

David Henderson retires from the Clinical Center

CC's first hospital epidemiologist helped confront world's biggest health challenges



Above: Dr. David Henderson shakes hands with then President Barack Obama at a White House reception for the Service to America Awards in 2013. This top honor is a part of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies), which are presented to select federal workers for their significant contributions to the country by the non-profit Partnership for Public Service.

Below: Henderson poses for the Clean Hands campaign in 2018.



HIV/AIDS. Antibiotic resistant infections. Ebola virus. Most of us would do everything in our power to avoid these infections, but Dr. David Henderson spent his life planning how to analyze, treat and keep patients and staff safe from these and many other infectious threats.

Henderson retired at the end of December 2019. He served as the first – and last – Deputy Director for Clinical Care for the NIH Clinical Center. The person following in his footsteps will assume the new title Chief Medical Officer. Henderson also served as the Associate Director for Hospital Epidemiology and Quality Improvement for the research hospital at the heart of the NIH. He originally came to NIH in 1979 as the Clinical Center's first hospital epidemiologist.

HIV and the Clinical Center

Henderson has been at ground zero from the onset of the AIDS crisis, the rise of antibiotic resistant infections and when the Clinical Center treated four patients who had been infected with or exposed to the Ebola virus.

Henderson had complementary motivations: ensuring that patients identified with this new infection received the best treatment available while contributing to the research of this disease and also helping staff navigate the concern and worry that came with treating patients with this new pathogen.

"I knew already, as the hospital epidemiologist...that health care workers are at extraordinary risk for acquiring hepatitis B in the workplace, and I began to develop serious anxieties about the risk our health care workers might be taking by providing care for these patients. No one had any idea what that risk might be at the time. We were beginning to think about that."

Those risks hit home when an accidental exposure to HIV infected samples resulted in a Clinical Center staff member contracting the virus. Henderson took the news hard.

"[I]t was a traumatic event for a hospital. And I still take that seriously, actually. I mean, I think, in retrospect, there were things I hadn't even thought of that we might

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Gingerbread House Decorating Contest winners announced



Left, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Office of Communications and Public Liaison won the in-person balloting. Right, the Stroke Branch from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke took first place in Facebook favorites and shares. Find all winners online: <https://go.usa.gov/xdxNJ>

Code "BERT" available throughout Clinical Center

To enhance a culture of safety for Clinical Center patients and staff, the new code "BERT" (short for Behavioral Emergency Response Team) became available to all patient care staff beginning February 10. The code was designed to protect staff and identify patients who would benefit from specialized consult services.

A focused response team with skills and training to communicate and safely intervene in crisis situations will be on call 24/7 to assist CC staff with patients exhibiting escalating or violent behavior. The team can be also called to assist and to

STEP 01 Call Page Operator 301-496-1211

STEP 02 Say: "We have a behavioral emergency. Please call a Code BERT"

STEP 03 Provide: Building 10 (Magnuson or CRC) and Patient Care Unit/CC location

Lunch & Learn series returns to CC

Launching in January 2020, and open to all Clinical Center staff, the Leadership Lunch and Learn series will help staff tackle important, work-related issues by tapping into strategies and tips you can use in your daily life.

The topics span from strategic thinking – presented by Clinical Center CEO Dr. James Gilman – to managing conflict, appreciating diversity, managing change and giving and receiving feedback.

Organized by alumni of the Clinical Center's inaugural Fundamentals in Leadership program, the Lunch and Learn series spotlights the issues that can benefit the 2,000 employees of the Clinical Center.

These efforts revive a popular Lunch and Learn series, previously referred to as the Leadership Development Brown Bag Series, run by the Office of Workforce Management and Development until 2014. Read the full story and find registration information at <https://go.usa.gov/xdRgA>.



NIH Office of Clinical Research 2019-2020 courses now open for registration

The 2019-2020 **Principles of Clinical Pharmacology Course** is now open for registration. The free online lecture series covers the fundamentals of clinical pharmacology as a translational scientific discipline. Topics include pharmacokinetics, drug metabolism and transport, drug therapy in special populations, drug discovery and development, and pharmacogenomics.

The course is open for registration through June 2020.

The free online lecture series covers the spectrum of clinical research and the research process. Topics include clinical trial study design, statistics, institutional review boards, peer review process, regulation and more.

To register, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xdxR3>. For additional information, contact Rebecca.Hwang@nih.gov.



