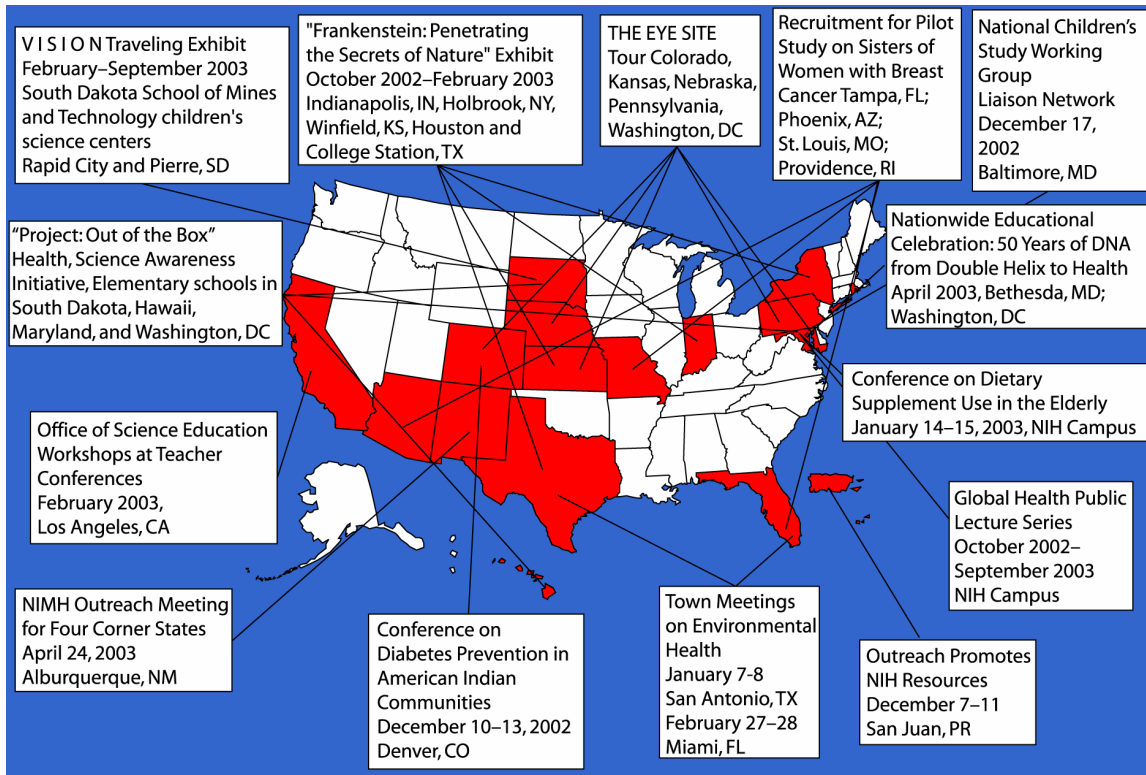


NIH Bulletin for the Public

Your Guide to NIH Events, Information, and Resources

December 2002

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Upcoming Public Events

Exhibit Goes on Tour: “Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature”

When: October 2002–March 2006

Where: Houston, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Holbrook, NY; Winfield, KS; College Station, TX; and other locations

Institute: National Library of Medicine (NLM)

The NLM’s exhibit, “Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature,” is taking a road trip. The exhibition, first featured at NLM in 1998 to wide public acclaim, features literary themes, the history of electricity and body snatching, eugenics and ethics, and monsters and movies. Together with the American Library Association, and with a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, NLM is now bringing the exhibition to libraries in 80 cities between October 2002 and March 2006. In addition to the exhibition, participating libraries will host interpretive and educational programs that help audiences examine Mary Shelley’s novel and how it uses scientific experimentation as metaphor to comment on cultural values—especially the importance of exercising responsibility toward individuals and the community in all areas of human activity, including science.

Traveling exhibits in December 2002 and January and February 2003 include:

- Houston Academy of Medicine—Texas Medical Center Library, Houston, TX, October 2–December 27
- Indiana University/Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI) Library, Indianapolis, IN, November 27–January 24
- Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY, November 27–January 24
- Winfield Public Library, Winfield, KS, November 27–January 24
- Texas A&M University, Sterling C. Evans Library, College Station, TX, January 8–February 21

To view the Frankenstein traveling exhibition Homepage see www.ala.org/publicprograms/frankenstein. A list of all participating libraries and itinerary dates is posted at www.ala.org/publicprograms/frankenstein/itinerary.html.

Town Meetings on Environmental Health Issues to be Held in Texas, Florida

When: January 7-8, February 27–28

Where: San Antonio, TX, Miami, FL

Institute: National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEHS)

The NIEHS is planning two upcoming Town Meetings as part of a longstanding series that focuses attention on unique environmental health issues around the country. On January 7–8, 2002, a Town Meeting is scheduled in San Antonio, TX, on “Voices of Diversity in the Environment and Health.” The meeting is being hosted by the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis (AFIERA), San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, University of Texas Health Science Center, and the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation.

On February 27–28, 2003, a Town Meeting on “Oceans and Human Health” is planned in Miami, FL. This meeting is being hosted by the University of Miami’s Marine and Freshwater Biomedical Sciences Center, Florida International University, and University of Miami.

For more information about meeting times and locations, contact Geraldine Wolfle by e-mail at wolfle@niehs.nih.gov or by phone at (919) 541-3373, or visit the NIEHS Web site at www.niehs.nih.gov/od/tndates.htm.

Global Health Public Lecture Series Planned

When: October 2002–September 2003

Where: NIH Campus

Institute: John E. Fogarty International Center (FIC)

A year-long public lecture series is bringing experts from the U.S., U.K., and Australia to the NIH campus to address global health issues in recognition of the John E. Fogarty International Center’s 35th anniversary. The next lecture, “Smallpox: The Death and Resurrection of a Virus,” will take place on January 28, 2003 at 3 p.m. in the Masur Auditorium on the NIH campus. The speaker will be D.A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H., Distinguished Service Professor at Johns Hopkins University and Senior Science Advisor for Public Health Preparedness to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Upcoming lectures, which will also take place in the Masur Auditorium, include:

- “Global Health Priorities: Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factors,” April 8 at 3 p.m.
- “Genomics and Global Health,” April 15 at 4:30 p.m.
- “Global Health Inequities and the Critical Role of Public/Private Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities in the Next Decade,” June 12 at 3 p.m.
- “The Global Epidemic of Mental Health Problems and Suicide in Developing Countries” September 22 at 3 p.m.

Videocasts of the lectures can be viewed at <http://videocast.nih.gov/>. For more information about the lecture series, contact Irene Edwards via e-mail at edwardsi@mail.nih.gov or by telephone at (301) 496-2075.

V I S I O N Traveling Exhibit

When: February–September 2003

Where: Rapid City and Pierre, South Dakota

Institute: National Eye Institute (NEI)

The NEI’s V I S I O N traveling exhibit is organizing a tour to South Dakota, where it will be displayed by the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology at children’s science centers in Rapid City and Pierre.

