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NEWS AND NOTES 1991, FEBRUARY 8

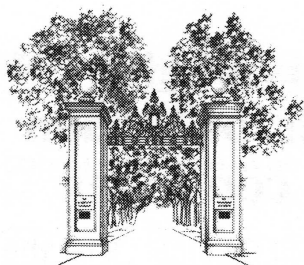
The Rockefeller University

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February 8, 1991
The Rockefeller University

News & Notes

White blood cell migration study rich with promise

William Muller, assistant professor in the Cohn-Steinman lab, has developed a new way to study how white blood cells migrate across blood vessel walls. In the years to come, the technique promises rich rewards in the understanding of a number of diseases, including atherosclerosis and arthritis. But one reward has already arrived: a "New Initiative Grant" from New York's Irvington Institute for Medical Research.

The new technique uses a radioactive tracer to study the white cells' movements. Unlike previous methods, which required the use of a microscope and inevitably involved observer bias, Muller said, this method is "simple, objective and quantitative."

The method will allow Muller to move his research in new directions. For a number of years, he has been studying how the endothelial cells that line blood vessels adhere to each other by means of "hooks" on their surfaces called cell adhesion molecules (CAMs). While continuing that research, Muller has also begun to explore the subject of inflammation by studying adhesive interactions between endothelial cells and white blood cells, the cells that make up the immune system.

In the inflammatory response



Bob Reichert

William Muller

to invasion by viruses or bacteria, white blood cells rush to the point of infection.

To do their job, the immune system cells must move from the bloodstream (where they have been circulating) into the infected tissue by moving across blood vessel walls. This "border crossing" involves at least two steps. First, the endothelial cells catch and bind the white blood cells; then, they allow the white cells to pass between them on their way out of the vessel. A variety of CAMs are involved in this process, and "we want to see which adhesion molecules are important for each step," Muller said.

February 13 meeting will air 'State of the University'

Members of the university community have been invited to a "State of the University" address and discussion on February 13 at 10:30 a.m. in Caspary Auditorium.

President David Baltimore will report on his administration's view of the condition of the university as perceived after seven months on the job.

Because the auditorium seats just slightly more than 25% of the community, admission is by invitation only. Those invitations were issued late last week. The *News & Notes* issue of February 15 will carry excerpts from the address and discussion. Copies of the entire prepared address will be available from Public Affairs (x8967) after Monday, February 18. ➤➤

Opinion

I would like to demur from the opinion expressed by President Baltimore in the January 25 issue of *News and Notes* as to what should be our response to the Bush war in the Persian Gulf.

Dr. Baltimore writes, "It seems to me that it is time to draw together in support of this policy, even if it would not have been our personal choice." I object, for it is long past the time of "our country, right or wrong." It seems to me that it is the duty of patriotic Americans to seek to right a wrong, to actively oppose the criminal imperialistic behavior of that scoundrel who occupies the White House—criminal because that behavior is a signal of the moral, social and economic decline of our country.

President Baltimore writes of the "arrogance of power," but it is not just the arrogance of Hussein, but also the arrogance of our power which is leading to our decline. I object to the presumption of arrogance on the part of President Baltimore in seeking to tell us what to think and what to do. We certainly can make up our own minds on this matter.

It is long past the time for "guns or butter," and it is up to university presidents to choose. If we choose guns, we will not have butter, and in our case, if we choose guns we will not have grants.

—by Professor Emeritus Philip Siekevitz

I am glad that my comments—which were meant as an opinion, not a policy statement—have elicited a rejoinder, and I encourage the community to respond to any articles in *News & Notes*.

—David Baltimore

ROCKEFOLLIES '91 Search for hidden talent continues

ROCKEFOLLIES '91, the university's fourth annual variety show, is in the planning stage and is searching for talented people to perform almost any type of act, from singing and dancing to juggling, yodelling, pantomime and spoon-playing. Virtually any act (maximum ten performers) that can fit on stage will be welcome at the event. Maximum time allotted to each act will be 10 minutes, and performers are asked to use only a minimum of props.

