NIH’s Founder a Titan in Any Era, Morens Shows
By Rich McManus

There’s one thing you can say for sure about Dr. Joseph J. Kinyoun, who is commonly regarded as the founder of what eventually became the National Institutes of Health: with his scientific accomplishments, range of high-level association and effectiveness as a shaper of the nation’s public health, he takes a back seat to no one who has subsequently held a leadership position at NIH.

In a Sept. 26 NLM History of Medicine seminar he titled “The Forgotten Indispensable Man: Joe Kinyoun and the Birth of NIH,” Dr. David Morens, senior advisor to NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci, told a Lister Hill Auditorium audience that “not much is known about” Kinyoun [pronounced KIN-yen]. Yet he went on to pack a 50-minute lecture with fascinating biographical details that will eventually become a journal article he is co-authoring with Fauci.

Can a major motion picture be far behind?

Morens, an epidemiologist by training who has been studying emerging infectious diseases for the past 35 years, has made the life and times of Joe Kinyoun a hobby.

NIH Cyclist Perez-Diez Finds Time to Compete, and Win
By Jan Ehrman

Competition knows no boundaries—you’ll find it on almost any path you pursue these days—on the gridiron, on stage, in the business world, in scientific laboratories and, for one researcher, in bike-racing circles.

Enter Dr. Ainhoa Perez-Diez, an investigator with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases who says, “I don’t consider myself overly competitive, but I think others do.”

The native of Spain competes regularly against elite cyclists—both amateurs and professionals—not only in local contests, but all over the world.
Moore To Give NLM Informatics Lecture

NLM’s Extramural Programs Informatics Lecture Series for the 175th Anniversary will feature Dr. Jason H. Moore, who will present “Machine Learning Approaches to the Genetic Analysis of Complex Traits” on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. at Natcher Conference Center, Rms. F1-F2.

Moore received his B.S. in biological sciences at Florida State University, where he focused on molecular evolution. He attended graduate school at the University of Michigan, where he completed an M.A. in applied statistics and an M.S. and Ph.D. in human genetics.

After receiving his Ph.D. in 1999, Moore accepted a faculty position in the Center for Human Genetics Research, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, and department of molecular physiology and biophysics at Vanderbilt University Medical School. He was promoted to associate professor in 2003 and was awarded an endowed Ingram professorship in cancer research.

In 2004, Moore moved to Dartmouth Medical School as the Frank Lane research scholar in computational genetics, associate professor of genetics and associate professor of community and family medicine. In 2008, he was promoted to professor of genetics and community and family medicine.

In 2010, he was awarded an endowed Third Century professorship and appointed founding director of the Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Sciences. Moore’s NLM-funded research program focuses on the development, evaluation and application of computational methods for identifying and characterizing gene interactions in studies of common human diseases. He currently serves as editor-in-chief of the journal BioData Mining and is a member of the NLM biomedical library and informatics review committee.

The lecture will also be available through NIH videocast. Refreshments will be provided following the talk.

STEP Forum on Inflammation, Nov. 15

The staff training in extramural programs (STEP) committee will present a Science for All forum on the topic “Inflammation: The Root and Route of All Chronic Disease?” on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 9 to 11 a.m. in Rockledge II, Rm. 9112-9116.

Heart disease, asthma, obesity, Alzheimer’s, arthritis, cancer and other conditions all may be related to or even caused by chronic inflammation. Many treatments are touted to reduce inflammation and prevent these diseases, but are they merely 21st century snake oil? Is there scientific validity to the theory of chronic inflammation contributing to such an abundance of conditions? Are there common inflammatory processes? If so, are there shared prevention methods that can stop disease progression? Come to this forum to learn the state of the science on inflammation and how your health may benefit.

FAES Holds Insurance Open Season

The FAES Health Insurance Program is holding an Open Enrollment from Nov. 1-30. The program is open to those who work for or at NIH in full-time positions but are not eligible for government plans. This includes NIH fellows, exchange scientists, special volunteers and guest researchers. The minimum enrollment period is 3 months. Benefits take effect Jan. 1, 2012. Open Enrollment is for those who did not enroll when first eligible for benefits coverage and for current subscribers who want to make changes to their coverage for 2012. FAES offers CareFirst BC/BS Blue Preferred PPO for medical coverage and Dominion Dental HMO, EPO and PPO for voluntary dental coverage. FAES will offer a nationwide supplemental vision plan as well for 2012. For more information visit www.faes.org, email faesinsurance@mail.nih.gov, and/or call (301) 496-8063. FAES is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Use or Lose Reminder

Don’t forget to officially schedule your “use or lose” annual leave no later than Saturday, Nov. 19. Questions about “use or lose” leave should be directed to your administrative officer.