V I S I O N 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 its launch in 1993, the V I S I O N exhibit has visited museums and science centers in 26 cities and 7 states and has been seen by more than 4 million visitors. Most recently, a portion of NEI's V I S I O N traveling exhibit was displayed on October 10, 2002, as part of World Sight Day festivities at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in Washington, DC.

Check for tour details at www.nei.nih.gov/education/visionexhibit/index.htm or contact Jean Horrigan at (301) 496-5248.

Nationwide Educational Celebration: 50 Years of DNA

When: April 2003

Where: Bethesda, MD; Washington, DC; and Classrooms Nationwide

Institute: National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

A month-long celebration of scientific, educational, and cultural events will be take place around the country this April to recognize 50 years of DNA discoveries and to take DNA research into the future. Landmarks include the 50-year anniversary of James Watson's and Francis Crick's Nobel Prize-winning description of the DNA double helix, the sequencing of the human genome, and a landmark scientific report describing the future of genomics and the roles of NHGRI and NIH.

Celebration activities include:

- National "DNA Day" on April 25, in which high schools are encouraged to show a taped educational event with high school biology students, use the NHGRI multimedia education kit, and access speakers through the American Society of Human Genetics Mentor Network. The multimedia kit and information about the Mentor Network are available at www.genome.gov/page.cfm?pageID=10000002.
- Lesson plans, activities, and curriculum supplements that will be available online for use in classrooms nationwide.
- A program of activities for science museums and genome sequencing centers.
- A public symposium on how genomics influences health and society on April 15 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.
- A scientific symposium on the history of the Human Genome Project on April 14-15 on the NIH campus, featuring Nobel Prize Winner Dr. James Watson, NHGRI Director Dr. Francis Collins, and members of the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium.

For more information about the 50 years of DNA celebrations, including more specific information about programs and materials as they become available, see www.genome.gov/page.cfm?pageID=10005139.

Public Outreach Meeting Planned for "Four Corners" States

When: April 24, 2003

Where: Albuquerque, NM

Institute: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

The NIMH is planning a regional public outreach meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 24, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Albuquerque, 330 Tijeras Street. *Dialogue Four Corners: Mental Health* is an all day meeting that will focus on mental health issues in the "four corners" area of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The meeting will feature

presentations about mental health research by distinguished leaders and NIH-supported scientists. It will offer opportunities for participation in small group dialogues to help shape future research directions about co-occurring disorders, cultural issues in mental health, and barriers to seeking and receiving treatment, among other topics. These exchanges will allow NIH to gather vital information from the public to be used in its priority setting process.

This is the latest in a series of such meetings NIMH has held in the past in Alaska, Texas (Laredo and San Antonio), Pittsburgh, and Chicago. In each of these locations, there has been a focus on mental illness (and related co-occurring substance abuse) in minority populations (Alaska Natives, Hispanic Americans, and African Americans.) *Dialogue Four Corners: Mental Health* will allow NIH to better understand cultural sensitivity through candid interaction, presentations from minority researchers, and from directly talking to people in these communities to increase public health relevance.

For more information on past meetings see www.nimh.nih.gov/events/townmeetings.cfm. To sign up for the *Dialogue Four Corners: Mental Health* e-mail list, send an e-mail to nimhfourcorners@mail.nih.gov.

THE EYE SITE Tour Continues

When: October 2002–December 2003

Where: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC, Metro Area

Institute: National Eye Institute (NEI)

Planning is underway for the 2003 tour of the NEI's THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers. Scheduled stops include Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and the Washington, DC, metro area.

The NEI developed THE EYE SITE as part of its Low Vision Education Program. The program is designed to help people understand what low vision is (vision problems that interfere with the ability to perform everyday activities) and explain what steps they can take to stay independent despite vision loss. Approximately one in 20 Americans has low vision.

By the end of 2002, two identical exhibits will have 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 exhibit 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 37,000 publications.
- Worked with more than 50 vision-related organizations.

For more information, visit THE EYE SITE Web site at www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/eyesite or contact Jean Horrigan, (301) 496-5248.

New Resources for the Public

New Fact Sheet Available on Osteoporosis and Hormone Therapy

Institute: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)

NIAMS recently created a fact sheet about osteoporosis and hormone therapy after menopause. The fact sheet was developed to answer questions about the use of hormone therapy for osteoporosis after a trial of estrogen and progestin, a component of the Women's Health Initiative, was halted by NIH in July. To order free copies of *Questions and Answers on the Use of Hormones After Menopause for Osteoporosis and Recent Findings From the Women's Health Initiative*, please call the NIAMS Clearinghouse toll-free number, (877) 22-NIAMS, or view the information on the Web at www.niams.nih.gov.

Fact Sheet Provides Findings on Black Cohosh, Symptoms of Menopause

Center/Office: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS)

Following the release of findings earlier this year from a Women's Health Initiative study on hormone therapy, a number of women have been asking their health care providers about hormone therapy, including possible alternatives such as the herb black cohosh. NCCAM and the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) have created a new fact sheet for consumers, *Questions and Answers About Black Cohosh and the Symptoms of Menopause*. This fact sheet provides information on black cohosh and discusses findings from scientific research on its use for hot flashes, insomnia, depression, and other symptoms of menopause that women may experience. View the fact sheet at either www.nccam.nih.gov/health or <http://ods.od.nih.gov>. In addition, an NCCAM consumer advisory on alternative therapies for managing menopausal symptoms is available at www.nccam.nih.gov/health/alerts/menopause.

Materials Available To Increase Public Awareness of Heart Attack Signs

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

Now it is even easier to help the NHLBI increase public awareness of the need to act fast when someone may be having a heart attack. As part of the National Heart Attack Alert Program's "Act in Time to Heart Attack Signs" campaign, the NHLBI has produced a variety of educational materials to help volunteers plan and conduct compelling presentations on heart attack survival. The "Act in Time to Heart Attack Signs" Small Group Session Lesson Plan includes talking points, reproducible handouts, overhead masters, tips on how to organize and publicize, and more. It can be used for talks at senior centers, hospitals, churches, adult education classes, worksite health and safety meetings, or community groups. Lesson plan materials, brochures, wallet cards, and a 13-minute video may be ordered by visiting www.nhlbi.nih.gov/actintime.

Video, Speakers Kit Helps Spread "Heart Truth" to Women in Local Communities

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

The NHLBI recently unveiled *The Heart Truth*, a national campaign on women's heart health. Its goal is to increase awareness about heart disease as the number one killer of women and

to motivate women to take heart health seriously, talk with their doctors about it, and take steps to reduce their risks. Complementing the public campaign is an initiative to alert health care providers about the effort and to encourage them to speak with their women patients about heart disease.

The Heart Truth campaign includes women-targeted television, radio, and print public service advertisements, which use hard-hitting visuals and testimonials to deliver a wake-up call and help women focus on both their “outer” and “inner” selves. Educational materials are available to help you spread the truth about heart disease to women in your community. They include a brochure, a comprehensive *Healthy Heart Handbook* for women, and a speaker’s kit with a video. Visit the NHLBI’s Web site at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth or call (301) 592-8573 to order materials or for more information.

The Heart Truth is sponsored by the NHLBI in partnership with the American Heart Association, the Office on Women’s Health of HHS, and WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, and other organizations committed to the health and well-being of women.

