

NIH Bulletin for the Public
YOUR GUIDE TO NIH PUBLIC OPPORTUNITIES
Spring 2003 Update

Upcoming Public Events and Activities

NIH Brain Awareness Week Symposium

When: March 12, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Where: William H. Natcher Conference Center, NIH campus in Bethesda, MD

Institute: National Institute on Drug Abuse

The public was invited to attend an NIH-sponsored scientific symposium on the various ways stress can impact the brain, body, and ultimately people's lives as part of *Brain Awareness Week*. The symposium was being coordinated by NIDA. *Brain Awareness Week* is a nationwide effort to promote the public and personal benefits of brain research, organized by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives.

Next Steps:

For more information, contact NIDA's press office at (301) 443-1124. Video of this event will be available on NIDA's Web site www.drugabuse.gov.

"Drunken Brain" Exhibit Displayed at Activities in Washington, DC Area

When and Where:

- March 12-13 2003, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Bethesda, MD
- April 24, 2003, NIH Campus, Visitors' Center - Building 10, Bethesda, MD
- July 23, 2003, Fort Detrick, MD

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Children throughout the Washington, DC area are exploring the "Drunken Brain" exhibit, a four-foot model constructed from chicken wire and flashing Christmas lights. Dennis Twombly, Ph.D., of NIAAA, recently displayed his novel exhibit at the *2003 Brain Awareness Week* activities at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Bethesda, MD in March. He will also be displaying the exhibit at the "Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work" day on the NIH campus in Bethesda on April 24 and at the "Take Your Child to Work Day" at the National Cancer Institute's Frederick, Ft. Detrick facility on July 23.

As part of the exhibit, Dr. Twombly demonstrates how alcohol changes brain-cell activity and interferes with sensory perception, muscle coordination, and memory. Students are also invited to navigate an obstacle course while wearing "Fatal Vision" prism goggles. These goggles allow visitors to experience firsthand the loss of motor performance experienced during alcohol intoxication. Roger Sorensen, Ph.D., and Vishnu Purohit, Ph.D., also from NIAAA, also present exhibits on alcohol-related tissue damage and risks of adolescent binge drinking.

During the *Brain Awareness Week* activities in March, other NIH institutes with neuroscience-related programs (National Institute on Aging, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute of Mental Health, and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) sponsored plenary talks as well as hands-on exhibits in brain science.

Next steps:

For additional information, contact Dennis A. Twombly, Ph.D., Program Director of Neurophysiology & Pharmacology, Division of Basic Research, NIAAA at (301) 443-9334 or at dtwombly@mail.nih.gov.

NIAAA Director to Speak at National Hispanic Medical Association Conference

When: March 21-23, 2003

Where: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington DC

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Ting-Kai Li, M.D., Director of NIAAA, will give a talk on Hispanic health disparities related to alcohol abuse and dependence at the March 22, 2003 plenary session of the National Hispanic Medical Association's annual conference. The session will take place from 8:30 to 10:25 a.m. Dr. Li will speak to Hispanic doctors about NIAAA's efforts to meet the goals of *Healthy People 2010*, which strives to eliminate health disparities among ethnic and other special populations in the US.

Next steps:

For more information on the conference and the schedule of events, visit www.nhmam.org/2003conf.htm or call (202) 628-5895 or contact Judith A. Arroyo, NIAAA, at (301) 402-0717 or Jarroyo@mail.nih.gov.

National Alcohol Screening Day 2003 to Take Place in April

When: April 10, 2003

Where: Nationwide

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) is a national, one-day outreach, educational, and screening event that is conducted by hospitals, clinics, treatment centers, colleges, physicians, faith-based organizations, and community groups. The program provides free, anonymous screening for alcohol problems, public education in health fair settings at various community settings, and where necessary, referrals to treatment. In an effort to raise awareness of the consequences of at-risk drinking across the nation, the theme is "Alcohol and Your Health: Where do you draw the line?"

More than 14 million Americans meet the diagnostic criteria for alcohol abuse or alcoholism each year, and *National Alcohol Screening Day* is an excellent opportunity for individuals or loved ones to find out if someone is drinking risky amounts of alcohol. In April 2002, over 88,000 people learned how alcohol affects their health at more than 2,800 sites across the United States. NASD is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and it is a program of Screening For Mental Health, Inc., Wellesley Hills, MA.

