

nih record



ABOVE • Nona Colburn (l) of NIAMS poses with NIH director Dr. Francis Collins at Bike to Work Day. See story on p. 12.

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Kirschstein Remembered at Tribute Symposium

By Valerie Lambros

The Dr. Ruth L. Kirschstein tribute event May 17 at the Natcher Bldg. was a reunion of sorts, a bittersweet but jubilant meeting of friends brought together to remember and celebrate the life and work of an extraordinary woman.

Kirschstein's list of accomplishments is long and varied, including work on the polio vaccine, advances in the health of women and minorities and increases in the NIH budget and the number of scientific opportunities extended to groups not well-represented in medical careers. She also served several tours in prominent leadership roles, including heading NIGMS for almost 20 years and twice piloting NIH as acting director.

Through it all, she was unfailingly humble, so much so that NIH director Dr. Francis Collins said she "would probably be vexed as to why we were making such a fuss today."

SEE KIRSCHSTEIN, PAGE 6

Former Congressman Louis Stokes (D-OH) is one of several luminaries to pay tribute to the life of an NIH icon, Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.



Pianist Clifford Smith

'It Is a Holy Place'

Pianist, Composer Smith Offers Musical Thanks to NIH

By Valerie Lambros

Clifford Smith will tell you that he feels a special connection to NIH, to its staff and experts. He is not shy about sharing that sentiment because, by every estimation, they saved his life.

Smith, a prolific composer and exuberant concert pianist whose work is enjoyed worldwide, came back to say thank you in the most expressive way he knows how: by offering a

SEE SMITH, PAGE 4

'Take a Hike Day,' Take 3

For Health Reasons, NIH'ers Walk Off The Job

Sunny blue skies with no rain in sight. Hundreds of employees showing off institute/center colors in theme T-shirts. Runners so revved they jumped the starting whistle. That was the scene May 20 in front of Bldg. 1 for NIH's 3rd annual Take a Hike Day.

"By now we all should know research has proven that 30 minutes of moderate exercise a day leads to a healthier person," said Dr. Alfred Johnson, director of the Office of Research Services whose Division of Amenities and Transportation Services coordinates the event. "We all want to be healthier, right?"

Designed to get employees into the habit of incorporating physical fitness into their daily lives, the walk/fun run is just one component of the NIH HealthierFeds Initiative, which touts four elements: "Be physically active every day, eat a nutritious diet, get preventive screenings and make healthy choices."

SEE HIKE, PAGE 8



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briefs

Theatre Group Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Bethesda Little Theatre, an R&W-sponsored organization, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with an original musical revue titled "A Sentimental Journey Through American Song." Performances are on June 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. and on June 20 and 27 at 2:30 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. For more information call Elaine Hughes, (301) 589-0720.

The group, originally called the NIH R&W Theatre Group, was started in 1980 by employee Alice Page Smyth, known as Frankie to coworkers, and Sally Spangler, who retired after working for the National Eye Institute for a number of years. Their first show was *Bell, Book and Candle*. It was followed annually by a musical revue and other plays performed in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. After 9/11, the group switched performances to the theater of the Writer's Center.

Over the course of 30 years, Bethesda Little Theatre has donated more than \$100,000 to the Clinical Center's Patient Emergency Fund and Camp Funshine. In addition to its annual show, the group performs throughout the year at retirement and assisted living facilities in the D.C. area.

Workshop To Focus on Clinical Research Management, June 21-22

The Yale Center for Clinical Investigation, in collaboration with the National Center for Research Resources, is presenting the third annual Clinical Research Management Workshop on June 21-22 at the North Bethesda Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. The workshop is a venue to discuss challenges and develop strategies and tools to improve the clinical research management process. Join your colleagues to share process improvement strategies, tools and services to increase recruitment and retention, methodology to improve efficiency of protocol approval and contract negotiation, tips for better budget development and facilitation of IRB review. For more information and to register, visit www.ycci.yale.edu/conference.

NIH Graduate & Professional School Fair, July 8

The Office of Intramural Training & Education invites summer interns and postbacs to participate in the NIH Graduate & Professional School Fair on Thursday, July 8 at the Natcher Conference Center and Lister Hill Auditorium from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The fair will provide an opportunity for NIH

summer interns (especially those in college), NIH postbacs and college and university students from the Washington, D.C., area 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 to recruit NIH trainees.

The day will also include workshops on creating an education plan and interviewing plus panels on getting into graduate and professional school and careers in public health. Exhibits will be open from 9:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3:30 p.m. A list of institutions planning to attend and registration information can be found at www.training.nih.gov.

NLM Aids Local Animal Shelters

For the second year in a row, the National Library of Medicine's Diversity Council has conducted a Help-Save-the-Critters Humane Society Drive, which collects linens, pet food, toys and other items for local organizations that advocate on behalf of animals.

Shelters are especially stressed during times of economic hardship as more and more people abandon their pets and budgets are slashed. For example, the Montgomery County Humane Society says it relies heavily on donations such as linens, pet food and money and that those donations have decreased over the past year.

The NLM Humane Society Drive collects items from employees for 3 weeks then delivers them to the local shelters. This year, library employees donated about twice as much food (both canned and dry) as the previous year for an approximate total of over 300 cans of wet pet food and about 260 pounds of dry cat and dog food. Donations also included bags of toys, treats, other pet necessities (including a pet carrier) and about 40 trash can-sized plastic bags of linens, plus blankets and rugs too big to fit in bags.

