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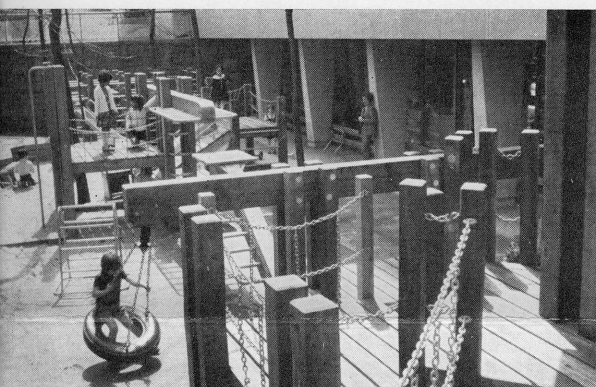
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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

news and notes



The Rockefeller Children's School has a new playground.

Playground Dedicated

After careful consideration, Rachel Schneider believes that climbing the rope net is her favorite activity. David Silverstein and his companions were whirling too fast on the tire swing for an interview.

Rachel and David are among members of the C class of The Rockefeller University Children's School who, on a recent spring morning, were swinging, climbing, digging, sunning, sliding, and hanging from the bars in the school's newly redesigned playground. Their consensus is that it's a good playground. David's mother, Jo Ann Silverstein, who has been among the school parents involved in the renovation, agrees. "The development of the playground was an exciting project and we now have a facility that the children find challenging and inviting and that the University can be proud of."

The new facility was formally dedicated on May 18. Among the guests at the party were members of the Urban Landscape Architecture Program of City University who, under the direction of M. Paul Friedberg, submitted designs for the playground as a class project. The winning design was created by Eric Gerdes. A photograph of the playground and an article about its planning and design were featured in the *New York Times* on May 17.

Funds for the renovation came from the Children's School, from the University, and from a fund established in memory of Stanley Sajdera, a Rockefeller biochemist who had been an active Children's School parent.

HONORS & AWARDS

Professor **Henry G. Kunkel**, Immunology, received the Jessie Stevenson Kovalenko Medal of the National Academy of Sciences presented on April 23 during the academy's 116th annual meeting. He was cited for "pioneering and influential studies in basic immunology, and clinical immunology including immune complex disease, multiple myeloma and arthritis." The award, which carries a gold medal and honorarium, is made for important contributions to medical science. Former Rockefeller recipients have been Peyton Rous (1955), Eugene L. Opie (1959), Rufus Cole (1966), Thomas Francis, Jr. (1970), former Trustee George H. Whipple (1962), and Trustee Seymour S. Kety (1973).

Professor **James E. Darnell, Jr.**, Molecular Cell Biology, received the Howard Taylor Ricketts Award of the University of Chicago Medical Center, presented May 7, and delivered the Award

Lecture on Transcription and Processing of Nuclear RNA: Implications for Gene Regulation. (Professor Purnell W. Choppin, Virology, was the 1978 Award recipient.)

Professor **H. Keffer Hartline**, Biophysics, received an honorary doctor of science degree from Syracuse University on May 12.

Professor **George A. Miller**, Experimental Psychology, received an honorary doctor of social science degree from Yale University on May 21.

Adjunct Professor **Richard M. Krause**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was co-recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the department's highest award to Public Health Service Commissioned Officers, awarded on April 11 by HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr.



Paul Ehrlich in his study c. 1910. See story page 2.



Left to right, Günther Schwerin, Beate Hirsch, James Hirsch.

An Eventful Odyssey

A Nobel diploma in an Edwardian leather and gold case, love letters and diaries, and laboratory copybooks unearthed from a forest hiding place are among the contents of the Paul Ehrlich collection now on loan to the University after an eventful odyssey.

