OCTOBER 3, 2008
VOL. LX, NO. 20
The Second Best Thing About Payday

nih record

ABOVE • *The Farmers' Market is back after a hiatus since 9/11. See p. 16.*

features

departments

Zerhouni To Step Down by End of October

By Rich McManus

Dr. Elias Zerhouni, the 15th NIH director, announced on Sept. 24 his intention to step down by the end of October. Citing a natural cycle of directorships that lasts about half a dozen years, he said the timing was right and that he wanted to leave "in the best interests of NIH" as the presidential election approaches.

NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni will step down by month's end.

"It's very important for the sake of NIH that I leave before the election," he said in a conference call with reporters that took place just moments after he sent an all-hands email to NIH employees announcing his intentions. "I want people to focus on NIH as soon as possible after the election. I am not interested in re-upping, no matter what the next administration is. But I do want to give [the candidates] time to prepare [for the NIH transition] early rather than late."

Zerhouni said he notified President Bush several weeks prior to Sept. 24 that he would be leaving. "I always said that I'd end my tenure at about this time. He

SEE **DEPARTURE,** PAGE 8

Nobel Laureate Axel, Author Woodruff To Speak at NIDCD's 20th Anniversary

Both the scientific and human sides of communication and communication disorders will be brought to the fore when a slate of stellar researchers and author and freelance writer Lee Woodruff appear at NIDCD's 20th Anniversary Symposium on Thursday, Oct. 23, in the auditorium of the Natcher Conference Center.

The symposium, which runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., will highlight important accomplishments of NIDCD-funded research over the past two decades as well as the perspectives and talents of people who have a personal connection with a communication disorder. Roughly one in six people in this country will experience a communication disorder in his or her life.

In her presentation "In an Instant," Woodruff will share her family's story about the life-altering changes they experienced when her husband, ABC news anchor and reporter Bob Woodruff, suffered a traumatic brain injury

SEE **ANNIVERSARY,** PAGE 6

A College Senior at 13

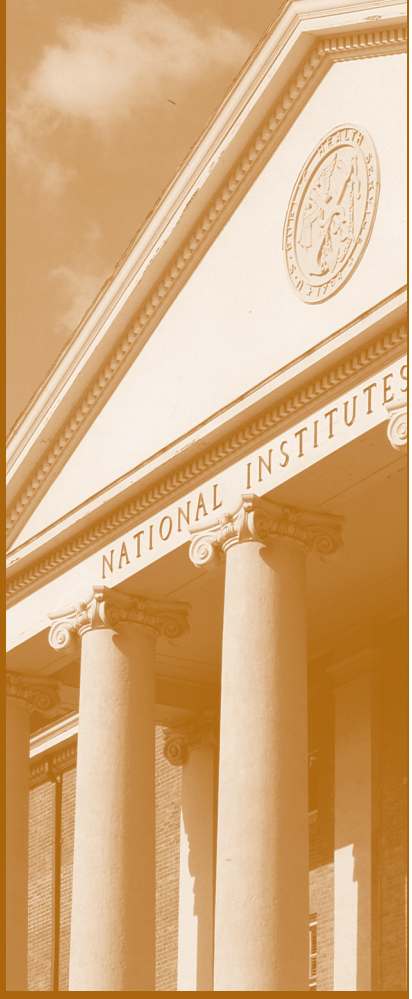
Teenage Scientist Hones Her Skills in Summer Stint at NIH

By Daniel Stimson

Like many of the college students who come to NIH to conduct research each summer, Kelsey Curd Ladt has an exceptional *curriculum vitae*. She was a valedictorian in high school and maintains a near-perfect GPA as a senior at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where she is majoring in biology. She also has a penchant for colorful accessories, like a neon pink computer keyboard and blue-and-green braces—but none of that is so exceptional considering that she's 13.

Ladt came to NIH to work with Dr. Eric Was-

SEE **TEEN SCIENTIST,** PAGE 4



The **NIH Record** is published biweekly at Bethesda, MD by the Editorial Operations Branch, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, for the information of employees of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The content is reprintable without permission. Pictures may be available upon request. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the director of the Office of Management and Budget through September 30, 2009.

To receive alerts to our latest issue, send an email to listserv@list.nih.gov with the words "Subscribe NIHRECORD" in the message body.

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

Web address http://nihrecord.od.nih.gov

Editor
Richard McManus
rm26q@nih.gov

Assistant Editor
Carla Garnett
cg9s@nih.gov

Staff Writers
Jan Ehrman
je48b@nih.gov

Sarah Schmelling
ss1116y@nih.gov

Belle Waring
bw174w@nih.gov

The **NIH Record** reserves the right to make corrections, changes or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper and HHS.

nih record

briefs

CFC Season Has Started at NIH

Be an NIH Star, Caring for Your Community. Look for CFC events throughout the next 3 months.

Oct. 16 – IC Directors' Challenge (in front of Bldg. 1)

Oct. 30 – R&W Charity Fair (Bldg. 31 patio)

Nov. 6 – Rockledge event (to be determined)

Nov. 13 – Neuroscience event (tbd)

For more information and for event locations, go to the CFC web site (http://cfc.nih.gov/) or send an email to nihcfc2008@mail.nih.gov.

NIH CFC deputy coordinators learn more about a local charity before their CFC training on Sept. 9.

APAO Solicits Award Nominations

The NIH Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization will continue its tradition of honoring NIH employees in the following categories:

An NIH'er in management who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Asian and Pacific Americans (APA).

An NIH APA researcher/scientist who has made significant accomplishments in biomedical research.

Awardees will be honored with a plaque of recognition from APAO at its annual holiday awards luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 16 in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1. A review committee composed of APAO members from several ICs will evaluate the nominations.

All nominations must be received electronically by Friday, Oct. 31 for consideration. To nominate, send a 1-page statement and if applicable a CV to Ihsia Hu, NLM (first category) hui@mail.nlm.nih.gov, (301) 435- 7062 or Dr. Paul Liu, NHGRI (second category) pliu@mail.nih.gov, (301) 402-2529.

Questions about the awards or APAO's mission may be directed to NIH APAO President Lucie Chen, Chenl@mail.nlm.nih.gov or (301) 496-5684.

Research Festival Spotlights Obesity

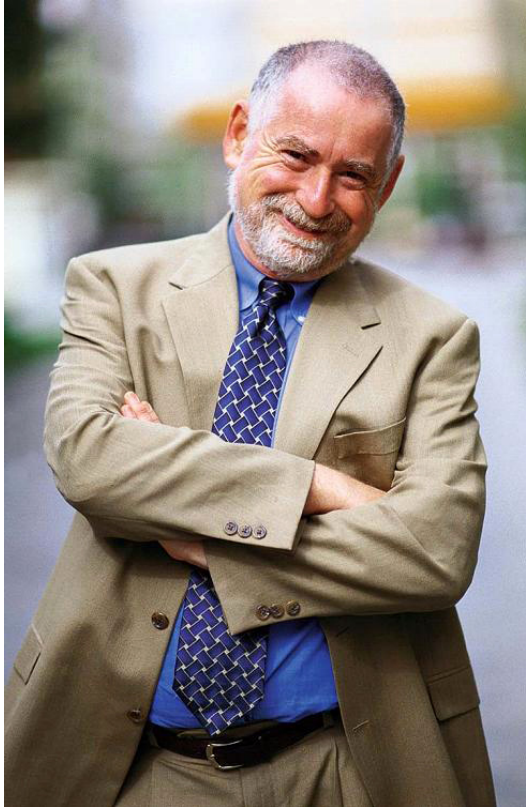
The costly, debilitating escalation of U.S. obesity levels offers a timely and relevant theme for the kick-off of this year's NIH Research Festival, scheduled for Oct. 14-17. "Obesity: A Growing Energy Crisis" is the theme of the opening plenary session, scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10.

