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NEWS AND NOTES 1991, OCTOBER 11

The Rockefeller University

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NSI announces plans to move to California

The Neurosciences Institute (NSI), which has been housed at Rockefeller University since 1981, has informed the university that it will move within three years to the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California.

Separately, Vincent Astor Professor Gerald M. Edelman and Professor Bruce A. Cunningham notified the university on Friday that they will also leave Rockefeller—in June of next year—to accept positions at Scripps.

The NSI's decision to relocate was not entirely unexpected because the NSI's lease ends in June 1994. Edelman, who is the director of NSI, and Richard A. Lerner, president of Scripps, announced that a new building will be constructed for NSI on the Scripps campus.

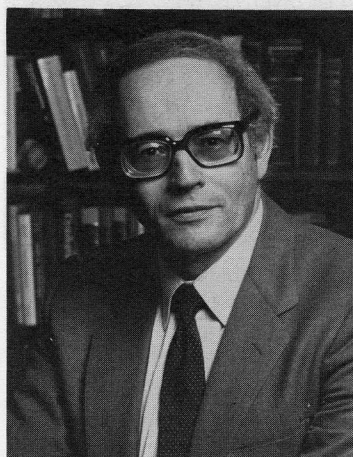
"The new location will double the size of our current quarters and enhance our opportunities to tap

the growing scientific and financial resources of the Pacific Rim," commented Henry G. Walter, Jr., chairman of NSI's parent organization, the Neurosciences Research Foundation. "We thank Rockefeller University for its hospitality during our stay, and we look forward to continuing relationships with Rockefeller and with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, our prior host institution." The foundation is also the parent organization of the Neurosciences Research Program, which was founded at MIT in 1962 and moved here in 1982, bringing all three—foundation, institute, and program—under one roof on the Rockefeller campus.

"Drs. Edelman and Cunningham have made important contributions to the university and to science," President David Baltimore said. "We wish them all success in their new positions."

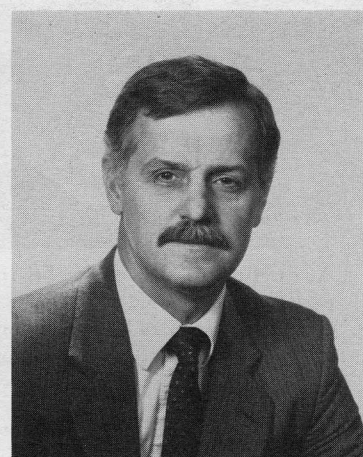
The university remains committed to a leading role in the neurosciences, Baltimore said, with 12 active laboratories in the field aside from the Edelman-Cunningham lab. A faculty search committee is now in the process of adding to this capability.

Ingber Guttner



Gerald M. Edelman

Edelman, who was born in New York City, received a Ph.D. from Rockefeller in 1960, after undergraduate studies at Ursinus College and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. He came to Rockefeller after a stint in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, stationed at the American Hospital in Paris. In 1960 he joined the Rockefeller faculty and became a full professor in 1966. In 1974 he was named Vincent Astor Professor. His research centers around cell-cell interactions during embryonic development, molecular genetics of nervous system defects, analysis of cell division, and the structure and sequence of proteins central to the immune response. He also studies



Bruce A. Cunningham

the organization of higher brain functions. Edelman has received numerous honors, most notably the Nobel prize in 1972.

Cunningham, who studies the structure and function of cell surface receptors, particularly those involved in cell-cell interactions, joined the Rockefeller faculty in 1968. In 1978 he became Professor of Developmental and Molecular Biology. Cunningham received his Ph.D. from Yale and his undergraduate degree from the University of Dubuque in Iowa. He was awarded the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Grant in 1970 and the Irma T. Hirsch Career Scientific Award in 1975.

Music lovers applaud series

For over 10 years Gerald Edelman has directed the Rockefeller University Concert Series, developing it into one of the most cherished traditions at the university. George Reeke, Jr. currently co-directs the series.

