioned a traveling exhibit of the Red Dress Collection around which they created diverse celebrations of women's heart health. In addition, from March to May 2004, The Heart Truth Road Show traveled to shopping malls in Philadelphia, Chicago, San Diego, Dallas and Miami showcasing the Red Dresses and providing 4,000 free risk factor screenings and providing information to more than 86,000 people.

NHLBI learned that federal employees in the Departments of State, Commerce, Energy, Interior, HUD and HHS participated in National Wear Red

Fashion show participants include (from l) designer Oscar de la Renta, WomenHeart's Maria Perez-Arton, First Lady Laura Bush and designer Carolina Herrera.



Day. Many NIH staff wore red, including those at NHLBI's Office of Prevention, Education, and Control. Even members of Congress joined the celebration, including Sen. Bill Frist who wore a red tie and Red Dress pin as he encouraged his col-

leagues to do the same in his address to the Senate on Feb. 3.

All of the education efforts are having an effect on women's awareness of the disease.

"The Heart Truth's efforts, including the efforts of our many partners, are making a difference," said Nabel. Two years after NHLBI's launch of the red dress symbol, a new survey shows that more women are taking action to reduce their



Tennis champion Venus Williams sports Luca Luca.

risk of heart disease. A survey conducted in January by Harris Interactive and commissioned by Heart Truth partner WomenHeart found that 60 percent of all women surveyed agree that the Red Dress makes them want to learn more about heart disease and 45 percent agreed that the symbol would prompt them to talk to their doctor and/or get a check up.

More information about the Red Dress Collection 2005 Fashion Show, The Heart Truth campaign and Red Dress pin (which is also available at R&W stores) can be found at www.hearttruth.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. Suzanne P. McKee on Mar. 16, addressing "What Is Human Stereopsis Good For?" She is senior scientist, Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco.

On Mar. 23, Dr. Hugh R.B. Pelham will lecture on "Quality Control of Transmembrane Proteins." He is deputy director and head, division of cell biology, Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, U.K.

Inventor, author and futurist Ray Kurzweil will give the NIH Director's Cultural Lecture on Mar. 30. See story on p. 1.

UCSF's Dr. Henry R. Bourne will give the NIH Director's Lecture on "Neutrophil Polarity and Direction Finding" on Apr. 6. See story on p. 10.

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

Bourne To Speak Apr. 6 in Masur

Dr. Henry Bourne, professor of medicine and cellular and molecular pharmacology at the University of California, San Francisco, will speak on how key immune system cells sense direction as they hunt down invading pathogens and sweep away injured tissue. His talk will be held on Apr. 6 at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Titled "Neutrophil Polarity and Direction Finding," it is part of the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series.

Neutrophils are among the most basic immune system cells. Large numbers of them circulate in our blood, always alert for signs of infection or injury.

When called to the site of an infection, neutrophils consume foreign invaders and kill bacteria. Without neutrophils, a person would die in a few days.



Dr. Henry Bourne

Immunologists have known for years that neutrophils can form a distinct front and back, and can also point their front toward an infection or injury. Bourne's lab studies how neutrophils form a front and back and how they sense direction. He has published significant papers on the molecular choreography that shapes neutrophil polarity and direction finding in *Science*, *Nature Cell Biology*, the *Journal of Cell Biology* and *Cell*. A short video clip on his web site illustrates the process.

Bourne received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1965. He spent 2 years of his residency learning to do research in Dr. Bernard Brodie's laboratory at NIH. He then accepted a fellowship in clinical pharmacology at the University of California, San Francisco, and became a faculty member there in 1971.

To learn more about his research, visit <http://www.cmpharm.ucsf.edu/bourne>. For more information and reasonable accommodation, contact Hilda Madine at (301) 594-5595. ■

Healthy Volunteers Sought

Participate in a study that will examine normal and adapted walking patterns. One (2-3 hour) visit to the Clinical Center is required. Compensation will be provided. For more information call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

Muscular Leg Pain?

If it is caused by blocked arteries and it occurs with activity but improves with rest call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010) for more information on a new study #04-H-0143.

DE LUCA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

because the classics—Latin and Greek—were the love of his early education in Maglie, Italy. He very nearly chose languages over biochemistry when, at age 18, as an applicant to the University of Pavia, he had to declare his major.

Some 40 years later, he has returned to graduate school, earned a master's degree in the classics and



De Luca has "always been at NCI, and always in Bldg. 37. I'm an affectionate, addicted inhabitant," he says.

is now a much-loved instructor to several dozen Lourdes sixth, seventh and eighth graders enrolled in Latin I, Latin II and the school's Latin Club. His "outside income" these days is largely inner, or psychic.

