

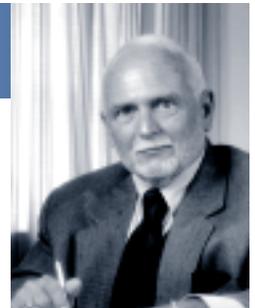
To: Community Representatives

From: Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D., Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Date: August 2004

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON

The first topic of discussion at the July meeting of the Community Liaison Council (CLC) was the *NIH Roadmap*. The discussion was led by NIH Assistant Director for Roadmap Coordination, Dushanka Kleinman, D.D.S., M.Sc.D., whose presentation on the *Roadmap* was excellent. The story of the *NIH Roadmap* begins back in May of 2002 shortly after the then-new NIH Director, Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., took office.



Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D.

Timing is sometimes everything, and Zerhouni arrived at the NIH at the perfect time. Few would argue the fact that we are currently living in the Golden Age of the biological sciences. The opportunities for discovery have never been greater. Conversely, the ever-increasing complexity of biology is daunting. In our perpetual quest for biological knowledge and discovery, we struggle to stay afloat in a daily deluge of information. In short, "information" is not necessarily the same as "knowledge." That is one of the primary dilemmas (woefully understated) of current biological research.

Answers to research questions breed yet more new questions and new questions seem to proliferate exponentially. It's as if every time researchers fit a piece into the biological puzzle, a shovelful of new pieces is thrown onto the table. The race for more answers pushes ahead with renewed commitment and, not uncommonly, increased frustration. Why frustration? Because for new information to become knowledge, we must use it and combine it and factor it into what we already know. In truth, it sometimes feels that the higher we climb the tree of biological knowledge the further we descend into biological ignorance.

So, shortly after becoming the NIH director, Zerhouni convened a series of historic meetings to chart a "roadmap" for medical research in the 21st century. The purpose of this exercise was to identify major opportunities and major gaps in biomedical research that no single institute or center at NIH could tackle alone, but that the agency as a whole had to address to make the biggest impact. In short, this was to be a plan that would enable the NIH institutes and centers to travel furthest and fastest down the biological research road while continually developing the most scientific discovery and health benefits possible.

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The Community Liaison Council will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, September 16, at 4 p.m.**, in Conference Room D, Natcher Conference Center, Building 45 on the NIH campus.

Zerhouni's vision was clear. He saw that the NIH was uniquely positioned to catalyze the changes that had to be made if our new scientific knowledge was to be transformed into tangible benefits. He also saw that such a plan would forge a collaborative NIH effort to focus biomedical research and promote discovery.

Kleinman explained to us that though the idea was Zerhouni's, the actual *Roadmap* was developed with input from meetings with the NIH's 27 institutes and centers and with more than 300 nationally recognized leaders in academia, industry, government and the public. What emerged from these meetings was a framework for the priorities that the NIH as a whole needed to address if it was to optimize its entire research portfolio. The *Roadmap* lays out a vision for a more efficient and productive system of medical research. It identifies the most compelling opportunities in three main areas: new pathways to discovery, research teams of the future and re-engineering the clinical research enterprise.

Initiatives under the *NIH Roadmap* will enable the agency to sustain its historic record of biomedical contributions central to extending the quality of healthy life for people in this country and around the world. As Zerhouni has often stated, "The NIH is a national treasure." When you see what goes on here daily, it's impossible not to agree with him.

If I've managed to arouse your curiosity about the *Roadmap*, please take a look at <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov>.

The July CLC meeting concluded with a presentation on the NIH reforestation plan, by NIH Chief of Grounds, Maintenance and Landscaping Lynn Mueller. For those of you who don't know Lynn, all I can say is you should. The landscape beauty that continually emerges from the NIH construction is attributable to Lynn's vision and love of what he does. But I'll save that for next month.

NIH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Outdoor Film Festival for NIH Charities Set for August

Area residents won't want to miss this year's Comcast Outdoor Film Festival in North Bethesda, offering 10 nights of free movies, August 13–22, 2004. Come early to enjoy a variety of good food and fresh popcorn and help raise money for a good cause. A portion of the proceeds from all food sales benefits the NIH charities, including the Children's Inn at NIH, Special Love/Camp Fantastic and the Friends of the Clinical Center. Food vendors include Baja Fresh, Hard Times Cafe of Bethesda, Potomac Pizza, Cameron's Seafood, Ben & Jerry's and many more. Food and beverage tickets are \$1 each. Restaurants open at 6:30 p.m.

