



Tyi from the NHLBI

New COPD Awareness Campaign

The NHLBI, in partnership with leading professional societies and health and advocacy organizations has launched *COPD: Learn More Breathe Better*, a national campaign to improve awareness among people at greatest risk for the disease.

COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, affecting one in four Americans over age 45. More than 12 million people are currently diagnosed with COPD, and estimates indicate that another 12 million may have it, but remain undiagnosed.

In COPD, the airways are partially blocked, which makes breathing difficult. COPD develops slowly, can worsen over time, and is often characterized by shortness of breath. Other symptoms include constant coughing, excess sputum production, and wheezing. COPD is sometimes referred to as emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

In decades past, COPD was considered a disease of older men. Now, it affects men and women equally, with more women dying of COPD each year than men. COPD also costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$32.7 billion per year in healthcare expenditures and indirect costs of morbidity and mortality.

“Many people with early signs of COPD simply avoid activities they used to enjoy because they become short of breath more easily. We want people to know that those symptoms have a name—COPD—that diagnosis is easy, requiring only a simple breathing test in your doctor’s office, and that treatment can help,” said Dr. Elizabeth G. Nabel, NHLBI Director.

COPD treatments control symptoms, improve exercise capacity, and can prolong life. Advances in the treatment of nicotine addiction have led to greater success in smoking cessation — a critical intervention in COPD. Other treatments include inhaled bronchodilators, inhaled cortico-

steroids, and pulmonary rehabilitation, all of which have been shown to improve the quality of life of patients with COPD. Oxygen therapy for those with severe COPD prolongs life.

The NHLBI is joined by more than 20 partners in this new campaign, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Lung Association, the American Thoracic Society, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the U.S. COPD Coalition. In addition, Kaiser Permanente will help spread the word about COPD and distribute campaign information to its members and to its physicians and other staff. Through a partnership with the COPD Foundation, the campaign will be presented at health fairs, senior expos, and other community venues, offering information and screening to those at risk.

The campaign includes print and radio public service announcements that will be supplemented by fact sheets for COPD patients and those at risk for COPD, a fact card for health care professionals, a website, an educational video, and materials to help community-level organizations further educate the public about the signs and symptoms of COPD.

For more information about this new campaign, please visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/lung/copd/index.htm>.

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Upcoming NHLBI Workshops and Working Groups*

Workshop or Working Group	Date / Location	Contact for More Information
Lung Cancer and COPD: Different Outcomes of a Common Etiopathogenetic Pathway?	June 26-27, 2007 Bethesda, MD	Dr. Antonello Punturieri punturiera@nhlbi.nih.gov 301-435-0202
Identifying a Parts List for the Lung	July 9-10, 2007 Bethesda, MD	Dr. Herbert Reynolds reynoldh@nhlbi.nih.gov 301-435-0222
Exploring the Microbiome of the Human Lung	July 2007 Bethesda, MD	Dr. Hannah Peavy peavyh@nhlbi.nih.gov 301-435-0222
The Role of Circadian Timing in Heart, Lung, and Blood Physiology and Disease	August 2007 Bethesda, MD	Dr. Michael Twery twerym@nhlbi.nih.gov 301-435-0199

*PIO representatives will be accommodated on a space-available basis and will be responsible for their own travel expenses.

PIO Meeting: A Participant's View

More than 80 individuals, representing a multitude of organizations, attended the February 2007 Public Interest Organization (PIO) Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Susan Shurin, NHLBI Deputy Director, opened the session, delivering a concise overview of the NHLBI Strategic Plan for the future. Many of the organizations participated in the planning process which led to the final document. The opportunity to offer input is greatly appreciated.

On day two, Dr. Mark Gladwin distilled the complex topic of nitrate therapy into understandable language so that a layperson like me could comprehend the benefits of his research. It was also a great segue into the pulmonary hypertension presentation given by Rino Aldrighetti of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. Aldrighetti showcased their genesis from a few people around a kitchen table to what they are today, a sophisticated rare illness association that raises millions of dollars for their cause. I feel it was an eye opener for those in the trenches who struggle to secure funds and provide services — a real “success” story.