Obesity affects more than 24 million Americans and is a key cause of health disparities among minority populations. Another 57 million Americans may have pre-diabetes. The disease increases an individual's risk of developing other serious conditions, including heart disease and stroke. Diabetes affects multiple organ systems and is a leading cause of death in both the developed and developing world. A complex array of factors, including genetics and lifestyle, may contribute to the onset of diabetes. As individuals take in more calories than they may be able to burn, the result may be a chronic energy imbalance. Our understanding of the mechanisms regulating this imbalance continues to improve, paving the way for more effective preventive and therapeutic approaches.

Plenary symposium chair Dr. Clifton Bogardus III of NIDDK will give a presentation titled, "Why Are Some People Obese? Studies of the Pima Indians." Other presentations will include "Pediatric Obesity: Causes and Consequences," by NICHD's Dr. Jack Yanovski; "The Role of Brain Reward and Memorizing Circuits in Obesity," by NIDA director Dr. Nora Volkow; and "Closing the Energy Gap: Treatment Strategies for Obesity," by Dr. Monica Skarulis of NIDDK.

To remind symposium attendees that a healthy diet and exercise can reduce the risk of developing diabetes, Research Festival organizers are serving a healthy continental breakfast to attendees beginning at 9 a.m.

Complete festival information, including contact information and listings of sessions, posters and exhibits, is available at http://researchfestival.nih.gov.



Peter Schwartz speaks, Oct. 16.

Innovation Takes the Stage in NIMH Speaker Series

Starting Oct. 16, NIMH will kick off the third year of its NIMH Director's Innovation Speaker Series. Conceived as a medium for encouraging transformative, breakthrough science, the series offers a unique perspective on doing biomedical research in the 21st century.

"The response to the innovation series has been very encouraging," said Dr. Thomas Insel, NIMH director. "We hope these talks can help stimulate paradigm shifts in our science by reminding all of us that breakthroughs often require new ways of thinking and cross-disciplinary approaches."

A diverse group of innovators and leaders within their fields—including neuroscience and health policy, business, law and technology—have been invited. The lectures aim to stimulate interdisciplinary thinking in the development of scientific initiatives and programs and to press for leaps in science over incremental thinking.

All lectures will be held in the Neuroscience Center, Conf. Rms. C & D, at 3 p.m., except where noted. For more information, contact Dawn Smith at smithdaw@mail.nih.gov or (301) 451-3957.

Oct. 16, Peter Schwartz, cofounder and chairman, Global Business Network.

Nov. 3 at 1 p.m., Dan Ariely, James B. Duke professor of behavioral economics, Duke University.

Dec. 16, Rosalind Picard, director, Affective Computing Research, MIT Media Laboratory.

Jan. 15, 2009, Robert Sternberg, dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University.

Feb. 26, Robert Sapolsky, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn professor, department of biological sciences, Stanford University.

Mar. 26, Gene Robinson, G. William Arends professor of integrative biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Apr. 21, Emery Brown, professor of computational neuroscience and of health sciences and technology, Harvard/MIT.

May 21, Charis Eng, Sondra J. & Stephen R. Hardis endowed chair of cancer genomic medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute.

Third Annual Sayer Lecture, Oct. 20

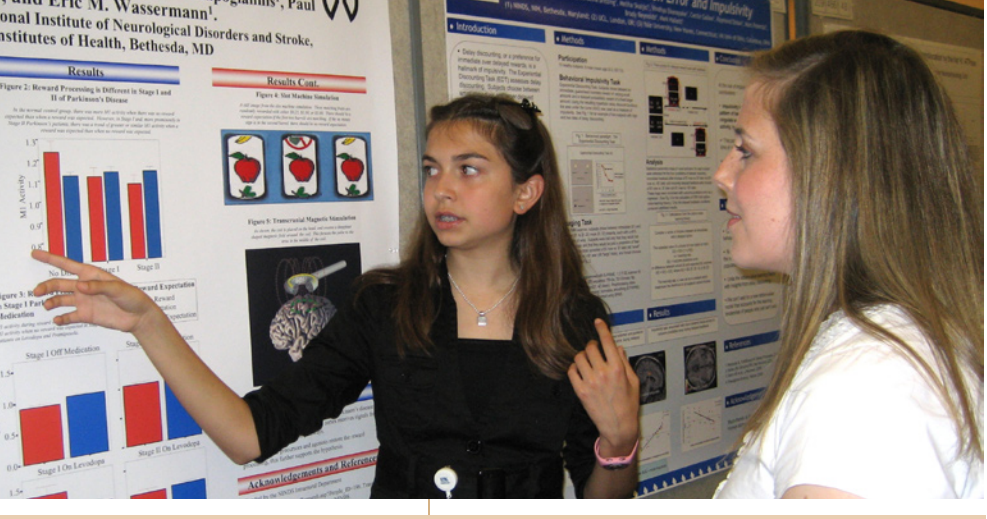
On Monday, Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, the Sayer Vision Research Lecture and Award will be given by Dr. Sally Temple, professor at Albany Medical College. Her talk is titled "Stem Cell Potency—Finding Embryonic-like Cells in the Aged Adult Retina."

Temple is studying the generation of diverse cell types of the adult central nervous system (CNS) by embryonic neural progenitor cells. These studies may lead to therapies for neurodegenerative disorders and neural tumors. Temple has designed a culture system where single CNS progenitor cells can divide and differentiate into clones of neurons and glial cells. This has led to the identification of different classes of progenitor cells in embryonic forebrain including multipotential stem cells that could prove significant in brain development. The focus of future studies will be on the molecular mechanisms regulating division and differentiation of brain progenitor cells.

The Sayer Vision Research Fund supports a lecture by a scientist of national or international prominence in a discipline with relevance to vision research. Soon, it will also support an award to a promising new investigator in vision research within the intramural NIH community. The winner of the award will receive a grant-in-aid for his/her current research and will be asked to present the next Sayer Vision Research lecture.

The Sayer lecture and award was established in 2006 by NIDDK research scientist Dr. Jane Sayer to honor her family and the memory of her parents, Winthrop and Laura Sayer.

Sayer Vision Research Award winner Dr. Sally Temple is studying the generation of diverse cell types of the adult CNS by embryonic neural progenitor cells. She was recently named a 2008 MacArthur fellow.



TEEN SCIENTIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

***Above**:*
Kelsey Ladt (l) presents her poster at the 2008 Summer Poster Day, held Aug. 7 in the Natcher Bldg.

sermann, an investigator at NINDS who studies systems of reward and emotion in the human brain. From May to early August, she helped run a study testing whether a technique called transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) can be used to probe the brain's reward system.

"It's been great seeing what the full-time job of a researcher is," Ladt says. "I've learned skills that I'll have for the rest of my life."

Ladt was one of about 80 student researchers at NINDS for the summer, most of whom came here through the NIH Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research. The program accepts students from high school through graduate school and gives them a chance to work alongside NIH scientists.

"The goal is to get talented students hooked on science and prepare them for a career in laboratory research or policy," says Dr. Rita Ward, assistant director for science administration and Summer Internship Program director at NINDS.

Ladt was an excellent candidate for the program, Ward says, except that at 13, she was 3 years short of the program's minimum age requirement. By coordinating with other NIH staff, Ward was able to bring her in as a special volunteer.

"Ever since Kelsey could talk, she said she wanted to be a doctor, and by the time she was 8, she started showing an interest in medical research," says Kelsey's mom, Vickie Curd Ladt.

The Ladts have a home in Paducah, Ky., about a 4½-hour drive from Lexington, where they have a second home. When Kelsey is at school, Vickie and the family's three Yorkshire terriers live with her. Kelsey's father Ric works in Paducah during the week and joins them on weekends. The Ladts used the same arrangement this summer while Kelsey was at NIH.

