Dr. Vida Beaven Named NIH Assistant Director

Dr. Vida H. Beaven recently has been named NIH Assistant Director for Program Coordination by NIH Director, Dr. James B. Wyngaarden.

NIAID Funds $100 Million for 14 Centers To Evaluate Drugs in Treatment of AIDS

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has awarded contracts to 14 medical centers to test experimental drugs in persons with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

The total of $100 million will go to the 14 centers over the next 3 years, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, NIAID Director, at a press conference held June 30 in Washington, D.C.

Annual funding for each unit ranges from approximately $700,000 to $2 million. Each unit will treat 50 to 150 patients during the initial phases of drug trials.

Dr. Fauci said that as many as 1,000 patients could be enrolled in the AIDS treatment evaluation units within the next 6 months. The patients will receive drugs that have potential for the treatment of AIDS and the various opportunistic infections and cancers that develop in AIDS patients.

AIDS has been diagnosed in more than 22,000 Americans since the first case was reported in 1981. There is no proven, effective treatment for the ailment at present.

NICHD’s Dr. David B. Gray Named Director Of National Institute of Handicapped Research

Dr. David B. Gray has left NIH to become Director of the National Institute of Handicapped Research (NIHR), a component of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the U.S. Department of Education.

An expert on learning disabilities, Dr. Gray was nominated for the position by President Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He has been a health scientist administrator in the Human Learning and Behavior Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

NIHR supports grants, contracts and cooperative agreements to states, public and private agencies and other organizations to plan and conduct research, demonstrations or related activities pertinent to the rehabilitation of handicapped individuals. The institute’s budget for fiscal year 1985 was $39 million.

Dr. Gray has had extensive experience in research and service programs related to disabled individuals. He was director of research and development at Rochester State Hospital and director of the Institute Programs for the Mentally Retarded of the Social Adaptation Center in Rochester, Minn. He also worked as supervisor of behavior modification at the Mental Retardation Institute at New York Medical College in Vahalla, N.Y.
Belgian Prince and Princess Visit

A number of Belgian scientists now working at NIH are shown with Prince Albert and Princess Paola of Belgium and Dr. James B. Wyngaarden, NIH Director at a June 11 coffee in the conference room of Stone House for Belgian scientists at NIH. Shown (1 to r) are: Dr. Thierry Vult, Dr. Anne Marie Labaque, Dr. Jean Pierre Kinet, Belgian Ambassador Herman Detremmler, Mrs. Detremmler, Prince Albert, Princess Paola, Dr. Wyngaarden, Dr. Jean Joris, Dr. Jacques Guelin, Dr. Martin Mover and Dr. Jan Balzarini.

AIDS CENTERS
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Immunomodulators, or agents designed to enhance the immune system, may be tested alone or in combination with other drugs or therapies.

Agents likely to be tested in the first year of the study include ribavirin, azidodihydridine (AZT), interferon alpha, foscamet, HPA-23 and possibly dideoxycytidine. With the exception of dideoxycytidine, which is still undergoing studies in animals, all of these drugs have been studied previously in humans.

Initial studies will focus on determining safe dosages and establishing therapeutic value that is sufficient to warrant further trials. Relative risks and potential benefits to each individual will be weighed carefully and fully explained before the patient enters treatment, Dr. Fauci said.

The drugs will be tested for safety and effectiveness in persons with fully developed AIDS, and those with AIDS related complex (ARC). Drugs shown to be safe and effective can be tested eventually in persons with antibody to the virus but without symptoms. Outpatients as well as inpatients will participate in the studies.

The complexity of the disease complicates the search for effective treatment strategies. Drugs are needed to inhibit growth of the AIDS virus, which attacks the body's immune system. Also needed are ways to restore and revitalize the weakened immune system.

Treatment is also needed to fight the host of opportunistic infections and malignancies to which AIDS patients are vulnerable. Patients with AIDS fall prey to Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia and other opportunistic infections such as candidiasis, and severe herpes simplex, cytomegalovirus and toxoplasma infections. They also develop Kaposi's sarcoma and B cell lymphomas, which are forms of cancer.

