

nih record



ABOVE • CFC Halloween party draws creative costumes; that's "Fannie Mae." See p. 16.

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From Zer-Who? to Who Knew?

Outgoing Director Rides Tide of Warm Feelings

By Rich McManus

There probably isn't a job anywhere in the world that Dr. Elias Zerhouni could not win if he simply took to his next job interview a videotape of the Farewell Celebration that took place in his honor Oct. 30 in a packed Masur Auditorium. After 115 minutes of tributes from colleagues, Congress, interest groups and the administration, perhaps the biggest challenge of his 6½-year directorship was emerging from the hall with his humility intact.

Even the ambassadors of Algeria, where he grew up, and Morocco, from which his family originated, showed up to honor a man whose character—even more than his scientific and managerial acumen—stood out as his most prominent attribute.

SEE FAREWELL, PAGE 8



Dr. Elias Zerhouni has last word at his farewell.



One of several hundred posters presented in the Natcher Center at NIH Research Festival 2008

Intramural Science Marks 21st Confab Research Festival Weighs In on Widening Health Crisis of Obesity

By Carla Garnett

The NIH Research Festival marked 21 years on Oct. 14 and its custodial parent made one thing perfectly clear at the opening plenary session: "This is our 21st Research Festival, so perhaps on the occasion of our 21st birthday we should recognize that risky behavior is expected," quipped Dr. Michael Gottesman, who as NIH deputy director for intramural research has overseen 15 of the 21 gatherings.

SEE RESEARCH FEST, PAGE 6

To Have and Have Not Why America Resists Universal Health Insurance

By Belle Waring

A stubborn problem at the heart of American life is the plight of the medically uninsured and the underinsured, around 72 million people.

Recently, NLM invited George Washington University Medical School's Dr. Stanley Reiser to tackle the question from a historical perspective.

"Why the profound reluctance to draw on federal resources to pay for universal health insurance?" he asked a full house in Lister Hill Auditorium.

Our history as Americans, said Reiser, stems from rebellion against monarchy. We wanted to be left alone, to hold government at arm's

SEE HEALTH INSURANCE, PAGE 4



GWU's Dr. Stanley Reiser tackles the issue of universal health insurance coverage.



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DDM Seminars Begin Third Year

The Deputy Director for Management (DDM) Seminar Series is set to offer another round of leadership and management presentations beginning this month.

The third annual series will host speakers known for delivering meaningful insights on workplace concepts, challenges and solutions. The seminars will also offer NIH employees an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues and the presenters in the exchange of ideas and best practices.

The opening seminar features Lynne Lancaster and David Stillman on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to noon in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Back by popular demand, the two presenters will speak this year about Succession Planning and Knowledge Management, two critically important areas of interest for the NIH community. Lancaster and Stillman are bestselling authors and founders of BridgeWorks, a generational diversity consulting and training firm.

The series continues in 2009 with three more seminars featuring Joseph Grenny on Feb. 19, Annie McKee on Apr. 16 and Sandy Crowe on June 18. These presentations will focus on Crucial Conversations, Leadership, Change and Connecting with Others and Dealing with Difficult People.

Light refreshments will be served in the Masur reception area following the program. Presentations will be available via <http://videocast.nih.gov/> for those who cannot attend or when Masur Auditorium reaches capacity.

Sign language interpreters will be provided. Individuals who need reasonable accommodation to attend should contact the NIH Training Center's main office at (301) 496-6211 or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

For more information about the DDM Seminar Series and to view previous seminar videocasts, visit <http://www.ddmseries.od.nih.gov/>.

STEP Forum on Human-Animal Bond

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee will present a Science in the Public Health forum on the topic, "Understanding the Human-Animal Bond: What Has Your Pet Done for You Lately?" on Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Natcher Bldg., Rms. E1/E2.

When was the last time your dog asked you to go for a walk? Does your cat really miss you when you are away on vacation? Does your rabbit think you're just another bunny? Our unique

relationship with animals has evolved throughout history. Companion animals play numerous roles in improving the lives of their humans. These roles may include providing assistance to the elderly and comfort to those with chronic conditions. What are the social, medical and psychological benefits of our interactions with animals? This STEP forum will explore the science of the human-animal bond and why it is important to so many of us.

Hrabowski To Give Diggs Lecture, Nov. 17

Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will deliver the 13th annual John W. Diggs Lecture on Monday, Nov. 17 from noon to 1 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. He will discuss "Beating the Odds: Preparing Minorities for Research Careers in the Biomedical Sciences." A light reception follows. The event is sponsored by the NIH Black Scientists Association, the Office of Intramural Research and the Office of Research on Women's Health. For more information, call ORWH, (301) 402-1770.



ORS Wellness Series Continues, Nov. 18

The next lecture in ORS's wellness initiative Focus on You: Promoting Employee Health and Well-Being at NIH will be "Yoga Stretches for the Desk and Office," on Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Rockledge One cafeteria, 6705 Rockledge Dr., 4th fl. The lecture will provide fun, easy and gentle stretches that employees can do at their workspaces.

Future topics will address how to begin physical activity, lifestyle interventions to reduce heart disease and stress reduction. For a complete listing of future topics and locations, call Chris Gaines at (301) 402-8180 or visit the Division of Amenities and Transportation Services web site, <http://dats.ors.od.nih.gov/>. Sign language interpreters will be provided. Individuals who need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event should call the number above and/or the Federal Relay, 1-800-877-8339.



Steinman To Give Kinyoun Lecture, Nov. 20 in Masur Auditorium

By Julie Marquardt

Dr. Ralph M. Steinman of Rockefeller University will deliver the 2008 Kinyoun Lecture on Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. His talk, titled “Dendritic Cells: A Key Target for Vaccine Science,” will focus on a career-changing finding—the discovery of dendritic cells—that he was part of three decades ago. While the understanding of dendritic cell function continues to expand, it is already evident that they have the ability to turn on or turn off areas of the immune system, thus either triggering a response or silencing an immune response.

According to Steinman, immunologic science primarily involves reduction—taking cells and molecules apart, observing and understanding their different functions. There is an imbalance, he says, because too little focus is placed on putting those molecules back together to observe and learn about the whole system.

“We need to set the standards a little higher, consider the whole immune repertoire, the whole beauty of the immune system and what it can do,” he notes.

In 1972, while studying immune system responses, Steinman and his mentor, the late Dr. Zanvil Cohn, discovered and named dendritic cells. The publication of this discovery in 1973 in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* revolutionized our understanding of the immune system. Steinman’s discovery created a major scientific discipline. Today, investigators worldwide study dendritic cells and their multiple roles in immune regulation. That collective body of research has identified dendritic cells

as critical sentinels of the immune system involved in early immune responses important in graft rejection, resistance to tumors, autoimmune diseases and diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

About 70 percent of the research currently under way in Steinman’s laboratory at Rockefeller focuses on designing a vaccine against HIV. In his research group, Steinman has a clinical team that sees patients who are recruited into studies of HIV, cancer and other infectious disease. All findings are integrated throughout the 20-member lab group so everyone can share the same methods and concepts—a productive learning method he acquired from Cohn.

