

nih record



ABOVE • Fond farewells marked the Katrina response team's departure on Sept. 4. See more photos, p. 6.

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NIH's Answer Katrina's Deluge with Aid

By Rich McManus

Already vaunted for the power of its head, NIH got a chance to show the strength of its heart in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated parts of four southern states on Aug. 29. Within a day of the storm's passage, NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni convened the first in a series of emergency meetings at which clinical directors, nursing and administrative leaders rapidly hammered out ways NIH could help.

With the calm but urgent tone of the East Baltimore emergency room physician he once was, Zerhouni and other NIH officials outlined a strategy that took shape through the Labor Day weekend and into the following week:

- NIH, in partnership with the American Association of Medical Colleges, created and activated a telemedicine brain trust for specialty medical consultation over a telephone hotline;

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A cadre of NIH volunteers boards buses outside the Clinical Research Center on the morning of Sept. 4.

CFC Offers Employees Chance To 'Be an Everyday Hero'

Oct. 5 marks the beginning of the NIH Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This year's theme, "Be an Everyday Hero!" reflects the fact that it is often the seemingly little gestures—a kind word, a caring glance, a helpful hand or a small donation—that make a big difference in the lives of others.

"In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the call for help to support people in need has never been more poignantly depicted than in the images of devastation from the Gulf Coast region," said NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni. "Last year, NIH raised \$1.9 million for some 3,000 charities, a reflection of the extraordinary contributions of NIH employees. Again this year, the need is great for supporting all of our charitable groups and the call to be an everyday hero is greater."

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, Zerhouni and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, which heads the campaign this year, will gather at a CFC

SEE **CFC KICKOFF**, PAGE 4

Stellar Night at the Movies

Something a Partnership Made: Medical History

By Cynthia Delgado

If Vivien Thomas visited NIH today, he would walk through the main entrance of the Clinical Research Center. Our most eminent surgeons and scientists might greet him. From the podium in Masur Auditorium, he would present his latest research findings to a mix of students, postdoctoral fellows, scientists and clinicians of varied races and nationalities. Afterward, he might mingle with the audience for further discussions or talk with other NIH researchers over lunch. Yet during the life and times of Vivien Thomas, none of that would have happened.

The incredible accomplishments of Thomas and his colleagues are depicted in the HBO docudrama *Something the Lord Made*. The film was recently screened for the Office of Science Education's "Science in the Cinema" program to a crowd at the American Film Institute's Silver Theater in Silver Spring. The event went beyond its usual scope because of the film's

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NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Rm. 5B41
Phone (301) 496-2125
Fax (301) 402-1485

Web address
<http://www.nih.gov/nihrecord/>

Editor
Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

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briefs

NIH Hosts Free Fall Film Festival

This fall, NLM is presenting “Strong Medicine,” a festival of films that parse the cultural, social and existential meanings of disease and symptoms, scientific medicine, the medical marketplace, treatment and cure, healing and health professionalism, living and dying.

The series will take place Thursdays at 6 p.m. in Lister Hill Center Auditorium, first floor of Bldg. 38A. The series began Sept. 22 and runs through Nov. 17 (except Oct. 13 and Nov. 3). Admission is free and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served in the lobby each evening.

Each evening will feature introductory remarks by historians, film critics or NIH scientists; one or more rare short historical medical films from the NLM collection; the feature presentation; and a discussion period.

Remaining films include:

Sept. 29, *The Elephant Man* (1980)

Oct. 6, *Safe* (1995)

Oct. 20, *And the Band Played On* (1993)

Oct. 27, Pre-Halloween Creature Feature: *Island of Lost Souls* (1933)

Nov. 10, Broadcast Medicine: Selected episodes of *Ben Casey* (1961), *M*A*S*H* (1972) & *ER* (1994)

Nov. 17, Treasures of the NLM Film Collection: Short Historical Medical Films, 1920-1970.

For more information, visit www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/happening/seminars/filmseries.html.

‘Medicine for the Public’ Lectures

Bird flu, the relationship between oral bacteria and heart disease, the challenges of aging—learn more about these topics at the 29th annual Medicine for the Public lecture series, sponsored by the Clinical Center. Physician-scientists working to translate science into medicine will discuss these topics this fall. The lectures, which are free and open to the public, will be presented at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Oct. 18, “Avian Influenza: Preparing for the Pandemic,” Dr. David Henderson, CC deputy director for clinical care. Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a major concern to public health authorities and is a threat to public health. This lecture will cover what it is, how it spreads and where we can look for possible treatment and prevention.

Oct. 25, “Open Wide: Molecular Medicine Enters the Mouth,” Dr. Lawrence A. Tabak, director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Studies suggest an association between oral bacteria and preterm or low birth-weight babies, heart disease and high blood sugar in people with diabetes. This lecture will cover oral health and the connection between oral bacteria and systemic disease. Tabak will discuss the latest research in molecular medicine and the use of salivary diagnostics as tools for health surveillance.