"Everyone in the scientific community who works in AIDS research shares the sense of urgency that is felt throughout the country, and now the world, as we face a rapidly growing public health problem, and as we see the toll AIDS is taking in the lives of men, women and children," Dr. Fauci said. "We believe that this new effort should greatly enhance our research capabilities and bring us closer to the answers we seek."

Institutions which will receive contracts for the treatment evaluation units and the principal investigators involved in the studies follow:

Institutions

- AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units
  - Principal Investigators
    - Harvard University: Martin S. Hirsch, M.D.
    - John Hopkins University: Jerome E. Groopman, M.D.
    - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: Stephen F. Palella, M.D.
    - New York University: David A. Margolick, M.D.
    - Stanford University: Michael H. Maxwell, M.D.
    - University of California, San Francisco: Peter M. Light, M.D.
    - University of Miami: Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
    - University of Pittsburgh: Ronald Chinard, M.D.
    - University of Rochester: Charles L. Root, M.D.
    - University of Southern California: Michael J. Markovitz, M.D.
    - University of Texas, M.D.: Peter A. Sacks, M.D.
  - Co-investigators
    - Harvard University: Claude R. Des Jarlais, M.D.
    - John Hopkins University: Robert C. Schreiber, M.D.
    - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: Alvaro A. M. Knapp, M.D.
    - New York University: Robert C. Schreiber, M.D.
    - Stanford University: Michael H. Maxwell, M.D.
    - University of Miami: Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
    - University of Pittsburgh: Ronald Chinard, M.D.
    - University of Rochester: Charles L. Root, M.D.
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    - University of Texas, M.D.: Peter A. Sacks, M.D.

- AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units

- Principal Investigators
  - Harvard University: Martin S. Hirsch, M.D., Claude R. Des Jarlais, M.D.
  - John Hopkins University: Jerome E. Groopman, M.D., Robert C. Schreiber, M.D.
  - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: Stephen F. Palella, M.D., Alvaro A. M. Knapp, M.D.
  - New York University: David A. Margolick, M.D., Ronald Chinard, M.D.
  - Stanford University: Michael H. Maxwell, M.D., Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
  - University of California, San Francisco: Peter M. Light, M.D., Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
  - University of Miami: Orlando A. Rossi, M.D., Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
  - University of Pittsburgh: Ronald Chinard, M.D., Ronald Chinard, M.D.
  - University of Rochester: Charles L. Root, M.D., Charles L. Root, M.D.
  - University of Southern California: Michael J. Markovitz, M.D., Michael J. Markovitz, M.D.
  - University of Texas, M.D.: Peter A. Sacks, M.D., Peter A. Sacks, M.D.
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  - Stanford University: Orlando A. Rossi, M.D., Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
  - University of California, San Francisco: Orlando A. Rossi, M.D., Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
  - University of Miami: Orlando A. Rossi, M.D., Orlando A. Rossi, M.D.
  - University of Pittsburgh: Ronald Chinard, M.D., Ronald Chinard, M.D.
  - University of Rochester: Charles L. Root, M.D., Charles L. Root, M.D.
  - University of Southern California: Michael J. Markovitz, M.D., Michael J. Markovitz, M.D.
  - University of Texas, M.D.: Peter A. Sacks, M.D., Peter A. Sacks, M.D.

Fun-for-One Club for Singles

R&W will sponsor a social mixer on July 30 at 5 p.m. in the FAES House (corner of Old Georgetown and Cedar Lane) to introduce its newest club, the Fun-For-One Club. The Fun-For-One Club, designed to help employees meet new people and meet new friends, will specialize in social activities geared toward single adults. Attend the social mixer on July 30 to learn more about the Fun-For-One Club and get to know your fellow employees here at NIH.

CORRECTION

Dr. Günthild Kestermann's phone number for prospective experienced mother volunteers to call is (301) 496-6832, not 8632 as was given in the July 1 Record.

He who laughs, lasts.—Anonymous

DR. GRAY
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Last year Dr. Gray received the Public Health Service "Outstanding Handicapped Employee Award" for "inspiring physically disabled and able-bodied individuals alike to achieve their utmost potential and to serve their communities unfailingly."

Recently Dr. Gray co-edited Biobehavioral Measures of Dyslexia with Dr. James F. Kavanaugh, associate director of NICHD's Center for Research for Mothers and Children.