Publications, Animated Video Present Findings on Alzheimer’s Disease Institute: National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Alzheimer’s Disease: Unraveling the Mystery: This newly updated edition of one of NIA’s most popular publications uses graphic illustration and non-technical language to present the latest research findings and basic science behind Alzheimer’s disease (AD) to a wide audience. Each 60-page book comes with an animated video on CD-ROM showing the progression of AD in the brain.

Home Safety for the Person with Alzheimer’s Disease: Also newly updated, this booklet provides room-by-room tips and guidelines for making the home safe for a person with AD.

Caregiver Guide: Tips for Caregivers of People With Alzheimer’s Disease: This handy booklet offers practical tips for daily coping with bathing, dressing, eating, wandering, choosing a nursing home, and more.

New AD Publications in Spanish: Many of NIA’s Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center’s most popular publications are now available in Spanish, including the Caregiver Guide and Home Safety booklets, as well as the Alzheimer’s Disease Fact Sheet and Forgetfulness Age Page.

All publications are available *free* from NIA’s ADEAR Center. Call (800) 438-4380 or visit the Web site at www.alzheimers.org.

New Publication Explores Why We Age Institute: National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Why do we age? Is there a maximum human lifespan beyond which we cannot live? *Aging Under the Microscope* is a new publication from the NIA that describes what we know so far

about the answers to these and other fundamental questions about the science of aging. The booklet offers an overview of research on aging and longevity by showing the major puzzle pieces already in place and, to the extent possible, the shapes of those that are missing. Call (800) 222-2225 for a free copy of this booklet.

New Adult, Child Brochures on Healthy Eating, Physical Activity Across Lifespan
Institute: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

Helping Your Child and *Better Health and You* are two new brochures available as part of the “Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Across the Lifespan” series of NIDDK’s Weight-control Information Network (WIN). *Helping Your Child* offers tips for parents to introduce a balanced diet and regular physical activity to their young children. A tear-out tip sheet is included to promote eating breakfast, a diet with a wide variety of foods, and methods to help parents take an active role in helping children and the whole family learn healthy eating habits and physical activity habits. Tips for adults are included in *Better Health and You* with a similar tear-out sheet.

Both publications are available free to the public by contacting WIN through a toll-free number, (877) 946-4627 or WIN@info.niddk.nih.gov. The WIN Web site is www.niddk.nih.gov/health/nutrit/nutrit.htm.

Bibliography Summarizes Advances in Dietary Supplement Research
Office: Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS)

The third issue of the *Annual Bibliography of Significant Advances in Dietary Supplement Research* is now available. Developed as a joint effort of ODS and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, this publication summarizes significant research in 2001 on dietary supplements as a resource for health professionals and members of the public with interest in the field. An international team of expert reviewers selected the top 25 research articles to highlight in the bibliography from more than 250 original research articles that were published in peer-reviewed journals in 2000. Copies of the publication may be downloaded from the ODS Web site at <http://ods.od.nih.gov/publications/publications.html>. Single copies may also be requested from ODS by phone at (301) 435-2920 or by e-mail at ods@nih.gov.

Garfield Star Sleeper Web Site Promotes Good Night’s Sleep for Children
Institute: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Prevent aliens from depriving the Earth of restful sleep by joining the Star Sleeper squad. This is the challenge of Mission Z, an exciting section of the revamped Garfield Star Sleeper Web site (<http://starsleep.nhlbi.nih.gov>). The site educates children ages 7–11 and their parents, teachers, and health care providers about the importance of getting at least 9 hours of sleep each night as part of the “Star Sleeper Campaign,” sponsored by NHLBI’s National Center on Sleep Disorders Research.

The new Garfield Star Sleeper Web pages feature special sections for parents, educators, and health care professionals, as well as for young children. In addition to interactive games, the pages include Garfield Star Sleeper screen savers, tips for parents on how to help their

children get a good night's sleep, materials for teachers to use in the classroom, and even handouts that pediatricians can give to their patients' parents.

New, Revised Oral Health Brochures Now Available
Institute: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

New and revised educational publications on oral health care developed by the NIDCR are now available to the public. A new patient booklet, *Periodontal (Gum) Disease*, discusses the causes, risk factors, diagnosis, and treatment options for this oral condition. Revised publications provide updated information for the "Oral Health, Cancer Care, and You: Fitting the Pieces Together" campaign. First launched in 1999, the campaign targets oral health and oncology professionals and cancer patients about preventing and managing the oral complications of cancer treatment. A list of revised publications is available at www.nohic.nidcr.nih.gov/campaign/titlepg.htm.

NIDCR has also expanded the campaign to reach a broader range of people with cancer—Spanish-speakers and persons with very limited literacy skills. New publications include:

- *Su Boca y el Tratamiento de Radiación en la Cabeza y el Cuello*
(*Head and Neck Radiation Treatment and Your Mouth*)
- *Quimioterapia y la Boca*
(*Chemotherapy and Your Mouth*)
- *Tres Buenas Razones Para Ver a un Dentista*
(*Three Good Reasons to See A Dentist*)
- *Three Good Reasons to See A Dentist* (English version)

Visit the NIDCR Web site at www.nidcr.nih.gov to view and order these publications. For more information, contact Patricia Sheridan, at (301) 594-7557 or via e-mail Patricia.Sheridan@nih.gov.

Print, Radio, Web Outreach in Spanish on Hearing Loss
Institute: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

To alert Hispanic, Latino, and Latina individuals to the risk of noise-induced hearing loss and the need to identify hearing loss early in children and the elderly, the NIDCD has made four Spanish-language public service announcements available to radio stations worldwide. Other outreach includes feature stories on the NIH Spanish-language Web site and a health column in Spanish-language newspapers.

NIDCD radio spots were produced in collaboration with the NIH Radio News Service and can be found on-line at www.RadioEspacio.net. Recent topics are:

- La pérdida de la audición en los niños (Hearing loss in children)
- "Oídos Sabios" en el trabajo
(Wise Ears: Avoiding noise-induced hearing loss at work)
- La pérdida de la audición y los adultos de edad avanzada
(Hearing loss and the elderly)

- Audifonos (Hearing aids)

In addition, RadioUnica, the nation's leading Spanish-language broadcaster, aired the spot on hearing loss in children daily over its national network during the last three weeks of September.

Two NIDCD stories on hearing in children are currently featured on the NIH Spanish-language web site, at www.salud.nih.gov. One story alerts parents to the seriousness of childhood ear infections and urges prompt evaluation by an ear specialist. The other gives parents a list of milestones to help them assess the development of their baby's hearing.

New Curriculum Supplement Announced to Teachers: How Your Brain Understands What Your Ear Hears

Institute/Office: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD); NIH Office of Science Education (OSE)

The NIH Office of Science Education (OSE) has begun outreach to middle school teachers nationwide by announcing the availability of a new OSE/NIDCD science education curriculum supplement for teachers. The supplement is designed to help students understand scientific concepts and research in the context of hearing and communication. It was developed and evaluated with leading scientists, science curriculum experts, and middle school teachers and tested in the full complement of classroom settings. Students will investigate the multisensory process of human communication. For more information, send an e-mail to marin_allen@nih.gov.

