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Monkeys' Behavioral Development Will Be Studied at NIH's New Poolesville Facility

By Susan Johnson

Eric and his family of 14 have just moved to a new home in Poolesville, Md., and they couldn't be happier with the arrangement. The family is situated on almost five acres of land, with a pond to one side where the kids can swim and a corn crib and wooden shed for shelter.

The idea of sleeping in a wooden shed might not appeal to everyone, but Eric and his family are rhesus monkeys, and the setup in Poolesville is ideal as far as they are concerned. The monkeys are the first to take up residence in a new primate research facility at the NIH Animal Center.

When the rest of the facility, which will include a research laboratory and a breeding colony, is completed in about a year, they will be joined by almost 200 more monkeys.

The new facility, directed by psychologist Stephen Suomi of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, is a joint undertaking by NICHD and the National Institute of Mental Health. NIMH provided a building and some staff positions for the facility, while NICHD is renovating the building and providing most of the staff positions as well as the monkeys.

At a press briefing held in Poolesville on June 7 to mark the opening of the new facility, NICHD Director Dr. Mortimer B. Lipsett noted that the collaboration between the two Institutes is an effective way of overcoming constraints on resources, space, and personnel.

Studies at the new facility in Poolesville will focus on the biological basis for behavioral development in primates. It is the only center in the country where researchers will be able to take full advantage of new neurobiological techniques as well as sophisticated behavioral measures to study the development of behavior and the origins of psychopathology.

Directing the studies will be Dr. Suomi, who joined NICHD last year. He was head of the primate laboratory at the University of Wisconsin in Madison for 10 years before coming to NIH. The monkeys making up the primate colony at Poolesville are also from the Wisconsin lab.

Perhaps the most exciting studies planned at the new primate research center are those on the genetic basis for behavioral differences among individuals.

These studies originated when Dr. Harry Harlow, Dr. Suomi, and their colleagues at

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Mom provides both food and security for this 1-month-old infant.

NIAID Director Resigns To Be Emory Med. Dean

Dr. Richard M. Krause has resigned as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to become Dean of the Emory University School of Medicine, in Atlanta, Ga., effective July 6.

At Emory, he was also named Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Medicine. While Director, Dr. Krause brought to the NIAID dramatically increased prestige. He developed a highly acclaimed research program, giving NIAID research new visibility, and stimulated the Institute's growth, both philosophically and fiscally.

Dr. Bernard Talbot has been named NIAID Acting Director.

Dr. Krause came to NIAID in 1975 from the Rockefeller University where he was professor and senior physician to the hospital. Born in Marietta, Ohio, he graduated from Marietta College and the Western Reserve (now Case-Western Reserve) University School of Medicine.

While a medical student he interrupted his studies to participate in an epidemiologic expedition, with Dr. Charles Rammelkamp, on the relationship between streptococcal sore throat and rheumatic fever. It was this experi-

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Five Firms Chosen To Develop AIDS Test

Five private pharmaceutical firms have been chosen to develop and distribute a blood test for AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), HHS Secretary Margaret M. Heckler has announced.

Representatives of the U.S. Public Health Service signed non-exclusive, royalty-bearing licenses with the five companies June 19, Secretary Heckler said.

The five companies are Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Ill.; Electro-Nucleonics, Inc., Columbia, Md.; Litton-Bionetics, Inc., Kensington, Md.; Travenol/Genentech Diagnostics, Cambridge, Mass.; and Du Pont de Nemours and Co., Wilmington, Del. with Biotech Research Laboratories, Inc., Rockville, Md.

"These agreements represent an important milestone in our drive to conquer AIDS," Mrs. Heckler said. "They mean expanded tools for research and an effective test to ensure the integrity of our nation's blood supply."

The five companies will be given samples of the virus recently identified as the probable cause of AIDS, from which they will produce enough new virus to provide test material for a broad range of research needs.

This work will help scientists better define AIDS and understand progression of the disorder, Secretary Heckler said.

Specifically, the research is to lead to development of assay kits to detect antibodies to the virus. When the kits become commercially available, they can be used to screen blood donated for transfusions and for producing blood products for hemophiliacs.

Blood from donors who have been exposed to the AIDS virus can then be rejected, thus further reducing the chances of transmitting AIDS to people needing blood or blood products.

Scientists also hope that early identification of people who have been exposed to the virus may lead to new methods of treatment.

Work on blood tests will be performed under an Investigational New Drug Application held by the National Cancer Institute, or an IND held by the company. Any work done will be subject to approval by PHS. Prior to commercial distribution, any assay kit will require a product license from the Food and Drug Administration.

License applicants are screened by a panel of 10 PHS scientists from the NIH and FDA. Final selection of licensees was made by Dr. Edward N. Brandt, Assistant Secretary for Health. □