The festival features a variety of films, including selections for the entire family. A complete schedule is listed below. Movies begin at 8:30 p.m. The Comcast Outdoor Film Festival is on the grounds of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Strathmore Hall Arts Center, 10701 Rockville Pike, in North Bethesda. Parking is limited and Metro use is encouraged. Take the Red Line to Grovesnor–Strathmore. For more information, visit <http://www.filmfestnih.org>.

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| August 13 | <i>Star Wars</i> (121 minutes, rated PG) |
| August 14 | <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King</i> (201 minutes, rated PG-13) |
| August 15 | <i>Jaws</i> (124 minutes, rated PG) |
| August 16 | <i>Casablanca</i> (102 minutes, unrated) |
| August 17 | <i>Princess Bride</i> (98 minutes, rated G) |
| August 18 | <i>North by Northwest</i> (136 minutes, unrated) |
| August 19 | <i>Seabiscuit</i> (141 minutes, rated PG-13) |
| August 20 | <i>Chicago</i> (113 minutes, rated PG-13) |
| August 21 | <i>Back to the Future</i> (111 minutes, rated PG) |
| August 22 | <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> (101 minutes, rated G) |

Retired NIH'er Wins Sabin Gold Medal Award

Renowned vaccine and infectious disease researcher William S. Jordan, Jr., M.D., received the 2004 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award from the Sabin Vaccine Institute. Jordan, who served as director of the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) until his retirement in 1987, was honored for his dedication, commitment and extraordinary achievements in vaccine research. The award honors pioneers in vaccinology and immunology whose lifetime achievements have prevented human anguish.

For more than 60 years, Jordan has worked in the preventive medicine field as a practicing physician, dedicated teacher and noted researcher. He established an annual scientific review, known as the *Jordan Report*, which is considered by many to be the leading authority on vaccine research and development. Advancing national and global disease prevention strategies, Jordan helped launch a program at NIAID that expedited the availability of vaccines for selected infectious diseases. Under his tenure at NIAID, significant progress was made toward developing a live, attenuated influenza vaccine, and vaccines for hepatitis B, *Haemophilus influenzae* serotype b and pneumococcal pneumonia became available.



Credit: Sabin Vaccine Institute

Dr. Jordan (l) proudly displays his award with Sabin Vaccine Institute Chairman H.R. Shepherd.

NIH Expands West Nile Virus Treatment Trial

NIAID is expanding its study of an experimental West Nile Virus (WNV) treatment to 60 sites

throughout the United States and Canada. This summer, officials plan to add another 24 sites to the 36 opened last September, pending approval by each institution. A listing of all of the study sites can be found at <http://www.casg.uab.edu/adult/act%20210WNV.htm>.

The clinical trial is testing the safety and preliminary effectiveness of a product that has WNV infection-fighting proteins to treat people whose infection has reached or threatens to reach the brain. WNV is an illness spread by mosquitoes that can cause inflammation of the brain. To participate in the study, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and either have WNV-related encephalitis or be at risk for developing it. For more information or to participate, contact NIAID's Collaborative Antiviral Study Group at the University of Alabama in Birmingham by visiting <http://www.casg.uab.edu>.

FAES Announces 2004–2005 Concert Schedule

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) recently announced the 2004–2005 season of its Chamber Music series. Now in its 37th season, the series offers a schedule filled with renowned performers. Concerts take place at the Landon School's Mondzac Performing Arts Center at 4 p.m. on select Sundays throughout the year. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students and fellows. The Landon School is located at 6101 Wilson Lane in Bethesda. For more information or tickets, call 301-496-7976 or visit <http://www.faes.org/music.htm>. A complete schedule is listed below:

October 10	The Prazak Quartet
October 24	Richard Goode, <i>piano</i>
November 14	Amit Peled, <i>cello</i>
December 12	The Washington Children's Chorus
January 9	Concertante
January 23	Jonathan Biss, <i>piano</i>
March 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20	The Auryn Quartet, <i>performing all the Beethoven Quartets</i>

NIH Announces First Center in National Chemical Genomics Network

In June, NIH announced the establishment of the NIH Chemical Genomics Center—the first component of a nationwide network that will produce innovative chemical “tools” to use in biological research and in developing new drugs.

