

nih record



ABOVE • Kids romp with the NIH Federal Credit Union mascot at the recent outdoor film festival. See story on p. 16.

features

Injunction Halts Stem Cell Research; Ruling Appealed 1

UNC's Anderson Recruited To Direct DPCPSI 3

Ground Broken for New NCI Shady Grove Complex 5

Vending Machines Offer Healthy Options 7

A Warning About Deer Mating Season 9

departments

Briefs 2
 Milestones 10
 Digest 14
 Volunteers 15

Ruling Under Appeal, Temporary Stay Granted

NIH Ordered to Halt Intramural hESC Research

By Carla Garnett

NIH intramural scientists were ordered to shut down research using human embryonic stem cells (hESC), effective Aug. 27. HHS issued the order, which was communicated to scientists via a memo from NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman. The halt followed an injunction by a federal judge who ruled that human embryonic stem cell research conducted or funded by the federal government violates the Dickey-Wicker provision.

After hESC work—and funding for it—stopped for about 12 days, an appeals court granted a temporary stay of the injunction on Sept. 9.

“We are pleased with the court’s interim ruling, which will allow promising stem cell research to continue while we present further arguments to the court in the weeks to come,” NIH said in a statement Sept. 10, as the *Record* went to press. “With the temporary stay in place, NIH has resumed intramural research and will continue its consideration of grants that were frozen by the preliminary injunction on [Aug. 23]. The suspension of all grants, contracts and applications that involve the use of human embryonic stem cells has been temporarily lifted.”

SEE STEM CELLS, PAGE 4



Staffing the Office of Human Resources table at the recent hiring event are (from l) Mable Chang, Carrie Williams and Brenda Morissette.

Hiring Event Reaches Out to People with Disabilities, Veterans

By Rich McManus

NIH held its first-ever Hiring Event for Veterans and Persons with Disabilities on Aug. 31 at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda. Representatives from a variety of institutes and centers welcomed over 100 job candidates who had already applied and been prescreened for a variety of professional, technical, scientific and administrative positions.

The all-day event was designed to help NIH

SEE HIRING, PAGE 8

A Harvest of High-Impact Science Pioneer Awards Symposium Set

Join more than 120 recipients of NIH Director’s Pioneer and New Innovator Awards for research presentations, poster sessions and informal discussions at the annual Pioneer Award Symposium. This year’s gathering will be on Thursday, Sept. 30, and Friday, Oct. 1 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Attendance is free and no registration is required.

A centerpiece of the event is thematically grouped platform presentations by the “graduating class” of Pioneer Award recipients, who are completing their 5-year grants. For details, see the agenda and links to research summaries and publications at <http://commonfund.nih.gov/pioneer/Symposium2010/>. These talks will be videocast live and archived at <http://videocast.nih.gov>.

The symposium will also feature a moderated poster session by the Pioneers who received their awards a year ago as well as a separate poster session by a number of other Pioneer Award recipients. A third poster session will

SEE HIGH-IMPACT, PAGE 6



The NIH Record is published biweekly at Bethesda, MD by the Editorial Operations Branch, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available upon request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 2010.

To receive alerts to our latest issue, send an email to listserv@list.nih.gov with the words "Subscribe NIHRECORD" in the message body.

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The NIH Record reserves the right to make corrections, changes or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

briefs

Seminar on Aquatic Animal Care, Use

A seminar titled "Aquatic Animal Care & Use – What You Need to Know About Research and Management of Zebrafish & Xenopus at the NIH" will be held Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. The two-part seminar includes a morning session on Management and Husbandry Practices of Aquatic Species at NIH and an afternoon session on Research Uses of Aquatic Species at NIH. For information and registration, visit http://fmp-8.cit.nih.gov/aquatics/index_1.html or contact Dr. Lauren Davidson, (301) 402-0947, davidsonl@mail.nih.gov.

Symposium on Animal Welfare and Research

Modeled after the first symposium on animal welfare and scientific research in 1984, a 2-day symposium, "Recognizing 25 Years of Improving Animal Welfare, Advancing Science," is being cosponsored by NIH. The event recognizes the achievements of 2½ decades of biomedical research conducted under the U.S. Government Principles, the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations.

On Oct. 25, leading veterinarians and animal welfare experts will discuss advances in housing facilities, institutional animal care and use committees, education and training and veterinary care. The program will include both the history of animal welfare policy in the U.S. and discussion of ideas for future development. An evening session will include the keynote address, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants," by Dr. Charles McCarthy, who was instrumental in developing federal regulations for the protection of human and animal research subjects.

On Oct. 26, national policy experts and leading biomedical researchers will focus on the contributions of animal models to human and animal health. Topics include advances in global infectious disease research, development of medicines and devices for humans and animals, genetic vulnerabilities associated with cancer and aging and understanding depression, schizophrenia and autism.

The symposium will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott. A program and registration information can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/seminar/index.html>. For more information, email AWSRSymposium@mail.nih.gov or phone (301) 496-7163.

NIH Institute Relay, Sept. 23

The 27th NIH Institute Challenge Relay will be held in front of Bldg. 1 on Thursday, Sept. 23, starting at 11:30 a.m. The relay consists of teams of five runners, each of whom runs a ½-mile loop around Bldg. 1. All institutes, centers, divisions and contractors are invited to enter as many teams as they wish. Each team must have men and women runners with at least two runners of the same sex (you can have a team of two females-three males or three females-two males). The team with the fastest five runners will have their names inscribed on the Allen Lewis NIH Memorial Trophy located at the Bldg. 31 Fitness Center. There is a \$10 entry fee per team. Group leaders should email Kallie Wasserman at wassermankt@mail.nih.gov with team name and participants. Volunteers are also needed; call the R&W office at (301) 496-6061 or email Wasserman if you would like to help.

OITE Hosts Community College Day, Oct. 1

The NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education will host the 2010 Community College Day on Friday, Oct. 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Natcher Conference Center. Community college students and faculty will visit campus to learn about careers and training opportunities here. For details and to register, go to www.training.nih.gov/cc2010.



NICHD Convenes Autism Workshop

Autism spectrum disorder can be difficult to diagnose, particularly in medically underserved racial and ethnic minorities. In consultation with the NIH autism coordinating committee, NICHD recently convened a workshop to help identify methods for diagnosing the disorder in widely diverse populations, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and younger age groups. Dr. Catherine Lord (c), director of the University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorders Center, provided an overview for attendees on current diagnostic methods. With Lord are NICHD deputy director Dr. Yvonne Maddox (l) and NICHD director Dr. Alan Guttmacher.

UNC's Anderson To Direct Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives

Dr. James M. Anderson has been named director of NIH's Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI, known affectionately on campus as 'D-Pough-keepsie') and is due to arrive this month.

"With experience in clinical medicine, in academic research and in administration, Dr. Anderson has a broad understanding of the biomedical research spectrum that will serve him and the NIH well as he works with us to evaluate, prioritize and coordinate a



wide range of trans-NIH research opportunities," said NIH director Dr. Francis Collins. "I am thrilled to have recruited him to NIH."

DPCPSI's mission includes identifying emerging scientific opportunities, rising public health challenges and scientific knowledge gaps that merit further research. It plans and implements trans-NIH initiatives supported by the Common Fund and coordinates research related to AIDS, behavioral and social sciences, women's health and disease prevention.

