

THE NIH RECORD

Still The Second Best Thing About Payday

500+ Nations Join 'Gathering'

Native American Powwow Initiative Begins 4th Year

By Jennifer Haley

The NIH Native American Powwow Outreach Initiative launched its fourth year this spring by participating in America's largest powwow, the 21st annual Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque. Revered cultural and inspirational events, powwows are also commercial venues featuring Native American dance competitions, jewelry and craft sales, and native food vendors. Cultural traditions on display at powwows reflect the diversity of each tribe.

Tribal representatives of more than 500 nations from the United States, Canada and Mexico participated. Attendance was over 50,000 for the 2-day event, packing the University of New Mexico athletic arena, which is called "The Pit." Historically, Native Americans have come together in Albuquerque for this annual gathering for

SEE POWWOW, PAGE 6

NIH'ers Capture Communication Awards from NAGC

The National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) recently announced winners of its 2003 Blue Pencil/Gold Screen awards, which are given for outstanding achievement in writing, editing and producing print/broadcast material. Winners—many from NIH's public information and education offices—were chosen from more than 500 entries submitted by local, state and federal government communicators; they received their honors at a banquet held May 20 at Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Categories and NIH winners included:

SEE COMMUNICATION AWARDS, PAGE 4

HIGHLIGHTS

1

Thompson Tours Campus

Prevention Key To Lead Poisoning

3

Liver Cancer On Rise in U.S.

5

Parenting Festival A Success

12

CIT Announces Summer Classes

16

Giant Crane Reaches Over Bldg. 10



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'Transforming America, Transforming Health Care'

At NIH, HHS Secretary Urges Individual Health, Unified Effort

By Carla Garnett

Unsanitary hospitals in Afghanistan and unexpected optimism in Africa have changed Tommy Thompson. Three times as HHS Secretary he has traveled to Afghanistan and witnessed multiple surgical procedures performed back to back without seeing medical staff wash their hands or instruments in between. With no clean running water, it was explained, there's no use in scrubbing. In a country where women are forbidden to practice medicine and are also not allowed to be examined by male physicians, the rates of death and disease for mothers and children are

SEE THOMPSON, PAGE 8



Secretary Tommy Thompson (l) gets CRC tour from CC director Dr. John Gallin.

Society, Not Succimer, Must Get the Lead Out

By Rich McManus

Hopes were high 10 years ago as scientists began a study that would determine whether a stinky white powder called succimer—which can leach lead out of the bloodstreams of youngsters—could reverse the IQ deficits they suffered from their lead exposure. But after 7 years of studies on an initial cohort of almost 800 kids—most of them poor and black—in four cities, scientists led by Dr. Walter Rogan of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences determined that, although it lowered blood lead levels, the drug didn't budge average IQ scores.

"We learned that the only way to prevent lead-associated [intellectual] deficits is to prevent lead exposure in the first place," he told a Clinical Center Grand Rounds audience on June 9.

SEE ROGAN, PAGE 2



Dr. Walter Rogan

ROGAN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

About 25 percent of American children under age 6 live in houses contaminated with hazardous levels of lead, a common element in the decaying house paint in many poor neighborhoods in America's Rust Belt cities; about 16 million houses are thought to be affected. As the paint in old homes ages, it chips, flakes and chalks, becoming a kind of dust that is easily ingestible, especially by boys, who tend to put things in their mouths more often than girls, Rogan explained. Although blood lead levels in U.S. children have fallen, mostly due to the removal of lead from gasoline, there are still half a million kids whose levels are at or above what Rogan and CDC call "a level of concern."

Back in the mid-1950's, scientists felt that the "level of concern" began at around 60 micrograms per deciliter of blood. But by 1991, new evidence had suggested that a level of 10 indicated a risk of delayed cognitive development, Rogan said. To put quantities in perspective, 1 gram of lead in a child is enough to kill him,

Rogan noted. "That's an amount smaller than the nail on your pinky."

Lead poisoning is far from gone, emphasized Rogan, who has been an intramural scientist at NIEHS for 28 years. An individual child's blood lead level typically peaks around age 2, and mental deficits become apparent around age 4. Lead is associated with a 2 to 3 point drop in IQ points for each increase in blood lead of 10 micrograms per deciliter, based on a meta-analysis of many studies, Rogan said.

He described the oral succimer clinical trial, begun shortly after NIEHS director Dr. Kenneth Olden took over the institute in 1991. Earlier studies had shown that intravenous or intramuscular drugs like EDTA and BAL could lower blood lead levels, so there were high hopes for an oral preparation.

"Succimer is a white crystalline powder with an unpleasant mercaptan odor," Rogan explained. "It smells like a 16-year-old's gym locker." The chemical binds non-covalently to lead, mercury, zinc, calcium and iron, and can be excreted in urine. Olden okayed the oral succimer trial, whose goal was to prevent cognitive impairment by lowering blood lead concentration.

Rogan and his colleagues lit out to crumbling row houses in Newark, Philadelphia (near where Rogan himself had grown up in a row house), Baltimore and Cincinnati, where they found plenty of old paint, old putty, and windows and radiators flaking away under numerous layers of lead paint (whose



Rogan presents a slide showing how oral succimer was delivered in an NIEHS study attempting to prevent IQ deficits due to blood lead exposure.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

main constituents are lead carbonate and linseed oil, Rogan said). They cleaned the homes with HEPA vacuums, patched walls, cleaned windows and generally tried to keep the lead dust down for the 6 months that the study cohort received succimer in the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. Socioeconomic factors—the homes were all in poorer neighborhoods, virtually all were on public assistance, the parents were all below U.S. norms with respect to income, and the average IQ for children was 81—were undeniably at play in determining risk.

The study retained 90 percent of the original 780 enrollees for 5 years, and 65 percent for the full 7 years, Rogan reported, but the results were unequivocal—succimer lowered blood lead but could not reverse declines in IQ.

Looking ahead to the future, Rogan is encouraged by several new research directions. First, the HHS Healthy People 2010 initiative includes the goal of eliminating lead poisoning (in other words, getting the level below 10 micrograms per deciliter) in children. Rogan said there is increasing attention paid to lead levels in water, as has been heavily reported in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area this spring, and to prevention of lead exposure by a variety of means. He also said studies are widening to include the effects of exposure in older kids. Future studies will also try to disentangle the confounding nature of lead exposure and socioeconomic status.

But the clear impression from Rogan's talk is that lead poisoning has become less a matter of treatment and more one of prevention; cleanup time has arrived. ■

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Hepatocellular Carcinoma on Rise in U.S., Say Experts

Noting a troublesome rising incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in the United States, international experts from many disciplines called for better methods of screening, diagnosis and management of HCC, the fifth most prevalent cancer in the world. Scientists and physicians arrived at these conclusions at a recent NIH conference, "Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Screening, Diagnosis, and Management."

HCC has long been considered a rare cancer in the U.S., although highly prevalent in Asia. In the last 25 years, however, HCC's incidence here has risen markedly, says Dr. Hashem B. El Serag of Houston VA Medical Center and Baylor University. "It's a worrisome trend," he adds, noting that HCC's increasing incidence contrasts with the decreasing death rates of other major cancers.

HCC usually develops in persons with chronic liver disease such as hepatitis B or C, alcoholic liver disease or in those who have cirrhosis. Because both the underlying liver condition and the cancer can be silent and asymptomatic, HCC may be well advanced by the time it's discovered. "HCC is highly lethal. For every 100 who develop it, 80 will die in the first year after diagnosis," El Serag explains.

