

- Electronic health records system turns 10
- Second annual Clinical Fellows Day draws aspiring researchers
- 'NIH Bear' makes special appearance at flu clinic



Two decades of donations

NIH Blood Bank celebrates a donor's milestone of giving

On Sept. 2 the NIH Blood Bank at the Clinical Center welcomed Joyce Sachs to their donor 'Hall of Fame.' Sachs, who has been donating for more than 25 years, recently gave her 100th blood donation. She has contributed to the welfare of about 200 patients.

"Once my husband became a patient at the NIH, I just decided it was something I could do regularly," Sachs said. "It was something that I could do to give back to people that didn't take very much time, and it didn't cost any money but it did a lot of good."

The people within the Clinical Center Department of Transfusion Medicine have played a key role in Sachs's deciding to return year after year.

BLOOD DONATION page 2



The National Symphony Orchestra brings Sound Health

The National Symphony Orchestra performed Sept. 17 in the atrium as part of their Sound Health initiative. The initiative, which launched one year ago with an inaugural concert in the Clinical Center, brings orchestral music to area hospitals and medical centers. The event was co-presented by the Clinical Center and the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences.

Distinguished Clinical Teaching Award presented to NIDDK doctor

The 2014 NIH Distinguished Clinical Teaching Award was presented in September to Dr. Ranganath Muniyappa by the NIH Fellows Committee for his commitment to training clinical investigators at the NIH and overall contribution to medical education.

Muniyappa is a staff clinician at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. He focuses on the metabolic and vascular actions of insulin and how these actions are impaired in obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The award was presented Sept. 10 before the Grand Rounds Contemporary Clinical Medicine: Great Teachers Lecture in Lipsett Amphitheater.

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NIH celebrates 20th anniversary of allogeneic stem cell transplants

The NIH Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium held a two-day celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplants at NIH in September.

Over 600 scientists, nurses, healthcare providers, transplant survivors and caregivers attended interdisciplinary events held in the Clinical Center that touched on the successes and challenges facing allogeneic stem cell transplantation. During this type

of transplant, a patient receives stem cells from a family member or donor that at least partly match the patient's cells. The procedure allows for the replacement of blood cells that are either not working properly or have been destroyed.

Twenty-two experts from the Clinical Center, National Cancer Institute, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and National Institute of Allergy and Infec-

tious Diseases joined guest speakers from Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to describe the current state of allogeneic stem cell transplantation. The Sept. 11 session covered stem cell donation and manipulation, transplantation in malignant and nonmalignant conditions, late effects and future directions.

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Stem cell transplant survivors, including some individuals celebrating 20 years post-transplant, gathered in Masur Auditorium Sept. 12 after the survivorship program.

The 'NIH Bear' asks you to help foil the flu



"The person who gave the shot was sweeter than honey!" said the NIH Bear as he received the vaccine.

The annual flu immunization clinic will be open through Oct. 25 to employees and contractors with a valid NIH ID. In September, the 'NIH Bear' made his second appearance on campus just to get his flu shot. "It's not un-bear-able to get a flu shot! It feels grrreat to know that I'm helping protect myself, patients, staff and visitors this flu season," he said. "The seventh floor, where the shots are given, was a bit of a climb compared to my last visit, but it was over before I knew it; as quick as one, two, *tree*." View the immunization schedule: www.foiltheflu.nih.gov

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"It's just beyond a wonderful thing how they make you feel, in addition to of course the benefits to the patients," Sachs said. "I happen to have a blood type that's not quite as normal as many other people. When you get [a phone call saying] 'We've got someone that really needs your blood,' boy you get right over there!"

Sachs, her family and staff celebrated the milestone together.

"We are truly appreciative of the decades-long dedication it takes to make such a contribution," said Hal Wilkinson, recruitment supervisor at the Clinical Center Department of Transfusion Medicine. "Joyce and the other women and men in the NIH Blood Donor Hall of Fame are to be commended



The Sachs family (Jerry, Gene, Joyce and Barb Brody) at the NIH Blood Bank.

for their service to our patients."

Despite the recognition, this won't be Sachs's last donation at NIH.

"I have all intentions of continuing my contributions," she said. "I'm not done because I hit 100!"