Anderson was most recently professor and chair of the department of cell and molecular physiology in the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a position he held since 2002. Before his appointment at UNC, he was professor of medicine and cell biology and chief, section of digestive diseases, Yale School of Medicine.

Anderson has extensive clinical experience in both internal medicine and hepatology. He is considered among the top authorities in the world in his primary research field of tight junctions and paracellular transport. He has been a principal investigator on NIH grants for almost 20 years.

The Common Fund encourages collaboration and supports a series of high-impact, trans-NIH programs. The programs are managed by the NIH Office of the Director in partnership with the institutes and centers.



Opens Science to Disadvantaged Students NIA Grantee Brinton Wins President's Citizens Medal

By Peggy Vaughn

Dr. Roberta Diaz Brinton, a University of Southern California professor and NIA grantee, enjoyed touring the White House a few years ago. She returned for a second visit Aug. 4, but this time she was an honored guest receiving the 2010 Citizens Medal in a ceremony presided over by President Barack Obama. The award—one of the highest honors a civilian can receive in the United States—recognizes

Americans who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country and fellow citizens.

The award recognized Brinton for her two decades leading the USC Science, Technology and Research (STAR) Program, an ongoing collaborative of USC, area schools and the National Science Foundation to provide science education and mentoring to disadvantaged and minority inner-city students in Los Angeles. STAR helps develop science curricula in elementary and middle school classrooms, provides hands-on experiences in laboratories, promotes science education for teachers and school science fairs and funds college scholarships.

Obama remarked during the ceremony honoring 13 awardees that even though their names may not be well-known to the public, they "are heroes to those who need them most."

STAR students apparently agreed and nominated Brinton for the honor. The program touches the lives of some 3,000 elementary through college students annually, and the results are telling: 100 percent of STAR students attend college and 88 percent pursue majors in science and engineering.

But Brinton said credit for the success of the program is shared by many.

"No one scientist can have this much impact on youth," she said. "It takes a team of scientists, postdocs and grad students to work with and mentor the students. I may have been the one at the White House ceremony, but we are in this together."

A long-time NIA grantee, Brinton conducts basic research into the neurobiology of the aging female brain and its vulnerability to Alzheimer's disease. Her studies show that allopregnanolone, one of the most common steroids in the brain, improves brain health and reverses cognitive decline in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. Now, the NIA Division of Neuroscience's translational research program is funding her preclinical development of the steroid as a possible therapy for the disease.

"Dr. Brinton is achieving, and brilliantly so, what many researchers only dream about—translating their academic research into the discovery of potential new therapies," said Dr. Marcelle Morrison-Bogorad, director of NIA's Division of Neuroscience. "That she also manages to mentor students who might otherwise never see science as important or as a career possibility speaks to her generosity of spirit."

Brinton also credits teamwork for her success in bridging the gap between bench to bedside, but this time with her institute colleagues.

"NIA is invested in the science and the success of the research program," Brinton said. "If problems arise, if things aren't going exactly as planned in the grant, you are not alone. You have this network of very engaged NIA Division of Neuroscience program officers as part of your team."

STEM CELLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NIH will continue to update the status of the case on the agency's stem cell web page at <http://stemcells.nih.gov/index.asp>.

Note to Intramural Scientists

Prior to the Sept. 9 stay, Gottesman sent a note to intramural scientists: "HHS has determined that the recent preliminary injunction ordered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the matter of *Sherley v. Sebelius* is applicable to the use of human embryonic stem cells in intramural research projects. In light of this determination, effective today Aug. 27, 2010, all intramural scientists who use hESC lines should initiate procedures to terminate these projects. Procedures that will conserve and protect the research resources should be followed."

The note continued, "All intramural principal investigators using hESCs should succinctly describe what research will be terminated, provide the parent annual report number (if the project is associated with one from FY 2009 or before) and describe any alternate use of funds that will become available as a result of this action. This information should be sent to the [institute/center scientific director] and a copy should be sent to [Gottesman]."

Director Responds

The judge's Aug. 23 injunction came as a sudden and unwelcome surprise to NIH director Dr. Francis Collins.

"Human embryonic stem cell research holds great promise for the development of treatments for people threatened by potentially curable diseases," he said Aug. 26 in a written statement. "The recent court ruling that halted the federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research could cause irreparable damage and delay potential breakthroughs to improve care for people living with serious diseases and conditions such as spinal cord injury, diabetes or Parkinson's disease. The injunction threatens to stop progress in one of the most encouraging areas of biomedical research, just as scientists are gaining momentum—and squander the investment we have already made."

"The possibility of using these cells to replace those that have been damaged by disease or injury is one of the most breathtaking advances we can envision," the statement continued. "Human embryonic stem cells also represent

a powerful new approach to the early stages of screening for new drugs and may hold the secrets to creating entirely new, targeted clinical therapies. We must move forward—without delay—to sustain this field of research that provides so much hope for thousands of patients and their families."

By Aug. 27, HHS had analyzed the ruling and determined that work in progress—no matter what stage the project was in—must stop in accordance with the injunction.

Dickey-Wicker, also called an amendment or "rider," was first enacted in 1995 as an addition to an appropriations bill. The rider, attached and passed by Congress on every funding bill since then, prohibits federal government agencies to pay for scientific research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

Before Aug. 27, federal agencies including NIH conducted and funded research using hESCs derived by private organizations who then supplied them to the agencies. The new ruling makes no distinction between federal agencies themselves deriving the hESCs and federal agencies funding or conducting research on hESCs provided from sources outside the federal government.

NIH Appeals, Asks for Stay

Within days, HHS and NIH filed an appeal through the Department of Justice, which is also handling all official public responses on the matter. NIH posted copies of the appeal documents on its web site.

"The preliminary injunction issued in this case will have extraordinary adverse effects not only on the prospects of delivering new therapies to patients suffering from numerous diseases and disorders but also on scientific progress from the wider biomedical research community," said Collins in a 12-page declaration Aug. 31 requesting a stay of the injunction. "It will result in immeasurable loss of valuable and one-of-a-kind research resources. Unique modifications and applications of hESC, under way in laboratories with federal funded research as far back as 2002, could be lost irretrievably or could take years to recreate...Government resources already expended on hESC research to date, including over \$546 million of public funds, will have been wasted and the mission and operations of NIH will be severely hampered as a result of this court's order."

Eight intramural hESC research projects were under way at the time of the stay. An estimated 45 scientists and other workers were staffing the research, which had a combined budget of about \$9.5 million, according to FY 2009 figures. ●

NCI Educates Congressional Staff, Advocates

NCI and the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) recently co-hosted a pilot program, Project Cancer Education, for congressional staff and cancer research advocates. Held on campus, the half-day educational program's goal was "to explain what translational research means; to show that bench-to-bedside is only part of the cycle," said Susan Erikson, director of NCI's Office of Government and Congressional Relations.

The participants toured the Clinical Center, stopping in the pediatric unit to gain an appreciation of a young patient's cancer experience and to learn about the research of Dr. Jun Wei, an NCI biologist studying pediatric neuroblastoma. In the pathology lab, participants learned the importance of properly handling and storing patient samples for accurate diagnoses and future research use. To show attendees the evolution of cancer diagnosis, each advocate or staff member was given a traditional pathology report similar to that of an actual cancer patient along with a genotype report detailing the genetic abnormalities within the tumor.