"They get it," he enthuses, "although sometimes it's hard. What excites them most is an appreciation that many words in English are derived from Latin roots. That word 'appreciation,' for example—it comes from

'pretium,' meaning 'price or value.'"

De Luca had a scarce knowledge of English when, in 1965, he came from Italy—where he had earned a doctorate in biological chemistry from the University of Pavia—to accept a research and teaching post at MIT. "My language background was French, Italian, Latin and Greek," he recalls. "My English when I came here was not very good."

While De Luca and his wife, whom he had met at Pavia, did not plan on remaining in the United States, he nonetheless applied himself assiduously to the study of English. "To me, languages are very, very important," he declares. "I started to learn English at the University of Pavia, from an exchange student from the University of Oregon at Eugene. It was my first exposure to a non-Romance language." Fortunately for him, "about 60 percent of English words derive from Latin or Greek." He would tape posters of English words and phrases to the walls of his Cambridge, Mass., apartment. "It took me a relatively short time—I made it a priority, and Latin helped."

Within 6 months of his arrival in the U.S., De Luca had his first dream in English. "This is very significant," he asserts. "Either it's a nightmare, or you really have absorbed it," he says with a laugh.

The De Lucas grew fond of the international atmosphere at MIT—his peers were from Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Austria, Korea and Italy—and decided to remain in the U.S. when Luigi was offered a job at the National Cancer Institute. In 1971, he came to Bldg. 37, rising to the level of

chief of the differentiation control section in the Laboratory of Cellular Carcinogenesis and Tumor Promotion. "I've always been at NCI, and always in Bldg. 37. I'm an affectionate, addicted inhabitant," he says. A nutritional biochemist, he studies vitamin A and retinoids, and the role that essential nutrients play in the inhibition of cancer development.

While he is only too anxious to describe the role of the RXR-alpha receptor in breast cancer biology, or a new retinoid-metabolizing enzyme of the cytochrome P-450 type, the arc of De Luca's long scientific career is turning inexorably to his roots in Maglie (pronounced MALL-ya), a town at the tip of the "heel" of Italy where the regional dialect—itsself an echo of the Latin of antiquity—is dying away within his generation. "I'm very attached to my home town," he admits; his parents, now in their nineties, only recently left Maglie for Pavia, to be cared for by his siblings.

De Luca had already taken 8 years of Latin and 5 years of Greek by the time he completed his "Liceo," or lyceum years at the Liceo Capece of Maglie. At 18, he had a career choice: languages or science.

"In the old Italian system, one could start school at age 5 and by 18 you had done so much memorizing and had fought your way through the logic of classical languages, philosophy as well as literature, history, art, math and sciences," he recalls. "It was a no-nonsense approach that allowed one to reach a maturity much beyond one's age, with a final national exam the likes of which I have never encountered anywhere. In fact, the degree you earn out of the Liceo is called a 'maturity' degree. This training permitted one to enter any field of university specialization."

The eldest of four, all of whom have chosen careers in the sciences, De Luca picked the chemistry-biochemistry curriculum, in which he also had a strong interest "in part because my father had the concept that you could make a better living [in science]."

Skip ahead several decades to 1999. "After 40 years of biomedical science, I decided I really wanted to go back to my classics, to kind of crown a dream." Convinced that he needed a formal education in Latin, he enrolled at the University of Maryland's evening college, in the department of classics. "Something told me that I had to go back and finish," he says.

Due to his earlier studies in Italy, De Luca was accepted at the master's level, taking courses one night a week from 5 to 8. "It took me 3 years and 3 months, studying always at night, to earn my

"After 40 years of biomedical science, I decided I really wanted to go back to my classics, to kind of crown a dream."

master's," which he obtained in 2002.

"Latin never leaves you," he observes. "It's like biking or swimming—you never stop knowing. If a language hits you at a young enough age, it's imprinted. You dust it off, and it comes back as shiny as it was."

For De Luca, the classics slake an intellectual thirst that lies outside of science, but shares with it the need for a logical approach. "It's a process of continuous discovery—it's very exciting for me to go back and reconnect with the ancients."

When Our Lady of Lourdes approached the classics department at Maryland in search of a Latin teacher, De Luca got the recommendation. He began in September 2003, teaching 25 kids who meet from 7:30 to 8 a.m. every weekday, then two afternoons from 3:15 to 4:15. As if that weren't enough, he also teaches 300-level Latin to graduate students at the University of Maryland one night a week. "My life is pretty much in Latin right now," he chuckles.