Nov. 1, “Growing Older: Challenges and Opportunities in Aging,” Dr. Richard J. Hodes, director, National Institute on Aging. The trend toward increased life expectancy over the last century has been remarkable, resulting in an “age boom” of profound implications for individuals, families and society. This lecture will cover insights from research on the factors affecting health and well being as we grow older.

For more information call (301) 496-2563.

2005 Flu Vaccine Information for NIH’ers

Although last year’s influenza vaccine program was complicated by a vaccine shortage, NIH did receive vaccine and was able to offer it initially to priority groups and later to all who were interested. This year, NIH plans to offer the regular vaccine campaign in November.

The influenza vaccine for the 2005-2006 season contains the following strains recommended by the FDA’s vaccines and related biological products advisory committee: A/New Caledonia/20/99-like (H1N1), B/Shanghai/361/2002-like, and A/California/7/2004 (H3N2-like).

Look for the upcoming schedule of dates and locations in the *NIH Record* and the web sites at <http://dohs.ors.od.nih.gov/> or <http://www.foiltheflu.nih.gov>.

If you have questions about the influenza vaccine, call the Clinical Center Hospital Epidemiology Service, (301) 496-2209.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Martin Heisenberg on Sept. 28, speaking on “Mapping Memory Traces in the Fly Brain.” He is professor, Theodore Boveri Institute for Biosciences and chair, genetics and neurobiology, University of Wurzburg, Germany.

On Oct. 5, Dr. Margarita Alegria will address, “Matching Services to Needs: The Importance of Health Services Research for Reducing Disparities.” She is professor, department of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and director, Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research, Cambridge Hospital.

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



Dr. Han Fan, a cancer pathologist visiting from China, tours NIH from Natcher to the CRC with seasoned guide Carol Jabir of the Visitor Information Center.

Visitor Center Welcomes Guests to NIH

An old Chinese proverb states, “What I hear, I forget; what I see, I remember; what I do, I understand.” The same wisdom can be applied to those who visit NIH, wanting to know how it works. Each workday, newcomers who want to grasp the immensity of what NIH is about mingle largely unnoticed amid the workforce. Helping them is the Visitor Information Center (VIC), a place for the wide range of visitors that includes scientists, congressional aides, patient advocates, lawyers and knowledge-seekers of all ages.

Part of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, OD, the VIC is where visitors find face-to-face communication and the human connection to NIH.

The VIC benefited from relocating in 2003 from the B1 level of Bldg. 10 to a more prominent setting on the first floor of the Natcher Bldg., whose ambient light and convenience to the Metro station attract visitors.

A shelf located just inside the main Natcher entrance features a wide selection of publications by the 27 institutes and centers that comprise NIH. An organizational chart of the agency helps orient guests. VIC staff also prepare information packets by request and can refer visitors to other sources of information.

Entering the VIC’s community area, visitors stroll beneath a display of historical flags that tell the story of NIH’s origins and the organizations under which it has served. Across the room is an exhibit featuring the Nobel laureates NIH has supported over the years.



Visitors often want to know if there are daily tours and how they can be arranged. If it happens to be Wednesday, there is an 11 a.m. tour of the Clinical Research Center that includes an overview of NIH. The overview is also offered at 11 a.m. each Monday and Friday at the VIC. Other tours are available by appointment and generally run 2 hours.

Among NIH’s recent guests were members of Girls Explorations in Mathematics and Science, a program sponsored by Delaware State University that included 27 students ranging from grades 9 through 11. The program encourages women and minorities to consider careers in science. Often, NIH scientists will come to the VIC to give presentations to such groups. On other occasions, the visitors will go to the labs to hear presentations.

Other recent visitors included the summer biomedical science institute of Georgetown University, whose students are mainly minorities; a group of doctors from Andrews Air Force Base who toured the Porter Neuroscience Center; and a group of engineering students who visited NIH’s new cogeneration power plant in Bldg. 11A.

To arrange a VIC visit, call (301) 496-1776. 📞

Above:

Dr. Helena Mishoe (c), director of NHLBI’s Office of Minority Health Affairs, introduces NIH to visitors from Tougaloo College at the VIC.

CFC KICKOFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kick-off event with the employees who will help ensure a successful campaign.

Hundreds of deputy and assistant CFC coordinators and key workers will be invited to attend the event. The lunchtime ceremony, to be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the new NIH Fire House, will include music and food, and it will be the first opportunity for the NIH CFC workers to meet each other.



The Greentree Shelter, a part of the National Center for Children and Families, is the only shelter for homeless families with an on-site structured child care center and therapeutic child access capability in Montgomery County.