Ehrlich was one of the giants of modern science, father of hematology, a pioneer of immunological studies for which he won the Nobel Prize in 1908, and creator of Salvarsan, the "magic bullet" that was the first effective treatment for syphilis. He was a hero in his native Germany where an institute was built for him in his name. He was also a hero to successive generations of immunologists, among them Professor James G. Hirsch, who is now working with the collection, in collaboration with his wife, Beate, with an eye toward an eventual biography.

The collection had some adventures before reaching Rockefeller. After Ehrlich's death in 1915, his widow, Hedwig, carefully preserved his papers. When the Nazis came to power, she took what she had with her to Geneva and then to the United States. What she could not take were 48 copybooks containing correspondence and laboratory notes still in the Ehrlich Institute in Frankfurt.

Günther Schwerin, one of Ehrlich's grandsons and, after Mrs. Ehrlich's death, the executor of the estate, had emigrated to the United States in the 1930s and during the war served in the American intelligence service. On V-E day, he was in Germany and, as soon as he was able, he went to Frankfurt. He found the institute badly bombed and learned that the Gestapo had thrown the copybooks on the lawn preparatory to burning them—the "national hero" had also been a Jew. However, someone rescued the books and hid them in the woods outside the city. Fortunately, Schwerin's informer knew where. The copybooks were found, miraculously intact. That many later proved unintel-

ligible was not the fault of their travels but of Ehrlich's handwriting. Only one person could decipher it, Martha Marquardt, Ehrlich's secretary from 1902 until his death. She was located in France where she had fled during the war. Although by then an elderly woman, she took on and completed the task of transcribing the 20 volumes that were handwritten, each of them about 500 pages.

The material was stored for over 20 years at the Wellcome Institute in London. Recently, following his retirement, Mr. Schwerin began seeking a suitable permanent home for it and the "right biographer," a project that had been dear to his grandmother's heart. As part of his search, Mr. Schwerin wrote a letter addressed to the "Department of History of Medicine" at Rockefeller. "Typically," says Mrs. Hirsch, "oddly addressed inquiries wind up in the dean's office." James Hirsch is the dean and Mrs. Hirsch was his assistant there at the time. "It was a very happy coincidence."

In the letter, Mr. Schwerin said he believed his grandfather had once had "some connections" with The Rockefeller. He was right. In 1909, learning that Ehrlich was running out of funds for his syphilis research, Simon Flexner, director of The Rockefeller, arranged for a \$10,000 grant from John D. Rockefeller to Ehrlich that made possible the completion of the development of Salvarsan.

After the necessary legal details were sorted out, three crates and several suitcases arrived at the University last November. By another fortunate coincidence, Mrs. Hirsch is German-born and fluent in the language, she is a trained technician familiar with scientific terminology and an experienced secretary. In consultation with Dr. Hirsch, she has been handling the details of the first phase of the project, putting the collection in archival order, working under a grant from the Macy Foundation.

While translating the letters Paul and Hedwig Ehrlich wrote to each other during their engagement, she has had the "excitement of discovering an Ehrlich no one knows." She has developed a special affinity for Mrs. Ehrlich, whose joys and tribulations as a scientist's wife have special meaning to her.

There is one document in the collection Mrs. Hirsch cannot translate, a book written by a scientist named Kiyoshi Shiga who worked briefly with Ehrlich. She would be happy to hear from a member of the University community fluent in Japanese who would be interested in the project.

BRIEFS

Patrick E. Haggerty, chairman of the University's board of trustees, has been appointed by President Carter to an 11-member President's Commission on Three Mile Island to look into the causes of the accident at the Pennsylvania nuclear reactor on March 28.

Professor **René J. Dubos**, Environmental Biomedicine, delivered the Dorcas Cummings Annual Memorial Lecture at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on May 13, under the sponsorship of the Friends of the Long Island Biological Association. The title of his talk was *The Wooing of the Earth*, which is also the title of a forthcoming book.

Professor **Floyd Ratliff**, Biophysics, gave the Graham Memorial Lecture at Brown University on May 10. He spoke on Information Processing in the Visual System.

