

nih record



ABOVE • NIH director Dr. Francis Collins (r) welcomes Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), who led a delegation of Capitol Hill colleagues on a visit to NIH. See more photos, p. 12.

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Who's the Boss?

HHS Secretary Burwell Visits NIH for Town Hall, Science Briefings

By Carla Garnett

Our boss at HHS is a 2-year-old taking a bath in a blue bucket, and—particularly for NIH—a 66-year-old being treated at the Clinical Center for a rare kidney cancer. Every day, in everything we do, we should identify and focus on the boss, urged NIH's boss of 7 months, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell, who visited the agency Jan. 28 for an intense 2½ hours of tours, research updates, a town hall meeting and a roundtable discussion. In addition, Burwell found time to chat briefly with several of NIH's senior scientific leaders as well as meet a patient.



HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell

“Our mission at HHS is to make sure people have the building blocks of healthy and productive lives,” Burwell said, addressing the Masur Auditorium assembly. “Here at NIH, you all are an anchor of that work every single day...Every day your research—and the

SEE BURWELL, PAGE 6



Randy Schools

'Been a Good Ride'

R&W President Schools Ends Long Career

By Rich McManus

There are two kinds of healing in the world, one mediated by medicine and the other by caring. Randy Schools, who has run the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association for the past 38 years—reinventing the organization's role and reach—has excelled in the latter. And although he retired on Jan. 30, his philanthropic ties to NIH are too rich and varied to sever.

He came to NIH in 1977, having just survived a near-fatal bout with myocarditis. He leaves because, at age 70 and having just survived a long hospital stay with sepsis, he can no longer be everything to everybody, and everywhere at once.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 8

Humanitarian Efforts

NIH Scholar Makes *Forbes* '30 Under 30' List of Leaders

By Dana Talesnik



Lisa Gretebeck

Two veterinary students had a vision. They wanted to incorporate their passion for helping animals with improving conditions in underserved communities in the developing world. In 2012, Lisa Gretebeck and Nikki Wright co-founded Pou Sante: Amar Haiti, a project that improves

health and income opportunities in rural Haiti through sustainable goat production.

The project earned Gretebeck, 26, and Wright, 28, a spot on the 2015 *Forbes* magazine 30 Under 30 list. Published in January, the list

SEE GRETEBECK, PAGE 4





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

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

Editor
Richard McManus
Rich.McManus@nih.gov

Associate Editor
Carla Garnett
Carla.Garnett@nih.gov

Staff Writers
Eric Bock
Eric.Bock@nih.gov

Dana Talesnik
Dana.Talesnik@nih.gov

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NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health



briefs

FAES Enhances Bio-Trac Program, Drops Prices

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences is expanding its Biotechnology Laboratory Training Program to better serve the needs of NIH trainees.

The former Bio-Trac program, now called Bio-Tech, has been incorporated into FAES's training and conference department. FAES has cut prices by 50 percent for NIH fellows, postbacs and postdocs and looks forward to enrolling more trainees from all NIH institutes.

FAES also now offers scientific management training classes including: 3-Day Scientific Management/Supervisory Training; 3-Day Project Management for Scientists; and 3-Day Leadership Skills for Scientists classes. Each is aimed at helping scientists develop their management and business skills for the biotechnology industry.

NIH trainees and professionals wishing to register for any FAES training class may enroll at www.faes.org. Click on the Training/Conferences banner or contact the FAES training department at (301) 496-7975.

NIEHS Hosts IOM Workshop on Exposures, Obesity, Mar. 2-3

NIEHS will host the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research and Medicine workshop "The Interplay Between Environmental Exposures and Obesity." It will be held Mar. 2-3 at NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, N.C., and will be webcast for those unable to attend in person.

Speakers will make links between exposure to environmental chemicals and increased incidence of weight gain, glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity, inflammation and aspects of metabolic syndrome in animal models and human studies. Closing panels will discuss opportunities for new research and possible policy actions to address exposure to chemicals associated with the development of obesity. For more information and to register, visit www.iom.edu/Activities/Environment/EnvironmentalHealthRT/2015-MAR-02.aspx.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Accepts Applications

NIGMS's Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) program is accepting applications through Mar. 17. PRAT fellows conduct research in scientific areas within the NIGMS mission while in an NIH intramural research program (IRP) lab. Before

applying, applicants must identify a potential preceptor in the NIH IRP and develop a research proposal.

PRAT fellows receive 3 years of stipend support and additional benefits such as health insurance, a travel allowance and professional development training activities, including a monthly seminar series designed specifically for the fellows.

For more information about the program, see www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/Pages/PRAT.aspx or contact Jessica Faupel-Badger at badgerje@mail.nih.gov.



NIH Philharmonia Donates to NIH Charities

The NIH Philharmonia recently presented a check for \$10,000 to NIH Charities from generous audience donations. Holding the outsize contribution are Nancia D'Alimonte, conductor and music director, and Randy Schools, president of the NIH Recreation & Welfare Association.