The new network will give both academic and government scientists access to large libraries of organic chemical compounds. NIH officials are hopeful that these can be used as tools to better understand gene function and improve the biological pathways involved in health and disease. This area of research is often referred to as chemical genomics.

“Providing public-sector researchers with this unprecedented opportunity will greatly broaden the scope of biological exploration,” said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. “The NIH-supported chemical genomics network will have a transformative effect on medical research by expanding our understanding of how the human genome and proteome function, which in turn will speed the development of new ways to fight disease and improve human health.”

The NIH Chemical Genomics Center, based in the National Human Genome Research Institute’s (NHGRI) Division of Intramural Research, is the first step in a new initiative that will result in a consortium of chemical genomics screening centers. The project will continue with the funding of as many as 10 pilot centers at academic institutions and other locations across the country in fiscal year 2005.

To support the network, NIH plans to establish a repository to acquire, maintain and distribute a collection of up to one million chemical compounds. As was the case for the Human Genome Project, data generated by the chemical genomics network will be deposited in a central database, to be called PubChem, which will be managed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Library of Medicine and will be freely available to the entire scientific community. For more information, visit <http://genome.gov>.

Virginia Music Festival Raises Money for NIH and Other Charities

Music lovers in Northern Virginia can now take advantage of a variety of music in a bucolic outdoor setting while doing their part for charity. The Loudoun Summer Music Fest features big name performers for just \$10 a ticket (kids under 12 get in free) with a portion of the proceeds going to several charities, including NIH’s Special Love for children with cancer. Every performance includes a Kids Fest with lots of fun activities, including face painting and clowns. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Kirkpatrick’s, Manhattan Pizza or online at <http://www.ticketstobuy.com>. The festival is on Sundays through September 19 at Belmont Country Club Golf Community in Ashburn. The lineup of entertainers is listed below with opening acts at 6 p.m. and headliners at 6:45 p.m., rain or shine. For more information, visit <http://www.summermusicfest.net> or call 703-716-4343.

August 1	<i>Gin Blossoms</i>
August 8	<i>Dr. Hook</i>
August 15	<i>Marshall Tucker Band</i>
August 22	<i>The Original Drifters & Coasters</i>
August 29	<i>The Little River Band</i>
September 5	<i>The Wailers</i>
September 12	<i>Steve Bassett</i>
September 19	<i>Eddie Money</i>

NIH CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

August 3
2004 NIH Summer Lecture Series for Students: *How the Genome Comes Alive: Novel Approaches for Studying Transcriptional Regulation in Mammalian Cells* by Kevin Gardner, M.D., Ph.D., National Cancer Institute, NIH, noon–1 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, contact Deborah Cohen at 301-496-2427 or by e-mail at dc26a@nih.gov.

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Set for Mid-August

If you are a fan of carnival rides, pig races, demolition derbies and tractor pulls, then you won't want to miss this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, August 13–21, 2004, in Gaithersburg. Fairgoers can enjoy a variety of family entertainment, fact-filled exhibits, agricultural and livestock demonstrations, animals, carnival rides and games, arts and crafts, food and much more. Held at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center (also known as the fairgrounds), the fair features a variety of grandstand shows, such as "War Horses of the World," a lumberjack contest, country music entertainers and a rodeo. Fair hours are from 3 p.m. to midnight on August 13 and from 8 a.m. to midnight each day thereafter, with the midway opening at 10 a.m. Fair admission is \$7 for adults and free for children aged 7 and under. On August 13, admission is \$4 for adults. Free limited parking is available at the fairgrounds. A free shuttle bus will also operate from Lakeforest Mall for overflow parking. For more information or directions, visit <http://www.mcagfair.com> or call 301-926-3100.

Round House Theatre Bethesda Announces 2004–2005 Season

The Round House Theatre in Bethesda recently announced its 2004–2005 season of four DC-area premieres, including a Tony-nominated musical. The schedule of performances is listed below. The Round House Theatre is located on East-West Highway, one block east of Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda. Ticket prices vary. For ticket information, visit <http://www.round-house.org> or call the box office at 240-644-1100.

2004

September 8–October 10

Living Out—A dark comedy about the modern demands of motherhood, this play takes an insightful look at race, class and parenthood as seen through the eyes of two women.

