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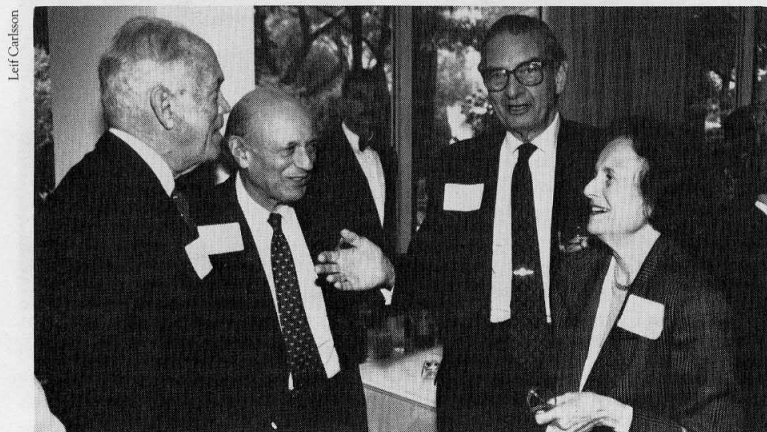
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news & notes

October 29, 1993 Volume 4, Number 7

The Rockefeller University

RU Council holds fall meeting



The Rockefeller University Council held its fall meeting Thurs., Oct. 21 on "The Diet of the Affluent Western World: Implications for Health and Disease." Here, Council Members John Vogel, Arthur Ross and Bernard and Louise Palitz (left to right) chat during a break. The presentations will be covered in an upcoming issue of *News&Notes*.

Friday lecture to feature organic chemist

Albert Eschenmoser, professor emeritus of organic chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, will give a lecture entitled "From Homo-DNA to Pyranosyl-RNA: Towards a Chemical Etiology of Nature's Nucleic Acids Structure" today (Oct. 29).

Known for having synthesized vitamin B12 in collaboration with R.B. Woodward in 1973, Eschenmoser has in recent years conducted a systematic study of the chemical properties of nucleic acids—the molecules that make up RNA and DNA—to arrive at a better understanding of their structure, pairing properties and function in nature.

"Dr. Eschenmoser is a world-renowned organic chemist, whose work has contributed greatly to our current knowledge of chemical structure and function," said President Torsten Wiesel, who will host the lecture. "Not only has he developed many useful techniques

of chemical synthesis which are now applied universally, but also he has begun to elucidate in the laboratory the dynamics of chemistry found in nature."

A Swiss native, Eschenmoser received a B.S. equivalent (1949) and Ph.D. (1951) from the Swiss Institute of Technology, where he remained—first as *privatdozent* in organic chemistry, then as associate professor (1960) and full professor (1965). He became professor emeritus last year.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher, the Royal Society of Chemistry (London), the Royal Society (London) and the Pontifical Academy, Eschenmoser is the recipient of numerous awards, including the American Chemical Society Fritzche Award, the R.A. Welch Award in Chemistry, the Kirkwood Medal, the Royal Society of London Davy Medal, the American Chemical Society Arthur C. Cope Award and the Wolf Prize in Chemistry. Eschenmoser has received honorary degrees from numerous universities, including the University of Chicago, the Université Louis Pasteur de Strasbourg and Harvard University.

The lecture will be held at 3:45 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium, preceded by tea at 3:15 P.M.

Dinner honors Revson and Winston Foundations and biomedical fellows

The Rockefeller University on Monday hosted the 11th annual dinner honoring the Charles H. Revson Foundation and Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation—which have each contributed over \$1 million to the university—and the postdoctoral fellows they support.

"We are very grateful for the Revson and Winston Foundations' generosity to Rockefeller, Cornell and Memorial Sloan-Kettering over the past 12 years," said President Torsten Wiesel. "This support is particularly important now, when Federal funding is tight, and it is critical for these talented young scientists who are at the threshold of their research careers."

The Revson and Winston Foundation Dinner is hosted alternately by Rockefeller, Cornell University Medical College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Among the guests attending the event this year were representatives of the three institutions, officers of the Revson and Winston Foundations, postdoctoral fellows supported by the foundations and their mentors.

