



ABOVE • Katiuchia Sales (r) of NIDCR persuaded fellow Brazilian Aline Abrahao to try bike commuting on May 15. See story below.

features

	1
ARRA Money To Fund Campus Construction, Renovation	
	3
American Academy of Arts and Sciences Welcomes 4 NIH'ers	
	5
NIH Launches Employee Recruitment Campaign	
	12
Hérons Inhabit NIH Stream	

departments

Briefs	2
Digest	10
Volunteers	11
Seen	12

nih record

Porter II, CC Rehab Top Priorities

How Far Can NIH Stretch \$500M in Stimulus Funds?

By Carla Garnett

Four big projects will consume almost \$430 million of the \$500 million in buildings and facilities funds that NIH received via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) earlier this year.

The largest of all the NIH buildings and facilities (B&F) projects is the second phase of the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center (called "Porter II") that will be constructed on the east side of Bldg. 35. Building Porter II will cost \$266 million, more than half of NIH B&F stimulus money.

Renovation of the F wing in the old portion of the Clinical Center is the second largest. Largely vacant now with many former inhabitants having moved to the Clinical Research Center over the past few

SEE **ARRA BUILDING**, PAGE 4



NIH will erect phase two of the Porter neuroscience complex. Above, an artist's rendering shows the new facility's eastern perspective.



Indee Smith

Vision, Meet Village
Successful Outreach Draws From Cross-Section of NIH

By Carla Garnett

Eric Scott thought maybe he'd be a science teacher at his local high school. In time, he'd get his master's degree, which would make him eligible to teach at a community college. It wasn't until a group from NIH visited his school, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, that the idea of conducting medical research ever occurred to him. Now 3 years later, he's pursuing a Ph.D. at UNC-Chapel Hill with longtime NIAID grantee Dr. Stephen Clarke.

Since 10th grade, Indee Smith had been interested in science. After her junior year in high school, she began feeding her appetite for chemistry and research. In 2006, she was at UNC-Pembroke when NIH came calling. She

SEE **OUTREACH**, PAGE 6

County Council Honors Bike Club
High Turnout for Bike to Work Day

By Jenny Haliski

The week of May 11 was a busy one for the NIH Bicycle Commuter Club. Friday, May 15 was Bike to Work Day. NIH had 577 registered participants for 2009—an increase from 2008's 465 registered riders. This earned the club its fourth consecutive win in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' award for area employer with the most employees participating.

But the week also included perhaps the largest honor in the club's 29-year history. On May 12, the Montgomery County Council presented NIHBC with a proclamation honoring the group's contributions to the health and welfare of the community. The award notes that the club doubled its membership from 4 years ago, received the MWCOG award for the past 3 years and established the Bike Bucks program to encourage and reward bike commuting. Between the start of the Bike Bucks program on Jan. 1, 2007, and Mar. 31, 2009, 171 par-

SEE **BIKE TO WORK**, PAGE 8



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

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

Editor

Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor

Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

Staff Writers

Jan Ehrman
je48b@nih.gov

Belle Waring
bw174w@nih.gov

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briefs

Annual Camp Fantastic BBQ Is June 16

The annual Camp Fantastic BBQ will be held on Tuesday, June 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Bldg. 31 patio. Themed "Life is a carnival!" the event will feature food from High Point Farm, live music from Street Life, a duel by the Knights of Medieval Times, carnival games and more. BBQ tickets are \$9, which includes choice of two sandwiches (pulled pork BBQ, pulled chicken BBQ or hot dog), coleslaw, potato chips, ice cream, popcorn and drink. There will also be a raffle to help support Special Love/Camp Fantastic. Tickets are two for \$5, five for \$10 and 12 for \$20. Prizes include Washington Wizards tickets, weekend getaway to Gettysburg, dinner for two at Outback and more.

Clinical Research Management Workshop

The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) consortium has chosen clinical research management—the processing of protocols and negotiation of contracts for clinical studies—as a high-priority issue. On June 22-23, NCCR and the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation will present the second annual workshop on clinical research management in the Natcher main auditorium.

The program will feature presentations by industry, NIH and other agency perspectives regarding issues in clinical research management, early results of process-related data collection across the CTSA Consortium and lessons learned by individual sites in the form of oral vignettes and posters. The workshop will offer networking opportunities for CTSA sites and provide metrics to be used as incentives for continuous process improvement across the consortium.

This event is free and open to the public. To view the agenda and register to attend, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/CRM. For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Paymon Hashemi, (301) 838-3774.

Crowe Featured at DDM Seminar

The Deputy Director for Management announces the fourth and final DDM seminar of the 2008-2009 series Management and Science: Partnering for Excellence. The event on Thursday, June 18, from 11 a.m. to noon in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10, will feature Sandra Crowe in a presentation on "Dealing with Difficult People" and ways to redirect behavior toward more productive interactions. Crowe is the author of the book *Since Choking Isn't an Option: Dealing with*

Difficult People – Common Problems and Uncommon Solutions and is the founder of Powerlunch, a communications/networking specialty company.