This academic year, the Emerson String Quartet and pianist Pascal Rogé have already performed. World-class musicians such as baritone Hermann Prey, the Guarneri String Quartet, and lutanist and guitarist Julian Bream are on the roster of outstanding artists scheduled to appear this season.

New machine prints 'snap shots' of cells in living color

A flurry of excitement greeted the arrival of a new machine in Media Resources this week.

The Kodak XL 7700 Digital Continuous Tone Printer is no ordinary printer. It can produce brilliant, photograph-quality color prints of any picture on a computer screen, negative, or slide. Compatible with the new wave of scientific

equipment (such as CCD cameras and phosphor imagers), it can use digital information to construct startling images of cells.

For John Hall, assistant professor in the Luck lab, the new machine solved the troublesome problem of how to present the lab's findings on the location of an unusual chromosome in dividing algae cells.



Rockefeller's new XL 7700 printer helps illustrate cellular structures. The bright dots mark the position of the basal bodies—sites of DNA being studied in the Luck lab—in a non-dividing cell.

"Before the XL 7700 arrived, we had to make sacrifices in image quality by taking 35 mm pictures of our computer screen," he says.

"Even though we had very sensitive digital information, we could not use it directly in our presentations."

Now Hall can easily and accurately illustrate the findings using color "snap shots" of a cell.

"These bright yellow dots indicate the location of the sequence of DNA we are interested in," he says, pointing to the print.

"It's easy to see that the DNA sequence is outside the nucleus of the cell in two small clusters. This next image suggests that the chromosomes may be present at the two poles of a dividing cell."

"It's wonderful to be able to illustrate our research so vividly," he continues. "This printer represents the future of photography—the digital darkroom."

Media Resources is in the process of developing the XL 7700 for routine use. For further information, contact Ray Aldrete, x8990.

2 Department changes name

3 A second look at thalidomide

4 University's 1991 catalog arrives

Class discusses ethical dilemmas in research

Tom Dalling



At the final session of the Tri-Institutional ethics course Tuesday, participants listened to Cornell Professor Eric Cassell assert that clinical researchers face an inherent conflict of interest: they serve "two masters," the pursuit of knowledge and the treatment of patients.

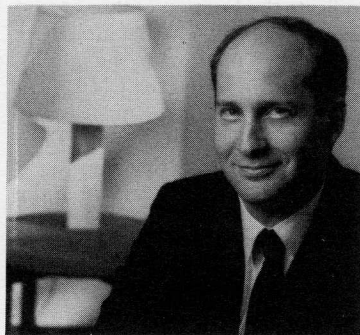
New PR manager eager to tell Rockefeller's unique story

Doron Weber arrived on campus this week to begin as the university's new Manager of Public Affairs. He brings to the job extensive national experience in press and media relations. Weber is also a seasoned speech writer and has published a number of trade books in the medical field.

In his previous job as director of communications for the Society for the Right to Die, Weber ran the highly successful national media campaign surrounding the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Nancy Cruzan case. He also played an active role in organizing support for the Patient Self-Determination Act, landmark Federal legislation that passed in 1990.

Weber spent several years at the United Jewish Appeal where he was a speech writer for its president, handling sensitive national issues as well as fund-raising. He has also written screenplays for both television and film and was a senior editor for Random House's Reader's Catalog. Among his books, Weber is co-author of *Safe Blood* (The Free Press, 1990) and *The Complete Guide to Living Wills* (Bantam Books, 1991). He is currently completing a book on bioethics for Simon & Schuster.

Robert Reichert



Doron Weber

Weber's formal education is as varied as his work experience. He studied at Brown University, the Sorbonne and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes scholar. At Oxford he met his wife Shealagh, who is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Their 3-year-old son Damon is a prospective member of the Children's School.

Alfred G. Kildow, assistant to the president for university communications, said that Weber will be responsible for strengthening the university's relations with its various publics: the print and broadcast media; other scientific and educational institutions, particularly those nearby; various political entities at the local, state, and Federal level; and not least of all, the university's communications with its own members. Kildow has been filling the position in an acting capacity since the previous information officer, Marc Kaplan, left last year.