Ladt began showing signs of a prodigious intellect when she about 2, Vickie recalls. By the time she was in kindergarten, she could read and write and perform third grade math. She rocketed through elementary school and started splitting her studies between high school and the local community college when she was 8. In spring 2006, at age 11, she earned both her high school diploma and her associate's degree, and that fall, she entered the University of Kentucky.

One of the opportunities offered by the university was a year of research with Dr. Joe Springer, a professor of anatomy and neurobiology. His lab studies the cellular and molecular changes that occur in rat models of spinal cord injury. Ladt's project focused on changes in the activity of COX-2—a protein involved in inflammation and a target of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Ladt says she hopes to publish the results.

Her research at NIH involved work with human subjects. The ongoing study calls for subjects to play a slot machine type of game while their brain activity is monitored by TMS, which uses a magnetic pulse to create electrical currents in brain cells. The goal is to determine if TMS can provide a quantitative measure of reward expectation. If so, TMS could be used to examine why people engage in rewarding behaviors that are balanced by personal harm or sacrifice, such as recreational drug use or charitable giving.

Dr. Dimitrios Kapogiannis, a clinical postdoctoral fellow in Wassermann's lab, was Ladt's direct supervisor. She was involved at every stage of the study, from interviewing potential subjects to helping analyze data, he says. He calls mentoring Ladt "one of the most gratifying experiences" he has had at NINDS.

Ladt and her family and colleagues insist that outside the lab, she is just a normal 13-year-old girl. She's a fan of the teen pop band the Jonas Brothers and of the teen fiction phenom *Twilight*, a series of novels about young vampires by author Stephenie Meyer.

Inside the lab, Ladt's age has not been an issue. She received an Exceptional Summer Student Award for her work at NINDS and Wassermann says that while he had concerns about Ladt's maturity before he met her, those concerns quickly dissolved.

"I don't forget for a moment that she's 13, but I can speak to her as an intellectual equal and that's a lot of fun," Wassermann says.

In August, Ladt started her final year at UK. She has already committed to a "postbac" position in Wassermann's lab after graduation. After that, she plans to enroll in an M.D.-Ph.D. program. "I'm not focused on my age. I'm just focusing on what I want to do," she says.

Ladt was featured Sept. 23 on the *Today* show. To view her segment visit http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/26851168#26581168.

New NED System Debuts Oct. 6

NIH will activate the new NIH Enterprise Directory (NED 2.0) on Oct. 6; it is the authoritative source for identity management at NIH. NED was launched in 2000 to provide users with a convenient central repository to find information about people who work at NIH. Since then, NED has provided a framework for supporting new business processes across NIH; its developers have continued to improve its integration with enterprise initiatives here.

The NED upgrades will play a central role in NIH's compliance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12)—the mandate to establish a standardized, government-wide credentialing and security program. It calls for NIH to implement a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) process to help determine the suitability of employees, contractors and affiliates to work at NIH. The process also establishes an individual's eligibility to receive the new HHS ID badge and be granted access to NIH facilities and information systems. Only after individuals are registered in the new NED will they be able to proceed with their background checks and receive their HHS ID badges (PIV cards).

Today, all new employees, contractors and affiliates as well as individuals whose current ID badges are expiring are screened through the PIV process. Also, within the next few months, NIH will begin issuing the new smart HHS ID badges (PIV cards) to these same groups. Eventually all employees, contractors and affiliates will be processed through PIV and will be issued the new badges.

Rollout Requires Training, Coordination

"Enhancing NED, creating the new, smart ID badge and integrating these tools into a PIV process that works seamlessly throughout NIH while being compatible with systems across the federal government present countless technical and administrative challenges," said Richie Taffet, acting director of the Division of Personnel Security and Access Control. DPSAC, within the Office of Research Services, coordinates background investigations and issues ID badges.

"Separately and together these challenges require considerable planning and coordination with our administrative community and our many stakeholders," he added. "As we bring these projects to fruition, we are making a concerted effort to give our administrative community, particularly the AOs, ATs and lab managers, the tools they'll need as they prepare to incorporate the new NED into their daily work activities."

Taffet, along with NED Project Manager Jeff Erickson, spent the summer introducing NIH administrators to HSPD-12 and NED enhancements. First to be trained was a cadre of administrative officers from all of the ICs who earned the designation of "super user" following completion of training. These new experts will serve as the early points of contact within the ICs to assist less experienced administrative staff with the new NED system. The trainers next turned their attention to the pool of AOs, ATs and lab managers who will be shouldering most of the day-to-day PIV responsibilities. Through a series of "hands on" training sessions and town hall meetings, Taffet and Erickson were able to reach over 1,000 NED users.

Admin Community is Key to PIV Success

Over the past year, ORS has published a biweekly e-newsletter, *DPSAC News*, (http://idbadge.nih.gov/resources/newsletter.asp) to provide news about HSPD-12, badging and enrollment developments. Anyone may subscribe by emailing Lanny Newman at newmanl@mail.nih.gov and requesting that your name be added to the *DPSAC News* listserv.

More recently, Erickson and his team developed a virtual practice environment, known as the "NED sandbox," to help NED users prepare for the upcoming launch of the new system. The sandbox lets users explore NED's enhancements at their own pace.

"Supporting the administrative community will continue to be a priority even after the launch of the new NED," said Taffet. "During the week of Oct. 6, DPSAC will hold daily teleconference sessions to field questions from the NED-user community and to provide a forum for AOs to share concerns and discuss issues."

To learn more about NED and the implementation of PIV and the HHS ID badge, visit http://idbadge.nih.gov.

New Intern, Fellow Class Debuts

New interns and fellows from the class of 2010 include (front row, from l) Camilla Benedicto, Emily Rugel, Meghan Gleason, Courtney Bell, Christine Salaita, Monique Ndenecho, Debbie Pettitt, Fred James. At rear are (from l) Dr. William Duval, Katie Rush, Maya Thet, Ebony Mitchell, Jennifer Dreier.

Five individuals have been selected by NIH's administrative training committee for the Management Intern Class of 2010: Jennifer Dreier, Fred James, Monique Ndenecho, Debbie Pettitt and Christine Salaita. The committee also recruited eight rising leaders from the Presidential Management Fellows program: Dr. William Duval, Ebony Mitchell and Emily Rugel will serve at-large; Katie Rush will be dedicated to NIAID; and Courtney Bell, Camilla Benedicto, Meghan Gleason and Maya Thet will join NCI.

The interns represent a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines and will hone their skills through rotational placements, a formal mentoring program and leadership training. They will begin their first rotations this month at institutes and centers across NIH and will pursue additional opportunities in a variety of administrative areas throughout their 2 years of service.

Nobel laureate Dr. Richard Axel (r) and author Lee Woodruff (below) will be featured speakers at NIDCD's 20th anniversary symposium.

after his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Iraq. (The Woodruffs co-authored the *New York Times* bestselling book of the same title.) Mr. Woodruff's injury impacted the language part of his brain causing aphasia, a disorder that affects a person's ability to express and understand language. In addition, Ms. Woodruff will discuss her experience when she and her husband discovered that their 5-month-old daughter—one of twins—was hearing-impaired.

The symposium will include three scientific sessions representing NIDCD's primary areas of research: hearing and balance; smell and taste; and voice, speech and language. An opening session titled "As Time Goes By: A Population Perspective on Hearing in Aging," will be delivered by epidemiologist Dr. Karen J. Cruickshanks, an NIDCD advisory council member and a professor in the departments of ophthalmology and visual sciences and population health sciences at the University of Wisconsin.

Presenters for the hearing and balance section include:

• Dr. David P. Corey, professor in the department of neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, who will speak on "Biophysics, Genes, and Structure: An Integrated Understanding of the Inner Ear."