Next steps:

For additional information about *National Alcohol Screening Day* or to locate a screening site, please visit www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org or call 1 (800) 405-9200.

Note: *Additional screening dates may be available in some communities throughout April, Alcohol Awareness Month. Check Web site above for more information.*

Complementary and Alternative Medicine Course Offered to Public

When: Monday evenings from April 21 to June 2 at 6 p.m.

Where: Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC

Institute: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)

The Smithsonian and NCCAM are co-sponsoring a six-week course for the public on “Complementary and Alternative Medicine, from Acupuncture to Yoga.” The course will feature scientists and researchers who are directly involved in evaluating various complementary and alternative medicine practices, including NCCAM’s Director, Stephen E. Straus, M.D. Speakers will present important information on topics such as herbals and other dietary supplements; mind-body medicine; manipulative and body-based therapies such as chiropractic; and traditional Chinese medicine such as acupuncture; and alternative medicine approaches that relate to aging. In particular, speakers will discuss which therapies have proven effective, which have not, and the future of complementary and alternative medicine.

Next Steps:

This course is part of the *Campus on the Mall* continuing education program. To register or to obtain additional information, visit www.residentassociates.org/com/yoga.asp, call (202) 357-3030, or send an e-mail to rap@tsa.si.edu. Ticket prices are \$123 for general admission, \$78 for Resident Associate Members, and \$70 for Senior Associate Members.

THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers

When: March–August 2003

Where: Nebraska, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Colorado

Institute: National Eye Institute (NEI)

THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers will visit five states and the District of Columbia in 2003. The NEI developed the exhibit to help people understand low vision (vision problems that interfere with the ability to perform everyday activities) and explain what they can do to stay independent despite vision loss. The exhibit will be visiting malls in Nebraska, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, DC, and Colorado through August 2003.

Upcoming locations include:

NEBRASKA

Lincoln

Westfield Shoppingtown Gateway

February 24 - March 24

Bellevue

Southroads Shopping Center

March 26 - April 22

Hastings

Imperial Mall

April 6 - April 24

KANSAS

Salina

WASHINGTON, DC METRO AREA

Hyattsville, Maryland

Prince Georges Plaza

April 26 - May 15

Springfield, Virginia

Springfield Mall

May 17 - June 12

Bethesda, Maryland

Westfield Shoppingtown Montgomery

June 14 - July 12

Washington, DC

Union Station

Central Mall
February 17 - April 4

Dodge City
Village Square Mall
April 26 - May 24

July 14 - July 27

COLORADO
Littleton, CO
Park Meadows Mall
June 14 - June 28

Littleton, CO
Southwest Plaza
July 5 - August 1

Two additional locations are being planned for the 2003 Colorado tour. By the end of 2002, two identical exhibits had visited 32 malls in 14 states, including Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Since **THE EYE SITE** tour was launched in 2001, the NEI has:

- Provided more than 15 million people with the opportunity to visit the exhibit and learn about low vision.
- Distributed more than 39,000 publications.
- Worked with more than 50 vision-related organizations.

Next steps:

The public can visit the exhibit during regular business hours at any mall on the tour. For more information and to view a list of locations, visit **THE EYE SITE** Web site at www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/eyesite.

VISION Traveling Exhibit in South Dakota

When and Where: March 20 – July 19, 2003: Children's Science Center, Rapid City, SD; July 25 - January 5, 2004: South Dakota Discovery Center and Aquarium, Pierre, SD

Institute: National Eye Institute (NEI)

The NEI's **VISION** traveling exhibit will be on display in South Dakota from March 2003 through January 2004. **VISION** was developed as part of NEI's 25th anniversary celebration. The 2,000-square-foot exhibit illustrates how the eye and brain work together to create vision and how researchers are developing ways to protect our sight from visual disorders and diseases. The exhibit includes 10 interactive modules developed by the Exploratorium in San Francisco. These modules demonstrate how the eye focuses light, how we perceive motion and color, and how the brain processes visual information into a meaningful picture.

Since the exhibit tour was launched in 1993, **VISION** has visited science museums in 26 cities and been seen by more than 4 million visitors.