The recent increase in the rate of HCC seems driven largely by the increase in the rate of cirrhosis due to hepatitis C. Many people were infected with hepatitis C during the 1960s and 1970s either through use of injected drugs or infected blood transfusions given before tests were available to identify the virus in blood. Since HCC may take 30 years to develop from the time of infection, many HCV-associated cases are just now coming to light. From them, more and more cases of HCC can be expected to occur.

El Serag points out that the possibility that diabetes and obesity may also contribute to HCC could make the problem much worse. "If that proves true," he says, "with the rates of obesity in the U.S., that's really bad news. It would be a public health crisis."

The organizers of the meeting feel that the health care system has to be better prepared to respond. "Everyone who takes care of patients with liver disease has recognized that HCC is becoming a greater problem. This cancer is highly aggressive and, if not detected at an early stage, it is not responsive to treatment," says Dr. Jay Hoofnagle, chief of NIDDK's recently established Liver Disease Research Branch. "It's time for a major look at this cancer. An interdisciplinary group of experts will help us determine the best strategies for HCC screening, diagnosis and management, and identify specific needs for future basic and clinical research on HCC."

Meeting participants heard about methods and efficacy of screening in high-risk populations,

methods of early diagnosis, and current and emerging therapies such as surgery, chemoembolization, radiofrequency ablation, cadaveric and living donor transplantation, and techniques such as proton beam irradiation, intensity modulated radiation therapy and image-guided targeting.

The results of the conference will be published in a major journal in coming months. The meeting was sponsored by NIDDK in conjunction with NCI, NIBIB, the Fogarty International Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs.—Jane DeMouy ■



The ChildKind Infant Center recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Staff and board members (above) received a poster of appreciation at the June 10 NIH child care board meeting. Shown are (from l) Isolean Carty, ChildKind assistant director; Lee Ettman, director; Tim Tosten, director, Division of Employee Services, ORS; and Charles Carter, ChildKind board member. The ChildKind Infant Center opened at Suburban Hospital in 1984 to provide care for children of hospital employees. With so many NIH employees using the service, the program moved to a modular building on the NIH campus in 1987 and continues to provide care for 33 children of NIH'ers. The children range in age from 6 weeks to 3 years. The program is licensed by the State of Maryland and accredited by the National Association of Young Children. Parents, children, staff and alumnae celebrated this milestone with an anniversary picnic on June 6. For more information about this and other child care services at NIH, call the ORS Division of Employee Services at (301) 402-8180.

Healthy Volunteers Needed

NIAID is seeking healthy male and female volunteers ages 18-40 for a research study to determine whether lopinavir/ritonavir (antiviral medication) has direct effects on how the lining of the arteries function before and after receiving 4 weeks of therapy. In order to participate, you must be a nonsmoker in good health, not be HIV-infected and not be taking any chronic medications. Participants will be compensated for study participation. For more information, contact Jocelyn Voell, (301) 435-7913. ■



Dr. Thomas Wellems, acting chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Malaria and Vector Research, has been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. He is honored for work that has bridged the sciences of genetics, molecular biology and microbial physiology in landmark studies of malaria drug resistance and antigenic variation. He showed how resistance to the antimalarial drug chloroquine markedly increased death rates from malaria in African children and identified the gene responsible for this effect. Scientists can now use diagnostic tests developed by his research group to test for this resistance. Fellows of the AAM are elected annually through a highly selective, peer-reviewed process based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology.

COMMUNICATION AWARDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Soft Cover Books (50 or more pages/51 percent produced by outside sources)

First Place (tie)—*Building Ten at Fifty: 50 Years of Clinical Research at the NIH Clinical Center* NIH Clinical Center, Pat McNees, Judy Sklar Rasmovsky, Lynne Komai

Award of Excellence (tie)—*Alzheimer's Disease: Unraveling the Mystery* National Institute on Aging, Patricia D. Lynch, David M. Burton, Anne Rogers, Rodney C. Williams

Making Health Communication Programs Work: A Planner's Guide National Cancer Institute & Matthews Media Group, Anne Lubenow, Christine Theisen, Elaine B. Arkin, Lynne Donner

Soft Cover Books (50 pages or more/51 percent produced in-house)

First Place (tie)—*Medicines By Design* National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Alison Davis

Second Place (tie)—*Understanding Vaccines* National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Jeff Miner

Award of Excellence (tie)—*Keep the Beat: Heart Healthy Recipes from the NHLBI* National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Louise Williams, Terry Long, Laina Ransom

Brochures/Booklets (16 pages or less/51 percent produced by outside sources)

First Place (tie)—*A Guide to Cancer Clinical Studies* National Cancer Institute & Matthews Media Group, Tracy Thompson, Bridget Robinson, Michele Demory

A Family History of Alcoholism National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Award of Excellence (tie)—*Activity Guides: See All You Can See - Ages 6-8* National Eye Institute, Rosemary Janiszewski, Leslie Rivera

Harmful Interactions: Mixing Alcohol With Medicines National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Technical Reports

Award of Excellence (Tie)—*Questions and Answers About Homeopathy* National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Ellen L. O'Donnell

Consumer Financial Issues in Complementary and Alternative Medicine NCCAM, Ellen L. O'Donnell, Karla E. Ehrler

What's in the Bottle? An Introduction to Dietary Supplements NCCAM, Ellen L. O'Donnell, Chris Thomsen

Most Improved Publications

First Place (tie)—*Health Information Publications - Airborne Allergens/Lyme Disease* National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Ann London, Cynthia Fabry, Claire McCullough

Award of Excellence (tie)—*Patient Education Brochures on Eye Disease: Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Cataract, Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma* National Eye Institute, Michael Coogan, Rosemary Janiszewski, Linda Huss

Writer's Portfolio

First Place—*Pat McNees products* National Science Foundation/NIH Clinical Center, Pat McNees, Judy Rasmovsky, Michael Dolan

Press Kits

First Place—*Cancer of the Month* National Cancer Institute & Matthews Media Group, Lynn Cave, Yvette Watson

Public Service Announcements

First Place—*Real Men, Real Depression* National Institute of Mental Health, Equals Three Communications, Inc., Leslie Wiener

Second Place (tie)—*NIDA Goes Back to School - "Bring a Scientist to School"* National Institute on Drug Abuse, Office of Science Policy and Communications, Beverly Jackson

Calendars

First Place—*Healthy Vision Month Calendar* National Eye Institute, Rosemary Janiszewski, Karen Silver, Leslie Rivera

Award of Excellence—*NIDA 2003 Asian American and Pacific Islanders Calendar* National Institute on Drug Abuse, Office of Science Policy and Communications, Beverly Jackson

Displays

Award of Excellence—*Clinical Studies Support Center African American and Hispanic Banners* National Cancer Institute & Matthews Media Group, Tracy Thompson, Bridget Robinson, Whitney Robinson

Promotional Campaigns

First Place (tie)—*The Heart Truth for Women* National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Ann Taubenheim, Terry Long, Louise Williams

Real Men, Real Depression National Institute of Mental Health, Equals Three Communications, Inc., Leslie Wiener

Video News Releases

Award of Excellence—*Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial* National Cancer Institute & Matthews Media Group, Lynn Cave, Yvette Watson, Cindy Yeast

Public Service Announcements

Award of Excellence (tie)—*Real Men, Real Depression* National Institute of Mental Health, Equals Three Communication, Inc., Leslie Wiener

The Party's Over National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Web Sites

Award of Excellence (tie)—*Alzheimer's Disease Education & Referral (ADEAR) Center Web Site* National Institute on Aging, Patricia Lynch, Jennifer Watson, Mike Nescot

Audio Public Service Announcements

Second Place—*Real Men, Real Depression* National Institute of Mental Health, Equals Three Communications, Inc., Leslie Wiener

NAGC is a national not-for-profit professional network of federal, state and local government employees who disseminate information within and outside government. Its members are editors, writers, graphic artists, video professionals, broadcasters, photographers, information specialists and agency spokespersons. ■

Weight and Insulin Study

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is conducting a study examining weight and stress responses to exercise in African American and Caucasian men and women between the ages of 18 and 45. Volunteers will be compensated for their participation. Call (301) 295-1371 or email humanperformancelab@usuhs.mil. ■

2nd Annual Parenting Festival a Success

More than 500 employees visited this year's NIH Parenting Festival on May 26 in Bldg. 50. The event showcased resources as well as current research.