Kelli Langley, an administrative officer in the NLM Office of the Director, said she thinks library employees take particular delight in donating to animal shelters. "Employees really looked forward to this year's drive," she noted, adding that "pets really touch our hearts, making it easy to donate for their welfare."

NEI Hosts 'Translational Research and Vision' Symposium, June 24-25

NIH director Dr. Francis Collins will deliver the keynote address at the NEI-sponsored symposium "Translational Research and Vision." The symposium will highlight the impact of genomics in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease. It will also provide an opportunity to facilitate collaborative interactions between the NIH intramural and extramural research community. The June 24-25 meeting is the last in a series of on-campus events marking NEI's 40th anniversary. The event will be held in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Hours are June 24, 3-5:30 p.m., and June 25, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.nei.nih.gov/anniversary/.

Social Media Could Transform NIH Meetings

By Geoff Spencer

Some speakers provided links to their slides in real time. Participants posted such questions as: “What does the NHGRI consider a fair number for the cost per gigabase to analyze NexGen data?”

Others gave advice: “Don’t tie yourself too closely to current models, as they are changing.”

Welcome to the world of interactive conferences where micro-blogging gives everyone a voice in the meeting—even those who don’t attend. NHGRI ran two such meetings recently to figure out whether “cloud” computing could be used to manage the tsunami of data pouring out of next-generation sequencing machines now flourishing like toadstools on the front lawn after a spring rain.

Meeting organizer Dr. Vivien Bonazzi, program director for informatics and computational biology at NHGRI, decided the audience was tech-savvy enough to pay attention and use social media at the same time. But really, she just wanted to capture their ideas on the fly. “It’s a body of information I can look to for writing the meeting report,” she said. “I don’t have to just rely on my memory or program analyst notes.”

Bonazzi considered several micro-blogging companies that provide free Twitter-like services on the Internet. Micro-blogging is just like a blog, only shorter. Twitter limits blog bursts to 140 characters, which Bonazzi decided was too short. Plus she wanted to keep the session closed, not open to just anyone surfing Twitter who might clog up the conversation with irrelevant comments. So she selected shout’em (www.shoutem.com), which lets users type up to 1,024 characters, enough for a more substantial post. Moreover, she could manage who participated.

“It was an experiment,” said Bonazzi, who expected to see just a few users and posts during the 2-day meeting. She was astonished to see more and more users logging onto the micro-blog as the meeting progressed. Many participants loaded pictures of themselves into the blog site and started swapping ideas and information as they listened and reacted to the speakers. The pictures helped attendees recognize one another during breaks, speeding the conversations about each other’s posts and creating social connections.

By the end of the meeting, more than 80 users had signed up for the micro-blog, with about 350 posts on the first day and more than 200 posts on the second day. Users also continued to post comments 2 days after the meeting ended. About a dozen people who could not attend in person signed up for the micro-blog to follow along, including a member of NHGRI’s advisory council.

Even the uninitiated got excited. “I love it,” said meeting participant and speaker Dr. Stephen Sherry, a staff scientist at the National Center for Biotechnology Information who had never used social media tools before. “It’s the immediacy of the feedback that is valuable,” he said during a break. “I’m writing all my notes on the micro-blog.”

Other attendees agreed. “It’s cool because it’s in context [of the meeting],” said Dr. Deepak Singh, business development manager for Amazon Elastic Cloud Computing at Amazon Web Services.

Bonazzi observed that the ability to follow the micro-blog during the meeting had many advantages for her as meeting organizer, including being able to see key points of each talk posted by users in real time; users asking questions and having real-time conversations; the sharing of links to resources relevant to the meeting; and the ability to identify volunteers to write a white paper on how cloud computing might be used for analyzing large biological datasets.

While enthusiastic about the results, Bonazzi cautioned that the success of the micro-blog at the meeting may have been due to the audience being a bit more familiar with social media tools than most. “The downside of using the micro-blog is that it was a bit distracting, because there were so many responses,” she said. “Sometimes, I found the micro-blog was capturing my attention more than the talk, so it may actually take away from things a bit for attendees and at the expense of the speakers.”

She also advises that NIH staff considering such tools for their meetings think about the topic and content that will be discussed. This particular meeting did not introduce any unpublished research findings or protected patient data that could feasibly be cut and pasted by users of the micro-blog and emailed or posted on other web sites. In addition, the micro-blog was not publicly searchable on the web.

Bonazzi and other NHGRI staff plan continued experiments with social media tools at future meetings based on feedback from meeting attendees.

Some participants, however, already have made up their mind. “I think it was a great experience,” said attendee Francis Ouellette, associate director, Informatics and Bio-computing and principal investigator, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. “I think something like that should become the standard for all NHGRI/NIH meetings and workshops!”



NHGRI's Dr. Vivien Bonazzi organized the meeting on social media and “micro-blogging.”



SMITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:

Smith dedicated a piece to his wife Pamela, saying, "She is a jewel, a great gift, and she stood by me through this cancer."

PHOTOS: MICHAEL SPENCER

concert of original works May 19 at the Clinical Research Center atrium for both scientific researchers and patients working through their own medical challenges.

"I want my feelings to be known," he said, adding that few things are "as noble as the improvement of human health. I salute all of you."

However, it's not just the fact that he is alive today, but that he is living well that is thrilling to Smith. He knows things could have turned out differently.

