# Clinical Center

In this issue: CC welcomes 2013 fellows NIH Director's Award recipients Annual Sibling Day

NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health®

# 60th anniversary father-son Grand Rounds draws huge crowd



NIH CLINICAL | 60 DISCOVERING TOMORROW'S CENTER | YEARS CURES

On July 10, staff from the NIH Clinical Center, partners and colleagues from across NIH, and guests gathered to mark the 60th anniversary of the Clinical Center in the most appropriate way possible—with clinicianscientists sharing the knowledge they have gained with peers, students, and guests; and with the outlining of ambitious next steps in the practice of patient-centered research.

An overflow crowd filled Masur Auditorium and spilled into the Lipsett Amphitheater, where the lectures could be watched via live video transmission. (Go to http://videocast.nih.gov/ to view the full videocast of this special Grand Rounds lecture.)

Clinical Center Director Dr. John I. Gallin began the special anniversary lecture by highlighting a few of the many scientific and clinical advances made since the Clinical Center first opened its doors to patients on July 6, 1953, and showing newsreel clips from the early days of the CC provided by the National Library of Medicine. He concluded his remarks by thanking the thousands of patients who have been "our partners in research" for the past 60 years.

Gallin then introduced the first guest lecturer, Dr. James F. Holland, Distinguished Professor of Neoplastic Diseases at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, who won the Lasker award in 1972 for his contributions to the development of cancer chemotherapy. Holland, an NCI "alumnus" who was at



The CC 60th anniversary Grand Rounds featured father and son clinical researchers, Dr. James F. Holland (left) and Dr. Steven M. Holland.

the Clinical Center on the day it opened in 1953, reviewed the critical work done at the CC in developing chemotherapy for cancer, and then focused on the 20-year effort of his team's investigation of the human mammary tumor virus. Using molecular methods, they are studying its possible etiologic role for breast cancer, as well as potential therapeutic and preventive implications. He described their findings thus far and expressed optimism that future research will indeed identify the role of this virus in breast cancer in some patients.

Next, Dr. Steven M. Holland, Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases at NIAID and NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Clinical Research, and son of Dr. James Holland, spoke on the topic "Location Matters: Understanding Mycobacterial Susceptibility." Holland described the 20-year process by which he and his team have come to understand that where in the body such an infection is located says worlds about the susceptibility factors, a realization that leads back to the importance of patient-centered research. He concluded by saying that patient-centered research "has many twists and turns," and can be confusing. But it is also "incredibly exciting...and what NIH is all about."

Among the special guests attending were Dr. Jimmie Holland, wife of Dr. James Holland and mother of Dr. Steven Holland; 88 new clinical fellows, who had arrived at the CC earlier in the month; and 27 students participating in the CC's course in Clinical and Translational Research for Ph.D. Students. See related articles on this page and on page 3.



# PhD students explore "bench-to-bedside" research during CC course

"Transformative," "inspiring," and "very insightful." These are just a few of the words of praise from students who participated last month in a new Clinical Center course, "Clinical and Translational Research for PhD Students."

Twenty-seven PhD students involved in basic scientific research took part in the intensive, two-week course, which is designed to expose talented young scientists to the exciting collaborative nature of clinical and "bench-to-bedside" research. The students represented a broad range of areas of scientific research, including Biomedical and Electrical Engineering, Pharmacology, Nutrition, Nursing Science, and Microbiology, among others.

The students came from 16 different public and private academic institutions across the country, as well as research institutions in Puerto Rico and Sweden.

Terra Moody, a program analyst in the Office of Clinical Research Training and Medical Education and the course coordinator, was responsible for organizing a rich program of activities for the students, including meetings with clinician investigators, participation in a mock institutional review board, and a session where students learned about the process of filing an investigational new drug application with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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### PhD students

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"It is wonderful to see this course mature from our pilot last year," says Dr. Frederick Ognibene, CC deputy director for Educational Affairs and Strategic Partnerships. "We had nearly 50 applicants, and were able to select very highly qualified individuals to participate in this year's course."

"This was a diverse group of very bright and engaged students who were eager to learn," Dr. Juan Lertora, faculty lead for the program, agrees. "They appreciated the opportunity to meet and interact with PhD scientists working in clinical and translational research at the NIH, who served as role models for them."

Go to http://www.cc.nih.gov/training/ phdcourse/index.html for information about the next class in July 2014.

Reflections...



It is a real honor to work here at the Clinical Center. We have great leadership and a wonderful, committed staff. Most importantly, the CC has a fantastic mission: to take care of our patients as best we can and to advance the science of clinical research. It makes it easy to get up each morning and come to work!

Leighton Chan, MD, MPH Chief, Rehabilitation Medicine Dept., CC

See our 60th anniversary web page at cc.nih.gov/about news/annivers60.shtml for regular updates.

## Students reflect on "Clinical and Translational Research for PhD Students" course at CC

"It was inspiring to see the research opportunities available, and to experience the collaborative and supportive research system firsthand."