Attendees were able to explore the world of child development by decorating mini-sombreros and cookies with the NIH-sponsored child care centers. Parents met one-on-one with parenting experts for answers to their child-rearing questions. Attendees also found out about the latest research in NIH institutes and centers focusing on children; picked up literature and materials about health issues that might affect their families; chatted with a group of NIH employees who shared their experiences with adoption and foster care; and accessed, in one place, the full range of services and resources available to support employees in their parenting or other child-caring responsibilities.

Additionally, one lucky employee won the main



Dr. Susan Koester (c) and Henry Primus of the NIH child care board chat with attendees.

door prize, which was a basket full of parenting resources. Another attendee won a Medela Pump 'n Style breast pump that was donated to the NIH Lactation Program by Medela. The first 400 employees received canvas briefcases donated by the NIH Federal Credit Union, and many others won specially selected parenting books from the NIH child care board.

Volunteers from several NIH institutes and organizations staffed exhibit tables, including the NIH Work/Life Center, Employee Assistance Program, Lactation Program, Office of Human Resources Benefits and Payroll Liaison Branch, NIH Child Care Services, Office of Science Education, NIH Federal Credit Union, and SHPS, Inc.

Festival attendees were enthusiastic about the event and reported that they found loads of helpful resources.

"We can't thank our exhibitors enough for



"Ask the Parenting Specialist" Sue Cohen (r) shares her expertise with an employee.

ensuring that the parenting festival was such a success," said Janet Austin, chair of the NIH child care board.

If you missed the festival, don't despair—the board has already started planning for next year, which promises to be an even bigger, better event that will be more accessible to employees at the satellite campuses.—Alisa Green ■

NIH Offers ClinPRAT Training

The NIH Clinical Pharmacology Research Associate Training (ClinPRAT) program is a 3-year postdoctoral research fellowship training program sponsored by the Clinical Center and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The program emphasizes the application of laboratory pharmacology, biostatistics, pharmacokinetics and chemistry to the study of drug action in humans. Postdoctoral training positions are available starting July 1, 2005, and in subsequent years.

Candidates must have the M.D. degree. In general, they will have completed 3 years of residency training and will be board-eligible in a primary medical specialty when entering the program. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States. Candidates' qualifications are evaluated by the clinical pharmacology steering committee. Selection is highly competitive and preference will be given to applicants with outstanding potential. Most successful candidates either have had Ph.D. degrees in addition to their M.D. degree or substantial prior research experience. The stipend is determined by the candidate's educational and professional experience.

ClinPRAT fellows have the opportunity to participate in the NIH General Loan Repayment Program. For more information visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/researchers/training/clinprat.shtml> or call Donna Shields at (301) 435-6618.

Asian/Chinese Volunteers Needed

The department of transfusion medicine (Blood Bank) at the Clinical Center seeks healthy volunteers (male and female) 18 years of age and older to participate in a research apheresis study that assesses the influence of ethnic background on immune response. Volunteers are needed who were born in China, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore or first generation offspring of parents who were born in these countries. Two visits are required and compensation is available. Call Rose Werden, (301) 402-0757.

POWWOW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more than 50 years.

Hilda Dixon, EEO manager for the Office of the Director, began the outreach initiative 4 years ago in an effort to reach Native American communities within a 250-mile radius of NIH. Dr. Yvonne



Hilda Dixon of OD EEO meets with youngsters attending a powwow event.

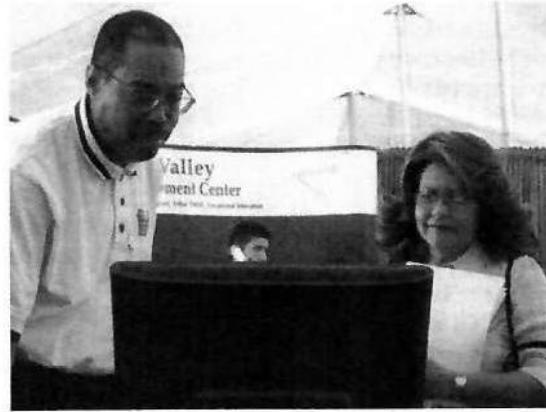
Maddox, then NIH acting deputy director, supported the idea and facilitated a partnership with the National Library of Medicine. The initiative is now a model trans-NIH program, as increasingly the institutes and centers contribute information materials, staff and giveaways to the effort. The unique environment of the powwow has resulted

in a number of accomplishments: increasing awareness of and participation in clinical trials, providing thousands of people with the latest research information on health, and hiring many attendees as employees of NIH. Recent new hires include a Native American from the University of Northern Arizona for a summer internship at CIT, several stay-in-school students and a postdoc in the NIDCD Partnership Student Training Program.

"It just keeps getting better," Dixon enthuses. "When staff members were approved to participate in the Gathering of Nations Powwow, we knew the program had come a long way." Activity highlights include a presentation on the Native American radio program "NightWolf on WPFW" and work with the Maryland governor's "Wellmobiles," which are

traveling clinics that now carry NIH publications as part of their service to the uninsured and underserved throughout the state.

Outreach organizers say the 2004 season promises to be especially exciting, with a new tent and wireless internet access. Out of more than 400 exhibitors at the Gathering of Nations, NLM, which



George Franklin of NLM demonstrates MedlinePlus.

demonstrates MedlinePlus at the powwows, was the only exhibitor with live Internet access. The demonstrations drew many attendees, giving them the opportunity to try out MedlinePlus for the first time and resulting in more than 100 online searches.

The outreach effort includes colleges and universities. Lawrence Self, director of the NIH Office of Equal Opportunity and



Larry Self, OEODM director, poses with NIH's Rebecca Tudisco (l) and Debbie Sweitzer in Native American regalia.

Diversity Management, met with faculty at the University of New Mexico Health Science Center. As a result NIH will partner with the university to target underserved students.

Many NIH publications make up the core materials distributed at a powwow. In addition, specific requests receive responses generally within a week following the event. OD EEO staff alone have responded to 23 requests for information from the Gathering of Nations. Information on NIH careers and training and internship programs, along with current vacancy announcements, are popular with the college-age students.

NIH health information and promotional items on diabetes, oral care, cardiovascular disease, sudden infant death syndrome and other health concerns that disproportionately affect Native Americans also helped to draw people to the booth. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research distributed more than 600 oral care kits to adults and children. Families also picked up the *Buddy Brush* coloring book and the *Milk Matters* booklet about promoting good oral care habits for children.

Students on an elementary class field trip to the powwow enthusiastically received the *Buddy Brush* campaign materials and OEODM sun visors to top it off. Other promotional items contributed by NIDDK, NICHD, NLM, NIAMS and NIDCR attracted more than 5,000 people to the NIH booth. NIDDK pedometers were distributed as prizes with the new *I Can Lower My Risk for Type 2 Diabetes* booklet, which was developed especially for American Indians.