His Lourdes students are excited to know that as simple a word as "exit," is "lifted right out of Latin," says De Luca. "They say, 'My God, this is real!' They love the application to modern language."

De Luca also runs an hour-long Latin Club on Sunday mornings, right after the 10:30 Mass. "They don't bring textbooks—we analyze words, English ones with Latin roots."

De Luca is also proud of his role as president of the Italian Cultural Society of Washington, D.C., which runs an Italian language program. For this and for his involvement in building up a scholarship program to help young students in the Washington metropolitan area, he was knighted by the Italian government in 2002. His wife is a professor of Italian at the Foreign Service Institute, and also teaches Italian on weekends at Casa Italiana in the District.

The weekends afford him time for his few non-scholarly pursuits—cycling (he is a long-time daily bike commuter to NIH), especially along the Capital Crescent Trail and in Rock Creek Park, and babysitting granddaughters Annabel and Olive. For vacations, he often returns to Italy to visit his parents and siblings.

It is on these returns to Pavia that he realizes how sweet life was when—as a student at the University of Pavia and a resident at the Collegio Cairoli (an "honors" scholar residence for Italy's brightest students)—he lived in his own room within an ancient building, and enjoyed daily maid and meal service. "I didn't appreciate it fully until I left," he muses.

Considering his current workload, he decides, "Maybe I will retire." But if and when retirement comes, it won't be idle. "I plan to teach Latin. And I may earn another degree in the classics." ■

Slagle Retires After Almost 40 Years

The National Eye Institute said good-bye to Mary Slagle after 20 years of service with the institute, and almost 40 years at NIH.

She joined NEI in 1984 as secretary to the director, deputy director and executive officer. In 1990, she



Mary Slagle

was placed on a Career Opportunity Training Agreement and was offered a job as administrative officer in the institute's intramural program, a position she held until her recent retirement.

Slagle was responsible for the day-to-day administrative support of personnel, procurement, budget

and space management. At her retirement party, former supervisor Olive Childers spoke fondly of Slagle, saying that during the years the two worked together, they fostered a strong working and personal relationship. "Although we were at opposite ends of the spectrum in our management styles, we complemented one another and made an excellent team," she said.

Slagle was raised in Brunswick, Md. She began her federal career in July 1965, working in Bldg. 13 as secretary to the chief of the shops section, Plant Engineering Branch, now known as the Office of Research Services. From 1970 through 1984, she worked in Bldg. 1 in the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, OD.

About retiring, Slagle says, "It's time to enjoy my hobbies at a more leisurely pace." She likes basket-making and reading, and looks forward to spending more time with the loves of her life—her husband, Mel, her daughter, Mary Ann and her granddaughter, Hailey.

Over the years, Slagle called working at NIH a "family affair." She has three sisters, a daughter, a brother-in-law and a son-in-law who also work at NIH.—Linda Huss ■

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Volunteers ages 18-65 who are employed and able to complete a health and employment benefits survey are asked to call (240) 353-7238 (TTY 1-866-411-1010) for more information. Refer to study # 05-CC-0008. Compensation is provided. ■

Have Breast Cancer?

If you or someone you love has metastatic breast cancer, call for study information: 1-800-411-1222 or 1-866-411-1010 TTY. ■

Women's History Month Observance Continues

NIH's annual Women's History Month observance continues on Tuesday, Mar. 29 with "Spirit, Courage and Global Collaboration," a mentoring seminar at the Stone House from 11:30 a.m to 1 p.m., featuring Cheryl Kelley, FDA special emphasis program manager.

The event is sponsored by the NIH Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management. All are welcome to attend. Sign language interpreters will be provided. On-site registration will be available for NIH training credit. For more information, call Glenda Keen at (301) 594-3282 or via the Federal Relay, 1-800-877-8339. Individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation should call Carlton Coleman at (301) 496-2906 or (301) 496-9755 (TTY).

New Members Join NIGMS Council

Five new members and one *ex officio* member were recently appointed to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council. They are:

Dr. Francine Berman, director of the San Diego Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego, where she also serves as professor of computer science and engineering and endowed chair in the Jacobs School of Engineering.

