

Dr. John La Montagne, Vaccine Expert, Named Director of New AIDS Program

Dr. John R. La Montagne has been appointed director of the newly established Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Program (AIDSP) within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The AIDSP is coordinating the Institute's extramural research efforts on AIDS.



Dr. La Montagne

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID Director, is coordinator of AIDS research for the National Institutes of Health.

Since 1976, Dr. La Montagne has served as influenza program officer for NIAID as well as respiratory diseases program officer from 1983 to the present. His 10 years of experience in the development of antiviral drugs and vaccines against influenza will be particularly useful in

the AIDSP which will emphasize similar approaches to the problem of AIDS treatment and prevention.

He organized and coordinated the clinical trials of inactivated influenza vaccines sponsored by the NIAID in 1976 and 1978. These were the most comprehensive trials of influenza vaccine ever conducted, and led to improved methods of standardizing these vaccines and measuring their potency.

Dr. La Montagne also coordinated and organized the extramural development of attenuated, live influenza vaccines which are now entering extended field trials for efficacy. In recognition of his work on antiviral drug development for influenza, Dr. La Montagne was honored with the NIH Director's Award in 1983.

Born in Mexico City, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas, Austin, and a Ph.D. degree in microbiology from Tulane University. He received postdoctoral training in animal virology in the laboratory of Dr. Julius S. Youngner at the University of Pittsburgh where he was a research associate from 1971 to 1974. He was an instructor in the department of microbiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 1974-1976.

Dr. La Montagne is chairman of NIAID's clinical research subpanel, and has served on a number of Public Health Service committees including the PHS Task Force on Reye's Syndrome and the Interagency Working Group to Monitor Vaccine Development, Production and Usage. □



NICHD Director Dr. Duane Alexander (l) poses with the Institute's EEO Special Achievement Award recipients Rayna J. Blake and Dr. Harold Gainer.

Two NICHD Employees Receive EEO Award

Two NICHD employees recently received Equal Employment Opportunity Special Achievement Awards at the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Advisory Council meeting.

Institute Director Dr. Duane Alexander presented awards to:

- **Rayna J. Blake** for "her superior work as EEO officer; her additional service as NICHD Women's Coordinator, and her counsel to employees who experience personal problems in their jobs."
- **Dr. Harold Gainer**, chief of the Laboratory of Neurochemistry and Neuroimmunology in the Intramural Program, for being "a leader in recruitment and selection of his staff, encouraging their creativity, and demonstrating sensitivity to their developmental needs, and in recognizing their achievements." □

NIEHS Announces Conference On Methyl Isocyanate

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences will sponsor an international conference on the health effects of methyl isocyanate, Mar. 12 and 13, in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

The conference to be held in the Institute's Bldg. 101 conference center will review recent research on methyl isocyanate including studies on respiratory pathology, immunotoxicity, reproductive toxicology, effects on hemoglobin and serum enzymes, and genetic toxicology.

Methyl isocyanate is a chemical intermediary which usually is kept in closed systems and used in the manufacture of other chemicals. It came to public notice because of several industrial accidents in which there were human exposures.

Dr. John R. Bucher, toxicologist with NIEHS, and coordinator for the conference said that this meeting will focus on scientific studies on the chemical and will not attempt to deal with public policy issues per se.

There will be no charge for attending the meeting, but registration will be limited by the availability of seating. For further information contact June Wallace, Corporate Travel Limited, 3867 Roswell Road, NE., Atlanta, GA 30342, or call 1-800-241-2324. □

When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before.—Mae West

Golf League Starts

The NIH/R&W Golf League is gearing up for the start of the 1986 season. This year's opening event will be the annual Betty Sanders Open scheduled for Wednesday, Apr. 16 (rain date, Apr. 17).

This event is held at the Falls Road Golf Course and is open to everyone interested in joining the league.

A general meeting will be held on Wednesday, Apr. 23, at 5 p.m., in Bldg. 30, Rm. 117, to form teams, elect captains, sign new members and distribute prizes from the Betty Sanders Open.

Season play will begin Apr. 28. Contact Dr. Ken Brown, treasurer, Bldg. 30, Rm. 412, 496-5974, to join the league. □