

DRG

IT
PERSONNEL
MS

December 1967

Surgeon General Addresses Grants Associates



Dr. William H. Stewart, Surgeon General, seated center, was introduced to members and former members of the Grants Associates Program and guests at a weekly seminar held December 1 in Building 31. After being introduced to the group by Dr. Eugene A. Confrey, second from right, Director, DRG, the Surgeon General spoke briefly on the functions and operations of the Public Health Service and illustrated several of the issues confronting the Service; namely, the rising cost of medical care, the supply of professional manpower, and the importance of biomedical research.

Seated are (l to r): Dr. John T. Kalberer, Jr.; Dr. Warren T. Atyeo; Dr. Stewart; Dr. Confrey; Dr. David Jofes. Standing are (l to r): Dr. Robert A. Tolman; Dr. James I. Lore; Dr. Leo A. Whitehair; Dr. Philip E. Schambra; Dr. Donald G. Murphy; Dr. T. Edward Powell, program administrator, NIGMS; Dr. Evelyn A. Horenstein, health scientist administrator, RGRB; Dr. Benjamin Alexander; Dr. John C. James, health scientist administrator, CDRB; Mr. Gerald Libman, scientific program specialist, NHI; Dr. Samuel Price; Dr. Suzanne Stimler; Dr. Richard L. Chapman, executive secretary, GA Program; Dr. Philip S. Chen, Jr.

Greetings

At this time of the year, it is a pleasure to express again my appreciation to the staff of DRG, and to wish each of you a happy holiday season.

May the new year bring health and happiness to you and to your families.

Eugene A. Confrey
Director

Fountain Committee Report Discussed by Dr. John Sherman

Dr. John F. Sherman, Associate Director for Extramural Programs, NIH, met with executive secretaries of DRG on December 4 to discuss the latest report of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee (Fountain Committee) of the Committee on Government Operations.

Dr. Sherman explained that the Department is expected to submit its response to the Congress before the opening of the next session in January.

In the meantime, since questions about the report may be raised at the forthcoming round of study section meetings, executive secretaries should be knowledgeable about the contents of the report and its potential effects on NIH.

Dr. Sherman mentioned briefly the various criticisms and recommendations in the report and discussed specifically the two criticisms concerning the Sloan-Kettering grant and the Health Sciences Advancement Award.

A third area of particular concern to DRG—the quality of supported research—was discussed by

(See DR. SHERMAN Page 7)

Two Grants Assistants Commended With Awards for Job Performance

Mrs. Patricia S. Hoff and Mrs. Helen R. Jordan, grants technical assistants in the Research Grants Review Branch, have received awards for continued high quality performance in their jobs. Dr. S. Stephen Schiaffino, acting chief of RGRB presented the awards.



Dr. Schiaffino Mrs. Hoff Mrs. Jordan

Mrs. Hoff of the Developmental Behavioral Sciences Study Section was commended for her "competence . . . and a sense of personal commitment to her job in performing with an absolute minimal need for supervision."

Mrs. Jordan of the Bacteriology & Mycology A Study Section was rewarded for "work performed with the highest degree of efficiency, thoroughness, accuracy and with an exceptional degree of cheerful, friendly, cooperativeness. . . beyond the call of duty."

Mrs. Hoff has been in her present job since 1965, Mrs. Jordan since 1963.

Dr. Leo Whitehair Awarded USAF Commendation Medal

Dr. Leo A. Whitehair, who joined the Grants Associates Program in July, has been awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service" in execution of his duties while assigned to the Division of Biology and Medicine of the United States Atomic Energy Commission from 1962 to 1967." Dr. Whitehair distinguished himself while serving as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Air Force prior to his appointment to the Grants Associates Program.

Parking Laws Start in January

New parking regulations are scheduled to become effective for Westwood Building employees during the first week in January 1968. They will be part of an overall plan to ease the parking squeeze at Westwood, on the reservation, and at other NIH locations.

When new bumper stickers are issued and parking areas are designated, special police will have the power to issue tickets for parking violations. Tickets can be cleared only by forfeiting collateral (paying a fine) or by appearing before a U.S. Commissioner or the U.S. District Court for trial.

Parking needs will be determined from information returned on punch cards issued to each employee in November. Bumper stickers will correspond to certain parking zones. A detailed booklet outlining the rules and regulations of the new system will be issued with the bumper stickers.