Garcia-Cazarin Named To SACNAS Board

Dr. Mary L. Garcia-Cazarin, scientific advisor at the Office of Disease Prevention's Tobacco Regulatory Science Program, began service on the board of directors of the Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos & Native Americans

in Science on Jan. 1. Based in Santa Cruz, Calif., SACNAS is a national nonprofit organization with an over 40-year history of fostering the success of Hispanic/Chicano & Native American scientists—from college students to professionals—to attain advanced degrees, careers and positions of leadership in science. Prior to taking her ODP post in May 2014, Garcia-Cazarin was an American Association for the Advancement of Science science and technology policy fellow in the Office of Dietary Supplements, where she performed portfolio analyses of dietary supplements and botanical ingredients, with a focus on identifying research gaps.

Global Health Expert García To Give Neva Lecture, Feb. 25



NIAID will hold the Franklin A. Neva Memorial Lecture on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. Dr. Héctor H. García will present “Diagnosis and Management of Neurocysticercosis—What Has Changed in a Century?”

García has a long history in global health research and training, including the successful direction of a 10-year Cysticercosis Elimination Program in Northern Coastal Peru, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He leads the cysticercosis working group in Peru, a multi-institutional group that offers hands-on training in global health research to local scientists and health professionals.

The lecture will focus on neurocysticercosis, a preventable parasitic infection of the central nervous system caused by the pork tapeworm *Taenia solium*. The disease mainly affects rural farming communities, where families engage in community farming practices, raise free-roaming pigs and where individuals who ingest infected pork end up carrying the infective tapeworms. Diagnosing neurocysticercosis requires brain imaging with either computed tomography or magnetic resonance scans and treatment can be time-consuming and costly, both of which pose significant challenges in rural communities. Management of neurocysticercosis should address control and elimination of *T. solium* throughout its lifecycle between pigs and humans.

García is director of the Center for Global Health–Tumbes and professor in the department of microbiology at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. He also serves as head of the cysticercosis unit at the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Neurológicas in Lima, Peru. He earned his Ph.D. in 2002 from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and his M.D. in 1989 from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima. He is a senior international research fellow of The Wellcome Trust, U.K., and was awarded the Christophe and Rodolphe Merieux Prix from the Merieux Foundation and the Institut de France in 2011.

The lecture series honors Neva, a noted virologist, parasitologist and clinician and former chief of NIAID’s Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases who died in 2011.



MSQ in 26th Year of Entertaining at NIH

The Manchester String Quartet—shown above in mid-concert and at bottom, taking a bow—is now in the midst of its 26th year of providing world-class classical music concerts for free in Masur Auditorium. The musicians (middle, clockwise, from l)—Marissa Regni, violin; Glenn Garlick, cello; Abigail Evans, viola; and Hyun-Woo Kim, violin—presented “Romantic Classicism,” Mendelssohn Quartet in D Major, Opus 44 on Jan. 26. Future concert dates—all Mondays and all of which begin at 12:30 p.m. in Masur—are Feb. 23 (Brahms Quartet in B flat Major, Opus 67), Mar. 9 (Borodin Quartet #2 in D Major), May 4 (Britten Quartet #2 in C Major, Opus 36) and May 18 (Dvorak Piano Quintet in A Major, Opus 81). The series is made possible by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences. For reasonable accommodation, contact Sharon Greenwell at (301) 496-4713 or email sg115f@nih.gov.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON





GRETEBECK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:

Gretebeck (at left in the race photo and third from left in the gingerbread photo) has also participated fully in campus life, getting involved in both the NIH Inter-institute Relay and in the Clinical Center's annual Gingerbread House Contest.

LEFT PHOTO: LIWEI JIANG

features 600 influential people all under 30 years old—from young venture capitalists and Hollywood stars to scientists and educators—in 20 categories. Nominated by their alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Gretebeck and Wright are featured in health care, one of five new categories this year.

"I think making the *Forbes* list will be great for the project going forward," said Gretebeck. "It certainly got the word out. I've had many people contact me to learn more about the project."

Gretebeck is currently enrolled in NIH's Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP), a yearlong research program for medical, dental and veterinary students. She's conducting research in a vaccine laboratory with Dr. Kanta Subbarao, chief, emerging respiratory viruses section, NIAID. After completing MRSP, Gretebeck will receive her veterinary degree from Penn, which helped launch and continues to support Pou Sante: Amar Haiti.

For Gretebeck, an earlier trip inspired the project in Haiti. While working on a rural health project at a hospital in India, she realized the people depended on animals for food, income, security and social status. She found funding to start a project for widowed women who came from a stigmatized caste. The women received goats and training on their proper care. After the goats gave birth, the kids were given to another widow. Raising and breeding goats helped empower these widows, allowing them to be financially independent.