Professor **Rollin D. Hotchkiss**, Genetics, is serving as a visiting professor at the Institut de Microbiologie, Université de Paris-Sud, Orsay, during the spring term. Dr. **Magda Gabor Hotchkiss** is continuing their joint researches on bacterial fusion at the same institute during this period.

Professor **Neal E. Miller**, Physiological Psychology, has been elected Councilor representing Biological Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, for a four-year term.

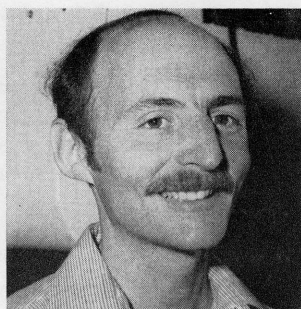
President Emeritus **Frederick Seitz** is an honorary sponsor of the New York Committee of Conscience of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Other sponsors include Leonard Bernstein, Norman Mailer, and Irving Howe.

Senior Research Associate **Mary Jeanne Kreek**, Biology of Addictive Diseases, was an invited speaker at the Tenth Annual Medical-Scientific Conference of the National Alcoholism Forum, sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism, the American Medical Society on Alcoholism, and the Research Society on Alcoholism, in Washington, April 30–May 2. She spoke on Narcotic Interactions with Ethanol.

Dr. **Jacques Genest**, scientific director of the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, received the title of Master from the American College of Physicians of Philadelphia on March 26. Dr. Genest began his studies of steroids and hypertension in the Rockefeller Hospital laboratory of Professor **Reginald M. Archibald** where he was an assistant and assistant physician from 1948 to 1951.



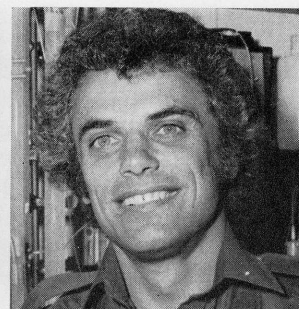
Vincent Allfrey



Edward Gershey



Andrea Branch



Vincent Fischetti



Ann Ho

Up Through the Rockefeller Ranks

Last month, *news and notes* featured some highlights from the distinguished career of Professor Rebecca C. Lancefield, a career that began when she came to Rockefeller as a lab technician 61 years ago.

A number of Rockefeller scientists began the same way, as technicians, a job now called assistant for research, or as lab helpers—an apprenticeship that almost without exception significantly influenced the course of their later work. One of the best-known examples is that of the late Moses Kunitz, a young immigrant from Russia when he first came, who was encouraged by his Rockefeller mentors to go to college and then to graduate school. He went on to achieve worldwide recognition for enzyme research pursued during nearly six decades at this institution.

In 1941, a college student named Vincent Allfrey, to support himself through night school, got a job as a helper with Alfred E. Cohn, The Rockefeller's famed cardiologist. He remembers mornings that began "at eight o'clock sharp" washing glassware and dusting Dr. Cohn's innumerable books, afternoons doing chemical analyses, and classes from six to midnight. After service in World War II, he returned to Rockefeller as a technician "to learn the scientific method" from the late Theodore Shedlovsky, a wizard of laboratory processes, and subsequently earned his doctorate at Columbia. Associated for many years with the late Alfred E. Mirsky, a pioneer in cell and molecular biology, Dr. Allfrey was appointed professor in 1963. His large cell biology lab focuses on the organization of DNA and the regulation of gene activity.

Vincent Allfrey has in turn actively encouraged the aspirations of younger scientists. Edward L. Gershey also first came to the University while an undergraduate. A philosophy major with a "curiosity" about medicine and biology, he started as a helper in the immunology lab of the late Philip McMaster, "caught the research bug," and later, as a technician with Dr. Allfrey, com-

pleted a Ph.D. at N.Y.U. Now an assistant professor in the virology laboratory of Professors Purnell Choppin and Igor Tamm, he is applying the skills learned studying the cell nucleus in the Allfrey lab to cell-virus interactions.

