National Arthritis Month Proclaimed by President

At a White House ceremony Apr. 11, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring May 1983 as National Arthritis Month.

Also present were Vice President George Bush, Senator Steven Symms of Idaho and his wife, Mrs. Fran S. Symms, a member of NIH's National Arthritis Advisory Board; John Wiswall of Delaware who has had arthritis for 18 of his 19 years; and Victoria Principal, the well-known actress and this year's general chairman for the Arthritis Foundation. Ms. Principal's mother has systemic lupus erythematosus, a potentially serious connective tissue disease.

Arthritis, the oldest known group of chronic diseases, is still the nation's greatest crippler. At least 35 million Americans— about one in seven—have some form of arthritis at a cost to the nation of billions of dollars.

The forms of arthritis include such common disorders as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and gout; connective tissue diseases, such as lupus and scleroderma, which can afflict internal organs as well as the joints and skin; juvenile arthritis, which can afflict infants and children; and ankylosing spondylitis, or spinal arthritis.

The Presidential proclamation declared: "The total cost of arthritis must be

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Dr. Hector DeLuca Wins 3M Life Sciences Award

NIADDK grantees Dr. Hector F. DeLuca received the "3M Life Sciences Award," with a $10,000 honorarium Apr. 11 at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Chicago, Ill.

The award was established to honor researchers whose work has made a significant contribution to the health and welfare of mankind. Dr. DeLuca was recognized by 3M for his "internationally distinguished work in vitamin D metabolism." He is presently chairman, and the Harry Steenbock research professor, department of biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dr. DeLuca was the first to demonstrate that vitamin D must be metabolically altered before it can function. He subsequently isolated the active metabolites of vitamin D in pure form and determined their chemical structures.

The structures were confirmed by means of chemical synthesis which also provided the pure forms of this compound for use in treating metabolic bone diseases such as vitamin D-resistant rickets, renal osteodystrophy, and osteoporosis. The active form of vitamin D has been shown to increase calcium balance and reduce bone fractures in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis.

Dr. DeLuca has identified the metabolically active form of vitamin D that stimulates intestinal calcium transport and bone calcium metabolism. This work led scientists to conclude that, since the final step in producing this metabolite occurs in the kidney and has its targets of action in intestine and bone, it must be considered a hormone.

According to his colleagues, Dr. DeLuca's discovery of vitamin D metabolites and his development of biochemical research techniques have facilitated the research of other scientists around the world.

He has published more than 600 research articles in the fields of vitamin D, vitamin A, parathyroid hormone, and calcitonin.

In 1968, he received the Meade Johnson Award of the American Institute of Nutrition, and in 1969, the Andre Lichwitz Prize from the French Institute National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medicale.

In 1971, he received the Nicholas Andry Award from the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons, and in 1974 the Dixon Medal from the Irish Medical Council. He is a member of several scientific organizations, including the American Society of Biological Chemists and the American Institute of Nutrition.

AIDS STUDIES (Continued from Page 1)

The viruses to be studied include CMV, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), and human T-cell leukemia-lymphoma virus (HTLV). EBV and HTLV have been associated with some rare cancers, but presently the association between these viruses and AIDS is uncertain. First-year funding is $67,983 in direct costs for the 3-year study.

NIADDK is funding:
- Dr. Walter T. Hughes, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., will study potential drug treatments for Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in an animal model.

Funding is $62,332 in direct costs for the first year of this 3-year study.
- Dr. Pearl Ma, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center, New York City, will study cryptosporidiosis, a recently identified parasitic disease that can cause severe and potentially fatal diarrhea in the immunosuppressed AIDS patients.

She will investigate the prevalence and transmission of the parasite in high risk groups as well as the disease process and possible treatments. Support for the first year of this 3-year project is approximately $39,165 in direct costs.

Although the deadline for receipt of applications under this RFA is closed, applications for support for research on AIDS may be made through the standard grant application procedures for the National Institutes of Health.

Investigators may obtain grant application kits from their institutions' application control office, or by writing to the Division of Research Grants, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20205.

Dr. Skolnick Awarded Neuroscience Prize

Dr. Phil Skolnick, senior investigator, Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry, National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, is the 1982 recipient of the Mathilde Soleyow Award in the Neurosciences.

Established in 1973 by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES), the award honors an outstanding scientist specializing in research in neurobiology or diseases of the central nervous system. It consists of a certificate, a lecture at NIH, a reception at the FAES academic and social center, and an honorarium.

Dr. Skolnick will present his lecture entitled, "Receptors for an Age of Anxiety," Tuesday, May 24, at 3 p.m., in the Clinical Center Masur Auditorium.

Pamphlet on Osteoporosis Available from NIADDK

The Division of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIADDK, has recently published a pamphlet entitled Osteoporosis: Cause, Treatment, Prevention.

Osteoporosis is a condition in which bone tissue decreases, causing the bones to be more susceptible to fracture. The disorder is the principal underlying cause of bone fractures in older people, especially women.

An estimated 2 to 5 million Americans seek medical help each year for some problem linked to osteoporosis, and upwards of 15 million have osteoporosis in some degree.

Free copies of the pamphlet may be obtained by writing to: Osteoporosis, NIADDK, Bldg. 31, Rm. 9A04, Bethesda, MD 20205.

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