The 1993-94 Revson Foundation fellows at Rockefeller are: Eva Luderus of Titia de Lange's lab and Erika Matunis of Steve DiNardo's lab. The 1993-94 Winston Foundation fellows at Rockefeller are: Diana Robina Cundell of Elaine Tuomanen's lab; Kim Elizabeth Hunter of Mary Elizabeth Hatten's lab; Raphael Mayer of Nam-Hai Chua's lab; and Riqiang

Yan of James Darnell's lab.

Hatten, one of the mentors, was guest speaker of the event. She spoke on gender and scientific perspective, challenging the long-held view that science is beyond the reach of cultural influences.

"Like a writer struggling to articulate a new voice, the scientist also tries to articulate and explore a critical problem in a field," she said. "It is still hard to hear a woman's voice in science and understand what that is. Moreover, the patterns of social organization of men and women differ, with men being more comfortable in hierarchical systems of power. This makes it more difficult for young women to negotiate the incentives and rewards that the current 'male' system offers. I believe we should strive to create an environment where both voices can be heard."

A discussion of the issues raised in the talk followed before the evening concluded.

The Charles H. Revson Foundation was established in 1956 by Charles H. Revson, founder of Revlon, Inc. It began its formal grant making in 1978. The foundation focuses on four areas: New York City urban affairs, education, biomedical research policy and Jewish philanthropy. Matina Horner, former president of Radcliff College and executive vice president of TIAA-CREF, chairs the Revson Foundation. Eli Evans is president.

See *Dinner*, page 2



Assistant Professor Titia de Lange (left) and Professor Mary Elizabeth Hatten, mentors of postdoctoral fellows supported by the Charles H. Revson Foundation and the Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation, respectively, speak with President Torsten Wiesel before a dinner Monday.

2 Electrician shows hidden talent

3 Researchers probe receptor's functions

Rockefeller electrician shows artistic spark

During the day, Roberto Gualtieri connects electrical circuits, replaces old wires and installs new outlets as a member of the Rockefeller University Maintenance Department. At night, in his home, a painter's frock replaces the grey uniform shirt as Gualtieri takes on the identity of CoCo—an established artist with a large collection of paintings, sketches and sculptures.

"I've dabbled with art for as long as I can remember," said the 37-year-old electrician. "But it wasn't until I was in my late teens that people began to see a style—when I took an active role in the first graffiti movement of the early 1970s."

By the age of 20, Gualtieri, the son of a former Rockefeller animal caretaker, was considered a master by the United Urban Artists (UUA)—a group that helped transform graffiti writing into an accepted art form on canvas. Under the auspices of the UUA, CoCo pieces were exhibited in Switzerland and Chicago, as well as

at art galleries across Manhattan. The group also took part in creating the innovative set—a rolling backdrop of fresh graffiti—for Twyla Tharp's hailed *Deuce Coupe* ballet in the early 1970s.

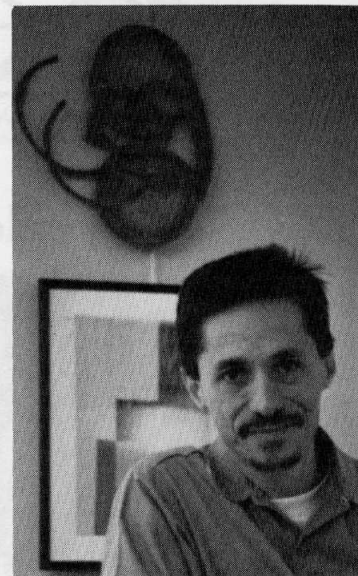
As his work diverged from graffiti, Gualtieri began to show his pieces on his own. "As I grew up so did my art, I suppose," said the self-taught artist, who turned down several art scholarships in order to continue making a steady income to support his wife and four children. Over the years he has learned how to balance a full day of work as an electrician with late night hours as an artist.

"Fortunately, I have a restless nature; I have to feel like I'm busy all of the time," said Gualtieri. "It means finding inspiration wherever I can. I could be crawling in the ceiling and find inspiration in the bend of a pipe, or I could be walking past a heap of garbage on my way home and find something that's crying to be used in a collage." For instance, said Gualtieri,

he turned a broken piece of plexiglas into *Embryonic Reach*, 1984, an abstract rendition in acrylic paints of a human embryo reaching up to the sky.