In early 2005, Smith could tell something was wrong, so he went to see a doctor. Even with all the signs that something was amiss in his prostate, no one could pinpoint the exact problem or tell him what he was facing. His PSA count was 40 and rising, but still, physicians attempting to diagnose him were stymied.

Eventually, after consulting with several doctors, he was referred to NIH and arrived in June 2005. Desperate for answers, Smith underwent an exhaustive examination using a 3T MRI scanner. It was August 2005 and his PSA had shot up to 86. Smith was, as he put it, "on a disaster course."

The diagnosis was prostate cancer and an aggressive one at that. Smith immediately started hormonal therapy. Weeks later, the cancer was gone. Subsequent scans couldn't detect a single cancer cell. Smith was back from the abyss.

"I am indebted to [NIH physicians] for my life and for the quality of my life," Smith said. "Cancer is a terrible disease and very insidious. My indebtedness to NIH is ongoing and forever. It's the vanguard, the place with the most advanced thinking. It is an amazing place and an institution our country can be extremely proud of."

It seemed only right to Smith, who remains on maintenance therapy to ensure the cancer does not return, to find a way to express his appre-

ciation to the scientists, patient advocates and staff who shepherded him along his journey. A concert recital, played on the Clinical Center's Steinway, was the obvious choice.

On the afternoon of the concert, Smith strode to the piano, addressed the keys and let loose a torrent of music that soared and flowed, danced and drifted, stomped and sang. All 9 selections were played from memory.

His first piece, *A Star-Spangled Visage*, a work with an ethereal quality, was played with tenderness as if caressing the tones and coaxing them forward. The fantasy included notes from the National Anthem's first phrase that rose from the shimmering wave of sound.

A following work flirted with drama and dissonance, another pushed forward as if hungry and filled with yearning, intentionally leaving certain chords unresolved until the last possible moment.

A contemplative paraphrasing of *Amazing Grace* found audience members clutching their hands to their chests, smiling and nodding, the song a clear reflection of Smith's awe for the work performed at NIH.

Pausing after completing the work, Smith spoke of his experience, crediting some of his medical team by name. Drs. Peter Choyke, Peter Pinto, Ravi Madan, James Gulley, William Dahut, Jonathan Coleman and "block mothers" nurse practitioner Mary Pazdur and patient advocate Laura Cearnal were for him the tip of the spear in his fight against cancer.

"It was very life-threatening, and I am indebted to the skills and talents of the staff here," he said. "We are all one army and we will find a cure for this disease."

He returned to the piano and played a selection from a monumental work that, put together, constitutes more than 106 hours of music. The mysterious piece fluttered with intense movement and competing notes, persistent statements followed by trills and cascading bursts of sound.

He again returned to the microphone.

"I dedicate this next piece to my wife," Smith said, looking at his spouse, Pamela, sitting in the front row. "She is a jewel, a great gift, and she stood by me through this cancer. I don't think that I would have survived otherwise."

The piece that followed was a beautiful nocturne, lullaby-like in its innocent hopefulness.

Smith's final work, from his *Perpetuum Mobile* fantasies, came forward in a rush, almost locomotive-like but with variable rhythms and paces, charging straight one second and sideways the next, as

if to describe the mad pace of human life—life that always manages to soldier on.

“This meant a lot to me,” he said shortly after the program’s close. “I’ve wanted to play here since I first saw this place. The atrium reminded me of a cathedral, and this place is a sanctuary for healing. It is a holy place.”

Keep Your Appointments, Urges DPSAC

With little time left for NIH to meet HHS’s June 30 badging deadline, the Division of Personnel Security and Access Control (DPSAC) is appealing to employees, contractors and affiliates who are still making their enrollment (identity proofing, photo and fingerprinting) appointments or HHS ID badge pickup appointments to make sure they keep their appointments. One of the biggest challenges facing DPSAC is moving the current 13 percent no-show rate to zero; no-shows are individuals who make an appointment but fail to show up or to reschedule their appointment.

Also, for those who have been sponsored by their administrative officer and have yet to make an enrollment appointment, DPSAC suggests they make their appointment as soon as possible, as slots are filling up.

When someone fails to show for his/her appointment without rescheduling, that 20-minute appointment slot goes unused. DPSAC is urging individuals who know they cannot make their scheduled appointment to go back to the web link provided in their email and reschedule. Alternatively, individuals can call DPSAC to give them a heads up that they can’t make their scheduled appointment, especially when something comes up at the last minute. Rescheduling assures that the original appointment will be vacant, hopefully in time for someone else to use it.

To alert DPSAC that you can’t keep an enrollment appointment, call (301) 496-0051; to alert DPSAC that you can’t keep a badge issuance appointment, call (301) 451-4766.

DPSAC has doubled enrollment and badge issuance capacity at its Clinical Center South Lobby stations, expanded capacity for Wednesday evening appointments (from 5 to 8 p.m.) at its Bldg. 31 locations (badge enrollment: Rm. 1B03; badge issuance: Rm. B1A26) and streamlined the interactions with enrollers and badge issuers to ensure that individuals are in and out within the allotted 20 minutes.

Individuals should be aware that they can still make appointments at Executive Plaza North, Rockledge II, Fernwood, NCI-Frederick and main campus. The hours and locations for all enrollment and badging stations are posted at www.idbadge.nih.gov/badge/locatingbadge.asp.

