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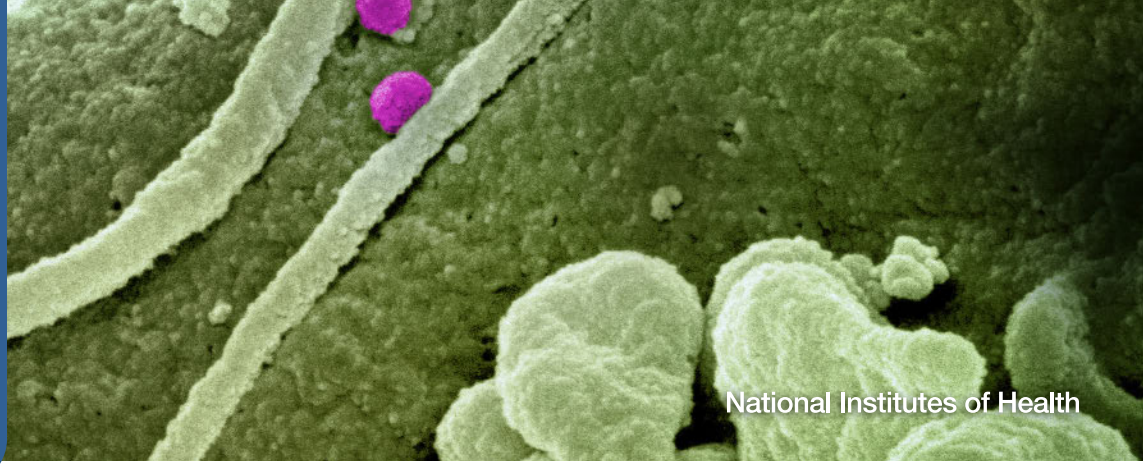
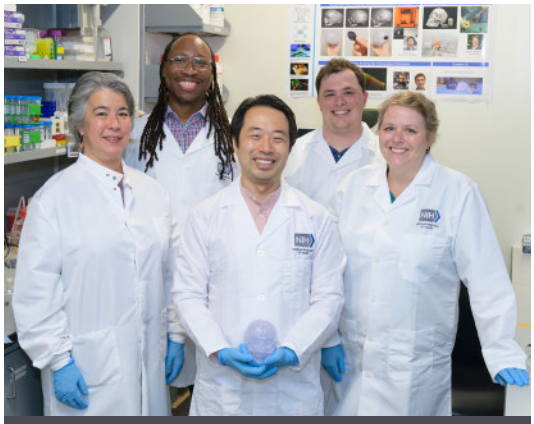


NIH Demystifies Vital Biomedical Tech for Congressional Staff

BY JONATHAN GRIFFIN

At NIH, biomedical engineers and imaging researchers gave 45 visitors from Capitol Hill a glimpse of transformative medical technologies on the horizon, underscoring the crucial role of medical tools in human health.

"There is no discovery in cancer, heart disease, metabolic disease—you name it—without advances in technology," said Dr. Bruce Tromberg, director of NIH's National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). "To see things that haven't been seen before, to develop understanding that hasn't been developed before, and then to practically improve patients' lives, it is a necessity."



Members of the BETA Center: from l, Dr. Nicole Morgan, Dr. Manu Platt, U-Seong (Castle) Kim, Jake Brandt and Dr. Carey Dougan.
PHOTO: MARLEEN VAN DEN NESTE

During the high-tech show-and-tell, held on July 18, congressional staff met with six research teams whose projects pit advanced technologies against a broad range of medical challenges. Several of these groups are using NIBIB's support to ensure that biomedical technologies will benefit from recent advances in computing power, data acquisition and artificial intelligence (AI).

At the University of Chicago, Dr. Maryellen Giger and her colleagues have developed AI-powered software to distinguish benign from cancerous breast tumors in magnetic resonance images. Giger explained that this work led to the first FDA-approved software to aid breast cancer diagnosis, called QuantX, and how the group is extending their approach to thyroid cancer and traumatic brain injury.

SEE **TECH**, PAGE 4

USPHS ensemble performs at flag-raising ceremony. See p. 8.