She has also passed down the family tradition of service to her daughter Barb Brody, seen in the photo above, who has donated 36 units of blood to date.

Learn how to become a donor: www.cc.nih.gov/blooddonor/

Ten years of CRIS

The electronic health record system continues to advance

The Clinical Research Information System (CRIS), the Clinical Center's electronic health record, hit its 10-year milestone! It was implemented Aug. 21, 2004 and replaced the Medical Information System (MIS) that had been used since 1976.

CRIS created a central place to store and find patient information and data, including medical orders, clinical documentation, medication administration history, protocol consents, diagnostic testing results and information from different departmental and institute systems. The system has helped to create a centralized electronic health record.

Over the last decade, CRIS has undergone four upgrades, with a fifth one in progress. In addition, over 25,000 system change requests have been documented and completed. This large volume of requests shows how easy it is for CRIS users to take advantage of the system's flexibility and to ask for custom changes. Important changes implemented include creating new order forms, adding a protocol order set or new order items, incorporating new clinical documents or new clinical decision alerts and making a new tab to view medications.

To celebrate CRIS's birthday, staff recalled the time when it launched and the significant roles it has played in everyday life at NIH.

"Our old nutrition department computer system couldn't accept diet orders electronically. Orders were printed out and manually entered into the system. When CRIS went live, it allowed [us] to have a diet order interface, which was a huge step forward. Clerks no longer had to enter diet changes manually. In addition to significant time savings, the switch was a big advance for patient safety, as it helped minimize order errors," said Madeline Michael, chief, Clinical Nutrition Services, Nutrition Department.

"Practitioners that utilize CRIS may not know that there was and still is great teamwork in building and maintaining CRIS. Departments other than DCRI help maintain CRIS. The ability to work [together] to create a tool that is useful and accurate is essential in having an electronic health record that is more than an electronic version of the paper record," said Dr. Jharana Tina Patel, quality assurance officer, Pharmacy Department.

Read additional testimony: <http://go.usa.gov/d3YQ>

View the full calendar of events online

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

- * Grand Rounds Lectures (Oct. 15, 22, 29)
- * Clinical Research Protocols in Oncology Course (Oct. 27)
- * NIH Clinical Center Bake Sale (Oct. 29)
- * Family Caregiver Day Fair and Expo (Nov. 20)

Clinical Center News

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Department of Health and Human Services
10 Center Drive, Room 6-2551
Bethesda, MD 20892-1504

Published monthly by the Office of Communications and Media Relations, Justin Cohen, chief

News, article ideas, calendar events and photos are welcome. Submissions may be edited.

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Dr. John I. Gallin, director of the Clinical Center, opened the program.

"Innovations and treatments using allogeneic stem cells are one of the areas of emphasis at the NIH's clinical intramural program," said Gallin. "The improvements that have resulted from this program are continually succeeding, and we are proud of the work conducted here. This program has helped to contribute to the world effort."

The scientific day was described as innovative, extraordinary and groundbreaking by attendees. As each presenter spoke about specific diseases, syndromes and methods of research, there was an underlying message of the importance of the patients.

Dr. Henry Masur, chief of the Clinical Center Intensive Care Unit (ICU), summarized his presentation by saying, "As you look back at what's happened over the last 21 years, there have been remarkable advances in medicine which have facilitated improved survival for stem cell transplant recipients. It's wonderful to see patients come to the ICU who've had stormy courses and survive." Masur also lauded Dr. John Barrett, senior investigator in the stem cell allogeneic transplantation section of NHLBI, and his team for their leadership in advancing research on graft-versus-host disease.

