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The Rockefeller University

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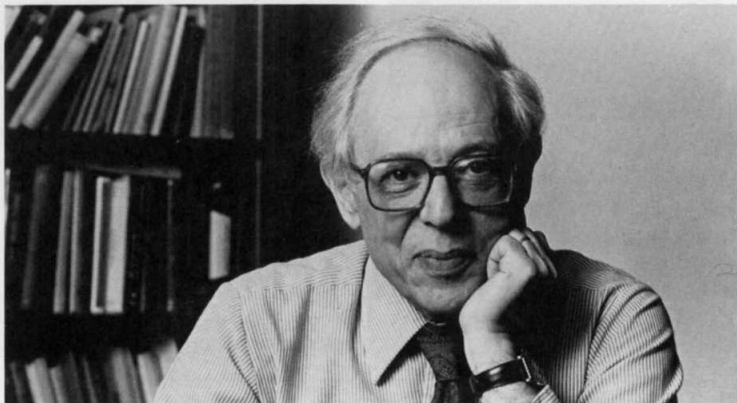
# news & notes

May 19, 1995 Volume 5, Number 28

The Rockefeller University

## Rockefeller physicist and award-winning writer Abraham Pais to receive 1995 Lewis Thomas Prize

Ingrid Gritner



Professor Emeritus Abraham Pais will receive the Lewis Thomas Prize Wed., May 24. The prize recognizes "that rare individual in whom the two cultures of science and art are combined."

Abraham Pais, the eminent physicist and celebrated science writer who is Detlev W. Bronk Professor Emeritus at Rockefeller, will receive the university's Lewis Thomas Prize at a ceremony Wed., May 24.

### Reminder

*Tower Building to be  
renamed and dedicated  
Tues., May 30 in honor of  
Weiss gift*

In a ceremony Tues., May 30, Tower Building will be renamed the Benjamin and Irma G. Weiss Research Building, in honor of a bequest of \$10 million made by Benjamin Weiss to the university.

All are invited to attend the dedication, which will begin at 4:30 P.M. on the Plaza.

**2** Infant-Toddler  
Center celebrates

**3** Managing  
Medicaid

**4** Hao Wang  
(1921-1995)

At the ceremony, Pais will give a lecture entitled, "On History, That Little Conjectural Science, That Great Art." Following his lecture will be the presentation of the award by President Torsten Wiesel and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Richard Furlaud.

Established by the Board of Trustees in 1993, the Lewis Thomas Prize honors "the scientist whose voice and vision can tell us of science's aesthetic and philosophical dimensions." Thomas (1913-1993), the distinguished physician, scientist, and essayist, was the prize's inspiration and first recipient. Last year, it was awarded to French Nobel laureate François Jacob.

Pais developed many seminal concepts in physics that were borne out in subsequent experiments. In one of his most important contributions to quantum theory, he postulated the principle of associated production, which was found to govern the behavior of "strange" particles. His work on symmetry principles on physics yielded the SU(6) theory, and he is a co-discoverer of the idea of "particle-mixing," which is necessary for the understanding of the so-called neutral K-particle complex.

His scientific achievements have been recognized by the 11th Annual J. Robert Oppenheimer Memorial Prize, election to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, and membership in several European scientific societies.

Pais's accomplishments as a writer include the lauded biography *Subtle Is the Lord: The Science and Life of*

Albert Einstein, which won the 1983 American Book Award for Science and the American Institute of Physics-United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. *Niels Bohr's Times* was his second authoritative biography, and he has published several other respected works on the history of 20th century physics.

Born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 1918, Pais received his B.S. degree from the University of Amsterdam in 1938 and his Ph.D. from the University of Utrecht in 1941, where he remained, working with professor Leon Rosenfeld, until 1943, when he was forced into hiding to escape the Gestapo during the Nazi occupation. After the liberation of Holland in 1945, he worked with Niels Bohr as a research fellow at the Institute of Theoretical Physics in Copenhagen.

He came to the Institute for Advanced Study in 1946 as a temporary member, became a permanent member in 1948, and professor in 1950. He joined Rockefeller in 1963 and was named Detlev W. Bronk Professor in 1981. He became emeritus in 1988. Pais is married to Professor Ida Nicolaisen, a well-known Danish anthropologist.

The award ceremony begins at 5:30 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium. A reception follows in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Lounge. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

## Friday lecture for June 2 Molecular geneticist to speak on antigen receptor

Martin Gellert, chief of the Section of Molecular Genetics at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (N.I.D.D.K.), will discuss "The Mechanism of Antigen Receptor Gene Rearrangement" at the Friday lecture June 2.