ALSO THIS ISSUE

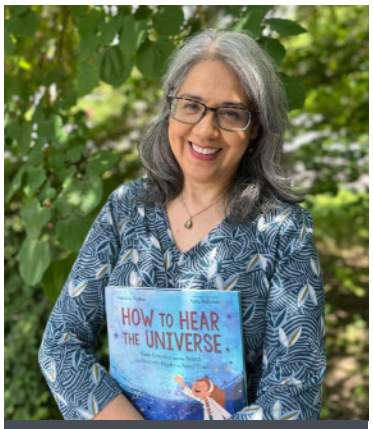
LESSONS IN ASTRONOMY

Valdez Authors Second Children's Book

BY DANA TALESNIK

Dr. Patricia Valdez enjoys discovering and sharing stories about women scientists. Her first children's book is a real-life dragon tale; her second book is something out of this world.

Valdez has worked at NIH for 14 years, first as an immunologist and, for the past decade, helping to ensure integrity in research grants. By day, Valdez is NIH's chief extramural research integrity officer. She also has found her calling writing children's books.



NIH's Dr. Patricia Valdez

Her latest one, *How to Hear the Universe,* takes a topic in astrophysics and turns it into a vibrant, relatable story that people of any age will enjoy. The story begins with Albert Einstein hypothesizing about the existence of gravitational waves. Valdez illustrates the concept of these waves, these ripples in space-time, by describing frogs jumping across lily pads.

These ripples were undetectable in Einstein's lifetime. But recent technology has made their detection possible and, nine years ago, scientists first heard them. The person who stepped up to the podium in 2016 to announce the breakthrough was Dr. Gabriela González, the heroine of Valdez's book.

"I'd never seen a Hispanic or Latina scientist on that big of a stage announcing an

SEE **UNIVERSE**, PAGE 5

UW's Gillespie to Deliver NCI Rising Scholars Seminar

Aug. 21

The NCI Rising Scholars: Cancer Research Seminar Series highlights the research of early-career cancer investigators supported by NCI. The next presentation in the series will take place virtually on Thursday, Aug. 21 from 2 to 3 p.m., ET.

Dr. Erin Gillespie

Dr. Erin Gillespie, associate professor in radiation oncology at the University of Washington, will deliver a talk, titled, "Radiation for High-Risk Asymptomatic Bone Metastases: An Implementation Science Perspective."

Gillespie, who is also a faculty member of the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research, specializes in radiation treatment for patients with breast cancer and metastatic disease. Her work focuses on developing and ensuring fair access to evidence-based treatments for patients with cancer. She is the principal investigator of a recently approved phase 3 cooperative group trial and leads active funding from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and NCI, including a K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award.

To register for this event, after which you will receive the link to watch the seminar, see: https://cassyni.com/s/nci-rising-scholars/seminars.

Lecture to Explore Findings from Longitudinal Study on Aging

Aug. 28

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) is one of the most innovative and widely used nationally representative longitudinal studies of Americans ever conducted. Dr. Robert Hummer, Add Health's director and principal investigator, will discuss the study at the 18th annual NIH Matilda White Riley Distinguished Lecture. This webinar will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 3 to 4 p.m., ET.

Add Health provides data for thousands of researchers worldwide, enabling a deeper understanding of the multilevel (biological, survey, contextual) life course factors that contribute to health and health disparities among U.S. adolescents and adults. The study is primarily supported by NIH, with co-funding from 23 additional partners within federal agencies and foundations.

In his talk, Hummer will focus on Add Health's 30-year history, theoretical and substantive motivations, empirical contributions, innovations in recent data collection and preliminary findings from soon-to-be publicly available data.

Hummer is the Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor of Sociology and fellow of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hil. He served as the 2021 president of the Population Association of America and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2023. His research focuses on the accurate documentation and more complete understanding of health and mortality disparities in the U.S.

Dr. Robert Hummer

To register for this webinar, see: go.nih.gov/2dtta1c.

Closed captioning will be available. People who need reasonable accommodations to participate in this event should contact Allison Hurst at ahurst@scgcorp.com at least 5 days in advance.