As with previous tribal and inter-tribal gatherings in the mid-Atlantic region, NIH presenters found that many attendees at the Gathering of Nations were not familiar with all of the opportunities and information provided by NIH. After such a large gathering however, organizers say they hope many more realize NIH is an excellent resource for health.

The initiative has participated in four other powwow events since the Gathering, including the 33rd annual American Indian Arts Festival on the Rankokus Indian Reservation in Westampton



Children on field trip visit NIH booth.

Township, N.J.; the Occaneechi-Saponi Spring Festival in Hillsborough, N.C.; the Shenandoah Valley Powwow in Mount Jackson, Va.; and the 36th annual Lumbee Homecoming in Pembroke, N.C., held on July 2-3. The Nanticoke Annual Powwow in Millsboro, Del., will take place on Sept. 11-12. ■

Hagan Named NIGMS Associate Director

Dr. Ann A. Hagan has been named associate director for extramural activities at NIGMS. She will oversee fiscal management of the institute's \$1.9 billion research and research training grant program and advise the NIGMS director on planning, development and administration of grant activities.

Hagan began her career as an assistant professor of biology at George Williams College in Downers Grove, Ill. She first came to NIH in 1979 as a staff fellow at NIMH. In 1981, she returned to academia as an assistant professor of biology at American University. She rejoined NIH in 1987 as a health scientist administrator in the Grants Review Branch, NCI. In 1989, Hagan moved to NIDDK, where she rose through the ranks to become chief of the Review Branch. In 2000, she became deputy associate director for extramural activities at NIGMS, serving as acting associate director since November 2003.

Hagan received B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology education and a Ph.D. degree in physiology, all from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has been active in various NIH committees including the staff training in extramural programs committee, serving as its vice-chair in 1994 and its chair in 1995. She represents NIGMS on the NIH Roadmap institutes and centers liaisons committee and the NIH extramural programs management committee. ■



Dr. Ann A. Hagan

NIDDK's Hoofnagle Receives Sherlock Award

Dr. Jay H. Hoofnagle, chief of NIDDK's Liver Diseases Research Branch, is the first recipient of the International Dame Sheila Sherlock Award. The award recognizes Hoofnagle's "outstanding, epoch-making research work on the diagnosis, therapy and prophylaxis of acute and chronic liver diseases and their consecutive symptoms."

Given during the Falk Liver Week in Freiberg, Germany, the award honors the recently deceased Dame Sheila Sherlock of Royal Free Hospital London, one of the major architects of modern hepatology. She made major contributions to our

knowledge of liver disease, trained several generations of leaders in academic hepatology, and was the author of *Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System*, a textbook that went through 14 editions during her lifetime.

Hoofnagle's contributions to hepatology have been made largely during his tenure on the NIH campus. As a

staff fellow from 1972-1975 in the Hepatitis Branch of the Bureau of Biologics (which became part of the FDA in 1972), he helped describe the serological course of hepatitis B and developed the first assay for the antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc) showing that it was a sensitive marker of hepatitis B virus infection. As a result of this work and subsequent studies, testing for anti-HBc of all donor blood was made a federal requirement in 1986, which has helped to eliminate post-transfusion hepatitis B.

Hoofnagle joined the liver diseases section of NIDDK as a senior investigator in 1978. There he initiated clinical and laboratory studies of the natural history and therapy of hepatitis B, C and D. He was the first to conduct a randomized controlled trial of interferon alfa for chronic hepatitis B and was the first to use interferon to treat hepatitis C and D. In 1991-1992, interferon became the first licensed therapy for chronic hepatitis B and C. Hoofnagle has been involved in early evaluation and development of virtually all antiviral agents developed for viral hepatitis including interferon, ribavirin, lamivudine and adefovir dipivoxil.

Hoofnagle is currently an investigator on more than 10 NIH clinical research protocols and holds 6 active investigation new drug applications. ■

Malaria Vaccine Study Needs Volunteers

Healthy men and women ages 18-45, without previous history of malaria or receipt of a malaria vaccine, are needed to participate in a study on the safety and effectiveness of a new investigational malaria vaccine at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring. Health screening and financial compensation provided. Call 1-866-856-3259 toll free or (301) 319-9335/9320, or visit www.wrairclinicaltrials.com.

THOMPSON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about as high as can be imagined. "You'd be hard-pressed to go there and not come away a different person," he said during a June 8 visit to NIH, recalling some of the horrible health care conditions he had found on his global journeys. "It's the worst country in the world for maternal deaths. I don't think there was a dry eye."

As deplorable as health care conditions were in war-torn Afghanistan, where HHS is now helping to build a new hospital for women and children, Thompson said life in several HIV/AIDS-ravaged African countries is gradually improving, due in large part to antiretroviral drug deliveries from the United States.

Recalling several families he met there, Thompson described Rosemary, whose husband had died of AIDS in 1994 leaving her HIV-infected with 4 children to support. In 1995, when her brother too succumbed to AIDS, she inherited 3 more children and an elderly mother



Secretary Thompson and NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni share a light moment.

to tend. By 2001, Rosemary herself was near death, until her condition was stabilized with antiretrovirals. Visiting the small mud hut she shared with 8 other people, Thompson said he was surprised as much by her emotional resiliency as her physical rebound.

"I would expect her to be very withdrawn and very pessimistic," he noted. "But she was actually just the opposite. She was ebullient...It was so moving that I wish every one of you could have heard her tell her story, because you would then realize how important you are to the future of this country and the world. What you are doing here is making a difference to people you will never see."

In a village 4 hours from the Ugandan capital Kampala, Samson, a carpenter, also HIV-positive, whose wife had died of AIDS in 2002, talked to Thompson about gratitude. "We had no hope," Samson said. "We had no optimism before you started delivering the medicine. You are giving hope and courage to a whole continent."

Mutual Admiration Expressed

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who introduced Thompson at the all-hands meeting that concluded the Secretary's day here, praised Thompson's

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON



Thompson is greeted upon arrival by Zerhouni, NIH Police Chief Al Hinton (c) and several members of the NIH Police force.



IC directors (from l) Dr. Judith Vaitukaitis of NCRR, Dr. Nora Volkow of NIDA, Dr. Stephen Straus of NCCAM, Dr. John Ruffin of NCMHD and NIBIB deputy Dr. Belinda Seto meet with the Secretary in Wilson Hall.

leadership style as "humanity in action."

"Leadership is not something you can invent on the job," Zerhouni explained, remembering trips he has taken with the Secretary and describing the insight that led Thompson to give a Wisconsin dairy cow as a gift to a poor African village. "It's something you have or you don't have. I have had the pleasure over the last 2 years to watch leadership in action. My interactions with him have always been

While He Was Here

Tours, Briefings Fill Secretary's Day at NIH

Prior to the afternoon's all-hands meeting, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson spent the day at NIH, touring various construction sites and meeting with small groups of NIH'ers, including the institute and center directors and representatives from the extramural and intramural sectors. Summarized below are a few highlights from his day-long visit.

After being greeted by NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and talking with IC directors in Bldg. 1, Thompson received a condensed overview of extramural research activities from Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo, NIH deputy director for extramural research.