NIH Mentoring Program Available

Employees interested in serving as mentors and mentees across the NIH community are invited to join the NIH Mentoring Program. Program components include senior-to-junior and peer-to-peer mentoring relationships, online application and matching system to connect individuals, mentor-mentee online orientation, 1-year mentoring relationship commitment and professional development events and activities. The deadline for online registration and matching is Nov. 15. For more information, including links to online registration and information sessions, visit http://trainingcenter.nih.gov/hhs_mentoring.html.
McIntosh To Give Inaugural NIAID Chanock Lecture, Nov. 4

Dr. Kenneth McIntosh, professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health and senior physician in medicine at Children’s Hospital Boston, will deliver the inaugural Robert M. Chanock Memorial Lecture. His talk, “Human Coronaviruses: The Whole Story,” will be held on Friday, Nov. 4, at 10 a.m. in the first floor conference room of Bldg. 50.

Starting in 1965, McIntosh worked under Chanock in the NIAID Laboratory of Infectious Diseases (LID), where he isolated, characterized and performed epidemiological studies with a group of coronaviruses. After leaving NIH in 1968, he continued his research with respiratory viruses, first as chief of the division of infectious diseases at the University of Colorado department of pediatrics and then, from 1979, as clinical chief of the division of infectious diseases at Children’s Hospital Boston. There in the mid-1980s, he responded to the new HIV/AIDS epidemic by starting and directing the AIDS and Clinical Research Programs while pursuing collaborative projects on HIV/AIDS in the United States, northern Thailand and Africa. Today, McIntosh teaches and continues research on the prevention and treatment of pediatric HIV infections.

His lecture will be a historical, philosophical and personal account of human coronaviruses, a virus family that includes the causes of SARS and the common cold. He will describe their biology, epidemiology and pathogenicity and emphasize the research contributions made by Chanock and his colleagues.

The lecture honors Chanock, who served as LID chief for more than three decades. During an accomplished scientific career, Chanock and collaborators identified and characterized human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), discovered the four parainfluenza viruses, isolated new strains of rhinovirus and coronavirus and isolated and characterized Mycoplasma pneumoniae. At LID, he and his team developed and brought to FDA licensure an antibody to prevent RSV disease, which can cause serious symptoms in young children.

Grantees Win 2011 Nobel Prize in Medicine

The 2011 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine was won by NIH grantees Dr. Bruce Beutler of Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif., and Dr. Jules Hoffmann of the University of Strasbourg for their discoveries concerning the activation of innate immunity, and the late Dr. Ralph Steinman of Rockefeller University for his discovery of the dendritic cell and its role in adaptive immunity.

“The work of these three NIH-supported scientists has provided fundamental understanding of the body’s immune system and has been pivotal to the development of new vaccines against infectious diseases and treatments for cancer,” said NIH director Dr. Francis Collins.

NIH began supporting Beutler in 1984 and has provided almost $58 million in funding. His work has been supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the National Cancer Institute. Hoffmann has received almost $7 million in support from NIAID since 1998. NIAID began supporting Steinman in 1976 and provided more than $49 million in support.

“NIAID has had the honor of supporting all three awardees,” said NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci. “Their elegant work has been—and will continue to be—extraordinary in its impact. It is rare that an investigator makes a discovery so important that it influences virtually every aspect of a scientific discipline. Their discoveries have opened up the possibility of harnessing the body’s own cells and immune processes to prevent infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, allergic diseases, cancer and rejection of organ transplants.”
United States. Along the way, she’s captured 10 medals and strives for more.

With her doctorate in hand from the University of Navarra in Pamplona (a city noted for the annual running of the bulls), Perez-Diez came to the U.S. in 1999. For the past 4 years, she has entered some of the most competitive races in the country.

“It’s clearly a sport where you need to push the limits of the body,” she noted. “Some races can go on for 70 to 90 miles, or in some cases even more. That’s where athletic training, a desire to excel on the course and playing your cards accordingly truly come into play.”

The challenge of the sport is enjoyable and occasionally even social, she noted, “but I must say it can be quite tense and stressful also, especially in the pre-race hours.”

Perez-Diez, a researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Polly Matzinger for the past 10 years, investigates mouse models of tumor immunology, in particular, CD4 cells. Away from the lab, she heads for the open road to pursue her passion for bike racing, which she says both stimulates and captivates her mind, while keeping her in shape.

Crediting her late father for fostering her interest in cycling, Perez-Diez says the fever to race emerged by a stroke of luck that didn’t seem so fortuitous at the time. “Years ago, my orthopedist let me know that my knees were basically shot. I could no longer play soccer or perform tae kwon do (she is a 3rd degree black belt and former Spanish national champion) or any other activity that involved repetitive kicking. I had to find another sport.”

Disappointed but determined to remain an athlete, she was encouraged to take up bicycle racing by her spinning instructor and later mentor and coach, Jim Youngblood. Once she began the sport in 2007, Perez-Diez was amazed to learn how many local bikers raced competitively.