Report Released on Minorities and Biomedical Research

Institute: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

A Partnership for Health: Minorities & Biomedical Research describes how the NIAID is addressing HIV/AIDS, asthma, sexually transmitted diseases, and kidney disease through basic, clinical, and epidemiological research; increased participation of minority researchers in research; and outreach activities designed to communicate research developments to these groups. You may view this report at www.niaid.nih.gov/publications/minorityhealth.pdf or order on-line at www.niaid.nih.gov/publications/orderforms/order.htm.

Magazine Developed for High School Students

Institute: National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

A new feature magazine designed to interest high school students in pursuing careers in biomedical research is now available. *Findings* is a lay-oriented publication that profiles the research careers of two NIGMS-funded scientists. The magazine also features brief digests of how basic research has matured to clinically relevant advances, as well as a crossword puzzle using words from the stories. For a free copy of *Findings*, contact the NIGMS Office of Communications and Public Liaison at (301) 496-7301, visit the NIGMS publication list on-line (www.nigms.nih.gov/news/publist.html), or e-mail your request with your postal address to pub_info@nigms.nih.gov.

Announcements and Items of Interest

Sisters of Women with Breast Cancer Being Recruited for Pilot Study

When: Ongoing

Where: Tampa, FL; Phoenix, AZ; St. Louis, MO; Providence, RI

Institute: National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS)

The NIEHS recently began recruiting sisters of women with breast cancer in and around Tampa, FL; Phoenix, AZ; St. Louis, MO; and Providence, RI, for a pilot study that will examine the factors that cause sisters to have up to twice the risk of breast cancer as other women. With what is learned during the initial recruitment in the four cities, the Sister Study will go national next spring, hoping to find 50,000 sisters for questioning and simple tests that can be continued for ten years. Prospective volunteers and others may find out more by visiting the Sister Study Web site at www.SisterStudy.org or by calling (877) 4SISTER.

NIEHS is also developing a proposal for a multi-center research effort aimed at studying breast cancer and the environment both in test animals and human volunteers, which would allow the two types of studies to reinforce and provide feed-back to each other.

“Project: Out of the Box” Brings Health, Science Awareness to Fourth Graders

Where: South Dakota, Hawaii, Maryland, Washington, DC

Office: NIH Office of the Director (OD) Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO)

Fourth graders in three states and the District of Columbia will receive a healthy surprise from the NIH. “Project: Out of the Box,” a trans-NIH health and science initiative, provides students from special populations in South Dakota, Hawaii, Maryland, and Washington, DC, with surprise boxes filled with health information and materials every two months. Piloted by the OD EEO, the initiative is designed to promote health awareness and to get children interested in science, health professions, and the work of the NIH. The project began after the November 2001 NIH-Hawaii Research Partnership Site Visit, when Acting NIH Deputy Director Yvonne Maddox, Ph.D., began sending surprise packages that highlighted various national health observances to a Honolulu elementary school she had visited. The packages were so popular that “Project: Out of the Box” is being expanded to include three additional elementary schools. For more information, contact Hilda Dixon at (301) 402-4157.

NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Programs

When: January 31, 2003, deadline

Applications are now being accepted for the NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs). The LRPs may repay up to a maximum of \$35,000 a year towards each participant's outstanding eligible educational loan debt, depending on total eligible repayable debt. Actual loan repayments are based on the proportion of a participant's qualifying educational loan debt relative to his/her salary or compensation, at the time the Loan Repayment Program contract begins. In return, participants must sign a contract agreeing to conduct qualified research activities for at least fifty percent of their work effort for a minimum of two years. Participants may competitively apply for additional one-year renewal contracts and may continue to receive loan repayment benefits, subject to the approval of the NIH Loan

Repayment benefits represent taxable income for participants and are paid in addition to any salaries and benefits earned through the employer or host research institution.

If you are interested in being considered for the Clinical Research LRP, the Pediatric Research LRP, the Health Disparities Research LRP, or the Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Researchers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds during fiscal year 2003 your entire application and required supporting documentation (including recommendations, educational loan information with current account statements, and promissory notes or disclosure statements) must be received by **January 31, 2003**. Additional information can be obtained at the following Web site: www.lrp.nih.gov, by calling the LRP Helpline at (866) 849-4047, or by sending an e-mail to LRP@NIH.GOV.

“Drugs and Your Body” Initiative Reaches Out to Students, Teachers, Parents Institute: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

NIDA recently launched “Heads Up: Real News About Drugs and Your Body,” a two-year school-based science education partnership with children’s publishing company Scholastic, Inc. The initiative, which began in October, is designed to reach more than 7.5 million students ages 12 to 15, their parents, and their teachers by providing accurate, science-based information about commonly abused drugs and their health effects on the brain and other parts of the body. All materials have been designed for students aged 12 to 15, including posters and a magazine. Teachers’ editions of each magazine will offer lesson plans, extension activities, and additional resources. Visit www.drugabuse.gov and www.scholastic.com/headsup or contact Sheryl Massaro (301) 594-6146 for additional information.

Lecture on “Genetics of Communication” Available Online Institute: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

Millions of Americans suffer from speech and language disorders. NIDCD scientist Dr. Dennis Drayna recently explained how genes affect the ability to communicate and discussed his research on stuttering and tone deafness as part of the NIH 2002 Medicine for the Public lecture series. Dr. Drayna’s lecture, “The Genetics of Speech and Communication Disorders,” is available on the NIH Web site at <http://videocast.nih.gov/ram/medpublic092402.ram>. The lecture will also be available on demand through the ResearchChannel, a video programming service. For information about this broadcast, go to the ResearchChannel’s NIH page at <http://www.researchchannel.org/program/displayinst.asp?collid=178> and click first on *2002 Medicine for the Public Lecture Series* and then on the lecture title.

NIH Offers Scholarships to Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds When: February 28, 2003 deadline Program: NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP)

The NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) announces that it is now accepting applications for the 2003–2004 academic year. The application deadline is **February 28, 2003**. For more information regarding the program and application, please log on to

<http://ugsp.info.nih.gov> or call (800) 528-7689. You may submit an application on-line or request to have one mailed.

The UGSP offers competitive scholarships of up to \$20,000 per year to students from disadvantaged backgrounds that are committed to careers in biomedical, behavioral, and social science-health related research. The program is designed to improve access to education leading to research careers for those who have had fewer opportunities than others. The program seeks to provide an incentive for exceptional scholars to pursue research careers at the NIH.

NIH Brings Latest Biomedical Discoveries to Classrooms

When: February 2003

Where: Los Angeles, CA

Office: NIH Office of Science Education (OSE)

K-12 science teachers can bring the latest biomedical discoveries into their classrooms, thanks to workshops that are being conducted nationwide by the OSE. These workshops feature the NIH Curriculum Supplements, which are teacher's guides to hands-on activities on health-related science topics. Sessions range from one-hour introductions to day-long workshops that are conducted in partnership with local education organizations.