"Doron brings us great skills and experience that will blend nicely with his colleagues in the Rockefeller Press, Publications, Design, and the Media Center," Kildow said. "And since he is a New Yorker through and through, he will also help us capture the spirit of Manhattan as we reach out to recruit new students and postdocs."

Weber expressed great enthusiasm for his new position. "I'm very excited at the opportunity," he said. "This is an extraordinary institution, unique as the living embodiment of the American pioneer spirit. For 90 years the best scientific minds have gathered in this jewelled spot to pursue original research, improving the health of many people. It's a uniquely American story that needs to be retold and rediscovered."

Name change reflects department's increasingly broad responsibilities

Bright yellow balloons decorate the doorway of Hospital 139 this week, marking the open house held inside by Hospital Information Systems—previously called Medical Records.

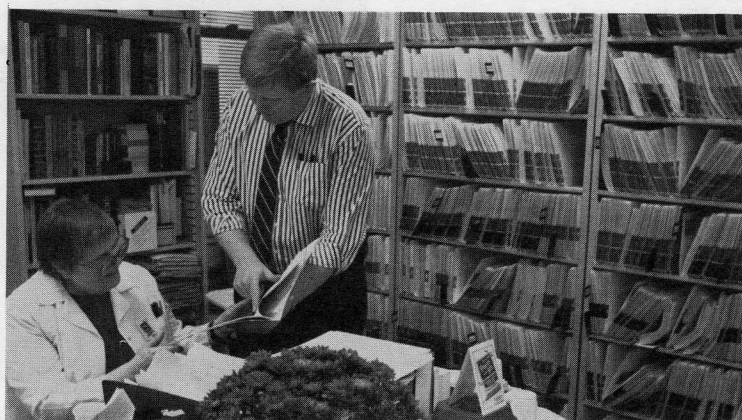
"I hope this gives people an opportunity to learn what we do," says Director Lisa DeLiberto. "In addition to maintaining medical records, we generate statistics, write reports, admit patients, and work with the computer system. Our new name, Hospital Information Systems, better reflects our broad range of responsibilities."

The department's open house celebrates the National Medical Records Association's medical records week, designed to raise awareness about the changing profession.

"As hospitals become dependent on data bases and bill by diagnosis, medical records personnel play an increasingly important role," DeLiberto says. "Medical records professionals need much more than good typing skills. We need to know about medicine, management and computer science."

"We also use detective skills when doctors ask us to find charts from years ago for patients whose names they can't remember," added Barbara Sutphin, medical records technician. "There are 41,202 records, but we usually find what we're looking for."

In addition to DeLiberto and Sutphin, Ann Hallowell, Lee Mayerson, and Oneida Ortiz staff the department.



Richard Galbraith, medical director and associate professor, speaks with Barbara Sutphin at Hospital Information System's open house.

Personnel Office helps hire best for job

Lab and department heads hiring an employee should work closely with Personnel staff, the Personnel Office says. Following the steps listed below will help recruit the best candidate for the job and will enable the university to publicize the opportunity in accordance with its affirmative action goals:

- A lab or department head sends a requisition form, including an accurate, detailed description of the job's responsibilities and requirements, to Personnel.
- The position is approved if it is within budget.
- If the position is a permanent one, Personnel lists it in the weekly "Job Posting Listings" distributed inside and outside the university.
- Personnel conducts a thoughtful outreach effort to women, minorities, and other special groups.
- Personnel may place advertisements or recruit at colleges and other organizations.
- Candidates are invited to campus. When they arrive, they complete an application form, then

interview with Personnel and the lab or department involved.

- Personnel reviews candidates' references and makes a job offer.

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Ideas and submissions can be sent interoffice (Box 68), by electronic mail (*newsno*), or by fax (212-570-7876).

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.



Rockefeller researchers take second look at thalidomide

by Susan Blum

*"There is some soul of goodness in things evil
Would men observingly distill it out"*

So wrote Shakespeare in his play, *Henry V*. Like most quotes from the bard, this one resonates far beyond Elizabethan times. In fact, it rings remarkably true in regard to current research at Rockefeller on an "evil" once seen as unredeemably malign: the drug thalidomide.

