

5-8-1992

NEWS AND NOTES 1992, VOL.2, NO.32

The Rockefeller University

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Recommended Citation

The Rockefeller University, "NEWS AND NOTES 1992, VOL.2, NO.32" (1992). *News and Notes 1992*. Book 19.
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New coordinator to expand programs in high school science education

Bonnie Kaiser has been appointed as Rockefeller University's first science outreach coordinator, a newly-created position that seeks to interest New York high school and middle school students in research and scientific careers.

Kaiser, who has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and has taught at both the high school and college levels, will build on Rockefeller's 30-year tradition of reaching out to students and teachers in the New York metropolitan area. Under the direction of Dean Bruce McEwen and guided by a steering committee of New York City science teachers and Rockefeller faculty, she will launch an expanded science outreach program.

The program's activities will include visits by Rockefeller scientists to middle and high schools; high school student and teacher "internships" in Rockefeller labs; and collaborations between scientists, executives, and high school teachers to improve science teaching. Ultimately, the program seeks to address the much-publicized "scientific illiteracy" and to stimulate more students to consider science careers.

Kaiser's first initiative, already underway with funding from several sources, is to bring at least three high school science teachers to gain hands-on research experience at a Rockefeller laboratory this summer and next. "High school science teachers, who are normally isolated from the scientific community, will be better informed about recent scientific advances and so will communicate to their students the excitement, opportunities, and challenges of science," says Kaiser.

"I think the way that science is taught at Rockefeller—through

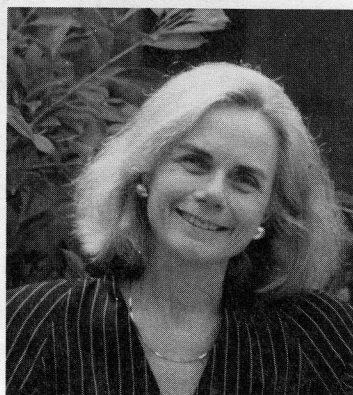
laboratory research—is the most exciting method," she adds.

Kaiser emphasizes that this will be an on-going project—teachers will be invited to return the following summer—with follow-up mentoring and assessment. "We're hoping that they'll go out and spread the word."

McEwen points out that there is a natural fit between Rockefeller and the new program. "We're all concerned about the state of pre-college science education in this country. The question is, what can this university offer teachers and students? The answer is to demonstrate what scientific inquiry is all about: how to ask questions and solve problems."

In this regard, McEwen says he is pleased to have Kaiser as the new coordinator. "Not only is Bonnie a dedicated teacher, she also knows how the scientific system works and is familiar with the Rockefeller community and our special culture."

Kaiser's connections to Rockefeller are deep and long-standing.



Bonnie Kaiser

Her husband, the late Emil Thomas Kaiser, headed the Institute of Biorganic and Bioinorganic Chemistry here. Her father-in-law Emil Kaiser is a chemist in the Merrifield lab. And her daughter, a pre-med student, will spend her second summer working in the Kreek lab.

So far Kaiser has been impressed by the level of enthusiasm for the program from all segments of the Rockefeller community. Volunteers and others interested in the science outreach program may contact Kaiser at x7802.

Population Council labs call RU home for 40 years

By Mika Ono

The labs of The Population Council on the fifth, sixth, and seventh floors of Tower are nestled among Rockefeller University facilities. While The Population Council is a completely independent organization whose mandate is to apply science and technology to population problems, the close ties between the nonprofit organization and the university go back over 40 years.

Wayne Bardin, vice president and director of The Population Council, explained how the Rockefeller family and The Rockefeller University was involved with The Population Council from its founding in 1952.

"After World War II, John D. Rockefeller, 3rd—truly an astounding man—saw that existing organizations were not giving population issues the attention he felt they deserved," Bardin said. "To address the problem, he brought a group of major scientists and ethicists, including the head of the National Academy of Sciences, to Williamsburg for a week."

The outcome of the meeting was the founding of The Population Council.