In February 2003, tentative workshops are scheduled with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. A new supplement for grades 1 and 2 on oral health, called "Open Wide and Trek Inside," will be the topic. Workshops in November and December 2002 were held at science teacher meetings in El Paso, TX; Cincinnati, OH; Portland, OR; Honolulu, HI; and Albuquerque, NM.

In addition to the workshops, NIH science education resources are displayed at the teachers' conferences via the NIH Science Education Exhibit Booth. Sponsored by OSE, the exhibit provides a forum for the 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the NIH to showcase and disseminate their free science education materials to teachers and school administrators throughout the country.

Look for information about the NIH Science Education Exhibit Booth at <http://science.education.nih.gov/exhibits>. Information about the NIH Curriculum Supplements is available at <http://science.education.nih.gov/supplements>.

NIH Resources Promoted to Increase Minority Input in Science, Research

When: December 2002

Where: San Juan, PR; Saint Thomas, VI

Office: NIH Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management (OEODM)

The OEODM is working to bring NIH information and resources to organizations and institutions nationwide to increase minority participation in all aspects of science and research. The OEODM coordinates outreach activities with Institutes and Centers across NIH to promote NIH educational resources, training opportunities, scholarships, research to eliminate health disparities, and more. Activities include coordinating briefings for minority-oriented organizations and institutions; organizing panel presentations and speaking

engagements at educational, science, research, technology, and engineering conferences; and coordinating outreach meetings on the NIH campus.

Organizations and institutions interested in OEODM-organized outreach activities can fax requests to Lawrence Self, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, at (301) 402-0994 or contact Pedro J. Morales, Assistant Director for Outreach and Recruitment Programs, at (301) 594-9756 or via e-mail at moralesp@od.nih.gov.

Recent outreach activities include:

- December 6, San Juan, PR: Briefings on NIH training and educational opportunities for the Metropolitan University and the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Society of Neuroscience. Participating NIH Institutes and Offices include the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Mental Health, and OEODM.
- December 3-6, Saint Thomas, VI: OEODM staff talked about ensuring diversity in research at the *Sixteenth Annual Counseling and Treating People of Colour Conference*.
- December 7-11, San Juan, PR: NIH staff made panel presentations on educational resources, scholarships, training, and internship opportunities at the *Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning Conference*. Representatives from OEODM, National Cancer Institute, Office of Science Education, and the NIH Loan Repayment and Scholarship programs attended.

Conference to Focus on Diabetes Prevention in American Indian Communities

When: December 10-13, 2002

Where: Denver, CO

Institute: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

Diabetes Prevention in American Indian Communities: Turning Hope Into Reality is the focus of a conference sponsored by the NIDDK and hosted by the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee on December 10-13, 2002, in the Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, CO. About 1,000 people are expected to attend the conference, with presentations by community members and researchers on topics related to diabetes prevention, what has been accomplished so far with diabetes grant programs, and what is needed for the future prevention and treatment of diabetes. Workshops include prevention strategies, clinical interventions, program evaluations, and information sharing. Exhibits and poster sessions will provide networking opportunities for the diabetes community, Tribal Leaders and Indian Health Program Workers.

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor, College of Public Health, University of Arizona, and former President of the American Association of Indian Physicians, is the Chair of the Planning Committee. Other sponsors are the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Diabetes Association. Additional information is available on the Web site at <http://diabetes2002.niddk.nih.gov>.

Symposium on Stroke to Address Early Treatment

When: December 12-13, 2002

Where: Arlington, VA

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

In an effort to fundamentally change how stroke is recognized and treated in the United States, the NINDS has partnered with a number of nationwide organizations on several initiatives. One of the most significant of these efforts is the Institute's national public education campaign: "Know Stroke: Know the Signs, Act in Time." The NINDS recently won two prestigious awards for an educational film on stroke developed as a part of the campaign.

On December 12–13, 2002, the NINDS will be sponsoring a follow-up scientific symposium to its highly successful 1996 symposium, *Rapid Identification and Treatment of Acute Stroke*. The upcoming symposium is entitled *Improving the Chain of Recovery for Acute Stroke in Your Community* and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Arlington, Virginia (Crystal City). The goal of the symposium is to unify the medical community in the recognition that early treatment works and should be more widely available for all stroke patients. The symposium will address the various barriers to acute stroke treatment and offer ideas for increasing the number of stroke patients treated in this country. For more information, see the symposium Web site at www.StrokeSymposium.org or call the NINDS at (800) 352-9424.

National Children's Study (NCS) Working Group Liaison Network to Launch

When: December 17, 2002

Where: Baltimore, MD

Institute: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

A major study of the effects of children's environments on their health and development is being planned by the NICHD, along with other federal partners. More than 20 working groups, each with specialized tasks in their areas of expertise, are working on different aspects of the study. These groups include non-Federal members of the research community, but in order to increase the amount of organized public involvement, one member of each working group is being appointed to answer questions and facilitate input from research advocates and other members of the public. NICHD is sponsoring a kick-off reception for this network on December 17, 2002, as part of the NCS Assembly meeting, where members of the research advocacy community and others can meet their liaisons and establish ongoing contact. For further information about the study and the Assembly meeting, go to: www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov or contact Lisa Kaeser at (301) 496-0536.

Conference to Present Data on Dietary Supplement Use in the Elderly

When: January 14–15, 2003

Where: Bethesda, MD

Sponsors: Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), National Institute on Aging (NIA)

A two-day conference and workshop sponsored by the ODS and NIA will present current data about dietary supplement use, including vitamins, minerals, herbs, botanicals and other dietary supplements in the elderly. In addition, conference participants, speakers, and panels of experts will guide the development of a research agenda in this area. Thematic topics include monitoring and data needs; factors influencing the decision to use dietary supplements; aging physiology; and evidence-based studies on select dietary supplements that have significant public health implications in the elderly population.

Researchers, health care practitioners, educators, policymakers, and students are encouraged to attend this conference. For more information, including registration, please visit www.scgcorp.com/dsuse/index.asp or contact Susie Warner, The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc., by phone (301) 670-4990 or e-mail swarner@scgcorp.com. The registration deadline is December 27, 2002.

New Kidney Disease Prevention Program Focuses on African Americans at Risk
Where: Baltimore, MD; Cleveland, OH; Jackson, MS; Atlanta, GA
Institute: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

The NIDDK has initiated the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) to promote the prevention of kidney disease through improved diagnosis and treatment of people at high risk. Coalition-building efforts in four cities began during October in Baltimore, MD; Cleveland, OH; Jackson, MS; and Atlanta, GA. The pilot prevention program is being designed to reach African Americans at high risk for kidney disease and the primary care providers who treat them. Techniques of social marketing and physician education are being combined in different ways depending on the needs of the coalition for each city. Evaluation of each program will elicit successful techniques for improving diagnosis and treatment to prevent progression to kidney failure, prior to the launch of a national program in 2004.

Kidney disease rates have doubled since 1990 and are expected to double again by 2010. In 1999, 424,000 people required dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. Diabetes and hypertension are the most common causes of kidney failure. The direct economic cost of health care for kidney failure is about \$18 billion per year in the U.S. More information is available on NIDDK's Web site, www.nkdep.nih.gov.