Next steps:

The public can visit the exhibit at the Children's Science Center, www.hpcnet.org/sdsmc/csc, and the South Dakota Discovery Center and Aquarium, www.sd-discovery.com.

Announcements and Items of Interest

New National Cancer Institute Studies Focus On Cancer-Prone Families

Institute: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The NCI is conducting four new studies focusing on cancer-prone families. Researchers seek to learn which genes cause familial or hereditary cancer, how these genes work, why some families are at higher risk, and the types of monitoring and intervention strategies that are best for members of cancer-prone families.

People, and often entire families, can carry susceptibility genes which, when altered or mutated, may serve as genetic markers that identify individuals who are at increased risk of developing a certain type of cancer. Researchers want to answer their many questions as they meet with North American families fitting specific high risk profiles. The studies, led by Mark H. Greene, M.D., Chief, Clinical Genetics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, NCI, will offer selected families a comprehensive medical and genetic research evaluation at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Some eligible families may also participate by sharing their medical information without traveling to the NIH. New studies include:

- Breast Imaging in Women at Increased Genetic Risk of Breast Cancer
www.breastimaging.cancer.gov
- Familial Testicular Cancer
www.familial-testicular-cancer.cancer.gov
- Inherited Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes
www.marrowsfailure.cancer.gov
- Prospective Study of Women at Increased Genetic Risk of Ovarian Cancer
For more information, visit:
http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/detail.cgi?A_2002-C-0268.html
For a list of Gynecologic Oncology Group institutions, please visit:
<https://webreg.gogstats.org/Members/>

Next steps:

Individuals who wish to be considered for participation in one of these studies may contact the cancer genetics referral nurse, Stephanie Steinbart, at 1 (800) 518-8474.

NIAAA Sponsors Upcoming Demand Treatment! Institute

When: April 2-5, 2003

Where: San Francisco, CA

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

NIAAA continues its collaboration with Join Together and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to sponsor Demand Treatment! Institutes. Upcoming institute sessions will provide information on screening, brief interventions, and referrals to treatment; information about National Alcohol Screening Day; different methods and instruments for screening; links between alcohol and other diseases, particularly infectious diseases and more.

Demand Treatment! is a national initiative to increase the number of people who get quality treatment for alcohol and other drug problems. Demand Treatment! Institutes are held periodically to increase knowledge of new research findings on addiction and dependency and to facilitate a discussion of its implications for effective alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention. The Demand Treatment! Institutes focus on the four DT principles: leadership, information for action, quality services, and ending discrimination against persons seeking treatment and recovery.

The DT Partner Communities include: Boise, ID; Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; Des Moines, IA; Houston, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Knoxville, TN; Manchester, NH; Mobile, AL; Nashville, TN; Pittsburgh, PA; San Antonio, TX; San Francisco, CA; Trenton, NJ; Tucson, AZ; Carroll County, MD; Everett, MA; Gallatin/Bozeman County, MT; Genesee County/Flint, MI; Lancaster County/Lincoln, NE; Louisville, KY; Milwaukee County, WI; Rochester, NY; Sacramento, CA; San Diego, CA; Sarasota, FL; Washoe County/Reno, NV; Williamsburg, VA,; and Southeastern PA. More detailed information is available at: www.jointogether.org/sa/action/dt/program/partners/.

Collaboration for this event occurs under the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), [Alcohol Research to Practice Network](#), which underscores NIAAA's focus on the crucial link between research and practice, and the interdependence between the research and services communities. The goal of the Network is to foster the application of alcohol research as an important part of the solution for solving human problems by encouraging the adoption of research advances into the prevention and treatment of alcohol abuse and alcoholism.

Next steps:

For additional information, visit www.jointogether.org/sa/action/dt or contact Kelly Green Kahn, NIAAA Public Liaison Officer, at kgreenka@mail.nih.gov or (301) 443-0347.

Next steps:

For conference information, contact Tom Colthurst at tcolthurst@ucsd.com or (858) 551-2951, or visit the conference Web site at: www2.edc.org/alcoholpolicy13/index.html.

Conference Focuses on Preventing Alcohol Problems Among Youth

When: March 13-16, 2003

Where: Boston, MA

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

NIAAA will provide support for alcohol researchers to attend and present their findings at the 13th Alcohol Policy Conference: *Preventing Alcohol Problems Among Youth: Policy Approaches*. At the invitation of NIAAA, Mrs. Hope Taft (First Lady of Ohio) will appear at the conference as one of the opening-day keynote speakers.

