

To: Community Representatives
From: John T. Burklow, Acting Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Date: April 2005

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON



John T. Burklow

As the recently appointed Acting Director for NIH's Office of Community Liaison (OCL), I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to you. My name is John Burklow, and in addition to my role as the Acting Director of OCL, I am also the Associate Director for Communications and Public Liaison for the NIH. I am the chief advisor to the NIH Director, Deputy Director and senior staff on communications and public liaison issues. I am looking forward to working with both the community and the staff of the OCL.

At the last Community Liaison Council (CLC) meeting, I had an opportunity to meet many community members who serve as CLC representatives. I look forward to learning more about the community's interests in the NIH and its plans for future growth. The OCL staff is in place to serve your needs and will keep me apprised of issues pertaining to the local communities that may need my immediate attention. Together, the OCL staff and I will work with CLC representatives to maintain the valued relationship that exists between the NIH and its surrounding communities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that the time for NIH's 6th annual *Share the Health* exposition is rapidly approaching. This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 15, at the newly renovated Westfield Shoppingtown, Wheaton. This NIH health promotion event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and admission is free.

The OCL is once again sponsoring this health and fitness expo, and event coordinators have changed the format from previous years to allow for a focus on the health needs of the community. That is why we are evolving from lectures and seminars to interactive exhibits, workshops and fun fitness activities for people of all ages. Nearly all of the 27 NIH institutes and centers will have representation and scientific researchers on hand to answer health-related questions. In addition to health education and information materials, we will have several fun fitness activities that will interest you and your family. Our most popular fitness activity from last year's event, the 30-foot rock-climbing wall, is back, along with our free health screenings for blood pressure, facial skin analysis, head and neck cancer and body fat analysis.

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The Community Liaison Council will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, April 21, at 4 p.m.**, in the Visitor Information Center, first floor, Building 45 on the NIH campus.

(continued from page 1)

In addition to representation from the NIH, event exhibits also include specialists from the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. Incorporating other federal agencies into *Share the Health* along with our partners in health from local area hospitals allows NIH to provide event attendees with a wealth of information and a well-rounded day of fun ways to improve fitness and maintain good health.

I would like to encourage all of you to invite your friends and family and stop by this year's event to obtain health-related information, participate in fitness activities and help the NIH *Share the Health*. Thank you for your continued support of NIH programs; I look forward to my new journey as Acting Director of OCL.

NIH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NIH Partners with Shopping Mall in Wheaton to *Share the Health*: Free Health and Fitness Expo on May 15

Can mall shopping really promote good health? While this question hasn't yet been tackled by medical research, NIH is encouraging local area residents to come to Westfield Shoppingtown in Wheaton, Maryland on Sunday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for its 6th annual free health and fitness expo, *Share the Health*. Featuring fitness activities,



Share the Health attendees ask robot Holly Heart heart-related health questions at last year's event.

interactive health exhibits, health screenings, mock lab sessions, games, prizes and more, event organizers promise a day of healthy fun for the entire family.



Kids enjoy the Moon Bounce at the 2004 event.

Sponsored by the NIH Office of Community Liaison (OCL) and the NIH Recreation and Welfare Foundation, the event promotes community health through the prevention of disease. Join scientists from the NIH, the nation's premier biomedical research institute, as they show us fun and easy ways to improve our fitness levels and maintain good health. "*Share the Health* allows people of all ages to learn, experience and discover new ways to lead a healthier life," said former OCL director Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D. "This event is your chance to find out what NIH is, what it does and how it can help improve your life."

Bring the entire family to take part in free health screenings for stroke, high blood pressure, skin problems, osteoporosis or obesity; surf reliable health-based Web sites for accurate health information; collect information and participate in interactive exhibits by most of NIH's 27 institutes and centers; don lab coats and goggles to experience what it is like to be an NIH scientist for a day and conduct your own science experiments; and let the kids jump on the Moon Bounce or scale the rock-climbing wall.

Westfield Shoppingtown Wheaton is located at 11160 Viers Mill Road and is on the Metro Red Line at the Wheaton station. For more information about this **free** event, call 301-496-3931 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or visit <http://sharethehealth.od.nih.gov>.