Gellert focuses on recombination mechanisms, supercoiling, and structure of DNA. He and his colleagues provided the first descriptions of the guanine-tetraplex structure and the cruciform structure in DNA. He discovered and characterized DNA ligase and DNA gyrase, and analyzed the VD(J) recombination defect of the SCID mouse mutation. At his RU lecture, he will discuss recent results from a biochemical analysis of the V(D)J recombination process that assembles functional immunoglobulin and T cell receptor genes.

"Martin is a pioneer in elucidating the structural forms of DNA," said Associate Professor Michel Nussenzweig, who is hosting the lecture. "He has also made fundamental contributions to our understanding of rearrangement in receptor genes."

Gellert, a native of Czechoslo-

See Gellert, page 2

## New housing director moves in



David S. Soles (right) is Rockefeller's new director of housing operations and services. A graduate of the Columbia Business School, he brings to the university a decade of experience in housing and real estate operations and policy. Soles replaces William D. Howe, who is resuming a career in financial planning and consulting in Rhode Island, his home state.

*With live birds and lessons in learning*

## Rockefeller's Infant-Toddler Center celebrates first anniversary

Rockefeller University's Infant-Toddler Center (I.T.C.) is celebrating its first birthday with a program on early language development Thurs., May 25. Lectures by Rockefeller graduate fellow Erich Jarvis and developmental psychologist Virginia Casper of the Bank Street College of Education will be followed by a reception and tour of the I.T.C. led by Marjorie Goldsmith, educational director of the I.T.C. and the Children's School, and Nan Hansen, assistant educational director.

"We invite all members of the Rockefeller community to join in celebrating this milestone. The talks promise to be interesting and entertaining," said Goldsmith.

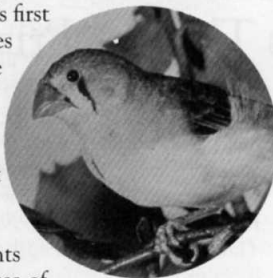
The five-room I.T.C. opened in January 1994, offering a year-round program, open from 8:30 A.M. until 5:45 P.M. on the first floor of Sophie Fricke Hall.

The I.T.C. now has a full enrollment of 28 and accepts three-month-old infants.

Casper, in a talk entitled "First Words," will focus on the richness and individual variation found in children's first utterances and trace their progress from their first sensory-motor comments to their use of words as symbols. She will also discuss parents and caregivers as key players in the young children's language community.

Jarvis, who works in the Nottebohm lab, is determining which genes are necessary for birds to form auditory memories of songs. In his talk, "Vocal Development," he will speak about the parallels between human speech development and song development in several songbird species. He will draw on his personal experiences with his daughter, Electra, who attended the RU Children's School and will be assisted in his presentation by live birds.

Children are welcome to attend the program, which begins at 5:00 P.M. For location, more information, and to RSVP, contact the Office of Public Affairs, x8967.



## Preserving the art of purifying proteins



Sheenah Mische (standing), director of the university's Shared Technology Center, oversees research assistant Jeffrey Mathers as he plies the SMART System, an aid in protein purification.

Sheenah Mische, director of the university's Shared Technology Center, recently taught the first part of a two-week course entitled "Protein Purification and Characterization" at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

"It's a wonderful program, and a great opportunity for hands-on experience," said Mische. "Class participants are exposed to a wide variety of protein chemistry techniques."

Participants in the annual course range from graduate students to professors. The course was originally taught by Dan Marshak, a Rockefeller graduate and senior staff scientist at the Long Island research institute. "Dan is leaving Cold Spring Harbor and invited me to take over teaching the course," she said. "We split the duties this year, but next spring I'll go back to teach the full two weeks."

Mische views the course as essential to furthering the techniques of protein chemistry. "Protein purification is a dying art," she said.

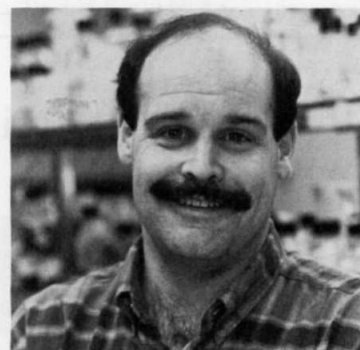
## Club seeks motives in cell death

Members of a new club at Rockefeller hope to unlock the secrets behind why cells choose to die.

The Cell Death Club, which meets monthly, is an informal forum for discussion, said Raymond Birge, assistant professor in the Hanafusa lab and one of the club's organizers. "We want to try to make the university a center for exchanging ideas and fostering collaboration about cell death. We are inviting participation from institutions in the metropolitan area."