NIH Launches Native American Powwow Outreach Initiative
Where: Virginia, Maryland, Washington, DC
Office: NIH Office of the Director (OD) Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO)

The NIH is reaching out to American Indian communities through the Native American Powwow Outreach Initiative, a successful pilot program launched in spring 2001 by the NIH Office of the Director (OD) Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO). All NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) participate in this initiative by providing staff support and/or information and materials.

As part of the initiative, NIH staff attends powwows within a 250-mile radius of the NIH and distributes NIH publications that deal with health concerns of interest to American Indian communities. Information on specific medical conditions can also be requested and is obtained from the appropriate IC or Office and forwarded to the requestor. Requests have come from a variety of sources, from individuals, to a mobile unit that works in Appalachia with American Indians, to an American Indian community minister. In addition to health information, copies of current NIH job listings are distributed and a list of potential applicants is compiled. Resumes that are submitted are circulated to NIH Institutes and Centers for employment.

During 2001–2002, NIH staff participated in 15 powwows in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. For more information, contact Hilda Dixon at (301) 402-4157.

Interagency Autism Meeting Open to the Public

When: November 22, 2002

Where: NIH Campus

The NIH sponsored an Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) meeting on November 22, organized by the National Institute of Mental Health. Committee members include representatives from several institutes of the NIH, other Federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and families of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The mission of the IACC is to facilitate the efficient and effective exchange of information about autism activities among the member agencies and between them and public members; to serve as a forum for enhancing public awareness of the member agencies' activities, programs, policies and research; and to serve as a forum for bringing important matters of interest forward for discussion.

The November meeting was held on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. The session was open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Further information about the IACC, including membership roster, reports from previous meetings, and contact information, can be found at www.nimh.nih.gov/iacc/index.cfm.

Presentation Addresses Nursing Research, Practice in Hispanic Community

When: November 22, 2002

Where: Guayama, PR

Institutes/Offices: NIH Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management (OEODM); Warren Magnusson Clinical Center, Nursing Department; National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)

Representatives from the NIAMS Community Health Center discussed the application of nursing research and practice in a Hispanic community during a bilingual presentation to the *Health Science Education Congress* in Puerto Rico. The clinic is the NIH's first community-based clinic and is devoted specifically to health disparities research in rheumatic diseases. The OEODM coordinated the presentation in response to a request from the School of Nursing, Inter-American University, Guayama Campus. Organizations and institutions interested in similar OEODM-organized outreach activities can fax requests to Lawrence Self, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, at (301) 402-0994 or contact Pedro J. Morales, Assistant Director for Outreach and Recruitment Programs, at (301) 594-9756 or via e-mail at moralesp@od.nih.gov.

Annual Epilepsy Research Lecture Established

When: November 12, 2002

Where: Washington, DC

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

The NINDS has established an annual research lectures series about epilepsy in honor of the wife of Congressman Steny Hoyer, Judith, who had the disorder. A number of nonprofit organizations concerned with epilepsy co-sponsored the Inaugural Judith Hoyer Epilepsy Research Lecture, which took place on November 12, 2002, in the Mumford Room of the

Library of Congress' Madison Building. Noted epilepsy investigator Jerome Engel, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., of the University of California at Los Angeles, spoke on the topic, "New Attitudes and New Approaches to Treating Epilepsy." For more information, contact the NINDS Office of Communications and Public Liaison at (301) 496-5751.

New Network of Minority Research Investigators Established

When: November 7–8, 2002

Where: NIH Campus

Institute: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases' (NIDDK)

The NIDDK's new Office of Minority Research Coordination has established the Network of Minority Research Investigators (NMRI). Preliminary planning meetings have focused on various methods of communication and strategies to improve the competitiveness of minority researchers. The major objective of the network is to encourage and facilitate the participation of members of underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups in the conduct of biomedical research in the fields of diabetes, endocrinology, metabolic diseases, digestive diseases, nutrition, and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. More information about the NMRI is available at www.nmri.niddk.nih.gov.

NIH Mental Health Experts Share Expertise at State Meetings

When: October–November 2002

Where: Mississippi, Idaho, Utah

Institute: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

The NIMH has been bringing research updates to several state-level meetings in recent months, each hosted by an Outreach Partner from the NIMH Constituency Outreach and Education Program (www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov). Dr. Grayson Norquist, Director of the Division of Services and Intervention Research (DSIR), was the keynote speaker at the November 4 meeting of the Mental Health Association of Mississippi, "Summit on Best Practices for Mental Health Prevention and Recovery". Via videoconference, on October 31 Dr. Ben Vitiello presented a talk on "Depression in Children and Adolescents" to 13 satellite sites throughout Idaho, hosted by the Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health. Dr. Vitiello is Chief of the Child & Adolescent Treatment & Preventive Intervention Research (DSIR/CATPIRB). On October 18, Acting NIMH Director Dr. Richard Nakamura presented the keynote address at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Utah's annual "Bridges to Hope" conference.

NIMH Experts Participate in Workshop on Mental Illness Awareness in Classroom

When: November 2, 2002

Where: Orlando, FL

Institute: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Neuroscientists, K–12 teachers, and representatives from NIMH participated in a workshop on "Mental Illness Awareness in the Classroom" at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SFN) in Orlando, Florida. Organized by the SFN Committee on Neuroscience Literacy, the workshop was held on November 2.

Dr. Richard Nakamura, Acting Director of NIMH, delivered the keynote presentation. Other NIMH speakers described the Institute's outreach and public dialogue efforts, especially its Constituency Outreach and Education Program (www.outreach.nimh.nih.gov), and demonstrated the CD-ROM "The Brain's Inner Workings" (www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/braincd.cfm). NIMH also distributed publications and materials about child and adolescent mental health to all the participants (examples at www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/childmenu.cfm).

The SFN web page on neuroscience literacy is
<http://apu.sfn.org/content/Programs/NeuroscienceLiteracy/index.html>.

NIH Represented at Community Meeting on Accessing Federal Health Resources

When: October 31, 2002

Where: Brooklyn, NY

Institutes: National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and National Institute of Child and Human Development (NICHD)

Representatives from three NIH Institutes participated in a community meeting held in Brooklyn, NY, to help community- and faith-based organizations better understand how to access services and resources through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Scientists from the NIA, NICHD, and NIMH addressed the health topics of exercise and older people, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and victims and perpetrators of violence. The meeting, entitled *Direct from DC: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Accessing Resources for YOUR Community*, included more than 1,000 citywide service providers, leaders from community- and faith-based organizations, and local and state government officials who were invited to hear HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and representatives from a number of HHS agencies speak.

What is the Patient Understanding: Health Literacy Lecture Addresses this Major Public Health Issue

When: October 21, 2002

Where: NIH Campus

Institute: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

Dean Schillinger, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, University of California at San Francisco—San Francisco General Hospital, lectured on "Babel Babble: What is the Doctor Saying? What is the Patient Understanding?" on October 21, 2002. Health literacy is a specific area of health communication that focuses upon the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. Individuals who have challenges of literacy, language, or access to health information are at greater risk for disease and have increased likelihood of misusing medication. Health literacy is a major public health need. For more information, send an e-mail to marin_allen@nih.gov.

