



NEW FRONTIERS OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

1945-
1980



New Frontiers in Biomedical Research, 1945-1980
The National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

Monday, October 29, 2001
Symposium: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Reception: 5:15 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Schedule of Events

9:00-9:30 Registration, Lister Hill Auditorium

9:30-10:00 Introductory Remarks, Lister Hill Auditorium

- ❖ Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., Director, National Library of Medicine
- ❖ Dr. Alexa McCray, Director, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications

10:00-11:30 NIH and the Establishment of Federal Biomedical Research, Lister Hill Auditorium

- ❖ Dr. Paul Theerman, History of Medicine Division, Moderator
- ❖ Dr. Donald S. Fredrickson, former Director, NIH, and Research Scholar, NLM
- ❖ Dr. David Hart, Harvard University
- ❖ Dr. Stuart Leslie, Johns Hopkins University

1:30-3:00 Psychopharmacology and Behavior, Lister Hill Auditorium

- ❖ Dr. David Serlin, History of Medicine Division, Moderator
- ❖ Dr. Julius Axelrod, NIMH, Nobel Laureate
- ❖ Dr. David Healy, University of South Wales
- ❖ Dr. Ellen Herman, University of Oregon

3:30-5:00 Genetics: Its Promise and Its Prospect, Lister Hill Auditorium

- ❖ Dr. Elizabeth Fee, History of Medicine Division, Moderator
- ❖ Dr. Joshua Lederberg, Rockefeller University, Nobel Laureate
- ❖ Dr. Nathaniel Comfort, George Washington University
- ❖ Dr. Susan Lindee, University of Pennsylvania
- ❖ Dr. Jan Sapp, Université du Québec à Montréal

5:15-7:00 Reception, National Library of Medicine Lobby

Participant Biographies

Julius (“Julie”) Axelrod shared the 1970 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for “discoveries concerning the humoral transmitters in the nerve terminals and the mechanism for their storage, release and inactivation.” From 1949 until his retirement in 1984, Axelrod worked as a research chemist and neuroscientist at the National Heart Institute and later at the National Institute for Mental Health, National Institutes of Health. In 1996, he was named Scientist Emeritus at the NIH.

Nathaniel Comfort is Deputy Director of the Center for History of Recent Science and Assistant Professor of History at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the faculty at GWU in 1997, he was the science writer at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island, New York. He is the author of *The Tangled Field: Barbara McClintock's Search for the Patterns of Genetic Control* (2001).

Elizabeth Fee is Chief of the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine and Professor of History and Health Policy at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on the history of medicine and public health, the contemporary history of AIDS, and women's health. She serves as Contributing Editor for History at the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Donald S. Fredrickson was Director of the National Institutes of Health from 1975 until 1981. From 1953 until 1968, he served as a clinical scientist and, later, Director at the National Heart Institute, NIH, where he studied plasma lipoproteins and their genetic variations in humans. From 1969 until 1974, he was Director of Intramural Research at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH. From 1983 until 1987 he served as President and CEO of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He currently serves as a research scholar at the National Library of Medicine.

David M. Hart is Associate Professor of Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is the author of *Forged Consensus: Science, Technology, and Economic Policy in the U.S., 1921-1953* (1998). He is currently at work on a book about the role of the high-technology industry in American politics since 1970.

David Healy is a Reader in Psychological Medicine at the University of Wales College of Medicine. He is the author of *The Antidepressant Era* (1997), and *The Creation of Psychopharmacology* (forthcoming). The former Secretary of the British Association for Psychopharmacology, he has completed a three-volume series of interviews, *The Psychopharmacologists*.

Ellen Herman is the author of *The Romance of American Psychology: Political Culture in the Age of Experts* (1995) and *Psychiatry, Psychology, and Homosexuality* (1995). Her current research project, “Kinship by Design,” explores the history of modern child adoption and is supported by a major research grant from the National Science

Foundation's Program in Science and Technology Studies. She is currently Associate Professor of History at the University of Oregon.

Joshua Lederberg shared the 1958 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for "discoveries concerning genetic recombination and the organization of the genetic material of bacteria." Shortly afterward he moved from the University of Wisconsin to join the new Department of Genetics at Stanford University's School of Medicine. In 1978, he was appointed President of Rockefeller University. He became a professor emeritus at Rockefeller in 1990, where he currently serves as Sackler Scholar.

Stuart "Bill" Leslie is a Professor of the History of Technology at The Johns Hopkins University, where he has taught for the past twenty years. He is author of *The Cold War and American Science: The Military-Industrial-Academic Complex at MIT and Stanford* (1994). He is currently studying the design of postwar government laboratories, including the Naval Research Laboratory and NIH. He is currently Secretary of the Society for the History of Technology.

Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., was appointed Director of the National Library of Medicine in 1984. A scientist who has been a pioneer in the application of computer technology to health care since 1960, Dr. Lindberg has received the Presidential Senior Executive Rank Award, the American Medical Association's Outstanding Member of the Executive Branch, and the U.S. Surgeon General's Medallion.

Susan Lindee is Associate Professor of the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Suffering Made Real: American Science and the Survivors at Hiroshima* (1994) and, with Dorothy Nelkin, *The DNA Mystique: The Gene as a Cultural Icon* (1995). She is currently working on a study of genetic disease since 1945, looking at the role of different kinds of labor and knowledge involved in the rise of the genetic disease to medical prominence in the critical period from about 1955 to 1980.

Alexa T. McCray is the Director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, a division of the National Library of Medicine. Her research interests lie at the intersection of computer and information science and medicine. Before joining NLM in 1986, she was a Research Staff Member at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics.

Jan Sapp is Professor of History, and Canada Research Chair in the History of Biology, at the Université du Québec à Montréal. His books include *Beyond the Gene* (1987), *Where the Truth Lies* (1990), *Evolution by Association: A History of Symbiosis* (1994), and *What is Natural? Coral Reef Crisis* (1999).

David Serlin is a research consultant to the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, and an Assistant Professor of History at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. He is the author of the forthcoming *Replaceable You: Engineering the American Body After World War Two*, for which he was the inaugural recipient of the Jack D. Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Career Development Award.

Paul Theerman is the Head of Non-Book Collections in the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, where he oversees programs curating archives, manuscripts, prints, photographs, films, and digital projects. From 1981 until 1993, he served as an editor of *The Joseph Henry Papers* at the Smithsonian Institution. He is also coeditor of *Action and Reaction* (1994), a series of essays on Sir Isaac Newton and his legacy, and *Experiencing Nature* (1997).

Acknowledgments

The co-organizers would like to thank Donald A.B. Lindberg and Alexa McCray for their generous support during the planning and development of this event. For technical and administrative assistance that have made this event possible, we would also like to thank Mike Detweiler, Joe Fitzgerald, Marie Gallagher, Lillian Kozuma, John Rees, Young Rhee, Beth Rosso, Anita Tannenbaum, Pat Williams, and Ted Youwer and the staff of the Office of Administrative Management Services. Last but not least, special thanks to the staff of the Digital Manuscript Program, History of Medicine Division, for their time and effort: Lisa DeHoff, Kim Dixon, John Doyle, Walter Hickel, Christie Mawhinney, Gregory Pike, Jennifer Sullivan, Jim Tabery, and Belle Waring.