Meanwhile, Wright had just returned from a World Vets Team trip to Haiti. The two Penn classmates discussed a possible collaboration to improve conditions in the northern Haitian village of Thibeau, where Wright had visited.

"I felt strongly about working in Haiti," said Gretebeck. "The people of Haiti have a very strong connection, as it was in India as well, to their animals. At the same time, in the last few years, the people of Haiti have been victims of natural disasters, which can bring rise to zoonotic infections—diseases that can spread from animals to humans. Haiti has the highest incidence of rabies in the western hemisphere and no veterinary school, so the need was great for animal care and training."

Pou Sante means "for health" in Haitian Creole. The project combines medical treatment for animals and community education and training. Pou Sante: Amar Haiti

brings veterinarians and trainees to Haiti and so far has provided veterinary care, including vaccinations, for more than 1,000 animals. They continue to provide sustainable animal husbandry training and resources to enhance animal, human and environmental health.

The veterinarians also provide animal health clinics for the community, to teach basic and preventive care. If a family can raise 5 goats in a year, they can afford to send a child to school. In addition to care for goats, these clinics provide care for cows, horses, pigs and other animals. A healthy cow is worth \$600 to a Haitian farmer.

"With development work, I think it's important to not just go in and put a bandage on and then leave," said Gretebeck. "It's important for the people within the community to become empowered; sustainability is really important. So we wanted to make sure we provided them with what they wanted."

The word Amar in the project's title means never-ending cycle in Marathi, inspired by Gretebeck's time in India. The project name symbolizes what they hope will be a never-ending health cycle. And like the project itself, the organizational structure is also intended to be sustainable. Amar is now run by Penn vet students who will pass along the project to younger students. Gretebeck said, "The success has come from the enthusiasm of the students who keep it going."

She continues to speak out about the need for medical research to incorporate lessons from human and animal medicine. "Physicians and veterinarians studying the same diseases should collaborate on projects side by side," Gretebeck said. "We all need to get out of our comfort zones and connect our ideas." She hopes to develop opportunities that foster collaboration between physicians and veterinarians to benefit human and animal health.

In December, Gretebeck and her friend and colleague in MRSP Abdulkareem Agunbiade, a medical student at the University of Chicago, were interviewed for StoryCorps, a national oral history project. NIH's Office of Science, Outreach and Policy partnered with StoryCorps to record the stories of researchers, patients and others in the community. Gretebeck and Agunbiade discussed various aspects of the MRSP, from journal clubs to social events. The recorded conversation will be preserved in the Library of Congress this month and parts of the conversation may be streamed through National Public Radio.

"It's a unique opportunity," Gretebeck said of her time at NIH. She's particularly enthusiastic about the chance to interact with medical and dental students. "Everyone's so bright and inspiring. It gives me a lot of hope for the future of medicine." 🗣️

Briggs Honored for Fighting Kidney Disease

Dr. Josephine Briggs, director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, has been honored with the 2014 John P. Peters Award by the American Society of Nephrology for her research and clinical contributions to combating kidney disease, which affects more than 20 million Americans. The Peters Award recognizes an individual who has made substantial research contributions to the discipline of nephrology and has sustained achievements in academic medicine, including clinical care, education and leadership.



Briggs and recipients of four other awards were honored by ASN during a plenary session in Philadelphia at the society's recent annual meeting, ASN Kidney Week 2014. ASN noted Briggs's accomplishments as a researcher and physician, remarking that her translational research has brought a fuller understanding of the usefulness and safety of complementary and integrative health practices.

Highlights of her work in the area of kidney disease include study of the renin-angiotensin system, diabetic nephropathy, circadian regulation of blood pressure and the effect of antioxidants in kidney disease. She has published more than 175 scholarly works, served on the editorial boards of several journals and held professorships in nephrology and other disciplines. She was the past director of the Division of Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases at NIDDK, where she co-chaired an NIH roadmap committee on translational core resources.

"ASN is pleased to recognize Dr. Briggs with the John P. Peters Award for her immeasurable contributions to the understanding of diabetic nephropathy and the renin-angiotensin system," said ASN past-president Dr. Sharon M. Moe. "Like the award's namesake, she has not only advanced clinical and translational science, but has done so while serving in numerous leadership positions, including at the NIDDK, HHMI and now NCCIH."

Mider Lecture Features NCI's Mackall, Feb. 25

Dr. Crystal Mackall, chief of the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute, will deliver the annual G. Burroughs Mider Lecture as part of the 2014-2015 Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series. Her talk, "Immunotherapy for childhood cancers: Mobilizing the troops," will be held on Feb. 25, 3-4 p.m., in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

After completing her clinical training in pediatrics and internal medicine, Mackall came to NCI in 1989 to undertake subspecialty training in pediatric hematology/oncology. She now leads a cutting-edge clinical immunotherapy program that incorporates adoptive cell therapies using genetically engineered T cells, adoptive NK cell therapies, dendritic cell vaccines, cytokines and checkpoint inhibitors. She has made important contributions to our understanding of the biology of T-cell homeostasis, has led the clinical development of interleukin-7 as a therapeutic immunorestorative and has conducted translational studies focused on pediatric tumor immunology.