New Jersey Health Forum Promotes Heart, Circulatory Health for Senior Citizens

When: October 21, 2002

Where: New Jersey

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

An estimated 200 New Jersey residents attended a health forum dedicated to the promotion of heart and circulatory health for senior citizens. Dr. Teri Manolio, Director, Epidemiology and Biometry Program, Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications, NHLBI, presented an overview of the NIH and stressed the importance of its activities relative to public health. She provided examples of recent cardiovascular disease research advances and discussed how lifestyle choices can improve health and well being. Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), in conjunction with St. Barnabas Medical Center, hosted the health forum. In recent months, at the request of other members of Congress, the NHLBI has also participated in public health forums in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Rhode Island. For more information about NHLBI participation in local health forums, send an e-mail to NHLBI.listens@nih.gov.

Mental Health Topics in NIH 2002 Medicine for the Public Series Lectures

When: October 2002

Where: NIH Campus

Institute: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Two recent NIH Medicine for the Public lectures at the NIH were presented by NIMH scientists. On October 1, Dr. Dennis Charney spoke on "Coping with Anxiety and Depression in Uncertain Times." Dr. Charney is Chief of the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program at NIMH, and Chief of its Experimental Therapeutics and Pathophysiology Branch. Dr. Jay Giedd, Chief of Brain Imaging for the NIMH Child Psychiatry Branch, spoke about "The Teen Brain" on October 15.

Sponsored by the NIH Clinical Center, the Medicine for the Public lecture series features physician-researchers and is intended to help the public understand the latest developments in medicine. Lectures are free, open to the public, and can be viewed worldwide at any time after presentation through the NIH videocast service at www.videocast.nih.gov. Details about the lecture series are at www.cc.nih.gov/cc/mfp/series.html, including biographical information about Dr. Charney and Dr. Giedd. In addition, information about the NIMH Mood and Anxiety Disorders program is at <http://intramural.nimh.nih.gov/mood>, and an NIMH description of the teenage brain can be found at www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/teenbrain.cfm, as part of the Science on Our Minds series (www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/soms.cfm).

Town Meeting on Breast Cancer and Environment Held in California

When: October 7-8, 2002

Where: Marin County, CA

Institute: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

The NIEHS held a Town Meeting in Marin County, California to obtain input into proposed NIEHS breast cancer research related to environmental factors. The Institute is particularly interested in ideas on breast cancer and the environment because it recently began recruiting sisters of women with breast cancer in Tampa, FL; Phoenix, AZ; St. Louis, MO; and

Providence, RI, for a major study on why sisters have increased risk of breast cancer (see next item for more details).

The Town Meeting in California was part of a longstanding series of town meetings the NIEHS holds around the country each year to focus attention on unique environmental health issues. Kenneth Olden, Ph.D., Director of the NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program, led the town meeting at the invitation of the Marin Breast Cancer Watch, a grassroots organization dedicated to finding the causes of breast cancer and preventing its spread. Janice Barlow, executive director of the Marin Breast Cancer Watch, also spoke. The meeting featured open microphone sessions, where community members and groups shared their concerns, and a series of panel discussions that brought together community members and researchers.

Upcoming Town Meetings are planned on January 7–8, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas, and on February 27–28, 2003 in Miami, Florida. For more information about meeting times and locations, contact Geraldine Wolfe by e-mail at wolfe@niehs.nih.gov or by phone at (919) 541-3373, or visit www.niehs.nih.gov/od/tndates.htm. Additional information about the upcoming meetings is also available in the Upcoming Public Events section of this Bulletin.

Address Focuses on Efforts to Educate Public on HIV Vaccine Research

When: September 12, 2002

Where: Washington, DC

Institute: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Public education about HIV vaccine research to encourage participation in clinical trials and the role of NIAID and its Vaccine Research Center in the global war against HIV/AIDS were the focus of a recent NIAID address to the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. The Braintrust is an annual event that draws state and local leaders and the public from around the nation to Washington, D.C. each fall. Chad Womack, Ph.D., a Vaccine Research Center fellow addressed these issues during a panel entitled "Global HIV/AIDS Update 2002: Together We Can, Together We Will." For more information, contact James Hadley, (301) 496-5717.

NIH Reaches Out to Minority Scientists from Oklahoma's Langston University

When: September 4, 2002

Where: NIH Campus

Representatives from Oklahoma City's Langston University discussed the potential for collaborative support from the NIH for their research program and faculty during a recent visit to the NIH campus. The OEODM organized the outreach meeting, which included representatives from throughout NIH as well as university's president and members of its senior faculty. Organizations and institutions interested in similar OEODM-organized outreach activities can fax requests to Lawrence Self, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, at (301) 402-0994 or contact Pedro J. Morales, Assistant Director for Outreach and Recruitment Programs, at (301) 594-9756 or via e-mail at moralesp@od.nih.gov.

Instructional Materials Provided to Elementary School Classes

When: August 2002

Where: Suddlersville, MD

Institute: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

As part of its outreach efforts, NIAID's Office of Special Populations and Research Training in the Division of Extramural Affairs participated in the Suddlersville Elementary School Health Fair held in Suddlersville, MD. The fair culminated a six-week Queen Anne's County Migrant School Program, which focused on nutrition, reading, mathematics, and language skills. The program was targeted to 268 children, ranging from infants to 9th grades. The program was conducted by 25 teachers and 56 support staff and volunteers. The program is supported with Federal grants received under the Title I and Head Start for the purpose of providing daycare and education to the children of migrant workers. While the majority of the students are from South America, approximately 85 percent of the students in K-9 have English as a second language. The Office also adopted a fifth grade class providing instructional materials on disease areas handled by NIAID and other NIH Institutes. For more information, contact James Hadley at (301) 496-5717.

Public Representatives Attend Working Group on Future Sarcoidosis Research

When: August 22-23, 2002

Where: Rockville, MD

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

The NHLBI convened a working group on future directions in sarcoidosis research. Investigators with expertise in pulmonary diseases (especially sarcoidosis), genetics, and other associated areas reviewed the current status of what is known about the disease, identified gaps in research, pinpointed obstacles to progress, and explored other areas of research that may be applicable to sarcoidosis. Representatives from patient support groups and other organizations concerned about sarcoidosis stressed the critical need for improved diagnosis and treatment. They also shared experiences from their efforts to increase community awareness of sarcoidosis. The disease is due to inflammation, which can appear in almost any organ but most often starts in the lungs or lymph nodes. Its cause is unknown. For more information about the working group, send an e-mail to NHLBI.listens@nih.gov.

Community Liaison Group Established at NIAID Rocky Mountain Laboratories

Where: Hamilton, MT

Institute: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) has announced the formation of a Community Liaison Group, made up of more than 20 civic and community leaders from the Hamilton, MT, area where the facility is located. The group meets regularly with RML administrators to ensure an open dialogue with the community as the laboratories plan for the growth of its research programs. The planned growth includes the building of an integrated research facility that includes offices, conference rooms, and a high-containment laboratory for conducting research that will lead to a better understanding of agents of bioterrorism and the development of diagnostics, therapies, and vaccines to protect citizens from those agents. The group also assists in planning a series of community open houses. For more information about the community liaison, contact James Hadley at (301) 496-5717.