Birge describes club meetings as informal. "We especially want junior people to feel comfortable," said Birge. "This is a journal club, although primary research will mainly be discussed."

The club's next meeting will be



Assistant Professor Raymond Birge helped organize the new club probing cell death.

held Wed., May 31 at 7:00 P.M. in Tower 305. Pizza and beer will be served at 6:30 P.M. For further information, contact Birge, x7412.

## Intent on the future



More than two dozen seniors from respected undergraduate institutions attended Rockefeller's Minority Scientific Research Career Forum Fri., May 5 to learn more about research assistant positions on campus. Members of faculty and staff from the Breslow, Friedman, Kreek, Lederberg, Pfaff, Steinman, and Trager labs spoke with them and hosted tours of the facilities. "We were pleased with the turnout and the positive feedback we received. Thanks to those who participated and made the day a success," said Theresa Smiling, affirmative action officer.

## Gellert

(continued from page 1)

vakia, received a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1956. From 1958 to 1959 he was an assistant professor of biochemistry at Dartmouth Medical School. He joined the N.I.H. in 1959.

Gellert is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received many awards and honors, including the Merck-A.S.B.C. Award in Biochemistry, the Richard Lounsbery Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The lecture will be held at 3:45 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium and preceded by tea at 3:15 P.M. in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Lounge. All are welcome.

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## Report to the Cohn Forum

# Lieutenant Governor discusses proposals for NY Medicaid program

Betsy McCaughey, lieutenant governor of New York State, spoke at the Zanvil A. Cohn Forum on Health Affairs Tues., Mar. 28 on "Meeting Social Responsibilities in an Era of Fiscal Restraint." A historian who has written books on constitutional history, with a Ph.D. from Columbia University, McCaughey earned national attention in 1994 by publishing critiques of the Clinton health care plan in *The New Republic* and *The Wall Street Journal*. George Pataki, then the Republican candidate for governor, proposed her as a running mate, and they assumed office in January 1995.

McCaughey played a key role in the new administration's Medicaid Task Force, which she described to the Cohn forum audience after being introduced by Richard Furlaud, chairman of the university's Board of Trustees. What follows is a selection from her talk, prepared by News&Notes.

The theme of my presentation is how to meet social responsibilities in an era of fiscal restraint; what I mean is, how can we meet them with compassion, caring, and common sense in an era of fiscal restraint.

The New York State budget proposal that Governor George Pataki and his team have worked on puts the state on a dramatically different course from the past. Today, on our 87th day in office, our budget is controversial. [At press time, the budget, which was up for approval on April 1, has not been approved.] There's a tremendous amount of alarming misinformation about its impact on the lives of the poor and elderly.

So I'd like to share with you a few facts about what's actually in the budget and why Governor Pataki and I believe in it. When we took office on Jan. 1, we faced a \$5 billion budget deficit. The numbers are so big they boggle the mind.

### Task force sets goals

As you may have heard, I worked particularly hard on the Medicaid part of the budget. We simply had to find ways to provide the highest quality health care and still save money. We spend \$23 billion per year on Medicaid in New York. Medicaid consumes 18 percent of the state's budget, and though saving money is one of our goals, the purpose of Medicaid is to save lives.

So on the day we began the Medicaid Task Force, we had four other, equally important goals: to protect the quality of care and enhance it when we could; to ensure access to specialty care for people with substantial health care needs; and to protect health care as



New York State Lieutenant Governor Betsy McCaughey is a historian who has taught at Vassar College and Columbia University.

an industry and employer in New York State—outside government itself, it's the largest employer in the whole state.

Our fourth goal, which was my special priority, was to protect our ability to produce new medical knowledge, to continue to search for new cures. New York is one of the medical capitals of the world. Again and again, George Pataki and I said to each other, "We can't sell our assets to finance our operating deficits. We can't eat our seed corn."

In order to accomplish these goals, we reached out to over 70 organizations in the community—patient advocate groups, housing groups, health-care economists, labor representatives, hospital administrators, and C.E.O.s of many large hospitals in the city—and asked them to contribute to the task force.

Our target was \$1.27 billion in state-funded savings. The health care industry supplied about \$686 million of that through reductions in reimbursement rates and changes in payment rules to hospitals, nursing homes, and other kinds of health-care providers.

### Triage among benefits leads to programs

We then took on the task of reducing benefits to the Medicaid-eligible population while ensuring that those who depend on Medicaid get as much health care as they need. We only eliminated a few benefits: nonemergency dental care for adults, and some speech, vocational, and occupational therapies. We did so after comparing the present Medicaid package with private health plans and with what state workers are entitled to under their health plans; these benefits were not present in these plans without substantial co-pays. After these benefits changes, New York State is still number one in Medicaid spending, in absolute and per capita dollars.