Videocasting and sign language will be provided. Individuals who need reasonable accommodation to attend should call (301) 496-6211 or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. For more information about the DDM series, visit www.ddmseries.od.nih.gov or call (301) 496-3271.

NIH Holds Meetings on Plan to Treat Patients from Ft. Detrick at Clinical Center

NIH will hold two public meetings to solicit comments on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the transport of laboratory personnel potentially exposed to infectious agents from Ft. Detrick to the Clinical Center.

Two alternatives were considered and are presented in the DEIS: the proposed action alternative and no action. NIH prefers the former.

The meetings will be held Monday, June 15 from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. at C. Burr Artz Public Library's community room, 110 E. Patrick St., Frederick, Md., and Thursday, June 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 6001 Executive Blvd., Rockville.

Public comments on the DEIS will be accepted through July 24. Comments should be sent to Valerie Nottingham, Bldg. 13, Rm. 2W64, or to nihnepa@mail.nih.gov.

Attention Motorcyclists, Scooter Drivers

The 18th annual National Motorcycle & Scooter Ride to Work Day will be held on Monday, June 15. For more information about the observance, visit www.ridetowork.org.

Graduate & Professional School Fair, June 30

The Office of Intramural Training & Education invites summer interns and postbacs to participate in the NIH Graduate & Professional School Fair on Tuesday, June 30 at the Natcher Conference Center and Lister Hill Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The fair will provide an opportunity for NIH summer interns (especially those in college) and postbacs to prepare for the next step in their careers by exploring educational programs leading to the Ph.D., M.D., D.D.S., M.D./Ph.D. and other graduate and professional degrees. More than 100 colleges and universities will be sending representatives of their graduate schools, medical and dental schools, schools of public health and other biomedically relevant programs to the fair in the hopes of recruiting NIH trainees.

Exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Workshops will be clustered at the beginning of the day. A list of colleges and universities planning to attend and registration information can be found at www.training.nih.gov.



The APAO lunch featured a demonstration of how to wear an Indian sari. On hand were (from l) APAO president Dr. Rashmi Gopal-Srivastava, Phyllis Chui, APAO co-executive secretary, and Krishna Jain.

APAO Ethnic Food Fair a Success

The Ethnic Food Fair organized by the NIH Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization (APAO) on May 20 was a success. As part of the May Heritage Month observance, it was the 37th APAO food festival held on the patio of Bldg. 31A.

Ethnic food sales from local restaurants featured Chinese, Indian, Korean and Vietnamese dishes. Ten percent of the proceeds from food sales were donated to the Children's Inn at NIH.

This year, representatives from other groups such as APA Commissioned Corps, NIH Bone Marrow Registry, NIDDK Diabetes Information Office, NIH Water Hazards dragon boat team and the PHS scientist professional advisory committee also participated and shared information.

A demonstration of Chinese calligraphy by artist Nellie Chao was one of the highlights. Her writings attracted a crowd and she gave away souvenirs of her calligraphic art. An Indian sari-wrapping demonstration also drew interest. Several participants were keen to learn how to wrap the 6 yards of beautiful fabric. Line dancing was also featured, as were jewelry sales and information on the paper-folding art of origami.



Visitors to the Ethnic Food Fair lined up to taste Asian food from Korean Korner.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

Four NIH'ers Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Four NIH scientists are among the 212 new fellows elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. They new fellows and the AAAS sections to which they belong are:

Dr. Alan G. Hinnebusch, chief, Laboratory of Gene Regulation and Development, NICHD, and Dr. Sankar Adhya, chief, developmental genetics section, NCI-section on biochemistry and molecular biology.

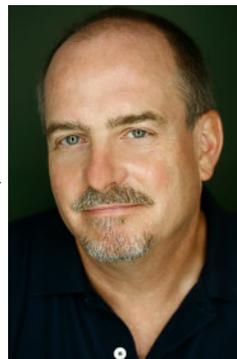
Dr. Elizabeth G. Nabel, director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute—section on medical sciences.

Dr. Attila Szabo, chief, theoretical biophysical chemistry section, Laboratory of Chemical Physics, NIDDK—section on chemistry.

Other inductees into the 2009 class of fellows include rock singer and statesman Bono, Nobel laureate Dr. Mario Capecchi, author Thomas Pynchon and actor Dustin Hoffman.

The academy, established in 1780 by founders of the nation, undertakes studies of complex and emerging problems. Current projects focus on science, technology and global security; social policy and American institutions; the humanities and culture; and education.

The new class will be inducted at a ceremony on Oct. 10 at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.



Recently elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences were (clockwise, from top l) Dr. Alan G. Hinnebusch, Dr. Sankar Adhya, Dr. Attila Szabo and Dr. Elizabeth G. Nabel.

NIEHS's Dudek Receives Bennett Award

NIEHS principal investigator Dr. Serena Dudek was honored in May by the Society of Biological Psychiatry with the A.E. Bennett Research Award for basic science research in biological psychiatry at the group's 64th annual meeting in Vancouver. Dudek, who joined NIEHS in 2001, is head of the synaptic and developmental plasticity group. She was cited for "many important contributions to characterizing and understanding the mechanisms of synaptic plasticity in the developing brain."

