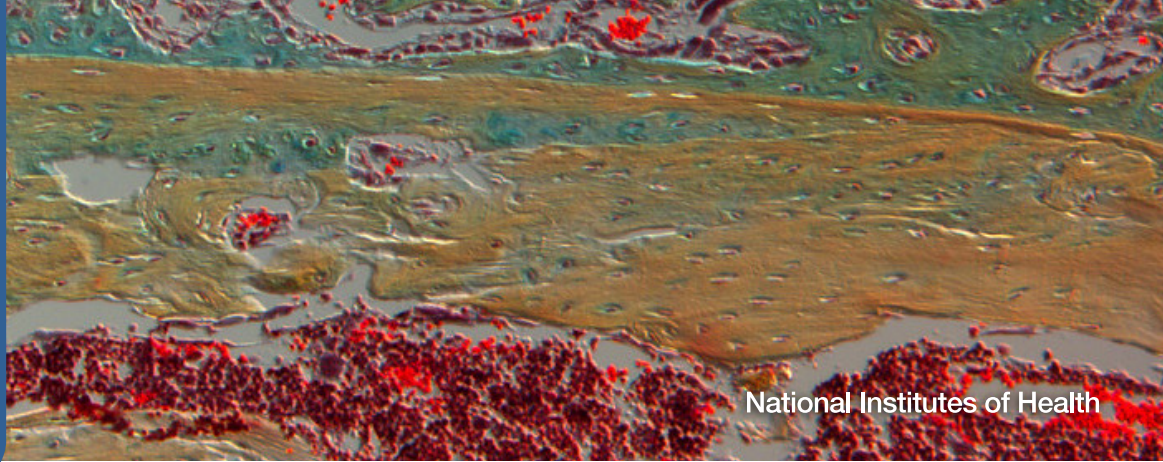


75th
ANNIVERSARY
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RECORD

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National Institutes of Health

DAY OF DISCOVERY

NIH's Take Your Child to Work Event Celebrates 30th Year

BY DANA TALESNIK

Lots of folks might be grossed out by blood, brains and bacteria, but the throngs of curious kids who accompanied their grown-ups to Take Your Child to Work Day (TYCTWD) were eager to experience these wonders, and many got an up-close look.

On Apr. 25, more than 3,700 children participated in more than 350 different in-person, hands-on activities as well as virtual and pre-recorded sessions. Children in grades 1-12 conducted all kinds of science experiments, marveled at cool demonstrations, toured labs and facilities, participated

in educational games and got all goopy doing art. Swarms of youngsters and grown-ups also stopped by Earth Day exhibits outside of Bldg. 1.

Each year, the Clinical Center (CC) is abuzz with many TYCTWD activities. An annual favorite, Clinical Lab Experience lets kids get up close with blood, bacteria



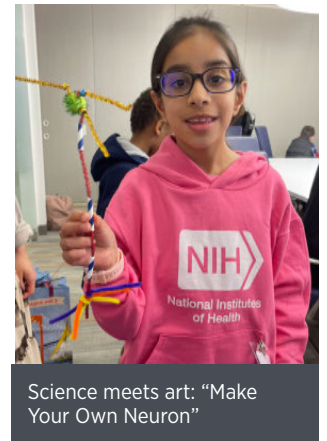
NIBIB's Dr. Manu Platt demonstrates pipetting.

PHOTO: ANNA CONREY/NHLBI

and parasites. At stations around the room, children peered through microscopes at ticks and lice; at petri dishes of staph, strep and other bacteria; and at cholesterol and neutrophils in blood cells.

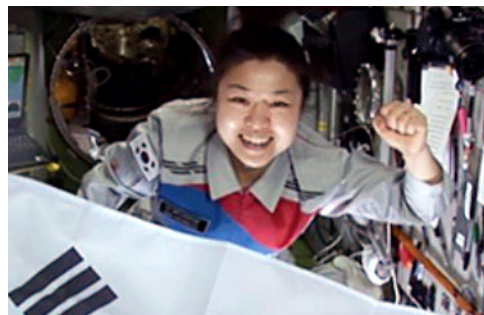
"It all starts with the blood," said Michael Guyah, a technician in the CC's department of laboratory medicine, demonstrating how a phlebotomist collects blood.

One floor up, kids inflated preserved pig lungs, including one blackened by tobacco,



Science meets art: "Make Your Own Neuron"

SEE TYCTWD, PAGE 6



A South Korean astronaut will visit NIH as part of Asian Heritage Month events. See details, p. 5.

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POWER OF COMMUNITY
New Police Chief Spruill Settles In

BY AMBER SNYDER

NIH welcomed new police chief Cleveland Spruill Sr. on Nov. 6, 2023. His career has spanned 30-plus years and multiple departments.

Growing up in a disadvantaged part of New York City, Spruill didn't have a favorable view of law enforcement, but that began to change as he relocated to Richmond, Va., with his family, entered adulthood and enlisted in the Army. He served for four years and then decided to pursue a career as a lawyer. A police officer seemed like a natural



Chief Cleveland Spruill Sr.

PHOTO: ERIC BOCK

SEE CHIEF, PAGE 4



Celebrating an NIA milestone in 1983 are (from l) NIH Director Dr. James Wyngaarden, HHS Assistant Secretary Dr. Edward Brandt, HHS Secretary Margaret Heckler and newly appointed NIA Director Dr. T. Franklin Williams.

Aging Well—NIA at 50

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Since 1974, NIA has led research on aging and the well-being of older adults, including studies on the genetic, biological, clinical, behavioral, social and economic aspects of aging. What was viewed with skepticism 50 years ago—studying aging—is today a critical part of NIH's work to extend the healthy, active years of life.

