

September 2001

Clinical Center News

In this issue:

- Mission: Dominican Republic
- Nurses launch lecture series

Medical community loses a jewel

Jeanne E. Hicks, M.D., will be retiring September 30, after 24 years of government service.

For 21 years, during her tenure in the Clinical Center, she has held one position as deputy chief of the Rehabilitation Medicine Department. In that role, she directed the RMD consultation services, served as associate investigator on institute protocols, educated staff, students, residents and fellows, and directed the RMD quality assurance program.

Dr. Hicks is trained in four medical disciplines in which she is credentialed in the CC. It is rare to find

See **Hicks**, page three



During his four-day tour of NIH, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson stopped by the blood bank where Xin Fu, R.N., prepares him to donate blood. An advocate for organ and tissue donations, Thompson launched a "Donate the Gift of Life" initiative earlier this year to encourage organ and tissue donation, as well as registration for marrow and blood donations.

HHS Secretary receives grand tour

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson spent four days touring NIH last month to familiarize himself with the latest medical research and internal operations.

NIH was the fourth agency Thompson visited since being sworn into office in February.

During his visit, Thompson was escorted around NIH and the Clinical Center by Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, NIH acting director and CC Director Dr. John Gallin. Thompson spoke with researchers about the latest in medical advances and met with patients

who spoke firsthand about their experiences while being treated at the CC.

"No one can be more impressed with this institute than I am," said Michael Rice. "The personalities of the people here make this place shine." Rice was the recipient of a peripheral blood stem cell transplant to treat colon cancer. The transplant uses significantly lower doses of chemotherapy than would be given with a bone marrow transplant.

See **Thompson**, page four



CC QWI and Diversity Council

In June, the CC QWI/Diversity Council sponsored an energized, productive two-day retreat, and its members developed a strategic plan for future council activity. The group decided to revisit existing council mission, visions and goal statements as the foundation of a new framework. The council members collaboratively developed the following new statements that reflect increased emphasis on diversity in the Clinical Center and the role of the council:

Vision statement

The council is committed to creating a workforce culture that embraces awareness and sensitivity to quality of worklife and diversity.

Mission statement

The council will be a catalyst to promote an inclusive workplace where all employees are valued, treated with respect and supported.

Goals

The council developed goals and identified potential action items for implementation, in addition to ongoing actions. Goals include marketing and communication of council and/or CC activities; obtaining and assessing existing data/data sources that can help inform council or CC decisions; planning and resources identification; development of education plans for the council, CC staff and the public; and collaboration/integration with existing key CC initiatives, to ensure that employee QWI and diversity needs are considered.

It's all in the drum

The CC EEO Office recently sponsored a successful event at the 35th Anniversary Celebration Powwow under the auspices of the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C.

The powwow took place on August 4 and 5, in Urbana, Maryland. Mr. Carl Lucas, the CC EEO officer, coordinated the event on behalf of the CC. The purpose for sponsoring a booth was to educate the local Native American community about healthy lifestyles and CC programs. A number of NIH institutes provided health-related literature, and CC nurses and

dance, family reunion and fun-filled festival, while still presenting an opportunity for spiritual growth and celebration of tribal legacies. The rich pageantry of colors, dance, and music, in addition to the aroma of buffalo, fresh fish and Native American breads, all serve to provide a unique sensual experience. At the centerpiece of powwows are the



Native American powwows are family events filled with a modern blend of dance, family reunion and fun-filled festival, while presenting an opportunity for spiritual growth and celebration of tribal legacies.

clinicians performed blood pressure and glucose screenings. Clinical Center volunteers provided information to help promote blood donations by Native Americans.

Several Clinical Center QWI/Diversity Council members participated and reported the event as enriching and inspirational. Native American powwows are family-friendly events, which have evolved over time from a formal ceremony into a modern blend of (competitive)

drums, consisting of the instrument and singers. The drum sings songs for a multitude of occasions, and good drums draw excellent dancers in vibrant regalia from both local and distant Native American communities.

For more information on upcoming local Native American events, visit the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C. website at <http://www.tuscaroras.com/ais/events.html>.