Share the Health Web Site Wins 2004 World Wide Health Award

The NIH Office of Community Liaison (OCL) was the recent recipient of a 2004 World Wide Health Award for its *Share the Health* community event



Web site: <http://sharethehealth.od.nih.gov>. The award recognizes the best health-related Web sites for consumers and professionals internationally. The *Share the Health* Web site was honored with a merit award in the advertising/marketing information class this past winter. Organized by the Health Information Resource Center, a national clearinghouse for consumer health information program and materials, this award program reviewed more than 1,000 entries before selecting the award-winning sites. Congratulations OCL!

Montgomery County Women's Fair Celebrates 25th Anniversary



Andrea Pennington, M.D.

The Montgomery County Women's Fair, a leading forum on women's issues, celebrates its 25th anniversary this month with a gala celebration on Saturday, April 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marriott Bethesda North

Conference Center in North Bethesda. Sponsored in part by the NIH Office of Community Liaison and the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health, this year's event features keynote speaker Andrea Pennington, M.D., a respected physician, acupuncturist, motivational counselor and president and founder of the Pennington Institute for Health and Wellness in Silver Spring.

A nationally recognized wellness expert, Pennington has been featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* to discuss obesity prevention for women. Known for her ability to explain nutrition in clear and practical terms, she has served as the past medical director and spokesperson for the Discovery Health Channel and Discovery Health Online.

Women attending the fair can participate in workshops, network with other women, visit exhibits and explore business opportunities in the metropolitan Washington area. Net proceeds from the fair are donated to charities that benefit women in

Montgomery County. Registration is \$25 and includes the keynote luncheon. The conference center is located at 5701 Marinelli Road. For more information, visit <http://www.mcwomensfair.org>.

NLM Releases Handheld Software System for Emergency Responders

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) at NIH is releasing a new hand-held software tool designed to help emergency staff on the scene of a hazardous material (Hazmat) incident, such as a chemical spill. WISER, the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders, provides emergency staff with critical information on hazardous substances to help them make accurate decisions quickly. WISER operates from a personal digital assistant (PDA) to provide emergency personnel with key information such as physical characteristics, human health data, containment options and suppression techniques.

"First responders in general, and Hazmat units in particular, must make decisions quickly in handling hazardous-materials incidents," said Jack Snyder, M.D., Ph.D., NLM associate director for specialized information services. "They need accurate information about hazardous substances, emergency resources available and surrounding environmental conditions to save lives and minimize environmental impacts. WISER provides this lifesaving service."

A useful feature of WISER is its ability to help identify an unknown substance. By identifying the observed physical properties of the unknown substance along with reported symptoms and observable signs among victims, WISER can help emergency medical personnel narrow the range of substances that may be involved in a specific incident. As the emergency responder selects observed properties and symptoms, WISER looks in its database for chemical substances that have these characteristics. The list of candidate chemicals decreases as additional information is provided, and WISER presents the staff person with a list of candidate chemicals at any point in the identification process.

WISER is free and available in versions for Palm OS and Pocket PC at <http://WISER.nlm.nih.gov>. More than 1,700 copies of the WISER software have so far been requested and downloaded. A desktop version will be available later this spring, and a web-based version is also being developed.

NIH Adds Papers of DNA Pioneer and Nobel Laureate Francis Crick to Profiles in Science Online Exhibit

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) at NIH recently added the papers of DNA pioneer and Nobel laureate Francis Crick to its *Profiles in Science* Web site. The site, located at <http://www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov>, is dedicated to the lives and work of some of the 20th century's most noted biomedical scientists.



Credit: Wellcome Library, London

Nobel laureate Francis Crick

Crick, a British theoretical biologist, is best known for the discovery of the double helix structure of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in 1953, considered the most significant advance in biology since Darwin's theory of evolution. The insights of Crick and his collaborator, James D. Watson, into the

structure of DNA and into the genetic code made possible a new understanding of heredity at the molecular level.

"Major current advances in science and biotechnology, such as genetic engineering, the mapping of the human genome and genetic fingerprinting, all have their origins in Crick's inspired work," said Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., director of the NLM.

During his research career spanning more than 50 years, Crick made fundamental contributions to structural studies of important biological molecules through X-ray analysis, to our understanding of protein synthesis, to the deciphering of the genetic code by which hereditary information is stored and transcribed in the cell and to our conception of the human brain.