"One year later," Bardin continued, "the head of the National Academy of Sciences became the president of Rockefeller University. His name was Detlev Bronk. When the Council sought a place to set up its labs, Bronk—by then on the Board of Trustees of the Council—suggested that the labs be established on campus."

The labs—at first consisting only of two scientists—were set up in Smith and Flexner Halls.

Over the next decades, The Population Council emerged as a leader in the field of reproductive science, at one point becoming the largest grant-giver in the field. However, the need to give grants declined as the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization entered the field, and the organization's need for lab space grew. Accordingly, plans were made to expand by purchasing a

Employees respond to reports of violence

Many employees opted to go home early last Friday in the face of rumors that the violence erupting in Los Angeles over the Rodney King trial would spread to New York City.

"I was deluged with telephone calls from departments across campus," said Virginia Huffman, director of Personnel. "There were a lot of rumors circulating. Employees—especially those who had to travel long distances—were

understandably concerned about their safety."

After consulting with President Torsten Wiesel and Director of Security Joe Nekola, Huffman called most departments and labs on campus to spread the word that those who wished to leave early could do so.

"I am grateful that there weren't more disturbances in the city," said Huffman. "I'm happy that everyone who works here got home safely."



Eswin Hercules, nursing assistant, pins a corsage on Maureen Smith, day charge nurse, during National Nurses Week. See story, page 2.

2 Hospital honors nursing staff

3 Enzyme Club ends 50-year history

4 RU athletes run, walk to finish line

See *Council's labs*, page 2

Simon named head of lab

Assistant Professor Sanford Simon has been designated head of laboratory.

"I am delighted that Sanford Simon has joined the growing list of young investigators heading up their own labs," President Torsten Wiesel said, emphasizing his commitment, with the Board of Trustees, to recognize the contributions of Rockefeller's junior faculty.

Simon's research focuses on the movement of proteins across cellular membranes. Proteins are manufactured by intracellular structures called ribosomes. Many of these nascent proteins must be exported or accurately distributed to other structures, called "organelles," within the cell. Either way, the newly-manufactured proteins must cross cellular membranes to reach their final destination.

Research conducted in the lab of Rockefeller investigator Günter Blobel (with whose laboratory Simon was formerly affiliated) had previously disclosed the existence of a cellular "zip code" system by which a nascent protein molecule is directed to, and recognized by, the appropriate cellular membrane. But a fundamental question still intrigued the researchers: Once a protein reaches the membrane, does it pass through directly or by means of a specialized channel? Last year, studies conducted by Simon showed for the first time that newly



Sanford Simon

manufactured proteins travel through channels to reach their destination. He is now investigating the details of the protein-channel interactions. The work on protein channels is part of a larger research project investigating how macromolecules such as proteins and RNA are transported from one cellular site to another.

Simon received a B.A. in neuroscience from Princeton University in 1977, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in physiology and biophysics from the New York University Medical Center in 1980 and 1984, respectively. From 1984 to 1989, he was a postdoc in the Blobel lab, where he became an assistant professor in 1989.

Council's labs call university home

(continued from page 1)

building off campus.

"But Bronx had a different idea," Bardin said. "'Why not,' he suggested, 'commit the money to the university instead?' So the money that the Council would have used to buy the building was given to the university. The university's Board of Trustees contributed additional funds, leading to the construction of the Tower building where our labs are today. Our relationship to Rockefeller is now similar to that of The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which, having paid for space, has an ongoing agreement with the university."

The division of The Population Council located on campus employs 100 people, 24 of them scientists. Their work focuses on the molecular action of hormones, testicular function, and contraceptive development, with an emphasis on research and development. Among the methods presently being developed are subdermal implants, contraceptive rings, transdermal contraception, contraceptive vaccines, drugs that can be used in medical abortions, and an implant contraceptive system for men that delivers an androgen and a peptide.

Other divisions of The Population Council investigate the implementation of projects in

developing countries and the mathematical modeling of population questions.