More than 3,200 local, national and international charities are supported through the annual CFC national fundraiser. Fauci wants this year's campaign to reflect the true generosity of the NIH staff. "By volunteering your time to local charities, you can have a positive impact on the community," he said. "By donating to CFC charities of your choice, you can help finance work to save the environment, provide food, shelter and medical care to needy families and help poor children get an education."

You can designate one or more specific charities to receive your donation. And, payroll deduction makes it easy to give. For more information about the annual campaign, visit <http://cfc.nih.gov>.

Dr. Sheryl Brissett-Chapman is executive director of the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) in Bethesda. "CFC funding is critical for us to be able to reach nearly 2,000 children and families during the year," she says. "Through community volunteers, we are able to extend our

reach and help more people. Our volunteers are truly everyday heroes!"

One such NCCF volunteer is Monica Panelli, a staff scientist in the Clinical Center's department of transfusion medicine. Each week during the past year, she has volunteered as a tutor for children at the NCCF's Greentree Shelter. Panelli feels strongly that it is important to give back to the community, and, in particular, to children.

Each of us is passionate about something. Support your passion by contributing to CFC and make an impact on someone's life. Choose to be an everyday hero—choose to give. ●

New Recipients To Be Announced Pioneer Award Winners to Lecture At Inaugural Symposium

The first NIH Director's Pioneer Award Symposium will feature the 2004 awardees discussing their research on Thursday, Sept. 29 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. In addition, NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni will announce the 2005 recipients.

"Each Pioneer awardee is forging new ground in an important scientific field," said Zerhouni. "Our goal was to support scientists of exceptional creativity with pioneering concepts. It is obvious just from their first year of work that these scientists are making good on their promise to pursue far-ranging ideas that merit exploration."

Zerhouni will open the symposium at 8:15 a.m. A highlight of the day will be the 2 p.m. roundtable talk among the 2004 award recipients. The event will end with an informal reception at 3 p.m. The symposium agenda is at <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/symposium2005>. Attendance is free and there is no need to register.



Fenton Joins DAIT

Dr. Matthew J. Fenton was recently named chief of the Asthma, Allergy and Inflammation Branch at NIAID'S Division of Allergy, Immunology and Transplantation (DAIT). He received his doctoral degree in biochemistry from Boston University and completed postdoctoral studies in immunology at

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before joining DAIT, he served as professor of medicine and director of pulmonary research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Previously, he was a professor of medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. Fenton also served as a member of the experimental immunology study section, and later, as chair of the innate immunity and inflammation study section.



Insights into Inflammation

Immunology courses sometimes gloss over innate immunity to focus on acquired immunity, the system of T cells, B cells and antibodies that respond to specific antigens. The innate immune system, roaming scavenger cells that comprise the body's first line of defense, causes the inflammation that makes a mosquito bite itch and a sore throat ache, but it can also go into overdrive in the face of severe burns, trauma or infection, leading to organ failure or even death. A new study published in *Nature* takes a major step forward in understanding innate immunity and the systemic inflammation it can bring.

The study started with a genome-wide expression analysis of four people infused with endotoxin, a bacterial toxin that activates the innate immune system, causing inflammation that runs its course within 24 hours. Four people were used as a control, and the researchers took blood samples at several points to look at gene expression in their leukocytes (white blood cells) over time. Of tens of thousands of genes examined, the researchers identified 3,714 unique genes whose expression changed in response to the endotoxin.

Experimental data like this can be overwhelming and hard to interpret. This team of scientists, which was brought together by an NIGMS "glue grant" and included experts in surgery, critical care medicine, genomics, bioinformatics, immunology and computational biology, wanted to identify functional networks involved in the systemic activation of inflammation. They therefore turned to a new bioinformatics method to tie their data into all the comprehensive knowledge of mammalian biology that other researchers have already accumulated.

The group used a knowledge base compiled by Ingenuity Systems, Inc., of Mountain View, Calif. To build that knowledge base, content and modeling experts systematically encoded findings in peer-reviewed publications, incorporating over 200,000 published reports on more than 9,800 human, 7,900 mouse and 5,000 rat genes. An "interactome," a molecular network of direct physical, transcriptional and enzymatic interactions, was computed from this knowledge base to detail molecular relationships involving over 8,000 genes. This tool enabled the group to

examine their experimental data in the context of known genome-wide interactions.

The group constructed a "prototypic inflammatory cell" containing 292 representative genes involved in inflammation and innate immunity, and charted its course over time. Then, using the knowledge base to computationally decipher the networks involved, they identified well over a thousand genes involved in inflammation. Their analysis revealed unexpected pathways that will increase our understanding of inflammation, including the widespread suppression of mitochondrial energy production and protein synthesis.

