

The Role of the Research Physician: From Golden Past to Threatened Future?

A conference organized by the Office of NIH History

FREE to REGISTRANTS

Date: March 26-27, 2009
Venue: The Cloisters | Building 60
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD
Registration p. 2



Introduction

Physicians who devote themselves to biomedical research have played crucial roles in the development of scientific medicine for more than 100 years. A variety of institutions—hospitals, medical foundations, the Public Health Service, most notably the NIH, universities, and pharmaceutical companies—have supported their research. Since the ‘Golden Era’ of physician-scientists—roughly 1950 to the mid-1970s—leaders in each research context have expressed increasing concern about the ability of physician-scientists to sustain themselves and their research tradition.

This conference brings together for the first time leading physician-researchers, organizational leaders, historians, and social scientists for a multi-disciplinary exploration of the physician-scientist research tradition, its changing contours, and the challenges and opportunities it faces going forward. It seeks to elucidate the many different meanings of the term ‘research-physician,’ whether there ever was a ‘golden past,’ and if the future is really so bleak as the title of this meeting suggests.

Registration:

Sharon Mathis
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Attendance is free and open to all, but all attendees must register before the meeting.

Individuals who need Sign Language Interpreters and/or reasonable accommodation for their visit should contact Sharon.

Program

Day 1
Thursday
26 March 2009

- 12:30-1:00 *Coffee*
- 1:00-1:30 Historical overview
Speaker: Robert Martensen
Director, Office of History, National Institutes of Health
- 1:30-3:00 The role of universities
Chair: Sejal Patel
Robert Wood Johnson Program Health and Society Scholar,
Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin
Speaker: David Korn
Vice Provost for Research, Harvard University; Professor of
Pathology, Harvard Medical School
Commentator: Kenneth M. Ludmerer
Professor of Medicine and Professor of History, Washington
University in St. Louis
- 3:00-3:15 *Break*
- 3:15-4:45 The role of government
Chair: Alan N. Schechter
Chief, Molecular Medicine Branch, NIDDK
Speaker: Raynard S. Kington
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health
Commentator: Richard A. Rettig
Adjunct Senior Social Scientist, RAND Corporation
- 5:00-7:00 *Reception*

**Day 2
Friday
27 March 2009**

- 8:00-8:30 *Breakfast*
- 8:30-10:00 The role of pharmaceutical companies
Chair: Robert Martensen
Director, Office of History, National Institutes of Health
- Speaker: P. Roy Vagelos**
Former President, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman, Merck
- Commentator: Nicolas Rasmussen**
Associate Professor, History and Philosophy of Science, University of New South Wales
- 10:00-10:15 *Break*
- 10:15-11:45 The role of foundations
Chair: Sejal Patel
Robert Wood Johnson Program Health and Society Scholar, in the Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin
- Speaker: Elaine K. Gallin**
Program Director for Medical Research, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- Commentator: Alberto Cambrosio**
Chair, Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University
- 11:45-1:30 *Lunch*
- 1:30-3:00 The role of women
Chair: David Cantor
Deputy Director, Office of History, National Institutes of Health
- Speaker: Barbara Alving**
Director, National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)
- Commentator: Londa Schiebinger**
The John L. Hinds Professor of History of Science, Stanford University
- 3:00-3:15 *Break*
- 3:15-5:00 Thoughts on the future
Chair: Robert Martensen
Director, Office of History, National Institutes of Health
- Michael Gottesman**
Director, Office of Intramural Research, National Institutes of Health
- Discussion

Conference Information

How the sessions will work:

Each session will begin with the speaker's talk (30 minutes). The commentary (20 minutes) will follow, after which the chair will open discussion to the floor. Speakers may respond to the commentary at this point.

Questions will not be allowed before the general discussion – excepting minor points of clarification, at the discretion of the chair.

Location:

The conference will be held in The Cloisters, Chapel and Lecture Room, Building 60 on the main NIH Campus (Top left quadrant, campus map p. 6).

Visiting the NIH

The NIH has changed in recent years. It is no longer the open campus it once was. A new security fence surrounds the grounds. Visitor's bags and cars are searched at the entrances, and guards will ask to see a government-issued photo ID (passport; US driver's license) before you enter. Please allow sufficient time to pass through security.

All visitors have to enter the campus via the NIH Gateway Center (see maps pp. 6-7).