According to the researcher, competitive cyclists must train rigorously. Perez-Diez rides most days of the week and on weekends, logging 150-200 miles per week on her carbon-fiber bike. But the arduous regimen has paid off handsomely.

In both 2010 and 2011, she won the Mid-Atlantic Bicycle Racing Association (MABRA) Road Race Championship, a 52-mile event that pitted her against cyclists from Maryland, Virginia, D.C. and Delaware. During the past year, she also participated in a master’s national championship in Oregon, placing third. Even more recently, Perez-Diez captured the mid-Atlantic BAR (best all around rider) competition among top-category senior women, which is based on placing in more than 15 MABRA races throughout the season.

Aside from the medals, what else does she get from cycling? “Oh, there’s nothing like the freedom you get, with the wind on your face,” she said, adding that biking keeps her weight down and offers mental release.

“I think about my work in the lab when I’m riding; it helps generate ideas,” she explained. Plus, biking can be social. “It’s not like running, when you’re winded and really can’t speak. There are moments of coasting that allow you to converse with others and that’s always nice.”

Perez-Diez hopes to ride competitively for at least several more years, noting that age won’t present a barrier. “As long as you train properly, have the desire and know how to adapt to certain circumstances within the race, you can compete,” she said. She knows of bikers well into their 60s and 70s who still race and win.

When she eventually gives up racing, the NIAID scientist says she wants to keep cycling just for fun. “After all, cycling keeps you looking younger too.”
Public Health Education, Certificate Available at FAES

Looking for a way to enhance your public health horizons without leaving campus? Broaden your health background in anticipation of a professional leap forward? Then look no further than a new opportunity offered by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences.

The FAES Graduate School is now offering a public health training program and certificate. As with other instruction at FAES, the certificate program—available to anyone with a bachelor’s degree—is taught at the graduate level. The curriculum includes a year of statistics and one 3-credit course in each of four core disciplines—epidemiology, health policy and management, social and behavioral sciences and environmental health sciences—plus a final independent project worth 3 credits. In all, certification will go to students who attain the required 21 hours.

“The global demand for public health scientists, policymakers and practitioners has never been higher,” said Dr. Stephen E. Marcus, NIGMS program director and epidemiologist and chair of the FAES grad school’s department of public health and certificate program.

Public health, he explained, “focuses on protecting and improving the health of entire communities and populations while they are still healthy, rather than on individual patients after they become ill. This proactive, preventive approach and the focus on the community as its patients are distinguishing characteristics of the field.”

The program can be a boon to those looking to change careers. “I took a call recently from someone at NIH who’s been in the lab for some 30 years,” noted Marcus. “He wants to use his training and expertise to help set up AIDS testing laboratories in Africa and realized he needed the training in epidemiology and health policy to be able to do so. I encouraged him to start taking courses in the certificate program.”

Program courses are taught primarily by NIH investigators, however, faculty from the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies and private industry have also provided instruction.

The FAES Graduate School has 12 academic departments, plus the Bio-Trac biotechnology department. The school is non-degree granting and therefore technically has no graduates. However, since 2004, 14 students have completed the certificate in technology transfer, the only other certificate program FAES offers. In all, some 200 courses are offered a year, with enrollment averaging 1,400 to 2,000 students.—Jan Ehrman

Mackey To Give NCCAM Straus Lecture

On Monday, Nov. 7 at 9 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine will hold its annual Stephen E. Straus Distinguished Lecture in the Science of Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Dr. Sean Mackey, chief of the pain management division and associate professor of anesthesia and pain management at Stanford University School of Medicine, will present “Opening Windows to the Brain: Lessons Learned from the Neuroimaging of Pain.”

Mackey’s current research focus includes virtual reality and real-time fMRI, cortical restructuring in patients with chronic pain, cognitive load and perceived pain intensity and fMRI of the human cervical spine.

Mackey will explain the role of neuroimaging in elucidating the central mechanisms involved in pain processing, perception and plasticity and the role of neural reward systems in modulating pain and potential implications for nonpharmacological strategies to reduce the experience of pain. He will also discuss the cognitive and emotional factors that modulate the experience of pain and the effects of opioid administration on brain structures.

The lecture series was established in honor of Straus, founding director of NCCAM and an internationally recognized clinician-scientist. All are invited to attend. It will also be videocast at http://videocast.nih.gov. For more information, visit http://nccam.nih.gov.