SEE NIA, PAGE 8



NIH Joins the Mindful FED Program

All staffers are welcome to enjoy the benefits of the Mindful FED Program—beginning with a weekly NIH class. Brought to you by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Mindful FED is a first-of-its-kind interagency community of practice, complementing agencies’ wellness goals by integrating mindfulness strategies and practices into workplace culture, enhancing staff health and resilience, performance and leadership development. The community, and its services, are open to any employee expressing curiosity and intention for cultivating self-awareness and self-management.

There are several ways to participate:

- View an NIH video intro <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geeiuFFRV3E>
- Join the listserv—send a blank email to Mindful-FED-subscribe-request@listserv.gsa.gov and receive weekly resources
- Attend NIH’s Mindful FED Offering with Dr. Rezvan Ameli on Thursdays from 2 to 2:30 p.m. ET
- Listen to *Mindful Musings* audio blog series
- Take in the weekly class schedule
- View/attend any interagency offerings, held multiple times/day
- Register for the Mindful Approaches to AI Webinar Series (May to September)

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3wBYIKI>. Questions? Email Leslie Pont, NIH Wellness Program manager at leslie.pont@nih.gov. Go to <https://go.nih.gov/mDL7V0m> for weekly news and events.

NIAID Shares Successful Workplace Training Strategy

The Scientific Review Program (SRP) at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) developed a strategic training plan to emphasize the importance of quality relationships with stakeholders, a commitment to best practices in peer review, innovation in program and branch leadership, and development of leadership skills. The roadmap provides an integrated



NIAID’s Scientific Review Program created a training strategy based on FEVS results.



Chief Epidemiologist for Israel Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis (l) listens with Dr. Daniel Douek (c), chief of the VRC human immunology section, as Dr. Robert Seder, chief of the center’s cellular immunology section, provides an overview of the VRC’s development of monoclonal antibodies to prevent malaria.

Israel’s Chief Epidemiologist Visits VRC

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases’s (NIAID) Vaccine Research Center (VRC) hosted Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, head of the Public Health Directorate at the Israeli Ministry of Health and chief epidemiologist for Israel on Apr. 3.

During the visit, Alroy-Preis received an overview of the VRC’s research activities involving development of mucosal vaccines to prevent Covid and development of monoclonal antibodies for prevention of malaria.



VRC Director Dr. Ted Pierson and Alroy-Preis chat.

PHOTOS: CHIA-CHI CHARLIE CHANG



Involved in the visit are (from l) Abe Mittelman, VRC senior advisor; Dr. Christina Harris, VRC deputy associate director for management and operations; Dr. Jennifer Anderson, VRC associate director for management and operations; Alroy-Preis; Pierson; Douek; Dr. Karin Bok, VRC acting deputy director; Seder; and Dr. Masaru Kanekiyo, chief of the VRC molecular immunoengineering section.

training series coordinated and customized specifically to support evolution across these four areas over time.

SRP partnered with NIAID’s Office of Workforce Effectiveness to build a strong foundation with psychological safety and emotional intelligence training and then collaborated with NIH’s Ombuds Office to create a monthly Lunch and Learn Series focused on relevant follow up

topics to help ensure sustainable implementation of knowledge and skills.

As a part of implementing the plan, the program also partners with the NIH Training Center to help identify facilitators. SRP’s workplace culture continues to evolve, in part, based on relevant training that supports the program’s pursuit of excellence in peer review, and is seeing low attrition, a continued positive work culture and outstanding FEVS results year after year with 2023 showing all core items as strengths.

For details, email NIAIDReviewMT@mail.nih.gov.

Perelman's Weiss To Deliver Khoury Lecture, May 29

Noted microbiologist Dr. Susan Weiss will deliver the annual Dr. George Khoury Lecture on May 29 at 2 p.m. ET. Titled "Coronavirus Activation and Antagonism of Interferon Signaling Pathways: From MHV to SARS-CoV-2," the talk will be held in person in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10, and live online at <https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=52621>.

Part of the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS), the event honors the late Khoury, who was highly regarded as a superb scientist and caring mentor, and who served as chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Virology at the National Cancer Institute.



Dr. Susan Weiss

Weiss is professor and vice chair of the department of microbiology and co-director of the Penn Center for Research on Coronavirus and Other Emerging Pathogens at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a fellow and a current governor of the American Academy of Microbiology, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 2023 was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Continuing Medical Education credits will be available. More information about WALS is posted at <https://oir.nih.gov/wals>.

NIH Announces Pay Increases for NRSA Scholars

NIH will increase annual pay levels for predoctoral and postdoctoral scholars at NIH-funded external institutions who are recipients of the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA). The increase applies to more than 17,000 research trainees.

Predocutorial scholars will receive an approximate 4% increase in their pay level bringing it to \$28,224; postdoctoral scholars will receive an approximate increase of 8%, with pay levels beginning at \$61,008 and upwardly adjusted based on years of experience. NIH aims to increase these pay levels over the next five years.

Eligible recipients also will receive a \$500 increase in subsidies for childcare and an additional \$200 for training-related expenses. The updated fiscal year 2024 pay levels are informed by recommendations from the advisory committee to the NIH director (ACD). The new NRSA pay levels incorporate the largest year-over-year update since 2017.

"NIH and our grantee institutions must invest in pre- and postdoctoral scholars to ensure the future of the biomedical research workforce and enterprise remains strong and globally competitive," said NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnoli. "This revision of pay levels for NRSA recipients is just a first step toward reaffirming their value and ensuring they are appropriately compensated. I am hopeful these



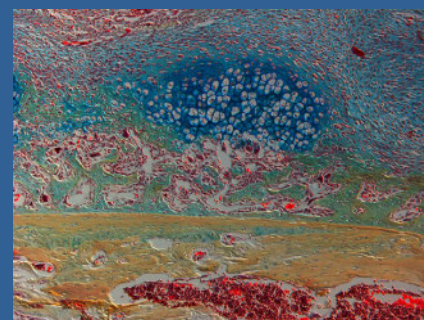
IMAGE: PEOPLEIMAGES-YURI A/SHUTTERSTOCK

continued efforts help us attract and retain our nation's brightest scientific minds."