• Dr. John K. Niparko, professor in the department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, who will speak on "Childhood Development after Cochlear Implantation."

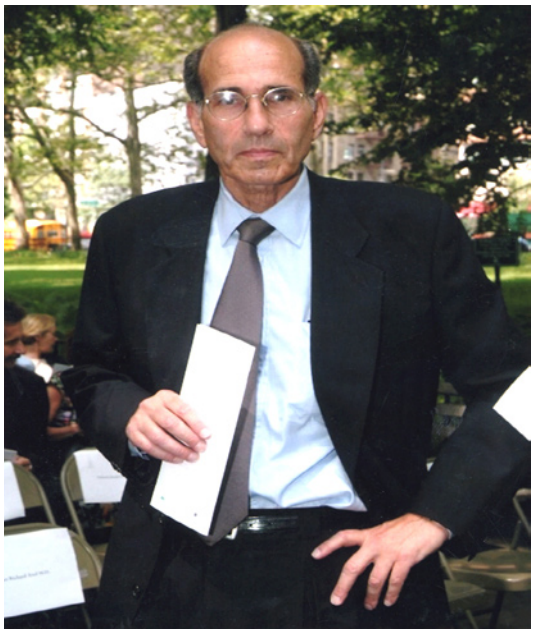
Presenters for the smell and taste section include:

• Dr. Richard Axel, university professor and investigator in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Columbia University, who will speak on "Internal Representations of the Olfactory World." Axel shared the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his groundbreaking research on the sense of smell.

• Dr. Gary K. Beauchamp, director and president of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, who will speak on "The Chemical Senses and Human Health: Food and the Environment."

Presenters for the voice, speech and language section include:

• Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg, professor in the department of anatomy and neurobiology,



Boston University School of Medicine, who will speak on "Language Across the Life Span: Improving Lives in the 21st Century."

• Dr. Robert E. Remez, professor in the department of psychology, Columbia University, who will speak on "Progress and Prospects in Research on Speech Perception."

The symposium will also feature musical performances by Yew Choong Cheong, an internationally acclaimed pianist with hearing loss, and Richard Reed, a rock-and-roll and R&B musician who lost his hearing from exposure to ototoxic medications and who now wears a cochlear implant. Cheong, who is currently working toward his Ph.D. in music at West Virginia University, will be performing in the atrium during registration and throughout the closing reception. Reed will perform a first-hand demonstration on his keyboard of what music sounds like through a cochlear implant, titled "Music Lost and Found."

Also providing remarks that day will be Dr. Raynard Kington, NIH deputy director; NIDCD director Dr. James F. Battey, Jr., and other NIDCD representatives. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), who authored the legislation that created NIDCD, will be offering remarks by videotape. Scientific posters from NIDCD intramural researchers will be featured during the reception and professional and advocacy organizations in the area of communication disorders will be staffing exhibits featuring educational resources and other information.

For more information, see the symposium agenda at www.nidcd.nih.gov or call (301) 496-7243. Sign language interpreters will be provided. For reasonable accommodation to participate, contact Lonnie Lisle at lislel@mail.nih.gov or the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. A captioned video of the symposium will be available on the web at a later date.

NIH Grantees Win Lasker Awards

Three NIH grantees were among five scientists who won 2008 Albert Lasker Medical Awards, which were presented Sept. 26 in New York City.

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation's Award for Basic Medical Research honored both Dr. Victor R. Ambros and Dr. Gary B. Ruvkun for their work with micro-ribonucleic acids (mRNAs) that govern many gene functions in animals and plants. Prior to their discoveries, which pioneered a whole new field, prevailing wisdom held that proteins, not mRNAs, regulated gene function in animal cells.

Ambros, 54, is a professor of molecular medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. Both he and Ruvkun have long received support from NIGMS. Ruvkun, 56, who also receives funding from NIA and NIDDK, is professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. Ambros and Ruvkun, longtime collaborators, shared their award with a third scientist, Dr. David Baulcombe of the University of Cambridge.

The Lasker-Koshland Special Achievement Award in Medical Science went to Dr. Stanley Falkow, 74, professor of microbiology and immunology at Stanford University School of Medicine. Calling him "one of the great microbe hunters of all time," the Lasker Foundation cited his seminal research in understanding the causative agents of many diseases as well as his breakthrough work on bacteria's role in antibiotic resistance. Falkow has an extensive grant history with both NIAID and NCI.

Known as "America's Nobels," the Lasker Awards are the nation's highest honor for basic and clinical medical research discoveries. The Special Achievement award is given only once every 2 years to commemorate lifetime contributions to medical science.

NINR Director Grady Honored by SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Dr. Patricia Grady, director of the National Institute of Nursing Research, received an honorary doctor of science degree recently from the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. The degree was presented at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady receives an honorary doctor of science degree recently from Dr. John C. LaRosa, president of SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

"You are an illustrious scientist and a leader in the field of nursing research," said Dr. Daisy Cruz-Richman, dean of SUNY Downstate's College of Nursing, as she introduced Grady. "You have played a major role in setting the research agenda for nursing science and expanding the ranks of nurse scientists. You have been instrumental in developing major initiatives in health promotion and disease prevention, as well as in quality of life, health disparities and care at the end of life. Thanks in large part to your efforts, the current state of nursing research is rich with opportunity. You have noted that research moves the nursing profession forward and represents a critical investment in the future."

Noting that Grady was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1999, has authored numerous scientific articles, served on the editorial boards of several research journals and currently serves as co-chair of the NIH Public Trust Initiative, Cruz-Richman also thanked Grady for "the inspiration you have given to others."

Delivering the commencement address at the ceremony, Grady said, "When Andrew Carnegie laid the cornerstone of this building in 1890, he said, 'It is probable that this hall will intertwine itself with the history of our country.' And it has. Carnegie Hall is one of the world's most important stages for music, theatre, dance and the exchange of ideas. But today it is a remarkable venue that intertwines itself with your personal history, marking the realization of your accomplishments and the beginning of a new chapter in your lives."

DEPARTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Zerhouni, earlier this year, after receiving the medal of the Légion d'honneur (French National Order of the Legion of Honor), the highest decoration in France

was completely supportive and understands."

Zerhouni emphasized that there "was no precipitating event—I am just stepping down at the right time." He didn't characterize his decision as a resignation. He told reporters, "I don't have a job lined up," then joked, "I am looking for the unemployment office."

He said, "I want to take some time out" for thinking and writing. Addressing rumors that he might be in line to take over the presidency of Johns Hopkins University, he reiterated that he has no immediate plans.

Asked what kind of writing he would do, he said, "This is a time of real transition in science and I don't think most people understand that. The speed of changes taking place in health care and in research is remarkable. I want to share my experiences at NIH. It might help the public debate on health care and on science in general."

Primarily, Zerhouni expressed gratitude about the opportunity to serve NIH; his email note to employees was titled "Message of Appreciation."

As his 50-minute teleconference wound down, he told reporters, "I feel very privileged to have led this agency." He recounted arriving in the United States with little money and virtually no contacts. "I was an immigrant, with no friends…It is a testimony to the greatness of this country that I have been able to [become director of NIH]. I am grateful to be able to pay back, through public service, the opportunities that were offered to me."

He credited "an extraordinary staff of researchers at NIH, all committed to the good of all of us. And the grantee community, especially, never failed to serve the NIH. I can count on the fingers of only one hand the number of times I have been turned down when I asked them for help. Through everything, despite thick and thin, the scientific community sticks together."

Zerhouni divided his 6½-year tenure in thirds. The first 2 years he called "euphoric. It was a terrific time of big budgets." The middle 2 years, he said, "were the worst—I had to explain why the money wasn't there. Then we also had congressional scrutiny, conflict of interest and other controversial issues. We had twice as many grant applications, and twice as many grantees, in an era of flat budgets. Public access was also a challenge. But I still think we managed to fund the best science by the best scientists."