Born in Northampton, England, in 1916, Crick received his bachelor's degree in physics from University College London in 1937. His doctoral studies were interrupted by World War II, during which he designed mines for the British navy. After the war he switched from physics to molecular biology and, with a Medical Research Council fellowship, went to Cambridge University. There he joined Max Perutz's protein structure group at the Cavendish Laboratory and earned his Ph.D. in 1953.

The online exhibition features correspondence, lecture notes, draft and published articles, laboratory notebooks and photographs from the Francis Crick collection at the Wellcome Library.

Profiles in Science was launched in September 1998 by the NLM—the world's largest library of the health sciences.

National Cancer Institute Begins Validation Study of New Test To Detect Early-Stage Liver Cancer

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at NIH has just launched a two-year study which aims to validate a test to detect early-stage liver cancer at six centers across the United States. The test looks at whether a substance called des-gamma carboxyprothrombin (DCP) can identify those at risk for liver cancer.

Researchers estimate that more than 20,000 new cases of liver cancer will be diagnosed this year alone in the United States. Current procedures to detect liver cancer have their shortcomings. A blood test suffers from poor sensitivity and is not a very accurate determinant of whether cancer is present. Ultrasounds can lead to false-negative results and depend upon the skills and abilities of the technician. NIH investigators are hopeful that this new test will be an effective measure of liver cancer without the shortcomings that currently exist.

The study is taking place at six centers throughout the United States:

- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Mount Sinai Hospital, New York
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
- St. Louis University, Missouri
- Stanford University, Palo Alto, California

Researchers with the study plan to enroll 450 patients diagnosed with liver cancer. Samples will be collected from the patients and analyzed for DCP. The primary goal of the study is to determine whether DCP can lead to improved accuracy in the detection of early-stage liver cancer. The trial will run for two years, and final results are expected in early 2007.

For more information, visit NCI's Web site at <http://www.cancer.gov> or call NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER.

NIH Holds Community Outreach Program on Sickle Cell Anemia

On Saturday, April 23, NIH is inviting members of the community to learn more about sickle cell anemia, one of the most common inherited blood disorders in the United States. *Sickle Cell Anemia: Moving Beyond Pain* features NIH representatives who will discuss and answer questions about the latest medical knowledge, scientific advances and ongoing research efforts toward this disease. This free event, which takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the NIH campus in Bethesda, is sponsored by the NIH Clinical Center and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The purpose of the event is to communicate information about the disease, its symptoms and complications, diagnosis and treatment options. Sickle cell anemia affects millions of people throughout the world. In the United States, it occurs in about one of every 500 African-American births and one in every 1,200 Hispanic-American births. The event takes place in the first floor atrium of the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center (Building 10), at 10 Center Drive, on the NIH campus in Bethesda. Parking is available in the P-1 garage on Convent Drive. For more information, call 301-435-2345.

NIH CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

April 13

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Commitment and Cannibalism in a Bacterium* by Richard Losick, Ph.D., Harvard University, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

April 15

NIH Director's Seminar Series: *A Genome-Based Approach for the Study of Erythroid Biology and Disease* by Jeffrey Miller, M.D., National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, NIH, noon–1 p.m., Wilson Hall, Building 1, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call Colleen Crone at 301-496-1921.

April 20

NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Seminar Series: *Primate Communication, Primate Minds, and the Origins of Language* by Robert M. Seyfarth, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 3–4 p.m., Room D, Neuroscience Building, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, free and open to the public. For more information, call Ronald Abeles at 301-496-7859 or visit http://obsr.od.nih.gov/BSSRCC/BSSRLectures_Spring05.htm.

National Library of Medicine History of Medicine Seminar Series: *Searching for Premodern Medicine in European Archives: New Light from Leprosy* by Luke E. Demaitre, Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2–3:15 p.m., Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call James Cassedy, Ph.D., at 301-594-0992 or visit http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/happening/seminars/seminars_2005.html.

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *A Two-Billion-Year-Old Tale of the Mechanisms of Transmembrane Transport Elucidated at the Level of Atomic Structures* by Robert M. Stroud, Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

April 22

Distinguished Lectures in the Science of Complementary and Alternative Medicine: *Integrative Medicine: A Foundation for Prospective Health Care*, 11 a.m.–noon, Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Registration is recommended. For more information, call Karen Davidson at 301-984-7191 x1606 or visit <http://nccam.nih.gov/news/lectures/upcoming.htm>.