Commenting that the breadth of NIH's scientific portfolio permitted a showing of only a brief birds-



Surrounded by renderings, NIAID's Dr. Thomas Kindt (second from r) and Dr. John LaMontagne (r) point out features of Bldg. 33 to Thompson (l) and Zerhouni.

very open, very frank, very direct and at the same time, very humane. What we have here is not someone who cares just about budgets and politics, but he cares deeply about health, for us, and how NIH can serve its role."

In turn, Thompson lauded Zerhouni as "an outstanding leader. I've had the privilege to be in public life now for 38 years and during that time I've had the opportunity to meet a lot of successful leaders. I would have to say that Elias Zerhouni is *par excellence*. He is a good person, a wonderful leader and a great friend."

'Stronger, Better' as One HHS

In the Natcher auditorium, Thompson began by recounting some of his experiences on campus (see sidebar for details).

"Coming here is another of those outstanding days that I've had as secretary of this great department," he said. "To be able to witness what you people are



NLM director Dr. Donald Lindberg (l) and NEI director Dr. Paul Sieving

all about, to be able to see the tremendous progress and the great opportunities that you give humanity by the kind of research that's going on on this campus is just absolutely amazing. I got a chance to hear from what I consider giants, individuals who are doing so much to improve the quality of health not only of America, but of the world."

Referring to an issue that has been debated in recent months—consolidation of department functions such as human resources—Thompson sought to reassure employees about efforts to further unify HHS.

"I know there's been a lot of concern about integrating the department again and having it function as one, but we're so much stronger and better when we do that," he said. "We have some of the best doctors, researchers, scientists and employ-

SEE PAGE 10



CRC Project Manager Yong-Duk Chyun (c) gives an overview of CRC infrastructural components.



Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo (second from l), NIH deputy director for extramural research, and colleagues discuss electronic research administration.

eye view, she then introduced her colleagues, Dr. Israel Lederhendler of the Office of Extramural Research and the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Lynn Luetheke of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and JoAnne Goodnight of the Office of Extramural Research. Their stories of eRA (electronic research administration), the information technology system that supports NIH's scientific enterprise, and of basic scientific discoveries maturing—and in some cases already applied to health and disease—provided a natural segue for a briefing by Dr. Jack Spiegel, senior advisor for technology transfer operations in NIH's Office of Technology Transfer.

He discussed a number of issues, including a recent public meeting NIH held to collect comments for and against using federal march-in authority in connection with Abbott Laboratories' HIV protease inhibitor drug ritonavir (trade name Norvir).

In addition, Spiegel told the Secretary that OTT recently hosted an international gathering of intellectual property holders and others interested in minimizing intellectual property impediments to the development of SARS-related products. Also addressed were efforts by OTT to help resolve such complex issues among various governmental and private entities who are advancing development of an avian flu vaccine.

"The Secretary was briefed also on an array of recent international technology transfer activities to reduce health burdens in developing countries for diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, rotavirus, malaria, dengue fever, meningitis, cancer and diabetes," Spiegel concluded.

After lunch with Zerhouni and OD senior staff, Thompson toured the nearly complete Clinical Research Center and checked out design plans, a model and construction site for Bldg. 33.

Later, in Bldg. 1, the Secretary heard from four intramuralists, including Dr. Pamela Robey, acting NIDCR scientific director and chief of the Craniofacial and Skeletal Diseases Branch.

"What I told him is that my branch has been working on post-natal (adult) stem cells that form hard tissues for many years, starting with bone marrow stromal stem cells that have the ability to form bone, cartilage, the stroma that supports blood formation, fat and perhaps other types of cells," she said. "Using the techniques that we had developed, Dr. Songtao Shi, a tenure-track investi-

SEE BRIEFINGS, PAGE 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ees in the world in this department, and we're going to be a lot stronger and better when we work together to develop a mission and accomplish our objectives."

Personal Health Paramount

Thompson also stressed his wish that HHS employees—and NIH'ers in particular—personally serve as examples of healthy living for the entire nation.

BRIEFINGS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

gator in my branch, isolated stem cells from adult third molars and from baby teeth. These cells have the ability to form dentin, one of the mineralized layers of teeth. If we are able to identify an enamel-like biomaterial, we feel that we will be able to reconstruct a viable tooth, and be able to build up the bone around an implanted tooth by using postnatal stem cell therapies."

Dr. Susan Buchanan of NIDDK's Laboratory of Molecular Biology discussed her work with integral membrane proteins and potential vaccine development.

"I explained to Secretary Thompson how we are determining the crystal structures of proteins from bacterial pathogens such as *Yersinia* (plague) and *Neisseria* (bacterial meningitis) to aid both vaccine and drug design," she said. "Specifically, we use X-ray crystallography to study the structures of membrane proteins in the outer membranes of Gram-negative bacteria. These proteins are exposed at the bacterial cell surface, and thus make good drug targets because drugs do not need to penetrate the cell. Many of these proteins are essential for cell viability and also elicit good immune responses from host tissues, so they may also be good candidates for vaccines."

Dr. Andrew Singleton of NIA's Laboratory of Neurogenetics talked about interinstitute research his group has been performing on the genetics of Parkinson's disease. "In particular I spoke about a large collaborative project between NIA, NINDS, NHGRI and the Mayo Clinic that led to the identification of an alpha-synuclein triplication mutation that causes Parkinson's disease," he

NIH deputy director for intramural research Dr. Michael Gottesman (third from r) and several investigators from intramural NIH brief the Secretary on a number of projects in progress.



"I look around and I see America is not being very healthy," he noted. "We have an opportunity—a responsibility—for ourselves, for this department and for this country to try and transform America."

Acknowledging that 125 million Americans suffer from one or more chronic illnesses and that the cost of health care in America is \$1.5 trillion per year and on the rise, Thompson said new strategies to promote prevention are key.

"For the past 30 years," he pointed out, "we have



Amid work on the CRC's interior, Zerhouni (l), Thompson (c) and Gallin stroll the halls of the new facility.

explained. "The identification of this mutation has had a profound effect on our understanding of the molecular mechanisms that lead to Parkinson's. I also talked about the fact that much of the groundwork for current Parkinson's disease research was laid by an NINDS-sponsored meeting in 1995 to discuss how to tackle PD research. This led to the cloning of alpha-synuclein as a gene for PD by an NHGRI lab in 1997."

The intramural session lasted about 40 minutes, according to NHLBI senior clinical investigator Dr. Richard Childs of the Hematology Branch. "I mostly discussed *in vitro* and *in vivo* data on how allogeneic stem cell transplantation can be used as an effective form of NK-cell and T-cell based cancer immunotherapy to treat a wide range of malignancies," he said. "[Secretary Thompson] seemed very interested in our mouse and human data showing how metastatic kidney cancer could be successfully treated through this effect. We discussed how NIH was one of the few places in the world that these types of pilot trials in humans could be conducted. We also discussed some sentinel findings from a trial conducted in the NHLBI intramural program showing that some treatment-refractory solid tumors could be eradicated through this type of donor immune effect."

Culminating his day at NIH with an address in Natcher, Thompson reiterated his appreciation for the work—and especially the workers—here. "The future of NIH is in good hands," he concluded, "and the leadership is just outstanding."

spent all of our money on curative medicine and not on prevention. We all know that if we're really going to transform America, we have to get involved in prevention. That means each and every one of us—it means that you as an individual have to do your part and look the part. It's for your own personal good, but also to demonstrate to America."

The Secretary took aim at smoking, diabetes and obesity. He warned that smokers forfeit about 15 years of their life to illnesses related to the habit. "We have to make sure that we make this a smoke-free campus at NIH, because you're the experts," he said.