One of Gualtieri's pieces—a painted metal sculpture, *CoCoqui*, a play on the shapes of the letters making up the artist's name—is currently exhibited at the Medical Complex Art Show. Others from the Rockefeller community exhibiting work in the show are Postdoc Kelvin Davies, Volunteer Irwin Gittleman, Administrative Secretary Marie Grossi, Research Associate Joan Muller and Harold Nash, a senior scientist with the Population Council. Located in the C.V. Starr Biomedical Information Center, at 1300 York Avenue (at 69th St.), the show will run through Fri., Jan. 28. Many of the pieces in the show are for sale.

In addition to showing his work at Cornell, Gualtieri has a solo exhibit scheduled in May at the CBGB Record Canteen Gallery in SoHo.



Roberto Gualtieri, a member of Rockefeller University's Maintenance Department, stands in front of one of his sculptures.

On-campus exercise classes offer convenient workout

Most of us know that we could use a well-rounded workout, but who wants to spend what's left of the day on public transportation or pay a lot of money for fitness classes at a club? Exercise classes on campus provide a convenient and affordable alternative.

"Having these classes on campus saves so much time," said Cristina Alfaro, assistant for research in the Breslow lab. "I can get my exercise during the incubation step in an experiment and then come back to it later, without worrying. Plus, the exercise routines are as good as any I would find downtown."

The classes, held in the gym on the first floor of Graduate Students Residence, include:

- **Low-impact stretching**, Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. Claudia Florian, a Juilliard graduate in modern dance, leads a session on muscle-strengthening and posture alignment: "I like to emphasize organic movement, movement that comes from within," she said. Individual sessions cost \$7; multiple tickets purchased in advance cost \$6 each. For more information, call 580-7354.
- **Muscle strengthening, cardiovascular fitness and posture alignment**, to begin soon on Tuesday, 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. Classes, taught by Murielle Melenson, also a professional modern dancer, cost \$6. For more information, contact Pat Macklin x8410.
- **Aerobics**, Monday, 6:45 to 8:00 P.M., and Thursday, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Taught by Ann Robbins of The Population Council and Martha Brumfield, a former Rockefeller postdoc, the workouts include a warm-up, low-impact aerobics, stretching and cool-down. Classes are \$4 each. For more information, call Robbins, 753-0510.
- **Calisthenics and stretching**, Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. Karate black-belt Isaiah Curry of Laboratory Safety offers free instruction. "In this class, we aim for discipline, fun and longevity," said Curry, who has taught the class for about 10 years. "Don't worry, after a while, the pain goes away." Curry also offers karate instruction, at \$40 per month, following the calisthenics. For more information, contact Curry, x8324.

Daily exercise classes are also available locally, at the Bethany Memorial Reformed Church, 400 East 67th St. (at First Ave., first floor meeting room) Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. A six-week series of bi-weekly classes costs \$70. For more information, call 734-3908.



A low-impact stretching class is held Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 to 6:30 P.M., in the gym.

Dinner honors foundations, fellows

(continued from page 1)

The Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation was established in 1954 by Norman K. and Rosita Winston. The foundation's gifts serve higher education, including medical and theological education, Jewish welfare organizations, hospitals and cultural institutions and programs. Richard Rifkind, chair of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, chairs the Winston Foundation. Julian Perlman is president.

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RU lab probes action of multi-function receptor

By Susan Blum

With today's trend toward corporate downsizing, many people are suddenly finding themselves required to play more than one role on the job. While such multiple demands may be new in the workplace, they're "business as usual" in the immune system, where the receptors of certain immune-system cells routinely perform numerous tasks.

Take the case of the immunoglobulin (Ig) receptors of B cells, the cells that make and secrete antibodies. Most receptors transmit only one particular signal, but Ig receptors communicate five or six different signals that regulate different events in a B cell's life. Some of these events—such as gene rearrangement, deletion of self-reactive B cells and exit from the bone marrow—occur during the complex process of B cell development. Other events—such as proliferation in response to antigen, internalization of antigen and secretion of antibody—occur once the B cell has fully matured.

Receptor is unusual, but not unique

Though unusual in the number of signals it delivers, the B cell's Ig receptor is not unique. The T cell, another type of immune-system cell, also possesses a receptor that sends numerous developmental and antigen-response signals similar to those communicated in B cells. The complex biological behaviors of B and T cells, and the multiple signaling events that control them, are the subject of study in Assistant Professor Michel Nussenzweig's lab.