NIH Recognized for Electronics Recycling

NIH was recently recognized with a Bronze Award in the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) for leadership in electronics stewardship during fiscal year 2010. The award was NIH’s first-ever in the FEC challenge. The FEC is a partnership program managed by the Environmental Protection Agency that encourages federal facilities and agencies to purchase greener electronic products, reduce the impact of electronic products during use and manage used and obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way. On hand for the award presentation were (from l) Howard Kelsey, HHS deputy assistant secretary, Office of Facilities Management and Policy; Kenny Floyd, director of the Division of Environment Protection, ORF; Michael Kessler, Office of Logistics Services; Lt. Beth Osterink, NIH recycling coordinator; Matt Bogoshian, senior policy counsel, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, EPA; and Nikki Buffa, associate director of communities, environmental protection and green jobs, White House Council on Environmental Quality.
Above, from l:
NIH director Dr. Francis Collins,
CFC vice chair, demonstrates
DNA's double helix structure.
The gesture is also known in sign
language as “love.”

Saxophonist Mervin Hernandez
and vocalist Ashley Appell
perform.

NLM director Dr. Donald
Lindberg, CFC deputy vice
chair, discusses this year’s
campaign goal.

Below:
Several CFC charities sent
representatives to the kickoff,
including Hero Dogs (l), which
provides service dogs to injured
veterans, and the Peregrine
Fund (c), which saves birds of
prey from extinction.

At right, WRC-TV channel 4
sports anchor Dan Hellie serves
as kickoff emcee.

Photos: Michael Spencer

bined Federal Campaign theme: “Charity Is in Our
Code.” And NIH director Dr. Francis Collins, CFC
vice chair, totally authorizes the body language.

“I’m delighted to see all of you gathered here to
kick off the CFC in style,” he said Oct. 12 at the
campaign launch. “We all seek to show what NIH
has done year after year—reach into our pockets
and remember to help those less fortunate, per-
haps even amid our own financial stress...We’re
all engaged in a noble mission. We’re dedicated to
the idea that science can make a difference in our
lives. That’s what brings us to work each day and
what brings us through tough times like these.”

Then Collins, noticeably thrilled with the theme
and its obvious connections to NIH and the
Human Genome Project, demonstrated whole-
hearted endorsement of the 2011 logo, which fea-
tures a double-helix bow ribbon. He proceeded to
twist his arms across his chest, mimicking the
double-helix structure of DNA. He said he’d learned
the gesture from Donna Appell, a member of his
Council of Public Representatives. Collins encour-
aged the audience to adopt the signal to convey
not only the importance of DNA in our lives, but
also the message that “charity is in our code.”

WRC-TV Channel 4 sports anchor Dan Hellie
emceed the kickoff, which featured entertain-
ment by a perennial favorite, the Walter Johnson
High School Jazz Band, and a newcomer duo who
jokingly call themselves Sax & the City. Vocal-
ist Ashley Appell and her boyfriend, saxophon-
ist Mervin Hernandez, teamed up to perform The
Impossible Dream and The Prayer.

At age 24, Ashley, Donna’s daughter, has been
visiting NIH as a patient for nearly 20 years and
serves as an ambassador for the Children’s Inn
at NIH. The inn is one of the more than 4,100
charities participating this year in the CFC of the
National Capital Area. Both Ashley and Hernan-
dez have Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome, a genetic
metabolic disorder that causes albinism and visu-
al impairment.

“I really had no idea how much money you all
raise for this event,” said Hellie, noting last year’s
record-setting total. “This is outstanding. It’s
really the biggest and best event you have every
year. What you do matters.”

In all, more than 35 charities sent representa-
tives to the kickoff. Speaking on behalf of the
many groups who benefit from the CFC, Ann
Mitchell, president and CEO of Montgomery
Hospice, said her organization of 100 registered
nurses and dozens of counselors cares for 300
patients a day, 2,000 patients every year.
Congratulations on your history of supporting charities,” she said. “Your donation will serve another meal to someone who is homeless or keep a community center open…Even in Montgomery County, many are without work, without health insurance and without hope.”

Mitchell also extended personal thanks to National Library of Medicine director Dr. Donald Lindberg and his wife Mary, a nurse who has volunteered at Montgomery Hospice for more than 26 years.

“It does seem to ‘take a village’ for a successful CFC,” said CFC deputy vice chair Lindberg, “and NIH is a remarkably fine village. Historically, the D.C. area CFC has counted mightily on NIH…and they are asking for $2.4 million this year.”

The kickoff site—the front lawn of Bldg. 38—was different than in years past. CFC lead IC for 2011 is NLM, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. The library opened its home turf to several huge tents and offered continuous shuttle buses across campus throughout the midday.

With another kickoff in the books, now comes the time all NIH’ers can participate. It’ll be hard to top last year’s total, though. In 2010, NIH gave the CFC more than $2.7 million, which was an all-time record for the agency. NIH’s largesse represented almost half of the total contributed from the entire Department of Health and Human Services.

Visit http://cfc.nih.gov/ to get the latest on this year’s campaign.