Everybody in the Pool

A carpool locator has been set up in the DRG Personnel Office to coordinate transportation arrangements. Persons wishing to participate should see Mrs. Janice Davies, transportation coordinator, room 438.

Dorothy E. Fox Honored at Party Commemorating Her Retirement

Dorothy E. Fox, a statistical clerk in the training, processing and control unit of the S&AB receives best wishes and a memento of her retirement



Mr. Eskenazi Mrs. Fox

at a party given recently in her honor by her co-workers. Making the presentation is Solomon Eskenazi, chief, Data Processing Section.

Mrs. Fox, who has spent the last three years of her Federal career at DRG plans "to pay some long over-due visits to her relatives" and do some gardening around her Garrett Park home.

Dr. Pronove Attends Conference

Had Dr. Pacita Pronove not been so intent on attending the Third Parathyroid Conference in Canada last month, the National Institutes of Health would not have been represented at this NIH-supported conference.

Because of the travel freeze, Dr. Pronove, executive secretary of the General Medicine B Study Section, elected not only to pay her own travel and per diem expenses but also to take leave to attend. She was the sole NIH representative at the meeting.

Look All Ways When Crossing

Employees leaving the building at 5 P.M. should use extra caution during December and January. The workday ends during the twilight hours when driver visibility is limited. Pedestrians crossing Westbard Avenue often feel they have an automatic right-of-way. However a driver unfamiliar with the area and crosswalk locations might accidentally spoil a holiday season.

Director Discusses Distribution Of Federal Funds for Science

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH DELIVERED BY DR. EUGENE A. CONFREY BEFORE THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., NOVEMBER 29.

...NIH has been established by the Congress to conduct and support the highest quality of bio-medical research. Annual appropriations are made by the Congress under the assumption that they will be utilized effectively and efficiently for high-caliber scientific efforts, most likely to provide information that will aid in understanding the causes of cancer, heart disease, stroke, and other diseases. I reiterate certain key phrases: highest quality research...funds utilized effectively and efficiently...most likely to provide understanding...

In the process of selecting the most meritorious research project proposals, the NIH staff and its scientific advisory bodies have never deliberately discriminated against any institution or investigator on the basis of geographic location, size of the college, or factors extraneous to scientific merit. I certainly concede that some mistakes in judgment have been made by study sections and other review committees over the past 20 years. I submit that the percentage of errors has been minimal--and attributable to the fallibility of human beings, not to lack of attention to the criteria of excellence:

- ...The caliber of the scientist.
- ...The quality of his contributions to the scientific literature.
- ...The rigor of the methodology and design of his research protocol.
- ...The probability of useful findings.
- ...The adequacy of local resources.
- ...The clarity with which the problem is perceived.
- ...The feasibility of resting an hypothesis.
- Et cetera.

I would say, without the slightest equivocation, that research project grants are awarded on a highly competitive basis to the most competent. These awards are not designed to serve as sources of institutional development, or instruments of benevolence, or "seed money," or anything of the sort. They are intended to support first-rate biomedical research.

On this matter of the quality of research supported by grant programs of the National Institutes of Health, permit me to say--with emphasis and conviction--that the NIH staff--scientists, administrators, clerks--continues to take pride in the caliber of its performance as the guardian of public trust. No staff member, none of the several thousand consultants who have served on NIH panels has ever treated the value of research quality lightly. For more than 20 years, efforts have been made to staff our study sections with the most preeminent and distinguished scientists, some of whom have earned Nobel prizes.

NIH conducts not one review for merit but two: by study section and National Advisory Council. Ten percent of all applications are site visited. About 50 percent of applications are disapproved. Many of those approved are not awarded because of lack of funds. The review and deliberation of project proposals is meticulous in detail.

And all this with what result?

As a fellow taxpayer, I invite your attention to the status of biomedical research in the United States in 1967 vis a vis 1957 or 1947.

If we, as taxpayers, wish to have an assessment made of the quality of research supported by public funds--under the auspices of NIH, NSF, AEC, NASA or any other agency, the study, enormously difficult, will require rigorous scholarship. The study must be done systematically, in depth.