This lecture series was established in 2006 to honors the legacy of Matilda White Riley, a celebrated scientist and National Academy of Sciences member who transformed behavioral and social sciences research at NIH. Each year, an esteemed investigator delivers the lecture in recognition of outstanding contributions to behavioral and social sciences research that support NIH's mission.

NIH Upgrades Nephele, Revolutionizes Microbiome Data Analysis

NIAID recently released Nephele 3.0, a significant upgrade to its cloud platform for microbiome data analysis. Building on the success of its predecessor, Nephele 3.0 introduces enhanced features to streamline data management and analysis for researchers worldwide.

Over the past two years, Nephele has processed more than 15,000 jobs for more than 1,800 researchers across 250 institutions. Nephele 3.0 (https://nephele.niaid.nih.gov/) continues to offer robust pipelines for amplicon and metagenomic data processing and analysis, catering to the needs of the microbiome community.

With Nephele 3.0, users can expect improved efficiency, usability and flexibility. The updated platform facilitates easy pipeline job monitoring and seamless data management in the cloud, accommodating larger datasets.

Key enhancements include an expanded My Workspace feature with "My Data" (go.nih.gov/hjDIfwM) and "My Jobs" (go.nih.gov/2cPfgqv), enabling users to manage data and tasks, monitor status and logs, and view results in one centralized location. Additionally, the platform supports more complex dataset uploads through the website and free transfer with Globus, offering flexibility for further analyses with other Nephele pipelines and MicrobiomeDB.org.

Nephele 3.0 is designed to meet the evolving needs of modern research, particularly with the rise in long read sequencing and the increasing size of big data. It facilitates large-scale, efficient and reproducible data processing and analysis, in a command-line free environment. The platform also provides capabilities for statistical analyses and data visualization, enabling researchers to derive insights and make data-driven decisions.

As users transition to Nephele 3.0, they are encouraged to register for new accounts. In addition to the tutorials and guides on the site, the Nephele support team is available for questions, feedback and suggestions at NepheleSupport@mail.nih.gov.

NIAID remains committed to user support and offers extensive documentation and tutorials to ensure a smooth migration. Stay tuned for upcoming demos and workshops to explore Nephele 3.0's new capabilities.

Salzman Award Applications Due Sept. 19

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) is now accepting nominations for the Norman P. Salzman Memorial Awards in Basic and Clinical Virology. For more than 25 years, this prize has highlighted early-career virologists.

The Salzman Awards include a $2,500 honorarium for postdoctoral fellows and a $1,000 honorarium for graduate students and postbaccalaureate trainees. Recipients also get the opportunity to present their findings—alongside eminent virologists—at the Annual Norman P. Salzman Memorial Symposium in Basic and Clinical Virology, held every fall on the NIH campus.

These prizes are open to postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and postbaccalaureate trainees working in the field of virology in intramural laboratories at NIH, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Fort Detrick Laboratories, LEIDOS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The annual awards honor the 40-year career of the late Dr. Norman Salzman, a virologist who mentored many young scientists.

Applications are due on Sept. 19, 2025. Learn more and apply at FNIH.org/salzman.

Building Health Infrastructure to Prevent Childhood Obesity in Samoa

BY AMANDA STEARNS

For families in the Pacific region, cardiometabolic diseases—such as diabetes, stroke, and diseases of the heart, kidneys and liver—are a leading cause of premature and preventable deaths.

Dr. Courtney Choy

Dr. Courtney Choy studies chronic diseases including obesity, diabetes, cancer and hypertension in Samoa, a small Pacific Island nation with a rich culture and a high prevalence of such chronic diseases. She seeks to understand risk factors and protective strategies to help prevent obesity and its related cardiometabolic conditions.

For 10 years Choy, a two-time NIH Fogarty International Center fellow and postdoctoral fellow at the Yale School of Public Health, has been engaged with the Ola Tuputupua'e ("Growing Up") study.

"The project has evolved into a longitudinal observational cohort that is uniquely situated to understand child growth and development," she said.

Choy follows a cohort of Samoan children and their primary caregivers, who entered the study in 2015 at ages 2 to 4 years old, to study factors associated with healthy growth and development and how the health of families is changing.