It is difficult to imagine a more diverse group of scholars than those who met for the second NIMHD Translational Health Disparities course, Integrating Principles of Science, Practice and Policy in Health Disparities Research. It wasn’t just the range of their professional backgrounds (the group included psychologists, statisticians, clinicians, epidemiologists, ethicists, public health administrators, environmental scientists and nurses); it was also the variety of approaches they were applying to address health disparities.

One scholar, a physician, was able to take time from her normal routine of serving the homeless in a San Diego shelter. An environmental scientist had journeyed to NIH from the Crow Reservation in Montana where, along with local tribal members, she was seeking to assess the safety of the water supply. A psychologist in attendance had just completed an internship in Bellevue Hospital’s program for survivors of torture.

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities selected approximately 60 scholars from a pool of about 150 applicants to come to NIH for a 2-week interactive educational forum. Participants were challenged to step away from their professional disciplines and conceptualize health disparities from a variety of new perspectives. The course consisted of 13 modules covering a range of topics including economics, legal implications, social and behavioral science, cultural and migration issues, community-based participatory research and translational health disparities research.

In a session devoted to the social determinants of health, Dr. David Haynes-Bautista of UCLA challenged listeners to explore the meaning of the Census-based racial and ethnic categories currently used to capture health disparities.

Community-based participatory research, in which investigators engage health disparity communities as equal partners in the research process, took center stage in a day-long session.

“This course has profoundly changed the way I view my work in health disparities research,” said Dr. Ethel Nicdao of the University of the Pacific. Added Prof. Gloria Ramsey of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, “I am empowered and renewed in my commitment to give voice—and action—to this important public health problem.”

NIMHD director Dr. John Ruffin noted, “This course is the birth of a new paradigm in translational science. I hope that it will have a long-lasting impact on the participants. They will be able to look back on their participation—and contributions to enhancing the course—with considerable pride and say they became part of the vanguard of a scientific effort that led the way to health equity in America.”
KINYOUN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above, from l:
Morens has been studying
details of Kinyoun’s life for the
past 6 years.

Kinyoun returned to uniform in
1918 when he joined the U.S.
Army during World War I.

Kinyoun, circa 1887

PHOTOS OF MORENS: ERNIE BRANSON

for the past 6 years. He is hoping that Kinyoun’s
great-grandchildren decide to place their large
collection of Kinyoun’s papers, photos (he was a
gifted amateur photographer, Morens said) and
memorabilia in an archival source that can pro-
tect them and make them available to scholars,
whether that is at NIH or some other profes-
sional archive. Doing so will further burnish the
reputation of a man whose federal career nearly
ended in infamy.

Kinyoun was born in 1860 in rural East Bend,
N.C., the son of a surgeon in the Confederate
Army. His dad had enjoyed “an amazing educa-
tion,” Morens said, earning both law and medi-
cal degrees while studying at such institutions
as Wake Forest University, the University of
North Carolina and Columbia University.

After the Civil War, the family moved to west-
ern Missouri, a “violent, wild west environ-
ment” where young Joe, who arrived at age 5,
was taught through his teen years by a series
of tutors in such subjects as algebra, geometry,
German, French and Spanish.

Having apprenticed in medicine with his dad,
Kinyoun went in 1881 to St. Louis College of
Physicians and Surgeons for a year, then on to
what was regarded as one of America’s top med-
ical schools, Bellevue Hospital Medical College
in New York City.

He had practiced medicine in New York for only
9 months when a tragedy befell him: he lost his
first patient, a young girl suffering from diph-
theria. “It was a big turning point in his life,”
said Morens. “He was devastated by it. He was
very depressed and hard on himself, and almost
quit medicine.”

Kinyoun then spent 3 years with his father in
private practice, charging $1 for house calls
and $5 to deliver a baby. During this time, he
acquired a microscope, although he had had no
training in bacteriology at Bellevue. He began to
study diseases afflicting farm animals, such as
anthrax and pasteurellosis.

In 1886, he joined the Marine Hospital Service,
the progenitor of NIH, for what would become
a lifetime spent in the uniformed services;
Morens linked himself to this tradition by giv-
ing his talk in his PHS uniform.

Kinyoun barely passed the entrance exam into
the service, but was undoubtedly helped by hav-
ing enlisted a series of high-powered advocates
including esteemed medical faculty and both a
Missouri senator and governor. But the elation
of acceptance into the MHS was soon tempered
by the loss of his 2-year-old daughter to an old
nemesis—diphtheria.

Kinyoun was assigned to the Marine Hospital,
Staten Island, N.Y., where he set up his Hygien-
ic Laboratory—the forerunner of NIH—in the
Stapleton Bldg., which still stands. He quickly
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Kinyoun also directed the erection of isola-
tion tents for suspected cases of tuberculosis;
the MHS had long been a pioneer in the use of
quarantine, during the pre-microbiology era, to
limit the spread of such diseases as cholera, yel-
low fever and smallpox.