Steinman received his B.S. from McGill University in 1963 and went on to earn his M.D. at Harvard University, where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1968. After completing his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, he joined the laboratory of Cohn and Dr. James G. Hirsch at Rockefeller University as a post-doctoral fellow and moved up through the ranks to become a full professor by 1988. He was named the Henry G. Kunkel professor, a title he currently holds, in 1995, and director of the Chris Browne Center for Immunology and Immune Diseases in 1998.

Steinman is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the academy’s Institute of Medicine. Among his numerous awards are the Gairdner Foundation International Award; the Freidrich-Sasse, Emil von Behring and Robert Koch Prizes; the Rudolf Virchow and Coley Medals; the New York City Mayor’s Award for Scientific Excellence; the Novartis Prize in Basic Immunology and the Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research. ●

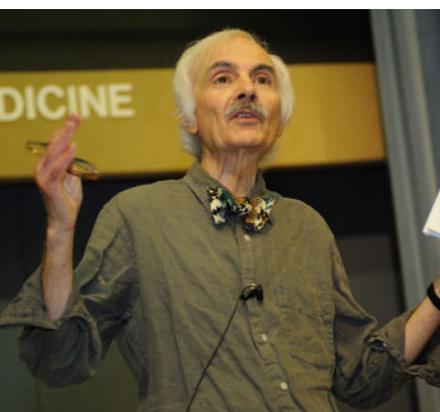


NIAMS Hosts Joint Scientific Meeting

NIAMS, the Office of Rare Diseases and NIAID recently cosponsored “New Therapies for Chronic Recurrent Osteomyelitis, Synovitis, Acne, Pustulosis, Hyperostosis and Osteitis Syndrome as well as Bechet’s Disease Through Understanding the Pathogenesis.” The meeting will serve as a launch pad for the development of a research program focused on the application of current technology to better understand the origin and development of these diseases. Organizers included (from l) Dr. Karyl Barron, NIAID; Dr. Daniel Kastner, NIAMS; Dr. Stephen Groft, ORD; Dr. Raphaela Goldbach-Mansky, NIAMS; Dr. Polly Ferguson, University of Iowa; and Dr. Ahmet Gül, Istanbul University.

HEALTH INSURANCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



GWU's Reiser thinks a mixed system of health insurance has the best chance of appealing to the nation.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

length and to lead an independent life. One side of a coin displaying these ideals would be “the ebullient face of liberty as a fundamental right; on the other side would be the stern face of responsibility.”

With responsibility to care for life’s basic needs an overriding American value, only narrow segments of the population got medical help. The idea is that only special groups were candidates for such government assistance. This “exceptionalist doctrine,” Reiser said, is “much more fundamental than previously believed.”

Those exceptions have included, among others: veterans, the poor, the aged and infirm, mothers and children and those afflicted with certain diseases, with kidney disease a case in point. When dialysis was developed as a life-saving measure, U.S. legislators were successfully lobbied in order to support it.

The first example of exceptionalism dates from 1798, when the Merchant Marine Hospital Service was established under U.S. law and sailors were offered care in a comprehensive system of hospitals. This agency later became the U.S. Public Health Service in 1912.

As valuable strategic assets for national well-being and commercial strength, sailors were considered a special population for whom government should help provide care.

“Yet [hospitals] also made [sailors] pay” for part of the care, Reiser explained. “This is emblematic of the two sides of the coin, of largesse and responsibility.”

So exceptionality arose, Reiser said, “when a case of compelling social or personal need created public subsidies for particular groups.”

But look what happens when you bundle those special groups.

If we integrate all the exceptional categories—from those served by the Veterans Administration, to programs like Medicare/Medicaid; and if one adds employee coverage from federal, state and local governments—then almost half the people in the U.S. get some form of government assistance.

“Such selective coverage,” Reiser said, “logically leads to the question [coming from] those without subsidies and in medical need: ‘Why them and not us?’

“This is one of the main issues we have to confront,” he continued. “A moral dilemma: Why are only certain groups worthy? Isn’t it time to do something for the rest?”

We now need a system that fits not only our purse, he said, but also our values: a mixed system that would include employer-based coverage, federal assistance (subsidies, tax credits), public insurers and individual responsibility.

A primary care physician in the audience objected. She spoke up for more drastic, sweeping change.

Reiser still held that a mixed system might have the best chance to accommodate the “varying levels of power” spread across government and private entities.

“Part of the problem in the literature on this subject,” he concluded, “is that it’s focused on efficiency. But that’s not enough. Any [health insurance] system must fit our value system.”

NIH Training Center Offers New Courses, Programs

In November 2007, the NIH Training Center conducted an NIH-wide survey to determine the types of training and services the NIH community is seeking. It received more than 1,500 responses from the scientific and administrative populations. The feedback indicated a significant demand for professional development and management, leadership and supervisory skills courses across NIH.

As a result, the center is now offering 23 new fee-for-service courses. New programs for supervisors include Leading During Times of Change, Media & Message Training for Managers, Win-Win Negotiations and Managing Challenging Employees. New professional development courses include Problem Solving for Results, Cultivating a Learning Organization and Managing Difficult Conversations. For the acquisitions community, the center now offers Negotiation Techniques for Simplified Acquisitions and Appropriations Law for Simplified Acquisitions at the NIH.

For a complete schedule of classes, visit <http://learningsource.od.nih.gov> or call (301) 496-6211 for more information. Registration is available via NIHITS at <https://nominate.od.nih.gov/login.pl>. Supervisory approval is required to attend.



NICHD recently received a Computerworld Honors Program Laureate for its virtual meeting program to enable researchers and administrators to conduct meetings with distant colleagues through their desktop computers. Attending the award ceremony were (from l) James Hollohan, who provides contract support for the program, David Songco, chief information officer, and deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox.

NICHD Honored for Virtual Meetings Program

NICHD recently received a Computerworld Honors Program Laureate Award for its program to enable the institute's researchers and administrators to conduct meetings with distant colleagues through their desktop computers.

The award citation acknowledged the institute for "implementation of virtual collaboration to support research that will improve the health of children, adults and families worldwide."

"With proper planning, research workgroups can use virtual collaboration to save time, improve efficiency and quality of work, reduce cost and expand outreach capabilities," said David Songco, NICHD chief information officer, who accepted the medal on behalf of the institute.

