



NIH History Highlights
Winter 2005

**The National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services**

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This newspaper, recently added to the Office of NIH History archival collection, was distributed by a group of NIH/NIMH scientists, administrators, and support staff during the Vietnam War. (See page 9 for more).

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Director's Farewell

By Victoria A. Harden

Bittersweet—this is the adjective most often used to describe final events in any long endeavor. After twenty years of building the Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum—and after twenty-five years of working on aspects of NIH history—I am experiencing many bittersweet moments before my retirement at the end of January 2006. Writing this column is one of them.

The creation of this office was directly due to the efforts of DeWitt “Hans” Stetten, Jr., who served NIH for many years in several capacities: Scientific Director; Institute Director; Deputy Director for Intramural Research for all of NIH; and Senior Scientific Advisor to the NIH Director. Few members of today’s Office of NIH History staff knew Hans, and not many of today’s Advisory Committee members knew him personally. My most cherished memory of Hans is as a person who, although blind, had a clear vision of what he wanted in a museum and history office. The NIH was, in his opinion, one of the most intelligent and worthwhile creations of the U.S. government, and he believed that the NIH should document its contributions, save the instruments that made them possible, and tell the world about what was done here. That vision guided my efforts to build the office, especially after Hans died in 1990.

My task has been to build an office that could document and promote all aspects of NIH’s rich history. I worked to set up the artifact, document, photograph, and oral history collections and to make them available in a professional, user-friendly format. Fortunately, the World Wide Web became available as an outreach tool in the mid 1990s, and I was able to bring historical and technical experts together to make these resources available to everyone with internet access. Another of my goals was to tell as many stories about NIH research to as broad a public as possible. With physical and web-based exhibits, and in partnership with institutes, a wide variety of basic and clinical research histories has been produced.

My personal research and writing have been in the history of infectious diseases. To address other areas of NIH research, I helped initiate the Stetten Fellowship program, which brought scholars to the office for one or more years of concentrated study. Similarly, instituting the John J. Pisano travel grant program has made it possible for other scholars to come to NIH for research and to integrate the knowledge they gained into their historical writings.

I am indebted to many in the NIH community. Directors of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison generously supported my activities. Members of the Advisory Committee served as stalwart supporters of the office and astute mentors to me personally. In particular, Alan Schechter, Donald Lindberg, and Lois Kochanski deserve recognition as having been members of the Advisory Committee in one capacity or another since Hans first drew a group of people together in 1986.

I am proudest of the people whom I have gathered together to work toward realizing Hans' vision. Each of the Stetten Memorial Fellows has been a joy to work with, and each has added significantly to our store of knowledge about NIH history. Professional staff members have each brought expertise to the office. The longest serving staff member is Michele Lyons, who came in 1988 as a student intern, and who is responsible for bringing professional collections management to what started out as a dusty group of old instruments in a caged-off area of Building 10.

Taking much of the bitterness out of this bittersweet moment is the promise of expanded support for the office as it moves into the Office of Intramural Research. Moreover, I am not walking away completely from NIH history. I plan to become a Special Volunteer and devote my time to writing about the history of AIDS research at NIH in the 1980s.

It has been a privilege to create and nourish this office. Like a proud parent, I hope to watch as it advances to new levels of excellence under new leadership.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of NIH History is sponsoring a major conference on “**Biomedicine in the Twentieth Century: Practices, Policies, and Politics.**” The conference is to honor Dr. Victoria A. Harden, Director, Office of NIH History, on her retirement.

It will be held in the Lister Hill Auditorium on the NIH campus on **December 5-6, 2005**. The keynote speaker will be evolutionary geneticist and social critic Richard C. Lewontin, Alexander Agassiz Research Professor at Harvard University. The title of his presentation will be: “The Effects of the Socialization of Biomedical Research.”