According to NIGMS, the team next plans to study both gene and protein activity in a large group of trauma and burn patients over longer periods of time. It will be important to confirm whether these patients in a real-life situation show responses similar to those of the healthy, endotoxin-challenged subjects in this study.—

Harrison Wein

Two Join NCCAM's Office of Scientific Review

Dr. Laurie Friedman Donze was appointed as a scientific review administrator at the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. A native Californian, she earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Michigan State University. She was a faculty member at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for 6 years before coming to the Center for Scientific Review in 2003. Her scientific and clinical expertise relates primarily to the behavioral and "alternative" treatment of obesity. At NCCAM, Donze is responsible for the training and education special emphasis panel, as well as other review panels as needed.

Dr. Martina Schmidt was also appointed as a scientific review administrator at NCCAM. A native of Germany, she earned a B.S. and M.S. in biology and a Ph.D. in microbiology, all from the University of Wurzburg, Germany. In 1997, she received a Fogarty fellowship and joined NIH as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Linda Wolff at the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research, Laboratory of Cellular Oncology. Schmidt's research focused on analysis of the function and regulation of genes that are involved in myeloid leukemogenesis. In 2004, she joined the Center for Scientific Review as a scientific review administrator intern before her move to NCCAM.



Top:
Dr. Laurie Friedman Donze

Bottom:
Dr. Martina Schmidt

Right:
NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni (c, in ballcap) and CC director Dr. John Gallin (on the director's left) meet with NIH group that left Sept. 4. They include (from l) Mark Ritter, Maryland Pao, Melanie Bacon, Jean Murphy, Mike Polis, Amy Garner-O'Brien, Jim Shelhamer, Alice Pao, James Gibbs, Deb Gardner, Bob Danner, Mary Sparks, Sashi Ravindran, Grace Kelly and Susan Hoover.



KATRINA RESPONSE

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- An advance team and medical team numbering about 50 people deployed temporarily to a field hospital in Mississippi but most, except commissioned officers, were recalled after 5 days.

- The Clinical Center made available 100 beds of “surge capacity” for patients who might need to be transferred from the affected areas, including young cancer patients who would need specialized services.



Middle:
Ten NIH Police officers went to the Gulf, including (kneeling, from l) Cpl. Alexander Negretti, Sgt. Fredric Boyle, Cpl. Wallace Carter and Cpl. Gary Pickering. Standing are (from l) Cpl. Dexter Moore, Cpl. Thomas Cioffi Sr., MPO James Pineiro, MPO Craig Rowland, MPO Herman Bartz III and Lt. James Skyrn.

Above:
NIH'ers handle phones in Bldg. 10 medical board room. They are (from l) Dinora Dominguez, Laura Lee, Dora Bell, Nancy Jenkins, Dr. Fred Gill and Kathy Bronson.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

“I encourage you to be creative,” Zerhouni urged at that first meeting, while a large-screen TV tuned to CNN silently broadcast images of the unfolding drama in New Orleans. “We must help people who are hurting now. It is the right thing to do. Let’s do it the right way—the NIH way.”

More than 1,000 NIH'ers from a staggering breadth of disciplines and backgrounds volunteered in the storm's aftermath. In addition to physicians and nurses they included maintenance workers, officers from the NIH Police, who needed to be deputized as U.S. Marshals in order to serve, procurement officials and public affairs staff. Volunteers, who had to be in good physical condition, were asked to commit to tours of 2 full weeks, and to be immunized against hepatitis and tetanus. Those who could not be deployed had the option at least of sending prayers; special multi-faith services were held in the CRC 7th floor chapel Sept. 6-9.

Whether they stayed and prayed or delivered first aid, NIH'ers were quick and generous in their response. Said one witness to the high-level conferences, “No one at NIH was being obstructionist.”

NIH not only marshaled its own resources in response to Katrina, but also reached out to long-time partners at AAMC, Suburban Hospital and the National Naval Medical Center to see how best to accommodate the unfolding situation. Medical partners included volunteers from Duke University and Johns Hopkins University. Because of the sudden need to cooperate with nonfederal allies, legislative experts at NIH quickly worked with Congress to smooth the way to signing on volunteers.

As head of the NIH Command Center, Zerhouni created a number of ad hoc working groups to oversee the various facets of NIH's response. Concluding one of the earliest emergency sessions, he said, “I thank you for all those out there who may not have a home tonight.” He added, in one of a series of urgent email letters to all employees in the tragedy's first week, “We will need to set aside business as usual in this unusual time.”

Key players in the initial response included Dr. Pierre Noel of the CC's department of laboratory



Parting was tough for many who responded.

medicine, who was put in charge of NIH's field hospital contingent. He was assisted by Elaine Ayres of the Clinical Center, a PHS logistics expert. Capt. Diane Walsh of the CC nursing department served as NIH liaison with the HHS Secretary's Operations Center.