Dr. Kathleen M. Giacomini, chair of the department of bio-pharmaceutical sciences and professor of bio-pharmaceutical sciences, pharma-



NIGMS director Dr. Jeremy Berg (front, third from l) with council members (front, from l) Dr. Lisa Staiano-Coico, Dr. Francine Berman, Dr. Kathleen M. Giacomini, (back, from l) Dr. Jeffrey T. Mason, Dr. Brian W. Matthews, Dr. Eric N. Jacobsen, and Dr. John C. Goodman.

ceutical chemistry, and cellular and molecular pharmacology at the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy.

Dr. John C. Goodman, founder and president of the National Center for Policy Analysis, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization in Dallas.

Dr. Brian W. Matthews, professor of physics, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and member of the Institute of Molecular Biology, University of Oregon.

Dr. Lisa Staiano-Coico, dean of the college of human ecology at Cornell University, where she also serves as professor of nutritional sciences. In addition, she is professor of microbiology in surgery, microbiology in dermatology, and public health at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York City.

Dr. Jeffrey T. Mason, chair of the department of biophysics at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, where he also serves as administrative director of the magnetic resonance microscopy facility. He was named the council's *ex officio* representative from the Department of Defense.

Last year, Secretary Thompson appointed Dr. Eric N. Jacobsen to the council. He is the Sheldon Emery professor of chemistry at Harvard University. ■

Study of Uterine Fibroids

Call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010) for information on a study using a new medication for 3 months before hysterectomy. Study-related treatment provided at no cost. Compensation is provided. ■

NIDA's Rick Harrison Mourned

Richard Harrison, chief of the Contracts Review Branch, Office of Extramural Affairs, National Institute on Drug Abuse, passed away on Jan. 19.

He joined NIDA in the early 1980s, transferring from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism where he administered a grants program for Native Americans. Harrison quickly rose to chief of NIDA's Contracts Review Branch, maintaining a standard of excellence throughout his career. He is remembered as a capable and involved leader who worked tirelessly on behalf of NIDA's mission to bring the power of science to bear on the problems of drug abuse and addiction.



Richard Harrison

Harrison received several NIDA Director's Awards of Merit for his accomplishments, including exemplary service as Contracts Review Branch chief and work on NIDA's health disparities committee. He was a member of the equal employment opportunity advisory committee and also served on the first NIH Diversity Council.

Harrison was born in Pawhuska, Okla., on the Osage Indian Reservation. As a member of the Osage Tribal Nation, he made an annual pilgrimage to Fairfax, Okla., to participate in a 4-day tribal ceremony. While at NIH, he was active in recruiting Indian youth to consider careers in government by serving as interns. He was a key participant in the recent opening ceremonies of the National Museum of the American Indian, and loved to demonstrate his Indian dances and share his culture with children in area schools.

In addition, Harrison volunteered his skills to Family Services of Montgomery County and the National Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program. He was a member of the American Indian Society of Washington, Americans for Indian Opportunity, American University/Washington Internships for Native Students, the Kiwanis Club of Rockville, Toastmasters International and the Bahai community of Montgomery County Northwest.

He is survived by his wife Joan; his son John; his brothers David, Henry and John; his stepchildren Deborah Ward, Sandra Meinberg, Linda Hazlewood, Patricia Haga, Michael and David Doyle; and 16 grandchildren.—Eric Zatman

American Junior Academy of Science Representatives Visit NIH

Science teachers, high school fledgling scientists and other representatives of the American Junior Academy of Science visited NIH on Feb. 17 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The visit was sponsored by the NIH Visitor Information Center, part of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, and the National Library of Medicine.



Dr. Gloria Takahashi, director of the Southern California Junior Academy of Science in Los Angeles, and her husband Harry (c) talk to NCI visiting fellow Kundan Sengupta.



In the cold room of the Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine Branch, NHLBI fellow Heather Jones shows aspects of her research laboratory.



NIAID research fellow Sheila Nolan greets the students.



PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

NCI fellow Melinda Butsch Kovacic (l) discusses what led her from the bench to work in cancer prevention and epidemiology. "It's never too late to change directions," she says. At right, NIMH postdoctoral fellow Cherie Butts talks about the excitement of working at NIH. "You have access to the best brains in the world, the best technology in the world and the best environment for exploring new ideas."



The program concluded with lunch in the VIC, where the fellows joined the students for lunch and engaging conversation.



Highlighting images from the History of Medicine collection, Dr. Donald King, NLM deputy director for research and education, encourages students to explore the social and historical aspects of medicine. The young people later toured NLM's "Changing the Face of Medicine" exhibit to learn how women have influenced and enhanced the practice of medicine.