Other lectures will include:

- Daniel Kevles, “Genes, Disease, and Patents: Cash and Community in Biomedicine”
- Angela Creager, “Virus Research Between Lay Health Organizations and the Government, 1935-1955”
- Bernardino Fantini, “From Genetic Diseases to the Genetics of Disease: The Evolution of Theories of Genetic Determinism and the Implications for Health Strategies”
- Guenter Risse, "House of Science: Clinical Investigation in Hospitals"
- Susan Lederer, “Transplant Nation: Heart Transplants and the NIH”
- Buhm Soon Park, ““Why Does NIH Need an Intramural Program?’ Biomedical Research in the Federal Government after World War II”
- Carsten Timmermann, "Clinical Research in Post-War Britain: The Role of the Medical Research Council"
- J. Rogers Hollingsworth, “The Path Dependency of Institutional and Organizational Factors that Shape Major Scientific Discoveries”
- Keith Wailoo, “The Cultural Politics of Pain and Pain Research in America, 1950-2000”
- Gerald N. Grob, “The National Institute of Mental Health and Mental Health Policy, 1946-1965”
- Darwin Stapleton, “The Critical Role of Laboratory Instruments at the Rockefeller: Biomedicine as Biotechnology”
- Leo Slater, “The Shape of Infectious Disease Research: Antimalarial Drugs, 1920-1950”
- Warwick Anderson, “The Global Reach of United States Biomedical Research”
- Stuart Blume, “Towards a History of 'the Vaccine Innovation System,' 1950-2000”
- David Cantor, “Radium, Cancer Research, and the End of the New Deal”

Scientists, the NIH community, historians of medicine and science, and the interested public are invited. More information about the conference, including the schedule, is available at: <http://www.history.nih.gov/Conference.htm>. A banquet dinner for the conference will be held at the Bethesda Hyatt Regency Hotel on Monday evening, December 5. There will be a \$60 charge to attend this event and participants must pay in advance by sending a check to Caroline Hannaway. See website or email Dr. Hannaway (below) for more information.

Questions should be addressed to Caroline Hannaway, conference organizer, at hannawayc@mail.nih.gov.

Research Notes

Lisa Walker, a Stetten Fellow with the Office of NIH History, spoke recently with Dr. Timothy E. O'Connor (NCI, retired) as part of her work on the history of scientific collaboration between U.S. and Soviet virologists. Dr. Walker's research is sponsored by NIAID.

Faced with a delicate situation at the Soviet Ministry of Health in the fall of 1967, Dr. Timothy O'Connor had to think on his feet. O'Connor and the other members of his visiting group were being received by a Ministry official who was hesitant to approve certain points of the proposed itinerary.

In a recent interview, O'Connor recalled that what entered his mind at that moment was the relatively less troublesome reception of an unexpected visitor at an administrative meeting of the National Cancer Institute, back in Bethesda. "Listen," he recalled saying to his Health Ministry host, "we had an annual meeting about two months ago, and you know what? A beautiful lady from [the Soviet republic of] Latvia turned up, wearing a beautiful red dress, and she sat down in the middle of our meeting."

Dr. O'Connor recalled how the meeting's chair, Dr. Frank Rauscher, welcomed the visitor, Dr. Rita Kukaine of the



Drs. O'Connor (left) and Walker

August Kirchenstein Institute of Microbiology and Virology (Riga, Latvia), and included her fully in that day's discussion. "Dick Rauscher invited her to stay and make any notes she wanted," O'Connor remembered saying, in an attempt to explain to his Soviet hosts what had been possible in the United States. It was never made clear whether the anecdote was the primary catalyst, but the 1967 U.S. virology delegation eventually won permission to visit Dr. Kukaine's Kirchenstein Institute and to conduct a day-long joint scientific seminar with broad participation of virologists from various Soviet research institutes.

Dr. O'Connor visited the Office of NIH History in August 2005 to donate documents related to two scientific exchange trips to the Soviet Union in which he participated, and to speak about his experiences in a recorded oral history interview. He credits Dr. John B. Moloney – first in his tenure as chief of the Viral Leukemia and Lymphoma Branch and later while he was Associate Director of the Viral Oncology Branch within NCI – for supporting the two trips and for ensuring their ultimate success.

Official contacts between the U.S. and Soviet health authorities had ground nearly to a halt during World War II and were still scant in the postwar years. Contact increased with the Soviet "thaw" and the rising threat of polio in both countries in the mid-1950s. The close collaboration forged between the University of Cincinnati's Dr. Albert B. Sabin and Soviet scientists, including Dr. Mikhail P. Chumakov of Moscow's Institute of Poliomyelitis and Viral Encephalitides, made possible the first wide scale clinical testing of an oral polio vaccine between 1958 and 1960.