The attendees visited Dr. Natasha Caplen's laboratory to observe how gene expression array data from tumor cells is collected and analyzed, to understand how knowing the altered gene activities operating in a tumor inform the design of therapeutic strategies and to learn how Caplen's research on gene silencing can validate chosen molecular targets for customized cancer therapy.

"I really enjoyed learning about the world of gene silencing and getting to see where so much of that innovation is taking place," said Elyse Marcellino, staff member for Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi.

Dr. Ola Landgren discussed his studies on multiple myeloma, including the importance of identifying cancer precursor stages like smoldering myeloma. Landgren walked the group through further testing for preclinical profiles linked to this cancer, potential treatments, innovative clinical trials and prognoses for patients with this disease.

Dr. Lee Helman, scientific director for clinical research at the Center for Cancer Research, and Dr. Don Benson, Ohio State University assistant professor and AACI representative, concluded the program by recapping the power and importance of translational research. Both emphasized the interdependence of research in the lab and the clinic as well as the valuable



Dr. Lee Helman (l) and Susan Erikson (third from r) lead congressional staff and cancer research advocates on a tour of the Clinical Research Center during NCI's Project Cancer Education.

partnerships between NCI and the network of cancer research institutions. "We need to integrate basic and clinical research to make cancer preventable, curable and chronically manageable," Helman said.—**Jennifer Crawford** 

Groundbreaking Held for NCI's Future Satellite Campus

The Sept. 1 groundbreaking ceremony for NCI's future satellite campus and buildings in Shady Grove drew a large crowd and featured remarks by NCI director Dr. Harold Varmus, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, among others.

The buildings are scheduled to open in 2013 and will house nearly 2,100 staff from many of NCI's divisions, offices and centers. The campus will allow for anticipated growth in NCI's programs and personnel.

"We'll be bringing staff from four different locations into one consolidated space," said Varmus, who biked to the event. "We're going to have environmentally friendly facilities, with accommodations for bike commuters like me."

He thanked NCI employees who have worked with the developers and architects to design the new campus. "Their hard work in helping the planning process is very beneficial to accomplishing our mission," he said.



On hand at the groundbreaking were (from l) Elaine Amir, executive director of Johns Hopkins University Montgomery County, Julia Hudson of the GSA National Capital Region, Montgomery County Council President Nancy Floreen, Rep. Donna Edwards, Rep. Chris Van Hollen, NCI director Dr. Harold Varmus, Sen. Benjamin Cardin and JHU President Ronald Daniels.

HIGH-IMPACT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

showcase the work of New Innovator Award recipients. Each afternoon poster session will have a concurrent reception.

The Pioneer and New Innovator Awards are part of the High Risk Research program of the NIH Common Fund. Information on the recipients and their research is at <http://commonfund.nih.gov/pioneer> and <http://commonfund.nih.gov/newinnovator>.

“This meeting offers a very special opportunity to hear a group of exceptionally creative scientists describe their highly innovative, bold and often unconventional approaches to major research challenges,” said Dr. Jeremy Berg, who directs NIGMS and is also a leader of the Pioneer and New Innovator programs. “It’s intellectually stimulating to cover such a wide range of topics in a single event. And beyond the exposure to new ideas, an exciting outcome of past meetings has been the sparking of new collaborations,” he added.

The conference center is located at 5701 Marinelli Rd. in Bethesda, near the Metro Red Line White Flint station. On-site parking is available at hourly and daily rates.

For reasonable accommodation or more information, contact Shan McCollough at (301) 594-3555 or pioneer@nih.gov.

HHS Mentoring Program Recruits for October

Permanent federal employees interested in serving as mentors and mentees across the NIH community are invited to join the NIH October 2010 cohort of the HHS Mentoring Program. Program components include senior-to-junior and peer-to-peer mentoring, online application and matching system, mentor-mentee online orientation, 1-year mentoring relationship and professional development activities. For more information, visit http://trainingcenter.nih.gov/hhs_mentoring.html.

UCSF’s Martin To Speak on FGF Signaling

Dr. Gail Martin will deliver a talk titled “FGF Signaling in Vertebrate Embryogenesis: How Sprouty Genes Help Get It Right,” on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Hers is the final talk in this year’s NIDCR Seminar Series “From Basic Research to Therapy—The Latest Frontier.”

Martin’s research is focused on the signaling mechanisms that control organogenesis in the vertebrate embryo, including development of the limbs, kidneys and teeth. She is particularly interested in the role of fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) in these fundamental processes. Martin will describe her work in a mouse model on the role of Sprouty genes—negative inhibitors of FGF signaling—in vertebrate organ development. She and her colleagues recently found that defects in Sprouty disrupt orientation of the cell division plane.

Martin is professor and vice chair, department of anatomy, at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. She earned her doctorate in molecular biology from the University of California, Berkeley, and did postdoctoral work at University College, London. She has received numerous honors and awards, including the E.G. Conklin Medal from the Society for Developmental Biology and the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize from the Rockefeller University. She has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. Martin has also served as president of the Society for Developmental Biology.

Sign language interpretation will be provided. For more information, or for reasonable accommodation, contact Mary Daum, (301) 594-7559 and/or the Federal Relay (1-800-877-8339). The lecture will be videocast live at <http://videocast.nih.gov>.



Research Festival Set, Oct. 5-8

This year's NIH Research Festival is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 5-Friday, Oct. 8. It kicks off on Oct. 5 in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10 with the opening plenary session "DNA Unwound: The Path from Characterization to Treatment of Rare and Common Genetic-based Disorders."

After that, events move to Natcher conference center, where there will be a poster session from noon to 2 and symposia from 2 to 4 p.m. At 4:15 there will be a FARE Awards ceremony and reception.

Wednesday features more concurrent symposia, more poster sessions and special exhibits on resources for intramural research, all in Natcher. On Thursday, in Bldg. 10 and on the parking lot behind it, there will be the annual Technical Sales Association exhibit, which extends into Friday.

Friday features the symposium "Neurobiology: A Tribute to Marshall Nirenberg," in Masur Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At 3 p.m., a memorial service honoring Nirenberg's career will be held in Lipsett Amphitheater.

For more details about the festival, visit <http://researchfestival.nih.gov> or follow <http://twitter.com/@NIHResearchFest>.

NIH Marks 'America Recycles Day'

America Recycles Day occurs annually on Nov. 15. This year, the Division of Environmental Protection, ORS, wants your participation in a recycling competition, pitting building against building.

The accumulation of mixed paper and commingled recycling will be tracked throughout the month of October and the results will be announced during the week of Nov. 15. Buildings will be judged on reduction of solid waste generated and increase in materials recycled. The building with the largest decrease in solid waste as compared to October 2009 data will win the title of Waste Minimization Extraordinaire. The Grand Champion honor will go to the building with the highest recycling rate. Each contest will have a winner announced in the office and laboratory building category.

DEP and various institute/center green teams will set up tables with information about the competition. For details and to view recycling data from October 2009, visit www.nems.nih.gov. If you have further questions, call DEP at (301) 496-7990. Also, look for other events your IC green teams may be hosting for the occasion.

Vending Machines To Offer Healthy Choices

It's late in the afternoon and you're feeling the blahs, so you go to the vending machine to get—a candy bar and a soda? As an NIH employee, you know there are better things you could eat, but it's tough to find them in the middle of the afternoon after the cafeterias and convenience stores close. That is, until now.