Noting that more than 17 million people in the U.S. have type 2 diabetes and about 41 million U.S. adults ages 40 to 74 have pre-diabetes, Thompson cited NIDDK's Diabetes Prevention Program, which found that overweight people with pre-diabetes can lower their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by nearly 60 percent if they lose 5 to 7 percent of their body weight by cutting fat and calories in their diet and increasing their physical activity to 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week.

"We have to get the message out about diet and nutrition," he said, applauding efforts by NIDDK and its director Dr. Allen Spiegel. "We have to show America that we can be better. You lose a few pounds, you feel better. You are NIH. You're the best. You're too darn important to smoke, you're too important not to eat right, and too important not to exercise. If we do that as a department, we can have an impact on the whole federal government."

HHS Touches Everyone

Finally, Thompson addressed efforts to combat bioterrorism. Earlier he had visited the construction site for NIH's newest lab structure, Bldg. 33, which will house research on substances that could be employed for bioterrorism.

"We never expected to be involved in 19th century diseases being used as weapons," Thompson said. "[But] we have to be prepared for that. We have the opportunity through NIH to lead the world and make it safer. At the Department of Health and Human Services, we touch every man, woman and child on a daily basis. The country depends upon us."

The Secretary concluded by again applauding NIH. "To be able to work here and be involved in something that is transforming America, transforming health care, has got to be exciting for you," he said. "I just want to personally and publicly thank you for your tremendous hard work, your devotion to what you're doing and the tremendous ability and passion that you bring to this job. We have the best department in the federal government and I have the best employees in federal government." ■

Principles of Clinical Pharmacology Course

The Principles of Clinical Pharmacology course, sponsored by the Clinical Center, will begin in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10 on Sept. 2. The course will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 to approximately 7:45 and will run through Apr. 28, 2005. "Many medical schools don't offer formal courses in clinical pharmacology," said Dr. John Gallin, director of the Clinical Center. "This program covers what researchers need to know concerning the clinical pharmacologic aspects of drug development and use."

The course covers topics such as pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and transport, assessment of drug effects, drug therapy in special populations and drug discovery and development. An outstanding faculty has been assembled to present the lectures including Dr. Carl Peck of Georgetown University's Center for Drug Development Science, Dr. Jerry Collins of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Clinical Center's Dr. Arthur J. Atkinson, Jr., who is also the course director. The faculty has also prepared a textbook, *Principles of Clinical Pharmacology*, that follows the sequence of the course lectures and is available in the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc., bookstore located in Bldg. 10. The textbook is also available from Amazon.com.

This is the seventh year that the course is being offered. Registration is open to all interested persons free of charge. Certificates will be awarded at the end of the course to students who attend 75 percent of the lectures. More information about the course, including online registration, is available at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/researchers/training/principles.shtml> or by calling (301) 435-6618. ■



Dr. William Jordan recently received the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award from the Sabin Vaccine Institute. Jordan, who directed NIAID's Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID) until his retirement in 1987, was honored for his dedication and commitment to vaccine research. The award honors pioneers in vaccinology and immunology who have made extraordinary achievements in those fields. Under Jordan's tenure as DMID director, vaccines for hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B, and pneumococcal pneumonia became available and major strides were made towards developing an attenuated, live

virus influenza vaccine. In 1976, Jordan came to NIAID to head the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Program (MIDP), now DMID. In 1981, NIAID established a vaccine development initiative under MIDP to expedite the availability of vaccines for selected infectious diseases. Jordan dubbed the new program "Accelerated Development of Vaccines." He, along with MIDP program staff, wrote the first progress report of the program. In 1992, Dr. John LaMontagne, who succeeded him as DMID director, named the 10th anniversary progress report in Jordan's honor. The Jordan Report: Accelerated Development of Vaccines, which is published periodically, is recognized internationally as the authoritative report of progress in vaccine development.

1-Day Outpatient Study

Healthy volunteers, ages 19 to 55, are needed to participate in research studying genes and brain function. Testing procedures involve a blood draw, non-invasive neuroimaging, interviews and cognitive testing. No overnight stay. No medication trial. Compensation provided. Call the Clinical Brain Disorders Branch at (301) 435-8970 or email ThorpeK@intra.nimh.nih.gov. Refer to protocol # 95-M-0150.

CIT Training Program for Summer

CIT's Summer 2004 term of computer training classes has begun. Many existing courses are being updated, and more than 30 new subjects will be presented. As always, classes are available free-of-charge to all NIH staff. Sign-up and course descriptions are available at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

Personal Computing

"How to Get the Most Out of Outlook 2003" is an updated course highlighting the most efficient usage of Outlook 2003. "Introduction to Quark Xpress" will introduce some of the basic commands and processes of this desktop publishing program, which is the predominant software package used in publishing today. "Mac OS X for Migrating Users" will give users of Windows and Linux an understanding of how to use and administer OS X. "Security Features of Microsoft Desktop Programs" will discuss how to customize security settings.

Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)

The NIH Library is offering two of its PDA courses through CIT Training. "PDAs: Introduction" will demonstrate the features and functions of a PDA such as the Palm Tungsten C. "PDAs: Advanced Applications for Clinical Use" will explore how to add health-related applications from the web to the device.

Dr. Mohammad Al-Ubaydli, National Library of Medicine, author of *Handheld Computers for Doctors* will present "Palm Powered 101 (Handhelds for Doctors)." This class will include discussion of software and usage habits that are appropriate for biomedical researchers.

Database

Microsoft is returning to offer a new course, "Microsoft SQL Server Report Services." This seminar will provide a technical overview of Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services, the reporting lifecycle (authoring, management and delivery) and the product architecture. CIT will present "Advanced Queries and Reporting in Remedy," focusing on various methods of querying ticket data from Remedy. Direct methods include advanced searches and reporting within Remedy. Indirect methods include reporting through Access and Excel.

Statistics

Students will have the opportunity to attend new topics in SAS, STATISTICA and SPSS.

The SAS Institute is returning to CIT to offer two brief seminars. "SAS Data Mining" will discuss the functions and capabilities of data-mining products SAS Enterprise Miner and SAS Text Miner. "What's New in SAS (r)9?" will discuss the function of what

SAS calls "the most significant release in its 28-year history."

Statsoft will be offering a new course on "STATISTICA and STATISTICA Data Miner for Analyzing and Finding Hidden Information in Messy Medical Data Sets." STATISTICA and STATISTICA Data Miner with its open architecture and an array of both statistical and machine-learning algorithms can find significant patterns and previously hidden information in medical data sets.

David Luckenbaugh of NIMH will offer "SPSS: General Use and Analysis." This class will help anyone with an interest in SPSS to get oriented to how it can be used and maximize what is generated. A wide range of topics will be covered from opening spreadsheets and defining defaults to finding the right statistic and presenting results.

Web Development

"Advanced CSS/XHTML" will discuss developing modern, standards-compliant sites that separate content from presentation for clean code and maximum portability. Another course, "Usability for Development," will discuss web interfaces, the basics of usability and some techniques for improving usability. "ASP.NET Quick Start Using C#" is an intermediate overview of ASP.NET for developers using Visual Studio .NET.

Other Seminars for Scientists

The largest growth in the training program this semester is within the Seminars for Scientists. Dr. Medha Bhagwat, NCBI, has added yet another course to her dynamic series. "NCBI's Identification and Correlation of Disease Genes to Phenotypes" deals with the identification of a disease gene using NCBI's human genome assembly. The reference genome assembly, along with integrated maps, literature and expression information comprises a powerful discovery system for exploring candidate human disease genes.