Among the first NIH'ers on the ground in Katrina's wake were ORF engineer John Walker, who was deployed Sept. 3, and NIDDK nephrologist Dr. Jeffrey Kopp, who left for Baton Rouge with a cadre of 38 PHS officers on Sunday, Sept. 4. Other early responders included disbursing officer William Kelley of the Office of Logistics and Acquisition Operations, Maj. Ophus Robinson of the NIH Police and Lt. Chris Mattingly, an EMT with the Division of Fire and Rescue Services.

As the Katrina response unfolded, the NIH home page on the web served as a reliable source of updates, including where to send cash. The annual Combined Federal Campaign debuted early, on Sept. 2, in order to accommodate donations, and the NIH R&W Association instituted a Hurricane Relief fund. NIH and its partners also expanded the medical consultation hotline to include information for patients in the region devastated by Katrina. Consultations were available in environmental/toxic concerns, infectious diseases, tropical/geographical medicine, ophthalmology, HIV/AIDS, psychiatry, cardiac/pulmonary diseases and cancer, among other topics.

Zerhouni hinted that the many offers by NIH'ers to open their homes to people dislocated by Katrina might eventually be taken up. "This will be a long and difficult period for those who have suffered so much," he said in an all-hands email Sept. 1. "We will have many opportunities to contribute to the rebuilding process over the months ahead. I am grateful for your commitment." 🗞



Cdr. Chris Chamberlain (l) and colleague Dr. Hakson Jin are among 6,000 PHS commissioned officers in the Public Health Service. At right, read about their preparedness.

PHOTOS: WOLEOLA AKINSO

Commissioned Officers Focus on Readiness, Heed Call of Katrina

When a number of NIH clinicians, nurses and other commissioned officers headed to the Gulf coast recently to help displaced residents survive the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it was only the most recent deployment in an unusually responsive year. The group briefly staffed a 250-bed hospital in Meridian, Miss.

"It's what many members of the Commissioned Corps have trained for. The mission, as always, focuses on readiness. Maintaining physical fitness, being fully immunized and having the training and readiness needed when deployed into an emergency area—as we are now demonstrating with Katrina—is paramount," said Dr. Richard Wyatt, executive director of NIH's Office of Intramural Research and a rear admiral in the corps.

With a rich past tracing back to the late 1700's, the corps has historically lived up to its mission statement: "protecting, promoting and advancing the health and safety of our nation." Stints in recent times have taken NIH and other PHS officers to such war-torn regions as Afghanistan, Africa, Iraq, and now, the remnants of Katrina.

Overall, there are about 6,000 commissioned officers in the Public Health Service, with the largest number coming from the Indian Health Service, followed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and the Bureau of Prisons. Presently, 400 NIH commissioned officers, including 111 from the Clinical Center and 78 from the National Cancer Institute, are part of the structured force. Among the 400 at NIH are 168 medical officers and approximately 100 nurses, but also veterinarians, pharmacists, dietitians, environmental health specialists, therapists, sanitary engineers and computer specialists, according to Kenneth Diepold, NIH liaison to the Surgeon General.

NIH director Dr. Anthony Fauci spent 27 years in the corps. NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman is also a retired CO. Presently active NIH officials in the corps include CC director Dr. John Gallin, NIDDK deputy director Dr. Griffin Rodgers, NIDCR deputy director Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, NINDS clinician Dr. Mark Hallett and Dr. Harvey Klein, chief of the CC department of transfusion medicine.

During the presidency of John Adams in 1798, corps officers provided care for sick and injured seamen in Boston. Today's mission is no less vital. "We saw it first-hand recently in Asia, when 30 such officers were deployed to provide aid and care to victims of the tsunami disaster," said Wyatt, who is a 34-year corps vet. "And now we have this type of situation again, with Katrina."

Commissioned officers at NIH have a dual role—they perform their main job, conducting research, treating patients and providing other public health activities. They also have to be ready to respond to emergencies.

Cdr. Chris Chamberlain acknowledges her twin functions. A CC pharmacy specialist and 18-year veteran of the corps, she makes countless daily contributions at NIH—serving as a liaison between the pharmacy department and patients undergoing treatment. While providing direct assistance to the Transplant and Autoimmunity Branch, NIDDK, her duties range from assisting with the dosing of anti-rejection medication for immunosuppressed patients to making hospital rounds with physicians. She also routinely conducts follow-ups with outpatients. The importance of her job notwithstanding, Chamberlain knows that if a natural disaster strikes, she could be whisked away and deployed elsewhere in a moment's notice. "It's both a challenging and a rewarding position," she said.—

Jan Ehrman 🗞



Corps vet Chamberlain

MEMORABLE MOVIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



On hand at the recent OSE-sponsored film were (from l) Dr. J. Alex Haller (guest speaker at Science in the Cinema); Clayton LeBoeuf (who played Vivien Thomas's brother in the film); Jessica Floria (who played a pediatric patient at Hopkins); John Leslie Wolfe (who played Dr. Walter Dandy, leading surgeon at Hopkins); and Kate McCabe, who wrote the article on which the film was based.

poignant content and special guests in attendance.