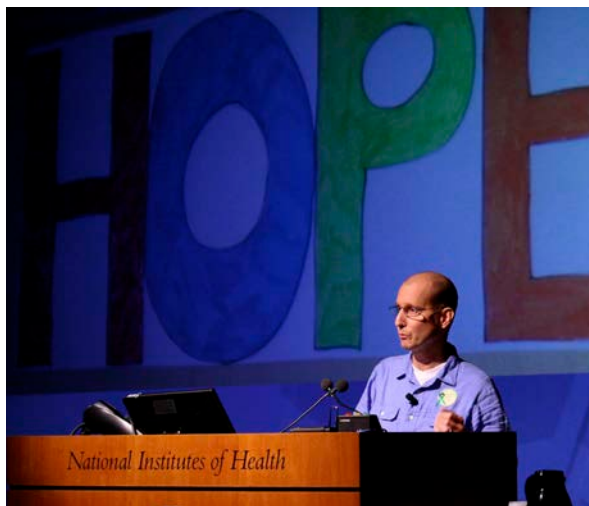
Dr. Francis S. Collins, director of the NIH, applauded the scientific presentations and ongoing research and also previewed the importance of the following day's events.

"I want to particularly draw to your attention the opportunity to celebrate the lives of those who inspire this work more than any others – the patients -- who've received stem cell transplants here at the Clinical Center and have been followed ever since," said Collins. "The survivorship program will be a powerful representation of the importance of this work and how it has affected people's lives."

The second day of the event focused on the patient and caregiver perspective. It began with the dedication of a tree and a plaque outside the Clinical Center to recognize the NIH programs for their efforts in advancing science and transplantation.

A hundred patients, accompanied by family and caregivers, celebrated the scientific advances that they helped make a possible.

Allan De Luca, a transplant survivor, shared his journey of sorrow and joy with the crowd. He said his presentation in Masur Auditorium was a 'check off his bucket



Allan De Luca speaks about his journey as a transplant survivor.

list,' and despite the topic at hand, he was able to bring the audience to a roar of applause and laughter throughout his speech.

De Luca was diagnosed with lymphoma and received his stem cells at the Clinical Center in 2009.

"I was told back at home that there were no more treatment options and that I had about six months to live. Today is day 2,067 [post-transplant]," he said.

During his presentation, De Luca displayed a photograph of a poster his children made for his hospital room with the word hope.

"Hope played a pretty large part in just trying to get through every day. Before all this happened, I can't say that I really thought about the notion of hope. I never hoped I would be there for my kid's graduation. I just assumed I'd be there. Here at NIH, hope was rekindled. It was a chance perhaps to beat the odds. Somewhere along the lines, hope transitions to belief. The hope of getting things done morphs into actually believing that everything will work out."

De Luca faces many hurdles, but he doesn't have to do it alone. In addition to a support team at home, De Luca and all transplant survivors are regularly monitored as part of the NIH program.

"People often told me that I was courageous. But the truth of the matter is the courage wasn't mine," he said. "[It's the nurses who] choose to work here. The doctors who come here because that's what they want to do. The lab technicians that contribute to our well-being. The ladies in the library that'll bring you a book to your room. And all the other fantastic people here at NIH, from voucher to travel to nutrition. Thousands of people contribute to the standard of care and everyone plays a role in our story. For me, that's courage."

Event details: <http://go.usa.gov/p9FK>

AWARD *from page 1*

This lecture series honors physician-scientists who are great teachers that inspire others and truly engage their students.

Prior to the presentation of the award, lecture attendees heard several clinical fellows testimonial that was included in their nomination of Muniyappa.

One clinical fellow said "[Muniyappa] continually encourages us to become exceptional clinicians and researchers. He spends time individually trying to understand our research interests, offering guidance and insight into how to best achieve our goals. He also demonstrates exceptional leadership as he guides how we should care for our patients during our diabetes clinic."

Another clinical fellow added, "Each patient is treated with compassion and care, as if they were his own family member. As I watch him interact with patients, I think to myself, yes, that is exactly how I want to be when I start practicing on my own."

The award was established in 1985. It's the highest honor bestowed on an NIH investigator, staff clinician or tenure-track investigator by the NIH Fellows Committee. The award recognizes nominees who mentor healthcare professionals, teach issues related to direct patient care and contribute to the advancement of clinical research. Those nominated for the award, in addition to Muniyappa include Drs. Ann Berger, Mark Hallett, Theo Heller, David Henderson, Shivaani Kumar, Karel Pacak, Anthony Suffredini, William Theodore, Cynthia Tift and Michael Ward.