Most people wouldn't naturally associate health food with vending machines, but a 90-day pilot program organized through the Division of Amenities and Transportation Services, ORS, is hoping to change that. Five pairs of drink and snack machines are now offering new, healthier choices to employees and visitors craving something salty or sweet, but with fewer calories and careful attention paid to sugar and fat content.

The five pairs of machines are located in some of the more high-traffic areas around campus—Bldg. 31A near the credit union, Bldg. 31C near the Fitness Center, near the second-floor cafeteria in the Clinical Center, the first floor of the Natcher Conference Center and the sixth-floor break room in 2 Democracy. These snack machines offer pretzels, nuts, granola bars, baked chips, dried fruit and other smart snacks; the drink machines contain diet sodas and teas, water and sports drinks.

The pilot program is a joint effort between DATS, Canteen Vending and the NIH Health and Wellness Council. Dr. Michael Donovan, a member of the DATS team, said, "This healthy vending pilot is really part of a broader movement to roll out a number of wellness initiatives to the NIH community. Offering healthier food options and additional fitness activities both help contribute to a healthier campus."

There are currently more than 300 vending machines located in space owned or leased by NIH. The proceeds from the machines, as with the convenience stores, benefit the Maryland Business Enterprise Program for the Blind.

The pilot program runs through the month of October. DATS and MBEPB will be measuring its success by comparing sales from the machines during the pilot to sales during the same time last year. This analysis will help them make adjustments and inform future expansion of the program.—
Valerie Lambros



Dr. Michael Donovan makes a selection from one of the new vending machines offering healthy choices.



HIRING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:

Present at the hiring event on Aug. 31 were (from l) Chris Major, director of the Office of Human Resources, Lori Thompson and Valerie Gill of OHR and job candidate Michael Kawczynski of Wisconsin.

PHOTOS: RICH MCMANUS

find the best veterans and people with disabilities to support the NIH mission, said Valerie Gill, director of the Client Services Division of the Office of Human Resources. About 111 individuals would need to be hired to reach the goal of having 2 percent of the NIH workforce composed of people with disabilities, she said.

Hiring veterans is also an emphasis for the Obama administration and NIH. To attract its target populations, HR ran advertisements in the *Washington Post* and reached out to selected military bases, as well as to placement services for people with disabilities. More than 400 applications arrived in response to the outreach, said Larry Chloupek, management liaison director in the Office of Intramural Research.

The event itself featured near-military precision: candidates were met at the hotel doors by greeters who escorted them to a waiting area where food and drink were plentiful. HR specialists were on hand for the hour-long interviews, along with hiring managers from 19 ICs. Accommodations were available for those needing interpreters or who relied on assist animals such as seeing-eye dogs. One candidate interviewed for a position by phone from a military base in Afghanistan. All attendees received goodie bags loaded with useful items and information about NIH.

“There has been a tremendous outpouring of support from across NIH,” said Lori Thompson of OHR, adding that some 50 volunteers and hiring managers were on hand, including a cadre of Presidential Management fellows and members of the Administrative Fellows Program.

The NIH Federal Credit Union and the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association also manned tables, to introduce potential new hires to the range of amenities available at NIH. The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc., was also a sponsor.

The strong support was deeply appreciated by job candidate Michael Kawczynski of Wisconsin, who was interviewing for two jobs. Although currently unemployed—his spine was crushed in a construc-

tion accident and it took him 2 years to learn how to walk again—he proved an articulate advocate for the community of job-seekers who happen to have disabilities.

“There is a 47 percent unemployment rate for people with disabilities,” he reported. “And only 25 percent of the disabled population is even looking for work.” He said that disability-related gaps in employment history render people with disabilities virtually unemployable in private industry.

There is also a needless stigma attached to hiring people with disabilities, he said. “Most people [with disabilities] don’t need any accommodation at all.” And most are happy to discuss their disability with others. “We would rather tell you. It’s an opportunity to educate.”

Active in employment issues in his home state, Kawczynski applauded NIH’s efforts to reach out. “The telework opportunities at NIH are also very attractive,” he said. “A lot of people can’t relocate.”

Learning that NIH had prepared for the event in only 4 months, including a special session presented to participating hiring managers held prior to the event with experts on interviewing and hiring disabled individuals (including persons with mental/intellectual disabilities) and veterans, Kawczynski said, “I don’t know of any other organization that has done that.”

Though technically out of work, Kawczynski describes himself as “a consultant who is able to be an advocate.” He is also well-connected; the deputy director of the Office of Personnel Management has asked him to write a brief on the success of NIH’s hiring event. “The goal is to get all federal agencies aware of the need to hire people with disabilities,” he said.

“We are expecting a good return on our investment in this,” said OHR’s Gill, who launched a similar large-scale hiring event at her former employer, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. “I’m expecting NIH to make a lot of hires from this event.”

She noted that the most impressive candidates could receive job offers within 1-2 weeks, once reference checks are complete.

“Our hiring managers are very enthusiastic about this [effort],” said Chris Major, director of OHR, who successfully sold NIH’s executive officers on the need for such an event.

Said one manager, Erin Goldstein of the National Library of Medicine, “Other managers should have come because they missed out on great people.” ●



A buck, perhaps considering mating season, keeps watch near Bldg. 49 in early July.

PHOTO: JON MARSH

A Warning About Deer Mating Season

By Lynn Mueller

While the temperature may not suggest that fall and winter will soon be here, there are other indicators that prove autumn is here now: Our resident deer herd is becoming more active with the coming breeding season and NIH'ers need to be mindful while walking and driving across the campus.

Approximately two or three deer were enclosed on campus in 2005 when the 8-foot perimeter security fence was completed. The population is now estimated to be about 7 adults with possibly 8 fawns born last May.

The upcoming rut from early October through late November will cause the deer to become more active especially from late afternoon to early morning. During that time they may be found anywhere across the campus from open lawns and meadows to more wooded or forested areas.

The Office of Research Facilities has erected several Deer Crossing Warning signs along roads. Be alert while driving, especially between dusk and dawn. Deer do not stop, look and listen when about to cross a road. As a result, there are thousands of deer-car collisions during this time across the metro area. An injured animal can be extremely dangerous.

During the mating season, the bucks (males with the antlers) will compete for does (no antlers). Bucks may be seen jousting and head butting to determine dominance. Mature males weigh between 150 and 250 pounds. Bucks have been known to become aggressive towards people. Do not approach any deer at this time of year.

One to possibly three fawns will be born to a mature doe next May. Two is most usual. Fawns have white spots on their coats and can walk and even run within hours after birth. However, they usually lay still in the vegetation unless disturbed. Does can be very protective of their young and can charge anyone getting too close to a baby. Be aware when walking off paved areas and retreat or detour around any deer encountered. Do not attempt to find a hiding fawn and do not touch or pick one up thinking it is abandoned. The mother is nearby.