Among the lab's goals is to learn in detail how the B cell's Ig receptor functions. One of its major components—the Ig protein—is a particularly interesting molecule. When embedded within the B cell membrane, it forms part of the receptor; when secreted from the cell's surface membrane as antibody, it serves a vital role in the body's defensive maneuvers.

Though the structure of the Ig protein has been known for over 20 years, since Gerald Edelman deciphered it here at Rockefeller, "it has been a little embarrassing that our understanding of membrane immunoglobulin's function has remained incomplete," Nussenzweig said.

There were good reasons for this lag in understanding. For one thing, "the structure of the Ig membrane protein gave no clues about how it might function as a recep-



Assistant Professor Michel Nussenzweig's lab studies the complex biological behaviors of B and T cells, and the multiple signaling events that control them.

tor," Nussenzweig explained.

Further complicating the issue were the two additional proteins—Ig-alpha and Ig-beta—known to be associated with the membrane-bound immunoglobulin. Ig-alpha and Ig-beta were first cloned and purified about five years ago, but until recently it remained unclear how—or even if—they might be involved in receptor function.

This was the question Nussenzweig and his colleagues first tackled when he arrived on campus in 1989. Their approach was a novel one: to insert various combinations of Ig, Ig-alpha and Ig-beta into T cells, which normally do not produce any of the three proteins. In this way, the researchers could dissect out the functions of each of the proteins to learn which ones were essential for transmitting signals. This work, published in the summer of 1992, was the first to demonstrate that membrane immunoglobulin alone does not function as a receptor. In addition, the research showed that adding back Ig-alpha and Ig-beta was sufficient to reconstitute the receptor.

Just last month, the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* published the results of the next research phase, during which the lab defined the nature of the physical association among the three proteins and identified the regions of Ig-alpha and Ig-beta required for sending a signal.

Different components may send different signals

In one respect, the researchers found, Ig-alpha and Ig-beta are similar: the region crucial for their signaling activity is located in the B cell's cytoplasm. But in another, and more significant respect, the two proteins are very different. Experiments using "hybrid" recep-

tors in B cells showed that Ig-alpha induces two kinds of cellular responses that indicate signaling has occurred—those that rely on calcium flux and those that rely on a process known as phosphorylation—while Ig-beta induces only those cellular changes controlled by calcium flux.

What might explain these differences in signaling activity? Ig-alpha and Ig-beta both contain regions that are likely-looking targets for interaction with proteins containing SH2 domains—proteins, that is, that are known to play vital roles in cell-signaling pathways. Aside from these target areas, though, Ig-alpha and Ig-beta are very dissimilar, perhaps indicating that they interact with distinctly different families of SH2-containing proteins.

According to Nussenzweig, such differences might explain how one receptor—the Ig receptor—can communicate so many distinct signals in the course of a B cell's lifetime.

Now that he and his colleagues have found the components involved in Ig receptor functioning, they plan to move out of the culture dish and back into living organisms. Using transgenic mouse models, the researchers aim to investigate how the Ig receptor sends signals that control events early in B cell development.

In another line of research, they are also exploring intriguing similarities between receptor-mediated signaling in B and T cells.

Like the Ig receptor, the T cell receptor (TCR) includes both an immunoglobulin-like molecule and associated proteins—four, in this case—each of which possesses a number of likely SH2-domain targets.

Aside from this similarity, the

TCR's associated proteins are very different from those in the Ig receptor. Nonetheless, Nussenzweig and his colleagues report in a soon-to-be published paper, the Ig receptor and T cell receptor both stimulate the same biochemical signaling pathways—those utilizing particular tyrosine kinases involved in phosphorylation. Nussenzweig speculated that these similarities may stem from a certain degree of redundancy in B- and T-cell signaling pathways.

The implications of these findings are fascinating. Clearly, B cells and T cells are quite different in many respects. For example, B cells' Ig receptors can recognize antigens—the tell-tale "flags" of foreign invaders—wherever they appear in the body, while the T cell receptor can only recognize antigen with the help of other cell-surface proteins known as MHC molecules. In addition, the ultimate "read-outs" of B-cell and T-cell signaling are different: T cells attack and destroy infected or cancerous cells directly, while B cells prompt a destructive cascade by secreting antibodies that prompt other immune cells into action.

