



NEWS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, NIEHS

October, 1999

Contents of this Issue

- 1. Falk Lecture
- 2. Visit by Secretary Shalala and Briefing
- 3. Oak Ridge National Laboratory Staff Visit NIEHS
- 4. New Staff Members in OSD
- 5. FARE Awards
- 6. Use of Government Vehicles
- 7. Board of Scientific Counselors
- 8. Summers of Discovery Program
- 9. Vacancies/Recruits

FALK LECTURE

The NIEHS announces The Fifteenth Hans L. Falk Memorial Lecture “THE ORIGINS OF CANCER IN HUMANS” presented by Arnold J. Levine, Ph.D., President, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, on Tuesday, November 9, 1999 at 2:00 pm in the Rodbell Auditorium, Building 101. A reception will immediately follow the lecture.

In addition, Dr. Levine will present to the NIEHS staff a seminar on “The Regulation of the p53 Protein and Gene” on November 10 at 10:00 am in the Rodbell Auditorium.

Please mark your calendar for these important dates.

VISIT BY SECRETARY SHALALA AND BRIEFING

Dr. Shalala wanted to interact with the scientists and trainees on her visit to the Institute. To this end, she was first briefed by Dr. Olden and his staff and then escorted to D250 to meet with scientists and trainees and discuss their research. During this time, Dr. Barrett presented an overview of the multidisciplinary, science-based approach to disease prevention at NIEHS. Dr. Barrett introduced the gene-environment-time interaction paradigm and the strategy that we can prevent disease through modification of our environment. He illustrated our broad view of the environment and highlighted important research areas such as in Dr. Korach’s lab and use of the estrogen receptor knockout mice, and Dr. Wiseman’s contributions to BRCA1 characterization. Dr. Barbara Davis presented an overview on women’s health research and discussed in detail the current efforts and progress on uterine leiomyoma (fibroid) research. Drs. Baird and Dixon

discussed their contributions as Dr. Shalala was quite interested in how we design these studies and how we interact. Dr. Shalala also had a specific interest in herbal and other “natural” medicines and supplements, and was impressed with our efforts on that front. She also expressed interest in “stress” as an environmental factor and how we address this in our studies. Dr. Davis then concluded the discussion emphasizing that we are addressing many diseases of women that we know to have an environmental component including autoimmune diseases and breast cancer. Dr. Weinberg discussed the “Sister Study” design to understand the environmental component to breast cancer. Dr. Shalala then took the time to meet the other scientists and trainees in attendance and visited the microarray laboratory. Emile Nuwaysir gave her a great tour of the facility and she was quite excited about this NIEHS initiative.

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY STAFF VISIT NIEHS

On September 9, 1999 NIEHS conducted a Mini Symposium on Genomics Research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Dr. Reinhold Mann, Director, Life Sciences, introduced the program followed by presentations from Dr. Dabney K. Johnson, Life Science Division, (“An Integrated Program for Phenotype Driven Gene Discovery in the Mouse”); Dr. Robert Hettrich, Chemical and Analytical Sciences Division, (“The Interface of Mass Spectrometry with Biology”); Dr. Frank Larimer, Life Sciences Division, (“Automated Annotation of Genomic Sequences”). The ORNL staff met with interested scientists in the afternoon.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN OSD

DIR welcomes Bruce Wiggins and Emily Starnes to the staff of the Office of the Scientific Director.

Bruce Wiggins who came to us from the Human Resources Management Branch is now the Chief of the Administrative Management Branch, DIR (the position previously held by Janis Mullaney). With Bruce’s career starting in Human Resources with the Department of Navy, DOD, and his 20 years experience as a Personnel Management Specialist here at NIEHS, he brings to DIR his extensive knowledge and expertise. He will be an outstanding asset to DIR.

Emily Starnes has recently joined the Administrative Management Branch. With her personnel and administrative experience from the Human Resources Management Branch Emily will perform the administrative functions for DIR in support of the Committee on Promotions and Search Committees. In addition Emily will also update and maintain DIR internal procedures sections on the WEB covering administrative areas.

FARE -- The Fellows Award for Research Excellence

The "Fellows Award for Research Excellence" was started in 1995 to recognize scientific excellence among NIH intramural fellows. Fellows submit an abstract of their research which is peer reviewed in a blinded study section competition. The awards are funded by the Scientific Directors, the Office of Research on Women's Health, and the NIH Office of Education. In 1999, 673 applications were received and 168 were funded with \$1000 travel awards to attend a

meeting in the United States at which they will present their abstract, either as a poster or a seminar. FARE 2000 winners will also be asked to present their work at one of the FARE poster sessions that will follow each of the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Seminars in Bethesda, and to serve as a judge for FARE 2001.

The NIEHS had 14 winners of FARE 2000 awards :

Winner	Laboratory/Branch	Mentor	Abstract Title
Dr. Supriya Jayadev	Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis	Dr. Elizabeth Murphy	Elevated ceramide is downstream of altered calcium homeostasis in low serum-induced apoptosis.
Dr. Micheline Strand	Laboratory of Molecular Genetics	Dr. William Copeland	Identification of a new gene which regulates intracellular copper levels and affects mitochondrial health.
Dr. Gwnedolyn Spizz	Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Dr. Perry Blackshear	A role for the protein kinase C substrate, MARCKS, in the regulation of cellular adhesion.
Dr. Yong-Hwan Jin	Laboratory of Molecular Genetics	Dr. Micheal Resnick	Genetic instability and synthetic lethality caused by mutations in the catalytic subunit of yeast DNA polymerase delta (POL3).
Dr. Xiaonian Yang	Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Dr. Stephen Shears	Characterization of the human dual specificity diadenosine polyphosphate phosphatase/diphosphoinositol polyphosphate phosphohydrolase by site-directed mutagenesis.
Dr. Sterling Sudweeks	Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Dr. Jerrel Yakel	Nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in the hippocampus: functional implications in Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, and epilepsy.
Dr. Ester Carballo-Jane	Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Dr. Perry Blackshear	Evidence that tristetraprolin (TTP) is a physiological regulator of granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) mRNA deadenylation and stability.
Dr. Karin Drotschmann	Laboratory of Molecular Genetics	Dr. John Drake	Mutator phenotype of yeast strains heterozygous for mutations in the MSH2 gene.

Dr. Diane Klotz	Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis	Dr. Richard DiAugustine	Activation of the uterine insulin-like growth factor-1 receptor signaling pathway by environmental estrogens.
Dr. Ja Seok Koo	Laboratory of Pulmonary Pathbiology	Dr. Paul Nettesheim	Retinoic acid receptor alpha antagonist and triamcinolone inhibit mucin gene expression and mucin secretion increased by inflammatory mediators in airway epithelial cells.
Dr. Lorraine Mckay	Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Dr. John Cidlowski	Mechanisms of mutual antagonism between NF-kappa B and the glucocorticoid receptor.
Dr. Bin Liu	Laboratory of Pharmacology and Chemistry	Dr. Jau-Shyong Hong	Novel mechanism for the protective action of the opioid receptor antagonist naloxone against inflammatory damage to dopaminergic neurons.
Dr. Sergey Dikalov	Laboratory of Pharmacology and Chemistry	Dr. Ronald Mason	Amyloid beta peptides do not form peptide-derived free radicals spontaneously, but can enhance metal-catalyzed oxidation of hydroxylamines to nitroxides.
Dr. Desuo Wang	Laboratory of Signal Transduction	Dr. David Armstrong	Estrogen reduces K_{ACh} channel stimulation by $GTP\gamma S$ in cell-free membrane patches from guinea pig atrial myocytes.

USE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES

Check it Out -- What you don't know CAN hurt you!

Automatic suspensions of no less than 30 days apply to confirmed misuse of a government vehicle. The fact that an employee was not aware of the rules pertaining to the violation cannot be used as a mitigating factor. So please be sure you know ALL the rules about the appropriate use of government-owned vehicles before you turn that key!

Visit the OM Government Vehicles website at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/omasb/vehicle.htm> for complete information. A few of the most critical points are also addressed below for your convenience:

Misuse of a government vehicle is covered by Title 31, Section 1349, paragraph (b), as follows:

Adverse personnel actions

(b) An officer or employee who willfully uses or authorizes the use of a passenger motor vehicle or aircraft owned or leased by the United States Government (except for an official purpose authorized by section 1344 of this title) or otherwise violates section 1344 shall be suspended without pay by the head of the agency. The officer or employee shall be suspended for at least one month, and when circumstances warrant, for a longer period or summarily removed from office.

Proper use conditions are addressed in full by NIH Manual 26101-38 [see <http://www3.od.nih.gov/oma/manualchapters/acquisitions/26101-38.htm>].

Some of the more critical concerns are:

NIH prohibits the mixing of official with nonofficial business (i.e., stopovers at stores, banks, attending to personal business, or transporting any person not engaged in the conduct of official business).

41 CFR IOI-6.4 [see <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/omasb/vehiclecfr.htm>] severely limits the use of Government vehicles between the homes of employees and their work place.

While driving a Government vehicle, the driver must always have in his or her possession a valid driver's license from a state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory or possession; and a valid agency personal identification card. The requirement for completing NIH 1382-2 "Motor Vehicle Trip Ticket," has been replaced at NIEHS by the requirement to complete the Motor Pool log [see <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/omasb/vehlog.htm>] prior to using the vehicle. The logs are typically located where you pick up the keys, and are used to "sign out" the vehicle.

NIH and DHHS have a smoke-free policy in all Government and lease passenger vehicles.

An employee issued a motor vehicle is responsible for the safe and proper operation of the vehicle, including locking and securing the vehicle when it is not in use, observing traffic regulations such as wearing seat belts and shoulder harnesses, and complying with the "Government Vehicle Operator's Guide to Operating Responsibility, Service Requirements and Emergency Procedures" booklet in the glove compartment of the vehicle. [Visit the Health and Safety Branch's Safety Policies for Use of Government Vehicles at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/odhsb/manual/man11b.htm> for more details].

The principal administrative office or officer of each NIH organization is responsible for determining the most appropriate and cost-effective mode of transportation (i.e. public transportation, privately owned vehicle, rental vehicle, NIH vehicle) for NIH employees requesting transportation.

As indicated above, the complete text of the rules and regulations are available to you at the NIEHS Office of Management's Government Vehicles website at <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/omasb/vehicle.htm>.

BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC COUNSELORS

The Board of Scientific Counselors will review the Laboratory of Computational Biology and Risk Analysis October 17-19, 1999. The open session will be held from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm on October 18 in the Rodbell Auditorium, (101 ABC).

SUMMERS OF DISCOVERY PROGRAM

The Summers of Discovery Program went well again this year. There were 115 positions filled from approximately 800 applications. We received many positive comments from participants and a very gracious letter from Dr. Sandra White, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biology at North Carolina Central University stating..."Dr. Ladapo and Dr. Nwosu had extremely productive summers as a result of their summer at the NIEHS. They both reported to me how much they learned and how valuable the experience was to their career development."

VACANIES/RECRUITS

The Division of Intramural Research, NIEHS, is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- 1) Tenured Scientist - Chief, Laboratory of Pulmonary Pathobiology
- 2) Tenured Scientist, SES position, Deputy Director, Environmental Toxicology Program
- 3) Tenure/Tenure Track Biostatistician in Reproductive Toxicology and Epidemiology, Biostatistics Branch
- 4) Tenure/Tenure Track Biostatistician, Biostatistics Branch
- 5) Staff Scientist - Toxicogenomics Facilitator in Molecular Toxicology, LECM
- 6) Staff Scientist - Report on Carcinogens, Toxicology Operations Branch
- 7) Staff Scientist - Developmental Toxicologist, LT
- 8) Staff Scientist - Toxicologic Pathology, LEP