Choy has watched these children grow up and is considering ways to better support their health and well-being over time. "As scientists, we tend to focus on the things putting them at risk, yet they are still very resilient." She hopes her team eventually will be able to track health across the life course and across generations, and that her work will lead to better programs and interventions, since the current offerings are not enough.

What is needed is not only research, but a translation of the data into action and solutions that bridge services, not only in public health, but across education, judicial systems, commerce, industry, agriculture, communication and information technology.

Choy said, "I love the work I do because every day we're always thinking not only about public health but also sharing knowledge with each other so that there can be greater capacity to address the high and rising burden of chronic diseases. That's a big part of what Fogarty taught me."

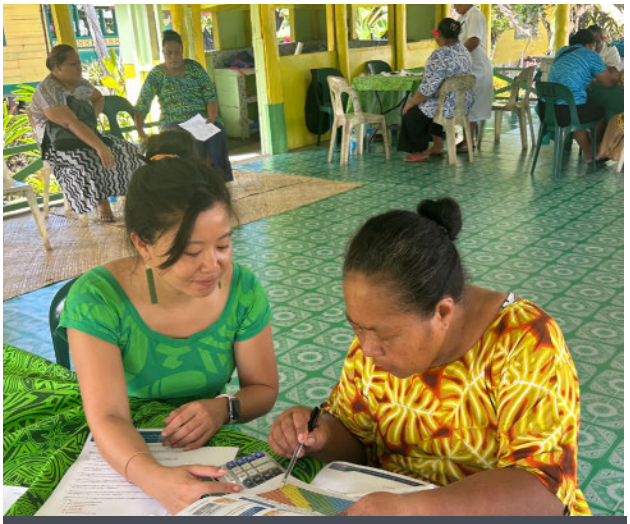
Choy said her Fogarty fellowship led to publication of her findings in several peer-reviewed journals, while her research has also been highlighted in the community, on the radio and in the local newspaper.

Her work is also used in programs to improve school nutrition and health in Samoa, to try to better understand the burden of disease, identify opportunities to intervene and encourage healthier lifestyles for children.

The Fogarty fellowship helped her build networks and collaborations to make an impact and move her research forward.

"Individuals who have that passion, drive and willingness to listen, learn and work collaboratively have the best experiences as a Fogarty fellow," she said.

Although Choy conducts research in the South Pacific, a heavy burden of chronic disease also exists worldwide.



Choy (l) trains a community health worker in Samoa.

"We've all seen how a child affected by obesity and these related chronic diseases may have a harder time paying attention in school," she said. "Their energy level changes to the point where it impacts their activity, engagement and even their social skills." Choy urged support to sustain programs that address the needs of different communities in the U.S. and worldwide.

"That's part of what makes America great. We've always risen to the challenge of doing better than what's been done before."

ON THE COVER: *Colorized scanning electron micrograph of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus particles (purple) budding from the surface of cultured epithelial cells from a patient. Captured at NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) in Hamilton, Montana.*

IMAGE: NIAID

The NIH Record

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National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

Researchers demonstrate how 3D-printed prototypes could be useful in designing solutions for clinical problems, such as a birth defect in the skull.

Above, Dr. Harshad Vishwasrao (l), acting director of NIBIB's AIM resource, explains to staffers the fundamentals of light-sheet microscopy, a powerful technique for studying the inner workings of disease. Below, graduate student Daniel Hart describes how the eVOLVER system produces customized proteins.

Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

To unlock the secrets of how cancer, Alzheimer's disease and other conditions manifest, Dr. Harshad Vishwasrao is thinking outside of the traditional imaging toolbox. At NIBIB's Advanced Imaging and Microscopy (AIM) resource, he is helping scientists answer pressing questions with powerful prototype microscopes capable of building complex 3D maps of the brain. AIM is also developing AI tools to analyze these enormous maps.

Researchers from the University of California, Irvine are collecting an abundance of data as well, with tiny wearable sensors. Dr. Elliot Botvinick likened the team's device, named LifeStrip, to continuous glucose monitors—commonly used by people with diabetes—but differing in its ability to simultaneously measure up to 10 biomarkers at once. When time is of the essence, this tech could provide life-saving insight into conditions such as severe trauma, diabetic ketoacidosis or heart attack.