The tragedy of thalidomide's effects on developing babies is etched in the memory of all who lived through that terrible time in the late 1950s when thousands of infants with deformed limbs were born to mothers who had taken the drug as a tranquilizer during pregnancy. But Associate Professor Gilla Kaplan and her colleagues in the Cohn-Steinman lab believe that, while the lessons of those years must never be forgotten, it is time to take a new look at thalidomide to see what good may lie within it waiting to be distilled.

Their belief grows out of the lab's long-standing interest in leprosy, an infectious disease that mutilates if left untreated. Though therapy for leprosy is effective, it is not without its own serious side effects, including erythema nodosum leprosum, or ENL. ENL is an inflammatory reaction whose symptoms include fever, painful skin lesions, arthritis, and kidney disease. It is an especially frequent problem when leprosy treatment includes the use of gamma interferon, an immune response modifier that boosts the body's native defense system and speeds recovery from the disease.

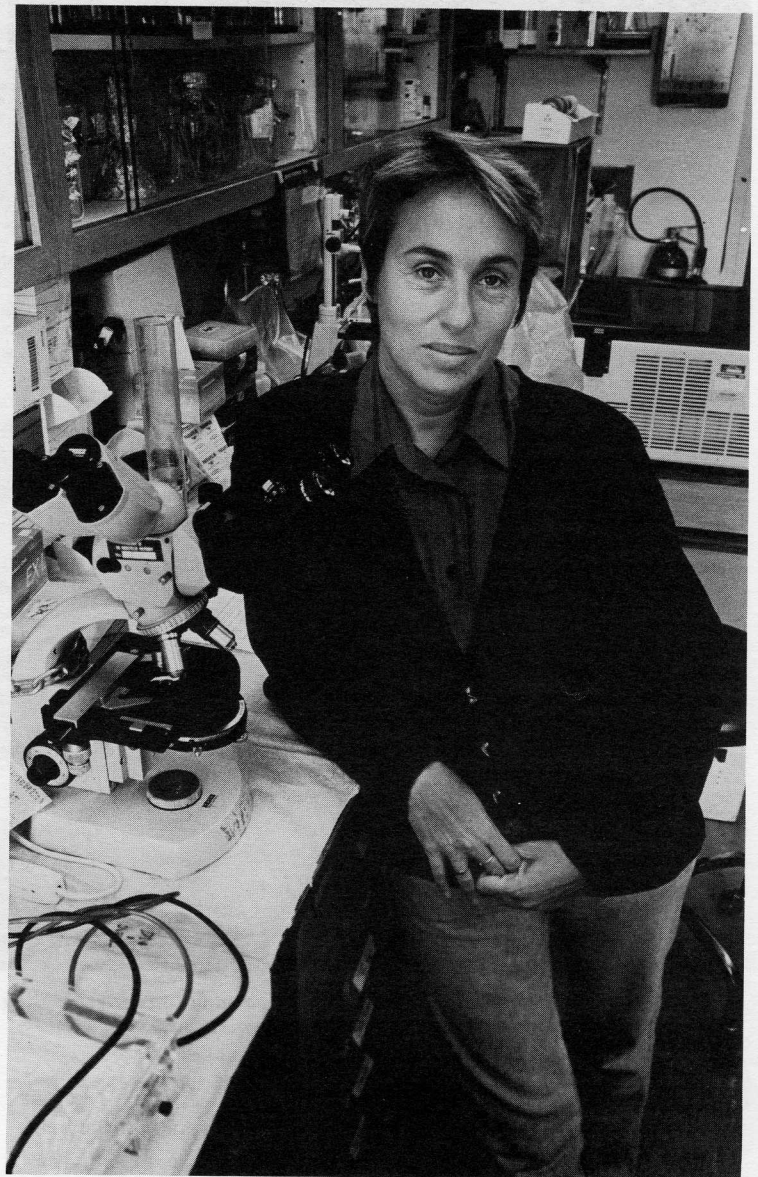
For a quarter of a century, doctors have used thalidomide to combat ENL without knowing why it worked. But recently, Kaplan reports, "we made an unexpected finding that offers the possibility of new uses for the drug."