PHOTO: STEVE MCCAWE





ARRA BUILDING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Porter Neuroscience Research Center Two (Porter II) is shown above in artist's renderings from northeast (l) and southeast perspectives. It will be constructed with ARRA funds that NIH has received.

years, the outdated labs and inpatient care rooms that comprise Bldg. 10's F wing will be completely reconstructed from floors 2 through 14. Phase A, the redesign of floors 2 through 5—to be occupied by NCI anatomical pathology and NINDS laboratories—was already under way, funded through the Office of Research Facilities' repair and improvement program. ARRA funds allow for phase B, redesign of floors 6 through 14, to go forward.

The contract for the design of phase B was awarded on May 13 to LSY (Louvriere, Stratton and Yokel), a Silver Spring, Md., architectural firm that specializes in laboratories and clinical, hospital and research support facilities. LSY was already under contract for phase A. That both phases will be designed by the same firm and that the phase B contract was able to be inked so soon represent “a critical milestone for the whole renovation,” said Glen Stonebraker, deputy director of ORF's Division of Property Management who also serves as ORF deputy director for ARRA. The F wing rehab will cost an estimated \$216M—\$134 million being ARRA funds—and calls for a cutting-edge energy efficient ventilation system. NIH will be among the first federal facilities in the U.S. to install such a system, which debuted in Europe.

Another large project slated to use ARRA money is renovation of Bldg. 3. Decommissioned in spring 2001, when most scientists, lab and office workers and other inhabitants moved their research mere yards across South Dr. to the brand new Stokes Bldg., Bldg. 3 was set for interior demolition in 2002. The historic structure—home over the years since its completion in 1938 to the labs of dozens of distinguished scientists (including a couple of Nobel laureates) and birthplace of several research advances—was supposed to reemerge as an office facility.

Bldg. 3's renovation was put on hold indefinitely as more pressing building projects were undertaken and NIH's construction budget was stretched to accommodate them. Recently, how-

ever, scaffolding was erected around the facility as the building's roof underwent repairs. The roof was scheduled to be fixed even before ARRA funds made rehab of the entire building possible. Bldg. 3 will be repurposed into office space for current occupants of Bldg. 10's E wing, paving the way for yet another major future project in the overall rehabilitation of the old Bldg. 10 facility. The renovation of Bldg. 3 will cost \$21 million.

The largest NIH B&F project outside of Bethesda is the renovation of NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratories Bldg. 7 in Hamilton, Mont. NIH will spend \$7 million to convert former mechanical space in the facility to laboratories.

If you're keeping a tally sheet, that's a total of \$428 million already claimed by four large projects on NIH's B&F wish list. Those facilities represent most of the so-called “new space” that ARRA funds will support; 12 other projects account for the remaining \$72 million.

Projects to be funded with the balance fall into a category known as “R&I” (repair and improvements), which is a mix of structural, mechanical and other utility upgrades. For example, NIH will spend \$50 million—the largest single expense of the stimulus balance—to rehabilitate electrical distribution equipment in various buildings on the Bethesda campus. In addition, renovations costing approximately \$1 million will be made to Bldg. 16A, the 2-story clapboard cottage that sits next to Stone House on the hill near the Metro station. Bldg. 16A will be used to foster interdisciplinary work aimed at solving global health issues.

“There's always tension or a balancing act between using resources to create new facilities or repair existing facilities,” explained Stonebraker, an engineer at NIH for more than 25 years. “The way we're using the ARRA funds reflects that ongoing balance.” Before any hope existed that NIH could win stimulus funds, the ORF “must-address” list was already fairly long and seriously short of money. ARRA came in the nick of time.

The F wing project in Bldg. 10, for instance, was only partly funded, Stonebraker said. "We were unsure when we were going to be able to obtain funds for the remaining part. ARRA money presented us the opportunity to proceed with this critical work."

NIH estimates its use of stimulus funds will create or retain approximately 2,000 jobs. NIH will obligate \$81 million in FY 2009, with the rest (\$419 million) obligated by the end of next fiscal year. All ARRA money must be awarded by Sept. 30, 2010; all stimulus package dollars are required to be spent by 2015. Electrical vault work begins this month.

When NIH scored the \$500 million for B&F (of the \$10.4 billion total) in ARRA funds, it may have been tempting to think all of the agency's concerns about its rapidly aging infrastructure were suddenly fixed. Not hardly, Stonebraker stressed. Large parts of NIH's infrastructure are in need of refurbishment.

ORF is required to conduct regular audits of the facilities it maintains, assigning each component a score reflecting its condition. On the auditing scale, a building that rates 70 may be habitable, but still needs major improvements. A facility that gets 100 is in essentially new condition. In aggregate, NIH's owned assets are in the low 70s.