We've also decided to mandate managed care enrollment for

Medicaid-eligible recipients under age 65. It means, for example, that a welfare mother who now sits in a hospital emergency room for 15 hours with a sick child in her lap, waiting to see a pediatrician she's never met, will have a physician she can count on.

People with special needs will have those needs met under this program. We are working closely and carefully with H.M.O.s to design plans for people for whom the regular primary care physician gatekeeper system is inappropriate—people living with H.I.V., for example, who need immediate access to ophthalmologists, pulmonologists, dermatologists. For the New Yorkers who are severely mentally ill, their gatekeeper would be a psychiatrist.

### Budget provides for more and less home care

What you may have heard on television and radio about our home care proposals is very misleading. We are not discontinuing home care for the elderly and disabled. Social workers and visiting nurses on our task force urged us to look closely at personal care. It's one of the biggest and fastest growing parts of the Medicaid budget, and according to them, one of the least well-monitored parts.

We've done three things. We have tailored the eligibility requirements. Anyone unable to perform the activities of daily living, unable to bathe, dress, feed, or toilet himself, will still get home care. But people who are relying on this service to get housework or errands done will no longer be eligible. We want to give it only to people who would otherwise go into a nursing home.

Secondly, in urban areas, we've instituted something called cluster care, which is a program designed by the Visiting Nurses Society. One personal care attendant will go into an apartment building and, say, help a man on the second floor with a bath or a breakfast. Then, instead of sitting with him all day, she will

go and help one or maybe even two other people in the building. Each patient will wear a personal emergency response system so that if the attendant is somewhere else when the patient feels faint or falls, he or she can notify the attendant, who would then hurry to help or get emergency assistance.

Another area in which we can save money and improve care is transportation. Upstate, we found we were spending an enormous amount of money in a very foolish way. Picture a frail elderly woman in a rural county who depends on Medicaid. She may travel clear across the county to find a doctor who will treat her and in turn receive only \$11. In contrast, the state spends between \$100 and \$152 on an ambulette to transport her to that physician. This doesn't make sense. Under this new budget proposal, we will quadruple the payment to physicians in rural counties who treat these patients.

And the New York State Medical Society has devised a program of house calls. Visiting physicians will be able to evaluate the environment in which the elderly woman is living—does she have enough food, is her home safe from trip hazards? This will be far better care and will cost one-third of what we are currently paying.

In the city, we pay for costly private car services rather than ambulances. This too will end. When I called an administrator in a government department to suggest discontinuing this for people able to use public transit, she replied, "Does that mean we should stop paying cash reimbursements to people who drive themselves to their doctors' appointments?"

### Signs hint at positive response

This is just a sampling of what Governor Pataki and our team have been working on during our first 87 days in office. It is a dramatic change, of course, and it is already beginning to show very promising signs. Standard & Poor's, one of the two credit-rating agencies that rates New York State bonds, has hinted to us that if we pass this budget on time, they will consider boosting our credit rating, which is tied for last place with Louisiana.

I.B.M.'s C.E.O., Louis Gerstner, recently announced that I.B.M. will be building its new world headquarters in northern Westchester. They had been looking around for another state, but they announced that they will stay here because this budget proposal is moving the state in an economically positive direction.

# Mathematical logician Hao Wang, emeritus professor at RU, died May 13

Professor Emeritus Hao Wang, head of the Laboratory of Logic, died Sat., May 13 at New York Hospital of lymphoma. He was 73.

Wang was a world-renowned mathematical logician who, besides his significant work in pure logic and in the philosophy of mathematics, also applied mathematical logic as a means toward understanding the principles of valid reasoning. In particular, his work produced original contributions on a technical level which advanced the capabilities of computers. In 1954, Wang introduced a type of idealized computer that became known as the "Wang machine." In the late 1950s, Wang did pioneering work in theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence and successfully proved mathematical theorems using computers. For this work he was awarded the first Milestone Prize for Automated Theorem Proving, sponsored by the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence, in 1983. In 1960 he introduced "domino problems," which were dubbed

"Wang tiles" by Martin Gardner in *Scientific American*. A variation of Wang tiles, called Penrose tiles, has been applied to the theory of quasicrystals. In 1970, he was invited to write the main article on mathematical logic, called "Metalogic," for the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which appeared in the 1975 and later editions.

More recently, Wang was developing a new approach to philosophy using the seminal work and ideas of the mathematician-philosopher Kurt Gödel as a catalyst. His book, *Reflections on Kurt Gödel* (1987), was the first extended treatment of Gödel's life and work. He was a founding president of the Gödel Society (Vienna).