Clinical Center
News

Editor: Tanya Brown

Clinical Center News, 6100 Executive Blvd., Suite 3C01, MSC 7511, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-7511. (301) 496-2563. Fax: (301) 402-2984. Published monthly for CC employees by the Office of Clinical Center Communications, Colleen Henrichsen, chief. News, article ideas, calendar events, letters, and photographs are welcome. **Deadline** for submissions is the second Monday of each month.
Clinical Center News online: www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/ccnews/current



Volunteers needed

Males and females 14 years of age and over who will be receiving a cochlear implant in the future are needed for a study involving language coding in cochlear implant recipients. Participation involves 2-3 visits over one year. Compensation provided. For more information, call 301-496-5368 ext. 205 or send an email to szymkoy@nidcd.nih.gov.

Healthy adults

NIMH seeks healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 45 to participate in a memory study. Individuals must be able to see at least 3 feet away without the use of glasses or contact lenses. Participants will be interviewed and will complete a memory task, during which physiological functioning will be recorded. Call 301-402-9347 for information.

Healthy volunteers

National Institute of Mental Health seeks healthy children and adolescents, ages 9-17, as well as adults ages 25-35, to participate in a study of emotional regulation. An interview, computer tasks and an MRI are involved. Compensation is provided. For more information or to volunteer for the study, call 301-402-9347.

Dr. Hicks to remain close to CC after retirement

continued from page one

a physician with numerous credentials, but after reading over her accomplishments and doing a search on the internet, it is clear to this editor that Dr. Hicks is a jewel in the crown of medicine.

"We have been fortunate to have Dr. Hicks on staff for 21 years. It is most unusual to have a physician trained in internal medicine, infectious diseases, rheumatology and rehabilitation medicine," said Dr. Lynn Gerber, chief, RMD. "Dr. Hicks' commitment to the needs of the disabled population and to excellence in care and research is a model for all of us."

Dr. Hicks came to NIH in 1980 after completing her rehabilitation residency at the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

"I felt NIH was a unique multicultural environment in which I could use all of my medical skills to enhance the physical, psychosocial and spiritual well-being of patients by participating in team-oriented clinical care and biomedical research," said Dr. Hicks. "Working with the staff, patients and their families has made me a better person. This has been a great team to be part of."

Dr. Hicks is considered one of eight leading national experts in the area of rehabilitation of people with rheumatic diseases, along with Dr. Gerber. Her exceptional skills have

permitted her to support a variety of research protocols and advance the clinical care of NIH patients and patient care nationally and internationally. Working as a team, Dr. Hicks and Dr. Gerber have been instrumental in integrating rehabilitation into the field of rheumatic diseases by developing a section of Rehabilitative Rheumatology in the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), and organizing educational tools for the curriculum in rheumatology fellowship training programs. Dr. Hicks organized and edited one book for use in this curriculum.

Dr. Hicks has been invited to speak nationally and internationally and has presented at various scientific meetings of the ACR and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R). She has held adjunct faculty positions as associate professor of internal medicine at George Washington School of Medicine and in rehabilitation in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Georgetown School of Medicine. She has 154 publications, including chapters in major medical texts, and articles and abstracts in refereed journals. She is a reviewer on seven medical journals in her fields, has chaired major educational committees in the AAPM&R and the ACR, and served as a member of the board of directors of the ACR. She has been an expert in legal testimony for the U.S. Justice Department and local law

firms.

Her main areas of research collaboration for the past 20 years have been with NIAMS and NCI. As an associate investigator on polymyositis protocols with NIAMS, Dr. Hicks provided outcome measures during drug intervention and also assessed muscle function with ultrasound. She also studied the effect of exercise in myositis patients.

With NCI she has participated in sarcoma protocols and evaluated patients for the feasibility of doing amputation versus limb-sparing surgery from the perspective of predicted functional outcome considering the extent of surgical resection that needed to be done for adequate tumor removal (as determined in an NCI staging conference). Rehabilitation played an important part in preserving the quality of life of these patients.

Dr. Hicks has been listed in the *Best Doctors of America*, *The Directory of Rehabilitation Specialists*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, *Sterlings Who's Who* and *Who's Who Among Women*.

Dr. Hicks plans to do consultative work after retirement as well as resume playing the organ for religious services and weddings, painting and writing poetry and prose.

"I haven't been able to participate much in these activities while working, but it won't take long to get back to them," she said.