"NIH is aiming to have all of our buildings above a condition index of 90 by 2017," Stonebraker said. "ARRA is helping but it by no means solves all our problems. We still have a long way to go. This is well understood by NIH leadership." ①

NCI's Pastan Honored By Italian Academy

Dr. Ira Pastan, chief, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, NCI, has

been selected to receive the 2009 International Antonio Feltrinelli Prize for Medicine, which will be awarded in Rome this month by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, an Italian society for the sciences and humanities that was founded in 1603. Pastan is being honored for his work on receptor biology and for the development of immunotoxins to treat cancer. Awarded every 5 years, the Feltrinelli Prize for Medicine includes a gold medal and a monetary prize.



'It's About Life'

NIH Launches Recruitment Campaign

Next time you step off the Metro escalator, look around. You'll see a familiar agency being promoted as the employer of choice—NIH.

The NIH Office of Human Resources recently launched a recruitment campaign to promote careers at NIH. The goal is to attract top talent from scientists to grants managers, nurses to administrators and engineers to police to help NIH achieve its scientific mission.

OHR Director Christine Major explains the importance of promoting our careers. "We've found that many people haven't heard about NIH, while others just never considered it as an option for employment," she said. "This campaign is all about raising awareness to the local public about NIH and planting the seed there for career possibilities. OHR is continually looking for ways to find the best employees to further the mission and science of the NIH."



OHR Director Christine Major stands in front of new recruitment banner at the Gateway Center.

Major sees that mission as a vital part of the campaign. "NIH is the best place to work. We have an incredible mission and working here truly makes a difference to the lives of the American people."

The campaign is over a year in the making, with many people contributing to its success. Scores of top NIH employees were interviewed to find out why they came and why they stay and to find out what makes NIH such a great place to work.

While these discussions highlighted many aspects of working at NIH, one idea stood out: life. Employees consistently mentioned the positive impact of NIH on their life and the lives of people all across the country. This formed the heart of the new NIH recruiting brand, "Discover a career at NIH: It's about life."

New brand in hand, OHR focused on getting the word out. To reach the most people, NIH overhauled its jobs web site, www.jobs.nih.gov. The site lets employees spread the message in their own words through video testimonials. It's also more user friendly, incorporating a search tool and an online tutorial explaining the application process.

The web site was just the beginning: NIH is advertising on Metrorail and Ride-On buses, which is expected to reach over 15 million people. OHR also developed that giant sign for the Gateway Center to reach people passing through the bus loop and Metro station at our front door. OHR is reaching out through targeted ads in the *Washington Post* and the *Public Library of Science* and is attending career fairs throughout the region.

OHR needs your help to make the campaign a success. "Employees are NIH's best recruiters," notes Phil Lenowitz, deputy director of OHR and an avid recruiter. Recruitment brochures and cards will soon be available to employees, giving everyone the tools to recruit for the agency. So if you know good candidates, help them discover a career at NIH. ①



enthusiasm for the future. “We want to do more things with NIH,” he said. “We see collaborations in nursing. We would like to have more of our students examining the possibility of going to NIH to do science.”

Venue

Located in rural southeast North Carolina, about 45 miles south of Fayetteville, UNCP was founded in 1887 as the Croatan Normal School. When it opened with one instructor and 15 students, its mission was to train American Indian school teachers. By 1909, the school had moved to its current location in Pembroke, the heart of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, near the Lumbee River.

With a student enrollment of more than 6,300, the university, which became part of the University of North Carolina system in 1972, now offers 45 bachelor’s and 17 master’s degree programs. Total minority enrollment is 51 percent: 27 percent African American, 18 percent Native American and 3 percent each Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander.

Meadors pointed to a recent survey that found Pembroke students are among the best at getting hired in the sciences after graduation. “It reinforces what we already knew—that our science faculty does a good job of preparing our students,” he said. “We are just tremendously pleased with the progress we’ve made with the partnership. I’m excited at the opportunities our students have had. We have the most diverse enrollment in the South.”

A richly multicultural student population with a strong science department—“that’s what attracted NIH to Pembroke,” Self noted. “We knew we wanted to partner with them. We also knew that it would take a communal effort to really make it succeed.”

Meadors said for his students, seeing often is believing. “Most of our students come from rural backgrounds and have not had any experience seeing scientists and researchers,” he explained. “This, you cannot teach. When they go see the labs and the people conducting research, you just cannot generate that kind of excitement [in the classroom]. You have to taste it, smell it and grow it. Our biggest challenge is getting them to pack their bags and leave home. Once they get up there, and they get over the initial culture shock, they enjoy the experiences and do extremely well.”

Because of “tremendous support and guidance by UNCP administrator Sheila Brayboy,” Dixon said, “NIH was able to develop relationships with school faculty and earn trust from students to get them to come to NIH for the summer. Sheila is that day-to-day contact and we

OUTREACH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Top, l:

Hilda Dixon (r), deputy director of NIH’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management, meets with Dr. Allen Meadors, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Sheila Brayboy, director of UNCP’s health careers opportunity program.

Top, r:

Dr. Yolanda Mock Hawkins directs the NIH Academy.

Below:

Alexandria Cogdill, a UNCP graduate now working as a fellow in NCI’s Surgery Branch



spent her next 2 summers here and ended up presenting research at a SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans) conference.