In 1891, the Hygienic Lab moved to Wash-
ington, D.C., and Kinyoun found himself employed
at the Butler Bldg., just on the other side of the
U.S. Capitol from his home at 210 New Jersey
Ave., N.W. He traveled extensively, Morens said,
Montauk, Long Island’s Camp Wyckoff after the “Rough Riders” Kinyoun had quarantined at liam Howard Taft and Teddy Roosevelt, whose become prominent, including presidents (Wil- a gift for association with people who would Morens said that, all his life, Kinyoun enjoyed visiting such luminaries as Louis Pasteur in Paris and Robert Koch, with whom he became friendly, in Berlin. He learned about the develop-ment of diphtheria antiserum from the blood of horses and in 1894 introduced this therapy to the U.S. “His research in this era was just phenomenal,” Morens said. Kinyoun invented a staining tech-nique that bore his name, began to tackle the problem of contaminants in the Potomac River and broadened his public health expertise from quarantine to larger issues. He also invented a portable steam disinfector and a variety of autoclaves and fumigators.

His social life, too, expanded as he came to know senators and congressmen as both neigh-bors and members of downtown clubs, including the Cosmos Club.

At one point, he was retained to improve ventila-tion in the Capitol itself. His laboratory was part of an MHS exhibit at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago and he developed a better smallpox vac-cine technique. The restless Kinyoun also earned a Ph.D. at Georgetown University and joined the faculty there, experimenting with the new field of radiology before moving on to a faculty appointment at George Washington University.

Morens said that, all his life, Kinyoun enjoyed a gift for association with people who would become prominent, including presidents (William Howard Taft and Teddy Roosevelt, whose “Rough Riders” Kinyoun had quarantined at Montauk, Long Island’s Camp Wyckoff after the Spanish-American War) and esteemed scientists, including Dr. Joseph Goldberg-er, who discovered the cause of and cure for pellagra.

In 1900, Kinyoun was transferred to San Francisco as part of the MHS response to a pandemic of plague. He was put in charge of the main west coast quarantine station at Angel Island, Calif. It was here that “one of the most infamous public health crises ended his Marine Hospital Service career,” said Morens. Briefly, Kinyoun ran afoul of California Gov. Henry Gage, who not only denied the existence of plague in his state but also accused Kinyoun of faking the epidemic in order to win increased funding for local public health, and in so doing was supporting the governor’s liberal rivals. Kinyoun was vilified as a charlatan and bioterrorist; at one point, a $7,000 bounty was put on his head in San Francisco and he took to carrying a sidearm, while requiring both police and soldiers as bodyguards.

Further, in a bizarre case of mistaken identity, he was charged with murder on the day that, having resigned his post under pressure, he was to leave San Francisco. Three top scientists vindicated Kinyoun, but the damage to his reputation, at least in California, was done.

Kinyoun retreated from federal service to the pharmaceutical business for 4 years, but returned to public health as a member of the D.C. health department from 1907 to 1918, during which time he served as president or vice-president of the nation’s major public health associations. He also was an advocate for a national sanitary organization, sort of an amalgamation of what became NIH, the CDC and FDA, Morens said. Kinyoun “was a prime mover behind the ideas” buttressing the legislation that eventually created these agencies.

During World War I, Kinyoun returned to uniform in 1918 as an Army enlistee at age 56. A year later, on Valentine’s Day 1919, he died of lymphosarcoma of the neck and was buried next to his daughter Bettie.

Morens called Kinyoun “a patriot all his life.” Indeed, a Liberty ship was named after him in 1944. “He was a ‘big picture’ guy and operated behind the scenes,” he added. “He was not necessarily a mover and a shaker or a leader of men, but he was beloved by his fellow scientists.

“He was very circumspect,” Morens continued. “He never went beyond the data. He also wrote poems and was considered witty and fun company—kind of a like-able, good ol’ southern boy.”

Two of his trainees, Hugh Cummings and Thomas Parran, went on to become surgeons general; Walter Reed had been his mentor, friend and confidant.

Kinyoun’s widow lived to age 97 before dying in 1948; among her effects were many large boxes of her husband’s papers. Morens and NIH Stetten scholar Eva Ahren are hoping these documents end up filling out a portrait of NIH’s founder as a titan in his, indeed any, time.

New NCAB Member Announced
The White House has announced the appointment of one new member to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Tyler E. Jacks is director, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, David H. Koch professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He has pioneered the use of technology to study cancer-associated genes and to construct animal models of many human cancer types, including cancers of the lung, pancreas, brain and ovaries. He was elected to both the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies in 2009.
NIH Study Finds Doctors Miss Many Alcohol Screening Opportunities

Physicians often fail to counsel their young adult patients about excessive alcohol use, according to a study led by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

NIAAA guidelines for low-risk drinking call for men to drink no more than 4 drinks in a day and no more than 14 drinks per week. For women, the guidelines are 3 or fewer drinks per day and no more than 7 drinks per week.