Just as engineers can program computers with precision, Dr. Ahmad Khalil at Boston University is manipulating genetic circuitry to reprogram biological systems. At the center of his effort is eVOLVER, an open-source platform that simulates the process of evolution at an accelerated rate to produce custom-tailored proteins and cells.

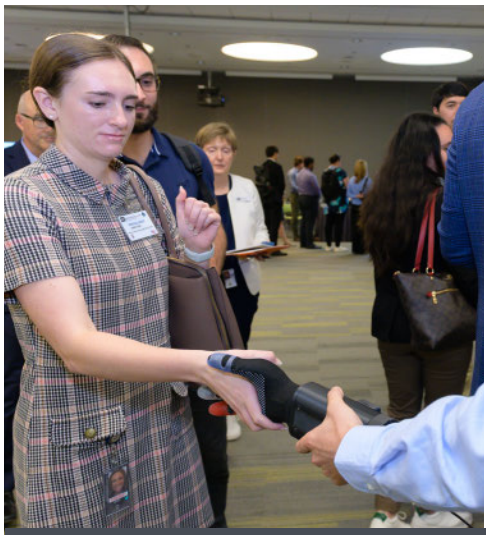
Khalil said the technology, now in use at dozens of institutions across the U.S., could sharpen the precision of genome editing and bolster the safety of cancer immunotherapies.

At the event, congressional staffers shook hands with more than just researchers. Dr. Nancy Pollard and her team from Carnegie Mellon University introduced visitors to a robotic hand with a softer touch than most existing prosthetics. They are developing the lightweight foam hand to offer people with limb loss greater dexterity than traditional devices, helping them accomplish everyday tasks such as grasping a pen or washcloth.

Dr. Manu Platt, who helms NIBIB's Center for Biomedical Engineering Technology Acceleration (BETA Center), emphasized to staffers the importance of

A group of 45 congressional staffers join researchers on the NIH campus to learn about recent advances in biomedical technology.

PHOTOS: MARLEEN VAN DEN NESTE



A researcher shakes hands with a congressional staffer (l) via soft robot.

not only technology, but also the training and guidance needed to use it effectively. The BETA Center offers top-flight technical expertise and resources, encompassing 3D printers, computational models and customized biomaterials,to empower the NIH research community through custom-made solutions.

The team walked through a scenario in which the BETA Center could help clinicians fill in a birth defect in the skull, providing staffers an opportunity to get hands-on experience with 3D-printed prototype implants and hydrogels.

As the visitors prepared to depart, Tromberg harkened back to the establishment of NIBIB by Congress in 2000 and highlighted the leaps in advancement since then. In that time, hundreds of biomedical engineering programs in higher education were formed, thousands of new technologies were supported and innumerable lives were made better.

"This has been incredibly impactful. It's something that Congress wrote with language that was so forward-looking, but it's not over," Tromberg said. "There's much more to do."

This event was organized by the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), an advocacy group that brings together academia, industry, government and scientific societies to advance innovative, high-impact biomedical technologies.

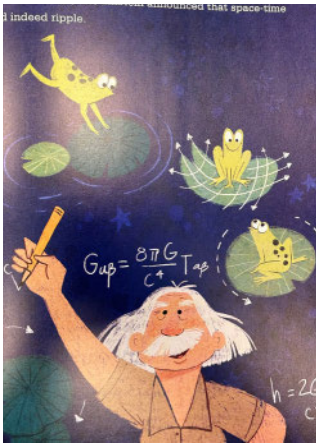
Universe

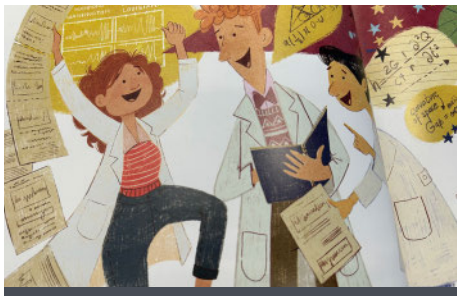
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

international scientific discovery," said Valdez. "Her energy was infectious."