Scott and Smith, two minority graduates of a college in a rural community about 350 miles from Bethesda, represent a much larger harvest of potential scientists—physicians, nurses, pharmacists—all seeded more than 5 years ago by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management and nurtured by a host of other NIH components.

Vision

“It is a real challenge to improve diversity, especially as it relates to science,” explained Lawrence Self, OEODM director. “OEODM cannot do it alone. Our job is outreach—bringing together internal and external partners. As a result of the Powwow Project, we reached out to one of the most diverse schools in the nation, UNC-Pembroke.”

It was 5 years ago that Self and his deputy, Hilda Dixon, met with UNCP chancellor Dr. Allen Meadors to discuss a potential collaboration with NIH. They set 4 goals: NIH would provide summer internship opportunities to UNCP students. The partnership would seek to reinstate the school’s Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) grant. UNCP would compete in NIH’s Extramural Associates Program. NIH would host events where faculty and students could learn more about careers in science.

“For success, OEODM believes ‘it takes a vision and a village,’” said Dixon, adapting an African proverb.

Now, NIH has hired 16 UNCP interns [with 4 conducting post-baccalaureate research with NIH or its grantees]. By competing for grants, UNCP has realized additional funds to improve its science and research programs. The school currently holds several RISE (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) and MORE (Minority Opportunities in Research) grants, won an EA grant and hopes to compete successfully for a MARC grant soon. “UNCP is now able to navigate the NIH community,” Self said. “We are looking at next steps. Strong partners are the key to success.”

UNCP chancellor Meadors shared OEODM’s

owe much success to her boundless energy and respect for and commitment to the Native American community.”

Village People

“The vision was OEODM’s,” Dixon said, “and the village [is] the collaboration of partners. NIH partners for this effort are numerous—they make it happen.” NIGMS’s Dr. Clifton Poodry facilitated the introduction of UNCP faculty with UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and the RISE grant became a reality. UNCP was not successful on its first attempt, but in 2007, Dr. Leonard Holmes became Pembroke’s first extramural associate. NIH’s “village” includes the endorsement of Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH deputy director for intramural research, and the perseverance of Dr. Yolanda Mock Hawkins, director of the NIH Academy in August 2004, when she was approached for help with the UNCP effort.

“We wanted to increase the number of minority students—specifically Native students—who wanted to come to NIH to do research,” Mock Hawkins said, describing how OEODM’s vision meshed with academy goals. By fall 2004, the small-but-growing NIH group had visited the UNCP campus to meet with students and instructors and held a faculty-student workshop at NIH. The two events, combined with multiple face-to-face and phone sessions in between, helped NIH put down roots with the community.

“We had to demonstrate to UNCP that we were sincere,” she said, “and that this was a long-term project. We weren’t going to make a lot of promises that we wouldn’t follow up on. We established a track record.”

Using a wide network of NIH scientists, Mock Hawkins spearheaded efforts to place students with NIH’ers such as Robert DeChristoforo of the Clinical Center pharmacy department and Dr. Jack Guralnik of NIA, who became preceptors for UNCP interns.

Next came logistics: Finding summer housing for the interns proved to be no small feat. Each student had unique needs. UNCP grad Scott, for example, had a lot more to consider than most students. Moving to Bethesda for first-hand lab experience also involved uprooting his wife and four children.

“We knew it was going to be expensive and we weren’t sure how we were going to manage,” he said. “[NIAMS scientific director] Dr. John O’Shea really came through for us. He found us a place to stay and we were able to get our kids settled into school here [in Bethesda]. We weren’t sure how it was all going to work out, but it did.”

Voices of Experience

If you listen to those who have benefited from the NIH-UNCP partnership, every single effort was



UNCP grad Sarah Subaran (l) is an IRTA fellow in NIA’s Gerontology Research Center. Eric Scott is pursuing his Ph.D. at UNC-Chapel Hill with NIH grantee Dr. Stephen Clarke.

appreciated. Eric Scott interned in Dr. Juan Rivera’s NIAMS immunology lab, studying better therapeutic treatments for allergy. His experience here only solidified his early commitment to give back.

“I still intend to teach,” he said. “I want to steer minority students into science. There’s still not enough exposure to science and research in African-American communities. I think it will be helpful if they see that I made it through these programs.”

After working in NIBIB science administration during summer 2006 and in a NIBIB intramural lab in summer 2007, Indee Smith now manages a lab for a community health and urgent care center, teaches a pharmacy technician class part-time and volunteers on the Pembroke Rescue Squad. “I loved the campus, the environment, the people—in general I just enjoyed the experience as a whole,” she said of her time at NIH. “I had never seen things like that before in my life and probably never will, only at NIH.”

Alexandria Cogdill, a UNCP graduate now working as a Cancer Research Training Award fellow in NCI’s Surgery Branch, agreed. “In addition to being a part of the cell production team [producing adoptive cell therapies for patients with advanced stages of cancer], I have had the opportunity to conduct translational research within the lab in an effort to minimize costs...[for] export of this effective treatment. This experience has opened my eyes to the depth of research conducted as well as the responsibility of those who conduct it...NIH has been a great way to network and form relationships that are influential in my career now and in the future.”