Report Focuses on Women's Health **Institute: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**

Women's Health in the U.S.: Research on Health Issues Affecting Women focuses on infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases that fall under the research mandate of NIAID. The report covers the impact of and research agenda for HIV/AIDS, autoimmune diseases, chronic fatigue syndrome, and sexually transmitted diseases. You can view this report at www.niaid.nih.gov/publications/womenshealth/womenshealth.pdf or place an order for a copy at www.niaid.nih.gov/publications/orderforms/order.htm.

NIH Director's Council Of Public Representatives (COPR) Updates

Yee Receives Award from American Lung Association of Hawaii **When: December 6, 2002**

COPR member Doug Yee recently received the 2002 Maui Ola (Breath of Life) Award from the American Lung Association of Hawaii (ALAH) for his contributions toward finding a cure for lung disease as a longtime volunteer for the organization. As a COPR member, Mr. Yee has contributed to the work of the NIH through a variety of activities, including helping to plan and oversee the November 2001 NIH-Hawaii Partnership, a series of outreach meetings and site visits; giving speeches about NIH at various community and professional groups; serving on work groups such as the COPR Government Performance and Results Act Assessment Working Group; and participating in the orientation of new COPR members. Mr. Yee's contributions to the NIH, and to the ALAH, were recently recognized by NIH Deputy Director Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D., who said, "Mr. Yee's dedication and community spirit are exemplary, as evidenced by his involvement with his local community and the work he has done at the NIH." The Maui Ola award is given each year to an individual who has made significant contributions to the ALAH in fulfilling its mission to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. Mr. Yee is also the recipient of the National American Lung Association's Volunteer Excellence Award.

Tamura Helps Bring EYE SITE Exhibit to Denver **When: November 2002**

COPR member Len J. Tamura, Ph.D., attended a host committee meeting of vision-related organizations in the Denver, CO, metro area that have joined together to host a tour of the National Eye Institute's (NEI's) THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers. The exhibit is scheduled to visit four Denver area malls during the spring and summer of 2003. Launched in 2001, THE EYE SITE provides information on low vision in English and Spanish and features five kiosks with an interactive multimedia touch screen program, a display of assistive devices, and a list of local resources. By the end of this year, two identical exhibits will have toured 14 states and visited 32 malls.

Quigley Presents COPR Overview, Human Research Protections Report **When: October 24, 2002**

COPR member Rosemary Quigley provided an overview of the role of COPR at the NIH and presented her perspective on the COPR's first released report, Human Research Protections in Clinical Trials: A Public Perspective, at the October 24, 2002, meeting of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Committee. During the meeting, Ms. Quigley emphasized questions that come up for both public members on IRBs and patients considering enrollment in trials. She drove home the message that patients should have access to as much information as they want about a trial, including current adverse event data and full research protocols. A vigorous Q & A on how to improve informed consent ensued.

Hinton, Hall, Tetenbaum Attend Menopausal Hormone Therapy Workshop **When: October 23–24, 2002**

COPR members Kimberly Hinton, Debra Sue Hall, Ph.D.(c), and Zelda Tetenbaum attended the two-day NIH Scientific Workshop: Menopausal Hormone Therapy to observe the conference as public representatives and to provide follow-up comments and recommendations to Deputy NIH Director Ruth Kirschstein, M.D, from a public perspective. The purpose of the conference was to review results from the recently halted Women's Health Initiative (WHI) clinical trial studying the combination of estrogen and progestin in the context of other completed or ongoing Federally-funded research on menopausal combination hormone therapy (HT). The conference was also designed to help clinicians and patients understand the implications of current knowledge on decisions regarding short- and long-term use of HT.

Ms. Hinton and Ms. Hall made a number of recommendations following the conference. Ms. Hinton emphasized the importance of making the research information available to the public in an understandable format. Ms. Hall recommended further education about treatment options, particularly for women suffering from perimenopausal and menopausal symptoms, and suggested that WHI investigators speak at public forums. She also pointed to the need for research on quality of life issues for menopausal women and additional education for health care providers in this area. Ms. Tetenbaum said of the conference, "From the public perspective, I know that many women were looking for definitive answers. The results of the study did not lend themselves to these kinds of answers...The results were presented in such a way as to show clearly that final decisions regarding risks and benefits needed to be made on an individual basis."

Kalabokes Assists with Town Meeting on Breast Cancer, Environment **When: October 7–8, 2002**

COPR member Vicki Kalabokes helped bring the representatives from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to Marin County, CA, as part of a town meeting to address the issue of breast cancer and the environment. Ms. Kalabokes facilitated the initial contacts between NIEHS and Marin County and helped identify a town meeting as one strategy to address the issue of high breast cancer rates in the area.

Lappin Presents at NIH Conflict of Interest Workshop **When: September 29–30, 2002**

COPR member Debra Lappin was asked to present at an NIH workshop on conflicts of interest. The workshop featured panel discussions on the current climate and visions for the future as well as institutional conflict of interest, case study presentations, and comments from a responder panel. Ms. Lappin, as Chair of the COPR Working Group that authored the COPR report *Human Research Protections in Clinical Trials: A Public Perspective*, provided a public perspective on conflicts of interest as a member of the responder panel. Her comments focused on the connection between conflicts of interest and human research protections, the evolving role of the public as a partner in the scientific research enterprise, the need for a “culture of conscience” at the highest leadership levels, and the importance of conflict of interest disclosures to the public and Institutional Review Boards.

Mala Addresses Health Disparities at NLM Board of Regents Meeting **When: September 10, 2002**

COPR member Ted Mala, M.D., M.P.H., spoke about health disparities affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Board of Regents Meeting on September 10. As background to the NLM's Tribal Connections program, which connects native tribes to health resources on the Internet, Dr. Mala presented some startling statistics about the high rate of death from common diseases among American Indians and Alaska Natives. For example, among the 2.48 million Americans who identify themselves in this native population, the death rate from alcoholism is more than 600% that of the general population and for tuberculosis it is more than 500%. Dr. Mala described some of the ways in which the Association of American Indian Physicians is currently working with the NLM and other NIH Institutes and Centers to reduce these disparities, and he emphasized the significance of traditional healing methods to native populations and the importance of legitimizing the study of such methods.

During this visit, Dr. Mala also met with representatives from several Institutes in an effort to give presence to Native American issues at NIH. These meetings included the National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Institute on Aging, NEI, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and National Institute on Mental Health. Issues discussed at these meetings ranged from the sponsorship of Native American students in biomedical careers to the activities of epidemiological study centers for Indian health that are funded by NIH.

Lappin Presents at Institute of Medicine Committee Meeting on NIH Structure **When: July 30, 2002**

COPR member Debra Lappin, J.D., was a presenter at the first meeting of an Institute of Medicine committee charged with studying the organizational structure of the NIH and making recommendations to the U.S. Senate by June 2003. The goal of this study is to determine the best possible approach to the NIH organizational structure within the context of current biomedical research science. Subsequently, Ms. Lappin was asked to join the committee. As a member of this committee, Ms. Lappin will be contributing to the development of this 15-month study and its final recommendations.