NICHD's Information Resource Management Branch began investigating the feasibility of virtual meeting technology after the institute's deputy director, Dr. Yvonne Maddox, asked staff to find cost-effective ways to foster scientific collaborations.

Songco said the institute has used virtual meetings in a variety of its programs, including research protocol meetings, research network and committee meetings and training programs. NICHD researchers have also used virtual meetings to bring together scientists from numerous countries. A recent virtual meeting convened experts from Canada, England, Finland, Sweden, France, Israel, the Netherlands, Belgium, Australia and the United States. The meeting saved the travel costs of assembling participants from more than 30 countries.

The Computerworld Honors Program, governed by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation, honors individuals and organizations that use information technology to benefit society.

Italian Embassy Hosts Fogarty Anniversary Gala

By Ira Allen

The Fogarty International Center's 40th anniversary gala at the Italian Embassy brought together leaders from Congress, federal agencies, science, advocacy groups, the diplomatic corps and businesses with interest in global health issues.

As FIC enters its fifth decade, its achievements were celebrated: training more than 5,000 individuals, operating programs in more than 100 countries, representing NIH in international affairs and using its prestige and resources to leverage a small budget into a powerful force—first for combating infectious disease and now the epidemic of chronic diseases facing poor countries as well as the rich.

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health hosted the Oct. 15 dinner and honored Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) and Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ) for their global health leadership in Congress.

Lugar, ranking minority member of the Senate foreign relations committee, has used his influence to make prevention and control of infectious diseases part of U.S. diplomacy. Payne, chairman of the House foreign affairs subcommittee on Africa and global health, has been a champion of health-related water and sanitation issues around the world. Both were instrumental in reauthorizing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

In the keynote address, FIC director Dr. Roger Glass stressed that the relatively small amount of funding Fogarty receives is some of the most wisely spent in government because it seeds research training in the U.S. and abroad for global health practitioners who leverage their grants into productive careers in their home countries.

"Smart investments can move the world," he declared, borrowing Archimedes' dictum, "Give me a lever and a place to stand and I can move the world." Glass cited the center's successful research training programs in AIDS, TB, malaria and chronic disease, for example, as a catalyst for young grantees to establish themselves and attract funding for their work from a variety of sources.

"In Washington, Fogarty may be the best kept secret, but the name resonates around the world," said Glass. "Grantees tell me that Fogarty provides the best grants—most strategic; not large, but well placed—like Archimedes' lever." He called FIC "a jewel in the crown, a small cog with a special role that can make large investments yield even greater rewards."

The center was named for the late Rep. John Fogarty of Rhode Island, who as chairman of the House appropriations health subcommittee championed the value of international research. His daughter, Mary McAndrew, three granddaughters and their spouses were among the guests.

"Congressman Fogarty understood that good health is not only good for its own sake. It's also good for prosperity, for promoting friendship among nations and for global security. It is in all of our best interest to finish his work," said FNIH chairman Dr. Charles Sanders.

Another component of Fogarty's 40th anniversary commemoration was a symposium Nov. 12 at Georgetown University Law Center on "The Role of Science in Advancing Global Health Diplomacy." 



At left, Rep. Donald M. Payne (D-NJ) was cited for his global health leadership in Congress. At right, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) was a guest at FIC's 40th anniversary gala at the Italian Embassy.



RESEARCH FEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above (from 1):

NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman, NCI scientific director for clinical research Dr. Lee Helman, who cochaired the 2008 festival, and Dr. Clifton Bogardus of NIDDK, who chaired the opening plenary session

Below:

Dr. Onyinyechi Irrechukwu, a postdoctoral fellow in the nuclear magnetic resonance section of NIA's Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, chats about her poster with NCI fellow Dr. Michael Pollack.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

"However, we expect 21-year-olds to know better. That pretty much accounts for the intramural program in a nutshell."

Recalling the event's simple concept, he said, "The idea behind the Research Festival was to provide a more formal way for us all to get together, talk to each other about what we do, generate new ideas and showcase the really amazing talent and the very cutting-edge research that goes on in the intramural research program."

Gottesman also reflected on major changes in NIH intramural research since the first year the festival was held in the 1980s. "We've more and more had what we call trans-NIH initiatives—efforts scientifically to bring together people from across NIH in different institutes to work

on subjects that would be hard to take on without the interaction of many individuals," he said. As examples, he cited the Center for Human Immunology, which will have a physical presence in a couple of years; systems biology endeavors using high-throughput RNAi screening that will be housed at the NIH Chemical Genomics Center; numerous imaging activities as well as multi-institute projects studying adult

stem cells in clinical research and the topic of this year's opening festival session, obesity.

"These kinds of activities are beautifully reflected in the many symposia and poster sessions," he said. "Keep in mind when you're attending these events in the next few days that these are opportunities to learn about what others across

NIH are doing and to join in these activities."

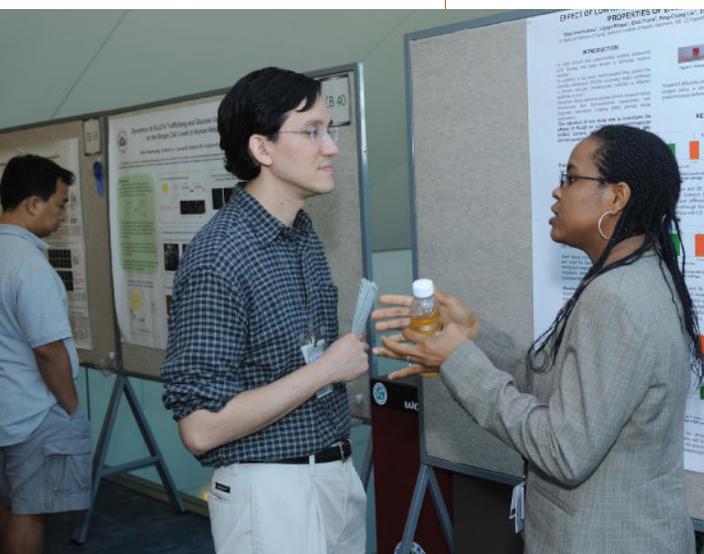
In addition to the science collaborations, he noted, there has been "much more emphasis on mentoring and training" in recent years. "We've always had a very important training responsibility, but I think the quality of mentoring and training has increased." The job fair for postdocs was added to festival events in 1996, along with the lunchtime picnic.

"If you look at today's program and at all of the events throughout the rest of the week, I think you'll be convinced there's some really good stuff going on at NIH," Gottesman concluded.

Steering the session to one of the world's fastest growing health problems, NCI scientific director for clinical research Dr. Lee Helman, who cochaired the 2008 festival with NIDDK acting scientific director Dr. Ira Levine, said, "There's probably no more important issue facing the health of this country and many developed nations than obesity. The incidence has doubled over the last 20 years. This is a scientific issue, but also a societal issue. [As a direct result of obesity] one out of every three children today is expected to develop type-2 diabetes—that's a staggering number. Given the effect of diabetes on many other organ systems, I think it goes without saying that this has become a significant public health issue."