Female fawns will stay with their mothers for up to

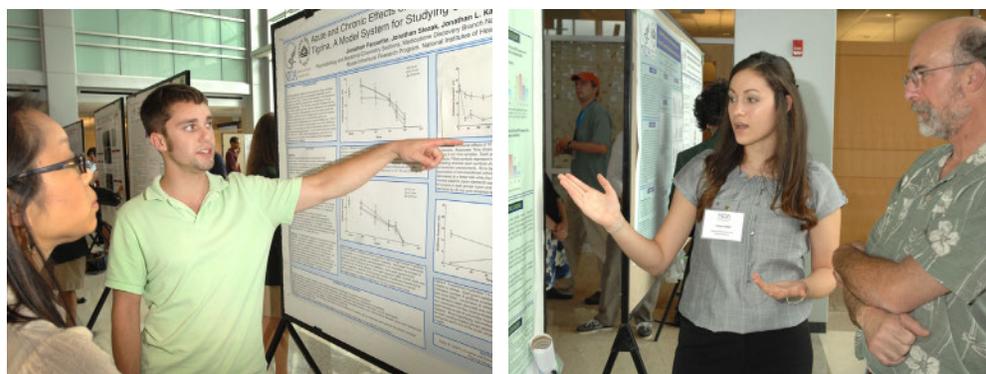
2 years. Young males will venture out after one year. Males will begin to grow a new set of antlers starting in June and will shed them in January. The size of the rack of antlers usually indicates the age and health of a dominant male.

Growing antlers are covered in "velvet," a blood-enriched protective coating that dries and begins to slough off as antlers mature. Bucks rub their antlers on small trees to remove the itchy velvet. These scratch marks where bark is removed are called "buck rubs."

Another concern is that deer may carry both deer and dog ticks. Deer ticks, in particular, may harbor Lyme disease. It is not known if any ticks are present on campus but it's better not to venture into high grass areas where the insects are most likely to be found.

Following a few simple tips will keep humans and wildlife safe on campus.

The author is NIH's longtime landscape architect. 



NIDA Poster Session Culminates Summer Internship Program

On Aug. 3, 46 summer interns at NIDA's Intramural Research Program presented their research findings in an afternoon poster session. This past summer, students (including Jonathon Farzanfar at left and Kelsey Vargas at right) worked directly with an intramural scientist on a research project, gaining hands-on research experience that they are unlikely to encounter in college or high school. Poster topics included cellular and behavioral studies of cocaine and methamphetamine, receptor binding studies of opioid ligands, the role of glutamatergic neurons in dopamine circuits and studies of resting-state functional brain connectivity. Students participated in one of two programs: the NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research or the Recruitment & Training Program for Underrepresented Populations. For information about the NIH program, contact Dr. Stephen Heishman (heishman@nih.gov) and for the Underrepresented Populations program, contact Dr. Jean Lud Cadet (jcadet@intra.nida.nih.gov).

Car-Free Day, Sept. 22

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, NIH will join the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments in celebrating the third annual Car-Free Day. This is an international event that encourages people to get around without using their car, highlighting bicycling, mass-transit, walking and alternative modes of transportation. DATS will issue transit funds for this event. If you accept the challenge to be car-free on Sept. 22, you can obtain up to \$20 in Metrocheks (paper fare cards) from the Employee Transportation Services Office. You can use Metrocheks on the Metro subway or add them to your SmarTrip card for bus rides. DATS will also provide a SmarTrip cards to the first 50 employees that sign up. To apply for these funds you will have to come to Bldg. 31, Rm. B3B04 by Monday, Sept. 20.

To learn more about Car-Free Day and make a pledge to go car-free, visit www.carfreemetrodcc.com/pledge-to-car-free.php and click on "Pledge to be Car-Free." Current Transshare members and contractors are not eligible for this offer.

NIH'ers Among Top HHS Innovation Winners

NIH scored big in the inaugural HHS *Innovates* Awards program, collecting two of three Secretary's Pick honors. In response to an open

request for innovation candidates last spring, a total of 126 concepts from across the Department of Health and Human Services were submitted. HHS employees were invited to vote for the best. Department staffers cast nearly 10,000 votes, using the secure HHS *Innovates* intranet site.

Candidates were judged on both innovativeness and potential application at HHS and elsewhere in government.

"This new program marks a big accomplishment," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, in an Aug. 9 email to staff. "It is about honoring a true 'culture of innovation' throughout HHS."

She congratulated the winners on Aug. 4 at a ceremony held at department headquarters in Washington, D.C. The best six innovations according to employees' votes were honored. In addition, Sebelius chose her top 3 from the 6 to receive "Secretary's Pick" awards.

Two innovations with team members from NIH were among Sebelius's choices:

National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research. To address a lack of adequate scientific evidence regarding causes and effective responses to the epidemic of childhood obesity, a public-private collaborative was formed to help steer research across institutions, enable more nimble and rapid research responses and identify needs quickly. The group at the awards ceremony included NIH'ers Rachel Ballard-Barbash and Terry T-K Huang

along with teammates from CDC, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Department of Agriculture and the Academy for Educational Development. Ballard-Barbash is associate director of the Applied Research Program in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. Huang is

senior scientific advisor for obesity research at NICHD and professor and chair of the department of health promotion & social and behavioral health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The NCCOR team across several organizations involves more than 60 scientists and communication experts who are working to advance this collaborative research effort.

At a recent NIH-hosted NCCOR meeting, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins commended the NCCOR initiative as "a collaboration whose time has come."

Purchasing Online Tracking System (POTS). Electronic procurement process and requisition management system that enables NIH to request and track orders throughout the purchasing cycle, reducing errors and delays and limiting burden for staff. Group members were NIH'ers Yang Fann, Trissy Knox, Gladys Wang, Quynh Ly, Robert Dean and the NINDS POTS support team.

The third Secretary's Pick was Text4Baby, which makes free information about pre-natal and post-natal care available to mothers via mobile phones.

Rounding out the 6 concepts that HHS employees voted best innovations were CDC Course on Public Health and Aging, Personal Dust Monitor by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and CDC Lab Recycling Pilot Program.

The second cycle of HHS *Innovates* begins Friday, Oct. 15. For details about all of this year's winning innovations, and the awards program, visit www.hhs.gov/open/innovate/index.html.



At the HHS ceremony honoring innovation are (above, from l) HHS Assistant Secretary for Administration Ned Holland, Jr.; HHS Deputy Secretary William Corr; Quynh Ly, NINDS budget analyst and POTS team member; HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius; POTS teammates Dr. Yang Fann, NINDS IT and Bioinformatics Program director, and Trissy Knox, NINDS purchasing program specialist; HHS Chief Technology Officer Todd Park; Robert Dean, NINDS administrative officer and POTS team member; and NIDDK director Dr. Griffin Rodgers, who was representing NIH director Dr. Francis Collins. Below, in the NCCOR photo, are (from l) Holland, Corr, Dr. Tracy Orleans of RWJF, Dr. Laura Kettel Khan of CDC, Sebelius, Dr. Rachel Ballard-Barbash of NCI, Dr. Molly Kretsch of USDA, Dr. Terry Huang of NICHD, Parks and Rodgers.

PHOTOS: CHRIS SMITH



Bonci To Lead NIDA Intramural Program

Dr. Antonello Bonci, one of the world's leading researchers in neuropsychopharmacology, has been appointed scientific director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Intramural Research Program in Baltimore.

Bonci was most recently professor in residence in the department of neurology at the University of California, San Francisco. He is known for his studies on the long-term effects of drug exposure on the brain. Bonci and his colleagues were the first to demonstrate that drugs of abuse, such as cocaine, modify the strength of the con-

nections between neurons. This finding cast a new light on the phenomenon of drug addiction, which could now be seen as a process of maladaptive learning. This new understanding, in turn, helped explain why drug taking can often become an automatic, compulsive behavior.