The final 2 years felt like vindication to an embattled director. The NIH Reform Act was passed in 2006, and institutionalized many of Zerhouni's ideas. "These were years of consolidation," he said, adding that he is proud, during his tenure, to have named "a large number of new institute directors, who are terrific.

"My only regret," he said, "is that we had so many economic challenges, with budget deficits and war. We only lost about 10 percent of our purchasing power, in real terms, which is not as bad as it could have been." He described NIH as "well-positioned. We enjoy tremendous support in Congress."

He is especially proud that, in 2007, NIH earned its first supplemental budget from Congress, an $800 million addition to support the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research.

Prior to taking questions from reporters, Zerhouni briefly recapped highlights of a directorship that began in May 2002, when he arrived at NIH after leaving a top administrative post at Johns Hopkins.

Inheriting the angst of the post-doubling period, he realized that "our traditional organizational structure was not necessarily aligned with the way science was moving." He took action to remove barriers to scientific progress "and to make it easier to work on trans-NIH issues.

"Probably my top concern was the number of young and new investigators," he said. Anxious to promote early independence in research careers, he recounted the Pioneer and New Innovator grants as means to support early-stage scientists. As of 2007, some 1,600 young scientists have been supported via new mechanisms, he said.

"Twenty-five percent of the total number of new grants now support early-career scientists, and I'm very proud of that," he said.

He is also gratified that "NIH puts science, facts and data ahead of politics and ideology…I am really confident that it is in good hands, with very capable leaders. NIH is truly the crown jewel, not just of federal government, but of the world."

Tunnel and rack washers are periodically manually de-scaled with phosphoric acid, as shown here. Phosphate-free cleaners are more friendly to Chesapeake Bay.

The Bay Needs Your Help

Change of Soaps Could Benefit Environment

NIH could reduce phosphate emissions by roughly 10-12 tons per year simply by changing the soap used in many laboratories. Use of phosphate-free soap at the lab sink or cage washer can help protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

When purchasing high-use chemicals, especially cleaning products, preference should be given to obtaining phosphate-free, low phosphorus and low nitrogen alternatives, says the NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS). Phosphate-free formulations such as citric acid-based cage descalers are readily available and already in use at some NIH facilities.

With 17 million people living in the bay watershed, the cumulative impact of human activity on the estuary is significant and growing. Some common activities like applying fertilizers and using household cleaners, soaps and detergents contribute more phosphorus and nitrogen than the bay's waters can handle, according to NEMS. Emissions from cars and from electricity-generating power plants are major contributors of nitrogen. Reducing miles driven, electricity use and the use of phosphorus and nitrogen-containing soaps and detergents are excellent steps any individual can take to minimize their impact.

Several NEMS "green teams" and working groups have identified goals to reduce the NIH impact of nutrients and other chemicals on the Chesapeake Bay. These groups also encourage and set goals for energy reduction, greener procurement and reduction of certain chemical usage at NIH facilities.

The federal government is one of the signatories of Chesapeake 2000, which affirms the need to work with state and local governments as stewards to ensure the public's right to clean water and a healthy and productive resource.

The nutrient load we all contribute to the bay with our day-to-day activities is slowly overwhelming it; a hypoxic zone is growing in the bay that will reach a record-setting size in 2008—3 cubic miles, according to studies conducted by the University of Michigan. This hypoxic zone is a "dead zone" that lacks oxygen levels capable of supporting fish and other aquatic life. The size and scope of this zone has been predicted by UM's Sea Grant Program: http://sitemaker.umich.edu/scavia/files/2008_chesapeake_bay_hypoxic_forecast.pdf

To learn more about what you can do to "Green the NIH" and help protect the environment, visit www.nems.nih.gov.

NINR Completes Ninth Summer Genetics Institute

By Ray Bingham

"You have come here from across the country, and from many of the nation's best nursing research schools," said NINR director Dr. Patricia Grady at a recent ceremony celebrating the conclusion of the institute's ninth Summer Genetics Institute (SGI). "All of you have worked very hard to develop your knowledge and hone new skills in genetics and health care research." This year, 20 students completed the program, bringing the total number of SGI graduates to 159.

Two students from NINR's 2008 Summer Genetics Institute complete work in the laboratory.

SGI provides a 2-month, full-time research training program on the NIH campus for nursing faculty, graduate students and advanced practice nurses. Its purpose is to develop genetics research capacity and expand the basis for clinical education and practice in genetics within the nursing profession. SGI students spend approximately 100 hours in the laboratory, learning basic techniques used in molecular biology to promote their understanding of the technology of genetic testing. They also discuss clinical case studies and attend lectures and seminars focused on a wide range of ethical, social, legal and public policy issues. Through this training, NINR is preparing nurses to address important scientific questions about the influences of genetics on health, such as those arising from the Human Genome Project and the ongoing International HapMap Project.

The SGI experience frequently serves as a springboard to additional research training and education in genetics. To date, SGI graduates have published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, while approximately one-third have gone on to receive federal funding for their research projects.

In future years, genetics will become increasingly important in health care education. Faculty members who complete SGI are well prepared to integrate genetics topics into nursing curricula, thereby spreading the knowledge they have gained through this intensive program and enhancing the ability of their students to apply the principles of genetics in their own practice and research.

"We eagerly anticipate seeing the outcomes and products of your work over the next several years, including publications and presentations, grants and new academic courses," Grady told the students. "Each of you will assist in the effort to translate our increasing knowledge of genetics into improved health care for all patients."

milestones

Anne Stroh of the Center for Scientific Review recently retired after 35 years of federal service.

CSR's Stroh Retires With Style

By Don Luckett

It was a day for Darjeeling tea and crisp cucumber sandwiches. Anne Stroh's coworkers at the Center for Scientific Review hosted a retirement tea to honor her 35 years of federal service. The party mirrored the efficient but gracious manner with which she served others as CSR's ethics officer.

"My experience with Anne can be described as 'bittersweet,'" said Dr. Toni Scarpa, CSR director. "Bitter because of all the things I couldn't do…sweet for all the trouble she helped me avoid and sweeter still because of her professionalism, efficiency and class."

Melanie Keller, CSR executive officer, agreed. "I've never known someone to say 'I don't think that's a good idea' in such an eloquent way," she said.

The job fit Stroh like a white glove, but she never planned a career in ethics. She earned her B.A. from Barat College in political science. While a student, she started her federal career with a summer job alphabetizing index cards for the Commerce Department. The government had to hire lots of summer students back then. "There were big backlogs," said Stroh. "They couldn't hire enough permanent file clerks willing to stand on their feet all day."

After college, she took a job as an administrative assistant at the Bureau of Standards. Working on personnel documents at the bureau inspired her to take a job in personnel at the Patent Office. The backlogs there also were great, and in one summer Stroh single-handedly hired 500 clerical workers. She then worked on a more permanent solution to the staffing shortage that also helped people in need. She coordinated efforts to hire the hard-core unemployed, welfare mothers, the handicapped and even people coming out of jails. "I didn't have the background for this, but I'd do anything," said Stroh, who became a part of a government-wide affirmative action program. "There were so many things that people did to help."

After 6 years at the Patent Office, she left to raise two sons. When her boys got older, she worked part time during the school year as a personnel specialist at NOAA and NHLBI, and then at NIH's Division of Research Grants. DRG, which is now CSR, asked her to continue working one summer because there was so much work. Stroh said she "could only work on sunny days" because her boys worked at a golf course and had to be looked after when they weren't working. Fortunately for DRG, it was a sunny summer and Stroh eventually went full time.

In the late 1980s, each institute and center had to appoint an ethics point person and Stroh was asked to serve. "It was no big deal," she said. "The forms were simple and I just moved the paper." It wasn't long, however, before Stroh had a full-time job, overseeing compliance with new regulations and counseling every scientist hired by CSR.