While the amended pay levels do not reach the full funding increase recommended by the ACD, NIH selected the current plan to allow for an immediate

pay increase without drastic cuts to the number of available NRSA awards, though a small reduction in the number of positions is expected. The increase is based on current NIH funding levels, which remain flat in the constrained budget environment. Pending availability of funds via future appropriations, NIH plans further stipend boosts over the next three to five years.

"I believe implementation of these recommendations will go far in giving these scholars the sense of job security and career prospects that will lead to long careers in biomedical research," said Dr. Mike Lauer, NIH deputy director for extramural research. **R**



ON THE COVER: Image shows a section of mouse bone near a fracture, with marrow full of red blood cells at the bottom and healthy bone above it (tan). New bone (green) and cartilage (dark blue) are in the upper layer.

IMAGE: PHILIPP LEUCHT/NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE WITH SUPPORT FROM NIAMS

Annual Wellness Day Set, June 18

NIH's annual Safety, Health and Wellness Day will be held on Tuesday, June 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the 6th fl. conference center, Bldg. 31, C wing. This year's theme is "Fostering Safety, Belonging and Well-Being."

Held in person and virtually every June during National Safety Month, the half-day event celebrates and brings awareness to workforce health, safety and wellness. The 2024 focus is to enhance staff awareness of belonging, inclusion, well-being, fitness and safety in the NIH community. Everyone is welcome.

Activities planned:

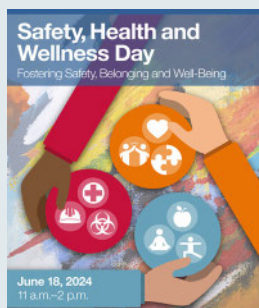
- More than 40 exhibits on a wide variety of topics presented by multiple NIH components
- Hybrid mini-information sessions via webcast
- CPR demonstrations and fitness classes
- Food demonstrations, including a BBQ World Tour and more

Mark your calendars to attend and have fun with a coworker.

The event is hosted by NIH's Office of Research Services with 2024 co-sponsor, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, in collaboration with the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, 8 Changes for Racial Equity, and NIH's Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office and Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

For details, visit <https://go.nih.gov/NMPcSuN> to view agenda and register.

Sign language interpreting and CART services available upon request; email roxy.grossnickle@nih.gov. Make requests at least five days in advance. To access Telecommunications Relay Services, call 711.



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National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

Chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

steppingstone, so Spruill took a job with the police department in Alexandria, Va.

“I’d planned on being there for two or three years, but ended up staying for 27,” he recalled. The action-packed nature of the job appealed to him, but so did the opportunities to have meaningful connections with the community.

One opportunity has come through Spruill’s love of football. The Alabama Crimson Tide fan has coached all ages of youth football, from five-year-olds through high school, and he appreciates how the sport enables him to direct his players in a positive direction and also connect with the community.

In Alexandria, Spruill was far more well-known in the neighborhood as a football coach than as a police officer.

“If you asked people who Officer Spruill was, a few might know. But if you asked them if they knew Coach Spruill, a lot more people would start nodding,” he said.

The rapport he developed as Coach Spruill meant people felt comfortable confiding in him in areas that Officer Spruill could help—ranging from food insecurity to domestic violence.

He has also encouraged community engagement activities among the police forces he has worked in, such as Halloween “trunk”-or-treat events, volunteering with Special Olympics and hosting food giveaways during Covid. Other events, such as “Shop with a Cop” or “Cops and Barbers,” allowed children special one-on-one time with officers as the kids hunted for Christmas presents or got haircuts—which were paid for by the police force.

In the Alexandria Police Department, Spruill “served in pretty much every aspect of policing you could think of,” eventually ascending to deputy chief. He later served as chief of Huntersville Police Department in North Carolina, followed by Athens-Clarke County Police Department in Georgia.

The Covid-19 pandemic struck when Spruill was in Georgia. His then-fiancée lived in Maryland, and due to pandemic-induced restrictions, he was only able to see his partner and family twice in 2020.

“I came to realize that I needed to put family ahead of work,” he said.



Spruill, shown here in 2020, has served as chief of Huntersville Police in North Carolina and Athens-Clarke County Police in Georgia.

He moved to Maryland permanently in April 2022. He had no job lined up, but also knew he wasn’t ready to retire. He became the chief of police and public safety director for the University of the District of Columbia, and then applied for his current NIH position a year later.

What inspired the change? Spruill had a high opinion of the NIH police force already, from interactions during training exercises and other joint activities while he worked in Alexandria.

“I’ve always considered NIH law enforcement to be a high-performing and professional [department],” he said.

What piqued his interest, though, was his stepson’s internship experience that led to a budding biology career.

“The experience he had here at NIH transformed him into a contributing citizen and scientist,” and inspired Spruill to apply.

He began in early November and is “very happy to be here.” As there was a two-year gap between Spruill’s appointment and the previous chief’s departure, there is a lot to do, but Spruill is confident in his employees.

“[The NIH police force] is an outstanding organization with highly committed and outstanding employees,” he said.

Are there any differences when it comes to policing a federal agency after a career of municipal policing?

Not really, according to Spruill: “Policing is the same no matter where you are.”

NIH does have more of an emphasis on security, he noted, from protecting scientists and their research to ensuring safe and uneventful visits of public figures.

One major priority for Spruill is increasing rapport with the broader NIH community. With his background as a

disadvantaged youth and later as a police officer working with the public, he understands that there is a disconnect between law enforcement and the people they serve.

“I think that, not just at NIH, but globally, we as law enforcement need to do a better job of explaining what our rules are and why we have to do things a certain way,” he said.

He sees opportunities to do that in engagement.