NCI’s Wiltrout Named ‘Lab Director of the Year’

Dr. Robert H. Wiltrout, director of the Center for Cancer Research, NCI, became the first NIH scientific director to receive the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer’s Director of the Year Award on Apr. 29 in Albuquerque. This national award is presented annually to laboratory directors who have made outstanding contributions supporting technology transfer activities at their federal laboratory and recognizes the excellence of the recipient’s efforts and the achievements of their technology transfer program.



Wiltrout views the many CCR/NCI technology transfer successes as a team effort driven by the ingenuity, perseverance and commitment of the center’s researchers and their network of collaborators in government, industry and academia. All of these collaborators work closely with NIH’s technology transfer professionals to accelerate research progress against cancer and HIV/AIDS. During Wiltrout’s tenure, CCR has made significant advances in building strong scientific partnerships with public and private institutions and strives to continue to bring new scientific discoveries to the marketplace.

Under his direction, CCR has continued to see substantial technology transfer achievements including: 275 active clinical trials, 137 active Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with industry and annually more than 1,000 research material transfers to collaborators worldwide. Last year, there were 100 new employee invention reports filed, 41 patents issued and 94 new commercial licenses granted. Currently, the center’s technologies can be found in more than 200 licensed products.

NIEHS’s Rogan Chosen to Head AES

The American Epidemiological Society recently announced the election of NIEHS epidemiologist Dr. Walter Rogan as its next president. He was elected during the 83rd annual meeting of AES in Baltimore.

Rogan is a principal investigator who heads the NIEHS pediatric epidemiology group. His current work includes the Study of Estrogen Activity and Development and the Infant Feeding and Early Development study.

The AES was established in 1927 by scientists affiliated with the Center for Disease Control and the Epidemic Intelligence Service to provide a scientific forum for senior epidemiologists. Early members were leading experts in infectious disease epidemiology and vaccine trials.

Since then, like the field of epidemiology itself, the organization has broadened its scope to include epidemiologists like Rogan—a member since 1990—whose focus is on chronic diseases, genetics, environment, biostatistics and other concerns beyond the scope of infectious disease and vaccination. Rogan is one of five scientists in the NIEHS Epidemiology Branch and Biostatistics Branch who are members of AES.

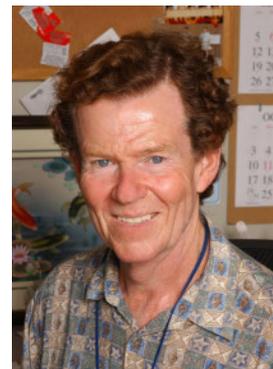


PHOTO: STEVE MCCAUGH



KIRSCHSTEIN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Top, l:
Unveiling a plaque honoring Dr. Ruth Kirschstein at a tribute symposium are (from l) NICHD deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox, Kirschstein's son Dr. Arnold Rabson, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins and NIGMS director Dr. Jeremy Berg.

Top, r:
NCI deputy director Dr. Alan Rabson (seated), Kirschstein's husband of 59 years, accepts a standing ovation at the event.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

However, when remembering a person as important to NIH as Kirschstein, a little fuss proved to be in order. Collins announced to the audience that the auditorium where they sat had been renamed in her honor. The response was enthusiastic applause.

Speaking for the family, Dr. Arnold Rabson, son of Kirschstein and her husband Dr. Al Rabson, who sat in the front row, took the stage. His remarks proved that Kirschstein excelled not only in her professional life, but also in her personal one. She was not only an astounding researcher, but “an amazing wife and an amazing mother,” he said.

“She knew everyone and everything,” he continued. “All of you were her second family. I feel like I know all of you even if I haven’t met you.”

Rabson was followed by a veritable parade of political and scientific all-stars who had come to share their thoughts.

Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, chairman of the House committee on appropriations, offered the insight that it was because of Kirschstein

that his committee acted on firm scientific evidence instead of political pressure from individual health causes.

“Her calm contained those impulses,” he said. “She bowled you over with her humanity. She demonstrated the qualities not only of a great scientist, but of a great person.”

HHS Deputy Secretary Bill Corr told a story of how Kirschstein had once fallen while giving a speech and broken her elbow. Following her speech, she went back to her office and proceeded to work one-handed until co-workers demanded she seek help.

“It only goes to prove that Ruth working at 50 percent was better than most of us working at 100 percent,” he said.

Former NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman said that when he arrived at the institute in 1975, he never imagined staying for 27 years.

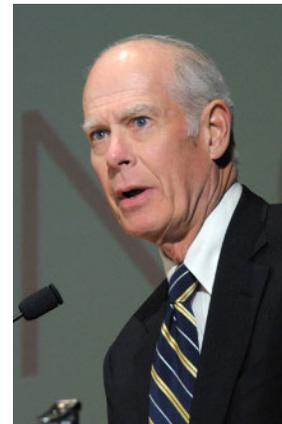
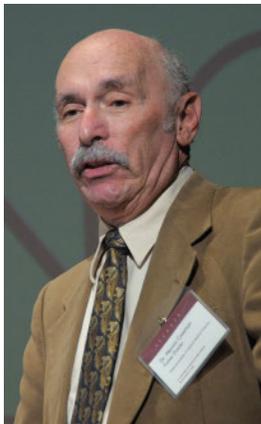
“I stayed because of the passion and enthusiasm for basic science,” he said. “Not only am I describing the institute, I am describing her.”



Kirschstein's son Dr. Arnold Rabson (l), her longtime assistant Charlette Bronson and U.S. Rep. David Obey (D-WI) remember the late NIH icon.