By 1967, when Dr. O'Connor and his colleagues arrived in Moscow, there had been a handful of official U.S.-U.S.S.R. Health Exchange missions involving scientists from what today are NIAID, NHLBI, NINDS, and other ICs. NIAID virologists Dr. Robert J. Huebner and Dr. Robert M. Chanock served as NIH delegates on a 1961 visit aimed at building upon the ties forged a few years previously by Chanock's postdoctoral mentor, Dr. Sabin.

If the focus of U.S. health policy and biomedical research was firmly centered on polio from 1956 to 1960, by 1967 these same energies had been shifted toward the fight against cancer. One way in which the focus on cancer manifested itself at NIH was the creation of the innovative Special Virus Leukemia Program in 1964. Dr. O'Connor explained that the Special Virus Cancer Programs of the 1960s attempted to integrate the use of private, industrial resources with government and academic laboratory expertise already funded by NIH. With renewed interest in viral oncology, virologists at NIH came to play a crucial role in cancer research. The interplay between researchers at NIAID and NCI – primarily through individual researchers such as Dr. Wallace P. Rowe and Dr. Robert J. Huebner – also had a notable influence on cancer research in this period.

The cancer specialists who participated in the 1967 delegation noted that institutional and disciplinary structure shaped biomedical research in the Soviet Union in a particular way as well. In a brief trip report published in *Science* in 1968, Dr. O'Connor noted that medical research in the Soviet Union was administered separately at different institutions – in some instances by the prestigious and long-established Academy of Sciences, and in others by the newer Academy of Medical Sciences. On their return from their four-city tour, the members of the U.S. delegation still wondered whether these and other institutional divisions might hamper their Soviet colleagues' work in a field such as viral oncology. As O'Connor noted, this field had a particular need for collective expertise that crossed disciplinary boundaries and for researchers who had an understanding of chemistry and physics in addition to a good base of knowledge in biological science.

Dr. O'Connor noticed that the potential for division existed even among institutes in the same city. At the joint seminar in the fall of 1967, even Soviet virologists enjoyed a new forum for exchanging research results and apparently appreciated the opportunity afforded to them by the Americans' visit.

The scientific exchanges of the 1950s and '60s offered U.S. and Soviet participants a kind of mirrored window through which to view simultaneously the context and

substance of their foreign counterparts' research as well as to reflect upon their own. Similarly, the glimpse offered here indicates that study of these exchanges in historical perspective will likely illuminate many aspects of research and administration at NIH, as well as broader features of American and Soviet science. In addition to interviews with former and current NIH researchers, this research aims to incorporate the recollections of participants in scientific exchanges in the former Soviet Union. Observations such as what Dr. Rita Kukaine might recall about her memorable participation in that NCI meeting nearly 40 years ago will enlighten us further.

Dr. Walker welcomes input from any NIH personnel who were involved in international exchanges with either the Soviet Union or the People's Republic of China, primarily between 1960 and 1975. She can be contacted at walkerli@mail.nih.gov or 301-402-8915.

FALL BRHIG SEMINARS

The Office of NIH History sponsors a monthly seminar series, the Biomedical Research History Interest Group (BRHIG). This fall the speakers included:

October 11: George Bibel, Ph.D., P.E., Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of North Dakota, presented a lecture entitled "The Bjork Shiley Mechanical Heart Valve: An Engineering Educator's Perspective."

November 8: Leo B. Slater, Ph.D., DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Fellow in the History of Biomedicine and Technology, NIH, presented a lecture entitled "A History of Service: Malaria Research at NIAID," at 2:00 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10.

For more information call **(301) 496-6610** or go to **www.history.nih.gov** and click on "BRHIG."