“I’d like to let the public see our employees in a positive light, rather than have their first encounter be in an accident or getting a ticket,” he reasoned.

Spruill is also committed to promoting equity, diversity and inclusion. He is keenly aware of its importance in his line of work.

“People inherently trust other people who look like them...the more that we look like the community we serve, the more comfortable they are going to be in engaging with us.”

What can NIH’ers expect from the police department in the future?

Expect to see some education and awareness initiatives on traffic safety on campus, Spruill said. Drivers should also slow down and pay attention, and pedestrians should consider staying off their phones while crossing the street.

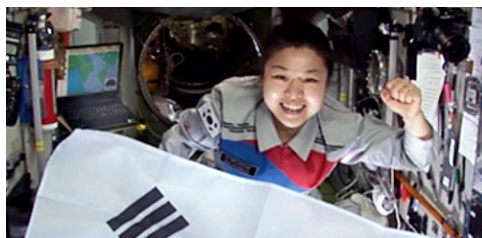
If any offices or community stakeholders would like to collaborate with Spruill, his door is open.

“I would love to have the opportunity for folks to interact with us and talk about how we can work together,” he said. **B**

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Sought for NCI Study

NCI is looking for volunteers who have endometrial cancer. The purpose of the study is to test two investigational study drugs, a vaccine that targets HER2 (AdHER2DC) and a drug that improves immune cells that destroy tumor cells (N-803). Both drugs will be combined with two FDA-approved cancer treatment drugs for people with endometrial cancer. Research procedures will be provided at no cost; travel assistance may also be available. For details, contact the Clinical Center’s Office of Patient Recruitment at 866-444-8810 or ccopr@nih.gov and refer to study #001557-C. To learn more online, visit <https://go.nih.gov/NEJnMuT>.



AANHPI Heritage Month events will feature South Korean astronaut Soyeon Ye (shown above) and guitarist Sehwan Kim (below).

‘EMBRACING BELONGING’ NIH Hosts AANHPI Heritage Events, May 30

NIH is hosting a daylong series of events on Thursday, May 30 to celebrate Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The series, “Innovating Future Biomedical Health Care with Embracing Belonging,” will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout Bldg. 10.



Enjoy a “music as medicine” performance by Sehwan Kim, a South Korean guitarist and singer/songwriter from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Clinical Center atrium. Then head over to try some bibimbap and other

Korean food on the FAES terrace from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. During this event, there will be a meet and greet with Kim and Soyeon Yi, a South Korean astronaut and scientist.

At 12:45 p.m., Yi and Kim will speak on “Bridging NIH Clinical Research with Innovative Concepts to Shaping the Future of Human Health” at a fireside chat in Lipsett Amphitheater that will also feature speakers from the National Eye Institute and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). Afterwards, a symposium will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. featuring investigators from NIDCR and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

The events are presented by the Clinical Center, NIDCR, NIH’s chapter of KWISE (Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering) and NIH’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

‘Blind Poet’ Steele Visits NIH

Dave Steele, also known as “The Blind Poet,” brought his metered message of hope and inspiration to the NIH campus, Apr. 9-10. He visited NIH at the request of NEI Scientific Director Dr. Kapil Bharti, who co-organized a retreat for NEI intramural research staff.

Steele gave introductory remarks at the retreat, sharing his personal journey with vision loss and a poem he’d written for NEI, including the following lines:

...The impact of your research stretches far beyond the eye, touching hearts, changing lives, let this poet be your why.

In the laboratories and in the clinics where your



Above, NEI Scientific Director Dr. Kapil Bharti listens as Steele reads to NEI retreat attendees. Below, Steele performs a reading outside the CC chapel.



magic paves the way, lies a future bright with promise, and it’s why I’m here today...

Steele hails from Manchester, United Kingdom. A former singer and car salesman, he has an inherited eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa (RP), which progressively degenerates the eye’s light-sensing retina. His diagnosis 10 years ago, he said, marked the beginning of a major transition in his life, career and identity.



Dave Steele reads to families at the Children’s Inn at NIH.

“I lost my job,” he recounted. “I was working in car sales at the time. I was also working as a singer. Everything I did involved driving, getting around

independently. And that started what was a very tough time for me and my family.”

To cope with the emotional toll of losing his sight, Steele began writing and performing poetry. He has so far published four books of poetry: *Stand By Me RP* volumes 1, 2 and 3, and *Austin’s Amazing Adventures*.

Through these collections, he relays the experience of growing blind, learning to embrace his disability, navigating his world in a new way and discovering new talents.

Steele claims that he is happier now than before he went blind. He is happily married with children and now makes a living by selling his poetry and making appearances around the world as a motivational speaker. He also advocates for the blind and rare disease research.

“I hope Dave’s message reminds you—as it does me—of how meaningful our work is,” said Bharti in closing remarks.

Steele hosted a lunchtime poetry workshop for retreat participants. He also gave readings at the Clinical Center and the Children’s Inn at NIH.

Learn more about Steele’s poetry on his website: <https://www.theblindpoet.net/>.

Annual ‘Take a Hike’ Day Scheduled for June 6, Offers Remote Option

Come together for a day of physical activity and camaraderie. NIH’s 16th annual Take a Hike Day will be held on Thursday, June 6, starting at Bldg. 1’s front lawn at 11:30 a.m., rain or shine. Participants will walk, run and roll the 3.25-mile perimeter of the Bethesda campus.

Take note: Participants may select from 10 NIH locations and routes at which to participate in the event, including a “remote” option. For more information and to register, visit: <https://ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/wellness/hike/Pages/hike.aspx>.

To volunteer to help with the event or to sponsor a break station along the route, email organizers at orswebp@ors.od.nih.gov.



TYCTWD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in a session hosted by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Across the room, young people blew air into a tube to assess pulmonary function.