“We think Dr. Bonci will bring tremendous strength to our already robust intramural research portfolio,” said NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow.

Bonci has been with UCSF since 1998, becoming principal investigator at the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center in 1999 and professor in residence in 2007. He received the Jacob P. Waletzky Memorial Award at the Society for Neuroscience in 2004, given to young scientists for innovative research in drug addiction and alcoholism. He also received the Daniel H. Efron Award at the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology in 2009 for outstanding basic and translational research.

Bonci received his medical degree at Sacred Heart School of Medicine in Rome, with *summa cum laude* honors, and in 1995 he became a neurologist at University of Rome “Tor Vergata” with *summa cum laude* honors. Before joining the faculty at UCSF, he did postdoctoral work in 1995 at the Vollum Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research in Portland, Ore., and worked as a visiting professor in the department of psychiatry at UCSF in 1998. He is a member of the United Nations scientific committee on drug dependence.

Bonci replaces Dr. Barry Hoffer, who served as the NIDA scientific director since 1996. Hoffer is stepping down to be a tenured principal investigator and chief of the cellular neurophysiology section of NIDA’s Cellular Neurobiology Branch.

Bonci began his new position on Aug. 29.

8th Commissioned Corps Promotion Ceremony Honors 38

NIH’s 8th annual PHS Commissioned Corps promotion ceremony honored 38 newly promoted officers recently. RADM Helena O. Mishoe, director of NHLBI’s Office of Research Training and Minority Health who also serves as NIH representative on the surgeon general’s policy advisory council, presided over the ceremony.

In opening remarks, RADM (ret.) Richard G. Wyatt, deputy director of NIH’s Office of Intramural Research, commended officers for their continued commitment to the “war” against disease and poor health. RADM David C. Rutstein, acting deputy surgeon general, praised



Newly promoted officers and other PHS officials at the Commissioned Corps ceremony

contributions to the missions of both NIH and PHS, and emphasized collaboration by commissioned officers and their civil servant colleagues in carrying out these missions.

Other attendees included RADM William Bailey, chief dental officer; RADM Clare Helminiak, chief medical officer; RADM Kerry Nessler, chief nurse officer; CAPT Sharon Williams-Fleetwood, chief scientist officer; CAPT William Figg, representing pharmacy category; CAPT Madeline Michael, representing dietitian category; and CDR Tiffany Edmonds, NIH agency liaison representing environmental health and health services categories.

PHS officers were also honored to have three additional flag officers in attendance, including RADM Peter Greenwald, RADM Van Hubbard and RADM William Stokes.

Promoted officers included:

Medical officers CAPT Stephen Migueles, CAPT Darrell Singer and LCDR Christopher Ramsden;

Dental officer CDR Demetrio Domingo;

Nurse officers CAPT Martha Marquesen; CAPT Lisa Marunycz, CDR Linda Ellison-Dejewski, CDR Geri Hawks, CDR Antoinette Jones, CDR Jacquin Jones, CDR Sophia Russell, CDR Margarita Velarde, LCDR Shu Cai, LCDR Jeanne Chamberlain, LCDR Lindia Ingram, LCDR Stefanie Glenn, LCDR Andrew Keel, LCDR Karen Livornese, LCDR Katherine Maye, LCDR Kala Rochelle, LCDR Leorey Saligan, LCDR Jennifer Sarchet, LCDR Latoya Sewell and LCDR Phoebe Underwood-Davis;

Scientist officers CAPT Steven Sparenborg and CDR Sally Hu;

Environmental health officers CDR Jason Barr, CDR Mark Marshall and LCDR John McLamb;

Pharmacy officers CAPT Paul Na and CDR Luke Park;

Dietitian officer LCDR Rachael Drabot; and

Health services officers CDR Debra King, CDR Claudine Samanic, LCDR Christina Coriz, LCDR James Pitt, LCDR Janet Valdez and LT Garman Williams.

The ceremony closed by recognizing officers who retired during the past year, officers called to active duty during the past year and Commissioned Corps Office Student Training and Externs Program participants.



Dr. Russell Glasgow has been named deputy director, dissemination and implementation science, in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences.

Glasgow Named to Implementation Science Post at NCI

Dr. Russell Glasgow has been named deputy director, dissemination and implementation science, in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. He will provide leadership on numerous research projects to close the gap between research discovery and program delivery in public health, clinical practice and health policy.

Glasgow will also be responsible for guiding some of NCI's flagship research dissemination tools such as Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T., the *Cancer Trends Progress Report* and State Cancer Profiles.

"Russ is recognized nationally and internationally as a pioneer in the field of dissemination and implementation research and practice, providing practical research frameworks and intervention models for the field in areas where such leadership has been absent," said Dr. Robert Croyle, DCCPS director. "Few research leaders could work so effectively across the domains and boundaries that we must bridge if our research is to be successfully translated into practice and policy."

Glasgow earned his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in clinical psychology from the University of Oregon and his B.A. in psychology from the University of Iowa. He is a behavioral scientist specializing in the design and evaluation of behavior change interventions, especially using interactive technologies, for use in health care, work-site and community settings. Most recently, he was a senior scientist with Kaiser Permanente, Institute for Health Research.

NEI's Saunders Earns Doctorate

Gale Saunders breathes a sigh of relief these days, and she should. She recently earned her Ph.D. from Howard University after spending countless evenings in her favorite study place, the library. Sometimes she was there until midnight, reading and writing, or in discussions with her study group.

"I'm not shy, but I do go quietly about my business and am always an observer," Saunders said. In fact, many of her colleagues had no idea that she was working on her doctorate.



She works for Dr. Lore'Anne McNicol, director of NEI extramural research, where she assists in preparing and processing personnel actions.

For her dissertation, Saunders studied the conflict management styles of 20 African-American women in mid-level supervisory positions. She explored what the women felt were the most effective ways of managing conflict and what issues they encountered during the conflict management process. Saunders, an African American herself, now hopes to write a book that expands on her dissertation.

She grew up in Philadelphia with five siblings. Her father and mother were both educators who emphasized the importance of education. Without the constant support and encouragement from family and friends, Saunders said she might not have a Ph.D. today.

In 1981, she joined the Army and served 6 years in the reserves and 3 years of active duty. Upon completion of her military service in 1990, she applied for positions at NIH and began working at NCI. After 3 years, she moved to NIAMS. In 1995, she joined NEI.

While working full-time, Saunders returned to college in 1999 and earned her B.A. in business administration from Trinity Washington University in Washington, D.C., and her M.A. in communications in 2003 from Bowie State University in Maryland. In 2004, she decided to pursue her Ph.D.

Saunders hopes to be a mentor and role model for other African-American women, proving they can do anything they set their minds to. "I don't know what the future holds, but I'm excited about it. Achieving this level of education feels like a rite of passage."

NIH Library Branch Chief Whitmore Retires

Susan Whitmore, the NIH Library Branch chief, retired on Aug. 31 after 26 years of federal service.