In other respects, though, B and T cells may turn out to be alike in crucial ways. For one thing, the signals that control their complex developmental programs may well prove to be virtually identical. And, once maturity is reached, the signals that goad T and B cells into action may also be indistinguishable, or nearly so.

Studies may yield therapies

Such similarities, compelling enough on the theoretical level, may also yield important therapeutic benefits. For instance, Nussenzweig speculated, it might someday be possible to genetically engineer T cells that sport Ig receptors on their surfaces. Such receptors could recognize viral or cancer antigens directly, while bypassing the complex MHC-receptor interactions that T cells must naturally navigate, and that cancer cells can so often subvert. Once these antigens were recognized, the Ig receptor would then send a signal that would spur the T cell into destructive action.

Of course, this activation signal is just one among many that immunoglobulin receptors can convey. Nussenzweig and his colleagues hope to unravel the various signaling pathways that communicate the numerous messages sent by the receptor, thereby shedding light on the processes that regulate B cell development and function.

Potpourri

Bake sale

A bake sale to benefit The Rockefeller University Children's School will be held in the Tower lobby from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., today (Oct. 29).

Tri-Institutional Noon Recital

The Australian String Quartet will play works by Franz Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Oct. 29). The ensemble, which has performed in cities across Europe, Asia and North America, includes violinists William Hennessy and Elinor Lea, violist Keith Crellin and cellist Janis Laurs. The concert, to be held at noon, is free and open to the public.

Puppet show

The Rockefeller University Children's School will sponsor a show by Starmites Puppets on Sat., Oct. 30, at 2:00 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium. Tickets cost \$3 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Children's School.

Time to fall back

Remember to reset clocks and watches one hour earlier Sun., Oct. 31. Computers, fax machines and answering machines should be reset, too.

Election

The general election for mayor, comptroller, borough president, public advocate and city council representative will take place Tues., Nov. 2. Polling sites, including the one closest to The Rockefeller University at P. S. 183 (419 East 66th Street), will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. For more information, call 868-3692.

Anniversary/Retirement Event

The annual Anniversary and Retirement Dinner, to honor faculty and staff who are celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th—and this year, 65th—anniversaries at the university, or retiring after 10 or

John Gingrich Management, Inc.



The Australian String Quartet will perform at the Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Oct. 29).

more years of service, will be held Thurs., Nov. 4 on the second floor of Tower. The annual event will begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30 P.M. Faculty and staff who believe they are reaching a special milestone at the university, but who have not yet received an invitation, are encouraged to contact the Personnel Office, x8300.

Lecture

The Rockefeller University will host a lecture for the Architectural League of New York by architect James Ingo Freed on his Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. The lecture, to be held Thurs., Nov. 11 at 6:30 P.M. in Caspary Auditorium, is free and open to the public.

Seminar series

Dates are still available to invite speakers for the weekly Junior Faculty-Student Seminar Series. Submit proposals for speakers as soon as possible to Associate Professor Claude Desplan, fax 8370, Box 151, or x7965.

Children's School applications

Rockefeller University families are invited to submit applications for the Children's School. Places are assigned on a first-come first-served basis. Call Marjorie Goldsmith, x8580.

Appointments

Assistant professor: Vijayasaradhi Setaluri, Carter lab.

Adjunct faculty: Mimi Halpern, Pfaff lab; Douglas McBride, Hayre lab; Annabell Segarra, McEwen lab.

Visiting assistant professor: Hisataka Sabe, Hanafusa lab.

Senior research associate: Makoto

Watanabe, Blobel lab.

Research associates: Ananda Roy, Roeder lab; Susan Smith, Blobel lab; Takashi Yamaguchi, Wilson lab.

Research associate/clinical scholar: Ian Tsai-Leu Tang, Steinman lab.

Postdoctoral associates: Magda Carvalho, Roeder lab; Nathalie Dostatni, Desplan lab; John Hanish, de Lange lab; Ying-Chang Hsu, Ding-E Young lab; Boyana B. Konforti, Konarska lab; Ismail Moarefi, Kuriyan lab; Tadashi Nagai, Sassa lab; Shufang Niu, Mauzerall lab; Iryna Vtiourina, Choi lab; Berrin Yanikoglu, Wilson lab.