A new dining approach begins on the second floor



The Clinical Center second floor café, managed by Eurest, now offers a "balanced kitchen" that includes electronic tablets where visitors can view menu items and their nutritional values. It allows users to see a combined total nutritional value of selected foods and the ability to email a summary. This is currently the only NIH dining location to offer such amenities. More details: <http://go.usa.gov/d3YQ>

Clinical Fellows Day empowers scientists, aids career growth



NIH clinical fellows join together with senior leadership from the Intramural Research Program during the second annual Clinical Fellows Day in the Clinical Center.

On Sept. 8, nearly 80 clinical fellows from across the NIH attended the second annual Clinical Fellows Day to gain valuable career advice from the senior leadership of the NIH Intramural Research Program. They learned about developing new clinical research projects, supporting physician-scientist personal and professional development, enhancing the NIH knowledge base and understanding the spectrum of available opportunities in a clinical research career.

The event was organized with the support of the NIH Clinical Fellows' Committee, the Clinical Center's Office of Clinical Research Training and Medical Education and the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences. It was held in the Lipsett Amphitheater in the Clinical Center.

This was a day designed to "honor the past, celebrate the present and embrace the future" of clinical research, according to Drs. Sid Kerkar and Natalia Chalmers, co-chairs of the NIH Clinical Fellows' Committee and co-organizers for the event.

The Clinical Fellows Day included a town hall discussion and informational

sessions for clinical fellows to learn about CRIS improvements, the NIH researchers' collaboration network, pediatric clinical services and translator services at the hospital. Dr. John I. Gallin, director of the Clinical Center, provided important guidelines for fellows seeking careers in patient care and described the Clinical Center's goals for the next decade. Drs. Anthony S. Fauci, Garry H. Gibbons, Harold E. Varmus and Nora D. Volkow, the directors of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Cancer Institute and National Institute on Drug Abuse were keynote speakers as well.

Dr. Francis S. Collins, director of the NIH, shared stories from his own childhood and medical school days during his presentation.

"Those of us who have the opportunity to experience both the intensely personal challenge of patient care and the exultation of scientific advance are among the luckiest of all human beings," Collins said, citing a paper he had written as a gradua-

tion speaker at Yale University in 1990.

Fellows felt encouraged throughout the day and thankful for the occasion to meet peers, colleagues and NIH senior leadership.

"This opportunity to listen to some of the most brilliant clinician-scientists at NIH discuss their early career experiences and the opportunity to spend unhurried time with co-fellows from departments I never see during my clinical duties has been a highlight of my fellowship time at NIH. I feel valued!" said Brooke Decker, a clinical fellow with the Critical Care Medicine Department and administrative secretary for the NIH Clinical Fellows' Committee Executive Board.

David Chasca, a clinical fellow with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, also enjoyed the event.

"It built a sense of camaraderie," he said. "It made me realize how many physician scientists I'm traveling with as we embark on the beginnings of greatness, directed by the master educators who guide us."

More details on NIH Clinical Fellows: <http://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/clinicalfellows/>

NIH partners with StoryCorps, encourages volunteers to share stories of medical research

NIH's Office of Science, Outreach and Policy is launching an exciting project to capture the voices of medical research. The office has partnered with StoryCorps, a national oral history project, to give patients, their loved ones, researchers, staff and others in the community an opportunity to share their stories.

A StoryCorps interview is 40 minutes of uninterrupted time for meaningful conversation between two people who know each other well: two researchers, a patient and/or family member and researcher; family members of a patient, etc. Due to limited slots, StoryCorps may not be able to accommodate all volunteers.

The participants determine the conversation topics, but the goal is to capture stories that reflect different aspects of the NIH research experience. Some of these stories are edited into shorter segments, which may be shared with millions of Americans in a weekly, award-winning broadcast on NPR's Morning Edition and through the StoryCorps website and podcast.

StoryCorps will be on campus for three days this December. Participants will receive a copy of their recordings, which will also be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Additionally, selected recordings will be turned into edited



StoryCorps participant photo courtesy of Tony Rinaldo.

segments that will be integrated into the visitor experience at NIH, featured on the NIH website, and shared with broader communities through social media or played in media broadcasts, presentations, etc.

For more information or to request to participate, email storycorps@nih.gov. You can also hear some recordings at www.storycorps.org.