Thousands of employees take advantage of NIH Library programs and services in large part thanks to Whitmore. When she arrived in 1995 from the Bureau of Mines Library, reference librarians were grappling with the need to take on new roles that the emerging "virtual library" made necessary—outreach, instruction and customiza-



tion/specialization. According to Suzanne Grefsheim, NIH Library director, "It was only with her arrival that real progress toward acceptance and implementation of these roles was made. And today the NIH Library's informationist program, the culmination of these initiatives, is recognized as a model of excellence and innovation worldwide."

In the last year, under Whitmore's direction, the program has grown to include one of the premier bioinformatics programs in the country. Dr. Medha Bhagwat, who heads the program, said, "From day one, I found that Susan made herself available to discuss any ideas I had for the program. After listening carefully, she responded promptly and helped me understand how her decision fits into the NIH Library mission. I always came out of our meetings admiring her amazingly sharp intellect and her grasp of the NIH research environment."

Among her staff, Whitmore was considered a consummate professional. "Susan was always reasonable, caring and willing to make time to listen to my ideas or questions, no matter how busy she was," said informationist/librarian Tina Stillier. Diane Cooper, another informationist/librarian, said, "Susan was always a calm presence in the inevitable crises that arise at work. I could always count on her to restore order and get us all back to focusing on the work."

"I learned a lot from Susan," said Karen Stakes, head of Information Services at the NIH Library, "but the one thing that stands out in my mind was that she had the ability to make me step back and take a look at both sides of a situation, which often allowed me to see things in a different light."

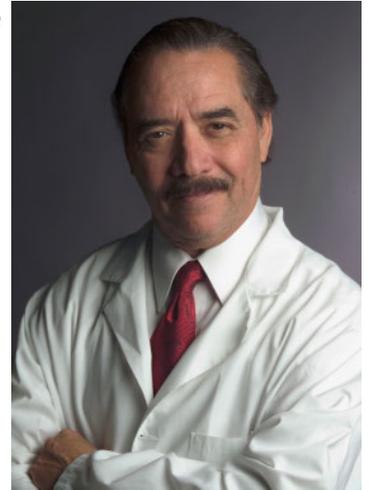
Over the years Whitmore served as a mentor or coach for many new librarians and supervisors at the NIH Library. For example, Ben Hope, chief of the library's Information Architecture Branch, appreciated her honest feedback. "She always seemed to have a nice way of pointing out how I could do better."

Whitmore holds an M.S. in library science from Catholic University and an M.S. in plant pathology from the University of Maryland. It is the latter interest that she will explore more in retirement as she spends time cultivating azaleas, installing new flower beds and taking time to "smell the roses."

In addition, Whitmore looks forward to traveling and spending time with her dog Cody and husband Jim Donahue. 🐾

Rodriguez To Highlight Hispanic Heritage Observance, Sept. 21

NIH will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on Tuesday, Sept. 21 from 1 to 2 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A. Adopting the 2010 national theme, "Heritage, Diversity, Integrity and Honor: The Renewed Hope of America," the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management along with the NIH Hispanic employment committee will welcome Dr. Eloy Rodriguez, the James A. Perkins professor of ethnobotanical medicine and pharmacognosy at Cornell University. He will give a seminar titled "The Origins of American Medicine: The Great Encounter of Indigenous, African and European Cultures." In his presentation, Rodriguez will discuss the use of natural drug extracts by the ancient Aztecs to treat breast tumors, the use of animals to determine drug efficacy and the creation of original American "African-Latina-indigenous" medicinal cuisines made from foods from Africa, the Caribbean, Mexico and South America.



Rodriguez is an accomplished biologist and chemist committed to his work and providing opportunities to aspiring young scientists. He created the KIDS program (Kids Investigating and Discovering Science) for K-8 minority children at the University of California, Irvine, and has also established other programs at UCI and Cornell that benefit undergraduate students from all backgrounds. He has presented hundreds of lectures to elementary and high school students in the U.S., the Caribbean and Mexico.

Ethnic food sampling will follow. Sign language interpreters will be provided. Individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation should contact Mary Okwaro at (301) 496-2906 or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. For more information, contact Gerard Roman at (919) 541-3430 or roman@od.nih.gov.

Bookshelf You Won't See at NLM



Lower Blood Pressure Goal Helps African Americans with Chronic Kidney Disease, Protein in the Urine

On average, a lower blood pressure goal was no better than the standard blood pressure goal at slowing progression of kidney disease among African Americans who had chronic kidney disease resulting from high blood pressure, according to results of the African-American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension (AASK), the largest and longest study of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in African Americans. However, the blood pressure goal did benefit people who also had protein in the urine, which is a sign of kidney damage. The NIH-funded study appeared in the Sept. 2 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

AASK also found that among people with protein in their urine, keeping blood pressure at the lower level reduced the likelihood of kidney disease progression, kidney failure or death by 27 percent compared to the standard blood pressure level, a statistically significant difference. AASK adds new information about which CKD patients benefit from lowering of blood pressure. This information may help doctors practice evidence-based, personalized medicine, the tailoring of each treatment regimen to each patient's unique characteristics. AASK followed participants for approximately 12 years to measure the long-term effects of blood pressure control in African Americans with kidney disease attributed to high blood pressure.

Elevated Levels of Lead, Cadmium Found to be Associated with Delayed Puberty

Researchers at NIH and other institutions have found that exposure to lead in childhood may delay the onset of puberty in young girls, with higher doses increasing the chance for later maturation.

The researchers analyzed data on blood drawn from more than 700 girls ages 6 to 11. They found that girls with elevated levels of lead (at or above 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood) were 75 percent less likely than girls with low levels of lead to have key adolescent hormones at levels that are associated with the beginning of puberty. In girls with elevated lev-

els of both lead and cadmium, this pattern was even more pronounced.

The researchers speculate that lead, alone or in concert with cadmium, might suppress the ovary's production of hormones that prepare a young girl's body to ovulate, or release an egg, for the first time. Their work was published July 30 in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

"Our findings suggest childhood exposure to lead has worrisome effects as children age and reach adolescence," said lead author Dr. Audra L. Gollenberg of NICHD, where the research was conducted. "These issues are of concern in some parts of the United States as well as in countries where children are exposed to leaded gasoline, paint or industrial pollutants."

Third-Generation Map of Human Genetic Variation Published

An international consortium has published a third-generation map of human genetic variation, called the HapMap, which includes data from an additional 7 global populations, increasing the total number to 11 populations. The improved resolution will help researchers interpret current genome studies aimed at finding common and rarer genetic variants associated with complex diseases. NHGRI provided major funding for the HapMap Project.

Any two humans are more than 99 percent the same at the genetic level. But, the small fraction of genetic material that varies among people can help explain individual differences in susceptibility to disease, response to drugs or reaction to environmental factors. Variation in the human genome is organized into local neighborhoods called haplotypes, which usually are inherited as intact blocks of DNA sequence information. Consequently, researchers refer to the map of human genetic variation as a haplotype map, or HapMap.

The first- and second-generation versions of HapMap resulted from the analysis of DNA collected from 270 volunteers from four geographically diverse populations: Yoruba in Ibadan, Nigeria; Japanese in Tokyo; Han Chinese in Beijing; and Utah residents with ancestry from northern and western Europe.

The third-generation HapMap, reported in the Sept. 2 issue of *Nature*, is the largest survey of human genetic variation performed thus far. It has data on 1,184 people, including the initial HapMap samples. Additional human samples were collected from the original populations and from 7 new populations.