“We wanted the kids to appreciate a visual of how much air moves in and out of

their chests with a single breath by capturing it in a plastic bag,” said Dr. Amisha Barochia, NHLBI staff clinician.

Barochia also led a simulation to show how a pulmonologist would assess, navigate and sample affected parts of the lung. “We

wanted the kids to have a go at manipulating the bronchoscope through a model of the airways,” she said.

Over in the Audiology Clinic, a lab tech spun around in a rotary chair to show how balance is connected to the eyes and ears. Dr. Chris Zalewski, an audiologist with the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, told the wide-eyed young participants, “If someone doesn’t have a vestibular system, their eyes can’t move.”

Children on that tour also visited a series of soundproof booths, where they tested each other’s hearing and saw real-time graphs of how the eardrum moves in response to sound.

Outside, on the crisp spring day, various open events with no space limit kept kids engaged, from police K-9 demonstrations to outdoor fitness challenges to a walking tour of the NIH stream.

At the Earth Day event—which NIH traditionally holds



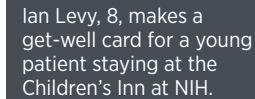
At left, kids touch and inflate healthy and diseased pig lungs; at right, kids participate in a simulated bronchoscopy led by NHLBI’s Dr. Amisha Barochia.

PHOTOS: CHI-CHIA CHARLIE CHANG

simultaneously with TYCTWD—exhibits taught about pollution dangers, lab safety, recycling, composting and other ways to protect the planet. By far the biggest crowds gathered around the reptile rescue, which featured a Gila monster (the venomous lizard fully enclosed in his tank), box turtles and several kinds of snakes. Kids especially loved petting the star attraction, a three-year-old alligator named Spike.

“It was an amazing day! We loved every second of it,” said one mom whose young son especially enjoyed visiting the NIH fire station. “When I told him we had to take a shuttle, he asked if we were going into space,” she said with a laugh.

Who knows where the day’s memories will one day take these kids? The sky’s the limit.



Ian Levy, 8, makes a get-well card for a young patient staying at the Children’s Inn at NIH.

PHOTO: REBECCA LEVY/OHR



At left at NIH’s Earth Day observance, *NIH Record* cub reporter Ethan Talesnik, age 8, listens as Chris Wanjek, communications director for the Office of Intramural Research, describes composting in action, showing his bin of thousands of worms feasting on food scraps. At right, children pet Spike, the alligator.



Fury (seated on sidewalk at right) awaits his handler’s commands during a K-9 demo outside Bldg. 31.

PHOTOS: CHIA-CHI CHARLIE CHANG



Scenes from the day (clockwise, from above): Aaron Valera Walter, 11, son of NCI's Drs. Vlad Valera Romero and Beatriz Walter-Rodriguez, checks out 3D-printed creations at the NIH Library; kids get goopy making elephant toothpaste; young apprentices peer up close at bone; Teresa Bauch, an NIH medical tech, shows strep and other bacteria in petri dishes; a future scientist conducts an experiment.

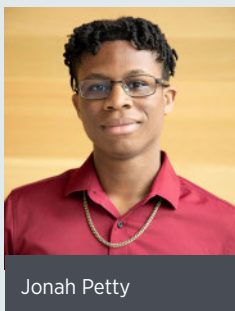
ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT: CHIA-CHI CHARLIE CHANG



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

TYCTWD Inspires Student to Pursue STEM Career

When Devon Petty signed up for Take Your Child to Work Day back in 2015, he didn't realize the life-changing impact that experience would have on his then-11-year-old son.



Jonah Petty

"My son Jonah decided his career path after his visit to NIH," said Petty, who is an IT professional in the Office of Research Services Development and Support Branch. Now, Jonah is a sophomore at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC) studying bioinformatics and computational biology.

Last summer, Jonah participated as a trainee in the NIH-funded STEM BUILD program at UMBC, during which he co-authored a paper based on his mentored research experience. And the NIH connection continues. This summer, Jonah will be an intern in the National Human Genome Research Institute's computational genomics unit.



At left, Dr. Peter Grayson of NIAMS and daughter Poppy pose with Mr. Bones; at right NCI's Dr. Meryem Malik and daughter Amal go glam alongside the superstar skeleton.

PHOTOS: COLLEEN DUNDAS/NIAMS



A Fantastic Voyage: Jonah Petty, age 11, learns about phlebotomy at TYCTWD in 2015



NIH Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives Dr. Tara Schwetz (c) smiles with her trivia team at the NIH Directors' Trivia Challenge in Wilson Hall in Bldg. 1.



At left, in Bldg. 1's Wilson Hall, NIH Director Dr. James Wyngaarden (l) administers the oath of office to Dr. T. Franklin Williams, who was sworn in as the second director of NIA on July 5, 1983. Observing the ceremony are Williams's daughter Mary and wife Catharine, HHS Secretary Margaret Heckler and HHS Assistant Secretary Dr. Edward Brandt. At right, at an NIA-NASA workshop held January 1999 in the Clinical Center, NIA Director Dr. Richard Hodes greets former astronaut and U.S. Sen. John Glenn, who flew in the 1998 Space Shuttle Discovery mission as part of a study on aging.

thus ensuring the science we support has broader applicability to all people," she said. "In addition, NIA supports the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging—the nation's longest running scientific study of human aging—and has supported multiple large-scale clinical trials that have yielded important findings specifically for older adults."

NIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NIA's roots stem from founding director Dr. Robert N. Butler, who worked tirelessly to liberate the rapidly growing population from the stigmas associated with older age. Simultaneously, he increased broad awareness of age-related diseases and conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, cementing a strong foundation for the institute.

Since then, the importance of aging research has continued to increase as the aging population grows. Over the last three decades, NIA has made enormous strides in the field, and been the catalyst for positive change.