The Mider lecture, established in 1968, recognizes an NIH intramural scientist's outstanding contributions to biomedical research and honors G. Burroughs Mider, the first director of NIH laboratories and clinics. For lecture information and reasonable accommodation, contact Jacqueline Roberts, (301) 594-6747 or robertsjm@mail.nih.gov.



NINR Grantee Receives IOM Lienhard Award

NINR grantee Dr. Linda Aiken recently won the 2014 Gustav O. Lienhard Award from the Institute of Medicine. She received a medal and \$40,000 for her outstanding achievements.

Aiken is the Claire M. Fagin leadership professor of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Her recent work reveals that the education and work environment of nurses greatly affect patient outcomes.



IOM president Dr. Victor Dzau (l) and NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady (c) congratulate Dr. Linda Aiken on her honor.

PHOTO: MORGAN KANAREK

IOM president Dr. Victor Dzau praised Aiken's "tremendous contributions to the quality of health care...and encouraging high levels of education for nurses."

"This recognition by the IOM reinforces what we have known about Dr. Aiken for many years: that she is a visionary whose innovative work continues to increase nursing science's impact on policy and practice across America and around the world," said NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady. "We congratulate Dr. Aiken and her colleagues on this well-deserved honor."

Aiken has directed studies of the impact of nursing staffing and education on patient outcomes in more than 30 countries. Her seminal research demonstrating the impact of adequate nurse staffing on improving patient outcomes is widely used as a basis for managerial and policy decision-making.

Aiken's studies have affected trends in nurse education, employment and public policies in the U.S. and the European Union.

An IOM member since 1981, Aiken also directs the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at Penn.



BURWELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:

At left, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins and Burwell share light moments during a town hall meeting.

At right, NCI Urologic Oncology Branch patient Donald Dean (r) discusses precision medicine with Burwell as Dr. Ram Srinivasan (l) of the branch and CC director Dr. John Gallin look on.

Below:

Burwell (seated, c) meets in the NIH Library with a small group of employees representing a cross-section of NIH, following her town hall in Masur.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

work you're doing clinically with that research, the whole stage and spectrum of the work that's being done here—is fundamental and core to the building blocks of healthy and productive lives.”

Burwell, former director of the Office of Management and Budget (2013-2014), spent the 10 years before that in the field of philanthropy—first at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, then at the Walmart Foundation. She developed her concept of “the boss” soon after starting work at Gates, when she received a snapshot from a grantee.

In the picture, a little Senagalese toddler happily bathed, without a care. In that moment, it was clear to Burwell who she and the entire organization answered to. From then on, she said, “I gave a copy of the photo to each person who joined the global development team, with a note that said, ‘I’m looking forward to your work and delivering impact for the boss.’ So the idea is that you would have a picture at your desk every day that would help you focus on who it is you’re trying to serve and that you would focus on the actual impact. I hope as you all come in to work each day, you focus on who is my boss and how am I going to deliver impact this day. I believe that’s one of the fundamentals of high-performance organizations and fulfills the passion many of us have for why

we’re here and why we do this kind of work.”

Before taking the stage, Burwell had toured the CC’s surgical oncology outpatient clinic, where NCI’s Dr. Marston Linehan had introduced her to another boss—a 66-year-old outpatient who embodies the success NIH has had in precision medicine. President Obama announced the Precision Medicine Initiative in his State of the Union address on Jan. 20, and formally launched PMI on Jan. 30.

The secretary had also met with several institute and center directors and top NIH scientific leaders, familiarizing herself with NIH’s research portfolio and learning more about advances in the BRAIN Initiative, Ebola vaccine development and a potential universal flu vaccine.

In brief remarks before taking questions, Burwell acknowledged that transitions in leadership often can be rough. As someone who’s held 4 jobs in the last 5 years, she said she’s found two fundamental concepts that make changes go smoothly—strategy and execution.

At some places, she noted, she’s observed one of those ideas being emphasized over the other. “One thing I’ve seen across all of those organiza-



tions where I've worked is [that] it's important to do both. You actually have to have quality ability in both."

During Q&As, which were pre-submitted electronically by staff, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins moderated as the two sat on chairs on the Masur stage.

What are Burwell's three greatest challenges as secretary? he asked.

From the moment she was sworn in as department secretary, she replied, the first great hurdle has been negotiating "the unpredictable incoming"—those unforeseen crises that arise suddenly and have to be handled right away. An example would be the 57,000 unaccompanied children who crossed U.S. borders and whose well-being almost immediately became HHS's responsibility. Nearer to NIH's heart, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, too, emerged as a major public health issue shortly after Burwell took leadership of the department.