NCI-Frederick/USAMRIID Summer Student Seminar Series: *Protective Humoral and Cellular Immune Responses to Ebola Virus* by Gene Olinger, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, noon–1:15 p.m., Auditorium, Building 549, National Cancer Institute at Frederick, free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://web.ncifcrf.gov> or contact Howard Young, Ph.D., at 301-846-5700 or by e-mail at youngh@ncifcrf.gov.

August 4
NIH Clinical Center Grand Rounds for Fellows: *Separating Wheat from Chaff: Critical Reading of the Biomedical Literature* by Michael Gottesman, M.D., National Cancer Institute, NIH, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus. For more information, call Clinical Center Communications at 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/grcurrent.shtml>.

August 10
NCI-Frederick/USAMRIID Summer Student Seminar Series: *Targeting the Tumor Vasculature* by Brad St. Croix, Ph.D., National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH, noon–1:15 p.m., Auditorium, Building 549, NCI at Frederick, free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://web.ncifcrf.gov> or contact Dr. Young at 301-846-5700 or by e-mail at youngh@ncifcrf.gov.

August 11
NIH Clinical Center Grand Rounds for Fellows: *The Ethics of International Clinical Trials* by David Wendler, Ph.D., NIH Clinical Center, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus. For more information, call Clinical Center Communications at 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/grcurrent.shtml>.

August 18
NIH Clinical Center Grand Rounds for Fellows: *Health Disparities in a Health Policy Context: From Discrimination to Quality* by Sara Rosenbaum, J.D., George Washington University Medical Center, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus. For more information, call Clinical Center Communications at 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/grcurrent.shtml>.

August 25
NIH Clinical Center Grand Rounds for Fellows: *Health Disparities Among the Pima Indians with Special Emphasis on Diabetes Mellitus* by Peter H. Bennett, M.D., National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, NIH, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus. For more information, call Clinical Center Communications at 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/grcurrent.shtml>.

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

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November 10–December 12

The Diary of Anne Frank—Receiving a Tony Award nomination, this new adaptation of the classic story of Anne Frank’s life as a teenager in 1942 reveals her honesty, wit and determination.

2005

March 30–May 1

Life X 3—An original new comedic play revolving around a dinner party with three different outcomes.

June 1–July 3

Once on This Island—An adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*, this musical is sure to capture the imagination of all ages.

Takoma Park Folk Festival Set for September

If you’re a fan of folk music, you won’t want to miss the 27th Annual Takoma Park Folk Festival on

Sunday, September 12. Festival organizers, composed of community volunteers, have planned something for everyone. Music and dance from around the world, children’s activities, community information tables, ethnic food and a juried crafts exhibition are just a few

of the featured events. Held from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., this free festival promises to be fun for all. Children can participate in interactive musical games, dancing, storytelling and music-making, while adults can peruse a variety of local crafts. Eight stages feature nearly 100 musicians. The festival, which takes place at the Takoma Park Middle School at 7611 Piney Branch Road, benefits a variety of local youth organizations. For more information or a schedule of performers, call 301-589-0202 or visit <http://www.tpff.org>.

Montgomery County To Hold Voter Registration Drives This Summer, Fall

Montgomery County officials want residents to get out and vote this fall. On select Saturdays now through October, the Board of Elections is holding a

series of registration drives at local area libraries. Staff will also be on hand to show residents how to use voting machines. The drives take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A schedule is listed below. For more information, call Gilberto Zelaya at 240-777-8532.

August 7 Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville

Aspen Hill Library, 4407 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville

August 14 Damascus Library, 9701 Main Street, Damascus

Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Avenue, Silver Spring

August 21 Gaithersburg Library, 18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg

Poolesville Library, 19633 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville

August 28 Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring

September 18 Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase

Little Falls Library, 5501 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda

White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring

September 25 Kensington Park Library, 4201 Knowles Avenue, Kensington

Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac

October 2 Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda

Olney Library, 3500 Olney-Latonsville Road, Olney

Wheaton Library, 11701 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton

October 9 Friends of the Library Bookstore, 4886 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville

McCrillis Gardens To Reopen in September, House Art School

McCrillis Gardens, a Bethesda garden and art space which closed in December of 2003, will officially reopen its doors in September as the Brookside



Credit: Brookside Gardens

Gardens School of Botanical Art and Illustration at McCrillis Gardens. County park and planning officials have organized a grand opening ceremony for the new botanical art school on September 10, from 3–6 p.m. Visitors can participate in an open house featuring botanical art demonstrations by the school's new

teachers and director. The ceremony will follow the open house. McCrillis Gardens is located at 6910 Greentree Road in Bethesda. For more information, call Ellen Bennett at 301-962-1470 or send her an e-mail at ellen.bennett@mncppc-mc.org.