Valdez, who is of Mexican descent, added, "I'm always looking for women scientist role models. I didn't have that growing up."

Valdez's book introduces González, who was born 50 years after Einstein published his 1915 Theory of Relativity. As a young girl growing up in Argentina, González loved to gaze up at the stars and wonder about the unknowns of the universe. She studied physics, moved to the U.S. after college to pursue her doctorate and became the first female full-professor in physics at Louisiana State University.





In pages from her latest book, Valdez shows Einstein theorizing as frogs leap, illustrating ripples in space-time, (l) and Dr. Gaby Gonzalez celebrating with her team (r).

ILLUSTRATIONS: SARA PALACIOS, KNOPF © 2022

Across the state, scientists were building one of two giant structures to study gravitational waves: one in Livingston, La., the other 2,000 miles away in Hanford, Wash. González joined the research team at this new facility called LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory).

In 2015, LIGO scientists discovered the ripples by accident. The team was conducting tests one day and left the machines running overnight. At the crack of dawn, the facility in Louisiana pinged and, milliseconds later, the Washington facility chirped. Scientists in Germany received the pings and contacted their counterparts in the U.S.

LIGO scientists checked and re-checked and confirmed these were indeed ripples in space-time that stemmed from two black holes colliding a very long time ago.

"The energy released caused space-time to ripple, just like the collision of the frog and lily pad causes ripples," Valdez wrote in the book. "Those ripples moved toward Earth over time and, more than a billion years later, they passed through LIGO."

Before Valdez could publish the book, she had to check the science. She admitted that writing this book was a bit intimidating. Unlike her previous book *Joan Procter: Dragon Doctor*—about a woman who cared for Komodo dragons at the London Zoo about a century ago—her new book featured a living scientist.

"I'm an immunologist," Valdez said. "What if I misunderstood Einstein's theory of relativity?!"

She emailed the manuscript to González, whom she hadn't yet met and, to her delight, González responded that she loved the book. González even supplied some of her own physics equations from LIGO experiments, which illustrator Sara Palacios incorporated into the book's colorful artwork.

Valdez enjoys sharing *How to Hear the Universe* with children and seeing them light up at images of nebulas and space. When visiting elementary schools, she emphasizes the importance of science communication.

"If you can't communicate the things you've discovered, nobody is going to know they happened," she tells the kids. She also says, "You don't have to be a writer *or* a scientist. You can be both! Follow your passions. Don't limit yourself."

Valdez sought to convey in this book the long, rewarding journey of scientific discovery, which starts with a hypothesis followed by lots of rigorous testing.

"I wanted to show readers it was not just a lone person working in the lab," Valdez said. "LIGO is a collaborative effort that involves thousands of scientists from around the world."

When conducting an experiment, she said, "the most exciting part is when you finally understand something that nobody else in the world understands at that point. For me, that excitement, that feeling of discovery, is the best part of being a scientist."

Three NIH'ers Win Flemming Awards

Three NIH'ers are among the 12 public servants from several federal agencies who will be honored at the 76th annual Arthur S. Flemming Awards. Winners are recognized for performing outstanding service in the fields of applied science and engineering, basic science, leadership and management, legal achievement, social science, clinical trials and translational research.

The two NIH awardees in the leadership and management category are: Dr. Supriyo De, who heads NIH's computational biology and genomics core at NIH's National Institute on Aging (NIA) and Dr. David Goff, deputy director for precision medicine and data science at NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI). Dr. Sung-Yun Pai, senior investigator at NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI), will be awarded in the social science, clinical trials and translational research category.

From l to r, NIH's Dr. Supriyo De, Dr. Sung-Yun Pai and Dr. David Goff were honored with the Flemming Award.

These awards celebrate stellar employees with 3 to 15 years of federal service. Recipients are nominated by their agencies, selected through a competitive judging process. The awards are presented by the Arthur S. Flemming Awards Commission in partnership with the George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration.

The award recipients will be honored at a ceremony in November.