Three years ago, Andrea D. Branch, with a masters degree in biological science, wrote to Dr. Allfrey for a job. A Ph.D. was for "sometime in the future." After interviewing her, Dr. Allfrey convinced her to apply immediately to the graduate fellow program at the University. He arranged for a part-time job as assistant for research in his lab while her application was being considered. She is now studying viroids in the genetics lab where her advisor is Research Associate Elizabeth Dickson,



Karen Jakes



Ann Erickson



Elsa Bartlett



Diana Bartlett

herself a 1976 Rockefeller graduate.

Vincent Fischetti was studying microbiology at Wagner College when he attended a lecture at Rockefeller given by Dr. Choppin to whom he wrote asking for a job. Dr. Choppin passed the letter along to Professor Maclyn McCarty, co-leader with Dr. Lancefield of the bacteriology and immunology lab. He was hired as an assistant to Professor John Zabriskie. Seventeen years and three degrees later, Dr. Fischetti is an associate professor studying streptococcal M protein, a virulent factor first identified by Dr. Lancefield.

Ann Ho's job at Rockefeller supported her through graduate school and broadened her focus. Working in the biology of addictive diseases lab of Professor Vincent P. Dole, developer of the

methadone maintenance treatment for heroin addicts, she was able to apply her psychophysiological studies of sleep to research into the effects of narcotics on the sleep patterns of addicts and methadone patients. She learned "much more than I would have in graduate school alone." Now an assistant professor, she is conducting animal studies designed to find out more about the biology and psychophysiology of alcoholism.

For Research Associate Karen Jakes and Postdoctoral Fellow Ann Erickson, working as assistants for research provided both the impetus for graduate school and the substance. In Dr. Jakes' case, the subject was the immunity protein of colicin, which she still studies in the University's genetics lab, having completed her Ph.D. at Yale at Profes-

sor Norton Zinder's urging and with his help. Dr. Erickson, a microbiology major in college, took a job in the Tamm-Choppin virology lab when her husband, Bruce Erickson, an associate professor in the biochemistry lab of Professor Bruce Merrifield, first got a postdoctoral appointment at the University in 1969. After earning her Ph.D. with the virus she "found" at Rockefeller, she reversed Edward Gershey's pattern, switching from virus to host cell, which she studies in the cell biology lab of Professor Günther Blobel.

By contrast, Elsa Jaffe Bartlett didn't find her subject at Rockefeller but rather, in the experimental psychology laboratory of Professor George A. Miller, found a place where her own

continued on page 4

Donald David Dies

Donald K. David, a trustee of The Rockefeller from 1950 to 1971 and dean of the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration for 13 years, died on April 13 at the age of 83.

Mr. David received the M.B.A. degree from Harvard in 1919 and became the business school's first assistant dean. He was an executive with a number of major corporations before returning to Harvard as dean in 1942. He later served as vice chairman of the Ford Foundation and chairman of the Committee for Economic Development.

Among a number of other committee memberships at Rockefeller, Mr. David was on the trustees' committee that recommended the Institute become a graduate university.

Interferon Workshop

Professor Igor Tamm and Postdoctoral Fellows Lawrence M. Pfeffer and Pravinkumar B. Sehgal, Virology, were invited speakers and Professor Bruce Merrifield, Biochemistry, was a discussion leader at the Second International Workshop on Interferons, held April 22-24 at the University and at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center under the sponsorship of Memorial Sloan-Kettering, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Interferons are a class of small proteins, produced by cells infected by viruses, which have the ability to inhibit virus multiplication. They have been under intensive study in recent years as potential therapeutic agents for a number of conditions, including some cancers.