The film tells a true story in which medical science, history and sociology converge. It follows the 34-year association of two men who overcame social stigma and developed a revolutionary technique that would save countless lives.

In 1930, Vivien Thomas was a 19-year-old African American carpenter who dreamed of going to medical school. Dr. Alfred Blalock was a white surgeon and a rising star among his peers. In the lab, Blalock asked the scientific questions. Thomas figured out the best ways to find the answers. With only a high school education, Thomas assumed the role of a senior research fellow and developed into a talented surgical technician. He devised unique surgical instruments and worked out complex techniques in animal models. The film's title comes from Blalock's remarks about the nearly flawless healing of a surgical incision Thomas made in a canine heart.

The pair's achievements are even more remarkable because of the setting in which they took place. It was an era marked by the Great Depression, World War II, racial tension and segregation. The young lawyer Thurgood Marshall had just begun to champion the cause of civil rights and the desegregation of schools. So in 1941, when Blalock and Thomas came to Johns Hopkins University from Nashville, people stared at Thomas in his white lab coat. At that time and place, black employees were janitors and had separate building entrances and rest rooms. This unusual duo was about to open a lot of previously locked doors in medicine and society.

Helen Taussig, a pediatric cardiologist at Hopkins, approached Blalock for help with her "blue babies." These patients have a congenital syndrome—tetralogy of Fallot—that limits blood flow to the lungs. The resulting lack of oxygen makes their skin appear blue. Blalock accepted the challenge and began to work with Thomas on developing a corrective procedure.

In 1944, Blalock performed surgery on a young girl while Thomas stood behind him, coaching him through the procedure he had perfected. By rearranging blood vessels, the team turned the blue baby pink again. That first successful operation launched the modern field of cardiac surgery and simultaneously rattled the social status quo.

Following the film, the Science in the Cinema audience was treated to an insider's perspective. The guest speaker and expert in the film's medical subject was Dr. J. Alex Haller, emeritus

professor of pediatric surgery, pediatrics and emergency medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Haller had trained with Blalock during his residency and had first-hand knowledge of the events portrayed in the film. He spent over 100 hours as a consultant to HBO producers during the making of the movie. Also present were three actors from the film and Katie McCabe, who wrote the award-winning article on which the film was based ("Like Something the Lord Made," *Washingtonian* magazine, 1989).

Haller added his own stories to those presented in the film. He emphasized a point he felt was not made clear. He said that Thomas's "role as the teacher of medical students, residents and junior faculty members was a critically important part of the training of cardiac surgeons at John Hopkins. He trained many technicians and helped other doctors in their research, including those at NIH."

Haller spent a year working in an NIH research lab with Alfred Casper. Both men had trained at Johns Hopkins and were working on a study involving heart-valve abnormalities. During a canine surgery, Haller skillfully halted a serious bleeding episode. "That was beautifully done," Casper said. Haller replied that he had "trained with Alfred Blalock." On a subsequent occasion, Casper managed a more severe bleeding problem. "That was fabulously done," remarked Haller. Casper replied, "with a twinkle in his eye, 'I trained with Vivien Thomas.'"

The audience learned more through a question-and-answer exchange with Haller. In response to a question about the use of animals in research, Haller recalled an incident from the 1950s when Taussig received a standing ovation from a crowd of animal rights activists in Baltimore. Holding her poodle in her arms, she said, "He's alive because of what we have learned about human congenital heart abnormalities." Thomas and Haller had performed life-saving surgery on the dog.

Haller confirmed the Blalock-Thomas partnership. "The relationship was different outside the hospital as was typical of our society then. Vivien was treated just like a colleague. On the other hand, they [Thomas and Blalock] had different bathrooms."

McCabe praised the film's accuracy and subtlety in portraying the diverse social worlds of the principal characters. "That's one of the beauties of film. You can create a context of the social environment...without a single line of dialogue," she said. She also gave high praise to the script writer, Peter Silverman, who was able to capture the nuances of the Blalock-Thomas relationship.

If Thomas visited NIH today, he'd be stepping into a new world—one he helped pioneer. 🐾



NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow delivers the plenary presentation, "Progress in Translating Drug Abuse Research into Clinical Practice," at a NIDA meeting in Miami.

NIDA Holds Variety of Outreach Events

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is undertaking a variety of outreach efforts to educate health care providers, physicians, researchers and others about the latest findings on drug abuse and addiction and their application to clinical practice. The institute sponsored or participated in three meetings recently in Miami.