Dr. Supriyo De

De has helped establish the infrastructure toward finding solutions for healthy aging. His leadership and vision have led to a thriving genomics and data science program with a major training component at NIA. De has been central to establishing state-of-the-art high-throughput omics tools and data analysis infrastructure, including on-premises cloud computing at NIA's intramural research program. These efforts have paved the way for important discoveries in the fields of aging and age-related pathologies including Alzheimer's disease.

De has been instrumental in establishing robust communication and collaboration across NIH. Further exemplifying qualities of a leader, he has recruited trainees and staff with a wide range of expertise and has encouraged cutting-edge interdisciplinary scientific research.

Dr. David Goff

Goff guided a $2.1 billion cardiovascular research portfolio, spanning basic through clinical research across the lifespan. He has played a critical role in setting the nation's cardiovascular research agenda, while being an exemplary leader of NHLBI's Division of Cardiovascular Sciences.

Goff led the division's strategic vision implementation plan, providing a roadmap of gaps and opportunities for researchers worldwide. Additionally, he led NHLBI-wide data science efforts to optimize and democratize the use of NHLBI-funded research datasets and biospecimens by the scientific community at large.

Goff has launched nationwide research initiatives, including ENRICH, a trans-HHS program to improve the health of at-risk mothers and babies; MOSAAIC, a unique study of health challenges in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities; and HeartShare, a novel public-private collaboration to advance precision treatment of heart failure. He has also energized the division by cultivating a positive workplace culture.

Dr. Sung-Yun Pai

Pai is an internationally known pediatric hematologist/oncologist and physician-scientist who was cited for her seminal contributions in the field of inborn errors of immunity and its treatment with allogeneic stem cell transplant and gene therapy. Her work in these ultra-rare diseases, leading trials of up to 50 sites, has transformed the therapeutic approach in these diseases from a one-size-fits-all to personalized gene-specific medicine.

Her investigations have yielded important insights into disease pathogenesis and the impact of specific variants on clinical manifestations and treatment response. She leads a new branch at NCI and has restructured the transplant and gene therapy intramural program. She reorganized the program into disease and age-focused clinical services, created a program-wide scientific review process and instituted safety and quality reviews. The additional duties she took on as medical director have benefited the entire NIH transplant community.

Established in 1948, the award is named after Arthur Sherwood Flemming, a distinguished government official who served seven presidential administrations, most notably as secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

For Outside Visitors, Remember VisitNIH

The Office of Research Services (ORS) is reminding the NIH community of the VisitNIH visitor access requirements. These requirements align with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of National Security's (ONS) Foreign National Access Management Policy (FNAMP).

Pre-registration

In accordance with federal policies and visitor protocols, all adult non-U.S. person visitors are required to complete the VisitNIH pre-registration process and receive approval prior to their arrival at NIH. Access will not be provided to non-U.S. person visitors who have not fulfilled these requirements.

A non-U.S. person is someone without U.S. citizenship or lawful resident (Green Card) status. Possession of a REAL ID driver's license does not automatically confirm someone is a U.S. person. Please remind your visitors pre-registration is required for all non-U.S. persons.

NIH hosts can invite visitors to pre-register via the VisitNIH pre-registration portal. NIH staff should do this at least 30 days in advance of the visit. The request can be submitted up to 60 days in advance. This lead time enables NIH security teams to properly vet visitors and clarify any discrepancies in their pre-registration materials before coming to campus.

To host and request visitors, staff must satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

To be a host, one must be an NIH federal employee, a U.S. person and have completed the VisitNIH Host, Requestor & Escort Training (https://ams.hhs.gov/amsLogin/SimpleLogin.jsp).

To be a requestor who can initiate visit requests on behalf of a host, one must be an NIH staff member (including contractors with PIV cards), a U.S. person and have completed the VisitNIH Host, Requestor & Escort Training.

visit NIH Part of the Visitor Access Management Initiative

Upon completing training, staff must wait at least 24 hours to gain access to the portal.

The maximum duration of a general visit request is 30 days. That said, patients, up to two caregivers and onboarding NIH staff may have visit requests with start and end dates covering a duration of up to one year.