Dr. Sehgal gave a talk on Regulation of Interferon Biosynthesis and another on Human Fibroblast Interferon Messenger RNA. Dr. Tamm spoke on Growth and Division of Interferon-treated Human Cells, and Dr. Pfeffer reported on Plasma Membrane and Cytoskeleton of Interferon-treated Human Cells. Dr. Merrifield was a co-leader of a discussion on Prospects for Mass Production of Interferons: Cloning or Chemical Synthesis.

Thanks from Leah Woerner

Leah Woerner has asked *news and notes* to extend thanks "from the bottom of my heart" to all her University friends for "the wonderful party you gave me. I shall cherish your friendship always."

PERSONALS

Born May 8, to Production Editor **Timothy Burnett**, Journals, and his wife, Susan, a son, Daniel Timothy, their first child.

DEATH

Alois Mazenec, 72, on April 28. Mr. Mazenec came to Rockefeller in 1947 as a temporary mechanic and was appointed a plumber shortly after. He retired in 1972.

IN PRINT

The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher, by Trustee **Lewis Thomas**, president of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, has been published by Viking Press. In it Dr. Thomas muses on subjects ranging from Montaigne to warts (removed by hypnosis) to the miracle of the single cell that switches on "to become the whole trillion-cell, massive apparatus for thinking and imagining." The new book is a sequel to *Lives of a Cell* for which he received the National Book Award in 1974.

The May 31st issue of the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, which is a *Festschrift* for Professor E. Bright Wilson of Harvard, contains a paper by Adjunct Professor **Harold Gershinowitz** entitled "The First Infrared Spectrometer." In the paper Dr. Gershinowitz, who was Dr. Wilson's first research assistant, gives a lighthearted account of the adventures and misadventures during the construction and initial operation, 1936 to 1938, of the Harvard Chemistry Department's first infrared absorption spectrometer.

Richard Costello Dies

Richard Costello, a microbiologist who was associated with the University from 1961 to 1976, died on April 23 at the age of 49 after a long struggle against a brain tumor first diagnosed in 1973.

Dr. Costello, whose field of interest was mycobacterial infections, joined the laboratory of Professor René J. Dubos in 1961 as a guest investigator. He served subsequently as research associate and assistant professor. At the time of his death, he was a resident of Atchison, Kansas, where he had served on the faculty of Benedictine University.

UP THROUGH THE RANKS

continued from page 3

extensive background and particular interests could be employed and enhanced. She began her working life as a writer, teacher, and curriculum designer. She was the author of a series of basic reading programs which led her to want to "delve more deeply into the processes by which children learn—or don't learn." She first came to the University while working toward a doctor of education degree at Harvard. One of the projects in which she has participated is helping Dr. Miller design and run an experimental nursery school to study language development in children. Now a research associate, she is working with the data gathered during the project.

Some paths are circuitous, as Diana C. Bartelt can attest. She was first an assistant for research at the University 13 years ago in the Hospital lab of Professor Reginald Archibald. She then worked as a technician at the Brookhaven National Laboratory for ten years before getting the "call." After years around science, she plunged in and is now enrolled in a Ph.D. program in biology at the City University while working as an assistant for research with Dr. George A. Scheele in the cell biology lab of Professor Philip Siekevitz.

The laboratories of The Rockefeller University are filled with lab helpers and technicians. Among them are undoubtedly a number of future Lancefields, Kunitzes, Allfreys, et al, at the moment washing test tubes and dusting books.

Delegation from Peking

A 12-member delegation from the People's Republic of China visited the University on April 18 as part of a one-month study tour of the United States in connection with plans for a new medical center in Peking.

The delegation included the president and other officials of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the director of the Bureau of Medical Administration of the Ministry of Public Health, and representatives of other Chinese health and public works agencies.

After being greeted by President Lederberg, they toured a number of University laboratories and facilities and lunched with a group of faculty members and officers.

The proposed new medical center in Peking would consist of a large hospital, a medical school, and a biomedical program.