ROCKEFOLLIES '91 will be held on the evening of Tuesday, March 19. No awards will be given at the event, but organizers promise that a fun time will be had by all. Those interested in performing, serving on the Rockefeller Committee or helping out at the event should contact Yvonne Holland at box 262 or x8396. →→

RU shares in biological clock center

The National Science Foundation announced Tuesday that researchers at Rockefeller, Northwestern and the University of Virginia will be linked to form a Science and Technology Center (STC) for Biological Timing. The center will support research on biological clocks, what makes them run and how they control human and animal behavior and development. The center also provides a mechanism for postdoctoral and graduate students to study at all three universities.

Research at Rockefeller will be conducted in the laboratory

of Professor Mike Young, who comments, "The center will formally pull together scientists with a common interest in biological timing, but very different talents ranging from molecular biology to electrophysiology to behavior. Coordinating everyone's efforts should get us a top-to-bottom picture of biological timing in a few model organisms."

Total funding of this STC will be up to \$10.6 million over five years. University of Virginia will be the administrative home of the center and most of the funds will be spent there. →→

Write for News & Notes

Grab whatever's handy—pen, pencil, word processor—and write a note for *News & Notes*. Articles and suggestions on almost any subject are welcome, as are photographs.

Help us increase the information flow on campus. Deadline for copy is Monday at 5:00. Send entries to box 68 or via e-mail to *newsnotes*.

New Initiatives (continued from page 1)

For instance, under some conditions, one type of white blood cell, the monocyte, preferentially binds to and moves between endothelial cells. Muller speculates this may involve binding to a monocyte-specific CAM on endothelial cells. Knowing more about how this occurs could have important clinical applications, because, as Muller explained, "when atherosclerosis starts to develop, the first blood vessel damage you see is the accumulation of monocytes underneath endothelial cells." Muller said his current studies may lead to an *in vitro*, or test-tube, model of the earliest stages of atherosclerosis. He plans to study the specialized interactions between endothelial cells and other immune-system cells, such as neutrophils, as well.

Muller will also continue to study the CAMs binding endothelial cells to one another because "these are the cells white blood cells must squeeze between to get to the tissues," he explained. By understanding more about what normally keeps endothelial cells together, it may be possible to prevent white blood cells from breaking through the endothelial layer when the immune system is mobilized.

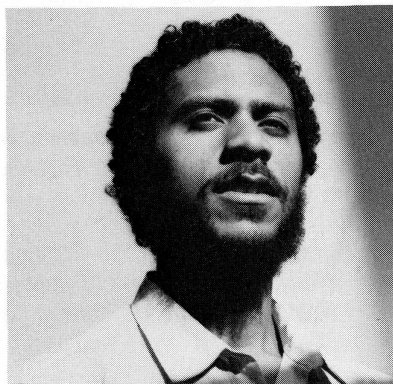
The key, said Muller, will be to do this selectively. The aim is not to stop the immune reaction completely, but to block it when and where inflammation causes problems and serves no good purpose, as it does with autoimmune diseases like arthritis.

—by Susan Blum

Outer space lecture series takes off

Got the winter blahs? This year, why settle for the same old fantasies of a trip to the Bahamas when you can set your sights much higher at Rockefeller's first space science lecture series?

Erich Jarvis has assembled a stellar lineup of luminaries to discuss space travel from both biological and astronomical perspectives in a series of weekly, Tuesday afternoon lectures. Jarvis, a Graduate Fellow in the Nottebohm lab, said planning the series has allowed him to follow up on a lifelong interest in outer space. He sees a link between his research project—a study of the molecular bases of learning and memory in the songbird—and his fascination with the possibility of extraterrestrial intelligence. "If you know how intelligence operates here on earth, you have a key to how it might work elsewhere in the universe," he said.



Bob Reichert

Erich Jarvis

Certainly, the terrestrial creatures who have gathered for the first two lectures in the series have had their intelligence exercised. On January 29, Dale Bremmar, a professor at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., used models of the space shuttle to demonstrate how the forces of mass and gravity affect astronauts in the shuttle. He also discussed how the tremendous vibrations created by the shuttle may have contributed to the Challenger disaster.