Another UNCP grad making NIH part of her career path is Sarah Subaran, who is currently about midway through a 2-year post-baccalaureate IRTA fellowship in NIA’s Gerontology Research Center.

“Being at the NIH has afforded me the experience of working with some of the top scientists in the world,” she noted. “I have learned so much throughout my time here, from imaging on the confocal microscope to working with cell cultures in the lab. In addition, this opportunity has helped me better prepare for med school in that I have already met the pre-health advisors and attended seminars on MCAT preparation.”

Smith concluded, “The partnership with NIH is a wonderful way for UNCP to help other young people from my community who may not have had an opportunity to experience a challenge like an internship or be a part of something this enriching. Some people just don’t understand the benefits of the program—all they see is the distance from their families. This is a big challenge for the Lumbees because growing up in such a tightly woven community, it is difficult to just leave. But once you’re away and you’re working, most of that fades quickly. The work consumes you and the atmosphere engulfs you. All you have to do is become the sponge! I have an intense desire for any person but especially my Lumbee people to further themselves and get all they can from every source of knowledge available. That is why I promote this opportunity as well as any other one that may be available to students now.”

Three Pembroke students will join the NIH 2009 summer program. 📍



BIKE TO WORK
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:
Montgomery County councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg (second from l) presents an award to (from l) Joseph Cox of the NIH Division of Amenities and Transportation Services; Angela Atwood-Moore, NIHBCB president; Randy Schools, president of the NIH Recreation and Welfare Association; and Ellen Condon, a research technologist and NIHBCB member.

Below:
Cyclists (from l) Sarah Dunsmore of NIGMS, Terry Bowers of the NIH Fitness Center and Atwood-Moore of NICHD (holding her daughter Sofiya) welcome arriving riders.

Participants have logged 137,452 miles of biking to work and received 6,680 Bike Bucks.

Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg presented the award to Angela Atwood-Moore, president of the NIHBCB. Trachtenberg in 2007 helped expand membership of the pedestrian and bicycle safety advisory committee to include a seat for a representative of the bicycle community—the first time cycling advocates were recognized by a county-sponsored body. She said she was impressed by the NIHBCB's work in identifying unmet or underserved needs of bicycle commuters and stepping forward with innovative solutions including cleaning and maintaining bike trails in the vicinity of NIH's campus, mentoring prospective bicycle commuters, providing bicycle education and maintenance courses and advocating for improved bicycle facilities



Hugh McFarland of FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research wears a T-shirt noting that he is "one less car."

and policies both within NIH and the community.

The club displayed the award proclamation at the Bike to Work Day pit stop in front of Bldg. 1. The NIHBCB also operated two other pit stops at Rockledge and Executive Blvd. Regionally, more than 8,000 people registered for the



Renee Hill of NINDS and her 11-year-old daughter Jabraughn turned the event into a day together. Although they live too far to bike commute, they drove to a colleague's home and pedaled the rest of the way. "We decided to come to Bike to Work Day instead of participating in her school's field day. We're really excited about being here, and we're going to hit the path and enjoy the beautiful day," Hill said.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

2009 event, which set a new record, according to the Washington Area Bicyclists Association, which sponsors BTWD.

This year, NIHBCB welcomed cyclists from National Naval Medical Center to the Bldg. 1 pit stop. The collaboration comes in light of NNMC's expansion, which is expected to add up to 2,500 staff and almost 2,000 more outpatient appointments and other visitors per day by 2011. This is on top of a road system that



Former NIH employee William Sanslone, still riding during retirement, arrived at the Executive Blvd. pit stop with a 49-year-old Raleigh British bicycle, the oldest 2-wheeler at the pit stop.

PHOTO: LISA FINKELSTEIN

already earns failing grades for congestion and has some of the worst intersections in the county within a mile of NIH.

Stephanie Petzing, a student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences on the NNMC campus, commuted by bike for the first time and was pleased to hear of NIH-BCC's resources and mentoring efforts for Navy cyclists. "I would love to bike commute every day, but if I could be in a bike lane, it would be so much easier. Sometimes cars don't see you at the intersections, even as a pedestrian," she said, adding a message for drivers to both campuses: "Please don't scrape me off of your bumper on Wisconsin!"

According to Atwood-Moore, cooperation between NIH and Navy cyclists will be an important issue for the NIH-BCC for the next 2 years. "While we're working to develop solutions to traffic congestion, air pollution and obesity in our communities locally and nationally, we cannot ignore safety provisions for cyclists and we must work harder to improve amenities for those who make the sacrifice to ride instead of drive," she said.

The total round-trip miles logged by bike on May 15 to NIH locations was 3,571, compared with 2,966 in 2008. With the recognition from the County Council and cooperation between NIH and Navy cyclists to replace cars on the road with bikes in anticipation of expansion, the NIH-BCC is on a roll. 🚲

IntraMall Summer Showcase, June 17-18

The 11th anniversary NIH IntraMall Summer Showcase will be held in the Clinical Research Center on the 3rd and 5th floor pedestrian bridges on Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will display the IntraMall electronic purchasing system, which now features "Smart Match" tools to support monthly credit card reconciliation in the NIH Business System.