"This is one secretary who really had to hit the ground running," Collins said in introducing Burwell.

The secretary said big challenge number two is shortness of time. Offering insights about her leadership style, Burwell confirmed that she feels a sense of urgency, which she wants to convey to all 77,000 employees of HHS. That's also why she emphasizes the importance of setting priorities and staying focused.

"We [in President Obama's administration] don't have a lot of time left to get things done," she said, adding that she views her job in constant countdown mode. "It's less than 2 years now and we've got a lot to do. I'm excited and we're going to get it done."

The third tough challenge is "lack of proximity to substance," Burwell said, alluding to the often-difficult political climate. "Getting people to connect to the substance [is crucial]. I'm fine with disagreeing with someone in a debate on points of substance. That's okay. I am not fine with not having the substantive debate [at all], and not allowing the American people to know what the substantive debate is."

She also tackled questions on HHS's role in global health, NIH's prospects in the current budget climate and her own strategies for balancing an intense job and her family life.

After the town hall, Burwell held a small group session in the NIH Library with 13 employees representing a cross-section of staff—diverse jobs, career lengths and levels of seniority.



"The secretary talked about transparency and how important it is for all of us in our jobs," said Mike Alexander, who works at the welcome desk in the CC hospitality department and was in the session. "I'm the first person you meet when you come into the Clinical Center. What I do is already pretty transparent. She also talked about her 8 years at OMB in the Clinton administration, and how much technology and things in government have changed over the years, what with social media and the Internet. It was really short, but also really interesting."

The final question that Collins posed during the town meeting sparked chuckles around the auditorium, "Does the President love us?"

Joining in the humor, Burwell smiled broadly before answering, "Two things I think will help you in your daily work: First, the precision medicine thing? That's all him. It's a presidential priority. The amount of time the President spends on this is incredible. This is personal for him. He believes so much that this is about our nation's innovation in science. He believes this is about our economy. He believes this is about the health and welfare of our people. So precision medicine gives you a view into his thinking about the work you do every day.

"The second thing is that the President is very interested in the quality management of government," she concluded. "His deep interest in making sure that we as the caretakers of the taxpayers' money are doing that well and right is something he is personally invested in."

Burwell's town hall is archived online at <http://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?Live=15633&bhcp=1>.

Burwell chats with (from l) NCI director Dr. Harold Varmus, Urologic Oncology Branch chief Dr. Marston Linehan and Srinivasan.



SCHOOLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above, from 1:

This is a good example of the many dozens of times Schools has appeared, at the center of a lively gathering, in NIH Record photos. Seated is “Stormin’” Norman Wilson, a participant in the first Camp Fantastic in 1982, and possessor of a disarmingly unconventional sense of humor that has inspired a generation of campers and counselors. He is joined by (from l) Al Parker, Wilson’s cousin and caretaker; NIH alumnus Charles Butler, active volunteer for R&W and Special Love; Schools; and Angela Wilson, Norman’s sister.

Schools had much work to do to clear out an office crammed with memorabilia collected over a nearly 40-year NIH career.

“I feel like I’ve gone down a little bit,” is all he’ll say about his own health.

Although his title in recent years has been R&W president, Schools has in fact been NIH’s ambassador-at-large, linking NIH and its people to larger concerns outside the perimeter fence. Observes Diane Baker, wife of NIH director Dr. Francis Collins, “Randy is the central node in an extensive network that connects community resources with the needs and opportunities at NIH. He is a master matchmaker who transforms unmet needs into successful partnerships.”

It might be simplest to view Schools as a seasonal phenomenon.

In the summer, he is one of the maestros of the Camp Fantastic BBQ, which for 32 years has raised funds for—and awareness of—his other summer obsession, Camp Fantastic, a week-long getaway held each August near Front Royal, Va., for children with cancer. He also helps run the Comcast Outdoor Film Festival, now in its 19th year; it began on campus and continues to draw crowds every August. He is such a fixture at Bethesda Big Train collegiate baseball games at nearby Povich Field that he once ended up with a brain clot at Suburban Hospital after a player’s warm-up toss hit him in the head.

Kathy Russell, who recently retired as CEO of the Children’s Inn at NIH, remembers how Schools started the annual BBQ: “We had this idea to do a BBQ at really nominal cost, provide a social opportunity to learn more about camp, provide NIH employees a different lunch option and raise just a little money for [camp sponsor] Special Love. Someone suggested I call ‘Randy Schools at the R&W.’ Randy enthusiastically embraced the opportunity and not only helped us by hosting the BBQ—which he still does—but also got

involved with Special Love personally. From that, friendships evolved and Randy became an asset in the development of the Children’s Inn at NIH, where he has served as a board member for more than 25 years. When you need to get something done, Randy knows everybody.”