Bardin is proud of the work the labs on campus have produced. "We now have six products on the market, all of whose prototypes were developed here," he said. "These include Norplant, the first implantable contraceptive, introduced last year in the United States—also for sale in 20 other countries—and Norplant II, now on sale in Finland."

"The other products are three types of copper IUDs—50 million of which are used throughout the world—and the newest IUD, which releases a progestin."

"Very few pharmaceutical companies have introduced this number of contraceptives in the last 15 years," he continued. "The Population Council makes a difference in the world with the knowledge it creates."

Bardin noted that The Population Council celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. "In the first 20 years The Population Council was a small grant-giving group that also did research in contraceptive development," Bardin said. "Since 1970, the contraceptive development program has matured into an efficient product-producing team. And, since 1978, the Council has established itself as a leader in male reproductive physiology with an emphasis on the molecular basis of hormone action and testicular function."

"The next 10 years should see the continued introduction of products that have a major influence in reproductive health care for both men and women," he said, "including contraception, cancer therapy, and prevention of HIV."

Hospital honors nursing staff with food and festivities

In celebration of National Nurses Week, The Rockefeller University Hospital held a breakfast and dinner for nursing staff Wednesday. The breakfast was attended by about 20 members of the night and the day shift. The dinner was attended by about 15 evening staff.

"National Nurses Week recognizes nurses' contributions to society—in research, education, and clinical practice," said Marie LoGuercio, director of Nursing Services. "I would like to thank the nursing staff at The Rockefeller University Hospital for all their hard work and dedication."

The meals, compliments of Dietary Services, were prepared in the Hospital's metabolic diet kitchen. Breakfast included fresh fruit, cheese, mini bialys, spreads, muffins, orange juice, tea, and coffee. Dinner included finger sandwiches, shrimp salad, macaroni salad, fruit, cheese, crackers, strawberry cheese cake, carrot cake, and soda.

Hospital patients and the Recreational Therapy Department contributed to the festive atmo-

sphere by decorating the third floor of the Hospital with an eight-by-three-foot poster reading "Love and thanks to all our nursing staff,"

personally signed by the patients who made it, and two computer-generated banners announcing "National Nursing Week."

Corners



Trees shield the campus from traffic on York Ave.

News&Notes is published each Friday throughout the academic year by The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Phone: 212-570-8967.

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Enzyme Club dissolves after record 50 years of activity

by Susan Blum

The past and the future have come together by means of a present. The gift—a check for nearly \$2,000—is earmarked for Rockefeller's science outreach program (see story, page 1). The funds come from the members of The Enzyme Club, an organization that recently ended its illustrious tradition of meetings at Rockefeller. The club convened monthly for 50 years, a record unattained by any other biochemical meeting in the world.

A witness to history

The club's meetings were witness to the birth and maturation of the field of biochemistry in the United States—and, in later years, of molecular biology, as well. In the 1940s, for instance, Enzyme Club talks had titles such as "The Biological Significance of Cholinesterase," "Some Aspects of Acetic Acid Metabolism," and "Coenzyme A, a Pantothenic Acid Derivative." In the 1960s, presentations covered such topics as "Synthetic Polynucleotides and the Amino Acid Code," "Translation of the Genetic Message," and "Chemistry and Structure in Protein Synthesis." And in the 1980s and early 1990s, subjects included such topics as "The Human Genome Project," "Studies in the Role of Protein Kinase C in Signal Transduction of Growth Control," "Proteins Involved in Immunodifferentiation," and "The Regulation of HIV Replication in Acutely and Chronically Infected Cells."

From biochemistry's infancy—when the major focus was to catalogue and characterize enzymatic reactions—to its maturity—in which the function and activity of both proteins and nucleic acids can be elucidated in a wide range of contexts, using a wide range of techniques—many eminent researchers passed through the portals of the Enzyme Club to discuss their research. Among the speakers were more than a score of Nobel laureates, including David Baltimore, Konrad Block, Francis Crick, Christian De Duve, Arthur Kornberg, Hans Krebs, Fritz Lipmann, Joshua Lederberg, Bruce Merrifield, Jacques Monod, Severo Ochoa, Frederick Sanger, Edward Tatum, and James Watson.