Postdoctoral fellows: Amer Beg, Baltimore lab; Armin Bender, Steinman lab; Dawei Dong, Atick lab; Michael Heaton, Tomasz lab; Frank P. Murphy, Carter lab; Yuichi Nomura, Zabriskie lab; Srinivasan Ramachandran and Guixian Xia, Chua lab; Uwe Vinkemeier and Weimin Zhong, J. Darnell lab; Florina Zaitseva, Tuomanen lab; Shiwei Zhu, Hall lab.

Guest investigators: Julija Filipovska, Nussenzweig lab; David Hartree, G. Cross lab; Hsin-Fei Meng, E.G.D. Cohen lab; Pedro Persechini, Ding-E Young lab; Susanna Thornqvist, Chait lab; Michiel Van der Flier, Tuomanen lab; Maria Yuste-Rojas, F. Cross lab; Jack Zhao, Goulianos lab.

Departures

Research associates: Gabriel Waksman, Kuriyan lab; Iddo Wernick, Goulianos lab.

Adjunct faculty: Theo Dov Golan, Carter lab; Marcus Thelen, Aderem lab; Sebastian White, Goulianos lab.

Visiting associate professors: Reiko

Akagi, Sassa lab; Nils Roll-Hansen, Lederberg lab.

Research associates: Preeti Pancholi, Steinman lab; Michael Rubin, Greengard lab.

Postdoctoral associates: Andreas Betz, Manning lab; Linda H. Huang, Cowburn lab; Roland Franke, Nussenzweig lab; Aleksander Kagonovich, E.G.D. Cohen lab; Leslie Leonard, Steinman lab; Daniel Lyman, M. Young lab; Janet Mullen, DiNardo lab; Soshi Okuhata, Nottebohm lab; Donald Siegel, Friedman lab; Ritsuko Takada, Roeder lab; Yong Xie, Steinman lab.

Postdoctoral fellows: George Abramochkin, Tomasz lab; Nazeem Ali and Takashi Aoyama, Chua lab; Philip Brooks, Pfaff lab; Harold Brown, Pfaff lab; Thomas Gutjahr, Roeder lab; Nikitas Kapotas, G. Cross lab; Thomas Muller, Greengard lab; Bruce A. Scharf, Hayre lab; Kenneth G. Schoenly, J. Cohen lab.

Guest investigators: Michael G.H. Betjes, Steinman lab; Tamie Chilcote, Greengard lab; Yoshiaki Fukuda, Sassa lab; Anke Hensiek, Fischetti lab; Jan Jakus, Wilson lab; George Nagel, Cranefield/Gadsby lab; Bela Nagy, Mauzerall lab; Satoshi Nonaka, Wilson lab; Hiroyuki Odaka and Katriina Aalto-Setälä, Breslow lab; Pedro Persechini, Ding-E. Young lab; Gunilla Radberg, Tomasz lab; Christian Schlotterer and Yohanns Bellaiche, Desplan lab; Siow-Khoon Tan, Chua lab; Fumio Tokuchi, Zabriskie lab; David Hartree and Indu Tomar, G. Cross lab; Hendrik Uyttendaele, D. M. Carter lab; Annemarie Ziefer, Müller lab.

Discounts

Nino's Ristorante, located at 1354 First Avenue (at 72nd St.), is offering Italian fare for lunch at a 10 percent discount to members of the Rockefeller community. Call 988-0002.

Rockefeller employees may sign up for Iyengar yoga classes at a 10 percent discount at the First Hungarian Reformed Church, 346 East 69th St. (between First and Second Aves.). Classes are offered Monday, from 6:15-7:30 P.M. and Saturday, from 12:30-1:45 P.M. They cost \$12 per class, \$40 for four classes or \$75 for eight. For more information, call 288-8221.

Correction

Last week's issue of *News & Notes* incorrectly identified Robin Nesby as assistant director of Sponsored Programs. She is grants management specialist.

Herman Richter dies

Herman Richter, former supervisor of the Paint Shop who had worked at the university for 20 years when he retired in 1982, died in Florida on Oct. 22, two days before his 73rd birthday.