Since opening in June 1998, the IntraMall has become a leading NIH web site for using government purchase cards to locate, buy and track purchases from over 250 frequently used vendors offering over 10 million laboratory, office and computer items.

New online inventory and IntraMalls Express delivery options will also be demonstrated at the showcase. Come learn how the IntraMall can save your institute money and ease your workload.

Register for the event and free lunch at www.intramalls.com/showcase, where a daily list of vendors is displayed, including new product offerings. If you require reasonable accommodation to participate, call 888-644-6255.

Telehealth Conference Highlights Tools, Technologies

NCRR, in collaboration with Internet2, the American Telemedicine Association, the Veterans Administration and other federal partners, will present the Future of Telehealth: Essential Tools and Technologies for Clinical Research and Care, June 25-26.

The event—held in the Natcher main auditorium—will bring together stakeholders from government agencies, academic institutions, health care organizations and technology companies to explore the current state and future opportunities for telehealth science and technology.

Interactive panel sessions will seek to stimulate development, implementation and evaluation of telehealth applications; broaden participation in research; and improve health outcomes in medically underserved communities.

The free event is open to the public; registration closes June 15. To find out more and to register to attend, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/Telehealth. For logistical questions or reasonable accommodation, call Monica Barnette, (301) 650-8660.

Well Water Should Be Tested Annually to Reduce Health Risks to Children

Private well water should be tested yearly, and in some cases more often, according to new guidance offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Researchers at NIEHS took a lead role

in working with AAP to develop the recommendations and draft a new AAP policy statement about things parents should do if their children drink well water. The recommendations call for annual well testing, especially for nitrate and microorganisms such as coliform bacteria, which can indicate that sewage has contaminated the well. The guidelines point out circumstances when additional testing should occur, including testing when there is a new infant in the house or if the well is subjected to structural damage.

“Children are especially vulnerable to waterborne illnesses that may come from contaminated wells,” said Dr. Walter Rogan, an NIEHS epidemiologist and lead author on the policy statement and technical report in the June issue of *Pediatrics*. The statement offers recommendations for inspection, testing and remediation of wells providing drinking water for children. Private wells are not subject to federal regulations and are only minimally regulated by states. With proper care, well water is safe; however, wells can become contaminated by chemicals or pathogenic organisms. Nitrate, which comes from sewage or fertilizer, is the most common contaminant in wells. The presence of nitrates can be a problem particularly for infants under 3 months who cannot metabolize nitrate.

Combination of Aspirin, Anti-Clotting Drug Reduces Risk of Dialysis Access Failure

For the first time, a combination of aspirin and the anti-platelet drug dipyridamole has been shown to significantly reduce blockages and extend the useful life of new artery-vein access grafts used for hemodialysis, according to a study by the Dialysis Access Consortium (DAC). The study, supported by NIDDK, was published in the May 21 *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Artery-vein access grafts, called arteriovenous (AV) grafts, fail most often due to narrowing of blood vessels (stenosis) at the graft site and subsequent clotting, which block the flow of blood. A blocked

graft cannot be used for dialysis and is a major cause of worsening health in dialysis patients.

The DAC trial found that the combination treatment decreased the rate of loss of primary unassisted graft patency—the useful life of a graft before it becomes blocked the first time—by 18 percent and the rate of developing significant stenosis by 28 percent, compared to placebo. Previous smaller clinical trials of anti-clotting therapies failed to show that these drugs improve AV graft patency or that they could be used safely in dialysis patients.

Enrollment Stopped in Study of Concentrated Saline for Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury

NHLBI has stopped enrollment into a clinical trial testing the effects of highly concentrated (hypertonic) saline solutions on patients with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) when given as soon as possible after the injury—that is, before the patient arrives at the hospital or emergency room. After reviewing data on more than 1,000 participants, the study’s monitoring board and NHLBI determined that the hypertonic saline solutions were no better than the standard treatment of normal saline and that it is unlikely that continuing to enroll new patients would change the outcome of the study. There were no concerns about safety. Previously enrolled participants who have not yet completed their 6-month follow-up visits will continue to be monitored according to the study design. The TBI study is the largest randomized clinical trial ever conducted in this severely injured patient population. Typically, in the crucial early minutes before blood transfusions can be safely administered in the hospital, trauma patients receive normal saline solution intravenously in the field to compensate for blood loss and to buy time. Compared to normal saline, concentrated saline solution was believed to compensate for blood loss more effectively, lessen excessive inflammatory responses and prevent brain swelling.