As the field matured and Stroh grew in experience, she was asked to weigh in on many key decisions. Her office eventually was moved into the director's suite. "I never could have dreamed I would be so much a part of a scientific organization," said Stroh. But her real satisfaction came from helping staff find their way through government ethics regulations. Her reasoned but compassionate voice was a great comfort to many. Even when proposed changes in ethics regulations unsettled staff, and storms gathered elsewhere, it was always a sunny day in Stroh's office.

NIDCR Mourns Former Director Löe

Dr. Harald Löe, 82, former director of NIDR (now NIDCR) died at his home in Osteras, Norway on Aug. 9. He directed NIDR from 1983 until 1994.

"I was saddened to learn of Dr. Löe's passing," said NIDCR director Dr. Lawrence Tabak. "Under his leadership, the institute dramatically expanded its research agenda. Dr. Löe will be remembered for his enabling vision of dental science and his many contributions to improving oral health in the United States and throughout the world."

Known internationally for his contributions to periodontal disease research, Löe conducted landmark clinical studies on periodontal disease, gingivitis and antimicrobials including chlorhexidine. During his tenure as NIDR director, he broadened the scope of the institute's research to encompass all the oral and craniofacial tissues. To support this expanded agenda, the institute promoted the use of centers in which multidisciplinary teams conducted basic and clinical research.

Löe established centers focusing on specific subjects including aging, materials science, craniofacial anomalies and pain at which basic and clinical research were supported. He also created regional centers for minority oral health designed to strengthen the research capability of minority institutions and to support research to improve the oral health of racial and ethnic minorities. The focus on a more diversified research program was also reflected in NIDR's intramural laboratories and clinics with studies on the cell and molecular biology of oral infections, including AIDS; bone and joint diseases; and acute and chronic pain.

Löe was committed to building a strong epidemiology program at NIDR and in 1984 created the Epidemiology and Oral Disease Prevention Program. To complement the survey research on the epidemiology of oral diseases and conditions as well as the effort on prevention and oral health promotion, he created a molecular epidemiology and disease indicators unit whose scientists conducted basic research on genetic diseases and risk factors.

A staunch advocate of education, Löe established new dental research career programs, including the Dentist Scientist Award Program.

Löe was a native of Norway and received his dental degrees from Oslo University. A Fulbright fellowship in the 1950s introduced him to American academic dentistry at the University of Illinois. Over the next two decades he held appointments at universities in the U.S. and other countries and in 1974 was named dean of the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Connecticut in Farmington, the position he held before arriving at NIDR.

He was a member of many societies and had received awards from numerous international and American professional organizations. He was a past president of the International Association for Dental Research and a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences. Among his awards were the U.S. Surgeon General's Exemplary Award Medal, the American Dental Association Gold Medal for Excellence in Dental Research, the Harvard Dental Medal and the Meritorious Presidential Executive Rank Award. In 1989, he was honored by the king of Norway with the Commander, Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. He also received more than a dozen honorary doctorate degrees from universities in the U.S. and Europe as well as a professorship at the Beijing Medical College, Faculty of Stomatology.

Löe published hundreds of papers on various aspects of dental disease, some of which are Citation Classics. He authored the seminal paper "Experimental Gingivitis in Man," which illustrated the role of dental plaque bacteria in the development of gingivitis.

He is survived by his wife, Inga, two children and four grandchildren.

CSR Division Director Sostek Retires

By Esmeralda Barnes

The Center for Scientific Review navigated its fair share of riptides in the 21 years division director Dr. Anita Miller Sostek worked in peer review. Through it all, she never lost her footing, or lost sight of peer review's role in paving the way for medical breakthroughs.

Sostek, who retired Aug. 29 after leading the Division of Clinical and Population-Based Studies for 6 years, played key roles in helping CSR maintain core principles of grant review as NIH's budget doubled, sparking rapid changes in workloads and review procedures. Her big-picture focus and commitment to creating the best review process amid such changes are part of her legacy.

"She was a rock for CSR during many transitions," said CSR director Dr. Toni Scarpa. "Her knowledge, diligence and commitment are exceptional. Anita had a big impact on American science and NIH. She was an indefatigable presence who possessed Olympic calm and was seldom without a big smile."

"The work here is critically important, with a lot riding on it," said Sostek. "If we did review poorly, vast resources could be misapplied. It is critical [that review] be done properly and that merit drives funding. New reviewers come in and sometimes think that who you know rather than how good the application is will result in favorable review, but then they realize how fair the system is. It's a fantastic thing to see."

She came to CSR in 1987 as a scientific review officer and worked her way up the ranks. She made significant contributions to training and cultivating talent among both scientific review officers and integrated review group (IRG) chiefs.

While Sostek was an IRG chief, she helped launch the CSR Review Internship Program, which provided training opportunities to promising scientists interested in a career in research administration while filling important staffing gaps.

In 1995, she became coordinator of the behavioral and social sciences IRG and later became chief of the broader biobehavioral and behavioral processes IRG.

Sostek's career path was not one she anticipated. She came to NIH from Georgetown University School of Medicine, where she worked for 13 years, ultimately as an associate professor of pediatrics. "I thought I'd be at Georgetown for a couple of years, and then at NIH for a couple of years," she said. "Here we are 34 years of career later. It is amazing to me…and extremely satisfying."

Sostek earned a bachelor's degree in English from New York University, a master's degree in developmental psychology from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

She will join Autism Speaks, the New York-based advocacy organization, as vice president of scientific review and operations. She will be based in Washington, D.C., and be responsible for overseeing the grants program, which currently processes more than 1,000 research and training grants annually.

Biomedical Research: It's In the Greens

By Raymond MacDougall

When Dr. Eric Green visited his hometown St. Louis on Sept. 23, he performed a rare scholarly honor and a son's pleasure: He delivered the first lecture named for his father, Dr. Maurice Green, professor of molecular virology and chairman of the Institute for Molecular Virology at St. Louis University Medical School. Eric is scientific director at the National Human Genome Research Institute.

It crossed Eric's mind that some might construe his father's recommendation for the inaugural Maurice Green Lecture as nepotism. The elder Green explains his choice as a logical one, contending that his son "is the natural choice. He has unbelievable insights, he's fun and he's a spokesman for the future of human genomics."

Dr. Eric Green (l) with his dad, Dr. Maurice Green

Still active in the field of virology at 82, Maurice is noted for his early studies that introduced breakthrough techniques and concepts in experimental virology. For example, his work on the molecular biology of adenoviruses and the adenovirus oncogenes showed they are not involved in human cancer although they readily cause cancer experimentally in rodents. In 1972, he was invited to NIH to deliver the R.E. Dyer lecture for his career contributions to medical and biological knowledge of infectious diseases.

Today Maurice explores the molecular function of the human adenovirus E1A oncogene, which has implications for breast cancer treatment. "I deal with viruses and their interaction with human genes and the cell," he explained. He is convinced that genomics holds the key to future biomedical discoveries in this area. Eric's talk, titled "Fulfilling the Promise of a Sequenced Human Genome," provided a "big picture view" of where genomics is headed in the future. He offered examples of his research, which involves interpreting the human genome sequence and applying large-scale DNA sequencing to clinical research projects.

As a boy, Eric was hired by his father to send out reprints of his father's journal articles requested from scientists around the world. "I thought it was a cool job—first because I got paid, but also for the opportunity to collect international stamps." Although he was handling some of the seminal papers in virology, the young Green wasn't much impressed.

"I would occasionally flip through one of the reprints and think this science stuff is boring and full of gibberish. I couldn't fathom why anyone would read it."