Club starts out small

The club got its start in 1942. At that time, "you could fit all the biochemists in New York City into one small room," recalls Philip Siekevitz, Rockefeller Professor

Emeritus, treasurer of the Enzyme Club and its "prime mover" for more than 30 years.

The size of the group reflected the youth of the discipline. "Before World War II, biochemistry didn't really exist as a subject of study in the United States, although intensive work was already being conducted in England and Europe," Siekevitz says. But that situation began to change in the late 1930s and early 1940s, when many European scientists were forced—or chose—to leave Europe and start a new life in America. There, they attracted a critical mass of young researchers eager to explore the field with them.

The Enzyme Club gathered together many of the researchers working in and around New York City. The "father" of the club, Siekevitz says, was David Green—a young, Cambridge-trained enzymologist who had recently returned to his native America to do research at Columbia University. "The idea of the club was to give people who considered themselves biochemists an insight into a field that was rapidly expanding," Siekevitz recalls.

Among the group's earliest members were a number of researchers from Rockefeller—then known as the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research—as well as from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, the New York University College of Medicine, The Public Health Research Institute, American Cyanamid Company, and Lederle Laboratories. The Rockefeller

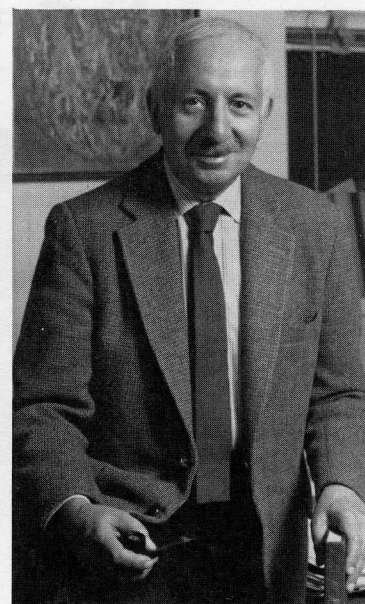
contingent included Reginald Archibald, Rene Dubos, Rollin Hotchkiss, Charles Hoagland, Maclyn McCarty, and Robert Shank. "After a few years, it became sort of an honor to be a member of the club, and even more of an honor to be one of the invited speakers," Siekevitz says.

Format remains constant

Over the years, the club's membership grew, but its basic format never varied. It met once a month—first at Columbia and then, starting in 1958, at Rockefeller, where the rooms were larger and the parking spaces more ample. Cocktails and dinner came first, followed by a talk by the guest of honor. Informality was the byword of each presentation: Slides were not permitted (though a blackboard was available), there was no set time limit, and audience members were encouraged to break in with questions at any time.

Unique as it was, the Enzyme Club nonetheless disbanded this year. "In its time, the club filled a need for letting researchers know about developments in many different subfields of biochemistry," says Siekevitz. "But times have changed. The subfields have expanded tremendously, and now there are lecture series and seminars devoted to discrete topics. It's just not possible to keep up with the whole kit and caboodle anymore."

Thus, in February, the "Grand Dowager," as Siekevitz fondly calls the club, went out in style, celebrating its 50th anniversary with a gala dinner at Abby Aldrich



Philip Siekevitz, Rockefeller Professor Emeritus, was treasurer of the Enzyme Club and its "prime mover" for more than 30 years.

Hall. Now, with all the loose ends tied up, the club has been able to donate nearly \$2,000 to Rockefeller's science outreach program. In part, the gift is in repayment for the university's generous contribution of free space for over 30 years. But the check is mainly the club members' way of catalyzing the growth of the next generation of creative, productive scientists. In contributing to The Outreach Program, Siekevitz says, "We wanted to do something for young people who may not even have thought of going into science."

Lecturer investigates how parasite evades immune system

Piet Borst, director of research at The Netherlands Cancer Institute, spoke at the The second Ernst A. H. Friedheim Memorial Lecture last week.