Above, on hand for the tribute are (from l) Joyce Rudick of ORWH, Dr. J. Taylor Harden of NIA and former NIBIB acting director Dr. Donna Dean. At right, also returning to NIH to honor Kirschstein are (from l) former NIGMS director Dr. Marvin Cassman, former U.S. Congresswoman Connie Morella (D-MD) and former U.S. Congressman John Porter (R-IL).



Charlette Bronson, an administrative assistant to Kirschstein when Ruth served as acting NIH director, said she was always impressed with Kirschstein's knack for teamwork. "Any woman married to one man for 59 years knows a lot about teamwork."

Bronson reminded the audience that it was Kirschstein who was at the helm when the country was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001. With Dr. Yvonne Maddox at her side as deputy, Bronson said, the two women were unflappable.

"My girls took care of business and held it down," she said.

Dr. Shirley Malcolm of the American Association for the Advancement of Science told the NIH community that, along with Kirschstein, the two of them did all they could to change the composition of the science community, encouraging and opening doors for women and minorities.

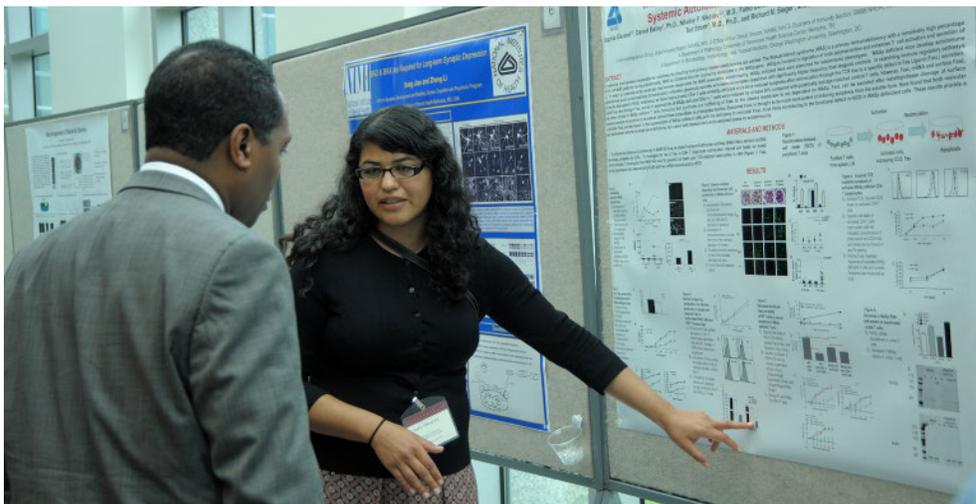
"She knew what it was to be a first and only," Malcolm said. "She was a big deal, period."

Wendy Wertheimer of the Office of AIDS Research took the podium to offer examples of what made her friend such a charming and beloved lady.

"Ruth loathed pretentiousness, materialism, hypocrisy, injustice, lazy thinking, bad writing, comma errors, prima donnas and drama queens," she said. "She loved politics, classical music, modern art, movies, New York City, McNeil-Lehrer, silk scarves, tote bags, good chocolate and good gossip."

But of her friend's many accomplishments, Wertheimer said the greatest one was her marriage to Rabson. Together, the pair "instituted their own brand of health care reform," offering skilled, insightful referrals on all manner of medical concerns.

"Ruth-and-Al is really just one word," Wertheimer said. "Theirs was a love story."



Above: Sophia Cleland of NIAMS discusses her poster with NIDDK director Dr. Griffin Rodgers.

Left: NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow (l), co-chair of the symposium's stem cell session, listens as Dr. Laurie Boyer of MIT talks about her research.

"Individually and as an inseparable unit, Ruth and Al have been the beating heart and soul and conscience of this institution," she said. "In return, Ruth asked for nothing—no fanfare, no fuss, no credit. Ruth blazed the trail and set the example. All she would ask of us now would be that we treasure this place and everyone in it, honor its history and get back to work."

The daylong event, whose theme was "Inspiring the Best in Others," continued with posters and presentations from some of the more than 60,000 young scientists who have received Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards. 1



HIKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above, l:
Hundreds walk off the job for the 3rd annual NIH Take a Hike Day.

Above, r:
Lonnie Lisle (second from l) of NIDCD accepts her institute's second straight HealthierFeds trophy. Handing out the honors are (from l) NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington; Diane Baker, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins's wife; and ORS director Dr. Alfred Johnson.

Below:
Employees take part in warm-up exercises before heading out for main event.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

An estimated 1,645 people registered online to take part in the 3.1-mile loop around the perimeter of the Bethesda campus. [Technically, the perimeter's about 2.8 miles, but if you start from Bldg. 1, that adds an extra 0.3 mile to the total.] Participants could opt to walk or run the distance.

Tom Hayden, DATS director, estimates the number who showed up far outpaced the number who registered. "[We had] at least that many plus folks who just participated and had not otherwise registered through the web site. Also, there were numerous volunteers who made the day go seamlessly."

Also offering encouraging remarks was NIH deputy director Dr. Raynard Kington. Along with Diane Baker, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins's wife, Kington congratulated participants, handed out prizes and signaled the start-offs.

Nabbing the overall "NIH HealthierFeds-President's Challenge" trophy was Team NIDCD, for the second year running. They racked up the most points in 2009's 6-week fitness contest.