A discussion by panelists Donna Appell, Hermanksy-Pudlak Syndrome Network, Inc.; Dr. Amy Farber, LAM treatment Alliance; and Ms. Mary Jo Gordon, Cardiac Arrhythmias Research and Education Foundation was both illuminating and heart-rending. These three women shared their personal experiences and helped underscore the nexus between life and science.

Of the four concurrent sessions, I attended Dr. Lawrence Friedman's Understanding Clinical Trials and Research Results. I was pleased when he covered ethical issues, an often sensitive concern that consumers have, in regards to trials. We were encouraged to play an active role as rules are crafted for the protection of knowledge gained

through trials. His candor and honesty during the question and answer period was refreshing.

I was looking forward to attending the Psychosocial Issues and Patients with Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Diseases and Disorders session with presenters Drs. Eddie Glenn, Sarcoidosis of the Midlands of South Carolina, and Denise Simons-Morton, NHLBI. But alas, it was not to be. The impending storm resulted in an early adjournment to allow participants the chance to board planes for home. I trust this session will be offered next year as the topic is a significant one.

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Mark Your Calendar . . .

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| May: | <p>American Stroke Month
(www.americanheart.org)</p> <p>Better Sleep Month
(www.bettersleep.org)</p> <p>National High Blood Pressure Education Month
(hin.nhlbi.nih.gov/nhbpep_kit/)</p> |
| July: | <p>Hemochromatosis Awareness Month
(www.irondisorders.org)</p> |
| August 1: | <p>National Minority Donor Awareness Day
(www.nationalmottep.org)</p> |

NHLBI Research Initiatives

From time to time, the NHLBI invites investigators to submit grant applications or contract proposals for specific research programs. We currently are soliciting applications for the following programs. Please visit the URL listed with each program to obtain information about important application dates and deadlines. For full descriptions of these and other research initiatives, visit www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/inits/index.htm.

Animal Stem Cell Research: Novel Approaches to Enhance (PA-07-303 and PA-07-304)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-303.html>
Objective: Enhance animal stem cells as model biological systems for the study of biological and disease processes, for the development of therapeutics, and for the development of replacement tissues, through understanding of control of cellular differentiation.

Ataxia-Telangiectasia: Understanding and Treating (PA-07-272 and PA-07-273)

<http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-272.html>
Objective: Conduct basic and translational studies to determine how symptoms of ataxia-telangiectasia (AT) develop, to stimulate the development of resources to further AT research, to accelerate research into promising therapeutic approaches for AT, and to stimulate progress in AT research through encouraging and facilitating interdisciplinary interactions.

Bioengineering and Obesity (R01) (PA-07-354)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-354.html>
Objective: Develop and validate new and innovative engineering approaches to address clinical problems related to energy balance, intake, and expenditure. This PA using the R01 funding mechanism runs in parallel with an RFA of identical scientific scope using the R21 funding mechanism.

Bioengineering Research Partnerships (PAR-07-352)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-352.html>
Objective: Apply integrated, multidisciplinary, systems approaches to significant areas of basic bioengineering research and encourage collaborations and partnerships among the allied quantitative and biomedical disciplines.

Children and Adolescents: Chronic Illness Self-Management (PA-07-097, PA-07-098, PA-07-099)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-097.html>
Objective: Improve self-management and quality of life in children and adolescents ages 8 to 21 with chronic illnesses. Biobehavioral studies of children in the context of family and family-community dynamics are encouraged.

Critical Care: Multidisciplinary Translational Research (PA-07-233)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-233.html>
Objective: Conduct interdisciplinary translational research on the care of high-risk, critically ill patients in intensive care units.

Diet Composition and Energy Balance (PA-07-218)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-218.html>
Objective: Investigate the role of diet composition in energy balance, in both animals and humans. Collaborations between basic and clinical researchers are particularly encouraged.

Heart Failure: Improving Disease Management (PA-07-355)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-355.html>
Objective: Identify and disseminate clinically effective disease management tools into clinical practice to reduce heart failure morbidity and mortality and improve patient outcomes.

Hyperglycemic Exacerbation of Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury After Ischemic Insult (PA-07-323)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-323.html>
Objective: Clarify the mechanisms whereby elevated blood glucose increases myocardial ischemia and reperfusion injury following an acute ischemic insult.

Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis: Early Identification and Mechanisms of Disease (PA-07-300)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-300.html>
Objective: Investigate basic mechanisms and early clinical identification of hypersensitivity pneumonitis interstitial lung disease in order to elucidate how chronic disease progresses and how it can evolve into either interstitial fibrosis or airway obstructive disease (emphysema).

Metabolomics: Application for Translational and Biological Research (PA-07-301 and PA-07-302)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-301.html>
Objective: Apply metabolomic technologies for translational research in human health and disease to enable and improve disease detection, diagnosis, risk assessment, prognosis, and prediction of therapeutic responses.

Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Biology and Medicine (PAR-07-270 and PAR-07-271)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-270.html>
Objective: Carry out biological and medical research and development on the understanding and control of matter at the atomic, molecular, or macromolecular levels, at a length scale of approximately 1 – 100 nanometers, where novel properties and functions occur because of the size.

NHLBI Career Transition Award (K22) (PAR-07-317)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-317.html>
Objective: Enable outstanding students with three to five years of postdoctoral training to obtain a research training experience in the NHLBI Division of Intramural Research and facilitate their successful transition to an extramural environment as independent researchers.

Occupational Safety and Health (PA-07-318)

<http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-318.html>
Objective: Develop an understanding of the risks and conditions that are associated with occupational diseases and injuries, explore methods for reducing risks and for preventing or minimizing exposure to hazardous conditions in the workplace, and translate significant scientific findings into prevention practices and products that will effectively reduce work-related illnesses and injuries.

Organ Transplantation in Children: Clinical Trials (RFA-AI-07-006)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-07-006.html>
Objective: Improve graft acceptance and patient/graft survival in patients up to 20 years of age who have undergone heart, lung, liver, kidney or intestinal transplantation.

Software Development and Maintenance (PAR-07-235)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-235.html>
Objective: Improve, evaluate, and test existing informatics and computational biology software programs that originated in biomedical research laboratories in order to extend their applicability to the broader biomedical research community of translational and clinical researchers.

Stress Management Interventions to Reduce Risk of Coronary Artery Disease (PA-07-322)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-322.html>
Objective: Evaluate the effects of stress management interventions on intermediate outcomes purported to be in the biological or behavioral mechanistic pathway through which mental stress is thought to influence major adverse cardiac events in patients with confirmed coronary artery disease.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council Meeting

February 14, 2007

Dr. Nabel welcomed Council members and announced the selection of six new members: Joe Garcia, M.D., University of Chicago; Rao Musunuru, M.D., Bayonet Point/Hudson Cardiology Associates; Jeanine Arden Ornt, J.D., Case Western Reserve University; Paula Polite, Quality Programs for the City of Memphis; Steven Shapiro, M.D., University of Pittsburgh; and Shaun Coughlin, M.D., Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco.

Dr. Nabel announced that Dr. Michael S. Lauer has accepted the position of Director of the Institute's Division of Prevention and Population Sciences. Dr. Lauer is currently Director of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Exercise Laboratory, Vice-Chair of the Clinic's Institutional Review Board, and a contributing editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Nabel reported that the Institute recently initiated two national educational campaigns. *Stay in Circulation: Take Steps to Learn about P.A.D.* will raise awareness among those at risk for peripheral arterial disease. *COPD: Learn More Breathe Better* will focus on increasing awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Dr. Nabel noted that *The Heart Truth* campaign continues to flourish through promotion of the Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease. She also announced that the proposed trans-NIH policy for genome-wide association studies is being reviewed and finalized. Release of the final policy is expected in spring 2007.

Dr. Nabel reviewed the NHLBI budget, noting that the Institute continues to maintain its commitment to investigator-initiated research.

Dr. Nabel noted that the Institute reports to Council biennially on its procedures for, and results of, implementation of the NIH policy for inclusion of women and minorities in clinical studies. The Institute's current report, which presents participation data for clinical studies active in FY 2005, was distributed to Council.