His talk was entitled, "Antigenic Variation in African Trypanosomes; Antigens, Genes, and Switching Mechanisms." Trypanosomes are a type of protozoan parasite that can cause serious illness in animals and humans, including sleeping sickness. In most disease processes, the infected host has a chance to fight back by mobilizing immune system responses that counter the invading pathogen. These responses are stimulated by detection of antigens, tell-tale molecules on the pathogen's surface that identify it as a foreign invader.

But trypanosomes evade immune responses by switching their surface antigens frequently—a phenom-

enon known as "antigenic variation." Borst discussed advances in understanding how genes for these different surface proteins are activated and regulated. His talk covered work in his own lab and in others around the world, including research conducted by Rockefeller investigator George Cross, a pioneer in the study of trypanosomes.

Borst also discussed prospects for treatment of the disease. He said the profound differences in metabolism between trypanosomes and mammals bodes well for the development of new, more effective therapies against sleeping sickness.

The annual lecture series on a subject related to the therapy and prevention of parasitic diseases was endowed in honor of Ernst Friedheim, who studied at Rockefeller from 1930-31 and who was a visiting professor at the university

from 1977 to his death in 1989.

Friedheim's work over half a century furthered the development of new and better treatments for parasitic diseases. His interest in this topic was motivated by the catastrophe that occurred in Cameroon in 1932, when 800 sleeping sickness patients were blinded by an overdose of arsenilate. Following that experience, he began his project to prepare trypanocidal arsenicals which would penetrate the central nervous system without involving the optic nerve. The drug he discovered, melarsoprol, was the first to be both very effective and reasonably safe for the treatment of sleeping sickness. It saved thousands of lives. From these studies, his work expanded to the chemotherapy of other parasitic diseases including leishmaniasis and schistosomiasis.

RU athletes run, walk to finish line

By Olivia Gushin

In many circles, The Rockefeller University is known for its prize-winning scientists. At the annual Corporate Challenge, however, the institution is renowned for its prize-winning runners.

For the past three years, Robin Maloney, associate comptroller and assistant treasurer, has put together Rockefeller's team for the Corporate Challenge races, held this year May 7 and June 4. Last year about 40 people from Rockefeller took part, including representatives from Housing Services, Purchase and Supply, and Food Services.

Maloney stresses that the Corporate Challenge is for fun and encourages everyone, from walkers to hard-core runners to participate. "New Yorkers are used to walking," she says. "The majority are not speed demons, they just want to do something to stay in shape." At least 50 percent of those who run are doing so for the first time, according to Maloney.

Frank Schaefer, assistant to the hazardous waste manager in Laboratory Safety, is someone Maloney might call a "speed demon." Last year he was a member of the co-ed team that came in first

overall in the first of three races, and a member of the co-ed team that placed second in the second race. (Runners are allowed to participate in only two of the three races.) Schaefer runs four to five miles at home and the same at lunchtime with Rick Joao and Jack Fernandez, colleagues from Laboratory Safety. He also works out at the gym. As a former college "miler," Schaefer prefers shorter races such as this one, which is three and a half miles.

Unlike Schaefer, Lauren Hackett, grants coordinator with the Office of Sponsored Programs, enjoys longer races, such as the 10 kilometer and half marathon where she can start slowly and pick up speed. Although it is not her preferred distance, she is running the Corporate Challenge for practice and fun.

What makes people like Hackett and Schaefer get up at the crack of dawn and run for miles when no one is chasing them? It's very simple according to Hackett: "Running makes me feel good—that's why I do it."

The deadline for entering the June 4 Corporate Challenge is May 15. Those interested should call Maloney, x7736, or stop by Founder's Hall 259.



Some of the 40 people from the university who participated in last year's Corporate Challenge races.

Hospital 'alumni' hold reunion

Nearly 150 former physicians, faculty, students, and postdocs of The Rockefeller University Hospital gathered in Baltimore, Maryland Saturday. The reunion celebrated the university's recent decision to strengthen patient-oriented research on campus by recruiting new clinical scholars and by expanding the scope of the Hospital's labs.