Dr. Clifton Bogardus of NIDDK further stressed that obesity is "not just some sort of cosmetic crisis." He put the problem in perspective with a slide showing that diseases related to obesity range from head to foot, including stroke, heart disease and some cancers. Bogardus also offered an overview of NIH studies dating back to 1965 on Pima Indians, who have the world's highest reported prevalence of type-2 diabetes.

Other presenters included Dr. Jack Yanovski of NICHD, who described consequences and causes of pediatric obesity, and NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow, who looked at memory cir-





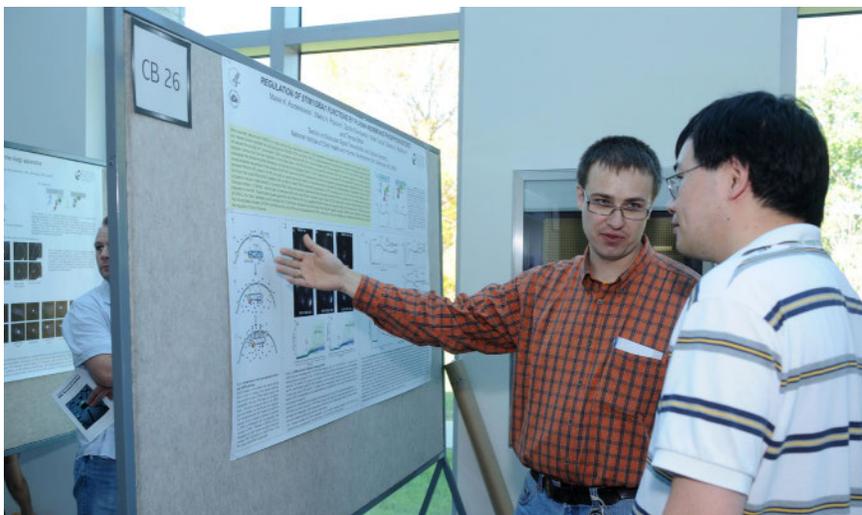
Other Research Festival plenary session presenters included (from l) NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow, who noted brain circuit similarities among compulsive eaters and drug abusers; NIDDK's Dr. Monica Skarulis, who discussed treatment options for obesity; and Dr. Jack Yanovski of NICHD, who gave an overview of the disorder in children.

cuits and found several similarities between the brain wiring of drug abusers and people who compulsively overeat.

NIDDK's Dr. Monica Skarulis concluded the session, giving insights into some of the latest treatments in the struggle to "close the energy gap" created by obesity. She talked about four categories: lifestyle modifications, dietary interventions, pharmacotherapy and surgery. All have shown some degree of success in weight loss, alone or in combination.

The challenge however, Skarulis concluded, is to develop "a personalized strategy to maintain balance [between food intake and energy expenditure], especially given the fact that we live in the land of plenty. As we approach the next decade of this new century I think we're going to have even more tools that will empower physicians and patients to address the root causes of all of the excess morbidity that comes with living in this land of plenty."

To watch the entire plenary session via your desktop, go to <http://videocast.nih.gov/Past-Events.asp>.



Above, Dr. Marek Korzeniowski (l), a visiting fellow in Dr. Tamas Balla's lab in the NICHD section of molecular signal transduction, responds to a question about his poster. Below, presenters and attendees congregate in the Natcher lobby, one of several venues where nearly 1,000 NIH scientists and staff participated in this year's Research Festival. The event included about 650 posters, 18 symposia, a plenary session, an awards ceremony for fellows, a career fair for postdocs, a scientific exhibit tent show and a food & music fair. According to organizers, more than 3,000 people attended.



Dr. Martha Lubet, a technology transfer specialist in the Technology Transfer Center, NCI, explains her work to a passerby.





FAREWELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above, l:

Zerhouni meets backstage with his son Will, his wife Uri and their son Gabriel.

Above, r:

NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci presents a bouquet of yellow roses to Dr. Nadia Zerhouni, following his remarks.

Below:

Zerhouni greets NIAMS director Dr. Stephen Katz.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

Most of the afternoon's speakers wove some sort of variation on the assessment offered by Clay Johnson III, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, who had been instrumental in bringing Zerhouni to NIH back in spring 2002: "The primary thing that leads to somebody's success is not what they know, or who they know—it's what kind of person they are. Elias, I think that everybody would agree that your personality, energy, resolve, determination, purposefulness, easygoing way and sense of humor make everyone really anxious to follow your lead. For that we can only say thank you." He added, "You have left NIH better than you found it."

Emceeding the occasion was NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington, who just days earlier had been elevated to succeed Zerhouni as acting director. He called the occasion "a bitter-sweet day...It's been an honor and privilege to work with you. I'm a better person for having known you. We have been so fortunate to have you as our hero."

The institute directors featured prominently in a video tribute assembled by the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, whose director, John Burklow, narrated a segment straight out of *Saturday Night Live*. The send-ups concentrated chiefly on Zerhouni's aphorisms, none more prominent than one NIAMS director Dr. Stephen Katz playfully, and repeatedly, mangled: "There is never a wrong time to do the right thing."

That quote hails from the intramural Conflict of Interest era, one of a series of unforeseen difficulties that Zerhouni unexpectedly transformed into occasions of strength, leadership and identity-building.

Zerhouni's knack for managerial jiu-jitsu—an

ability to turn adversity into advantage—was the theme of wholly admiring remarks by NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci, who called him "a most extraordinary individual, a unique individual in the most positive way. You arrived as an outsider, but will leave as one of us, and a great leader of us."

When he first arrived at NIH, Zerhouni sought Fauci's advice on leading NIH. Fauci counseled, "The nature of your tenure will be determined by events outside your control." Fauci then enumerated a series of crises that fulfilled his prophesy: "budget flattening, cost overruns at the Clinical Research Center, conflict of interest, sex grants, Title 42...It was in your handling of these difficult issues that your enormous strength of character began to be appreciated."

Fauci said Zerhouni's "calm, analytic, data-driven approach was the right way to approach difficult issues. You first gained our respect, then our admiration, then pride at being part of your team, and then affection...You are fearless but not reckless. Integrity is the word that describes you best...Elias, you've done good, real good."



Dr. Francis Collins (l) and Zerhouni



Offering remarks at the tribute were (from l) Dr. Thomas Cech, president, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Clay Johnson III, deputy director for management, OMB; Dr. Ellen Sigal, chair and founder, Friends of Cancer Research; Mary Woolley, president, Research!America; Dr. Tevi Troy, HHS deputy secretary.