Partek Pro Inc. is returning to present one new and one newly expanded course. "Partek Pro for Gene Expression Analysis" is a greatly expanded introductory course. "Cluster Analysis: Unsupervised Classification for High Dimensional Gene Expression Data with Partek Pro" is intended for those already familiar with the software.

In addition to the MATLAB Fundamentals and Programming Techniques, Mathworks will be returning to give a course on "MATLAB - What's New in R14?" This seminar will explore advanced features in the latest release.

After many requests for additional Photoshop training, two new titles have been added: "Intermediate Photoshop" and "Using Photoshop to Create Scientific Posters."

Accelrys, which produces GCG, will present

"MacVector and DS Gene – Easy-to-Use Sequence Analysis Solutions for Windows and Macintosh." These tools can be used for day-to-day sequence analysis and documentation in a single easy-to-use application.

Grants

In addition to "QVR for Roadmap," a new "Advanced QVR for Roadmap" is being offered. This course will discuss the use and purpose of the Standard Reports as they relate to retrieval and analysis of information relating to the NIH Roadmap as well as generating Pivot Table reports and manipulating the data in these special tables.

You can read course descriptions and register at the training web site, or contact the Training Program at (301) 594-6248 (TDD: 301-496-8294). ■

NIH Training Center Classes

The Training Center supports the development of NIH human resources through consultation and provides training, career development programs and other services designed to enhance organizational performance. For more information call (301) 496-6211 or visit <http://LearningSource.od.nih.gov>.

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|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Basic Time and Attendance Using ITAS | 7/13-14, 8/16-17 |
| Foreign Travel | 7/26-27 |
| Fellowship Payment System | 7/28 |
| Travel for Administrative Officers | 7/29 |
| Purchase Card Processing System | 8/2 |
| Purchase Card Training | 8/3 |
| Professional Service Orders | 8/4 |
| Simplified Acquisitions Refresher | 8/6 |

Sailing Association Open House, Picnic

Would you like to learn to sail? Does the idea of racing sailboats appeal to you? Come check out the NIH Sailing Association at its open house and picnic on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Selby Bay Sailing Center, Mayo, Md. The event will introduce the NIH and NOAA communities to NIHSA. Short sails will be available to adults over 18 on a first-come, first-served basis, weather permitting, and there will be cookout food and drink. Cost is \$5 per person. Membership applications will be available, as will sign-ups for fall basic training class (if spaces are available). For more information, including directions to the picnic, visit www.regov.org/sail.

African American Adults Needed

A doctoral student at American University is recruiting African American adults over the age of 18 for a questionnaire study on mood. The questionnaire packet takes about 30 minutes to complete. If interested in participating, email Victoria Coleman at vc0014a@american.edu or call (202) 885-1729 for more information. ■

OTT's Ted Roumel Transfers His Expertise to Private Sector

Ted Roumel, assistant director and chief operating officer of the NIH Office of Technology Transfer since 1995, left NIH on Apr. 30 for a position with the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

In the last 20 years, OTT has helped stock the public marketplace with 17 new therapeutic drugs and vaccines and more than 200 products based on technologies developed at the NIH bench. The office currently administers more than 1,500 active licenses and 2,000 patents; in the past 7 years, NIH technologies have generated more than \$300 million in royalty income.

Roumel has been instrumental in orchestrating the strategic planning and policies that have yielded these accomplishments. His involvement in OTT began in 1993, when he was working in the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) and was asked to manage the implementation of changes at NIH in response to several audits that found 106 weaknesses requiring corrective actions. Two years later, what began as a short-term assignment was converted into a new career at OTT that was to last 9 years.

His public career spanned more than 30 years, beginning as assistant to the director for intramural research at NIMH—at a time when the institute was a separate entity from NIH. While at NIMH, he was involved in writing legislation that would later establish NIAAA. He then worked for the new institute as an administrator and remembers the "great chaos of everything new and everything moving forward."

In 1976, his career in federal service continued as chief in the grants policy and operations office at ASH, where he worked closely with high-ranking administration officials in areas ranging from reviews of Indian Health Service activities to establishing community health centers and clinics for migrant workers.

Among his many responsibilities at OTT, Roumel served as liaison for international activities with foreign governments and commercial and educational organizations. He also reviewed and approved licenses and CRADAs with non-U.S. entities and extramural waiver requests under the Bayh-Dole Act. He represented HHS on two U.S. Trade Representative committees and NIH on several intergovernmental bodies as well.

In his new job, Roumel expects to continue developing alliances with educational and nonprofit organizations and advise them on scientific and regulatory issues. His work, he says, will be "almost a duplicate" of many of his activities at NIH.—Javier Lorenzo ■

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



Ted Roumel
recently joined
the Pharmaceutical
Research and
Manufacturers of
America.

Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, seeks healthy female volunteers ages 40-50 to participate in longitudinal studies of the perimenopause. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles and be medication-free. Periodic hormonal evaluations, symptom rating completion and occasional interviews will be performed. Subjects will be paid. Call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, (301) 496-9576.

OD's Beauregard Ends NIH Career

There probably aren't many retirees of Barbara Beauregard's vintage whose near-term post-NIH goals include cheering for Virginia Tech's football team when it plays Southern Cal next month in the BCA Football Classic at FedEx Field. It's just not typical grandmotherly behavior. But Beauregard, who retired Apr. 30 after a long career as a secretary—most recently to NIH

Associate Director for Communications John Burklow—comes by her sports enthusiasm honestly: one of her two daughters is a Hokie grad, and Beauregard herself is a Cal, Berkeley grad who met her husband at a Rose Bowl game.

Beauregard insists she's led a very average life. But colleagues who feted her at a recent all-hands meeting of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison, OD, were unanimous in their appraisal of her as unusually kind and friendly. They presented her with a caricature of herself in her customary pose—smiling at her desk, which is cluttered with ITAS, purchase request and travel paperwork.

She was born in Oakland, grew up in San Leandro, Calif., and got her undergraduate degree in general studies. Women who graduated from college in those days usually became teachers or secretaries, she recalls, and she chose the latter, working for Colgate Palmolive. She met her husband, Bob, at a football game and they married a year and a half later. He earned an M.A. at Berkeley in psychiatric social work.

Her husband had an Army commitment, so the couple traveled from Denver to San Francisco to Washington, D.C.; Barbara worked as a secretary for United Airlines in all three cities. In the mid-fifties, Bob, who by now was in the Commissioned Corps, got a job at the Clinical Center, where he spent several years. The Beauregards were living in an apartment on Battery Ln. near NIH when their first daughter was born. Barbara remembers setting up Debbie's playpen on the lawn where NLM now sits.

She stayed home with her two daughters while the kids were young and as Bob's PHS assignments (which included a stop at NIAAA) bounced them around the country. Barbara worked briefly for her husband before launching a 7-year stint working as a secretary for a local surveying firm. She joined the federal government in 1985, working in a GAO office that was located on the NIH campus. She parlayed her hallway contacts in Bldg. 31 into an NIH job, and now considers it the smartest thing



Barbara Beauregard

she ever did. "I had no retirement plan in my other jobs. And it was nice to work close to home."

She began at the Clinical Center's admissions desk, with an eye toward joining a communications office, which happened in June 1986. She was a secretary in the old Audio/Visual Branch, Office of Communications for 10 years, then was called over to Bldg. 1 in 1996 for what was to be a 4-month detail. That ended up lasting the rest of her career as she worked for a succession of OCPL leaders.

Beauregard had intended to retire in 2000 and take a trip with her husband to Hawaii to launch the new year. But Bob was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in May 1999, became a patient at the Clinical Center and died 4 months later, on the couple's 46th wedding anniversary. "I decided it wasn't a good time to retire."