This meeting is a forum for researchers, community advocates, and public officials to gather and exchange findings, explore research-based solutions, and consider strategies aimed at minimizing risks associated with alcohol use.

The *Alcohol Policy Conference Series* has aided the development of a number of national and international initiatives, including national prevention policies and local actions. The series has been a forum for researchers, community advocates, and public officials to convene and exchange findings, explore evidence-based solutions, and consider adoption of laws aimed at minimizing risks associated with alcohol use. AP13 will continue the series tradition by

focusing on the unique problems arising from alcohol consumption by adolescents and young adults. National and international science—with a special focus on issues important to the New England and mid-Atlantic states—will inform the agenda. Cooperating organizations will share their perspectives. Advocates, educators, civic and government leaders, and others concerned with younger people will forge new partnerships in pursuit of prevention strategies. The agenda will focus on illegal and high-risk alcohol consumption among 13 - 25 year olds.

Next steps:

For conference information, contact Tom Colthurst at tcalthurst@ucsd.com or (858) 551-2951, or visit the conference Web site at: www2.edc.org/alcoholpolicy13/index.html.

NIAAA College Drinking Experts Share Expertise at State Briefings

When: February 24, 2003

Where: Springfield, Illinois

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

The Illinois Higher Education Center hosted a regional briefing, “Setting the Standard for Campus and Community Prevention Efforts.” NIAAA researchers provided an in-depth look at the implications of NIH’s first report on college drinking and how to use that report to improve the effectiveness of campus prevention efforts. College and university presidents, senior administrators and campus prevention staff across the state were invited to attend.

NIAAA has been working with the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention and several states to disseminate new research findings and recommendations on college drinking to schools nationwide. As a result of this partnership, NIAAA researchers presented college drinking data at similar briefings in 2002 to audiences in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and Massachusetts.

The goals of statewide briefings are to share information, motivate administrators, encourage the use of research-based interventions and open discussion. College presidents, administrators and campus prevention staff learn about the scope of the problem and the state of research on alcohol prevention programs currently in use.

Next steps:

For additional information please contact Amy Matush, NIAAA Outreach Specialist at amatush@mail.nih.gov or 301-443-0469.

Fourth Annual Public Interest Organization Meeting

When: February 5, 2003

Where: Bethesda, MD

Institute: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Representatives of 49 public organizations met on February 5 to exchange ideas with one another and with NHLBI staff; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council members; and leaders of professional societies. The meeting provided opportunities for organization representatives to explore collaborations with professional and public groups and with the NHLBI.

The meeting began with an enthusiastic discussion, led by Dr. Elias Zerhouni Director, NIH, about future directions for NIH programs. Next, representatives engaged in a

roundtable on the development of workshops and conferences. That session was led by NHLBI staff and Ms. Paula Polite, President, Sarcoidosis Research Institute; Ms. Lorna Stevens, President and Co-founder, Neutropenia Support Association; and Ms. Sue Byrnes, Executive Director, LAM Foundation and member, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council. Later, Ms. Virginia Ladd, President and Executive Director, American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, presented a case study on how organizations can collaborate to get their messages heard, and Dr. Richard Cannon, Clinical Director, NHLBI Division of Intramural Research, described ongoing research activities related to the potential of stem cells for treatment of ischemic heart disease. The bulk of the afternoon consisted of concurrent community forums moderated by NHLBI staff and leaders from the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, American Thoracic Society, and American Society of Hematology, followed by a question-and-answer session with Dr. Claude Lenfant, Director, NHLBI.

Next Steps:

A meeting summary will be available at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/public/pinterest.htm.

Winners of National “How I Get a Heap of Sleep” Contest Announced

When: January 28, 2003

Where: Shadd Elementary School, Washington, DC

Institute: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Shadd Elementary School students met Garfield the Cat when prizes were awarded to three “How I Get a Heap of Sleep” contest winners. The contest, which challenged children to describe what they do before bed to help them sleep, was part of the “Sleep Well. Do Well. Star Sleeper” Campaign to teach children and their parents about the importance of sleep. It was offered to children nationwide through online and classroom promotions, including a lesson plan sent to 44,000 second and third grade classrooms.