Father and son share a lifetime love of photography, fishing and St. Louis Cardinals baseball—the love for science ultimately imprinted on Eric. He says his father never exerted pressure on him to pursue a science or medical career, though it was assumed within the family that the kids would go to college and beyond. His brother and sister also have made careers in biomedical research and clinical medicine.

"We had a tremendous exposure to science," Eric said. "There were very few, if any, standalone family vacations—but we were always tagging along with dad to scientific meetings."

Today, Green family conversations are apt to contain "a heavy dose of science, but rarely the details," says Eric. "I never tiptoe very far into his field—though we are all engaged in biomedical research, we are each in different disciplines. Our conversations more often touch on the technologies and methods."

When it comes to what he thinks about the speaker having delivered the inaugural Maurice Green lecture, the father speaks with unabashed pride. "He's not only a scientist and physician, but he is also accomplished in debate and music. And he calls his mother twice a week!"

Winning team members at the award presentation include (from l) Dr. Patricia Mabry, Dr. Bobby Milstein, Dr. Gary Hirsch, Andrew Jones, Dr. Joyce Essien and Kevin Klein. (Not shown are Jack Homer, Dr. Diane Orenstein and Kristina Wile.)

OBSSR's Mabry Wins with Systems Analysis Team

The CDC-NIH System Dynamics Collaborative for Disease Control and Prevention recently received the inaugural Applied Systems Thinking Prize awarded by the Applied Systems Thinking Institute (ASysT). The nine-member winning team includes Dr. Patricia Mabry of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

The ASysT prize is awarded for a significant accomplishment achieved through application of systems thinking to a problem in national security, energy, environment, health care or education.

Systems thinking is an analytical approach that

addresses a system and its associated external context as a whole that cannot be analyzed solely through reduction of the system to its component parts.

The ASysT award will be given annually. The 2008 prize is $20,000, which the team elected to donate to the CDC Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization that forges partnerships to fight threats to health and society.

Mabry's team was recognized for designing and coordinating a series of collaborative ventures within CDC and NIH to expand the dynamic dimensions of public health policy analysis. The award acknowledged 11 system-modeling projects that demonstrate the likely consequences of enacting alternative policies on diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular health, reproductive health, urban health and national health system performance. The team was also recognized for its efforts to educate CDC and NIH staff and investigator communities on the utility of systems science methodologies.

"We are seeing a groundswell of interest in [systems science]," said Mabry. "My teammates and I believe that utilizing systems science methodologies will lead to breakthroughs in solving some of the greatest public health challenges facing our nation today."

In addition to Mabry, members of the winning team are Dr. Joyce Essien, Dr. Bobby Milstein and Dr. Diane Orenstein, all of CDC; Dr. Jack Homer of Homer Consulting; independent consultant Dr. Gary Hirsch; Kristina Wile and Drew Jones of Sustainability Institute; and Doc Klein of Uncharted Territories, Inc.—**Ann Benner**

Appointments to NIH Child Care Board

Three new members were recently appointed to the NIH child care board, along with another three who were re-appointed.

New members Rosalind King, NICHD; Brian Rabin, NIGMS; and Shelly Schully, NCI, began their terms at the Sept. 11 child care board meeting. Members re-appointed for an additional 3-year term include Dr. Valerie Durrant, CSR; Susan Persons, OD; and Hillary Fitilis, CC.

The board advises the NIH director on child care programs and issues and promotes affordable, accessible and quality child care and related services for all NIH employees. For more information about the board, including a schedule of meetings, visit http://does.ors.od.nih.nih.gov/childcare/childcare_board.htm or call the ORS Division of Amenities and Transportation Services at (301) 402-8180.

Among those honored for the new BSL-3 lab in Bldg. 29A are (seated, from l) David Shaw, ORF; Jacqulin Glass, ORS; Leila Nikkhoo, FDA; James O'Neil, ORF. In middle row are (from l) Sherry Bohn, ORS; Sam Denny, ORS; Gopi Boray, ORF; Martin McCourt, G. Bailey Co.; Howard Hochman, ORF; Ryan Bayha, ORF; Rafael Torres-Cruz, ORS; Kevin Wimsatt, G. Bailey Co. At rear are (from l) Kenneth Roman, ORF; Brian Temme, Jacobs Engineering Group; David Conrad, G. Bailey Co.

Team Honored for BSL-3 Lab in Bldg. 29A

At the 13th annual Food and Drug Administration Office of the Commissioner Honor Awards Ceremony recently, a group composed of FDA and NIH employees received an award of excellence for their design and construction of an enhanced Biosafety Level 3 research laboratory in Bldg. 29A on campus.

Accepted by FDA project officer Leila Nikkhoo, the award represented a collaborative effort through an interagency agreement with FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Regulation and the NIH Office of Research Facilities to construct a research laboratory to evaluate, test and prepare regulated products such as potential vaccines for pandemic (avian) influenza, West Nile virus and SARS coronavirus.

The award nomination cites the "major shortage of secure laboratories and animal facilities in which to perform…science essential for rapid development and deployment of safe and effective blood products." Prior to the construction of this laboratory, FDA had "no access to the necessary containment facilities…to evaluate these serious infectious agents and biological medical products developed to protect the nation from them."

The renovation posed a challenge with space limitations and the need for employees to continue to occupy the building during construction. A team of scientists, engineers, safety specialists, fellows, contracting, financial and administrative specialists provided their technical expertise and innovative solutions to finish the laboratory on budget and on schedule.

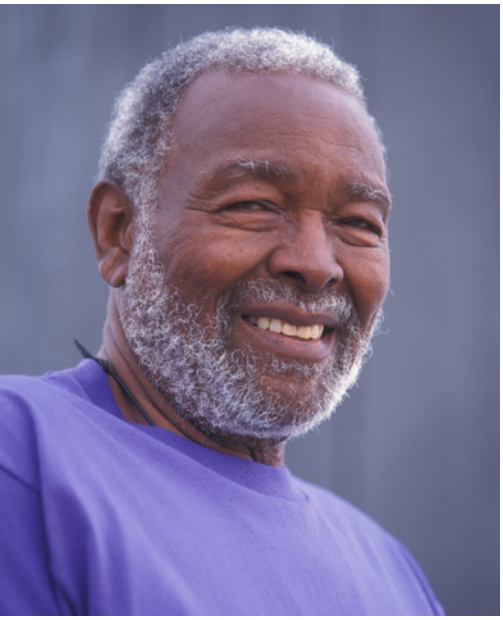
The team managed to exceed current BSL-3 standards in the areas of air filtering, handling and exhaust, housing and care for animals, security and Department of Agriculture pathogen biosafety when building this specialized containment facility.

Not only will the laboratory help FDA with its research, but it also has long-term benefits for NIH. Once CBER eventually relocates to FDA's White Oak campus, NIH will be able to utilize the space for programs displaced during a planned renovation of Bldg. 10.

digest

Almost One-Fourth of U.S. Women Suffer Pelvic Floor Disorders

According to a new study funded in part by NICHD, NIDDK and the Office of Research on Women's Health, close to 24 percent of women in the U.S. are affected with one or more pelvic floor disorders. The study is the first to document the extent of pelvic floor disorders—a cluster of problems that cause physical discomfort and can limit activity—in a nationally representative sample. The research, published in the Sept. 17 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, also revealed that the frequency of pelvic floor disorders increases with age: it affects more than 40 percent of women ages 60 to 79, and about 50 percent of women 80 and older. Researchers said the findings point to the need to identify the causes of the disorders and to determine the best ways to prevent and treat them.



Researchers have for the first time identified gene variations strongly associated with kidney diseases that disproportionately affect African Americans.