Researchers Identify Key Proteins Needed for Ovulation

Researchers from NIH and other institutions have identified in mice two proteins essential for ovulation to take place. The finding has implications for treating infertility resulting from a failure of ovulation to occur as well as for developing new means to prevent pregnancy by preventing the release of the egg. The proteins, called ERK1 and ERK2, appear to bring about the maturation and release of the egg. The study appeared in the May 15 issue of *Science* and was funded in part by NICHD and NCI.—compiled by Carla Garnett



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CNN's Gupta Pays Call on Clinical Center

Dr. Sanjay Gupta (r), CNN's chief medical correspondent and associate chief of neurosurgery at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, visited the Clinical Center on May 13 to film a segment on the Undiagnosed Diseases Program, a joint effort by the CC, the National Human Genome Research Institute and the NIH Office of Rare Diseases. CC director Dr. John Gallin (l) greeted Gupta at the entrance to the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center and discussed the importance of clinical research and the role the CC plays in the NIH mission. Gupta interviewed Dr. William Gahl, director of the Undiagnosed Diseases Program and clinical director of NHGRI, and toured Gahl's lab. The CNN broadcast featuring the Undiagnosed Diseases Program ran in late May.



CIT Computer Training Courses Now Available

The spring/summer 2009 term is available for registration through Sept. 30. For many years, the NIH community has been visiting the CIT Training web site. From its inception, the web page's look and feel have never changed, including how one registers for seminars. CIT Training is working to improve the user experience on the site. As implementation nears, more details will be forthcoming.

Many new sessions this term are the result of volunteers participating in the training program. Samplings of new courses include: Detecting Alternative Splicing with the Affymetrix Human exon 1.0 ST array using the MSCL Analyst's Toolbox; Statistical Analysis with MATLAB; Introduction to Systems Biology with GeneGo; EndNote X2 Training; Introduction to SimBiology for Population PK Modeling; SharePoint Educational Symposium - Resolving SharePoint Pain Points; Master Class: Image Processing with MATLAB.

The popular returning topics include seminars for scientists, QVR, Blackberry, Office 2007 - What's New, and Getting to Know Windows Vista. You can obtain full course information, register for spring/summer 2009 classes, join the CIT Training mailing list and view your transcript or current application status at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

Non-certification courses continue to be free of charge to NIH staff. While employees get first priority for classes, contractors are welcome to attend when space is available, the class is related to NIH work and they have approval from their NIH supervisor.

If you have any questions about the CIT Training program, call (301) 594-6248 or email CITTraining@mail.nih.gov.

Wednesday Afternoon Lectures

The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series—held on its namesake day at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10—features Dr. Huda Zoghbi, Baylor College of Medicine professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, on June 17, speaking on “Neurobiology of Rett Syndrome and Related Disorders.”

On June 24, Dr. Karen Ashe, Edmund Wallace and Anne Marie Tulloch chairs in neurology and neuroscience at the University of Minnesota and director of the N. Bud Grossman Center for Memory Research and Care, will address, “Molecular Mechanisms of Memory Loss in Alzheimer's Disease.”

For more information or for reasonable accommodation, call Sarah Freeman, (301) 594-6747. The Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series will go on hiatus during July and August. For more information on the 2009-2010 lecture schedule, email sarah.freeman@nih.gov.



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.

USUHS Study Needs African Americans

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is conducting a research study for African Americans, ages 18-60, that examines how stress hormones may affect your weight and health. Volunteers may be compensated for their participation. If interested, contact the Human Performance Laboratory at (301) 295-1371 or humanperformancelab@usuhs.mil.

Call for Nominations for Intern Awards

NIH has numerous internship and fellowship programs that train future administrators. Annually, the NIH administrative training committee presents awards to graduating interns, their mentors and supervisors who have contributed to the development and overall success of their programs. For 2009, interns from the following programs will be eligible for awards:

Administrative Fellows Program; Emerging Leaders; Management Interns; NCI Administrative Career Development Program; Presidential Management Fellows; STRIDE.

Award categories are: Intern of the Year; Intern Innovator; Intern Collaborator; Intern Leader; Peer Recognition; Outstanding Rotational Supervisor; Outstanding Mentor; Outstanding Advocate.

If you have worked with an intern who you think deserves recognition for his or her contribution to NIH, view the award descriptions in the Intern Award Handbook found at <http://trainingcenter.nih.gov/internawards>. Submit your nomination by 5 p.m. on June 30 through the web site or to internawards@mail.nih.gov. Award recipients will be recognized at the intern graduation ceremony on Aug. 27.

Yellow-Crowned Night Herons Call Stream Home

PHOTOS: ELEANOR HOFF

NIDDK health science policy analyst Dr. Eleanor Hoff recently took photos of the yellow-crowned night herons that live along the NIH stream.

“They appear in mid-spring—I usually see them starting in April,” she reports. “Usually I see just one, rarely I see two at once. Last year, I also saw a juvenile. They are quiet and relatively shy, though they tolerate my presence. They have gray bodies, red eyes and a yellowish-white crown with a long skinny feather(s) that usually lies flat and back, but perks up like Alfalfa’s hair when they do something super active. Oh, and despite the name, they are active during the day—I see them at lunchtime.”

Hoff took these photos recently at a stretch of the stream between MLP-10 and Wilson Dr. “The first (r) is a typical photo of the heron hanging out on a rock. The second (top) is a rare shot of him/her flying—flew right over my head! The third photo (far r) [shows] the heron feeding; the creature in the heron’s mouth is a crayfish.”