Not Your Grandfather's Lab: Collecting What's Happening Now at the NIH

By Michele Lyons, Curator

When picturing a museum, many people envision only relics of bygone eras: George Washington's wooden teeth, dinosaur fossils, and silver fish forks. The NIH Stetten Museum has its share of "old" objects, one of the oldest dating from the 1880s (a smoked drum kymograph). But the mission of the Museum is to document and preserve the history of the National Institutes of Health, an entity which is very much alive. To stay true to its mission, and to be of the best possible service to the NIH, the Museum must collect what is happening now or in the very recent past. If it doesn't, a great deal of NIH history will be lost forever.

Collecting items representing the NIH's current history is difficult. Some scientists don't know about the Office of NIH History or the Museum and some don't consider their work to be historic although most are breaking new ground. Others are so caught up in their work that they don't even think of history—they are thinking of the problem at hand. Even the engineers who design and build new instruments at the NIH suffer from a lack of ego. In history, a lack of ego is a bad thing—people who do not leave records of themselves and their contributions are forgotten. This has been shown to be true for the NIH as a whole.

Such reasons make it seem as if the Museum would never get any donations. But of course, we do. A look at some of our acquisitions this year shows us why people donate to us. Dr. Dale Kiesewetter, for example, donated a set of three different gas chromatography columns because he has an interest in preserving his specialty's past.

The desire to memorialize or remember a colleague can be a reason for donating. For example, Dr. Manuel Datiles donated a Donaldson Stereo-Camera which had been used by his colleagues Drs. David G. Cogan, Carl Kupfer, and Jin H. Kinoshita at the NEI. All three were important in the history of the institute. Sometimes the family of a scientist donates; we are grateful to the family of Dr. Julius Axelrod for donating his collection of awards

to the Museum, including some very fine medical medals (unfortunately, Dr. Axelrod was one of those who regularly surplused instruments, once telling me, "I didn't know I was going to win the Nobel Prize or I might have saved them."). This desire to memorialize often motivates our exhibits as well.

Sometimes a scientist will donate one item and then end up donating more. One thing leads to another as the staff talks with the scientist or as the scientist realizes what important materials s/he has. For example, Dr. John Finlayson brought over some manuals to donate, stayed to talk awhile about history and his job, and ended up donating an original Varigrad designed by NCI scientists Drs. Herbert A. Sober and Elbert A. Peterson. This instrument helped to establish ion exchange chromatography. If Dr. Finlayson and I hadn't met over some manuals, a piece of NIH history would have stayed on a shelf until someone finally surplused it.

Active collecting by museum staff is another way items find their way to the Stetten Museum collection. For example, I contacted Dr. Terry Phillips after seeing his name in the NIH Director's Merit Award program regarding his work on nanotechnology in the clinical setting. He is now going to donate his lab-on-a-chip and a miniaturized sample collection needle for studying the physical effects of acupuncture. I also solicited an even rarer item, a collection of cone snail shells, from Dr. Baldomero Olivera at the University of Utah. The Museum does not usually take or seek items from outside of the NIH, but Dr. Olivera's work on pain killers fits into a theme that the Museum's collection documents, and it was funded by NIH grants.

To document the NIH's recent and current history-making research, we need to fill some holes. Several institutes, such as NHGRI, are under-represented in our collection. Also, we have few items from certain time periods. While the Museum has a wonderful collection of instruments from the 1930s and 1940s, and many from the 1950s, there are very few from the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, or 1990s. That is four decades of scientific work

with no material culture left behind. The biggest hurdle to overcome is the feeling of people that the Museum only wants “old stuff.” We want important instruments and artifacts, regardless of age.

We also need to document more thoroughly the contributions of specific individuals. For example, while recently going over our collection for the Clinical Center (CC), it came to my attention that we have little material about the many noteworthy scientists working in the CC, such as Dr. Stephen Rosenberg and the CC’s administrator/scientist Dr. John Gallin. Specific CC programs and departments need better documentation as well, including such important entities as the nursing department. In fact, the Nursing Department has begun a program to collect its history, working with us to put together a system documenting the history of nursing at the NIH.

Ideally, a concerted and coordinated effort on the part of the Office of NIH History, the institute directors, scientists, and technicians, could increase our success in preserving the important instruments and other artifacts of NIH history.

The Stetten Museum is here. We are ready and willing. Help us to preserve the history that the NIH is making now—your history. Contact Michele Lyons at: lyonsm@mail.nih.gov or (301) 496-7695 to discuss any materials you might have available for donation.