The grand tour would not have been complete without a walk through the CRC. Yong-Duk Chyun, project director (right), showed Thompson floor plans and designs of the new building. Nearly 60 percent of the patient rooms will be single rooms, while each of the pediatric rooms will have a space for the parents to sleep. Pictured (l to r) Secretary Tommy Thompson, Stephen A. Ficca, associate director, ORS, and CC Director Dr. John Gallin.

Employees, patients welcome Thompson to CC

continued from page one

Therefore, the procedure is tolerated much better and has fewer complications. Twelve days after the transplant, Rice was able to return home to North Carolina.

"I just wanted to have the opportunity to say thanks [to the Secretary] for supporting these new treatments that have been beneficial in my life," said Rice.

(right) Rosa Ramirez shows Secretary Thompson the toughness of her skin caused by dermatomyositis, an acute inflammatory condition of the skin and muscle. Pictured (l to r) Rosa Ramirez, Dr. Gregory Dennis,, NIAMS, Secretary Tommy Thompson, Dr. Stephen Katz, director, NIAMS.

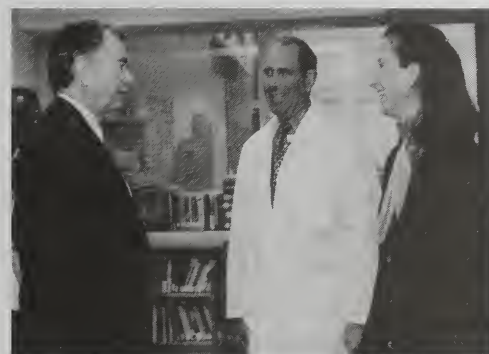


Dr. Stephen Katz, NIAMS director (left) and Dr. Gregory Dennis, NIAMS, show Thompson a splint that was placed on Ainsline Crawford's finger to maintain alignment so that the finger won't disfigure. Crawford was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 1998 and is currently being prepared for enrollment into a protocol.



(below) Angela Richardson tells Thompson, "I am only alive today because of the study I was enrolled in." Nearly 20 years ago, Richardson was diagnosed with lupus. At that time the disease was considered incurable. With a series of medications, Richardson has been able to control her life without having the effects of lupus interfere.

(below middle) Thompson speaks to a group of fellows before lunch.



(above) Dr. Gallin and Maureen Gormley briefly speak with Secretary Thompson before touring the CC.

(left) Prior to touring the CRC, Thompson is briefed on the design and structure of the building. Thompson was most impressed with the interstitial levels of the building that will house the utility infrastructure. The interstitial levels will provide full access for easy maintenance and repairs with no disruption to the patients or employees in the occupied spaces below.

Mission impossible: CC team takes risks for others

A team of CC employees are looking for a “few good colleagues” to join them in a life-changing experience. But be warned, this rewarding adventure won’t be easy.

Five CC staff took leave in July and paid their way to the Dominican Republic, where they had an opportunity to bathe in a bucket, sleep one night on a concrete floor and, if it weren’t for the local villagers, face the prospect of eating LifeSavers for dinner.

It was an experience they won’t forget. Not because of the poor living conditions, but because they helped to treat more than 600 people in need of medical attention.

“It’s not an easy week because you are totally out of your comfort zone,” said Dr. John Hurley, director, Pediatric Outpatient Clinic. “You have to adjust to a whole new way of life, but it is definitely an enriching and humbling experience.”

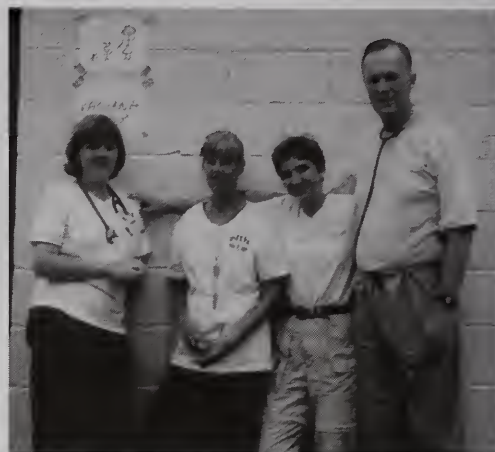
Dr. Hurley has been with the mission since its inception three years ago when he and members of his church, St. Raphael’s in

Rockville, decided to support their sister church in the Dominican Republic with more than monetary donations. Their solution: provide medical care to the impoverished towns and villages of their sister parish.