The Rockefeller researchers have discovered that thalidomide inhibits tumor necrosis factor, or TNF-alpha, a potent substance produced by a type of immune cell called the macrophage. TNF-alpha is produced when the body is mobilized into "red alert" via innate defense mechanisms or therapeutic interventions for a wide range of diseases, including viral and bacterial infections and cancer. Some TNF-alpha is vital for the body's defensive maneuvers, but too much can be harmful or even deadly. Common effects of TNF-alpha production include fever, severe weight loss, and profound debilitation that can seriously impede the patient's ability to recover from disease.

Other drugs, such as steroids, also inhibit TNF-alpha, but present a therapeutic dilemma: they inhibit other important immune system substances, too, and thus dampen the body's overall immune response. In contrast, the Rockefeller researchers have found, thalidomide acts selectively to inhibit TNF-alpha alone.

Small clinical studies conducted elsewhere have already shown that thalidomide can be useful in treating a number of diseases besides leprosy, including lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and graft-versus-host disease, a condition in which tissue transplanted from a donor attacks the recipient's organs. Now the Rockefeller researchers are awaiting final Federal go-ahead to conduct studies determining whether thalidomide may prove helpful to patients suffering from two public health scourges, tuberculosis (TB) and AIDS.

Theoretically, says Kaplan, thalidomide also has a wide range of other potential applications. For instance, it might prove useful in endotoxic shock, or as an inflammation-dampening agent whenever immune-reponse enhancers are



Gilla Kaplan believes that, despite its dark history, thalidomide may have a wide range of medical applications.

given as part of the treatment for infectious diseases or cancer.

Should thalidomide's promise be proven in current and future clinical trials, will its benefits ever override the public's rightful concern over its traumatic past?

Kaplan believes the answer is yes. "The risks of thalidomide are now so well known that any use of the drug would be closely monitored to protect developing babies," she says, pointing to protective procedures already in place for a number of other drugs that may harm the fetus, such as chemotherapy drugs.

Kaplan also points to crucial differences in the ways thalidomide would be used. "Thalidomide was first prescribed as a tranquilizer. That would never happen again," she says. "Now, we're talking about using thalidomide for critically ill people, such as those with cancer, AIDS, TB, or endotoxic shock. The risk/benefit ratio in those

situations is completely different," she asserts. In addition, she points out, many of the people for whom thalidomide treatment might be indicated are not women of childbearing age. For instance, in urban areas the vast majority of TB patients are men.

The Rockefeller researchers are concentrating their efforts on how thalidomide might be used in the treatment of disease. But their findings may also shed light on one of nature's fundamental mysteries: embryological development. "Now that we know thalidomide inhibits TNF-alpha, and that thalidomide adversely affects development, it is reasonable to speculate that TNF-alpha has a role in development as well as in immunity," Kaplan says. Between its potential to save lives and its potential to provide clues to how life develops, thalidomide may prove to have a "soul of goodness," after all.

Scientists to speak on biological battle: bacteria vs. antibiotics and antibodies

The RU Council, an organization of 150 friends and benefactors of the university, will hear about an epic struggle next Thursday.

The program, entitled "Battle of the Titans," will focus on the ever-present struggle between bacteria and their opponents—antibiotics and antibodies. President David Baltimore will open the program with a brief history of bacteriology at Rockefeller. The keynote speakers will be Professor Alexander Tomasz, who will address the topic

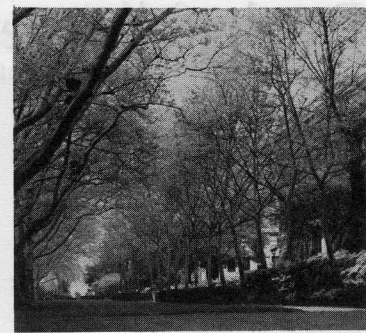
of the resurgence of bacterial diseases; Professor Vincent A. Fischetti, who will speak on strategies for controlling streptococcal disease; and Associate Professor Elaine Tuomanen, who will discuss methods of controlling inflammation in meningitis.