April 26

NIH Work/Life Center Faces & Phases of Life Seminar Series: *Manager as Coach*, 9 a.m.–noon, Conference Room 6, 6th Floor, C-wing, Building 31, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call 301-435-1619 or visit <http://wflc.od.nih.gov/faces.asp>.

April 27

NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Transcriptional Control of Immunological Tolerance* by Diane Mathis, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

*Calendar items subject to change. Call to confirm your event.

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

Free Science and Technology Day in Rockville To Feature Rockets, Reptiles

Looking for something different to do on a Sunday afternoon? Why not come to the *Rockville Science Day* on April 24, from noon to 5 p.m. for a day of science and technological fun for the entire family. You can watch model rocket launches, interact with live snakes, test your luck at chemistry magic and watch solar-car races. You can even try your hand at weather experiments and rocket building and see how robots work.

Sponsored by the Rockville Consortium for Science, the event gathers local scientists, historians, engineers and technology experts to bring their work to life, with hands-on science and technology activities for people of all ages. Admission and parking are free, and door prizes are featured. *Rockville Science Day* takes place in the Small Gym in the Physical Education Center on Montgomery College's Rockville Campus at Route 355 and Mannakee Street, six stop lights north of the Rockville Metro station. For more information, visit <http://www.rockvillescience.org>, call Sheila Marshall at 301-279-9444 or e-mail her at shemarsh@comcast.net.

Annual May Audubon Nature Fair Features Music, Crafts and Nature Activities

Area nature-lovers won't want to miss the Audubon Naturalist Society's annual Nature Fair on Sunday, May 1. Held from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Woodend, the society's 40-acre preserve in Chevy Chase, the event features fun events for the entire family including hands-on nature activities, juried arts and crafts, live music and entertainment.

Children can enjoy nature craft making and going on nature-themed scavenger hunts. They can also enjoy entertainment by Billy B, the natural science song and dance man, who combines his zany humor with science facts. In "Scales and Tales," Maryland Park Naturalist Mark Spurrier will entertain with live animals and tales of their natural history. Ellouise Schoettler, ANS's storyteller-in-residence, blends nature stories with folktales and tall tales to engage children in the most unlikely nature stories.



Billy B, the natural science song and dance man, will perform at the Audubon Nature Fair.

The Washington Revels are sure to amuse all with their nature-themed theatrics and music.

Adults have much to enjoy as well with the juried craft show, live entertainment and food court. They can also peruse the organic farmer's market and enjoy the native plant sale. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children aged 2–12 and free for children under 2. Parking is free, and shuttle bus service is available. For more information, visit <http://www.audubonnaturefair.com> or call 301-652-9188.

FDA Holds Free Science Forum in DC

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is holding a free public health symposium on Tuesday, April 26 in Washington, DC. The event is part of the *11th Annual FDA Science Forum: Advancing Public Health Through Innovative Science*. The free symposium entitled "Personalizing Your Healthcare—The Best Consumer is an Educated Consumer" allows the public an opportunity to speak with leading healthcare experts about what personalized medicine really means, whether generic drugs are as good as the original products and nutrition information from the newly released Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The free public forum takes place from 1–5 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center located at 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW. Attendees are required to register even though the forum is free. For more information about the schedule of events or to register, visit <http://www.fda.gov/scienceforum> or call Suzanne Fitzpatrick at 301-827-4591.

Suburban Hospital Holds Free Senior Health Fair

On April 20, Suburban Hospital is partnering with the Montgomery County Recreation Department to hold a comprehensive health fair for older adults in Wheaton. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., seniors can participate in free health exhibits, screenings and seminars. Seminar topics include peripheral vascular disease, preventing falls, incontinence, joint replacement, humor, memory loss, nutrition and stroke. Some seminars will be offered in Spanish and Chinese. Participants who register in advance will have the opportunity to take part in door prize drawings and will receive free boxed lunches. The senior health fair takes place at the Holiday Park Senior Center, located at 3950 Ferrara Drive. For more information or to register, call Suburban On-Call at 301-896-3939.

Bethesda Celebrates Literature with Annual Festival

Downtown Bethesda is playing host to the 6th Annual Bethesda Literary Festival from Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24. Area residents can meet local and national authors, poets, playwrights, journalists and others in events located in downtown Bethesda's bookstores, art galleries and retail businesses.