More than 600 people attended a 2-day conference, "Smart Practice, Practical Science: Blending Treatment and Research," that was held at the Sheraton Bal Harbour Hotel. The workshop format allowed lively discussions between researchers involved in designing science-based treatment programs and the practitioners implementing them across the country. Cosponsors of the conference included the Florida node of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network, the University of Miami, Operation PAR Inc., the Village South Center for Drug Free Living and the Florida Society of Addiction Medicine.

During the same week, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) held a meeting, "Forging Federal-State Collaborations to Blend Research and Practice." It was the latest in a series of meetings held over the past year to examine strategies to enhance the adoption of evidence-based practices in state drug abuse prevention and treatment systems.

The third event was NASADAD's annual meeting.

These events are part of NIDA's effort to try to bridge the gap between clinical practice and scientific research in the drug abuse treatment field. These collaborations will ensure the application of research knowledge into improved treatment. ●



Above: Volkow greets University of Miami President (and former HHS Secretary) Donna Shalala (l) and Florida First Lady Columba Bush at a NIDA meeting in Miami.



Left: Robert Morrison (r), director of public policy for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), congratulates NIDA's Dr. Timothy Condon (l) who received the award for outstanding service and leadership in support of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Authorities. The award was presented at NASADAD's annual meeting in Miami.

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>.

Internet Assisted Review (IAR)	9/27
Introduction to the Extramural Customer Assistance REquest System (ECARES)	9/27
Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) 101	9/27
Introduction to Statistics	9/27-28
Perl for Beginning Programmers	9/27-10/6
Python for Programmers	9/28
Bringing Data Files into SAS	9/29
Creating Presentations with PowerPoint	10/12
Reference Manager 11 (PC) Basics	10/13
Complementary & Alternative Medicine: Databases, E-Journals and Other Sources	10/20

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>.

Delegated Acquisition Training Program	9/20-23
NBS Travel System for Organizational Administrators	9/27-28
NIH Foreign Travel (NBS Travel System)	9/28-29

Principles of Clinical Research Class

Registration for the 2005-2006 "Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research" began on Aug. 1. The course will run from Oct. 17 through Feb. 21, 2006. The deadline for registering is Oct. 5. Classes will be held on campus on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6:30. There is no charge for the course but purchase of a textbook is required. A certificate will be awarded upon successful completion of the course, including a final exam. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/researchers/training/ipocr.shtml> or call (301) 496-9425.

FAES Seeks Executive Director

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES), a non-profit organization that supports intramural research programs at NIH, is recruiting for an executive director. A full description of the organization and the position's responsibilities, scope and compensation can be found on the FAES web site, www.FAES.org. If interested and qualified, mail letter of interest, resume and four references to: The Selection Committee, FAES, 1 Cloister Court, Suite 230, Bethesda, MD 20814. No phone calls. Principals only. Applications accepted until the position is filled.

Duncan To Give Nanotechnology Series Talk

The NCI Nanotechnology Seminar Series will feature a lecture by Dr. Ruth Duncan, professor of cell biology and drug delivery, and director of the Centre for Polymer Therapeutics at Cardiff University, Wales, United Kingdom, on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. in the Natcher Bldg., Rm. E1/E2. For details, visit <http://nano.cancer.gov>.



The award-winning "Live Oaks in Fog" was taken on the Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation, Darien, Ga. in 1995. The photographer, Dr. Harvey Kupferberg, served as chief, preclinical pharmacology section, Epilepsy Branch, NINDS, prior to his retirement from NIH in 2000.

Camera Club Holds Competition

Once a month on Tuesday evenings, the Classic Residence for senior citizens in Chevy Chase opens its doors to the members of the NIH Camera Club, an R&W-sponsored organization of emerging, seasoned and expert photographers. A professional from the Washington area shares photographic expertise and images, then judges photos on a topic such as nature or architecture or photojournalism, in three categories—slides, color and black-and-white prints. On Tuesday, Oct. 11, this year's NIH-wide photography competition will take place. All members of the NIH community are invited to participate. For a handout with competition details, email Brenda Hanning, hanningb@mail.nih.gov.

Fencer Pinkus Wins Veterans Championship

Dr. Larry Pinkus, scientific review administrator of the atherosclerosis and inflammation in the cardiovascular sciences study section in the Center for Scientific Review and president of the R&W Fencing Club, won the gold medal in men's saber (age 60+)

at the World Veterans Championships on Sept. 3 in Tampa. He was selected by U.S. Fencing for the USA Veterans Fencing team in saber; four men and four women are selected for the team in each weapon (foil, epee and saber) based on points earned in national competitions throughout the year. This is Pinkus' third time on the team (1999, 2004, 2005). He won a bronze medal in saber in 1999. He describes fencing as a "lifetime sport" and a "physical chess game" and has been competing for close to 40 years. He took up the sport in college at Johns Hopkins University, and attributes his success to good coaching (two of his coaches were U.S. Olympic team coaches) and continuing to adapt and refine his game with age. To learn more about the NIH R&W Fencing Club, visit www.recgov.org and look under NIH, clubs and fencing.