"It's wonderful to realize how many of the physicians who used to work at the Hospital are now leaders in their universities and scientific fields," commented Rockefeller University Trustee Alexander Bearn. "It's very encouraging that they want to help us bring about a

resurgence in clinical research."

The reception was hosted by five emeritus physicians—E.H. Ahrens, Jr., Reginald Archibald, Alexander Bearn, Vincent Dole, and Maclyn McCarty—who had worked with many of those attending the gathering. Many of the "alumni" were in Baltimore for the annual meetings held by the Association of American Physicians, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the American Federation for Clinical Research.

The reunion was the second in the Hospital's history. The first was held during the Hospital's 75th anniversary celebration in 1985.

Potpourri

Tri-Institutional Noon Recital
Pianist Alex Slobodyanik will perform works by Hadyn, Bach, and Chopin in Caspary Auditorium today (May 8) at noon.

Slobodyanik won First Prize and the Ivo Pogorelich Grand Prize in the 1991 Stravinsky Awards International Piano Competition in Champaign, Illinois. In 1990, at age 15, he became the youngest pianist ever to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York. Admission to today's recital is free and open to members of the Tri-Institutional community.

RockMUG meeting

The Rockefeller University Macintosh Users Group (RockMUG) will have its next meeting Wed., May 13, 11:30 A.M. to 12:45 P.M. in Flexner Extension 363. This month's meeting will feature a demonstration of SYSTAT, a comprehensive data management, statistical analysis, and graphics package. Everyone is invited. Participants should bring lunch; drinks will be provided. Those who would like to help plan future meetings or want to be added to the mailing list should contact

Rachael Kolb or Anthony Popowicz, x8925, or send e-mail to rachael or tony.

Lunchtime film

The next lunchtime film will be *Consuming Images*, from PBS-Moyers *The Public Mind* Series (1989). Ever since the pioneers of public relations and advertising spoke about the "engineering of consent," social critics have analyzed its effects. For some, it reveals pure manipulation. For others, this is the dawning of a new era, one in which the printed word is dead and art and commerce are joined. The film, which delves into these questions, will be shown Wed., May 13, at noon in Tower 305. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Biotechnology seminar

The Rockefeller University will host a biotechnology industry seminar for non-U.S.-based companies as part of the state-wide "High Tech Global New York" campaign to promote high technology industry. Topics will include the FDA, financing the venture, and accessing the marketplace. The seminar will be held in Nurses

Residence 110B, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M., Fri., May 15.

Sunday film

Les Cousins, a seminal New Wave masterpiece about a provincial naïf who is drawn into the decadent, erotic world of his Parisian cousin, will be shown Sun., May 10, at 7:30 P.M. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Barbecue

The Faculty and Students Club will host a barbecue Fri., June 5 at 5:30 P.M. Tickets, available in the Club or from Angie Dohnert, Purchasing, (X8201), are \$8 each if purchased in advance or \$10 each at the door. The rain date is June 12.

Award

At the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Denver, Colorado, Rockefeller Professor Joel E. Cohen, received the Mindel C. Sheps Award of the Population Association of America and the University of North Carolina. This award, along with a cash prize, is given once every two years for outstanding contributions to mathematical demography or demography methodology. It is the

only national award for mathematical demography.

Prize

Professor Emeritus Abraham Pais was recently awarded the Netherlands Physica Foundation Prize for 1992. Pais gave the 1992 *Physica* lecture.

Discount

Salon East, 241 East 60 Street (between Second and Third Aves.), is offering discounts to those with Rockefeller University I.D. cards. It has a "get acquainted" offer which includes shampoo, conditioning, cut, and blow-dry for \$30. A 10 percent discount is available for subsequent visits and other services. The phone number is 319-HAIR.

Conference

Adjunct Associate Professor Sarah Leibowitz organized a symposium on clinical etiology and treatment of sleep, feeding, and depression which sought to bridge the gap between basic and clinical research and industry. It was part of a conference, "Strategies for studying CNS active compounds: models, screens and clinical syndromes," held in Spain, April 26 to May 2.