For highest percentage of employees to register, top honors went to (in the small-IC category) NCCAM followed by NCMHD and FIC. In the large-IC category,

NIMH won first place, followed by CIT and OD.

Among institute/center leadership, NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady, for one, led by healthy example. "It was a great day for a run," she said afterwards. "We had a good turnout for NINR and everyone seemed to enjoy it."

The perimeter trail, paved in blacktop in grassy areas, wound clockwise beginning from the Wilson Ln. gate opening. Interesting snippets of conversation could be overheard from walkers at various stages along the path.

Early on: "Hey, we should just keep walking into Bethesda and get some lunch." "There oughta be a passing lane."

At about the quarter-mile point: "I wonder, can I take the Perimeter Shuttle from here?"

At the unofficial halfway mark: "Maybe we'll just break off here and head for the cafeteria." "Oooh, there's a taxi stand."

At the second or third water stop: "Oh! I think they're selling ice cream at this one!"

And finally, coming in on the homestretch, at the start of a low incline near Rockville Pike and Cedar Ln.: "Are we there yet? Are we there yet?"

Despite the humorous and good-natured rumbling among the masses, the round-trip jaunt—which was cosponsored by the Office of Management and the R&W Association and takes the better part of an hour to complete—drew nothing but praise... and perspiration.—
Carla Garnett 📍

OBSSR Presents Riley Lecture, June 18

The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research will present the 4th annual Matilda White Riley Lecture on Friday, June 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Natcher Conference Center, Balcony B. Dr. Laura Carstensen, director of the Stanford Center on Longevity, Stanford University, will be the guest speaker. The lecture commemorates the advancements and contributions of Riley, who laid the foundation for OBSSR. Carstensen will discuss her research on long life in the 21st century. "Life expectancy increased so quickly that culture has not had time to catch up," she says. The talk will cover increasing life spans and their impact on society.





feedback

Have a question about some aspect of working at NIH? You can post anonymous queries at www.nih.gov/nihrecord/index.htm (click on the Feedback icon) and we'll try to provide answers.

Feedback: What is the quality of the water coming out of water fountains in the different buildings on campus? Does it all come from the same source? Why is bottled water offered free in some buildings while the occupants of other buildings have to pay for it?

Response from ORS/ORF: All water to campus is supplied by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). The WSSC is charged with supplying potable water that meets the EPA's national drinking water standards to its customers. The WSSC routinely tests the quality of the water it supplies to NIH against these standards.

If NIH determines that the water distribution system (plumbing, filters, etc.) within a building is affecting drinking water quality, then ORF facility management will provide an alternative source of drinking water until the problem is corrected.

NIH is prohibited from providing bottled water in buildings unless the drinking water is determined to be unsuitable or unavailable for consumption. The Community Health Branch (CHB) of the Division of Occupational Health and Safety (DOHS) in the Office of Research Services supports NIH facility management by sampling drinking water for concentrations of lead and responding to employee concerns associated with drinking water.

For more information on the water quality provided by WSSC to NIH and surrounding community, visit www.wsscwater.com/. For information on the CHB drinking water analysis program, contact DOHS at (301) 496-2960 or go to http://dohs.ors.od.nih.gov/water_analysis.htm. For building-related concerns, contact appropriate NIH facility managers listed at <http://orf.od.nih.gov/AboutORF/Buildings/>.

Feedback: GovTrip has now become a burden for my office. Each time I create a local travel authorization, we are assessed a \$13.50 fee that goes to Northrop Grumman on an individual transactional basis for services rendered by the GovTrip system, i.e. document processing. What kind of system did we get ourselves into? Imagine 19,000 people at NIH going on local travel. That's \$256,000 of fees! How is that a good way to spend taxpayer money?

Response from the Office of Management: On Jan. 25, 2010, NIH completed deployment of the GovTrip Travel System to all ICs. The implementation of GovTrip was the Department of Health and Human Services' response to the 2004 President's Management Agenda mandate requiring all civilian agencies of the government to deploy an eTravel shared-service solution to "realize the efficiencies, cost-savings and increased service associated with a common, automated and integrated approach to managing travel."

Transaction fees charged by the GovTrip system provider, Northrop Grumman (NG), replace the cost for NIH to maintain its own stand-alone travel system and database. There are three types of approved voucher transaction fees: Local Voucher \$6.25; Interim Voucher \$13.50; and Final Voucher \$13.50. These transaction fees are generated within the travel document; funds are obligated to cover the fees and payment of fees is made directly to NG when a voucher is approved.

As mentioned above, NG charges \$6.25 per local travel voucher. Travelers are encouraged to save local receipts and submit quarterly or biannually on one local travel voucher in order to mitigate the cost of the processing fees. Multiple local trips paid on one voucher would only incur a \$6.25 charge. Each IC has its own policy for submitting receipts for local vouchers.

In addition, because GovTrip offers an online booking tool for non-local travel, NIH fees for reservations through Omega have been reduced from \$23.55 (Domestic Travel \$29.07) and Foreign Travel per reservation booked off-line to \$5.64 per reservation booked online. This has the potential to provide considerable savings to the ICs, offsetting the local travel fee.

12th NIH IntraMall Summer Showcase, June 16-17

The 12th anniversary NIH IntraMall Summer Showcase will be held in the Clinical Center's South Lobby on June 16-17 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will display the IntraMall electronic purchasing system, which now features "Punch-out Shopping and Custom Configuration" tools to support direct connection to suppliers' web sites.