—Amanda Croasdell, University of Rochester, Toxicology

"Learning about the collaborative nature of clinical research was very insightful. It was enlightening to learn how effective scientists and clinicians are at the NIH in collaborating and conducting groundbreaking clinical research."

—Melissa Powell, Virginia Commonwealth University, Neuroscience

"This experience showed me how PhDs can play a key role in clinical trials. Learning the structure of NIH and the Clinical Center also informed me of potential future career pathways."

—Travis Shaffer, City University of New York Graduate Center, Chemistry



# Herscovitch named president-elect of SNMMI

Dr. Peter Herscovitch, director of the CC Positron Emission Tomography Department, is president-elect of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging,

a 19,000-member international scientific and medical organization that advances the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. He will become SNMMI president in June 2014.

In his role as president-elect, Herscovitch will focus on translation of new radiopharmaceuticals into clinical practice, and on implementation of the new

SNMMI strategic plan to strengthen the specialty of nuclear medicine." Other important areas are education for SNMMI members and outreach to referring physicians and patients" he says "We also need to develop collaborative training pathways with radiology to prepare the next generation of nuclear medicine physicians and physician-scientists."

Herscovitch was also recently named president-elect of the International Soci-

> ety for Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism, a society whose founders included Dr. Seymour S. Kety and Dr. Louis Sokoloff, both former NIH researchers.

Herscovitch has served at the Clinical Center since 1987. He was named chief of the PET section that year, and in 2005 was appointed director of the PET Department. Prior to his career at NIH he was an attending physician at Barnes

Hospital, and assistant professor of neurology and radiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He holds a medical degree from McGill University.

Go to http://interactive.snm.org to learn more about the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.



Dr. Peter Herscovitch

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### The Clinical Center welcomes its 2013 fellows



om the left: Dr. Jung E. Park, fellow; Dr. Mark Hallet, chief, Human Motor Control Section, NINDS; Dr. Cordin Lungu, chief, NIH Parkinson Clinic, NINDS; Dr. Nora Vanegas-Arroyave, fellow; Dr. Carine Maurer, fellow

New clinical fellows from across the country mingled at a welcome reception held on July 9 and hosted by the Clinical Center's Office of Clinical Research Training and Medical Education. The fellows networked with graduate medical education training program directors, institute and center directors, scientific and clinical directors, and other NIH medical and administrative staff.

NIH clinical fellows develop competence as medical, surgical or dental specialists and collaborate with world-renowned mentors to conduct cutting-edge patient-oriented research as they actively participate in a variety of investigational protocols at the CC.

The CC sponsors eighteen medical/ surgical specialty or subspecialty training programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and the NIH supports numerous one-ofa-kind clinical or translational research fellowship training programs within its constituent Institutes.

For more information on graduate medical education at NIH, visit clinicalcenter.nih.gov/training.

## Forty Clinical Center employees honored with NIH Director's Award

"It's always a pleasure to acknowledge excellence," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins as he took the podium and introduced the annual NIH Director's Award ceremony, held in the Ruth L. Kirschstein Auditorium of the Natcher Conference Center on June 12.

Collins praised the awardees, saying, "'Because YOU serve' is this year's theme. I want to thank all of you for the work YOU do. You are deeply valued. We could not do what we do here without each and every one of you. Your diverse accomplishments demonstrate how important NIH's work is and how it serves to improve the health not only of our nation, but the world as a whole."

While acknowledging that 2013 has been a challenging year, Collins said, "I'm still an optimist," and added, "There's an abundance of evidence that progress is

being made, and that some of the most exciting days for NIH lie ahead."

There was a moment of levity as Collins (as well as the NIH directors and other leaders on stage) all donned shades on cue, and Collins moved to the center of the stage. There he performed a new, original composition for the crowd: "The Sequester Blues."

The program also featured music provided by the NIH Community Orchestra, and the NIH Chamber Singers. But the main business of the day was honoring NIH employees for "superior performance and special efforts significantly beyond their regular duty requirements."

To the forty CC employees who earned this great distinction: congratulations, and thanks for your exemplary work!

See sidebar on this page for full list of awardees.

## Congrats to CC recipients of 2013 NIH Director's Award

#### SCIENTIFIC/MEDICAL

**Individuals** 

Chan, Leighton Remaley, Alan T.

Neimann-Pick Disease, Type C Therapeutic Development Team

Grimes, George, J. O'Grady, Naomi P. Solomon, Beth I. Starling, Judith M.

#### **NIH Clinical Center Collaborative** Research Team

Bell, Courtney D. Joyce, Maria T. Ognibene, Frederick P. Piringer, Patricia I. Simmons, Jennifer N.

**NOMID Group** 

Butman, John A. Hildenbrand, Hanna L. Hill, Suvimol C. Jain, Minal S. Paul, Scott M. Solomon, Beth I. Wesley, Robert A.