"We've seen the growth of cutting-edge aging research across a spectrum of molecular, cellular, behavioral and clinical sciences that's widely recognized in the research community and reflected in high-impact findings



In 1979, First Lady Rosalynn Carter and first NIA Director Dr. Robert N. Butler (c), who both spoke at a National Conference on Mental Health and the Elderly, stand with U.S. Rep. Claude Pepper, chair of the House Select Committee on Aging (and NIH Bldg. 31 namesake). According to the June 12, 1979 *NIH Record* report on the conference, "Butler urged that geriatrics be incorporated into medical, nursing, social work and psychology curricula, and that funds be increased for studies on senile dementia and related disorders."

and publications across these fields," said Dr. Richard Hodes, who has served as NIA director for the past 31 years. "We've also seen the translation of research findings into clinical practice and policy to benefit quality of life for older adults and across the lifespan, as well as an increased appreciation of population diversity and individual differences relevant to healthy aging and disease outcomes."

Hodes also noted NIA's progress in enhancing open access to data and resources, as well as research collaborations across NIH institutes, centers and offices and with other federal agencies.

"Last but not least," Hodes said, "I would note the advances in understanding and approaches to diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's and related dementias."

NIA Deputy Director Dr. Amy Kelley spoke to the scope of NIA's research. "NIA has a pivotal role in improving quality of life and the health span for older adults because we support the full breadth of science from fundamental discovery related to the biology of aging up through the environmental and societal factors that impact aging and health over the lifespan," she said.

One of the most important ways NIA has influenced changes in health care for older adults has been through supporting their inclusion in clinical studies and clinical trials, Kelley pointed out.

"NIH policy now requires inclusion of research participants across the lifespan,

accomplishments, Hodes said he's proud of maintaining the commitment of NIA staff to its mission, creativity, and collegiality through a period of unprecedented growth and complexity. NIA's budget has more than

tripled over the past decade, particularly in the area of dementia research, and the institute has grown with it.

"I would also recognize NIA's work in creating an increasingly diverse workforce with outcomes of enhanced produc-

tivity and a sense of inclusive community," he said.

Looking ahead, what would the two leaders say to those just starting out in the field?

"Early-career staff bring with them new ideas and perspectives that are important to maintaining our vitality as we move into the future and are the face of the next generation of aging research," Hodes said.

"The pace of science has accelerated and the opportunities for high-impact discovery are unprecedented," added Kelley. "We need all of their passion, intellect and creativity to address the needs of the population we serve and maximize the positive impact biomedical research can have on the lives and well-being of older adults in the U.S. and around the world."

To learn more about NIA's history and 50th anniversary activities, visit www.nia.nih.gov/50years or read a *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* article—<https://bit.ly/3wr7cP8>. **R**



Hodes and NIA Deputy Director Dr. Amy Kelley

New Statue Erected at NIH on National DNA Day

NIH welcomed a new sculpture on its Bethesda campus. Titled, “The Ladder,” the statue celebrates DNA and children. It was dedicated at a ceremony on Apr. 25, National DNA Day.

The statue and dedication were hosted through a collaboration involving the Clinical Center, the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).

“The Ladder” creator Mary Ellen Scherl said she took inspiration from biblical imagery and modern science, drawing parallels between a ladder leading to heaven in the Old Testament book of Genesis and the structure of DNA. The bend in the path of the ladder is translated into the familiar double-helix.

“I want people to walk away with a sense of joy and celebration of humanity and science, of their inclusiveness,” Scherl said.

The four messengers “ascending and descending” the sculpture take the form of children, representing the four nucleic acids that encode our genetic information and the diversity of humanity, according to Scherl.

“The Ladder” embraces a personal subject for the artist. Adopted at infancy, Scherl reconnected with her birth family with the help of modern genetics.

Using a commercial genetic test, she embarked on a years-long search for her relatives. One of those relatives, her half-brother Dr. John Constantino, an NIH grantee, spoke at the statue dedication.

The artwork is one of many that Scherl has created to engage with social issues. She was inspired to work on projects with public impact after seeing the profound effect her project “Mamorial,” a breast cancer initiative that invites breast cancer survivors to make a mold of their affected chests, had on survivors. Scherl has since created works that address diverse topics, including body image, genetics and women in military service.

Scherl’s work is exhibited at Vanderbilt University; the Contemporary Museum of Sculpture in Datong, China; the New York University Langone Medical Centers; and the Miami Military Museum.

In addition to Scherl and Constantino, featured speakers at the Apr. 25 dedication included Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, NIH director; Dr. Diana Bianchi, NICHD director; Dr. James Gilman, Clinical Center CEO; Dr. Eric Green, NHGRI director; and Frank Piatkowski of the Office of Research Facilities.

National DNA Day commemorates the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003 and the discovery of DNA’s double-helical structure in 1953.



The four messengers “ascending and descending” the sculpture take the form of children, representing the four nucleic acids that encode our genetic information and the diversity of humanity, according to the artist (shown at podium).

PHOTOS: ERNESTO DEL AGUILA/NHGRI



Speakers at the artwork’s debut included (from l) Dr. Eric Green, NHGRI director; Dr. John Constantino, an NIH grantee; Mary Ellen Scherl, “The Ladder” creator; Dr. Diana Bianchi, NICHD director; Dr. James Gilman, Clinical Center CEO; and Frank Piatkowski, senior architect in NIH’s Office of Research Facilities.



NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli gives remarks at the statue’s dedication event.



Researchers Find Brain Connections Related to ADHD

NIH researchers have discovered that symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are tied to atypical interactions between the brain's frontal cortex and information-processing centers deep in the brain. The study was led by researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Human Genome Research Institute.



Dr. Luke Norman

Scientists examined more than 10,000 functional brain images of youth with ADHD and published their results in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

Dr. Luke Norman, a staff scientist in the NIMH Office of the Clinical Director, and colleagues analyzed brain images supplied by more than 8,000 youth with and without ADHD, sourced from six different functional imaging datasets. Using these images, they examined associations between functional brain connectivity and ADHD symptoms.