Beauregard's fondest moments at NIH were with coworkers. "They were a lot of nice people to work with. And the work was interesting, with all the challenges of a busy public affairs office. It's been great to see all the research that has gone on here."

She especially recalls the fervor of August 2001, when NIH took calls on the issue of stem cells. Then came 9/11, which wiped stem cells off the map. Other controversies included the use of animals in research.

"One woman said I should give up my own body for research instead of using animals," Beauregard recalls. "NIH was accused of causing all of the world's problems because of its use of animals in research. I used to tell callers that I had two cats of my own. That calmed them down."

For the future, Beauregard intends "to take one day at a time." She plans to read the book *My Time*, which offers retirement advice, and to visit daughter Sharon in Albuquerque, who has two children. She may get around to selling the old family home off Seven Locks Rd. in Bethesda, but she wants to remain in the county, where daughter Debbie still lives. Then there's that football game at FedEx Field on Aug. 28. She can cheer all night and not have to worry about coming to work Monday morning.—Rich McManus ■

Principles of Clinical Research Taught

Registration for the 2004-2005 "Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research" will begin Aug. 18. The course will run from Oct. 18 through Feb. 15, 2005. The deadline for registering is Oct. 4. Classes will be held on campus on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6:30. There is no charge for the course but purchase of a textbook is required. A certificate will be awarded upon successful completion of the course, including a final exam. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/researchers/training/ippcr.shtml> or call (301) 496-9425. ■

NCI Lab Technician Smothers Retires

By Tanya Brown

Patricia Smothers began planning her retirement 3 years ago. Originally, her plan was to leave by December 2004. But with a new grandchild on the way and the long commute from her home in Frederick County taking its toll, Smothers decided not to wait until winter, and officially retired as of Apr. 30.

"It's time for me to move on while I can," said Smothers, a histology technician in the Laboratory of Pathology, NCI. "I'm in good health, I've been blessed and I thank God for that."

Smothers worked for 17 years on the second floor of the Clinical Center, where she was responsible for preparing microscopic slides of human tissue samples for diagnostic interpretation. She took on the role of leader in the laboratory, operating the lab in the absence of the supervisor, training new staff and working in every capacity.

"The job had its ups and downs, but I love my work and it has been challenging," said Smothers. "I've had an opportunity to help residents and fellows work on various projects and through it all, I have always had good coworkers."

Prior to NIH, Smothers worked as a lead technician with the Litton Bionetics Corp., a contractor that provided support to NCI. After the contract was terminated, Smothers transferred to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. A former supervisor with Litton Bionetics later contacted her to join the Laboratory of Pathology.

"She is a compassionate person who enjoys life," said Magaly Rojas, supervisor, histology technology department. "She would always accomplish her tasks ahead of time and she would always have these funny sayings. We will definitely miss her."

Others agree, but add that she was more than just a coworker. "She is everything in this office," said Martha Pruden, histology technician. "Whatever we need or whatever needs to be done, she gets it together."

"She has a lot of life and spunk to her," said Melba Ashby, histology technician. "She is a people person and has a lot of catchy sayings that we won't forget."

Some of those sayings include, "This is in the wrong church," referring to an object that is not in its proper place, or "Are we in the oven yet?," referring to the microscopic slides that must be baked or placed in the oven for preparation.



Patricia Smothers

Smothers said she won't allow any grass to grow under her feet after retirement. She purchased a home in North Carolina so she could be near her youngest daughter who gave birth to Smothers' fifth grandchild recently. She also plans to spend time with her brother and sister in North Carolina and travel.

"I've had some good experiences here and I'm going to miss some of the things that I've seen every day for the past 17 years," said Smothers. "But I'm happy that I'm retiring and can spend more time with my family." ■

CIT Computer Classes

All courses are given without charge. For more information call (301) 594-6248 or consult the training program's home page at <http://training.cit.nih.gov>.

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| SAS Enterprise Guide: ANOVA, Regression, and Logistic Regression | 7/7-9 |
| SPSS: General Use and Analysis | 7/7 |
| NCBI's GenBank Quick Start | 7/7 |
| Introduction to the QVR System | 7/8 |
| Analyzing Microarray Data using the mAdb System | 7/8-9 |
| How to Get the Most Out of Outlook 2003 | 7/8 |
| AFNI Summer Camp | 7/12-16 |
| Creating Web Pages with HTML/XHTML | 7/14 |
| Remedy - NIH Central Service Ticket System | 7/14 |
| What Is the NIH Portal? | 7/15 |
| NIH Enterprise Directory (NED): Admin. Officer and Technician Training | 7/15 |
| Usability for Developers | 7/19, 26, 8/2 |
| Creating Presentations with PowerPoint 2003 for the PC | 7/19 |
| Introduction to Telework | 7/20 |
| Palm Powered 101 (Handhelds for Doctors) | 7/20-21 |
| Microarray Analysis in GeneSpring - Data Normalization | 7/21 |
| BlackBerry Tips and Tricks | 7/22 |
| Microarray Analysis in GeneSpring - Quality Control & Clustering Tools | 7/22 |
| Microarray Analysis in GeneSpring - Statistical Analysis Tools | 7/22 |
| PubMed | 7/22 |
| Introduction to NIH Portal Community Management | 7/23 |
| Elements of Modern Data Analysis | 7/23 |
| Introduction to FileMaker Pro | 7/23 |

Psychology Study Recruits Volunteers

African American men ages 18-65 are needed to participate in a 45-minute psychology study on personality and dating preferences. \$25 compensation. Call Rachel at (202) 885-1729. ■

Study of Genes, Aging and Cognition

Healthy volunteers, over the age of 55, are needed to study the genetics of aging and cognition.

Participation requires a blood draw and non-invasive clinical, neurological and cognitive testing procedures. No overnight stays. No medication trials. Compensation provided. Call Bobby Das at (301) 435-4593 or email DasB@intra.nimh.nih.gov.

Refer to protocol # 00-M-0085.



Quite A Stretch—This long-armed crane was recently brought into NIH to replace an air handler in the west penthouse of Bldg. 10 as part of a major renovation to the radiology department on the first floor. The work took place starting May 26 when the 450-ton crane was set; it is the second largest rubber-tired crane on the east coast and required another crane to help set up. On May 27, workmen started hoisting the new unit and all the ductwork that was made up ahead of time, said Fred Manuel of the CC Office of Facility Management. "The new unit was made up of 18 sections that had to fit in a tight space inside the existing mechanical room. The new unit weighed 25,700 lbs. and has a heating and cooling capacity of 22,500 cubic feet per minute of air." During crane operations, several passing thunderstorms interrupted work; when the wind tops 12 mph, the crane shuts down automatically because of a sensor on the top of the boom. By May 28, the crane was gone. Manuel said the air-handler replacement project was in the works for about a year. "A lot of coordination had to be in place to pull this off," he said. "The reason the (Memorial Day) holiday week was picked for the replacement was that it was less disruptive to the always busy radiology department."



PHOTOS: BILL BRANSON



Are You a Woman Who Has Been Depressed?

NIMH is looking for female volunteers to participate in a study that examines the role of hormones in depression. Participants should not be currently depressed, be between ages 18-45, be medically healthy and not be taking any medications, including birth control pills. Study includes medical and psychiatric evaluations. Financial compensation and transportation reimbursement provided. For more information call Linda Simpson-St. Clair, (301) 496-9576 (TTY 1-866-411-1010). ■