Adds Dave Smith, CEO of Special Love, Inc., “Randy is the most giving, service-minded person I’ve ever met. He’s also one of the most genuine, unassuming people alive today. He responds to need on a purely human level, regardless of a person’s race, religion or ethnicity. He’s the common denominator that connects dozens of area charities and organizations, bringing them together to solve mutual problems and serve the common good. I’ve often told Randy that if it really is possible to ‘build treasure in heaven,’ he has a king’s reward waiting in the afterlife.”

Dr. Philip Pizzo, who helped found the Children’s Inn during a long career at NCI that preceded his becoming dean of Stanford School of Medicine, says, “I have had the opportunity to know many exceptional individuals who have changed the way we think about science and human disease, some whose impact may not be fully realized into the future. Randy Schools is one of these exceptional individuals whose impact has been immediate—touching the lives of children with serious illness, their parents and families and virtually everyone who he interacted with. Randy is the essence of human goodness—he truly cares about those in need and gives deeply of his own humanity to restore or invigorate that which has been damaged by illness and disease in others. He does this in an unassuming and self-effacing manner simply because he believes he can make a difference for others now, in the present. He has done this day after day, year after year, decade after

decade, doing what medicine and science can sometimes never achieve—healing the inner spirit and bringing happiness to children, families and our community locally and beyond.”

As if his summer achievements were not enough, Schools—who jokes, “I’ve spent more hours of annual leave in board rooms than under palm trees”—in the fall has helped run countless Combined Federal Campaigns and all 31 years’ worth of the NIH Interinstitute Relay Races, plus the Back to Bethesda civic events in downtown Bethesda.

Each winter for the past 20 years, he has chaired a holiday season Goodwill dinner for poor children and families.

Each spring for the past 18 years, he has helped organize and run the annual Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus premier night for kids, which happens every March.

And these are just the headline items. Anyone who ever got an out-of-office email message from Schools knew he could be almost anywhere when he was away from his desk.

Sitting in his hopelessly cluttered office in the basement of Bldg. 31 in mid-January, Schools, who before coming to NIH had stints in the U.S. Army (as a counterintelligence agent) and at the old Garfinckel’s department store, recounts a career enlivened by extracurricular associations; he just can’t help but network. An hour-long conversation includes brushes with Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig, Tony Bennett (“We shared a big sub at Montgomery Mall when he was in town for a fundraiser for the Children’s Inn”), Walter Cronkite, Barry Goldwater, Ted Turner, Jane Fonda, Larry King, several First Ladies, “even Bill Cosby—he was very warm. His third-grade teacher, Mary Naylor, was with him and he offered her a trip around the world.”

Schools also claims, “I’m one of the few people here who worked with Mr. Natcher [Rep. William Natcher (D-KY), namesake of Bldg. 45]. I knew him before I came here.”

It is only fitting that Schools headed an association (and, for a number of years, the Greater Washington Society of Association Executives), for it is associations that intrigue and mean the world to him; he can easily name half a dozen people within NIH’s orbit whose parents worked here and can recall Camp Fantastic alumni who now run companies or practice medicine.

Even as he turns over the R&W reins, Schools can’t help but emphasize associations: “Kallie [Wasserman, who will be acting R&W president] came here through the Comcast filmfest

and the Ripken Foundation. And David’s [Browne, also a top R&W staffer] mom worked at NIH for more than 30 years...”

And even though he met celebrities and got to travel the world, Schools says, “The nicest thing about here, I think, is the people. The people at [the Office of Research Services and Office of Research Facilities] have been very helpful in making things happen around here, especially with construction of the Children’s Inn.”

ORS and ORF also helped site R&W’s stores and fitness centers, he said, and once helped build a squash court (since demolished to make way for Bldg. 35) at the behest of a former NIH deputy director. Schools is also proud of a range of accomplishments including support of the NIH Community Orchestra, the NIH Bicycle Commuter Club, NIH’s martial arts program, a host of employee clubs (softball was a personal favorite—he played for years in a league that flourished until county youth soccer leagues claimed most nearby fields), the many activities that benefit patients and, most recently, the successful launch of a Zipcar program here and a mentoring program for youngsters enrolled at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School in Takoma Park.

“I’ve developed a lot of friends here,” said Schools. “You get pretty close over the years—lots of lifelong friendships. I will continue those, probably to the very end.”

He explains, “There’s a point in your life where you want to be able to travel a little bit, and do other things.”

In September, he will accompany the NIH Ski Club on safari in Africa—“They do cultural trips as well,” he quips. Schools intends to maintain his leadership, now in its 12th year, of the United Way of Montgomery County and to remain involved with a host of civic organizations, including those addressing deepening human services needs in the county’s eastern portion.

Heidi Grolig, CEO of Friends of Patients at the NIH, is among those reluctant to see Schools go. “I love Randy like a father,” she said. “He is the true example of an angel among us. He is always thinking of others and cares deeply about our community, friends, colleagues and the patients at NIH. You can always count on Randy. Although I will miss seeing him as often.”