An NIH-funded study has shown that a lower blood pressure goal helps African Americans with chronic kidney disease and protein in the urine, which is a sign of kidney damage.



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

Non Invasive Imaging: Healthy Volunteers

If you are a healthy volunteer and have not been diagnosed with heart failure or ailments, you may be eligible to participate in a study that will evaluate the accuracy of non-invasive imaging testing in assessing how the heart functions. Study participants will be required to travel to NIH for initial screening and will undergo an MRI or CT scan with iodine contrast. The study duration is approximately 24 months. All study-related tests and medications will be provided at no cost. Refer to study 10-CC-0153. Se habla español.

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.

Asthma Study for Adults, 18-65

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study with the drug DAS 181. The investigational drug is currently being studied as a potential treatment for the flu. The goal of the study is to determine if DAS 181 can safely be given to individuals with well-controlled asthma. The study will last between 6-12 weeks and there are a total of 12 visits required. In order to participate, you must have had well-controlled asthma for at least the past 3 months, not be allergic to milk or milk products and not be taking oral corticosteroids. Compensation is provided. Refer to study 10-I-0085.

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, 88-M-0131 and 03-M-0138.

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.

Study of Neck Pain

Are you a healthy individual with neck pain for 3 months or less? If you are between the ages of 18 and 65, you may be able to participate in a neck pain study and receive a comprehensive cervical musculoskeletal examination. Healthy volunteers are also needed. Email NeckPainStudy@gmail.com or call (301) 451-7514. Refer to study 02-CC-0245.



ORWH director Dr. Vivian Pinn (c) and Joyce Rudick (second from r), ORWH's director of programs and management, welcome new advisory committee members. They include (from l) Drs. Francisco Garcia, Ronda S. Henry-Tillman, Karen E. Kim, Claire Pomeroy and Paul F. Terranova.

Five Join ORWH Advisory Committee

The NIH advisory committee on research on women's health recently appointed five new members: Dr. Francisco Garcia, Dr. Ronda S. Henry-Tillman, Dr. Karen E. Kim, Dr. Claire Pomeroy and Dr. Paul F. Terranova.

Garcia is director of the University of Arizona Center of Excellence in Women's Health, Tucson, and co-director, Cancer Disparities Institute of the Arizona Cancer Center. He has a long-established interest in the health of women on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Henry-Tillman is a surgical oncologist specializing in women's oncology at the University of Arkansas Medical Center, Little Rock. She has developed numerous interventions that target cancer disparities.

Kim is an associate professor of medicine in gastroenterology at the University of Chicago, an associate member of the University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Research Center, an affiliate faculty in the Center for the Study of Race, Culture and Politics and a member of the department of medicine's diversity committee. Her leadership in women's health, work/life balance and mentorship has been widely recognized.

Pomeroy is the University of California at Davis's vice chancellor for human health sciences, dean of the School of Medicine, an expert in infectious diseases and a professor of internal medicine and microbiology and immunology. She has a special interest in health care policy and has led efforts to advance electronic health records to improve health care.

Terranova is vice chancellor for research and president of the Research Institute at Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City. He also serves as senior associate dean for research and graduate education in the School of Medicine.

'Shot of Truth'

CC Offers Reasons Not to Decline Flu Vaccine

In 2008, the Clinical Center medical executive committee mandated that all staff who have patient contact—nurses and doctors but also clerks, housekeepers and others—must be vaccinated against influenza or complete a declination form.

The mandate caused a dramatic rise in flu vaccination among NIH staff. Still, close to 11 percent of required staff (both employees and contractors) declined the seasonal flu vaccine the last 2 years, and 14 percent declined the H1N1 vaccine last year.

Staff who decline must give their reason for declination. Common responses include beliefs that the vaccine is ineffective and that the employee is not at risk of infection.

Past studies have shown that in years when flu strains in the vaccine match well with the strains circulating in the community, the vaccine can reduce the chances of getting flu by 70 to 90 percent in healthy adults, said CC deputy hospital epidemiologist Dr. Tara Palmore. The vaccine may be somewhat less effective in elderly persons and very young children, but vaccination can still prevent serious complications from flu. In healthy adults younger than age 65, the flu vaccine can also prevent lost work days and unnecessary doctor visits and antibiotics. Hospitalized patients who are ill or immunocompromised, though, do not usually mount effective immune responses to the flu vaccine, so vaccination is not enough to protect them from getting flu.

The most common reason for declination is concern about side effects. Minor consequences such as soreness of the arm or inflammation at the vaccination site are relatively common, but serious or lasting side effects are rare.

The discomfort of vaccination is minor compared to the proven benefit that flu vaccination of health-care workers provides, said Palmore.

"Flu vaccination of health-care staff saves patient lives. That has been shown repeatedly," she said.

For example, a study in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* (Potter, 1997) showed a statistically significant reduction in patient mortality among a population of patients in long-term care facilities when health-care workers were vaccinated against influenza.

Many people who have the flu don't realize

they have it, Palmore said. Symptoms may be mistaken for those of a cold, but if immunocompromised patients contract the virus it could have more severe consequences.

Palmore wants to set the record straight on more myths about the flu vaccine:

- "A misconception cited by a number of people was that they could get flu infection from the vaccine. That is not possible because it contains only killed virus," she said.
- This year the product contains agents to address the seasonal and H1N1 flu.
- Well-publicized adverse reactions have caused unnecessary anxiety about the vaccine, Palmore said. The 1976 swine flu vaccine was associated with cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome, a paralyzing neurologic response that is usually reversible. "The rate of Guillain-Barre syndrome associated with flu vaccination is miniscule—one in one million vaccinees—and most patients recover completely," she said.
- Last year, some children in Australia experienced fevers and febrile seizures after vaccination with one specific company's flu shot. NIH has not purchased that vaccine.
- Some people have declined vaccination on the basis that even if they become infected with the flu, they will likely recover without incident. As health-care workers, however, Palmore said, staff should make the safety of their patients a priority.

A vaccine clinic for patient-care staff only will be held on the CRC's seventh floor from Sept. 20 through Oct. 1, including select times for first, third and weekend shifts. Qualifying employees and contractors will be notified by email that they fall under the mandate. If you do not receive an email identifying you as a health-care worker with patient contact, do not visit this clinic. Flu vaccination for all NIH employees will be offered in October. If you believe you qualify as patient-care staff but do not receive an email, check with your supervisor or contact the CC Hospital Epidemiology Service. For clinic times and more information, visit <http://foiltheflu.nih.gov>.

Outdoor Film Festival Enjoys Successful Run

The Comcast 14th annual free Outdoor Film Festival went on for seven of the eight scheduled nights, as it turned out that what was Up in the Air on Aug. 18 was rain. The best turnouts were for Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs and Valentine's Day. The event, which also included food sales and a raffle, helped raise money for the NIH Children's Charities. This year's festival, which attracted an estimated 14,000 people, took place on the grounds of the Universities at Shady Grove rather than at Strathmore, which is under construction. "Even with a location change and crazy weather patterns, the community still came out to support a great cause and enjoy some blockbuster hits," said Kal-

lie Wasserman of R&W. At left, two young children take a moment for a photo with KC, the mascot of the NIH Federal Credit Union, who was a hit with people of all ages. Below, the festival proved to be a popular event for local teenagers and families looking for an inexpensive, fun and relaxing evening.