A second video was played featuring tributes from Capitol Hill, including comments by Speaker of the House Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Rep. David Obey (D-WI) and Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX), nearly all of whom lauded Zerhouni's courage in speaking his mind on the value of research on stem cells. Said Harkin, "Dr. Zerhouni, you spoke truth to power. You should always be proud of this act of courage." Obey called him "one of the great NIH directors in history."

If character was the main theme, being unexpectedly capable took a close second. Both former NHGRI director Dr. Francis Collins and NIGMS director Dr. Jeremy Berg told anecdotes of first encountering Zerhouni and expecting bluff or routine, then being stunned by his depth of interest in, and grasp of, their scientific worlds.

The celebration included three songs by The Directors, NIH's impromptu rock band for the past 7 years; they crafted Zerhouni-centric lyrics to Roger Miller's "King of the Road," the Eagles' "Take It Easy" (a play on EZ) and Del Shannon/Max Crook's "Runaway."

Speaking last, Zerhouni pronounced himself "basically speechless—I couldn't have asked for a better send-off. It was so good that...I'm staying!"

He thanked OMB's Johnson, who had been President Bush's personnel chief, and Bush himself for taking a chance on an Arab-American Muslim who was not well known in U.S. medicine when he arrived at NIH. "I am so pleased to be able to pay back my country, a place where it's not who you are, but where you are going, that's most important," Zerhouni said.

He also thanked President Bush "for being very friendly and supportive all along. When I first met him in the Oval Office, I told him that I was a radiologist, and that we can see through people. He said, 'Then you're my man!'" Bush then

counseled, "Enjoy the [White House] visit—if I call you back here, it's bad news."

But there was no bad news on an afternoon when Zerhouni thanked his colleagues in "the noblest mission in the federal government," his immediate staff, his wife Nadia, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt, the various advocacy/interest groups, and others. "I can't thank you enough for supporting me...You will find no greater advocate for NIH in the future than me."

He concluded on a sober note, as if trying to hew to the wisdom of a quote he had mentioned earlier about not letting his head get too swollen to pass through the narrow gates of success: "A thousand years from now, the only thing anyone will remember about the first decade of the 21st century is the Human Genome Project, which will be the defining event of this era. And where did it happen? At NIH, which I believe is one of the seven wonders of the world. You have changed the face of medicine, and changed the hopes of millions. I am so proud to have been a part of it."

The celebration included not just the audience in Masur, but also overflow in Lipsett Amphitheater, as well as desktop-viewable video. To see the video, visit <http://videocast.nih.gov>.



Above, NICHD director Dr. Duane Alexander says so long to Zerhouni. Below, NINDS director Dr. Story Landis offers a little soft shoe.



The Directors rock band features (from l) NHLBI's Dr. John Tisdale on bass, NIAMS's Katz on guitar and vocals, Collins on guitar/vocals, OD's John Burklow on guitar/vocals, and NIAMS's Dr. John O'Shea on guitar. Not visible are keyboard player Dr. Tracey Rouault of NICHD and Dr. Steven Libutti of NCI on drums.

SciMentorNet Wants You!

Many successful people can remember that “one special person” who had a big impact on their career. Maybe it was an engaging teacher in high school or college, or an inspiring professional who happened along just as you reached a crossroads in your career. That person’s positive influence nudged you in the right direction. Imagine trying to achieve a successful career in the medical sciences without an ounce of guidance from an experienced professional. It would be very difficult, if not impossible. Now there’s a new way for

you to support the NIH mission and the next generation of health and science professionals.

SciMentorNet is an e-mentoring web site that provides ongoing career guidance to students who are pursuing or wish to pursue a career in the behavioral, social and biomedical sciences, or health care dentistry or medicine. The program stems from a partnership between the Office of Science Education and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. Through the SciMentorNet web site, high school and college students can view career profiles of professionals from a range of fields. The professionals are volunteers who provide career mentoring services. Once a student selects one or more mentors, the mentoring relationship is established and sustained via emails that are routed through a secure NIH network.

The goal of the program is to “attract and retain student interest in a range of careers, from human health to the behavioral and social sciences,” says Dr. Jonathan Arias of the Center for Scientific Review, who spearheaded the project. Students benefit from sustained mentoring support beginning in high school and potentially extending through their college years and beyond. Armed with relevant knowledge and experience, mentors provide valuable information, insight, guidance and support.

The use of asynchronous electronic discussion gives e-mentoring one clear advantage over traditional face-to-face mentoring. It allows mentors and mentees to connect effectively across different time zones and geographical regions. This provides a new option to students from rural areas of the country, who historically have

had limited access to nearby role models in certain fields, including biomedical research.

Since the web site was launched in October 2007, Arias has worked tirelessly to increase awareness of the service. So far, close to 100 mentors and about 85 mentees from eight states are participating. Arias and his OSE partners are currently updating the site and are in the process of expanding the program with the help of a national marketing campaign. Two critical issues right now are getting the message out to all qualified students nationwide and signing up enough e-mentor volunteers to meet the demand.

NIH scientists, postdocs, clinicians and health care, grant review and program staff are encouraged to become SciMentorNet e-mentors. Professionals in biomedical, behavioral and social science research and the dental and allied health care fields are especially needed. You may wonder if you have what it takes to be a successful mentor. If you’re excited about your career and have a desire to share your knowledge and experience, you’re already well on your way. Volunteers who sign up with SciMentorNet are offered online training about how to be a successful e-mentor and make the most of the mentoring experience.

If you’d like to learn more or are ready to help an aspiring young scientist, visit <http://science.education.nih.gov/SciMentorNet>. Chances are good that you’ll become that “one special person” for someone else.—Cynthia Delgado

NIA’s Launer Wins PAD Research Award

Dr. Lenore Launer of NIA’s Laboratory of Epidemiology, Demography, and Biometry has won the Best Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) Research Award for discovery of an association between low ankle-to-brachial index measure and increased risk for vascular dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. The PAD Coalition, an alliance of health organizations, professional societies and government agencies interested in advancing knowledge of lower extremity vascular disease, presented the award to Launer and study colleagues in September. The researchers analyzed data from the Honolulu-Asia Aging Study, a prospective, community-based study looking at dementia and vascular health among Japanese-American men ages 71 to 93.



SciMentorNet

A place where students interested in behavioral and social sciences, biomedical science, and healthcare careers find great mentors!

For Students & Parents
[Introduction to SciMentorNet](#)
[Student Registration](#)
[Mentor Profiles](#)

For Mentors
[Introduction to SciMentorNet](#)

SciMentorNet is a free e-mentoring program that helps high school and college students who are interested in behavioral and social science, biomedical science, dental, and healthcare careers find a mentor. Mentors are carefully screened science, healthcare, and education professionals who volunteer to provide information, guidance, and support as students develop their careers.