“We wanted to reach out and offer help as a way of building trust with the people,” said Dr. Hurley. “Providing health care was a way of demonstrating our good faith.”

St. Raphael’s provided the medications and other medical supplies. It was Dr. Hurley who rounded up the CC team of Ellen Vaughan, dialysis nurse, CC, and Elaine Ruiz, pediatric nurse practitioner, CC. Dr. Bibi Bielekova, neurologist, NINDS, and a veteran missionary, recruited Dr. Kenneth Fischbeck, NINDS, to join the NIH contingent. The entire team was made up of 30 medical professionals, support people and interpreters from around the country.

On the first day of the mission, the group traveled from the small village of Guayabal, where they were lodging, to the even smaller village



A group of CC employees spent a week out of their comfort zone to help those in need. Part of the team includes (from l to r) Elaine Ruiz, Ellen Vaughan, Dr. Bibi Bielekova and Dr. John Hurley. Not pictured is Dr. Kenneth Fischbeck.

of Las Canitas. The two and a half-hour trip took them over rocky roads and up a narrow mountainous path where “we were literally hanging onto the back of an open-bed truck to stay inside,” said Dr. Hurley.

But what started out as a day-long trip would last even longer than expected.

The weather in July consistently brings rain during the day, but the group was able to reach the village dry. When they arrived, there were nearly 100 natives waiting for them to go to work. The office was a small building with no exam tables, lab or medical resources, other than what they brought.

“You have nothing to use but your hands and your head to best figure out what the problem could be,” said Dr. Hurley. “It’s a different experience to examine a child on the floor.”

Patients were treated that day beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. The group packed up their supplies and prepared to head down the mountain, when they were informed that the afternoon rain had washed out the roadway. With no change of clothes, no food, other than a few packages of LifeSavers, and only a concrete floor for a bed, morale began to dwindle.

“I guess the people we treated got word that we were unable to see Mission, page eight



More than 300 children were immunized against the H.flu bacteria, a common and often fatal cause of meningitis in infants. Each of the children were excited to receive a fluorescent BandAid after the inoculation. Dr. Hurley’s son, Ryan (center), made friends easily. He traveled with the team as a Spanish translator.

MFP lecture series

This year's Medicine for the Public (MFP) lectures, which are free and open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. in Masur Auditorium on Tuesdays from Sept. 25 through Oct. 30. The series helps people understand the latest developments in medicine—new therapies, diagnostic procedures and research. For details on specific topics and speakers, call 301-496-2563, or visit the website at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/ccc/mfp/series.html>.



Disability awareness

The Third Annual CC Disability Awareness Showcase will be held on Thursday, October 4, in Masur Auditorium. The showcase will bring together management and staff to celebrate National Disability Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Disabilities: Myth or Reality?" Information resource booths will be open to the public in the Visitor Information Center starting at 10 a.m. Vendors will feature assistive technologies, reasonable accommodation services, disability employment laws, and recruitment sources.

For other reasonable accommodations, contact the disability employment program coordinator at least five days in advance at jgarmany@nih.gov or 301-496-9100 (TTY) through the Maryland Relay Service at 1-800-735-2258.

Employee orientation

There will be an NIH employee orientation fair September 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Visitor Information Center. All CC staff are encouraged to stop by and learn about NIH organizations and employee resources.

Depression screening

On October 11, the NIH Work and Family Life Center will sponsor an NIH-wide depression screening program in Bldg. 10. For information, call Sophia Glezos-Voit at 301-443-4533.

Research festival

The 15th annual NIH Research Festival will be held in the Natcher Conference Center on October 2-5. Visit the website at <http://festival01.nih.gov> for detailed program information.

Nursing Dept. launches lecture series

Primary care will be the focus of "Primary Care Updates," a new lecture series sponsored by the CC Nursing Department. Coordinated by Laura Shay, M.S., C.R.N.P., the series will feature CC and NIH nurse practitioners. They will share their experiences about diseases such as multiple sclerosis and type II diabetes, highlighting primary care issues both for nurses and for other healthcare providers.

There are 52 nurse practitioners in the CC. Their roles may vary from institute to institute; however, their clinical focus is usually very specific. This specialization poses a challenge for nurse practitioners who want to stay current in primary care. To address this concern, CC nurse practitioners developed the lecture series as a way to keep each other up to date.