The findings, reported online in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, show that two-thirds of more than 4,000 people ages 18-39 surveyed had been seen by a doctor in the past year; however, of individuals whose drinking exceeded NIAAA guidelines, only 49 percent recalled being asked about their drinking and only 14 percent were counseled about it.

NIH-Funded Study Shows Increased Prostate Cancer Risk from Vitamin E Supplements

Men who took 400 international units of vitamin E daily had more prostate cancers compared to men who took a placebo, according to an updated review of data from the Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial (SELECT). The findings showed that, per 1,000 men, there were 76 prostate cancers in men who took only vitamin E supplements, vs. 65 in men on placebo over a 7-year period, or 11 more cases of prostate cancer per 1,000 men. This represents a 17 percent increase in prostate cancers relative to those who took a placebo. This difference was statistically significant and therefore is not likely due to chance. The results of this update appeared Oct. 12 in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

An international network of research institutions carried out SELECT at more than 400 clinical sites in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. SELECT was funded by the National Cancer Institute and others.

“Based on these results and the results of large cardiovascular studies using vitamin E, there is no reason for men in the general population to take the dose of vitamin E used in SELECT as the supplements have shown no benefit and some very real risks,” said Dr. Eric Klein, a study co-chair for SELECT and a physician at the Cleveland Clinic.

The study began in 2001 and included over 35,000 men. It was started because earlier research had suggested that selenium or vitamin E might reduce the risk of developing prostate cancer.

Experimental Vaccine Protects Monkeys from Blinding Trachoma

An attenuated, or weakened, strain of *Chlamydia trachomatis* bacteria can be used as a vaccine to prevent or reduce the severity of trachoma, the world’s leading cause of infectious blindness, suggest findings from an NIH study in monkeys.

“This work is an important milestone in the development of a trachoma vaccine,” said NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci. “If this approach demonstrates continued success, the implications could be enormous for the tens of millions of people affected by trachoma, a neglected disease of poverty primarily seen in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.”

In their study, published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine online, scientists from NIAID led by Dr. Harlan Caldwell describe how they tested their vaccine concept in a series of experiments. First they infected 6 cynomolgus macaques with the strain of *C. trachomatis* that they had weakened by removing a small piece of DNA. The scientists observed that the monkeys spontaneously cleared the infection within 14 days with no or minimal signs of ocular disease. The animals then were exposed twice more to the weakened strain at 4- and 8-week intervals, but the animals still showed no signs of trachoma despite being infected.

According to Caldwell, this finding is particularly significant because repeated *C. trachomatis* infections typically lead to more severe eye disease in people. The infected animals did not develop eye disease and they all mounted robust immune responses.

The same 6 macaques then were exposed to a highly virulent strain of *C. trachomatis* as were 6 other macaques in a control group that had not been vaccinated. Three of the macaques in the vaccine group showed no signs of infection or disease and the 3 others showed greatly reduced infection compared with monkeys in the control group. All 6 macaques in the control group became infected and displayed moderate to severe eye disease that persisted for between 2 and 4 months. Macaques are used in trachoma studies because their immune responses closely predict those of humans.

An NIAAA study has found that physicians often fail to counsel their young adult patients about excessive alcohol use.
Whaley had many interests, including singing in barbershop quartets, solving math problems, piloting airplanes, teaching others to fly and painting. He especially enjoyed painting in the Chinese style; his artworks bore his “chop,” or signature. He also studied Mandarin Chinese.

At Whaley’s retirement send-off in January 1992, then-NIH director Dr. Bernardine Healy took note of his breadth of interests, adding, “Most of all, Storm Whaley knows how to be your friend. He has been of inestimable value to me. I trusted his calm, confident advice and appreciated his clarity of view. He is an absolutely first-rate man and intellect. I’m happy I was able to get to know this extraordinary man who gave so much to NIH.”

In retirement, Whaley and his wife Jane traveled the world. Before moving to San Diego in 2005, he enjoyed putting his broadcast skills to work as a volunteer reader of texts for people who were blind or dyslexic. That work earned him the Super Senior Award in 1999 from Iona Senior Services of Washington, D.C.

Whaley was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the Broadcast Pioneers, a lifetime member of the Arkansas Broadcasters Association, a 33rd degree Mason and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society for college administrators.

He is survived by his wife of 75 years, Jane Bucy Whaley, three daughters: Carroll Jean Anderson of San Diego, Ann Marie Whaley of London, England, and Rebecca Glenn Whaley of Little Rock, Ark.; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Storm and Jane Whaley scholarship fund at John Brown University, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at Little Rock, or Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic) in Washington, D.C.—Rich McManus

NINR Council Welcomes Three

NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady recently welcomed three new members to the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research, the principal advisory board for NINR.