They found that youth with ADHD had heightened connectivity between structures deep in the brain involved in learning, movement, reward and emotion (caudate, putamen and nucleus accumbens seeds) and structures in the frontal area of the brain involved in attention and control of unwanted behaviors (superior temporal gyri, insula, inferior parietal lobe and inferior frontal gyri).

While neuroscience researchers have long suspected that ADHD symptoms result from atypical interactions between the frontal cortex and these deep information-processing brain structures, studies testing this model have returned mixed findings, possibly due to the small nature of the studies, with only 100 or so subjects. Researchers suggest these smaller studies may not have been able to reliably detect the brain interactions leading to the complex behaviors seen in ADHD.

Findings from this study help further our understanding of the brain processes contributing to ADHD symptoms—information that can help inform clinically relevant research and advancements.

LEVERAGING EXPERIENCE



Engaging in a panel discussion are (from l) Dr. Lashawndra Price (seated), Keisha Berkley, Dr. Jerry Yakel, Dr. Gwen Collman, Dr. Trevor Archer and Dr. Janet Hall.

Executive Leadership Program Alumni Reunite at NIEHS

This past March, graduates of the NIH Executive Leadership Program (ExLP) convened at the National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) for two days to explore how to best leverage coaching, mentoring and sponsorship activities to ensure employees receive equitable access to growth and advancement opportunities.

ExLP alums also examined research about effective leadership in a hybrid work environment and shared best practices relating to employee engagement in the hybrid workplace. Five ExLP cohorts were represented, dating back to the first cohort in 2010.

Hosted by ExLP alum and NIEHS Deputy Director Dr. Trevor Archer, the event gave participants a unique opportunity to engage with NIEHS leadership via a panel discussion/Q&A, visit NIH labs and meet with intramural scientists to learn more about ongoing research initiatives. Participants also took a tour of the expansive NIEHS campus.

If you are an aspiring or existing “top six” NIH leader, recruitment is underway for the 2024-2025 ExLP.

To learn more about this seven-month intensive leadership experience, visit: <https://go.nih.gov/CcfY44y>.



ExLP alumni visiting NIEHS include (seated, from l) Dr. Xavier Soosai, Dr. Alice Chen, Dr. Colleen Hadigan, Julie Berko, Keisha Berkley (ExLP program staff), Dr. Trevor Archer, Dr. Roland Owens, Dr. Rohan Hazra; and (standing from l) Dr. Anita Kishore (ExLP program staff), Cyrena Silvera (ExLP program staff), Ellen Rolfes, Dr. Meredith Temple O'Connor, Dr. Jonathan Odum, Dr. Douglas Sheeley, Dr. Maryland Pao, Dr. Carolyn Hutter, Dr. Gwen Collman, Bekah Geiger, Dr. LaShawndra Price, Dr. Janet Hall, Dexter Collins, Dr. Lisa Cunningham, Dr. Patrick Bellgowan, Rodney Rivera, Dr. Patricia Jones, Dr. Anna Ramsey-Ewing, Victor Voloshin, Dr. Helene Langevin, Dr. Cheryl Boyce and Amico Matsumoto (ExLP program staff).



NIH'ers newly elected to AAAS are (from l) Dr. Stephen Chanock, Dr. Erin Lavik, Dr. Daniel Salo Reich, Dr. Julie Segre, Dr. Gisela Storz and Dr. Jürgen Wess.

Six NIH'ers Among Newly Elected AAAS Fellows

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) elected 502 scientists, engineers and innovators from around the world and across all disciplines to its 2023 class of fellows. Six NIH'ers are among the electees.

AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the *Science* family of journals.

Newly elected fellows are recognized for scientific and socially notable achievements spanning their careers. Election is one of the most distinguished honors in the scientific community.

Section on Biological Sciences

Dr. Stephen Chanock, National Cancer Institute

Dr. Julie Segre, National Human Genome Research Institute

Dr. Gisela Storz, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Section on Engineering

Dr. Erin Lavik, National Cancer Institute

Section on Medical Sciences

Dr. Daniel Salo Reich, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Section on Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Jürgen Wess, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

AAAS fellows have been recognized for their achievements across disciplines—from research, teaching and technology, to administration in academia, industry and government, to excellence in communicating and interpreting science to the public.

AAAS first launched this lifetime recognition in 1874. Individuals are elected annually by the AAAS council. New fellows are recognized at a ceremonial forum during the AAAS annual meeting, where they are presented with a certificate and blue and gold rosette.

NIHer's Win HHS Departmental Awards

Three National Cancer Institute (NCI) researchers are among winners of the 2024 HHS Departmental Awards, the highest awards issued by the department. They were honored May 7 in the Great Hall of the Humphrey Bldg.

Every year, HHS's Departmental Awards honor HHS employees and teams who distinguished themselves in the previous year. These employees faced and overcame some of the world's biggest and most pressing health-related challenges as they worked to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans.

Dr. W. Marston Linehan received the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service, the highest honor award granted. He is a senior investigator in NCI's Urologic Oncology Branch. Linehan and his group reported the discovery of the VHL gene, the gene for the hereditary form of clear cell kidney cancer, von Hippel Lindau, as well as the common form of sporadic, non-familial clear cell kidney cancer.

Dr. Brigitte Widemann received the Secretary's Award for Meritorious Service, the second highest honor award granted. It recognizes HHS employees for their achievements and for inspiring others to improve their performance. Widemann is chief of NCI's Pediatric Oncology Branch. Her leadership and support of branch investigators have directly contributed to development of the next



Dr. W. Marston Linehan, Dr. Andre Nussenzweig and Dr. Brigitte Widemann were recently honored by HHS.

generation of outstanding physician-scientists and enabled many additional important discoveries by her colleagues.