Top: A Donaldson Stereo-Camera used by several leading scientists at the National Eye Institute, donated by Dr. Manuel Datiles. *Center:* This Varigrad, built at the National Cancer Institute, was donated by Dr. John Finlayson. *Below:* One of Dr. Julius Axelrod’s many medals—this one of Carolus Linnaeus, the famous classifier of organisms.



A selection of cone snail shells donated by Dr. Olivero Baldermero. The snails’ venom has been used to create a potent pain reliever.



Trade Manual Collection

“You have given us some information about the Cary that we didn’t have, and we just want to express our profound appreciation.”

“Thanks for FAXing me the instruction manual for the BRL microdialysis system! I really appreciate it - the BRL no longer exists, and it was difficult finding a copy of the manual.”

“I’m glad the NIH has a copy available in their library.”

These are some of the thanks that the NIH Stetten Museum has received in the last few months since putting

the instrument manual and trade catalog library list up on the web. We are fielding about a request a week, usually for manuals.

Most of the people requesting manuals are working in laboratories with slightly older equipment and little money. Some are retired scientists wanting to restore old workhorses, and one was a private collector needing to know more about the instrument.

So please give us your manuals and trade catalogs and help a colleague. To donate, email curator Michele Lyons at lyonsm@mail.nih.gov.

The Office of NIH History is Moving!

Don't worry, we'll still be here at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. But within the next few months, the Office of NIH History will be making an administrative change. We have been under the auspices of the Office of Communications and Public Liaison since 1986 and we thank that office for its support of our fellows, exhibits, and programs. Soon, the office will be administratively placed under the Office of Intramural Research in the Office of the Director. Our physical offices will move as well, though we do not yet know the new location. Wherever we end up, we will continue to be a resource for NIH staff, members of the public, and interested scholars for photographs, artifacts, documents, and reference materials related to the history of the National Institutes of Health. Stay tuned for more details.

Meanwhile, you can always visit our home on the web: <http://www.history.nih.gov>.

From the Archives Collection

By Brooke Fox, Archivist

After working in the History Office for over four years I thought I'd learned most everything there is to know about NIH history. But I was wrong. Here is a story that will show that you *can* find the most fascinating things in archival collections.

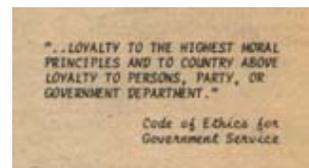
In the biography file of former NIH Director, Robert Marston, I discovered an NIH/NIMH newsletter that I had never seen or heard of before. This document caught my eye not only because it was new to me, but because of its purpose and subject matter.

The publication, entitled *Rainbow Sign: Newsletter of the Viet Nam Moratorium Committee at NIH/NIMH*, was an employee-produced newsletter that contained articles about topics ranging from the Vietnam War, protests, and problems at the NIH. Contributors used this specific issue, published in February 1973, to voice their concerns about racial and sexual inequality at NIH, to denounce the funding of psychosurgery, and to air their disappointment at the resignation of Dr. Marston.

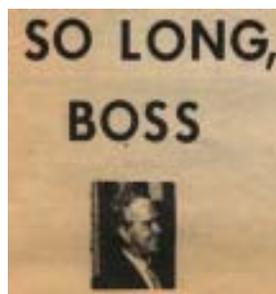
Prior to discovering this item in our collection, Dr. Harden was approached by Marin Allen, Deputy Associate Director for Communications and Public Liaison, OD, about contacting a former NIH scientist who had been active in the NIH anti-war movement. Dr. Harden contacted Drs. David Reiss and John Zinner and discussed working with them in collecting documents, photographs, and memorabilia from this time period. Drs. Reiss and Zinner were active in NIH's anti-war movement and their memories will be captured in oral histories conducted by Dr. Harden over the next few months.

If you or anyone you know was active in NIH's 1960s and 1970s anti-war movement, we are

eager to hear from you. This is an important time in NIH's history that has not been documented and we seek your help in preserving our past. Please email me at foxbro@mail.nih.gov with more information.



newsletter of the viet nam moratorium committee at nih./n.i.m.h.



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