Healthy Volunteers Needed

Healthy volunteers are needed to participate in a study of adrenal gland function sponsored by NICHD. Volunteers should be over 18 years of age. The study consists of two visits to the Clinical Center and involves blood work, a stimulation test of adrenal gland function, saliva and urine collection. Participants will be compensated. For more information call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010).

Asthma Study Recruits

An asthma study at NIH is recruiting children ages 5 to 17. The study will measure the usefulness of a new procedure for evaluating asthma in children. All study-related tests will be provided at no cost. Compensation is provided. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Se habla español. Refer to study 04-I-0126.

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Healthy volunteers are needed for a new study that investigates a blood-thinning medication. If you are 21 to 65, consider participating in this study that may develop a better treatment for individuals with blood clot. All study related tests are provided at no cost. Compensation is provided. For more information call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Se habla español. Refer to study 05-H-0164.

Study of Genes, Aging and Cognition

Healthy volunteers, over the age of 55, are needed for a study of the genetics of aging and cognition. Participation requires a blood draw and non-invasive clinical, neurological and cognitive testing procedures. No overnight stays. No medication trials. Compensation provided. Call Bobby Das at (301) 435-4593 or email DasB@intra.nimh.nih.gov. Refer to protocol 00-M-0085.

Study of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

NIH is recruiting for a study of patients with new onset (9 months or less) obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). An initial outpatient evaluation at the Clinical Center and follow-up visits are required. Patients may continue to be followed by their physicians and continue medications and therapy for OCD while in this study. If your child has recently started having compulsive behaviors or thoughts, call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Refer to study 02-M-0281.

Healthy Children Sought

NIMH seeks healthy children 6-18 for mood and anxiety disorder study. Study may include physical exam, brain imaging, lab work and psychological interviews. Compensation provided. Call 1-800-411-1222 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). Refer to study 01-M-0192.

PHS Commissioned Officers Promoted

The 3rd annual Public Health Service commissioned officer promotion ceremony, held in Masur Auditorium recently, honored 29 Commissioned Corps officers who work at NIH. RADM Richard G. Wyatt, NIH representative to the Surgeon General's policy advisory council, presided. NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni welcomed Surgeon General Richard Carmona, and cited the various collaborative projects under way between NIH and the Office of the Surgeon General. Carmona gave keynote remarks and officiated, along with Deputy Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu.

The officials congratulated the promoted officers and their families on their career advancement and accomplishments. Special to this year's event was the honoring of NIH officers who retired during the past year.

Promoted officers included: Nurse Officers: CDR Irene Dustin, CDR Suzanne Fillippi, CDR Dianne Hilligoss, CDR Akua Kwatema, CDR Kathleen Morton-Cooper, CDR Linda Scott, CDR Beverly Smith, CDR Susanah Wargo, LCDR Stacy Barley, LCDR Leigh Bernardino, LCDR Geri Hawks, LCDR Jacquin Jones, LCDR Alexi Mosquera, LCDR Madia Ricks, LCDR Doris Wurah; ROG-Medical Officer: CAPT Kirk Druey, CAPT Caroline Philpott; Medical Officer: CAPT Lisa Rider, CAPT Eric Wassermann, CDR Thomas Herndon, CDR Michelle Leff; Scientist Officer: CAPT Rebecca Sheets; Veterinarian Officer: CAPT Yvette Davis, CAPT Donald Gardner, CDR Venita Thornton, LCDR Lauren Davidson; Health Services Officer: LCDR Claudine Samanic; Pharmacist Officer: LCDR Kun Shen; and Environmental Health Officer: LCDR Jason Barr.

Below:

The 2005 NIH promoted officers and officials involved in the ceremony pose for a group photo.



Right:

U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona (second from l) and NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni (r) challenge each other on who can attach CDR Michelle Leff's boards the fastest.





Film Festival Draws More Than 65,000

The 9th annual NIH-Comcast Outdoor Film Festival attracted more than 65,000 moviegoers from NIH and the community to support charities at NIH including the Children's Inn, Friends of the Clinical Center, Special Love/Camp Fantastic and the R&W Foundation. Funds raised for these charities amounted to almost \$50,000. Attendees enjoyed such movies as *Shrek 2*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Shark Tale* during the 10 evenings of film. Above, a full moon hovers over a large crowd assembled on the lawn. At right, the Maru family has a great time at *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Below, students and friends from the Maret School get together at the festival. R&W President Randy Schools thanks Strathmore Hall and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for hosting the event after it moved from the NIH campus following 9/11.