The free three-day festival features poetry slams, children's book parties, essay contests and the well-received, "Play in a Day." Festival participants can also meet noted authors: Joel Achenbach, a staff



Youth Poetry Slam winners at the 2004 Annual Bethesda Literary Festival.

writer for the *Washington Post*; Kate Lehrer, women's fiction writer and author of *Out of Eden*; Maryland's Poet Laureate, Michael Glaser; congressman

and civil rights author John Lewis; and acclaimed mystery writer Sujata Massey.

For a complete schedule of events, visit <http://www.bethesda.org/specialevents/litfest/litfest.htm>. For more information, contact the Bethesda Urban Partnership at 301-215-6660.

Brookside Gardens Celebrates Spring with Wildflowers

Join in all the glory of spring with Brookside Gardens as it honors this magical season with its 5th Annual Wildflower Celebration on Saturday, April 23. From 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., visitors to the gardens can participate in free tours through the gardens, listen to a free wildflower lecture and peruse the plant sale. Tours are featured at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon of the hummingbird garden, woody natives and the spring wildflowers, respectively. A free lecture is also featured by Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of two books about Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland. She will show and describe the native wildflowers, shrubs and trees that bloom during the spring and summer at Sugarloaf. Brookside Gardens is located at 1800 Glenallan Avenue in Wheaton. For more information, call 301-962-1400 or visit <http://www.brooksidegardens.org>.

Underground Railroad Events Featured in Maryland

Local area residents can learn more about Maryland's involvement in the Underground Railroad at several upcoming events. On Saturday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m., author Dr. William Switala discusses his book, *The Underground Railroad in Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia*. Focusing on the escaped-slave network in this region, Dr. Switala's talk will be followed by a book signing. The program, which is free, requires reservations and takes place in the Grand Courtroom on the second floor of the Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square, in Rockville. For more information or reservations, call 301-762-1492.

On Saturday, April 23, area residents can learn about Maryland's integral role in the Underground Railroad and enjoy a morning of physical activity during "Health Freedom Walk: A Path to Wellness 2005." This 1.5 mile walk begins at Woodlawn Manor Park in Sandy Spring and follows the route of the Underground Railroad. The park is located at 16501 Norwood Road. The walk begins at 10 a.m.; registration and check-in begin at 9 a.m. Live entertainment, free health information, giveaways and free T-shirts also will be featured. For more information, call 240-777-1833.

TRY THIS WEBSITE:

<http://www.nationalalcoholcreeningday.org>

The National Alcohol Screening Day Web site provides information about alcohol health and prevention, free anonymous screening information for alcohol-use disorders and information on related community events throughout the nation. Funded in part by NIH's National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the site is designed to provide outreach, screening and education about alcohol's effects on health for the general public. This year's National Alcohol Screening Day is taking place on April 7. To highlight this event, the Web site shows visitors how their community can participate. It also helps users find free anonymous screening sites near them. The site provides a wealth of information in the form of free downloadable publications, fact sheets and information on clinical trials. The site has a searchable database with alcohol-related health information as well as recent research findings and news releases.



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*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
send her an e-mail at tlamotte@palladianpartners.com.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**Metabolic Study for African Americans**

Healthy African Americans aged 18 to 49 are needed to participate in a study that is investigating the relationship of obesity to resting energy expenditure (REE) and fatty acid flux. The study involves a two-week period (excluding weekends) of outpatient visits to the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda for breakfast, weight measurement and to pick up meals. All meals will be provided during the study. Participation includes blood draws and metabolic testing. The last two days require a two-night inpatient stay. Compensation is provided. Call 301-402-7119 for more information and refer to protocol 04-DK-0061.

Jet Lag Study Needs Volunteers

Researchers at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development are looking for travelers going east 6–8 time zones to study the effects of replacing hormones disrupted by jet travel. Participants will take a study medication (hydrocortisone, melatonin or placebo), fill out questionnaires and obtain salivary samples. Travel stay of 4–10 days at their destination is required. Healthy men and women between the ages of 18 and 65 are encouraged to participate. Compensation is provided for a completed study. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Breast Cancer Study

If you or someone you love has metastatic breast cancer, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010 to participate in a study at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda.

Healthy Volunteers for Walking Study

Healthy volunteers are needed to participate in a study that will examine normal and adapted walking patterns. One 2- to 3-hour visit to the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda is required. Compensation is provided for study participants. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.