This week's lecture looked at outer space from the vantage point of the inner ear, when Bernard Cohen, Professor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, discussed space studies of the vestibular system, explaining what happens to animals' and humans' sense of balance, position and motion when they travel in space.

On Tuesday, February 12, Ray Wheeler of the Kennedy Space Center will discuss attempts to create a closed ecological "life support system" for space stations, promoting the efficient exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between humans and plants.

So far, a total of eight Tuesday lectures is planned. Each is held at 2:00 in Tower 305, and will last from an hour to an hour and a half. Anyone interested in having lunch with the speakers before the lectures should call Jarvis at x8381.

Scheduled speakers include Arnold Toback, President of the Space Dermatology Foundation; Astronaut Jeff Hoffman; Robert Harrington, Chief of Astronomy at the U.S. Naval Observatory; George Lovi, Instructor at the Hayden Planetarium; and John Siegel, Professor at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins. Jarvis also hopes to arrange lectures on extraterrestrial intelligence and on establishing settlements on Mars and the moon.

Fasten your seatbelts.

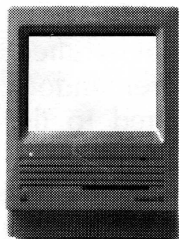
—by Susan Blum

Piano and strings featured at recital today

Today's Tri-Institutional Noon Recital will feature violinist Scott St. John and pianist Robert Koenig. The duo will perform works of Beethoven, Bach and Grieg in Caspary Auditorium from 12:00 to 1:00.

Both men have been successful in various music competitions. Notably, St. John won the 1988 Canada Council Competition, which awarded him a 1717 Stradivarius violin. →→

Next week's computer classes



The schedule for next week's computing classes is listed below. The classes, held in Caspary 1A, are free, but space is limited and registration is required. Call x8925 for details.

Word Perfect, Part I

Tuesday 10:00-12:00
Thursday 2:00-4:00

Word Perfect, Part II

Wednesday 10:00-12:00
Friday 2:00-4:00

Intro to Unix and E-mail

Tuesday 1:00-4:00
Thursday 10:00-1:00

Intro to the vi Editor

Wednesday 2:00-4:00
Friday 10:00-12:00

Lewis and Clarke's retirement trek



Bob Reichert

On January 30, a retirement party was held for Sergeants Mowbray Clarke and Ryan Lewis in the Nurses' Residence. Clarke (above, left), who joined the university 19 years ago, will marry Eileen McAlister (second from left) in April. Lewis (right) joined Rockefeller 17 years ago and will be retiring with his wife Eulalie (at his right) to his native Barbados. During the celebration, Director of Security Joe Nekola (center) presented the men with gifts, including sketches of the university gate, cameras and wristwatches.

New HyperCard available

Computing Services is offering HyperCard 2.0v2, the newest version of the Macintosh information management program. To get a copy, bring five blank 800K Mac diskettes to the Computing Services office, Smith Hall B-4, during business hours. This offer does not include manuals for the new version, though there is extensive documentation included on the disks.

A more complete upgrade package, containing printed manuals and the set of five disks, is available for purchase commercially.

For further information, call Computing Services, x8940, or send e-mail to *consult*. →→

O'Brien presents thesis

Graduate Fellow Melanie O'Brien will present her thesis at 3:45 on Monday, February 11, in Caspary Auditorium. The title is "Mutational Analysis of Amino-Terminal Modulatory Domains in src-Family Tyrosine Kinases." A tea will precede the presentation at 3:15. →→

Children's School Bake Sale

The Children's School will hold its third bake sale today in the Tower Lobby from 8:30 to 3:30. As always, a variety of baked goods will be offered for sale, as well as African violets. All proceeds will benefit the Children's School. →→



NewsNotes is published on Fridays throughout the academic year by the Public Affairs Office of Rockefeller University. Suggestions for articles are welcome and may be sent to Box 68, or call 570-8967. Articles may also be submitted via electronic mail to *newsnotes*. The deadline for each Friday's issue is the preceding Monday at 5:00 p.m. The Rockefeller University is an equal opportunity employer and has an affirmative action program to increase the employment of women and members of protected groups at all job levels. Editor: Robert Brown. Designer: Patricia Sadiq.