SciMentorNet is an e-mentoring web site that provides career guidance to students interested in the health sciences.

milestones

NIAMS Names Two New Extramural Division Directors

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases has named two staff members to top leadership positions in the institute. Dr. Joan McGowan and Dr. Susana Serrate-Sztein have been appointed as directors of two scientific divisions in the NIAMS Extramural Program.

McGowan has been named director of the Division of Musculoskeletal Diseases. She also serves as director of the Bone Diseases Program, overseeing a broad portfolio of clinical research on osteoporosis and related bone disorders. She has been very active in bone health and women's health issues at NIH, including serving as a project officer for the Women's Health Initiative. She currently co-chairs the federal working group on bone diseases, which develops and fosters collaborative activities across government agencies in bone diseases.

McGowan has served as a member of the advisory board of the Canadian Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis and as senior scientific editor of the 2004 *Surgeon General's Report on Bone Health and Osteoporosis*. She was the NIH organizer of two consensus development conferences: Optimum Calcium Intake in 1994 and Osteoporosis Prevention, Diagnosis, and Therapy in 2000. Before joining NIH, McGowan was a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. She received her master's degree in nutritional sciences at Cornell University and her doctorate in biomedical science at Brown University.



Dr. Joan McGowan (top) and Dr. Susana Serrate-Sztein

Serrate-Sztein has been named director of the Division of Skin and Rheumatic Diseases. She also serves as director of the Rheumatic Diseases Genetics and Clinical Studies Program, overseeing a broad portfolio of grants and contracts dealing with the genetics of rheumatic diseases and clinical studies of skin and rheumatic diseases. On behalf of the HHS secretary, she co-chairs the lupus federal working group, which promotes collaborations and information sharing across federal agencies with programs and activities related to lupus. She also serves as project officer for the PROMIS Roadmap initiative, part of NIH-wide efforts to re-engineer the clinical research enterprise.

In the early 1990's, Serrate-Sztein served as chief of the autoimmunity section, Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation, NIAID, where she managed a portfolio dealing with basic and translational research on immune-mediated diseases. Before joining NIH, she was assistant professor in the department of pathology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She received postdoctoral training in the Laboratory of Immunodiagnosis, NCI, and her clinical training is in anatomic and clinical pathology. Serrate-Sztein is a graduate of Buenos Aires University School of Medicine.

NIMH's Rapoport Wins NAMI Award

Dr. Judith L. Rapoport, chief of NIMH's Child Psychiatry Branch, is this year's recipient of the Mind of America Scientific Research Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Each year, the \$50,000 prize is given to an outstanding researcher who has contributed to the study of serious mental illness. NAMI president Dr. Anand Pandya (l) presented the award during a ceremony at the association's annual gala on Oct. 15 in Washington, D.C. Rapoport was cited for her outstanding lifetime contribution to the study of mental illness in children and adolescents. In accepting the award, she praised the NIMH Intramural Research Program, where she has worked for decades, as a unique place for discovery. It's one of the few research centers in the world where scientists are able to collaborate across disciplines to conduct long-term studies, she said.



PHOTO COURTESY NAMI

Former NIH Official Pickett Passes Away

Dr. Betty Horenstein Pickett, former director of the Division of Research Resources and former acting director of NICHD, died recently at age 82.

Pickett, who retired from NIH in 1988, began her NIH career in 1958 as executive secretary of the behavioral sciences study section in the Division of Research Grants. From 1968 to 1978, she served as deputy director of the Division of Extramural Programs at NIMH. In 1979, she became deputy director of NICHD, and served as the institute's acting director in 1981 and 1982. Shortly thereafter, she was appointed director of the Division of Research Resources, which was later combined with the Division of Research Services to form the National Center for Research Resources.

Upon leaving NIH, Pickett and her husband, James "Mac" Pickett, moved to Surrey, Maine. She is survived by a brother, a niece, several nephews and many grand- and great-grandnieces and nephews.

Noted Geriatrician Bernard Joins NIA As Deputy Director

Dr. Marie A. Bernard, a noted geriatrician and educator from the University of Oklahoma, has been named deputy director of the National Institute on Aging. She brings training as a physician, educator, administrator and investigator to the position at NIA, where she is taking a leadership role in directing the nation's research program on aging.



"Dr. Bernard has, throughout her career, sought to support and improve the evidence base which forms the foundation for geriatrics and the care of older people," said NIA director Dr. Richard Hodes. "I look forward to having her expertise and energy at the NIA as we continue our efforts to address the needs of a rapidly aging population."

Bernard most recently served as the Donald W. Reynolds chair in geriatric medicine and professor and chairman of the Donald W. Reynolds department of geriatric medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. She was also associate chief of staff for geriatrics and extended care at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Bernard recently served as president of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and as president and chair of the board of the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs. She also has participated in a wide range of committees and activities from journal editorship to board service in a number of professional medical and aging organizations. She is board-certified in internal medicine and geriatric medicine.

Bernard's research interests have included nutrition and function in aging populations, with particular emphasis on ethnic minorities. She has written numerous journal and chapter articles on geriatric care, nutrition, medication issues and health problems among minorities.

As a member of NIA's National Advisory Council from 2002 to 2005, Bernard became familiar with the institute's research and grant process, from an administrative point of view. "I have been impressed with the work of the NIH, and the NIA in particular, since I was a house staff member at Temple University Hospital," she said. "The work that comes from the institute

serves as the basis for much of what we do in geriatric medicine.

"It is a great privilege for me to join the NIA team and help in developing future directions for that research," she added. "There is quite a bit yet to do, particularly as we face the silver tsunami of baby boomers that will start turning 65 in 2011. There will be particular challenges since there will be even greater diversity in this population as a result of increased numbers of minority and ethnic elders."

As the daughter of two Oklahoma physicians—a surgeon trained in oncologic surgery and an internist—Bernard had an early introduction to medicine when she and her sister would accompany their mother on house calls and their father into the operating room. She found her own aptitude for sciences in college and pursued the study of medicine.

A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, Bernard received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and trained in internal medicine at Temple University Hospital, where she also served as chief resident. While on faculty at Temple, Bernard discovered her interest in older people. She found that her patients were among the oldest and sickest in the practice. They were also the most interesting, she says, based not only on their medical complexity, but also on their life experiences. A mini-fellowship in geriatrics with the Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania clinched the career choice. "The training was an epiphany for me," she said. "I found that there was more to the care of the elderly than management of hypertension, diabetes and coronary artery disease. I discovered a discrete body of research and scientific knowledge applicable to the elderly that was fascinating."

She admits that geriatrics is not as glamorous a field as cardiology, surgery or other disciplines. "Yet," she said, "physician satisfaction surveys demonstrate that geriatricians have among the highest career satisfaction."