NHLBI Director Dr. Claude Lenfant and Dr. Carl E. Hunt, Director of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research at the NHLBI—joined by Garfield the Cat—awarded prizes to Danielle Wodka, age 7, of Illinois, and Amanda Davol of Massachusetts and Qian Wang of Kentucky, both age 8. Ninety Shadd Elementary School children joined in welcoming the youngsters to the Nation's Capital and their school. Also, six Shadd students were awarded Star Sleeper status for winning a local version of the contest.

Among the things the awardees said they did each night to help them get a good night's sleep was saying "a prayer for my parents, baby sister, and our President Bush" from Wodka; not watching TV from Davol; and finishing his homework early "because then I can get a relaxing evening" from Wang.

The Campaign is co-sponsored by Paws, Inc., the corporate entity behind Garfield the Cat.

Next steps:

Information about the Star Sleeper Campaign is available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/sleep/starslp/index.htm>.

Baltimore City Health Partnership Strategy Development Workshop

Where: Baltimore, MD

Institute: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

A new NHLBI report, *Mobilizing African American Communities to Address Disparities in Cardiovascular Health: The Baltimore City Health Partnership Strategy Development Workshop*, summarizes strategies that have been used in Baltimore, Maryland, to implement community heart health education and outreach activities for black Americans living in public housing developments.

Recommendations summarized in the report were developed at a workshop cosponsored by the NHLBI and the Baltimore City Cardiovascular Health Partnership partner institutions of Morgan State University Public Health Program, the Baltimore Field Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. The workshop was held to develop recommendations and strategies for implementing culturally and contextually appropriate community heart health education and outreach activities for Baltimore City African Americans, particularly residents of public housing developments.

Next steps:

Go to www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/heart/other/balt_rpt.htm.

NIAAA Researchers Present at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals 4th Annual Juvenile and Family Drug Court Training Conference

When: January 8, 2003

Where: Washington, DC

Institute: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

NIAAA hosted a pre-conference workshop at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) 4th Annual Juvenile and Family Drug Court Training Conference. During a session moderated by Raye Litten, Chief, NIAAA Treatment Research Branch, NIAAA researchers Robert Swift, M.D., Ph. D. and Darlene Moak, M.D. presented on medications utilized in treating alcoholism. An overarching concept behind this conference is to use the drug court model as a vehicle to bring collective resources of a community into the recovery process of each individual and their family.

In addition to moderating, Raye Litten also spoke about NIAAA and research the Institute is funding in this area. Dr. Swift provided information about how drugs and alcohol work in the brain, described the rationale for the use of medications in alcoholism treatment and presented evidence that medications combined with psychosocial therapies can improve treatment outcomes. Dr. Moak focused on the pharmacological treatment of comorbidity—the prevalence, consequences, mechanisms, evaluation and treatment of comorbidity.

NADCP's Annual Juvenile and Family Drug Court Training Conference is attended by judges, prosecutors, treatment providers, law enforcement and child/family services professionals.

Next steps:

For more information about the conference visit www.nadcp.org/events/ or contact Amy Matush, NIAAA Outreach Specialist at amatush@mail.nih.gov or (301) 443-0469.

Symposium Addresses Improved Access to Treatments for Stroke Patients

When: December 12-13, 2002

Where: Arlington, Virginia

Institute: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

An NINDS-sponsored symposium, “Improving the Chain of Recovery for Acute Stroke in Your Community,” was held to develop a consensus and unify the medical community in the recognition that thrombolytic treatment works and should be used and the benefits of early treatment for strokes. Experts at the conference developed recommendations concerning the creation of systems that will improve treatment and benefit more stroke patients. Once finalized, the recommendations will be widely circulated.

More than 300 individuals representing 70 Federal agencies, professional organizations, and voluntary groups participated in the meeting. The symposium is a follow-up meeting to an earlier symposium held in 1996 entitled, “Rapid Identification and Treatment of Acute Stroke.” Both meetings are part of a nationwide effort to fundamentally change how stroke is recognized and treated in the United States

Next steps:

A webcast of the symposium can be viewed at www.strokesymposium.org. For additional information, contact the NINDS Office of Communications and Public Liaison at (301) 496-5751.