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 of its most frequently used vendors, offering over 10 million laboratory, office and computer items.

New online inventory and same-day delivery options for refrigerated, frozen and ultra-frozen goods will also be demonstrated at the showcase. Stop by and pick up a free re-usable cloth shopping bag.

Register for the event and the free lunch at www.intramalls.com/showcase where a daily list of vendors is displayed to assist you in visiting over 60 of your favorite suppliers to learn about new products.

Author Ditkoff To Present at DDM Seminar

The fourth lecture in the Deputy Director for Management 2009-2010 seminar series, "Management and Science: Partnering for Excellence," will feature Mitchell Ditkoff in a discussion of organizational success strategies based on innovation and high-performing teams. The program will be held on Thursday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Ditkoff is the author of *Awake at the Wheel: Getting Your Great Ideas Rolling in an Uphill World* and *Banking on Innovation*. 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, visit www.ddmseries.od.nih.gov or call (301) 496-3271.

Infants Capable of Learning While Asleep

Newborn infants are capable of a simple form of learning while they're asleep, according to an NIH-funded study. The finding may one day lead to a test that can identify infants at risk for developmental disorders that do not become apparent until later in childhood. The study—funded by NICHD and NIMH—was confined to newborns, so researchers do not know whether older children or adults are capable of learning during sleep. Conducted by Dr. William Fifer and colleagues at Columbia University, the study was published May 17 online in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



Newborn infants are capable of a simple form of learning while they're asleep, according to an NIH-funded study.

Researchers used an electroencephalogram, a machine that records the brain's electrical activity and converts it into patterns, to record the brain activity of each sleeping infant. A video camera recorded each infant's facial expressions. The researchers played a tone while a machine blew a faint puff of air at each sleeping infant's eyelids. In response to the air puff, the infants reflexively squeezed their closed lids tighter. The researchers repeated this nine times, each time pairing the air puff with the tone. For the 10th time in the sequence, however, the researchers played the tone without the air puff. This sequence was repeated over and over again. After roughly 20 minutes, most of the infants (24 out of 26) would scrunch their faces in response to the tone that was not accompanied by the air puff. Moreover, the electroencephalogram detected changes in brain wave activity that occurred simultaneously with the tone, which the researchers interpret as further evidence that the infants had learned to associate the tone with the air puff.

Researchers Publish First Genomic Collection of Human Microbes

The Human Microbiome Project published an analysis of 178 genomes from microbes that live in or on the human body. The researchers discovered novel genes and proteins that serve functions in human health and disease, adding a new level of understanding to what is known about the complexity and diversity of these organisms. The human microbiome consists of all the microorganisms that reside in or on the human body. Outnumbering cells in the human body by 10 to

1, some of the microorganisms cause illnesses, but many are necessary for good health. Currently, researchers can grow only some of the bacteria, fungi and viruses in a laboratory setting. However, new genomic techniques can identify minute amounts of microbial DNA in an individual and determine its identity by comparing the genetic signature to known sequences in the project's data base. The paper was published in the May 21 issue of *Science*.

Experimental Vaccine Protects Monkeys from New Ebola Virus

New research has found that an experimental Ebola vaccine developed by researchers at NIH protects monkeys against not only the two most lethal Ebola virus species for which it was originally designed, both recognized in 1976, but also against a newer Ebola virus species that was identified in 2007. Dr. Nancy J. Sullivan of the Vaccine Research Center at NIAID led the study team, which included collaborators from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases and CDC. Their findings appeared May 20 in the open-access journal *PLoS Pathogens*. Currently, there are no specific treatments or vaccines available to control Ebola outbreaks. The experimental Ebola vaccine being developed at NIAID has two components, a prime and a boost. The prime consists of a DNA vaccine containing a small piece of genetic material encoding surface proteins from Zaire ebolavirus and Sudan ebolavirus. The boost consists of a weakened cold virus that delivers the Zaire ebolavirus surface protein.

Gene Pattern May Identify Kidney Transplant Recipients Who Don't Need Life-Long Anti-Rejection Drugs

Researchers have identified a distinct pattern of gene expression in the largest reported group of kidney transplant recipients who have not rejected the transplant kidneys even though they stopped taking anti-rejection drugs. This finding may help identify other transplant recipients who could safely reduce or end use of immunosuppressive therapy. In 2008, more than 80,000 people in the United States were living with a kidney transplant. The findings come from the Immune Tolerance Network, an international research consortium supported by NIAID, NIDDK and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. Their report appears online in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. "This study holds promise for identifying kidney transplant recipients who might be able to minimize or withdraw from their use of anti-rejection drugs. However, large, prospective studies will be necessary to determine if the same biomarkers identified in the current study are reliable predictors of immune tolerance," said NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci.—compiled by Carla Garnett

volunteers

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.

Skin Study in Children

This study looks at how microbes such as bacteria and fungi contribute to skin diseases. Healthy children ages 2-12 without eczema or asthma who have a primary care physician and who are willing to travel to the Clinical Center are needed. Interested individuals who are eligible to participate will have their skin evaluated and sampled, as well as have a consultation with a board-certified dermatologist. A small blood sample will be collected. Qualified participants will receive compensation. For more information to see if your child qualifies, call 1-888-NIH-DERM.

Women's Health Studies Seek Healthy Volunteers

Healthy women ages 18-65 are invited to participate in outpatient research studies. Compensation is provided. Call (301) 496-9576 and refer to protocols 81-M-0126 and 88-M-0131 and 03-M-0138.