Looking ahead, Bernard believes the health care system will need to be reconfigured to address the aging population. And there will be, more than ever, a need for research and expertise in geriatrics. "Given that we can anticipate record numbers of octogenarians and centenarians, there are likely to be new challenges in understanding the aging process, geriatric syndromes and disease presentation and management," she said. "These will best be approached through new discoveries in research on health and aging."



Lecture Award Founder Solowey Dies

Dr. Mathilde Solowey, founder of the Mathilde Solowey Lecture Award in the Neurosciences, and NINDS program officer for many years, died on Oct. 4 at her home in New York City. She was 98.

The daughter of an immigrant from Eastern Europe, Solowey obtained a Ph.D. in microbiology from Columbia University. She first published on the bacterial content of New York City air in 1938. During World War II, she became a lab chief at the Department of Agriculture and checked food safety for soldiers. She later moved to Ft. Detrick and published throughout the 1940s and 1950s. She left research to join the National Microbiological Institute (forerunner of NIAID) and later moved to NINDS as a program officer. She finished her career as an administrator doing a large study with Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, then director of NIGMS, and a trans-institute team on grants peer review.

Upon leaving the government in 1972, she established an endowment through the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences to support an annual Lecture Award in the Neurosciences. The Lecture Award series has now run continuously for 34 years, with the Clinical Center always its venue. The first winner was Dr. Floyd Bloom in 1974. Winners since then have included Drs. Gerald Fischbach, Bertil Hille, Dale Purves, Phil Skolnick, Anthony Basile, Xandra Breakefield, Wylie Vale, Dennis Choi, Miles Herkenham, Jacqueline Crawley, Frederick Goodwin, Steven Hyman, Joseph LeDoux, Dennis Selkoe, Fred Gage, Roberto Malinow, Jeffrey Rothstein, Bai Lu, Susan McConnell, Earl Miller, and most recently, Lin Mei.

Solowey is survived by a nephew. "She will be remembered for her enormous generosity and her selfless service to her country and to life-sciences research," said NIMH's Herkenham, who has served as chair of the Solowey lecture award for the past 6 years.

CSR's Levin Mourned

Retired Scientific Review Officer Victoria Levin, 74, died Sept. 4 of breast cancer. She was highly regarded for her work on the frontlines of children's mental health issues for more than 30 years.

Levin's colleagues at the Center for Scientific Review and within her scientific field praised her contributions not only to science, but also to humanity.

"Vicki was indefatigable, and made profound contributions to developmental science and to humanity across two decades of shepherding stellar scientific inquiry," said CSR director Dr. Toni Scarpa.

She coordinated CSR's psychosocial development, risk and prevention study section from May 1999 until her retirement in May 2008. But for 20 years, she held key positions at NIMH, including project officer at its prevention research branches, special assistant for children and youth activities and institute scientific review administrator for child, adolescent, risk and prevention study sections.

Reviewers who worked with her recently reflected on the impact she had on science, and on them, as they worked with her during review meetings.

"In the rough and tumble world of grant-getting and reviewing, Vicki has over and over shown a remarkable ability to bring a measure of sanity, refinement, higher purpose and nurturance," said Dr. Joseph Allen, professor of psychology at the University of Virginia. Allen served as a reviewer and chair on one of her study sections for 7 years.

"I'm not sure how the grant review process will make any forward movement at all without [her] wisdom, firm guidance and good humor," said Bob McMahan, professor and director of the Child Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Washington's department of psychology.

A Detroit native, Levin was the wife of Michigan Congressman Sander Levin for more than 50 years and a mother of four. She graduated with honors from Wellesley College and Simmons School of Social Work, where she received a master's degree in psychiatric social work. ●



Retired Scientific Review Officer Victoria Levin was highly regarded for her work on the frontlines of children's mental health issues.

Effective Treatments for Childhood Anxiety Disorders

Treatment that combines a certain type of psychotherapy with an antidepressant medication is most likely to help children with anxiety disorders, but each of the treatments alone is also effective, according to a new study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The study was published online Oct. 30 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The Child/Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Study (CAMS) randomly assigned 488 children ages 7 years to 17 years to one of four treatment options for a 12-week period: cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT); the antidepressant sertraline; CBT combined with sertraline; and placebo. Sixty percent in the CBT-only group improved, and 55 percent in the sertraline-only group improved. Among those on placebo, 24 percent improved. A second phase of the study will monitor the children for an additional 6 months. "CAMS clearly showed that combination treatment is the most effective for these children," said a study investigator. "But sertraline alone or CBT alone showed a good response rate as well. This suggests that clinicians and families have three good options to consider for young people with anxiety disorders, depending on treatment availability and costs."

Mechanism, Possible Treatment for Growth of Nerve Tumors Found

Researchers studying neurofibromatosis type 1—a rare disease in which tumors grow within nerves—have found that the tumors are triggered by crosstalk between cells in the nerves and cells in the blood. The researchers—funded by NINDS, NCI and the Department of Defense—also found that a drug on the market for treating certain kinds of blood cancer (Gleevec) curbs tumor growth in a mouse model of neurofibromatosis type 1. A clinical trial of the drug is under way in people with the disease. The results of the study on mice were published in the Oct. 31 issue of *Cell*. Neurofibromatosis type 1 is a genetic disease that affects about 1 in 3,500 Americans. The researchers say that the complex origin of tumors in neurofibromatosis—which has thwarted therapeutic

development until now—could be the chink in the disease's armor.

Earlier Jaundice Treatment Decreases Brain Injury in Premies

A study from an NIH research network found that an early treatment to prevent severe newborn jaundice in extremely early preterm infants reduced the infants' rate of brain injury, a serious complication of severe jaundice. The study also found that the smallest, most frail infants in the study were more likely to die than were the larger infants, regardless of whether they received the early or the conventional treatment. Moreover, the study found a trend toward a higher proportion of deaths among the smaller infants in the early treatment group, when compared to the smaller infants receiving the conventional treatment. However, this trend was within the statistical margin of error. The study appeared in the Oct. 30 *New England Journal of Medicine* and was conducted by researchers in NICHD's Neonatal Research Network. Based on the results, the authors concluded that the early treatment should be considered for the larger infants—those at birth weighing from 751 to 1,000 grams (about 1.65 pounds to about 2.2 pounds). The researchers did not rule out the treatment for smaller infants. However, they said the study findings merited caution before offering the early treatment to this group of infants.