(See DR. CONFREY Page 7)

Obey Holiday Safety Rules

The following rules are to be observed when displaying Christmas trees and other holiday decorations in the Westwood Building. The regulations have been established by the NIH Fire Department for the safety of all personnel:

- The base of natural trees should be placed in water or water-soaked sand.
- For decorations, glass, asbestos, mica or metal ornaments are preferred. Ornaments made of combustible materials such as paper or raw cotton must be the flame-proof type.
- Lights must be turned off at the end of the regular work day or whenever the immediate area is unoccupied. All Christmas tree lights should bear the Underwriter's Laboratories seal of approval and be in excellent condition.
- All decorations must be located at least three feet from room exits and stairways. Trees must be fastened securely in place.
- No lights are to be placed on aluminum trees.
- No candles are to be used.
- After decorations have been erected, please call the NIH fire chief (Ext. 62372) and request that he inspect the area.
- No Christmas trees or decorations are to be displayed before December 18, 1967, and all decorations must be removed by 4:00 p.m., January 2, 1968.

Freedom Shares Now Available

New type U.S. Savings Notes—Freedom Shares—that pay 4.7 percent interest are now available on a one-for-one basis with Series E Savings Bonds. Investigate the advantages of participation in the Freedom Shares Plan in the DRG Personnel Office, Room 438.

Santa's Little Helpers



Employees of SAB in cooperation with the Montgomery Christmas Bureau joined together to help make Christmas a little brighter for needy area families. Collection boxes were set up in several locations where employees could donate toys, food and other gifts. Donations were delivered to the Bureau for distribution in time for Christmas. Above are (l to r) Jacqueline J. Reed, and Joan Griest, SAB, displaying some of the gifts.

Holiday Mail Restrictions

NIH personnel are requested to withhold from the mails bulk mailings of pamphlets, books, forms, and other printed matter from December 1 through 26. All bulk mailings during this period should be restricted to those deemed absolutely necessary. This restriction will ease the burden imposed upon the Post Office Department facilities during the holiday season.

An annual problem that affects NIH mail operations is the interference with delivery and dispatch of official mail caused by personal packages and greeting cards in the mail rooms. Personnel must mail cards, packages, and other personal correspondence through regular post office facilities.

Personal mail such as Christmas and New Years greetings for NIH employees should be addressed to their homes rather than to their official stations.

Nomad Pooch Has Wide Circle of Friends in DRG

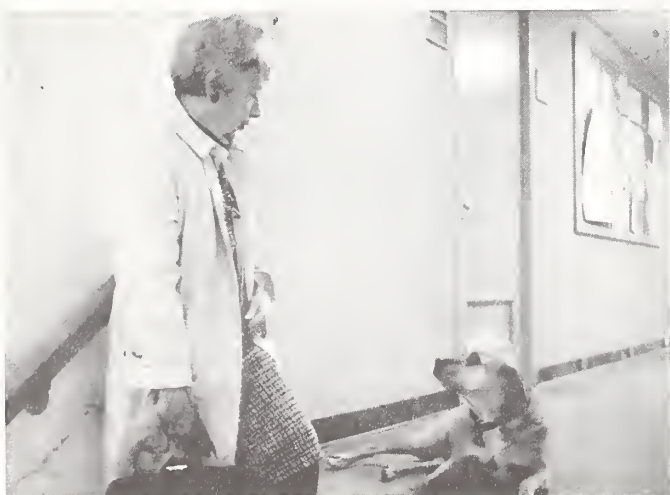
Because of her species, Sandy is known as "man's best friend," but the ladies of Westwood pay more attention to her than the men do as these pictures attest.

While visiting, Sandy is never at a loss for an affectionate pat on the head or a cheerful greeting. She can even find a cool drink of water in one of the offices on the first floor.

Is Sandy a deserted pet left to roam perhaps to succumb to the ever-increasing traffic hazards of our day? Not at all! Sandy is a pet of a family that lives not too far from the Westwood Building. Occasionally she gets wander lust, and occasionally she arrives here for a visit. Sometimes her roamings are interrupted and she is escorted to sanctuary by the Montgomery County Humane Society Inc. When this happens, her owners pay a fee for her return.

Sandy is safety conscious. Not only does she look both ways before crossing streets but waits for a human to lead the way. In all of her meanderings Sandy has never been injured.

Getting a bit ancient and a bit infirm, the 12 year-old part Boxer has seen a great deal of change in her neighborhood. She used to romp this area before the Westwood complex sprang up. Maybe now when she comes by, she is looking for consolation that both her youth and former playground have been taken by time.