Montgomery County Launches New Web Site for Kids

Have you ever wondered what the symbols stand for in the Montgomery County flag or what the official county bird is? Well, now it is easy to find out. Last month, county officials launched a new Web site for kids that provides information about Montgomery County history and services: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/kids>. Designed like a map, the Web site provides useful information in an easy-to-understand and user-friendly format. Kids can find out when the pool is open, where the closest playgrounds are or what volunteer opportunities are available. They also can learn about the official county bird and flower, the meaning of the flag and a variety of other historical information. Public safety information, arts and cultural information and recreation programs are also featured.

Local Communities To Celebrate Labor Day

Several area communities are planning Labor Day celebrations with parades and festivities on Monday, September 6. Check your local listings for more details. Brief information is listed below for the cities of Kensington and Gaithersburg.

Kensington's Annual Labor Day Parade & Festival features a parade, family entertainment, food, an artisan fair and more. Food and vendors will be available beginning at 9 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., the Annual Paint the Town Art Show at Town Hall showcases fine arts and sculpture, including depictions of Kensington sights. The parade is from 10 a.m. to noon and starts at the corner of St. Paul Street and Plyers Mill Road and ends near the Town Hall. The Annual Kensington Artisan Fair at St. Paul's United Methodist Church runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features pottery, jewelry, paintings and crafts. For more information, call 301-587-5867 or visit <http://www.tok.org>.

The City of Gaithersburg's 66th Annual Labor Day Parade features marching bands, costumed characters, fire engines, clowns, floats, horses and giant balloons. The parade begins at 1 p.m., rain or shine, and starts on East Diamond Avenue near Girard Street, continuing along Russell Avenue. For more information, call 301-258-6350 or visit <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/> and click on the events calendar.

TRY THIS WEB SITE:

<http://americanindianhealth.nlm.nih.gov>

Because different populations have different health needs, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has developed a new series of Web sites intended to address these differences. One of these sites is designed specifically to address the health issues and concerns of those with American Indian or Alaska Native ancestry. Visitors to the site can find information on pertinent health topics, tribal information, traditional healing techniques, environmental health, medical research, health resources and links to other related health information. The site also addresses health care access and provides links to consumer health publications. Research shows that Native Americans are more than twice as likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic whites. American Indians also have a greater mortality risk for tuberculosis, suicide, pneumonia, alcoholism and influenza than the whole U.S. population. These health topics and others are addressed on the new site.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Age and Cognition Study

Healthy volunteers over the age of 55 are needed to study the genetics of aging and cognition. Participation requires a blood draw and non-invasive clinical, neurological and cognitive testing procedures. Compensation is available. Call Bobby Das at 301-435-4593 or e-mail dasb@intra.nimh.nih.gov and refer to protocol number 00-M-0085 to participate.

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH are seeking healthy men and women between the ages of 18 and 40 to participate in an antiviral medication research study. The study will determine whether lopinavir/ritonavir has direct effects on how the lining of the arteries function before and after receiving four weeks of therapy. Study participants must be non-smokers in good health, not be HIV-infected and not taking any chronic medications. Compensation is provided for study participation. For more information, call Jocelyn Voell at 301-435-7913.

Depression Study Needs Women

Are you a woman between the ages of 18 and 45 who has been depressed? If so, you might be eligible to participate in an NIH study that examines the role of hormones in depression. Study participants should not be currently depressed or taking any medications including birth control pills. All participants should be medically healthy. Medical and psychiatric evaluations, financial compensation and reimbursement for transportation costs will be provided to study participants. For more information or to participate, call Linda Simpson-St. Clair at 301-496-9576 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Gene/Brain Function Study

Doctors at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at NIH need healthy volunteers between the ages of 19 and 55 to participate in research studying genes and brain function. Study participants will undergo a blood draw, non-invasive neuroimaging, interviews and cognitive testing. Compensation is provided. For more information or to participate, call the Clinical Brain Disorders Branch of NIMH at 301-435-8970.

The OCL Update is 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. 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.

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