Wang was born in Tsinan, Shantung, China, on May 20, 1921. He received a B.S. degree in mathematics from the National Southwestern Associated University, in China, in 1943, an M.A. degree in philosophy from Tsing Hua University in 1945, and a Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Harvard University in 1948, where he was

appointed an assistant professor.

In 1954, he was invited to the University of Oxford, in England, as John Locke Lecturer in Philosophy, and stayed on as Reader in the Philosophy of Mathematics until 1961, when he returned to Harvard as Gordon McKay Professor of Mathematical Logic and

Applied Mathematics. He joined Rockefeller in 1967 as professor, and became professor emeritus in 1991. He was a visiting professor or consultant at many institutions, including the University of Michigan, Bell Laboratories, the I.B.M. Research Laboratories, the Institute for Advanced Study, and Peking University.

Wang published over 100 papers, and his other books include *Logic, Computers and Sets*, *From Mathematics to Philosophy*, *Popular Lectures on Mathematical Logic*, and *Beyond Analytic Philosophy*.

Wang, a member of the Association for Symbolic Logic, was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1952 and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 1970. He was named honorary professor at Peking University in 1985, and at Tsing Hua University, in 1986.

Wang is survived by his wife, Hanne Tierney, of Manhattan; three children, San-You Wang, Yi-Ming Wang, and Jane Hsiao-Ching Wang; and two grandchildren.



Hao Wang at work in 1973.

## Potpourri

### Corporate challenge

Members of the RU community are invited to run in the the second leg of the 1995 Chemical Bank Corporate Challenge Race Series Tues., June 27 at 7:00 P.M. There is an entry fee of \$13 per race. To sign up, contact Robin Maloney, x7736, by noon today (May 19).

### Friday film

*Red* (France, 1994), directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski, will be shown today (May 19) at 8:00 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium. The film is in French with English subtitles. Admission is free.

### Millbrook phone service

Starting tomorrow (Sat., May 20), the new main telephone number for the Millbrook Field Research Center (F.R.C.) will be (914) 677-3059. Beginning Mon., May 22, dial 30 + 0 to reach the F.R.C. main office internally. As the F.R.C.'s new telecommunications system is installed throughout the coming week, there may be service interruptions. When installation is complete, a revised list of extensions, which may be reached internally by dialing 30 + new extension, will be distributed. For more information, contact Portia Goodman, x7719.

**Health and Wellness Lecture**  
Dédée Murrell, research associate and clinical scholar at RU, will discuss

"Itch and Scratch, Bumps and Zits...Common Skin Problems and What to Do about Them" at the Health and Wellness Lecture Tues., May 23 at noon in Caspary.

### Clinical Research Seminar

Lloyd Mayer, who is Drs. David and Dorothy Merksamer Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of Clinical Immunology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, will discuss "Regulation of Mucosal Immune Responses" at the Clinical Research Seminar Wed., May 24 at noon in Nurses Residence 110B.

### Tri-Institutional Noon Recital

Juana Zayas, piano, will perform works by Chopin, Schumann, and

Debussy at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital Fri., May 26 at noon in Caspary Auditorium. Admission is free; all are welcome.

### Barbecue

The Faculty and Students Club will hold its 10th annual barbecue—rain or shine—Fri., June 9 at 5:30 P.M. Tickets, \$12 in advance (\$14 at the door), are on sale now at the Faculty and Students Club, B floor of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall, and in the Purchasing Office, Plaza A5. Contact Angie Dohnert, x8201, for more information.

### July holiday

Monday, July 3 has been added to the university's holiday schedule.

### New journal

Professor Alexander Tomasz is the editor of the new journal *Microbial Drug Resistance*, published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. Other Rockefeller researchers on the editorial board are Sandra Handwerker, Gilla Kaplan, and David S. Thaler.

### Presentation

Tara Cortes, director of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer of the Rockefeller University Hospital, presented results of her research on "Selected Indicators of Quality of Life in Myocardial Infarction Patients" at the 10th Anniversary Nursing Research Conference at RU last month.

### Honor

Professor Emeritus Philip Seikevitz recently served as a research reviewer for the Division of Neuroscience of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences of the Academia Sinica of Taiwan.

### Wedding

Assistant Professor Yongwon Choi and Eui-Kyung were married Wed., May 10 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

### Search

The latest issue of *Search* has been printed and is being distributed to the university community.

### News&Notes schedule

*News&Notes* will not be published Fri., May 26 and Fri., June 2.



The university's recent Azalea Festival offered visitors a chance to amble through the campus and savor spring's zenith of color and greenery.