From the Director

The Division's goal of \$10,723 in the 1967-68 Combined Federal Campaign was 98.3 percent achieved. I wish to thank those of you who participated through contributions and, of course, the Keymen and their assistants who also gave so generously of their time in the interest of a successful fund drive. I am confident that all of you feel a sense of satisfaction in contributing to improve health and extend help where the need is urgent.

Eugene A. Confrey
Director

DR. SHERMAN
(From Page 2)

Dr. Confrey who pointed out that the assessment of the quality of federally supported research is a difficult and complex endeavor.

In addition to reading the entire report, staff of DRG may wish to read comments on the report which have appeared in the following publications:

Science, November 3, 1967

Science, December 1, 1967

Saturday Review, November 4, 1967

Drug Research Reports, October 25, 1967

U. S. Medicine, November 15, 1967

There will be no bulk mailing of the report to consultants; however, copies may be furnished to consultants who request them. Copies may be obtained from the DRG Executive Office, Room 455, Westwood Building.

Personnel Representatives Report

Mrs. Marianna Bell and Mr. Robert Cross have joined the staff of the DRG Personnel Office. Mrs. Bell is the representative of S&AB and GMB. She replaced Mr. Frank Cady who is now with the NCI. Mr. Cross represents RGRB and assumed the former duties of Roy F. Wilson who is now Personnel Officer.

Mr. Lester Sebastian Retires With 31 Years of Federal Service

Mr. Lester Sebastian, supervisory auditor in the Grants Management Branch, retired December 15 with more than 31 years of Government service.



Mr. Sebastian

Mr. Sebastian had been with the GMB since September 1956. His service in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare dates back to November 1936 when he was with the Social Security Board (now the Federal Security Agency). In 1947 he joined

the Public Health Service Mental Hygiene Division which was transferred to the NIH in 1949 and expanded to become the National Institute of Mental Health.

In February 1965 Mr. Sebastian received a Superior Performance Award for exceeding the normal requirements of his position.

A luncheon to honor Mr. Sebastian will be held Thursday, January 18, 1968, at O'Donnell's Restaurant in Bethesda. Coworkers and friends who wish to attend the luncheon should see Mr. Marshall DePue, Room 410, or call him on extension 7891 for reservations before Thursday, January 18, 1968.

DR. CONFREY
(From Page 4)

One must scrutinize the research endeavor on a project-by-project basis, utilizing a reliable sample.

Incidentally, the Wooldridge Committee, which examined NIH programs carefully, had such a sample. The conclusion of the Committee: NIH-supported work was found to set the national or international standard of excellence in its field.

News From RGRB

Dr. A. Roberto Valle has joined the staff of the Research Grants Review Branch as executive secretary of the Hematology Study Section.

Dr. Bertie H. Woolf is now executive secretary of the Developmental Behavioral Sciences Study Section.

Dr. Evelyn Horenstein has been appointed executive secretary of the Applied Physiology Study Section replacing Dr. John C. Dalton, assistant chief for review, RGRB.

Dr. George N. Eaves has been appointed executive secretary, Molecular Biology Study Section. He replaces Dr. Robert C. Backus who has joined the Division of Environmental Sciences, Extramural Programs.

WELCOME ABOARD: Richard Bratzel, health scientist administrator; Elizabeth M. Taylor, grants technical assistant; Diane Lenz, clerk-typist; all in RGRB. Margaret Schork, supervisory grants technical assistant; Patricia Cooper, Dixie Shackelford, fellowships clerks; Katherine Barry, Diane Moxley, Queen E. Baskerville, clerk-typists; CDRB. H. Thomas Bowers, writer; Sarah Robinette, scientist analyst; Emma Porter, clerk-steno; Edith Rollins, clerk; OD. Elaine Ashby, clerk-typist; GMB. Michael Carow, clerk; IOB. Robert Windham, mathematics aid, S&AB.

The Wishing Well

Dr. Katherine B. Warren, executive secretary, Cell Biology is making satisfactory progress in George Washington University Hospital following her recent accident.

Dr. James W. Pratt who was acting chief, RGRB, before his recent illness continues to improve in Suburban Hospital.

```

      +
    + * +
  + *** +
+ *****+
+ *****+
+ *HAPPY*+
+ *+++++*+
+ **HOLIDAY**+
+ ***+++++***+
+ ***** SEASON *****+
# *****+++++*****+
+ *****+
+ *****+
      ***
      ***
      ***
      TO ONE AND ALL!
      *****

```