Dr. Nabel asked the Council to review the revised "Delegated Authorities from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council," with special attention to an additional delegated authority proposed to permit the Institute to make certain administrative decisions regarding the selection and funding of competing grant applications in the event of a federally declared emergency. Council approved the additional delegated authority.

Dr. Nabel presented the final draft of the NHLBI Strategic Plan, the result of an intensive 18-month community-wide effort to develop a scientific blueprint for the next 10 years. She reviewed the Institute's strategic planning process and discussed the major substantive components of the draft plan. The Council expressed enthusiasm for the plan and approved it with a few suggested revisions.

Dr. Nabel requested that the Council take the lead in advising the Institute on setting priorities and implementing the plan, evaluating progress, and identifying future adjustments. She announced that a newly reorganized working group of the Council — now called the Board of External Experts (BEE) — will be a resource for innovative ideas, and will evaluate and prioritize initiatives and assess implementation of the strategic plan prior to Council's review. The first BEE meeting will be held June 1, 2007, to consider initiatives for FY 2008.

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News from Capitol Hill

Both houses of Congress are considering legislation that would prohibit discrimination by health insurers and employers on the basis of predictive genetic information. In January, genetic nondiscrimination bills H.R. 493 and S. 358 were introduced in the House and Senate, respectively.

Resolutions

Also in January, the House introduced two resolutions to focus attention on heart disease. The first, H. Con. Res. 51, would support the goals and ideals

of National Wear Red Day, which is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to raise awareness among women about their risk of heart disease. In March, the House passed another continuing resolution, H. Con Res. 52, to support the goals and ideals of American Heart Month, which traditionally is observed in February.

A resolution, H. Res. 248, introduced in March 2007, would honor the contributions of patient participants in clinical trials.

Upcoming Events

Activity	Date/Location	More Information
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council 226th Meeting	June 6, 2007 Bethesda, MD	www.nhlbi.nih.gov/meetings/nhlbac/index.htm
American Professional Sleep Society Meeting	June 10-13, 2007 Minneapolis, MN	www.apss.org
Platelet Disorder Support Association ITP Conference 2007	June 15-17, 2007 Secaucus, NJ	www.pdsa.org/conference.htm
Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board 26th Meeting	June 19, 2007 Bethesda, MD	www.nhlbi.nih.gov/meetings/sdrab/index.htm
International Society on Hypertension in Blacks 2007 Annual Conference	June 21-24, 2007 Orlando, FL	www.ishib.org/ISHIB2007/confinfo.asp or ncsdr@nih.gov or 301-435-0199
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy 2007 Annual Conference	July 12-15, 2007 Philadelphia, PA	www.parentprojectmd.org/
Cardio-Facio-Cutaneous Syndrome International 4th International Conference	July 12-14, 2007 Orlando, FL	www.cfcsyndrome.org
American Heart Association 4th Annual Symposium	July 30-August 2, 2007 Keystone, CO	www.americanheart.org
Histiocytosis Association of America National Conference on Histiocytic Disorders	August 1-3, 2007 Lake Buena Vista, FL	www.histio.org
Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation 2007 Patient and Family Conference	August 15-17, 2007 Las Vegas, NV	www.aamds.org
Scleroderma Foundation National Conference	August 20-22, 2007 Philadelphia, PA	www.scleroderma.org/national_conference.htm
Mended Hearts National Annual Convention 2007	August 25-29, 2007 San Antonio, TX	www.mendedhearts.org/leadershipconference.htm
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council 227th Meeting	September 12, 2007 Bethesda, MD	www.nhlbi.nih.gov/meetings/nhlbac/index.htm
Pulmonary Hypertension Association PH Resources Network Symposium	October 11-13, 2007 Arlington, VA	www.phassociation.org/PHRN/symposium

PIO Meeting: A Participant's View *Continued from page 2*

The PIO meeting continues to be a gratifying encounter for me — a chance to spend time with old friends and the opportunity to meet new ones. I'm inspired by the strength and resilience exhibited by the affected individuals, their families, and the various stakeholders. And even though these meetings leave me with an overwhelming weight for the work that remains, I'm always in awe of all that is being done in our behalf. NHLBI, your efforts have paid off once again!