“It’s been a good ride,” Schools concludes, mentioning fruitful relationships with all of the NIH directors under whom he has served and gratefully acknowledging that “R&W has drawn many giving people” who spent long careers there. “It’s been a really nice life. I look at retirement as a new beginning. I’m very lucky to have been at NIH—it’s a kind of paradise.” 🍷

Rare Disease Day Event Set, Feb. 27

Rare diseases affect an estimated 25 million people in the United States. On Friday, Feb. 27, NIH will recognize Rare Disease Day with activities to raise awareness about these diseases, the challenges patients face and the importance of research collaborations. Sponsored by NCATS and the Clinical Center, the free event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Speakers include Congressman Leonard Lance (R-NJ), co-chair of the Rare Disease Caucus; NIH director Dr. Francis Collins; NCATS director Dr. Christopher Austin; and CC director Dr. John Gallin. The day also will feature tours; posters and exhibits; and presentations on successful team and community building, the critical role of technology transfer and strategic alliances and NCATS’s Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network advances. Visit https://events-support.com/events/NIH_Rare_Disease_Day to view the agenda and register. Follow the event on social media at #RDDNIH.



Nearly 42 percent of U.S. adults who drink also report using medications known to interact with alcohol, according to results from an NIH study.

PHOTO: ERIN BRYANT

NIH Study Shows Many Americans Are at Risk For Alcohol-Medication Interactions

Nearly 42 percent of U.S. adults who drink also report using medications known to interact with alcohol, an NIH study has found. Among those over 65 years of age who drink alcohol, nearly 78 percent report using alcohol-interactive medications.

Such medications are widely used, prescribed for common conditions such as depression, diabetes and high blood pressure.

The research is among the first to estimate the proportion of adult drinkers in the U.S. who may be mixing alcohol-interactive medications with alcohol. The resulting health effects can range from mild (nausea, headaches, loss of coordination) to severe (internal bleeding, heart problems, difficulty breathing).

“Combining alcohol with medications often carries the potential for serious health risks,” said Dr. George Koob, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. “Based on this study, many individuals may be mixing alcohol with interactive medications and they should be aware of the possible harms.”

The study appeared in the February 2015 issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

The main types of alcohol-interactive medications reported in the survey were blood pressure medications, sleeping pills, pain medications, muscle relaxers, diabetes and cholesterol medications, antidepressants and antipsychotics.

Based on recent estimates, about 71 percent of U.S. adults drink alcohol.

NIH-Funded Study Uncovers Range of Molecular Alterations in Head, Neck Cancers

Investigators with the Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network have discovered genomic differences—with potentially important clinical implications—in head and neck cancers caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States; the number of HPV-related head and neck cancers has been growing. Almost every sexually active person will acquire HPV at some point in their

lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The researchers also uncovered new smoking-related cancer subtypes and potential new drug targets and found numerous genomic similarities with other cancer types. Taken together, this study’s findings may provide more detailed explanations of how HPV infection and smoking play roles in head and neck cancer risk and disease development and offer potential novel diagnostic and treatment directions.

The study is the most comprehensive examination to date of genomic alterations in head and neck cancers. The results were published online Jan. 28 in the journal *Nature*.

“These new data are allowing us to rethink how we approach head and neck cancers,” said Dr. D. Neil Hayes, senior author of the study report and associate professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Diaper Compound May Expand Power of Microscopes

Pour, mix, set, add water and voilà—highly detailed images of the inside of cells. A study, partially funded by NIH, showed that a modified form of the super-absorbent chemical used in disposable diapers can expand brain structures to four and a half times their original size. The process called expansion microscopy will allow scientists to take super-resolution pictures of healthy and diseased tissue throughout the body using common microscopes.

“For centuries, a scientist’s ability to look at cells has been constrained by the power of the lenses they used to magnify them,” said Dr. Edward Boyden, associate professor of biological engineering and brain and cognitive sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a leader of the study published Jan. 15 in *Science*. “We decided to try something different and physically magnify the cells themselves.”

“Expansion microscopy is a potential game changer,” said Dr. Walter Koroshetz, acting director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. “This is the kind of outside-the-box technical innovation that expands the capability of microscopes widely used in the scientific community to explore the fine structure of the nervous system in health and disease.”



milestones

Division of Safety Alumnus Oviatt Mourned

Vinson "Vinse" Romero Oviatt, 88, former assistant director of the Division of Safety at NIH, died Dec. 13 in Dundee, Scotland.

He was chief of the Environmental Safety Branch in the Division of Research Services from 1969 until 1979, when he joined the World Health Organization. Oviatt returned in 1987 to become assistant director of the Division of Safety and retired a few years later.

He was born in Huron, S. Dak., and received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from South Dakota State University. He earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Michigan in the field of occupational and environmental health.