Study Shows No Benefit for Use of Selenium, Vitamin E in Prostate Cancer

Initial, independent review of study data from the Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial (SELECT), funded by NCI and other institutes shows that selenium and vitamin E supplements, taken either alone or together, did not prevent prostate cancer. The data also showed two concerning trends: a small but not statistically significant increase in the number of prostate cancer cases among the over 35,000 men age 50 and older in the trial taking only vitamin E, and a small but not statistically significant increase in the number of cases of adult onset diabetes in men taking only selenium. Because this is an early analysis of the data from the study, neither of these findings proves an increased risk from the supplements and both may be due to chance. SELECT involves more than 400 clinical sites in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. Participants are receiving letters explaining the study review and telling them to stop taking their study supplements.



Treatment that combines a certain type of psychotherapy with an antidepressant medication is most likely to help children with anxiety disorders, but each of the treatments alone is also effective, an NIMH study found.



The phone numbers for more information about the studies below are 1-866-444-2214 (TTY 1-866-411-1010) unless otherwise noted.

Allergies in Children

NIH Pediatric Clinic offers allergy and asthma care (ages 6 months to 18 years) and is also conducting an allergy and asthma study. Refer to study 05-I-0084.

Smart Pill

Healthy adults 18-60 are asked to consider participating in an NIH study testing a new method to measure gastric acid output. Compensation is provided. Refer to study 08-DK-0138.

Pelvic Pain

Healthy women ages 30-50 needed for a study that investigates the role of hormones and genes in pelvic pain and explore better approaches to treatment. Compensation is provided. Refer to study 04-CH-0056.

Twins Study

NIH is seeking same-sex fraternal twins 5-20 years old to participate in a study of children's brain development. Compensation is provided. Refer to study 89-M-0006.

Iron Overload in Adults

Do you have iron overload? Participate in an NIH research study. Compensation is provided. Refer to study 08-DK-0157.

Volunteers Needed for Personality Study

Would you describe yourself as adventuresome, daring and impulsive? Or are you quiet, reserved and reflective? Log on to learn more about this personality research study: https://live.datstat.com/brain_and_personality. Or call (301) 295-2288. Participants will be compensated.

One-Day Outpatient Study

Healthy volunteers, ages 19 to 55, are needed to participate in research studying genes and brain function. Testing procedures involve a blood draw, non-invasive neuroimaging, interviews and cognitive testing. No overnight stay. No medication trial. Compensation is provided. Call the Clinical Brain Disorders Branch at (301) 435-8970 or email Danielef@mail.nih.gov. Refer to protocol 95-M-0150.

PHS Officers Promoted at Ceremony

Recently, 37 Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers who work at NIH were honored at the sixth annual PHS Commissioned Officer promotion ceremony, held in Masur Auditorium. Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research, and acting Surgeon General Steven Galson gave keynote remarks.

Galson and Gottesman placed the promotion boards for each officer as Rear Admiral Helena Mishoe read the officers' personal statements describing rewarding aspects of their professions. Family members and coworkers also assisted with the promotion board placement.

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Richard Wyatt, who in past years served as master of ceremonies, was a special guest. He "passed the flag" to Mishoe, presenting her with the NIH coin in appreciation for her support and participation in the ceremony. In recognition of Wyatt's continued support of the PHS, the planning committee and Mishoe presented him with a framed picture of the PHS anchor that sits outside of Bldg. 1 and a plaque reading, "For years of dedication and guidance."

During the ceremony, officers who retired during the past year were recognized and 25 new officers were welcomed into the PHS. Promoted were: Dietitian Officers: Capt. Madeline Michael, Lcdr. Blakeley Denking; Engineer Officer: Capt. Kelly Hudson; Environmental Health Officer: Capt. Doris Ravenell-Brown; Health Services Officers: Cdr. Susan Peacock, Lcdr. Wendy Petit; Medical Officers: Capt. Terri Connelison, Capt. David George, Capt. Joseph Hibbeln, Capt. Tanya Lehky, Capt. Mary McMaster, Capt. Deborah Merke, Capt. JoAnn Mican, Capt. Lawrence Nelson, Capt. Joseph Serrano, Capt. Monica Skarulis, Capt. Jorge R. Toro, Cdr. Rachel Bishop, Cdr. Edward Doo, Cdr. Melissa Merideth, Cdr. Matthew Olnes, Cdr. Jeffrey Schulden; Nurse Officers: Capt. Victoria Anderson, Cdr. Casey Hadsall, Cdr. Lori Hunter, Lcdr. Paula Carter, Lcdr. Megan Disinski, Lcdr. Bryan Emery, Lcdr. Laura Heytens, Lcdr. Nam Hoang, Lcdr. Emmanuel Samedi; Pharmacy Officers: Cdr. Haksong Jin, Lcdr. Fortin Georges; Scientist Officers: Cdr. Richard Gussio, Lcdr. Gelio Alves; Therapist Officer: Capt. Michael Smith; Veterinary Officer: Capt. Marvin Thomas.

CFC Embraces Halloween Spirit

Local charities were met by sinister ghouls, wicked witches with poisonous apples and “Finger Food.” Even Scooby Doo and the Mystery Machine were on hand from Special Love Inc. on Oct. 30 at the Bldg. 31A patio.

Despite the chilly weather, NIH’ers were supportive of CFC efforts once again and braved the wind to meet and learn about new charities, grab a quick lunch and compete for prizes from the R&W Association for Best Costume, Most Creative, Scariest and Best Character. The winners were:

Best Costume: Shirley Flottum “Lunch, Complete with Finger Food.”

Most Creative: Mandy Slutsker “Fannie Mae”; Landsdale Hendersson “Dr. Marty Chalfie, Nobel Prize Winner.”

Scariest: Kenneth Ow “Mr. Hyde”; Robert Jones “Old Man Time.”

Best Character: Judith Spanberger “Grumpy Old Woman”; Terry Bowers “Fitness Dominatrix.”

The campaign has begun well, with more contributions coming in every week. Everyone should have been visited by their local keyworker by now. This year, the goal for NIH is \$2.2 million. With all the competing needs, the CFC needs your contribution now more than ever.

The beauty of CFC is that the choice is yours. You can pick which or how many charities you wish to help either through cash, check or payroll deduction. Contact your keyworker to contribute now. You can find more photos of the costumes from the event at <http://cfc.nih.gov>.



The costumed crew above includes Best Character winner Judith Spanberger as “Grumpy Old Woman” (5th from l). Below are Most Creative winner Mandy Slutsker (l) as a down and out “Fannie Mae” and overall Best Costume winner Shirley Flottum as “Lunch, Complete with Finger Food.”



Above (from l) Best Character winner Terry Bowers arrives as “Fitness Dominatrix,” Special Love’s “Scooby Doo” is joined by Most Creative winner Landsdale Hendersson as “Dr. Marty Chalfie, Nobel Prize Winner” and Scariest winners Robert “Old Man Time” Jones and Kenneth “Mr. Hyde” Ow pause for a photo op.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL SPENCER