J. Hoxi Jones, NHLBI Public Interest Organization Member

Constituents' Corner

First International Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Scientific Workshop Takes Place

On January 25-26 more than 30 of the leading experts in the field of pediatric cardiology gathered together in Bethesda, Maryland for the first international scientific workshop on pediatric cardiomyopathy. The conference was jointly organized by the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and supported in part by grants from the NHLBI, Genzyme Therapeutics, and CIBC World Markets.

The attendees included clinicians and researchers specializing in a range of disciplines: pediatric cardiology, pediatric gastroenterology, surgery, genetics, adult internal medicine, adult cardiology, biostatistics, and epidemiology. Attendees came from the United States, Canada, and Australia to participate in this pivotal meeting. The purpose of the conference was to bring together leading physicians and researchers to determine the focus of research on pediatric cardiomyopathy and to discuss research possibilities. The conference presentations centered on three general themes: Molecular and Genetic Issues, Epidemiology, Etiology and Outcomes, and Clinical Issues. Each session featured presentations from top cardiomyopathy specialists fol-

lowed by a roundtable discussion and a question-and-answer period.

Workshop sessions were moderated by Dr. Jeff Towbin (Texas Children's Hospital), Dr. Steve Lipshultz (University of Miami Miller School of Medicine), Dr. James Wilkinson (University of Miami Miller School of Medicine), and Dr. Steven Colan (Children's Hospital Boston). During the evening session there was a preview of CCF's new patient video on pediatric cardiomyopathy followed by several presentations by young investigators.

An important outcome of the meeting will be the sharing of information with the rest of the pediatric cardiology community. Proceedings from the meeting and a consensus statement from the participants will appear in a three part series in *Progress in Pediatric Cardiology*, a leading journal on pediatric cardiology. The first issue is expected this summer. Presentations from the meeting will also be available for viewing on CCF's website (www.childrenscardiomyopathy.org) in the near future.

*Submitted by Lisa Yue, Executive Director, Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation
E-mail: lyue@childrenscardiomyopathy.org*

We invite you to use this space that we reserve for you to share your successes and opinions. You may submit your ideas and articles to nhlbi.listens@nih.gov or Public Interest News, Office of Science and Technology, Building 31, Room 5A03, 31 Center Drive, MSC-2482, Bethesda, MD 20892-2482.

Please send your Constituents' Corner submissions no later than the second week of April, August, or December for inclusion in the May, September, or January issues of FYI from the NHLBI, respectively.

February 2007 Advisory Council Meeting

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Ms. Paula Polite, Founder and Past President of the Sarcoidosis Research Institute, reported on the eighth annual PIO Meeting.

Dr. Carl Roth, Associate Director for Scientific Program Operation, NHLBI, presented the recommendations of an NHLBI working group charged with reviewing the Institute's training grant program (T32 mechanism).

Dr. Tom Croxton, Program Director, Airway Biology and

Disease Branch, Division of Lung Diseases, NHLBI, described the complexity of COPD, summarized the Institute's COPD research program, and highlighted strategic opportunities in COPD research and education.

Ms. Amy Pianalto, Project Director, CARD, NHLBI, described the *COPD: Learn More, Breathe Better* campaign.

For more information, please go to www.nhlbi.nih.gov/meetings/nhlbac/index.htm.

Need More Information?

We are always interested in receiving comments and suggestions from the community. If you or your organization have questions for me or for the Institute, please contact me at nabele@nhlbi.nih.gov or Dr. Carl Roth at rothc@nhlbi.nih.gov.



Elizabeth G. Nabel, M.D.
Director, NHLBI

For information on specific issues, the following contacts may be helpful:

- For health-related questions and publications, please contact the trained information specialists at the NHLBI Information Center (NHLBIinfo@nhlbi.nih.gov) or write to the Information Center at P.O. Box 30105, Bethesda, MD 20824-0105.
- For communications pertaining to NHLBI policies and priorities, contact the NHLBI Office of Public Liaison (nhlbi.listens@nih.gov).
- For additional information regarding NHLBI events, consult the references provided or www.nhlbi.nih.gov/calendar/nhcal.htm. Most other NIH Institutes and Centers also maintain calendars on their Web sites. Links to their Web pages are at www.nih.gov/icd.