"We have so much hidden talent in our advance-practice providers," said Shay. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to make it available to everyone. In the future I hope to include lectures by clinical nurse specialists, nurse researchers and physician assistants."

The lecture series will take place in the Lipsett Amphitheater on the third Tuesday of the month beginning on October 16. CEUs will be offered. For more information, contact Laura Shay at 6-0442.

The Series

Imaging Studies in Primary Care
Barbara Galen, M.S.N., C.R.N.P.
Program Director
Biomedical Imaging Program
Division of Cancer Treatment and
Diagnostics
NCI

Smoking Cessation
Susan Rudy, M.S.N., C.R.N.P.,
C.O.R.L.N.
Office of the Director
NIDCD

Update in the Treatment of Type II DM
Elaine Ruiz, M.S.N., C.R.N.P.
Diabetes Branch
NIDDK

Working Up Rheumatologic Disorders
Jeanmarie Bechtle, M.S.N., C.R.N.P.
Arthritis and Rheumatism Branch
NIAMS

Update in Nephrology
David Smith, M.S., C.R.N.P.
Kidney Disease Section
NIDDK

The Differential Diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Joan Ohayon, M.S.N., C.R.N.P.
Clinical Center Nursing Department
assigned to: Neuroimmunology
Branch, NINDS

CC team of five on a mission to help and heal

continued from page six

return to Guayabal, because they brought us hot rice and beans and rolled up the mattresses from their beds and gave them to us," said Ruiz. "These people had absolutely nothing, and yet they shared what they had."

The next afternoon, following another day of treating the people of Las Canitas, the group was able to return to Guayabal and continue their mission work there and in the surrounding areas. They even dedicated one day to immunizing more than 300 children against H.flu bacteria, a

common and often fatal cause of meningitis in infants.

"It was an overwhelming experience. The people are so needy, yet so grateful," said Vaughan. "I thought the children would be begging us for money and candy, but instead they asked us for toothbrushes."

The group left medicines with local organizers to be distributed when needed. Hypertension, heart attacks and strokes were among the major medical problems encountered.

"This whole experience just put things into perspective," said Ruiz.

"Out there, we worked together under poor circumstances, and we bonded together to get things done. It helps now when we are working and we have a stressful situation on the job to know that things really aren't that bad."

Anyone interested in going on a future mission, please contact Dr. John Hurley at jhurley@mail.cc.nih.gov. No experience necessary.

-by Tanya Brown

s e p t e m b e r

5

Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.
Lipsett Amphitheater

Neurobiology of Stress: Role of Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone (CRH) in Stress-Related Illness
Philip W. Gold, M.D., NIMH
Modification of the Gastrointestinal Responses to Stress by Antalarmin: A Novel Nonpeptide Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone (CRH) Type-1 Receptor Antagonist
Kamal E. Habib, M.D., Ph.D., NIMH

12

Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.
Lipsett Amphitheater

Unstable Angina: No Longer the Grey Zone
Eugene Braunwald, M.D., Harvard Medical School

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture
3 p.m.
Masur Auditorium

How the Ear's Works Work: Transduction and Amplification by Hair Cells
A. James Hudspeth, M.D., Ph.D., Rockefeller University, NY

19

Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.
Lipsett Amphitheater

The Menstrual Cycle is a Vital Sign
Lawrence Nelson, M.D., NICHD
The Contrasting Role of IL-2 and IL-15 in the Life and Death of Lymphocytes: Implication of Immunotherapy
Thomas Waldmann, M.D., NCI

26

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture
3 p.m.
Masur Auditorium

Ion Channel Proteins: Function to Structure and Back Again
Christopher Miller, Ph.D., Brandeis University, MA

Grand Rounds
noon-1 p.m.
Lipsett Amphitheater

Genomics and Housecalls: Research on the Old Order Amish
Leslie Biesecker, M.D., NHGRI
Current Issues in the Use of Systemic and Regional Treatment of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer to the Liver
Richard Alexander, M.D., NCI

Wednesday Afternoon Lecture
3 p.m.
Masur Auditorium

Regulation of Genome Expression in Living Eukaryotic Cells
Richard Young, Ph.D., MIT, Cambridge