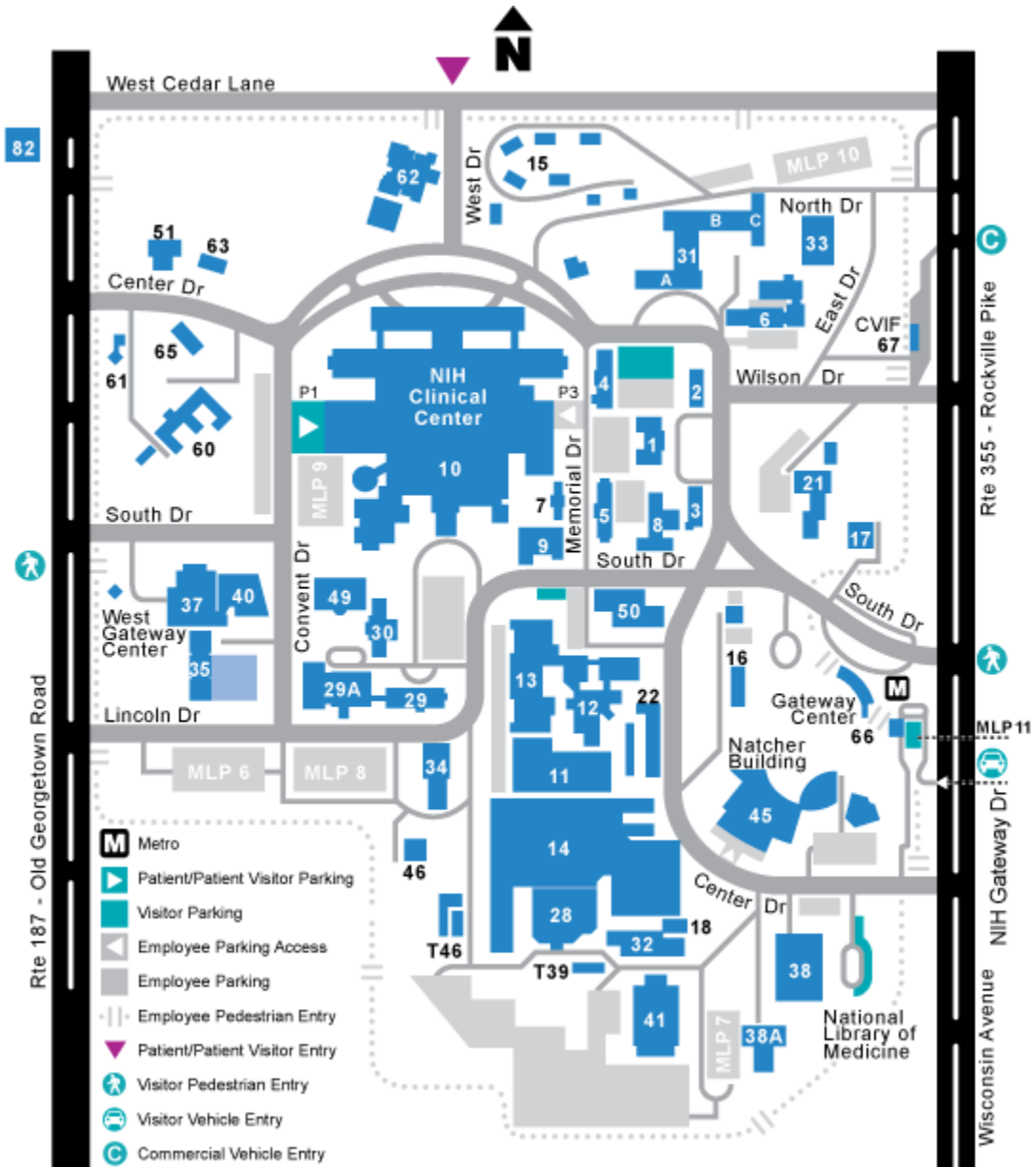
The easiest way to get to NIH is via the Metro (Medical Center on the Red Line) or by bus or on foot. Drivers should enter the campus by the NIH gateway drive from Rockville Pike. See the maps below for visitor parking areas. Visitor parking is very limited. Metro access is recommended.

Note: Although the Cloisters is near Old Georgetown Road, only pedestrians can enter on that side of the campus. No visitors' cars can enter from Old Georgetown Road, and the Metro is located off Rockville Pike. A free shuttle service is available from the NIH Gateway Center (see the visitor link below).

For the more visitor information:

<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>

NIH Campus Map



NIH Gateway Center Map



Organizer: [David Cantor](#)
Deputy Director
Office of History
National Institutes of Health