Genetic Reasons for Kidney Disease

Researchers at NIH and Johns Hopkins University have for the first time identified gene variations strongly associated with kidney diseases that disproportionately affect African Americans. The findings, published in two papers online and in the October issue of *Nature Genetics*, show that several variations in the MYH9 gene were much more frequent among people of African ancestry than among whites. The increased risk among African Americans with these variants is more than 300 percent for focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a disease that leads to kidney failure in more than half of those with it over a period of about 10 years; more than 500 percent for HIV-associated FSGS; and more than 100 percent for all nondiabetic kidney failure. Sixty percent of African Americans carry the risk variants, compared to just 4 percent of whites. Researchers hope the findings will lead to new therapies, as chronic kidney disease currently affects 26 million Americans.

Anti-Herpes Drug, Once Altered, Hinders AIDS Virus

Acyclovir, a drug known to suppress outbreaks of oral and genital herpes, can also hinder the AIDS virus once it is altered. A study, led by NICHD researchers and published online in *Cell Host & Microbe*, shows that after the herpes virus alters the drug, acyclovir also interferes with the AIDS virus's ability to reproduce. Researchers said that though it will take additional studies to confirm this, the results of the study suggest that acyclovir might make a useful addition to the cocktail of drugs used to suppress HIV in people infected with both HIV and one of the many forms of herpes virus. There is also the possibility that in future studies, acyclovir could be chemically modified in the same way it is by herpes viruses to get the same results.

Insights into the Most Common Form of Brain Cancer

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Research Network has reported the first results of its comprehensive, large-scale study of glioblastoma (GBM), the most common form of brain cancer. The team from TCGA, a collaborative effort funded by NCI and NHGRI, discovered new genetic mutations and other types of DNA alterations that have potential implications for the diagnosis and treatment of GBM. Their findings were published Sept. 4 in the advance online edition of *Nature*. Among the most exciting results is an unexpected observation pointing to a potential mechanism of resistance to a common chemotherapy drug used for brain cancer. More than 21,000 new cases of brain cancer are predicted in the U.S. this year, and 13,000 people are likely to die from the disease. Scientists said learning about the molecular basis of GBM will more quickly lead to better ways of helping patients with the disease, and that these findings show large-scale studies like this are much needed.—**compiled by Sarah Schmelling**

Foil-the-Flu Program Announces 2008 Dates

Flu vaccine will be available free of charge to NIH employees starting on Monday, Oct. 27. An NIH employee ID badge is required. New this year, the vaccine is mandatory for all NIH employees who have contact with Clinical Center patients.

The location for the open clinic is the Clinical Center, on the 7th floor of the CRC atrium. Off-campus locations are listed below. After Nov. 18, vaccine will only be available through Occupational Medical Services, Bldg. 10, Rm. 6C306.

Remember to wear clothing that will let you quickly expose your upper arm.

Vaccinations are given based on the first letter of the employee's last name. Employees who show up on the wrong day will be vaccinated but can expect a longer wait. The schedule is also available at www.foiltheflu.nih.gov.

On-campus location: CRC, 7th fl. Atrium. Hours: 8-11 a.m., 1-3:30 p.m.

First Letter of Last Name	Date
NOPQRS	Monday, 10/27
ABCD	Tuesday, 10/28
EFGH	Wednesday, 10/29
IJKLM	Thursday, 10/30
TUVWXYZ	Friday, 10/31
EFGH	Monday, 11/10
TUVWXYZ	Wednesday, 11/12
NOPQRS	Thursday, 11/13
ABCD & IJKLM	Friday, 11/14

Off-campus locations

Location	Date	AM	PM
Executive Plaza North 6130 Executive Blvd. Rm. 103	Monday, 11/3 Tuesday, 11/4	8:30-11	1-3
Rockledge I 6705 Rockledge Dr. Rm. 5054	Wednesday 11/5 Thursday 11/6	8:30-11	1-3
Neuroscience Center 6001 Executive Blvd. Conf. Rm.	Friday, 11/7	8:30-11	1-3
Twinbrook III 12735 Twinbrook Pkwy. Rm. 2E06	Monday, 11/17	8:30-11	1-3
Poolesville Rm. TBA	Wednesday, 11/19	9-noon	N/A

On-campus walk-in clinic open to all NIH employees, Nov. 18-21, 7:30-11 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. OMS, Bldg. 10, Rm. 6C306.

After Nov. 24, the flu vaccine will be available in OMS by appointment only. Call (301) 496-4411 to schedule.

The program is sponsored by the NIH Office of Research Services/Occupational Medical Services and the Clinical Center/Hospital Epidemiology Service.

Wilder Named OPASI Division Director

Dr. Elizabeth L. Wilder has been named the first director of the Division of Strategic Coordination in the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives. She served as division director in an acting capacity for the last year and a half and officially assumed the post in August.

The division provides increased opportunity for trans-NIH dialogue, decision-making and funding for scientific programs that are intended to foster innovation and catalyze research broadly. It manages the NIH Common Fund and oversees the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research.

"I am delighted to have Dr. Wilder in the position of division director," said NIH director Dr. Elias Zerhouni. "She will have a significant impact at NIH in her work addressing critical research efforts in intersecting areas of NIH priorities."

Wilder graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., in 1984, received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1989, and trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. In her last position before coming to NIH, she served in the department of cell and developmental biology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She started at NIH in 2002 as a program director at NIDDK.

Wilder has been engaged in trans-NIH initiatives since coming to NIH. Most recently, she served as co-chair of the multiple principal investigator policy implementation committee and as coordinator for the NIH Roadmap interdisciplinary research working group. In addition to her acting role in the division over the past year, she has provided leadership to OPASI as acting associate director of the office.

seen

Farmers' Market Returns to NIH

By Belle Waring

Fresh, convenient and affordable. From now until the first hard freeze, each Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Bldg. 31A patio, it's a plum assignment.

Local farmers are back.

"Once 9/11 happened, NIH didn't allow farmers in," says Charmaine Peters of Licking Creek Bend Farm in Needmore, Pa. "Sept. 9 [of 2008] was our first day returning and [NIH Recreation & Welfare President] Randy Schools was instrumental in helping get us back."

So get your tomatoes, green beans, apples, peaches, pears, plums, pumpkins, squash, herbs and tomatillos (perfect with enchiladas). At 100 miles north of Bethesda, Needmore features temperatures an average 10 degrees lower than here. Depending on the weather, their harvest could last through October.

Licking Creek, currently owned by Michael Tabor, was one of the original participants in the NIH Farmers' Market. It's certified to accept both WIC and food stamps, but it does not provide new plastic bags. In the mood to declutter? Bring in extra bags for co-workers.

Flanking the produce, a beekeeper who goes by the name Wagner offers wildflower honey produced at his home in Suitland, Md.

"I don't have dogs or cats," says Wagner. "I have bees. They're harmless if you don't mess with them; they're busy doing their own stuff." He lives next door to Suitland Park, where his bees sip wildflower nectar before returning to the hive.

"It takes 40,000 trips for a bee to make one drop of honey," he says. He recalls last year's drastic colony collapses in North America and Europe, with bee disease and pesticides as possible causes: "Since 80 percent of food is pollinated by bees, I'm against pesticides."

Schools says he's already getting great feedback, with healthy eatables now just steps—or a shuttle ride—away.

"NIH was one of the first federal agencies to ever have a farmers' market," he says. "It began with the Montgomery County department of agriculture in cooperation with the R&W."

With enough support, more local growers may join the spring market, to restart in May '09.

"The nice thing about this," says Schools, "is that the employees of NIH are able to develop a relationship with the farmers who put food on their table."

Top:
Bring your own bag: (from l) Charmaine Peters and Ward Morrison (c) close the sale.

Above:
At left, Licking Creek Bend Farmers (from l) Peters, Leah Cohen and Morrison. At right, Peters brings the basil.

Below:
At left, another customer reaches for his wallet. At right, most honey, says beekeeper Wagner, is produced by independents, or "hobbyists," like himself.

PHOTOS: BELLE WARING