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have done to make the place safer that we've now done, but it cost a life. That's not a trivial issue. And for a while, I used to see her walking around the hall, [while she was receiving treatment] and that was the constant reminder that you have to keep your guard up."

Henderson's primary research interests have been understanding and preventing the transmission of blood borne pathogens, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV, in the healthcare setting and the epidemiology and prevention of healthcare associated transmission of multidrug resistant organisms.

After earning his undergraduate degree from Hanover College in Indiana, and his medical degree from the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine, Henderson completed an internship and residency in internal medicine and a two-year fellowship in infectious diseases at Harbor-UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) Medical Center. He was later appointed as an assistant professor of medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine.

An invited speaker internationally, Henderson is frequently asked to consult for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has published more than 163 peer-reviewed journal articles and 78 book chapters so far in his career.

Throughout his career, he has had a leading role in medical organizations focused on infectious diseases and healthcare epidemiology.

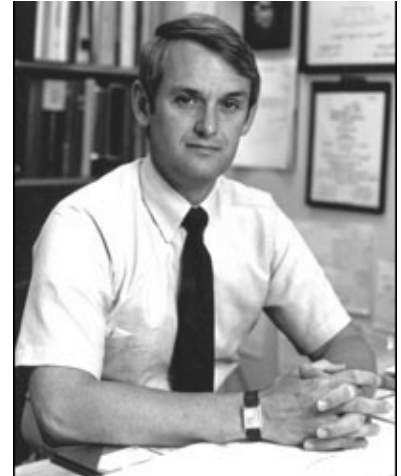
What's Next

Henderson was honored at a retirement gathering on Dec. 10. At the event, Dr. James Gilman, Clinical Center CEO said, "He is completely dedicated to the mission of the Clinical Center. He feels passionate about the science we do here and he feels equally passionate about the patients we take care of and their families."

Dr. John Gallin, NIH Associate Director for Clinical Research & Chief Scientific Officer and former Director of the NIH Clinical Center, added, "David and I were partners in the whole experience, watching all sorts of amazing things happen. What I will remember most: good time with an incredible person who had this incredible knowledge about the Clinical Center... That's what makes this so special."

With his retirement from the CC, Henderson plans to take on his next challenge: serving as President of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. He will continue to serve in a consulting role at the hospital.

Read the full story online: <https://go.usa.gov/xdxNJ>



Henderson shortly after joining the NIH Clinical Center in 1979.

- Donovan Kuehn

VIEW MORE ARTICLES ONLINE:

www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/newsletter.html



- CC Grand Rounds tackles workplace culture in clinical research environment
- 36 CC staff receive NIH Director's Awards
- NIH Staff Clinician Professional Development Seminar held in September

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Clinical Center News

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Clinical Center

Stanford artificial intelligence expert gives Doppman Lecture

The NIH Clinical Center Radiology and Imaging Sciences Department hosted the 19th annual John Doppman Lecture for Imaging Sciences in October. The Doppman lecture honors the late chief of the CC's former Diagnostic Radiology Department.

The lecture was presented by Dr. Curtis Longlotz, Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Informatics at Stanford University School of Medicine. Longlotz directs Stanford University's Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Medicine and Imaging, which develops AI methods that enable computer systems to draw inferences directly from image information and associated clinical data.

His talk "Radiology in the Era of Artificial Intelligence" covered why artificial intelligence can improve patient care, stating that the literature shows that three to six percent of radiology interpretations contain clinically significant errors as well as errors in other types of diagnostic imaging. "We definitely need help from algorithms," said Langlotz.

Dr. Elizabeth Jones, director of the CC's Radiology and Imaging Sciences Department, presented Langlotz with a certificate. Watch the lecture on videocast: <https://go.usa.gov/xdxRc>.



Dr. Curtis Longlotz, Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Informatics at Stanford University School of Medicine, discusses how artificial intelligence can reduce medical errors.

- Mickey Hanlon

Annual CEO Awards ceremony honors dedicated staff



Dr. James Gilman honors the Cell Therapy Facility Remediation Team for developing and implementing a system for facility remediation during a crisis.

In December, Dr. James Gilman, CEO of the NIH Clinical Center, proudly presented awards to 44 individual NIH staff members and groups honoring over 400 employees for their leadership, outstanding service and achievements during the past year.