Retired NIAID Virologist DeFilippes Mourned

Dr. Frank M. DeFilippes, 72, died on Oct. 7, 2004. He retired in 2000 after 42 years at NIH, most recently in the NIAID Laboratory of Viral Diseases.

DeFilippes specialized in methods development and especially liked applying and evaluating new techniques. He served as a reviewer and avid reader of

BioTechniques, a journal based on the two tenets "that technology drives discovery and research data are interpretable only in the context of the techniques used to generate them." He is thought to be the first scientist at NIH to publish a



Dr. Frank M. DeFilippes

method of purification of a restriction enzyme. For this project he was indebted to Hamilton O. Smith of Johns Hopkins University for providing helpful advice and sharing reagents. Later he used restriction enzymes in a *tour de force* effort to single-handedly develop a physical map of vaccinia virus, which was published in a July 1982 issue of the *Journal of Virology*. His later work focused on drug resistance using restriction enzymes as research tools. He found that a single GC to AT transition at position 2430, which led to a leucine to methionine change at residue 645 in the vaccinia virus DNA polymerase gene, was sufficient to create an aphidicolin-resistant mutant of vaccinia virus.

DeFilippes was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he excelled in baseball and long-distance running and developed an early love and fascination for physics. He graduated from Brown University in 1953 with a major in physics and from Yale University in 1957 with a Ph.D. in biophysics. In 1957, he moved to Amherst to teach undergraduate physics at the University of Massachusetts. In 1958, he began a research career at NIH where he was known to be hard-working and often could be found completing gel runs late in the evenings and on weekends. For several years he was an instructor in biophysics at the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, where he used the traditional "blackboard and chalk" style of teaching. Perhaps his most well-known pupil was Dr. Sidney M. Wolfe, who co-founded the Health Research Group with Ralph Nader in 1971 to fight for the public's health and to give consumers more control over decisions that affect their health.

In addition to science, DeFilippes loved history and politics and was an expert in the history of World Wars I and II and the Bible. He always started his day with a cup of coffee and a copy of the *New York Times*. He and his wife enjoyed visiting the majority

of the national parks and short trips to West Virginia. After retirement he kept up with the emerging field of systems biology, engaged in a number of home projects and enjoyed his new grandson. At the time of his death, he was looking forward to Dr. Leroy Hood's promised text on systems biology, was developing a real taste for Latin American food and was becoming proficient in Spanish to better assist the immigrant community.

He is survived by his wife Mary, a pharmacologist at NCI, two children, Portia and Paul, and grandson Daniel. ■

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>.

What's New in Microsoft Office 2003?	3/16
Introduction to Using the ECB Council Administration Module	3/16
Hands on ECB Early Concurrence Workshop	3/17
BlackBerry Tips and Tricks	3/17
Genomatix Microarray Analysis Tutorial	3/18
Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server Development	3/21
Introduction to Image Processing I	3/21-4/1
Manage & Migrate Projects from CVS to Subversion	3/21-4/25
NIH Enterprise Directory (NED)	3/22
Large-Scale Bioinformatics on the NIH Biowulf Cluster	3/22
Dreamweaver MX 2004: An Introduction	3/22
Dealing with Difficult Customers	3/23
Introduction to Cascading Style Sheets	3/23
nVision Travel	3/23
Browsing Genomes with the UCSC Genome Project	3/23
Introduction to Presentation for Neuroscience	3/24
Introduction to Presentation Programming	3/24
Stimulus Timing and Synchronization in Presentation	3/24
Presentation Experiment - Start to Finish	3/24
Intermediate FileMaker Pro v 5 & 6	3/24
Windows XP Tips and Tricks	3/29
Introduction to mAdb	3/29
SPSS: Statistics	3/29
The Open Source Movement - A Review of Available Tools	3/30
Partek: Visual and Statistical Analysis of Microarray Data	3/31
Partek: Identifying Differentially Expressed Genes	3/31

Have Type 1 Diabetes?

Are you 18-60 with type 1 diabetes? NIH is testing a new approach to type 1 diabetes management for individuals taking insulin. Call 1-800-411-1222, TTY 1-866-411-1010. ■

Volunteers Needed for Jet Lag Study

NICHD is looking for travelers going east 6-8 time zones to study the effects of replacing hormones disrupted by jet travel. Participants will take a study medication (hydrocortisone, melatonin, or placebo), fill out questionnaires and obtain salivary samples. Travel stay of 4-10 days at destination required. Healthy men and women, between ages 18-65 are encouraged to call 1-800-411-1222. Compensation provided for a completed study.