Richard M. Furlaud, chairman of The Rockefeller University Board of Trustees, and David Rockefeller, chairman of the board's executive committee, will make special presentations.

Corners



On sunny fall days, Rockefeller University's campus offers a sparkling view of the East River waterfront.



The 1991 catalog (cover photo above) sports a new design.

'New SEP' Arrives

The university's 1991 *Scientific and Educational Programs* will be available Wednesday. The annual catalog will be sent by interoffice mail to all lab heads and senior administrators. Anyone else who would like a copy may pick one up Wed., Oct. 16, to Tues., Oct. 29, at:

- Media Resources, Bronx 114, Mon. through Thurs., 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Public Affairs, Nurses Residence, second floor, Mon. through Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

After Tues., Oct. 29, they will be available only at Public Affairs or the RU Press, 222 East 70th Street.

Labs or departments wishing to order in bulk should call Enid Goldberg, editor of publications, x8969. There will be a charge of \$8 per book for bulk orders.

Potpourri

Life after graduate school

The Association of Women in Science is organizing a workshop on science careers for women, "Is There Life After Graduate School?" The workshop, to be held Sat., Oct. 26, at the American Museum of Natural History, will hold discussions on such topics as academia versus industry, the postdoctorate, and targeting one's job search.

Workshops will be led by professionals in science, engineering, technical recruiting, and communications. For further information or registration forms, contact Margaret Perkins, x8144 or Box 282.

Cerami lab moves

Moving vans carted away the last of Anthony Cerami's lab to a new institute last week. The following scientists were scheduled to join him: Mary R. Rifkin, Helen Vlassara, Richard Bucala, Barbara Sherry, Kirk Manogue, Andrew Slater, Zenji Makita, Urs Widmer, Sharon Brunelle, Candy Chen, Myriam Fabre, Annette Lee, and Margaret Hogan.

It's a boy

A 7 lb. 7 oz. baby boy, Sean Ross Sussman, was born to Cliff Sussman

of Food Services and his wife Irene Sept. 23.

Protocol Club begins

The Protocol Club will hold its first meeting on Tues., Oct. 15, at 6:00 p.m. in Tower 305. Ursula Olazabal will demonstrate non-isotopic procedures for quantitative Western blots. Discussion will address these questions: How do these procedures compare with isotopic procedures? What are their advantages and limitations? What are the best sources of reagents, equipment, and information? Those who have Western blot protocols should bring them to the meeting. Subsequent meetings will also be organized at this session. Contact Charles Mobbs, x8662, for more information.

Employee Assistance Program extends hours

Effective Mon., Oct. 14, The Employee Assistance Program Consortium will be open:

- Mondays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Callers will wait no more than 48

hours to see a counselor. An answering service can now reach the staff, which includes a Spanish-speaking counselor, when the office is closed. Those who wish to contact the program should call 746-5890.

Running team sets pace

Rockefeller's running team placed fourth overall in a field of hundreds of teams in the Manufacturer's Hanover Champion Race. The

runners—Esther Harris, Fred Jones, Martha Murphrey, Victor Neel, and Frank Schaefer—ran the 3.5-mile race last Saturday.

Lunch with PBS film

Language (1988), a 60-minute Public Broadcasting Service documentary, investigates the ways that language shapes perception and explores the evolution of speech. The film will show at noon on Wed., Oct. 16, in Tower 305.

Pianist plays at Noon Recital

Pianist Amy Lin will perform works by Mozart, Schumann, and Chopin today at Sloan House, York Ave. between 66th and 67th Sts.

Memorabilia to be sold in Tower

Swiss-made watches and 1992 appointment books with Rockefeller University insignia have arrived at the Sweat Shirt Shop. They will be sold in the Tower lobby today (Oct. 11) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and in the Sweat Shirt Shop, Hospital B-35, Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Errata

The Sept. 27 issue of *News&Notes* was mislabeled Volume 2, Number 3. It is Volume 2, Number 4.



Pianist Amy Lin