This gathering was the third annual Clinical Center CEO Awards ceremony, recognizing staff members who demonstrated leadership and distinguished service in 2019.

Staff were honored for accomplishments such as:

- Improvements to patient safety and optimizing operations;
- Innovative research that improved medical practices;
- Providing exceptional customer service to other departments;
- Dedicated service and collaborative efforts following a major steam pipe issue;
- Assuring smooth operations through efficient manage-

ment practices; and

- Successful mentoring initiatives.

"I love having this event to honor our staff," Gilman said. "We all do things for patients and for the Clinical Center, but I enjoy getting a chance to do something for our staff, and to recognize their dedication."

Gilman gave a special CEO Award to the participants in the NIH Project SEARCH program, for their dedication and enthusiasm. Project SEARCH is a program providing education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Clinical Center offers a 30-week internship program to participants.

NIH Staff can view more about the awards, including the program, ceremony photos and reception photos: <https://go.usa.gov/xdxRD>.

- Deborah Accame

CC highlights CFC campaign with fun new activities



Molly Deol, chief of the Office of Employee Ethics, participated as torchbearer.

The Clinical Center Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) kicked off with a “Torch Run” on Oct. 29 in the atrium. The CFC annual campaign collects charitable donations from federal employees to support charities and causes of each donor’s choice. Clinical Center staff used CFC flags to cheer on the torchbearers and to support the “Show Some Love” campaign. Many department heads participated as torchbearers and “lit their way” in support of the charities and those they serve. The CFC torch was then placed in the office of the CEO.

In addition to the “Torch Run” kick-off event, the Clinical Center CFC committee organized a Candy Gram mail service

in December. It allowed staff to send a message to a colleague using a note card which was then placed in a CFC labeled envelope with a candy cane attached. It was later delivered by a Core Member or Keyworker. Close to 420 Candy Grams were distributed in the Clinical Center during the third week of December.

Bonnie Hodsdon, chief of the Rehabilitation Medicine Department’s Occupational Therapy Section, led this year’s Clinical Center CFC Campaign. It ended Jan. 12, 2020, with nearly \$110,000 contributed by Clinical Center staff.

View photos from the “Torch Run” (NIH only) and additional information on the CFC: <https://go.usa.gov/xdgeM>

Patient thanks Blood Bank staff for lifesaving donations



Six years ago, Aaron was diagnosed with a rare disease causing his immune system to function improperly, resulting in multiple severe respiratory infections. At the NIH Clinical Center, America’s research hospital, Aaron received a stem cell transplant to replace his diseased cells with normal cells that can fight off infections.

Following the transplant, Aaron experienced complications leading to episodes of continuous bleeding. To save his life, he needed multiple transfusions of red blood cells and platelets, sometimes up to three platelet transfusions in one day. During this period, he received a total of 153 platelet transfusions. Now, Aaron has returned home to South Carolina and has not had any more infections.

He visited the NIH Clinical Center in September 2019, shown above with Department of Transfusion Medicine fellows. Aaron says he is very grateful for the generosity of all the wonderful blood donors at NIH. Every day, there are many patients at NIH just like Aaron who need platelets. Without the initiative and generosity of platelet donors, NIH would not be able to support the treatment of patients like Aaron.



Posing with two Marines are NIH staff Ingrid Harris (second from left), Clinical Center branch manager, NIH Office of Human Resources (OHR); Mitzi Kosciulek (center), Corporate Recruitment Unit branch chief, NIH OHR; and Richard Appling (right), NIH Federal Credit Union; during NIH’s 8th Annual Veterans Day Celebration. At the event Nov. 12, experts talked about some of the research and partnerships NIH has to help veteran health – from pain management to prosthetic limbs and more. Booths were also set up to highlight OHR resources, upcoming veterans resume consultation sessions and for Hero Dogs, Inc.

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verbally de-escalate situations involving patients’ family members and visitors.

Within five minutes, BERT will assemble a team, arrive at the call point, receive a report from the assigned nurse or nursing staff, and provide verbal and/or physical crisis de-escalation depending on the assessment of risk. The Psychiatry Consultation Liaison Service and/or NIH Police will assist as needed.

As a reminder to staff, code BERTs are only called for crisis situations involving patients, their family members or visitors. The NIH CIVIL Office (301) 402-4845 or NIH Police are available to keep hospital environment that is safe and respectful for everyone. For incidents occurring outside Building 10, contact the NIH Police at 911.