From 1954 to 1965, Oviatt was employed by the Michigan department of health, directing the environmental health activities of its division of hospital and medical facilities. Later, he worked for the Public Health Service and for the Health Services and Mental Health Administration.

At WHO, Oviatt was coordinator of a special program on safety measures in microbiology, Division of Communicable Diseases. He continued to be a member of the WHO biosafety advisory group until his death. He was also a consultant to WHO's Global Programme on AIDS. He wrote almost 40 publications in the field of environmental health and biosafety.

Oviatt and his wife Fiona spent the past 25 years in Crail, Scotland, where he sang in the church choir, was a church elder, served on the Crail Festival Society committee and was involved in the creation and running of Crail Children's Centre.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons, Mark and Stephen from a previous marriage, and William; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



NIDDK's Hardy Dies

Pauline Hardy, a long-time dishwasher in NIDDK's Laboratory of Molecular Biology, died peacefully on Oct. 27 at Southern Maryland Hospital after a long illness. She was 81 years old.

Hardy began her NIH career in 1974 and worked for the laboratory until she retired in 2002.

"Pauline was a wonderful person, always conscientious, always friendly and always ready to meet any request. It was a privilege to work with

Pauline," said Dr. Steven Zimmerman, her supervisor for many years.

Hardy and her husband adopted and reared 4 children, the last 2 coming after the first 2 were already grown.

Hardy was active in her church choir and cooked for many needy people.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Fred Hardy; four children, Evelyn, Malcolm, Eugene and Dante Hardy; four sisters and a host of relatives and friends.



feedback

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

Feedback: The Bldg. 31 lactation room (B2B39) used by NIH nursing mothers has been closed "temporarily" for renovation since late October. Many of the NIH's nursing mothers work in Bldg. 31 and this closure of the building's only lactation room in recent months has been a major inconvenience, requiring us to either use less-than-optimal office space or expend more time and energy traveling with our equipment to other campus buildings multiple times a day in these cold months. This is already a challenging time for us nursing mothers, especially for those newly back from maternity leave, and makes continuing breast-feeding while working all the more difficult. The room was supposed to be closed for only a week and there have been no signs that renovations will be completed any time soon. Could you please let us know what the hold-up is on this renovation and when we can expect to have a usable Bldg. 31 lactation room again?

Response from the Office of Research Services: When the lactation room was closed for temporary renovations, it was expected to be for 1 week. However, asbestos was detected, requiring the need for abatement and unexpectedly adding to the length of the closure from what we originally anticipated. We anticipate renovations to be completed in February 2015. The asbestos abatement is under way and once complete and air monitoring determines the room is ready for re-occupancy, the room will again be available for nursing mothers. During the interim, we have taken measures to locate an alternate lactation room within Bldg. 31. Nursing mothers registered in our program received notification of the alternate location.



Congressman Cole Leads Capitol Hill Colleagues on Visit to NIH

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

U.S. Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), incoming chair of the subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services in the House appropriations committee, led a bipartisan delegation of congressional representatives and staff on a visit to NIH Jan. 20.

Greeted by NIH director Dr. Francis Collins, Cole and his colleagues on the subcommittee assembled for scientific briefings with several institute directors including NCI director Dr. Harold Varmus, NHLBI director Dr. Gary Gibbons, NIAID director Dr. Anthony Fauci and NIGMS director Dr. Jon Lorsch. The group was also scheduled to make stops at the Clinical Research Center, the Porter Neuroscience Center and the Vaccine Research Center.

Lab tours included NCI's Pediatric Oncology Branch, which is dedicated to improving outcomes for children and young adults with cancer and genetic tumor predispositions; and the biodefense research section of NIAID's Vaccine Research Center, which has developed highly effective vaccine strategies for Ebola virus infection.



NCI's Dr. Lee Helman (r) leads a tour group of representatives including (from l) Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Andy Harris (R-MD), Tom Cole (R-OK), Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Charlie Dent (R-PA).



Above, with (from l) Lowey, DeLauro and NHLBI director Dr. Gary Gibbons, CC director Dr. John Gallin (r) points out aspects of the NIH campus on the model located in the lobby of the Clinical Research Center. At left, Dr. Daniel Lee (l) of NCI's Pediatric Oncology Branch briefs the tour group.



At left, DeLauro (l) and Lowey greet Fauci as familiar friends. At right, in the biodefense research section of NIAID's Vaccine Research Center, NIAID's Dr. Mario Roederer (l), who runs the VRC flow cytometry core, and Dr. Julie Ledgerwood, principal investigator on all of the Ebola phase I clinical trials (beginning in 2003) conducted at NIH, greet the congressional delegation as Dr. Nancy Sullivan (r) observes.



At left, Collins (fourth from l) briefs several members of Congress. At right, shown at the briefing room table are (from l) Dent, Harris, Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR), Cole, DeLauro and Lowey.