First Marjorie Guthrie Memorial Lecture Will Be Delivered by Nobel Laureate

Dr. David Baltimore, Nobel Laureate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will deliver the first annual Marjorie Guthrie Lecture in Genetics, sponsored jointly by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

The inaugural lecture, "Illumination of Disease Processes Through Molecular Genetics," will be presented at NIH in Masur Auditorium on May 11, at 8 p.m.

The lecture honors the late Marjorie Guthrie's outstanding contributions to the promotion of research on genetic diseases, particularly disorders of the brain and central nervous system.

"Not only was Marjorie dedicated to focusing additional patient care, research, and political attention on Huntington's disease—a disease that challenged her family—but on all genetic disorders," said Dr. Murray Goldstein, NINCDS Director.

"Not only was she dedicated to the prevention and improved therapy of disorders of the brain and nervous system, but of all crippling disorders. She had the vision to use the specific to draw attention to the importance of the whole."

Mrs. Guthrie was the widow of folksinger and songwriter Woody Guthrie, who died of Huntington's disease in 1967. After her husband's death, Mrs. Guthrie founded the Committee to Combat Huntington's Disease; she later chaired the National Commission for the Control of Huntington's Disease and Its Consequences.

Mrs. Guthrie served on the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council from 1973 to 1977, and was instrumental in the development of voluntary health organizations for Tourette's syndrome, dystonia, neurofibromatosis, and other neurogenetic disorders. She died on Mar. 13, 1983.

Dr. Baltimore is professor of biology at MIT and director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass. He has played a major role in creating the field of molecular genetics, and is the recipient of many awards. In 1975, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Marjorie Guthrie, a leading advocate for research on all genetic disease but particularly disorders of the brain and central nervous system, died Mar. 13.

Gerald L. Duvall Retires From ORS With 39 Years

Gerald L. Duvall, head of the planning and estimating section of the Office of Research Services, retired Apr. 2 with 39 years of government service—37 with NIH. When Mr. Duvall joined NIH, he worked in what was called the "bull gang." This group performed various duties connected with the support of laboratory services throughout the reservation that then consisted of approximately eight buildings.

He later worked in the Division of Tropical Diseases until transferring to the plumbing shop. He continued working in the shop and for the past 5 years served as foreman for the planning and estimating section.

Mr. Duvall was one of the first members of the NIH Fire Brigade which had a chief, one pickup truck size unit, and several people who worked within the various trades for the Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Duvall first came to NIH in 1943, left to serve in the Army, and later returned in 1947.

Scientists Agree AIDS Research Needed

Scientists at the recent 2-day NIAID Workshop on the Search for Etiological Agents in Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) agreed that an expanded investigative effort is crucial to the goal of identifying the infectious agent responsible for this disease.

Announced at the meeting was the joint plan of the National Cancer Institute and NIAID to prepare a request for cooperative agreement applications for research to find the infectious agent causing AIDS. Approximately $2 million ($1 million by each Institute) will be set aside by the Institutes to fund the first year's grant awards.

At a briefing following the workshop, Dr. Richard M. Krause, NIAID Director, said that, in response to this public health emergency, NIH funding for AIDS, which was $3.3 million in 1982, would increase to over $9 million in 1985.

According to Dr. Kenneth Sell, NIAID scientific director, "the workshop also stimulated plans for the exchange of valuable resources, such as patient blood samples and other tissues and materials."

New Technologies

The scientists also discussed the collaborative use of new technologies such as immunoelectron microscopy and molecular biology techniques to provide greater sensitivity in the detection of new viruses.

Although no infectious agent has actually been identified as the cause of AIDS, investigators suspect that a virus or other infectious agent plays a role in its transmission. Some of the participants reported that extensive testing for viruses has already begun.

AIDS, a disease characterized by a severely depressed immune system that leaves patients vulnerable to serious illness, strikes homosexual males, intravenous drug users, Haitians, as well as hemophiliacs who require injections of a special blood factor.

It has recently been identified in other segments of the population as well, including infants born to parents in a high-risk group and women who have had intimate contact with IV drug users. The mortality rate for AIDS is approaching 40 percent and there have been no reported cases of immune suppression reversal.

It is not necessary to take a person's advice to make him feel good. All you have to do is ask it.—Richard Armour

Division. He has been active in NIH-sponsored sports such as softball, bowling, and golf, and for 20 years, was a fast-pitch pitcher in a highly competitive league in the Baltimore-Carroll County area.

Mr. Duvall is an active member of the Damascus American Legion Post #171 and presently is serving as first-vice commander for Montgomery County.

He is married with four sons. His wife, Miriam, who works for NIAID at Bldg. 10, says his retirement plans include gardening, fishing and golfing, along with the usual homeowner maintenance chores.