#### The VRC312 Malaria Vaccine Study Team

Decederfelt, Hope J. Digiovanni-Loaisiga, Cassandra M. Hicks, Renunda T. Starling, Judith M. Williams, Esther C.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Individuals** 

Cartledge, Tannia P. Hohenstein, Maggi

#### **Celebration Of Science Program Team**

Chan, Leighton Damiano, Diane L. Stanley, Christopher J.

#### **Data Transformation Intiative Team**

Debnam, Me Lisa T. Dominick, Erin E. Epinger, Chris F. Garnett, Sarah E. lyer, Srini S. Lee, Mei-Chiun McKeeby, Jon W. Pitts, James T. Rinehuls, Daniel P. Schacherer, Rachael A.

#### Telework And Flexible Work **Schedules Workgroup**

Pak, Charlotte G.

#### **MENTORING**

Individual

Sengstack, Patricia P.

#### TECHNICAL/CLERICAL/SUPPORT **Individuals**

Logan, Marshall E.

Whitehead, Angela H.

## The 10th annual John Laws Decker Memorial **Grand Rounds lecture**

At the 10th Annual John Laws Decker Memorial Lecture in June (left to right): Dr. Antonio (Tito) Fojo, Senior Investigator, Medical Oncology Branch, NCI, and 2012 recipient of the Distinguished Clinical Teacher Award: Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research; and Dr. Abbas Ali, co-chair, NIH Fellows Distinguished Clinical Teacher Award Selection Committee.



Dr. Fojo gave the lecture "Novel Paradigms in Cancer that May Lead to Better Therapies," in which he called Decker's work "visionary," and told a full house, "One of my objectives is to get you to change your thinking about how we evaluate cancer." Go to http://videocast.nih.gov to see a videocast of the lecture.

# "Sibling Superheroes" visit Clinical Center

In July, 14 brothers and sisters of Clinical Center pediatric cancer patients took part in the sixth annual Sibling Day, co-hosted by the Children's Inn at NIH. Other sponsors were the National Cancer Institute Pediatric Oncology Branch, the National Institute of Mental Health and the Clinical

Center Rehabilitation Medicine Department's Recreational Therapy Program.

"The goals of this program are for siblings to learn about the treatment procedures their brother or sister experiences. We also provide a supportive opportunity for open discussion of microscope while visiting during Sibling Day. feelings and reactions

to illnesses," said Sibling Day founder Dr. Lori Wiener, co-director of the Behavioral Science Core and head of the Psychological Support and Research Program in the National Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute.

This year's Sibling Day theme was "Sibling Superheroes." The day began with an ice breaker, where each sibling imagined their own unique superpower and decorated "superhero" capes.

Other activities included a tour of an operating room, where the group learned

about OR procedures and anesthesiology; a visit to Laboratory Medicine, where the siblings examined lab equipment and learned about hematology and urinalysis, and examined a mock MRI machine (provided by NIMH). Liam Axelrod said the MRI "looks like a donut that's eating you."

> After lunch, the siblings played therapeutic games and drew symbols that represented themselves on their Superhero shields. These activities illustrated the idea that every person sees something different depending on their circumstances. Donna Gregory, chief of the Recreational

Therapy Program; Sima Zadeh, pediatric fellow, NCI; and Children's Inn staff coordinated the afternoon activities.

At the end of the day, each sibling was recognized as they received a "Super Sib, Super Star" award at an award ceremony followed by an ice cream social. Seven-year-old Declan said, "I wish we could have Sibling Day more often, like once a month."

"It's important to provide brothers and sisters with recognition and validation for their unique role in their siblings' lives." said Wiener.

A note from the Editor: There is a correction to the print edition of the July 2013 issue of CC News. Alice "Frankie" Smyth was recognized for her 40 years of service at the NIH CC; she is not retiring. Our apologies, Ms. Smyth!

Sisters Cela (left) and KeLan Migan look through a

## CC's Ryan Kennedy throws first pitch



Photo by: Rosalina Bray

On July 23, Ryan Kennedy of the CC's Clinical Research Informatics Dept. threw the ceremonial first pitch before the Washington Nationals game against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Nationals Park, Washington, D.C. "Once I got up there, I just had to get it done. The pitch was a little higher than I would have liked, but I got it across the plate," Kennedy said.

An Information Technology Project Manager, Kennedy won the drawing to be Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius' Designated Pitcher at the HHS Night at the Park. More than 4,000 HHS employees enjoyed the game that evening.

## New hand hygiene dispensers debut



Beginning in August, new hand hygiene dispensers will be installed throughout the CC patient care areas and clinical departments to replace the old dispensers. The new dispensers are designed to apply just the right amount of hand antiseptic needed to effectively cover all surfaces of the hands. The dispensers are placed in areas of the hospital where there is the likelihood of direct patient contact. Once the new dispensers are installed, Project Search interns will be helping with maintenance of the dispensers.