To make the pre-registration process easier for large events, staff can use the bulk upload option to add multiple visitors at once. For events with 20+ visitors, add the Division of Police Special Events Staff as co-hosts within the VisitNIH pre-registration portal so they can monitor and track the event. Also, contact the Special Events team, so they may identify who should be added, by emailing NIHPoliceSpecialEvents@mail.nih.gov.

Escorts

In accordance with federal policies, all non-U.S. person visitors must have an NIH escort. NIH escorts are required to keep their non-U.S. person visitors in their immediate line of sight at all times. U.S. person visitors do not require an escort.

Escorts must accompany the non-U.S. person visitor for the duration of the visit. This includes meeting the non-U.S. person upon arrival, while they are in NIH facilities and until their exit from NIH facilities.

Note for patients and caregivers: Non-U.S. person patients and up to two caregivers coming to the NIH Clinical Center, Children's Inn or Safra Lodge are not required to have an escort for their visit. However, a name must still be entered in the "Escort" field on the VisitNIH pre-registration portal. It's recommended that this name be the host.

To be an escort, one must be an NIH staff member (including contractors with PIVs), a U.S. person and have completed the VisitNIH Host, Requestor & Escort Training.

NIH policy states there must be at least one eligible escort for every 5 non-U.S. person visitors. Staff organizing events which may be attended by multiple non-U.S. person visitors must ensure they have the requisite number of eligible escorts.

Every institute, center and office has a designated VisitNIH point of contact who can assist with initial questions about requirements and processes.

The NIH Bethesda campus implemented VisitNIH processes in January 2025. NIH is continuing to roll out VisitNIH to all NIH facilities. For a full list of facilities that have implemented thus far, visit the Implementation Plan on the VisitNIH intranet site.

Related Links

VisitNIH Intranet Site: https://orsweb.od.nih.gov/sites/VAMI/.

FAQs for staff and visitors: security.nih.gov. (NIH network or VPN is required for certain areas of the site).

VisitNIH Host, Requestor & Escort Training: bit.ly/46SkGTB.

Pre-registration Portal: https://pcvp.ors.od.nih.gov..

Above, from l to r, RADM Brandon Taylor, deputy assistant secretary for Health and director, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, HHS; RADM Cedric Guyton, deputy director of Commissioned Corps Services; RDML Richard Childs, scientific director, NHLBI

NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya (l) and RDML Emil Wang, USPHS chief engineer officer (r), at the flag-raising

USPHS Raises Flag, Honors its History

PHOTOS: MARLEEN VAN DEN NESTE

On July 16, 1798, President John Adams signed into law the Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen, which established the Marine Hospital Service and paved the way for the founding of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and—almost a century later—NIH.

Each year on July 16, Commissioned Corps officers from the USPHS raise the American and PHS flags on the NIH Bethesda campus outside Bldg. 1 to mark the historic anniversary. This year's ceremony, which marked the 227th anniversary, included remarks from NIH's own RADM Richard Childs, scientific director of NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

The PHS and NIH have an intertwined history that dates back to 1879 with the creation of the first federal medical research institution—the National Board of Health. The Hygienic Laboratory was then established as a one-room lab in the Staten Island Marine Hospital by Dr. Joseph Kinyoun, a newly commissioned USPHS officer. He moved his lab to Washington and continued to expand operations. In 1938, NIH relocated to its current home in Bethesda and construction began under the direction of USPHS officer Dr. Lewis Thompson, NIH's fifth director.

Today, the Commissioned Corps continues its mission as a readily deployable force responding to public health emergencies, providing essential services in underserved communities, fighting disease and conducting research. More than 6,000 uniformed health officers in the Commissioned Corps serve in 800 locations across the country and around the world. NIH is currently served by 153 USPHS officers who have been instrumental in leading research trials while responding to the urgent public health needs of our nation.

At the ceremony, Childs said, "Let today be a celebration of our past, the accomplishments we strive for today, and a reminder of the future prospects ahead."

At the PHS flag-raising ceremony, members of the USPHS Commissioned Corps pose outside Bldg. 1. Front row, from l, Childs, Taylor, Bhattacharya, Guyton, Wang and LDCR Dan Johnson, with the USPHS mascot—LCDR Abigail.