Midlife, Menopause Study Stopping Hormone Therapy

Women ages 45-65 who have taken hormone therapy for perimenopausal mood changes are invited to participate in an outpatient research study. There is no cost for participation. Compensation is provided. Call (301) 496-9576 and refer to study 03-M-0175.

Postpartum Depression Research Studies

Women ages 18-45 who struggle with postpartum depression or who had PPD in the past are invited to participate in outpatient research studies. There is no cost for participation. Compensation may be provided. Call (301) 496-9576 and refer to study 03-M-0138.

Volunteer Smokers Needed

The Mood & Anxiety Disorders Program, NIMH, is looking for volunteer smokers with no current or history of psychiatric illness, between the ages of 18 and 65, to participate in a multitude of studies. Studies may include PET and/or MRI scans, psychological interview and neuropsychological testing, depending on the study you choose to participate in. Call (301) 435-8982 for more information.

Diet Induced Obesity

Healthy volunteers are needed for a study investigating the reasons why some individuals maintain their weight. The study looks at the response to different diets in relation to their metabolism. Consider participating in this study if you are 30-50 years of age, have a body mass index (BMI) between 18.5-23.0, and have a stable weight (less than 2 percent change in the last 6 months). All study-related tests and meals are provided at no cost. Compensation is provided. Refer to study 09-DK-0238.



NIAMS director Dr. Stephen Katz (front, r) and deputy director Dr. Robert Carter (back row, l) welcome new members to the institute's council. They include (back row, from l) Jean Pickford, Dr. Julio Vergara and Dr. Regis O'Keefe. Joining Katz in the front row is Bradley Stephenson. (Not pictured: Dr. Harry Dietz)

Five Appointed to NIAMS Council

Five new members were recently named to the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Advisory Council.

Dr. Harry C. Dietz is the Victor A. McKusick professor of medicine and genetics at the Institute of Genetic Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, director of the Marfan Syndrome Clinic at Johns Hopkins and a professor in the pediatrics and neurosurgery departments at Hopkins. He is a member of numerous professional associations including the American Society of Human Genetics, Society for Pediatric Research and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Regis J. O'Keefe is chair of the department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and director of the Center for Musculoskeletal Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He is a national leader in the field of orthopaedic oncology, past president of the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade and is a member of several national organizations including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Jean Pickford is executive director of the Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types, Inc. (F.I.R.S.T.), which represents individuals and families affected by a set of rare genetic skin diseases. Before directing F.I.R.S.T., she worked for the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association of the Delaware Valley and for the American Heart Association's chapter in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Bradley R. Stephenson, an attorney, is an advocate for muscular dystrophy patients and has served on the muscular dystrophy coordinating committee at NIH since 2003. He is also founder of a web site dedicated to Becker Muscular Dystrophy and serves on the advisory board of Texans for the Advancement of Medical Research.

Dr. Julio L. Vergara is distinguished professor of physiology in the department of physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine. He is a renowned expert in the field of muscle physiology and a national leader in training physiology researchers and physician-scientists.



At left, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins and his wife Diane Baker bike to campus, entering near the Children's Inn. In center photo, Lt. Beth Osterink (l) coordinates a composting effort and is joined by cyclists Catherine Rehm of NIAID (r) and Megan Mattingly of NIDDK (c). In photo at right, NIDDK's Vipul Periwál registers his bike with Cpl. John Ritch of the NIH Police.

Bike Day Draws Crowd, Including Collins

NIH director Dr. Francis Collins and his wife Diane Baker, both wearing NIH Bicycle Commuter Club cycling shirts, were among the hundreds of NIH'ers who bicycled to work on May 21, which was Bike to Work Day.

Dropping by the official event pit stop in front of Bldg. 1, Collins said he and his wife pedaled in from their home in Rockville, and at one point were joined by an NIDDK postdoc who rode with them the rest of the way.

Collins said he usually commutes to work aboard his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, but allowed that commuting by bike is "better exercise and clearly healthier." Wishing participants a safe ride home, he added, "I hope we do this as often as we can."

NIH also sponsored pit stops at Executive Plaza and Rockledge. The EPN site featured a sock exchange—cyclists could turn in used pairs for new ones from SmartWool. Also on hand was a bike mechanic from Hudson Trail Outfitters.

The Rockledge site boasted a mechanic from outdoor store REI, who checked out bikes for free; Bldg. 1 hosted a technician from Bicycle Place. The R&W Fitness Center at Rockledge also offered 1-month memberships to two lucky riders and extended use of its shower facilities to non-members on Bike to Work Day.

Washington Area Bicycling Association board member Casey Anderson attended the Bldg. 1 pit stop and reported that the Maryland State Highway Administration recently pledged to complete the Bethesda Trolley Trail as part of the Navy medical center expansion. The trail connects White Flint with the Capital Crescent Trail in Bethesda.

About 500 NIH'ers participated in this year's event, which should earn NIH its fifth consecutive win in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' competition for area employer with the most workers saddling up.



Above, Collins greets attendees at the Bldg. 1 pit stop. His remarks at the gathering are captured at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQsJ6pjAh84>. At left below, tandem cyclist Don Schneider of CSR gets help from his "stoker" Jean Chen of NIGMS, who also happens to be his wife of 30 years. Below, at right, NCI's Steve Friedman (l) gets a bike tune-up from Bicycle Place's Michael Butchko.

PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON

