
OCCL Update



To: Community Representatives

From: Janyce Hedetniemi, Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Date: April 2000

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON

Good news is always welcome, and sharing good news is always a pleasure. And the good news is that the NIH Office of Community Liaison was the recipient of the Montgomery County Civic Federation Community Hero Award!

The award was established to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the County's quality of life over an extended period of time. The Federation selected the Office of Community Liaison on the basis of NIH's commitment to create a partnership with surrounding neighborhoods. I accepted the award at the March 13, 2000 meeting of the Civic Federation from Dr. Jorge L. Ribas, President. In his introductory remarks, Dr. Ribas reminded the audience of Dr. Harold Varmus' vision and initiative in 1994, when he established an office at NIH devoted exclusively to community interests. Dr. Ribas pointed out that this was a first at NIH and indeed is unique to NIH, there being no comparable offices at any of the other Federal agencies in the area. He also made note of the role that NIH plays in the development and support of Montgomery County's biotechnology industry and as an accessible and recognized source of valuable knowledge on health and on the prevention of disease.

In his very gracious comments to me, Dr. Ribas said that undoubtedly, NIH's implementation of Good Neighbor policies and its fostering of a constructive dialogue and mutual respect has made the NIH a model among Federal agencies in the National Capital area.

The award reads as follows: "The Montgomery County Civic Federation presents on behalf of the people of Montgomery County, The Community Hero Award, to the NIH Office of Community Liaison **for its proactive role in developing an effective 'Good Neighbor' policy and by creating a partnership with surrounding Montgomery County communities in order to inform, consult, and listen to the interests, needs, and concerns of its neighbors.**" *(continued on page 2)*

The Community Liaison Council (CLC) will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, April 27, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.** in Conference Room D of the Natcher Conference Center (Building 45) on the NIH campus.

OCL CONTACT INFORMATION:

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I want to thank the Civic Federation for the honor it has bestowed on NIH and my office. I also want to thank you, the community and NIH's neighbors, for your support of our efforts over the years to create partnerships and to resolve problems and issues with reasonable and thoughtful discourse. The Civic Federation Community Hero Award is a tribute that derives in large measure from our neighbors' willingness to engage in partnering activities with NIH. It also bespeaks a standard for federal/public partnership that we at NIH will do our best to not only maintain, but also exceed in the coming years.

NIH CAMPUS NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NIH Launches New Clinical Trials Database

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently launched the first phase of a new consumer-friendly database, entitled "ClinicalTrials.gov." Located at <http://clinicaltrials.gov>, the database provides information on federal and private medical studies nationwide. The purpose of the database is to provide patients, families, and members of the public with easy access to information about the location of clinical trials, their design and purpose, the criteria for participation, and in many cases, additional information about the disease and treatment under the study.

"Through this new database, NIH offers up-to-date information on promising patient-oriented research on hundreds of diseases and conditions," said NIH Acting Director Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D. "Most of the 4,000 clinical trials now in the database are funded by NIH institutes and centers and result from a long, fruitful partnership between NIH and

the American people who support and participate in our work."

Clinical trials are medical research studies that seek to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new drugs, medical procedures, or other means of treating, diagnosing, or preventing diseases. The results from these studies help researchers better understand disease, and may lead to new or improved treatments. "ClinicalTrials.gov is a resource that will benefit trial participants, researchers, health care professionals, and over time, the general public," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), which developed the new database. He added that active participation in the studies will help NIH continue to make "giant strides" in the diagnosis, treatment, and cure of illness.

The site is the result of legislation in 1997 that required the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a registry of federally and privately funded clinical trials of experimental treatments for serious and life-threatening diseases and conditions.

According to Alexa T. McCray, Ph.D., who directs the project at the NLM, the project will occur in several major phases and will include additional studies from other federal agencies and private industry in the coming year. "In the first phase, we were interested in collecting information primarily about studies that are being funded by NIH, or that are being conducted right here on the NIH campus. In the next phase, we will include non-NIH sponsored trials from other federal agencies and private industry," she added.

OCL Update Available Online

The *OCL Update* is now available on our Web site at <http://ocl.od.nih.gov/>. If you would rather view this document online and not receive a printed version, please contact the OCL office at 301-496-3931 or send us an e-mail at jh69z@nih.gov.

NIH Cancer Survivor Donates Proceeds of New Book to NIH Charity



Gianna Pedace-Allentuck

For most people, December is usually a happy time spent with friends and family enjoying the holiday season. For Gianna Pedace-Allentuck, then only 25 years old, it was a frightening time. Just before Christmas in 1996, she was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and underwent emergency surgery to remove a grapefruit-sized tumor from her chest. A couple weeks later, she began a 6-month regimen of chemotherapy as a participant in a National Cancer Institute (NCI) clinical trial at NIH's Clinical Center.

Being diagnosed with cancer is never an easy adjustment, and Pedace-Allentuck relied on the incredible support of her family and friends. "People tell me how strong and brave I am to have survived chemotherapy and cancer, but survival is not about me being a hero; it's about you—those who carried me," she said.

With her cancer now in remission, Pedace-Allentuck considers herself very lucky and has published a book entitled, *Welcome to My Heart*, which is an account of her experiences with cancer as well as a tribute to all of the nurses, doctors, family members, and friends who helped her in her struggle with the disease. She is hopeful that her stories will provide hope and inspiration for others with life-threatening illnesses as well as benefit a good cause—NIH's Children's Inn. Pedace-Allentuck plans to donate all of the proceeds of her book to the NIH charity and would like to raise more than \$50,000 for the inn.

Pedace-Allentuck chose the Children's Inn because she met so many brave children battling cancer during her own treatment. "While I was undergoing chemotherapy at the NCI, lots of times there were little kids waiting next to me. I was struck by how strong they were with what was facing them—getting through the tests and chemo—just seeing the strength they have," she said.

Pedace-Allentuck said that she believes strongly in the "loving, supportive atmosphere" fostered by the Children's Inn and is hopeful that the proceeds from her book will benefit children and their families during such a frightening time.

Copies of the book can be purchased for \$20, including shipping and handling, from any NIH Recreation and Welfare Association store, from local bookstores in the Washington, D.C. area, and from Pedace-Allentuck's Web site at <http://www.sharinghearts.org>.

NIAID Releases Comprehensive Vaccine Report

Last month, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) released its latest report on the state of vaccine development and research—*The Jordan Report 2000: Accelerated Development of Vaccines*. Since its origins in 1981, *The Jordan Report* has regularly updated researchers, policymakers, and interested constituents on the latest accomplishments and future directions of vaccine research. The *Jordan Report 2000* highlights the vaccine research triumphs of the 20th century and the way new technology is improving vaccines.

"There is no more important goal of medical research than to prevent diseases from occurring in the first place," said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. "Our commitment to developing new and better vaccines to prevent the world's most serious infectious diseases has never been stronger, and *The Jordan Report* is a valuable resource for bringing scientists and policymakers up-to-date on this important endeavor." (continued on page 4)

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The report details the advances made in the 20th century, including the introduction of vaccines that led to the reduction or elimination of 21 infectious diseases. It also provides a comprehensive overview of the vaccines that have been developed to address nearly 60 diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites—with AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis receiving high priority status among health officials worldwide.

To view the report, go to NIAID's Web site at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov> or request a copy of the report by writing to Jordan Report/NIAID OCPL, Building 31, Room 7A50, 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520, Bethesda, MD 20892-2520.

Office of Communications and Public Liaison Launches New Web Site

The Office of Communications and Public Liaison (OCPL) launched its brand-new Web site this past February in an attempt to provide the public, scientific community, medical profession, and public advocacy groups with information about NIH's programs and activities. The new site, which is located at <http://www.nih.gov/od/ocpl/index.html>, is well-organized and provides users with detailed information on the office's structure and staff, its mission, resources, and frequently asked questions. Visitors to the site will find a list of electronic and written resources provided by OCPL, a contact person, and contact information. Some of the resources available from the site include access to the Environmental Reading Room, the Freedom of Information Office, NIH news and events, and health information in Spanish.

NLM Partners with High School Students to Promote Science, Consumer Health

The world's largest medical library recently formed a partnership with Woodrow Wilson Senior High School in Washington, D.C., to encourage students to take an active interest in science and consumer health. "We think it is especially important that the young people of this nation are 'connected' to good health information on the Web. It makes for a healthy America," said National Library of Medicine (NLM) Director Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.

Dr. Stephen Tarason, Woodrow Wilson Senior High School principal, called the new partnership "an exciting voyage" for the school. "We will gain outstanding technical and professional support. In return, we will be helping the city, nation, and the world by pioneering an Internet consumer health program which will eventually help every family on health issues."

Some of the projects that NLM will participate in with the students include:

- Sponsoring students to work as NLM library interns;
- Working with students to design a consumer Web page for teenagers as part of NLM's consumer site, MEDLINEplus—a model which could be emulated by other high schools;
- Setting up a health information computer workstation in the school's Parenting Resource Center;
- Supporting the school's SciMaTech (science, math, technology) Academy (A school within a school for the analytically inclined); and
- Providing personal computers and instructional software.

NLM also plans to donate books and journals to the Wilson Media Center and will plan a consumer health day in the future.

Local Brownie Troops Lift Spirits of NIH Pediatric Patients

Second, third, and fourth grade students, part of two local Brownie troops, have been brightening the Clinical Center with artwork, posters, and holiday cards for NIH's pediatric patients. Camille Szymczak, leader of Brownie troops #2232 and #988, spearheaded the project this past October when she encouraged her troops to create Halloween cards and posters to help decorate the Clinical Center's pediatric Halloween party. Because of the success of the project, Szymczak offered to continue the project on an ongoing basis as part of the troops' community service.

NIH Work and Family Life Center Continues Seminar Series This Month

The NIH Work and Family Life Center, which provides resources to help NIH employees balance the increasing demands of the workplace, career interests, family, and personal life, is continuing its Faces and Phases of Life Seminar Series this month. All seminars are free for the NIH community and are held on the NIH campus in Building 31, Room 6C6, from noon to 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. For more information or to pre-register, call 301-435-1619. Sign language interpretation is available. The schedule is as follows:

April 4 ***Transition Management:
Coping with Workplace
Change****

**This seminar is from 12 to 1 p.m.*

April 11 ***Parenting Styles that Work
with Teens***

April 18 ***Understanding Alzheimer's
Disease***

April 25 ***Preparing Federal Application
Materials*****

***This seminar is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Attend Free Public Speaking Open House

Join public speaking coach Audrey Georges on April 11 from noon to 1 p.m. on the NIH campus to ask questions and learn how to become a better speaker. The open house, which will take place in Building 31A in Conference Room 2, will give participants a chance to learn about the benefits of one-on-one public speaking coaching. For more information, call 301-496-4600.

OCL Sponsors Tribute to Past Generations

The NIH Office of Community Liaison and the Montgomery County Commission for Celebration 2000 are sponsoring "A Salute to Past Generations Gala" on April 2, 2000. The event, which begins at

2 p.m. in the Natcher Conference Center in Building 45 on the NIH campus, will honor the contributions made by WWII and Korean War veterans. Guest speakers at the free event include Col. Charles McGee, Tuskegee Airman; Millie Crow-Sargeant, WWII Champion Riveter; Dr. Milton Greenberg, noted author and speaker on the GI Bill; and Charlene Cohen, WWII Women's Army Corps. Since seating is limited, reservations for the free event must be made in advance by calling 240-777-2619. Entertainment, exhibits, and a reception will also be featured.

NIA Redesigns Its Web Site

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) recently redesigned its Web site to make it easier for the public to find what it's looking for. The Web site, which is located at <http://www.nih.gov/nia/>, has a new layout and contains a new search engine. New features include a site index, which guides the public through information on the site, NIA funding and training opportunities, health information, information about the National Advisory Council on Aging, current news and events, and NIA research programs. The health information section includes a publications database, a resource directory, public service ads and campaigns, information on the Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Service, and Internet links to related sites. Other new items include a scrolling list of highlights and a section with frequently asked questions.

Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, and Seafood Available Year-Round

Reid Orchard and the Salt River Lobster truck bring fresh produce and seafood to the NIH campus every Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., all year long, in NIH's 41B parking lot.

NIH Blood Bank Appeals for Donations

NIH continues to experience a shortage of blood donations. The NIH Blood Bank currently needs O-negative, B-positive, and O-positive blood types. Call 301-496-1048 or stop by the Department of Transfusion Medicine in Building 10, the Clinical Center, 1st floor, Room 1C713B.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 3

1999-2000 NIH Neuroscience Seminar Series: *Multiple Memory Phases in Aplysia: A Cellular and Molecular Analysis* by Dr. Thomas Carew, 12 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-435-2232.

April 4

National Library of Medicine History Lecture: *Women in Science and Medicine: What Difference Does It Make?* by Dr. Sandra Harding, University of California, Los Angeles, 2-3:30 p.m., Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call Stephen Greenberg at 301-435-4995.

April 5

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Protein Localization and Cell Differentiation During the Cell Cycle* by Lucy Shapiro, Ph.D., Ludwig professor of cancer research, Stanford University School of Medicine, Building 10, Masur Auditorium, NIH, 3-4 p.m, free and open to the public. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

April 8

Cherry Blossom Walk: *An 11K "Volksmarch" through Bethesda*, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Westwood Shopping Center, Westbard Avenue. For more information, call 301-229-1356.

April 9

FAES Chamber Music Series: *Richard Goode, piano*, 4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center (Building 10), NIH, \$25. For more information or for tickets, call 301-496-7975.

April 10

1999-2000 NIH Neuroscience Seminar Series: *C. elegans Neurogenetics: Mechanosensory Transduction and Synapse Specificity* by Dr. Martin Chalfie, 12 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-435-2232.

1999-2000 Behavioral and Social Science Seminar Series: *The Dynamics of Long-Term Close Relationships* by Dr. Robert W. Levenson, University of California, Berkeley, 9-10 a.m., Balcony C, Natcher Conference Center, Building 45, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-594-5943.

The Manchester String Quartet: *Haydn Quartet in D Major, opus 76 No. 5 (1797)* and *Benjamin Britten Quartet in D Major, opus 25 (1941)*, 12:30 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call Sharon Greenwald at 301-496-4713.

April 11

1999-2000 Free Library Talks with Music: *NSO Docent Kay Jones on Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*, 12:15 p.m., Bethesda Regional Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, free and open to the public. For more information, contact National Symphony Orchestra Docent Jo Bever at 301-925-7203.

April 12

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *New Technology and a Two-Edged Sword: How Bone Densitometry Has Revolutionized and Impeded the Understanding and Prevention of Osteoporotic Fractures* by Steven R. Cummings, M.D., F.A.C.P., professor of medicine and epidemiology and biostatistics; assistant dean for clinical research, School of Medicine; and director, UCSF Coordinating Center, University of California, San Francisco, Building 10, Masur Auditorium, NIH, 3-4 p.m, free and open to the public. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

Suburban Hospital Community Health Seminar: *Oh, My Aching Back!* by Dr. Philip Bobrow, 1 p.m., Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, Wasserman Social Hall, Wasserman Building, 6121 Montrose Road, Rockville, free and open to the public. Call 301-896-3939 to register.

April 13

National Human Genome Research Institute 1999-2000 Human Genome Lecture Series: *Human Genetic Variation* by Lynn B. Jorde, Ph.D., University of Utah, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Warren Grant

Magnuson Clinical Center (Building 10), NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-402-0911.

April 15

FAES Chamber Music Series: *Il Giardino Armonico*, 8 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center (Building 10), NIH, \$25. For more information or for tickets, call 301-496-7975.

April 17

The 1999-2000 Audubon Lecture Series: Wild Places for Wild Species: *Stand Vigilant—Whooping Cranes Return to Florida* by Michael Kregor, 6 p.m., Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History, 14th and Constitution Avenues, NW, Washington, DC, \$14. To register or for more information, call 202-357-3030.

April 19

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *A Fibronectin-FAK Signaling Axis: How Special Is It?* by Caroline H. Damsky, Ph.D., professor and vice chair, Department of Stomatology, School of Dentistry and professor, Department of Anatomy, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, Building 10, Masur Auditorium, NIH, 3-4 p.m, free and open to the public. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

Suburban Hospital Community Health Seminar: *Breathing Better!* by Dr. Thomas Winkler, 1 p.m., Friendship Heights Community Center, 4433 S. Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, free and open to the public. Call 301-896-3939 to register.

April 20

Twelfth Annual Literary Luncheon Series: *Eat First—You Don't Know What They'll Give You* by Sonia Pressman Fuentes, 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch, \$15 (\$13 for members), Strathmore Hall Arts Center, 10701 Rockville Pike, N. Bethesda. For more information or for tickets, call 240-777-0020 or visit <http://www.mont.lib.md.us/litlun99.html>.

April 25

Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Seminar Series: *Strategies for Success in Science: Reflections on a Scientific Career* by

Dr. Janet Rowley, NIH Pittman Lecturer, University of Chicago, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Cloisters Chapel, Building 60, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call 301-594-2379.

Suburban Hospital Community Health Seminar: *Women's Health Issues* by Dr. Aruna Nathan, 1 p.m., Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, free and open to the public. Call 301-309-3050 to register.

April 26

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Cancer Cytogenetics: Is it Passé?* by Janet D. Rowley, M.D., D.Sc., Blum-Riese distinguished service professor, Department of Medicine and Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology and Human Genetics, University of Chicago, Building 10, Masur Auditorium, NIH, 3-4p.m., free and open to the public. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595.

National Library of Medicine Historical Lecture Series: *Medieval Transfers of Medical Knowledge in the Mediterranean: Byzanti, Bagdad, Salerno* by Dr. Alain Touwaide, 2 p.m., Conference Room B, Building 38, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-594-5983.

April 28

1999-2000 NIH Director's Seminar Series: *Regulated Transcription by Steroid Hormone Receptors* by Dr. Trevor K. Archer, Laboratory of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH, 12-1 p.m., Wilson Hall, Building 1, NIH, free and open to the public. For more information, call Ms. Audrey Boyle at 301-496-1921.

April 30

Pike's Peek 10K: *A 10K run down Rockville Pike with kids' fun runs and post-race festival at White Flint*, 8 a.m., Shady Grove Metro Station to White Flint Mall, Rockville, \$10 entry fee includes T-shirt (pre-registrants only), the run, brunch, and festivities. For more information or to register, call 301-460-8888 or visit <http://www.mcrrc.org>.

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

County Provides Help for Consumers Shopping for Electricity Provider

Many area residents are still unaware that they will have a choice in selecting an electricity supplier, and for those who are aware, many haven't the slightest idea how to make an educated choice. To help consumers better evaluate their choices, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) now offers "Power Shopping" information on its Web site at <http://www.co.mo.md.us/dep>.

Beginning July 1, 2000, electric utility deregulation goes into effect in Maryland, offering consumers the opportunity to have more control over factors such as cost, environmentally friendly fuel sources, and minimized emissions. The DEP Web site explains the deregulation process, offers tips on choosing a power supplier, describes consumer rights and protections, provides numerous resources, and features Internet links to some utility companies with more detailed information.

DEP officials said that the deregulation resulted from the passage of the Maryland Customer Choice Act in 1999, which gave consumers the right to choose their electric power supplier from any company licensed to sell in the state. Consumers not wishing to change power companies need not take any action. For additional information, visit the county's Web site listed above or call Joe Keyser at 240-777-7700.

Audubon Naturalist Society Announces New Online Bookstore

Attention all naturalists. Too busy enjoying the spring weather, but want to get that latest book on bird-watching? Visit the Audubon Naturalist Society's (ANS) new online bookstore by clicking on the appropriate icon a <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/>, and choose from hundreds of books on animals, nature, gardening, geology, photography, and more. The online store, which features more than 20 categories of books, provides a search engine

for locating specific books and a secure site for online purchasing. Other sections that will be added to the site in the future include a best sellers list, ANS picks, bargains and sales, and new items.

New Health Guide Available for People over 50

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announced the availability of its new health publication, *Staying Healthy at 50+*. The result of a public and private partnership among AHRQ, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the American Association for Retired People, the guide is aimed at helping older Americans understand and incorporate preventive care into their lives.

Staying Healthy at 50+ includes tips and recommendations on healthy habits, screening tests, and immunizations. It also contains easy-to-use charts

Spring Break Theatre Returns to Strathmore

The NIH Work and Family Life Center, which provides resources to help NIH employees balance the increasing demands of the workplace, career interests, family, and personal life, is continuing its Faces and Phases of Life Seminar Series this month. All seminars are free for the NIH community and are held on the NIH campus in Building 31, Room 6C6, from noon to 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. For more information or to pre-register, call 301-435-1619. Sign language interpretation is available. The schedule is as follows:

April 17	<i>Backpack Puppets</i>	Joe Pipik/ Paddy Hobart
April 18	<i>Music & History of the Bagpipes</i>	Jared Denhard
April 19	<i>Who is Molly Bannaky?</i>	Alice McGill
April 21	<i>Let's Make a Circus</i>	The Amazing Lula

to help track personal health information, questions to ask health care providers, and resources to contact for additional health information.

To receive a free copy of the publication, call the AHRQ Clearinghouse at 1-800-358-9295, download it from the AHRQ Web site at <http://www.ahrq.gov/ppip/50plus/>, or write to AHRQ Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 8547, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Spanish-language copies are also available.

County Establishes New Office to Address Land Use Issues

Do you know what to do if a special exception, variance, or rezoning application is requested in your neighborhood? What about a subdivision or site plan? Well, now Montgomery County has established a special office to assist residents in answering questions like these. The Office of the People's Counsel will help residents understand and participate effectively in hearings and land use decisions affecting their neighborhood. By providing technical assistance, the office will help residents present cases in public hearings and will participate in land use hearings to protect public interests. For more information or for assistance, call 240-777-9700.

Bethesda Announces Literary Festival

When most people think of Bethesda, they think of a city known for its excellent restaurants. But, few people are aware of Bethesda's rich cultural heritage. To help publicize this, the city is co-sponsoring the Bethesda Literary Festival—a 4-day celebration, from April 29 to May 2, 2000, to showcase the literary arts of downtown Bethesda. More than 25 local authors will be on hand for book discussions, book-signings, and selected readings. Newberry Medal Winner E.L. Konigsburg is the featured guest speaker. Children's events include live book characters, book-making, story-telling, and games. Events for the entire family will be held at approximately 20 locations throughout the city. For a detailed event schedule or for more information, call the Bethesda Urban Partnership at 301-215-6660.

Bethesda Community Offers Parenting Workshops

Several Bethesda organizations are offering advice to parents through a series of parenting workshops at minimal or no cost. Discover how to create the right learning environment for your child at Suburban Hospital's free parenting lecture series. Learn techniques for positively redirecting children's misbehavior and tips on parenting teenagers at one of the Bethesda Youth Services' six-week parenting programs. More information about these programs is listed below:

April 5 & 12 PARENTING LECTURE SERIES

Eager to Learn: Creating the Right Learning Environment at Home and at School*

**This two-part free seminar will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Suburban Hospital Auditorium, 8900 Old Georgetown Rd., and include light refreshments and feature educational exhibitors. Childcare will be provided. To pre-register, call 301-896-3939 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.*

April 25- May 30 BETHESDA YOUTH SERVICES

Parenting Programs: Parenting Teens**

***This six-week course is held on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aylawn YMCA Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., and requires a \$15 registration/book fee. To register, call 301-229-1347.*

April 27- June 1 BETHESDA YOUTH SERVICES

Parenting Programs: Communicating Success to Children***

****This six-week course is held on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Aylawn YMCA Program Center, 5650 Oakmont Ave., and requires a \$15 registration/book fee. To register, call 301-229-1347.*

TRY THIS WEB SITE:
<http://clinicaltrials.gov/>

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently launched the first phase of a consumer-friendly database to provide the public with information on federal and private medical studies available to patients nationwide. This database, called "ClinicalTrials.gov," provides patients, families, and members of the public with easy access to clinical trials information, including studies currently recruiting patients, the trial locations, the criteria for participation, and the purpose of the studies. The site, which currently contains over 4,000 clinical studies sponsored primarily by NIH, will add studies from other federal agencies and private industry in the coming year. Visitors to the site can search the database by disease or condition or by the study sponsor. It also provides the public with additional resource information, frequently asked questions, and a user's guide.

paid for their blood donations. For more information, call 301-496-8852.

Postmenopausal Women Wanted for Blood Study

The Clinical Center and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute seek postmenopausal women to take part in a study of normal blood. To be eligible, participants must have had no abnormal bleeding or clotting in the past, and be willing to stay off of any hormone treatment for nine months. Participants will give a small sample of blood in the initial screening. Based upon the screening results, some women will be asked for additional small blood samples once a month for three months. The study involves no hormones or medications, and participants will be paid \$50 for each blood draw. For more information, call 301-496-5150.

Healthy Married Men and Women Sought

The Pediatrics and Developmental Neuropsychiatry Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health, seeks healthy men ages 56 to 73 and women ages 51 to 59 to participate in a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) study on the visual processing of faces. Participants must be right-handed and currently married. Volunteers should have no history of medical or psychiatric disorders, and should not be taking prescription medications, with the exception of hormone replacement therapy (estrogen and/or progesterone), thyroid medication, and/or medications for high blood pressure (diuretics or ACE inhibitors). Volunteers must have normal vision or wear contacts. Participation requires a 2-hour screening interview, a follow-up visit, and a 3-hour visit for an fMRI scan. Participants will be reimbursed. For more information, call Lisa Kalik or Neil Santiago at 301-496-8381.

Long, Short Sleepers Wanted

To complete a sleep study, NIMH is looking for male and female volunteers between the ages of 20 and 35 who routinely sleep 9 hours or more nightly, or who sleep 6 hours or fewer nightly. Volunteers must have no sleep disturbances or insomnia, and no history of mental illness. Volunteers must be in

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interpreters Sought

The Clinical Center Volunteer Office is in need of in-house language interpreters to serve as back-ups when others are not available. The interpreters would assist patients and their families who are not fluent in English. Speakers of Farsi, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and Korean are particularly needed. To help, call Andrea Rander at 301-496-1807.

Identical Twins Needed for Study

The Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA) Laboratory is looking for normal, healthy, adult identical twin pairs for a study analyzing the T-cell receptor repertoire of normal identical twins. Each twin pair should be willing to undergo a thorough medical history, HLA testing, complete blood count, and leukopheresis. Optimally, subjects should also be available for further questioning about their medical history. Twin donors will be

good health and not taking any medication or birth control pills. The study requires living on the research unit for four consecutive days. Compensation is available. For more information, call 301-496-5831 or 301-496-6981.

Female Volunteers Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health is seeking female volunteers between the ages of 40 and 50 to participate in a 6-month study of the effects of aging and reproductive hormones on measures of cerebral activity, blood flow, and stress hormone production. Volunteers must have regular menstrual cycles with no changes in mood in relationship to menses, be free of medical illnesses, and not be taking hormones or medication on a regular basis. Payment will be in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair at 301-496-9576.

Women on HRT Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is looking for women who have experienced depressed mood, anxiety, or irritability during hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Free hormonal evaluation and payment are offered to those who complete the study. To be eligible, you should be a medically healthy woman between the ages of 45 and 65, be medication-free (except for HRT), and have experienced mood symptoms during the progestin part of the HRT. For more information, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair at 301-496-9576.

Healthy Men Needed

The Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH, is seeking male volunteers (ages 18 to 45) to participate in a 5-month study of the effects of reproductive hormones on the brain and behavior. Volunteers must be free of medical illness and not be taking medication on a regular basis. Participants will complete daily rating forms and be asked to participate in one of several protocols. Payment will be made in accordance with the duration of each visit and the type of protocol. For more information, contact Linda Simpson-St. Clair at 301-496-9576.

Depressed, Anxious Teens Sought

The Child Psychology Branch, NIMH, is looking for depressed and anxious teens (ages 14 to 16) to take part in a research study. This is a study of how young people experience emotions and how feeling sad or worried can cause problems. Payment will be provided. For more information, please call Barbara Usher at 301-496-1301.

Difficult Teens Sought

The Child Psychology Branch, NIMH, is looking for difficult teenagers (ages 11 to 16) to take part in a research study. This is a study of how young people experience emotions and how anger and bad moods can cause problems. Payment will be provided. For more information, please call Barbara Usher at 301-496-1301.

THE PATIENT RECRUITMENT AND PUBLIC LIAISON OFFICE

1-800-411-1222
prpl@nih.gov

The Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office (PRPL) is a service of NIH's Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center (CC) in Bethesda, Maryland. PRPL staff members assist patients, their families, physicians, and healthy volunteers by providing information about participating in research conducted at the CC. NIH offers all study-related evaluation, testing, and treatment at no charge to the participant.

There are more than 900 studies available to patients and healthy volunteers. They cover a wide range of diseases and conditions. Below are some of the studies for which the PRPL currently is recruiting. For information about these or other CC studies, visit the CC Web site at <http://www.cc.nih.gov>, or call the PRPL at the toll-free number listed above:

■ **Endometriosis.** The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development invites women with pelvic pain associated with endometriosis to take part in a study of a potential new treatment. *(continued on page 12)*

(continued from page 12)

- **Psoriasis.** National Cancer Institute researchers seek people with psoriasis for study of a potential new treatment.
- **Shingles.** The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases seeks healthy volunteers age 60 and older who have never had shingles for a study to determine whether an enhanced version of the chickenpox vaccine can prevent shingles. Study participants need to make one outpatient visit to the NIH Clinical Center and monthly phone calls via a toll-free number for up to five years.
- **Sjögren's Syndrome.** The NIH researchers seek adults aged 18 or older who have been diagnosed with Sjögren's syndrome to take part in studies of a potential new treatment.
- **Teen Obesity.** Parents: Is your teenager overweight? Overweight teens are at risk for developing serious medical conditions during their teen years and as adults. NIH doctors are enrolling teens, ages 12 to 17, in a research study of a new weight loss medication. The Food and Drug Administration has approved the drug Orlistat for use by overweight adults. There is no charge for study tests, exams, medication, and weight-control education.
- **Uveitis.** The National Eye Institute seeks adults and children with uveitis for research studies to help find ways to improve diagnosis and treatment. The studies take place at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. NIH patients receive study-related eye exams, testing, and care at no charge.
- **Uveitis and Pregnancy.** If you are in your first six months of pregnancy and have uveitis or a history of uveitis, consider taking part in an important new study. NIH provides eye exams, evaluation, and treatment as needed at no cost to you. You will remain under your personal doctor's care while in the study. Call to find out if you might qualify.

If you would like to list an upcoming event of interest to the local community, call Terry LaMotte at Palladian Partners, OCL support contractor, at 301-650-8660, or e-mail tlamotte@palladianpartners.com.

Office of Community Liaison

National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 259
One Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-0172

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