Dr. Andre Nussenzweig received the HHS Career Achievement Award, which recognizes HHS employees with 10 or more years at HHS for their dedication to the department. Nussenzweig is chief of the Laboratory of Genome Integrity in NCI's Center for Cancer Research. One of the world's leading authorities and contributors to the study of DNA repair, Nussenzweig has made groundbreaking advances in understanding molecular pathways that maintain genome stability.

This year, the Office of Human Resources at HHS received more than 120 nominations from which leadership selected 32 individual and team recipients.

N.I.H. record

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY December 8, 1952 - Vol. IV, No. 23 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

DR. SEBRELL WINS NUTRITION AWARD

On December 5, Dr. W. B. Sebrell, Jr., NIH Director, received the third Joseph Goldberger Award in Clinical Nutrition.

First Interior Visit of Clinical Center



A few rooms in the Clinical Center have been furnished for display purposes. Shows here in the types of modern quarters that most patients will have. Models for this picture were taken by Robert H. of the Clinical Center nursing staff and Barbara Forman at NIH.

PHS TO RECEIVE AWARD

The American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association will

NUTRITION INSTITUTE MEETINGS START TODAY

Meetings of a National Food and Nutrition Institute are scheduled to

N.I.H. record

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY 20 May 1949 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIH TO HELP COMBAT DISEASE IN AFRICA

SOFTBALL AGAIN? BUT WHERE ARE THE DOGS?

When Dr. Julius Bonzovich yelped "batter up!" on May 11 to start the first NIH softball game of 1949, spring was officially here.

WYCKOFF IS ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY

The election of Dr. Ralph W. Wyckoff, Chief of the Section on Molecular Biophysics, EMML, to the National Academy of Sciences is one of the highest honors that can come to a scientist in this country.

DR. BRADY TO MAKE SURVEY FOR BRITISH

Assignment of Dr. Frederick J. Brady, Assistant Chief of the Laboratory of Tropical Diseases, to make a preliminary survey of conditions affecting the control of trypanosomiasis and malaria in East and West Africa has been announced by the Economic Cooperation Administration.

The NIH Record

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE November 10, 1949 NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Dr. John R. Seal Named New Scientific Director in NIAD Reorganization

To provide unified leadership for research which includes the fundamental biological and molecular creative programs, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases recently reorganized three

CFC at NIH Reaches 78.5 Percent of Goal

As reported on Oct. 25, the Combined Federal Campaign of NIH has obtained 78.5 percent of the goal of \$100,000. A total of \$10,000 has been collected.

RESEARCH BUILDINGS 26 AND 37 Sec. Finch, Other Distinguished Guests To Attend Dedication on November 18

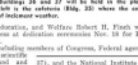
Dedication ceremonies for Buildings 26 and 37 will be held in the atrium between the buildings at 10:30 a.m. on November 18 when the new wing will be held in a event of dedication.



As Scientific Director, Dr. Seal will coordinate research and collaborative research programs.



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NIH's 'Hometown Newspaper' Turns 75

The year was 1949. RCA introduced 7-inch vinyl records that came to be known as "45s" and the first polaroid camera went on sale for about \$90. That was 75 years ago and the National Institutes of Health had a media debut of its own: The first NIH Record, a newsletter for staff, rolled off the presses. Containing items about everything from NIH's help combatting malaria in Africa to Dr. Margaret Pittman's election as president of the D.C. Society of American Bacteriologists to the spring opening of the NIH Softball Association season, the four-page publication, produced every two weeks on payday, painted the agency's portrait with broad strokes.

Now, sharing its milestone anniversary with the likes of the National Basketball Association, Jolly Ranchers candy and Lego building blocks, the Record—NIH's hometown news outlet—has grown to 12 pages and is still published in print and online biweekly, continues to tell stories for, by and about the greater NIH biomedical research community, and—we hope—maintains its reputation as the "second best thing about payday."

Look for us regularly on the Bethesda campus at kiosks in Bldgs. 1, 10 and 31. And check out our archives online at https://nihrecord.nih.gov/past-issues, where you can find every edition since the beginning.

NIH Scientists Brief Press on Hepatitis, Meningitis Research, and Rubella Program

Scientists at NIH recently met with the press to outline the latest research on hepatitis, meningitis, and rubella, and to report on the progress of the rubella program.

Dr. Moore to Provide

Dr. Robert G. Moore, NIH Director, will provide information on the staff and the activities of the National Institutes of Health.

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nih record logo and a list of featured articles including 'President Obama Visits NIH to Tout ARRA Benefits' and 'Pioneers, Innovators Celebrated at Ceremony'.

The NIH Record logo and a list of featured articles including 'The Centennial Clock Will Mark Off the Next 100 Years' and 'New NMR Center Opens'.

nih record logo and a list of featured articles including 'Helicopter Traffic Around NIH Campus: Going Up' and 'Seminars Focus on Lab Safety'.

The NIH Record logo and a list of featured articles including 'Children's Inn Opens Amid Fanfare, Celebrations' and 'A Dream Come True'.

The NIH Record logo and a list of featured articles including 'NIH's 'Hometown Newspaper' Turns 75' and 'FIC Funds Eastern Europe, Latin America Exchanges'.

NIH RECORD logo and a list of featured articles including 'We Follow the Science' and 'Housing Segregation a Central Cause of Racial Health Inequities'.

NIH RECORD logo and a list of featured articles including 'Eminent Embryologist D. Stetten Lecturer' and 'Ground Broken for Wing at Lasker Center'.

The NIH Record logo and a list of featured articles including 'Nobelists in Medicine, Chemistry Awarded by NIH' and 'Secretary Califano Discusses Challenges Facing NIH'.

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The NIH Record logo and a list of featured articles including 'FIC Funds Eastern Europe, Latin America Exchanges' and 'HSA Programs Prep Future NIH Managers for Success'.

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