Dr. Kenton Kaufman is professor of biomedical engineering at Mayo Clinic and co-director of the clinic’s biomechanics and motion analysis laboratory. His work is primarily translational and is aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of human musculoskeletal injury and disease.

Dr. Courtney Lyder is dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, professor of nursing, medicine, and public health and executive director of the UCLA Health System and Patient Safety Institute. He is the first African-American dean at UCLA and the first minority male to be dean of a school of nursing in the U.S.

Dr. James Tulsky is director of the Center for Palliative Care and the Center for Self-Management in Life-Limiting Illness and a professor in the schools of medicine and nursing at Duke University. His current research focuses on enhancing the communication between oncologists and patients with advanced cancer. ©
Suicide Awareness Day Marked by Frank Discussion
By Colleen Labbe

Every year, an average of 35,000 suicides occur in the United States—twice the number of homicides. Worldwide, more than 1 million people die by suicide each year. More than a decade ago, advocates successfully pushed to get suicide on the public radar, which prompted Congress to pass a resolution to address suicide as a public health issue. Since then, Sept. 10 has been declared Suicide Prevention Awareness Day. But despite the progress that has been made, suicide does not get the same attention as many other public health issues.

On Sept. 7, suicide prevention experts met to address this complex issue in an event sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. Rather than featuring presentations, the event was designed to address attendees’ many questions, most of which were submitted ahead of time. NIMH’s Dr. Jane Pearson, who chairs the NIMH Suicide Research Consortium, moderated the event.

Panelist Dr. Dan Reidenberg, executive director of Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, emphasized the need for use of appropriate language when describing suicide. For instance, the term “committed” to describe a completed suicide is avoided, because suicide “is not a sin or a crime,” he said. He also noted that new media guidelines have been developed to help journalists report suicide stories responsibly.

In addition, states and religious groups have changed their approach to suicide by emphasizing help-seeking by those in crisis. “Now we have a more compassionate response,” said fellow panelist Dr. Sherry Davis Molock of George Washington University.

Reidenberg also addressed a common fear—if you ask someone if they are thinking of suicide, will you put the idea in their head? The answer is no. “Research shows us that it is actually helpful to people if you talk about it with them. It gives them a sense of connection, when they are in the midst of feeling disconnected,” he said.

Suicide rates vary among different groups. For example, older white males are more likely than other groups to die by suicide. Yet the rates among African-American males of the same age are much lower. Molock posited that there may be protective cultural effects at play. In some groups, such as rural populations, access to care is limited and help-seeking is generally not encouraged.

“We need to make it culturally okay to seek help among vulnerable groups,” she added.

In addition, although the rate of suicide among veterans historically has been lower than in the civilian population, that trend has reversed in recent years. “It is a complex problem with no simple solution, but a lot of effort is being put into understanding and reducing the rate,” said Dr. Richard McKeon, chief of the Suicide Prevention Branch at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. “For instance, the VA has put [caregivers] in every VA facility in the U.S” to prevent suicides among veterans.

Other questions focused on what communities can do to tailor their approach to suicide screening and prevention. There are many screening tools available. The Suicide Prevention Resource Center, at www.sprc.org, collects and organizes these tools and best practices, said Dr. Jerry Reed, SPRC director. But the challenge is figuring out which is most applicable. The same can be said of prevention approaches. The key is to know your community, leverage support and tailor your approach accordingly.

The panel reminded everyone that we can help save lives by continuing to talk about suicide. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) anytime.

Google Science Fair Winners Visit NIH

Winners of the 2011 Google Science Fair visited campus on Oct. 4, meeting scientists and touring the Clinical Center. Lauren Hodge (l) was winner of the age 13-14 category, with a project on limiting carcinogenic compounds in grilled chicken. Shree Bose (c) was both winner of age group 17-18 and grand prize winner, which earned her a 10-day trip to the Galapagos Islands to study marine life. Her project involved improving chemotherapy for ovarian cancer. Naomi Shah (r) won in the 15-16 category with an asthma study that measured the effect of environmental pollutants on lung function. On an OCPL special tour, the winners visited Dr. Sriram Subramaniam in the Laboratory of Cell Biology, NCI, in Bldg. 50 and met with Dr. Pam Robey, chief of the Craniofacial and Skeletal Diseases Branch, NIDCR, who also works with the Office of Science Education. The global online fair attracted some 10,000 entries from 91 countries; all three winners are from the U.S. The fair distributed $110,000 in scholarship money and the three scholars also won a Lego scientific play set, Google Chrome notebook, Android phone, in addition to internships at contest partner organizations CERN, Google, the Lego Group and Scientific American.