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## NEWS AND NOTES 1992, VOL.3, NO.10

The Rockefeller University

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# news & notes

November 13, 1992 Volume 3, Number 10

The Rockefeller University



Left: New faculty members—(from left to right) Kenji Adzuma, Joseph Atick, Mary Elizabeth Hatten, Robert Darnell, and Yongwon Choi—gather to meet the trustees after the board meeting last Friday. Right: Hatten explains her research to the trustees, showing them a weaver mouse.



## Trustees meet RU's new investigators

The Rockefeller University Board of Trustees held its annual fall meeting last Friday in the Cohn Library. After welcoming two of its three newly elected members—Evelyn Gruss Lipper, a physician-scientist specializing in pediatrics, and Frederick A. Terry, a New York attorney (see story, this page; Edward S. Cooper could not attend)—the board was brought up to date on new faculty who have been recruited to The Rockefeller University. Members of the board also heard about the faculty searches currently in progress.

In keeping with the youthful spirit of the day, after the meeting board members wound their way to the John D. Rockefeller and David Rockefeller Research Building where they heard Professor Mary Elizabeth Hatten, one of the new recruits, give a scientific presentation.

Using slides and a video tape, Hatten talked about her lab's efforts to understand how cellular architecture is established in the mammalian brain during development. Much of her research is aimed at elucidating how neurons, or nerve cells, migrate to their proper places in the brain. Another aim of Hatten's research is to understand the genes and the sequence of molecular signals that govern when, where, and how immature precursor cells assume the roles of fully developed neurons. She also showed the trustees the "weaver" mouse, an animal who has difficulty maintaining its balance due to a defective gene.

A lively question and answer period ensued, in which many board members—including David Rockefeller, Richard Rockefeller, and Philip Leder—actively participated.

Following the presentation, the board strolled across campus to the President's House for a reception honoring the new faculty. In addition to Hatten, faculty present were Kenji Adzuma, Joseph Atick, Yongwon Choi, and Robert Darnell. Seth Andrew Darst, the most recent faculty recruit, has not yet arrived on campus.

## Portrait of an MD-PhD student as a young man

By Jennifer Horne King

When Chris Min, now a biomedical fellow in the Sakmar lab, started to consider M.D.-Ph.D. programs as a junior at Harvard, he spoke with upperclassmen as well as M.D.-Ph.D. graduates to find out if it was right for him. "Some told me I would be wasting the best years of my life," says Min, "but I saw it as a way to incorporate the ideas I had about a career in medicine with my research interests in basic science."

Min, whose father is a pathologist, had considered a career in medicine at an early age. His decision to attend an M.D.-Ph.D. program meant committing himself to

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## Three join university's board

Three new members have been appointed to The Rockefeller University Board of Trustees: Edward S. Cooper, an internal medicine physician and president of the American Heart Association, Evelyn Gruss Lipper, a physician-scientist specializing in pediatrics, and Frederick A. Terry, Jr., a prominent New York attorney.

Each knows the university well. Cooper's daughter is a research associate in the G. Cross lab. Lipper was a member of The Rockefeller University Council for almost 10 years, and Terry is chair of the Committee on Trust and Estate Gift Plans and a member of

the Subcommittee on Campus Visits.

### Edward S. Cooper

Cooper, a graduate of Lincoln University (B.A., 1946) and Meharry Medical College (M.D., 1949), is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and attending physician at the university's hospital.

Cooper began teaching at the Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1958, after finishing his medical training at the Philadelphia General Hospital. He served as military captain and chief of medical service at a hospital in the

See *Board*, page 3

## Lecturer probes animal awareness



This year's Fairfield Osborn Memorial Lecturer Professor Emeritus Donald Griffin (*second from left*) chats with (*from left to right*) Professor Fernando Nottebohm, Scott McVay, board member of the World Wildlife Federation, President Torsten Wiesel, and Howard Phipps, chairman of the board of the New York Zoological Society Wednesday. In his talk, Griffin argued that animals are capable of planning, thinking, and reasoning.

2 RU has access to supercomputers

3 Dinner celebrates foundation awards

4 Program offers counseling



## Supercomputers are just keystrokes away from RU

By Anthony Popowicz

Rockefeller University researchers have access to high performance computing, or "supercomputing," which is fast becoming an essential tool of contemporary research.

High performance computing provides a powerful means of extending the traditional methods of experimentation, theoretical analysis, and modeling, enabling researchers to analyze and understand complex data in many ways. It is particularly useful in the visualization of information.

Through the Smart Node Program, a consortium of over 80 institutions, The Rockefeller University has access to the resources of the National Supercomputer Facility (CNSF) at the Cornell University Theory Center in Ithaca, New York. The facility provides high performance computer expertise, support, and training, as well as early access to leading technology. CNSF also offers training workshops to graduate students, postdoctoral candidates, faculty, and industrial researchers. Workshops cover introductory topics as well as parallelization, visualization, and scientific applications.

CNSF, one of the four national supercomputing centers supported by the National Science Foundation, is a world-class supercomputing facility. It plays a leading role in advancing the applications of high performance computing in all fields, particularly in scalable parallel computing, shared and distributed computing, and visualization. Its equipment includes an IBM ES/9000-900 (6 processor Scalar-Vector Large Memory Supercomputer), a Kendall Square Research KSR1 (64 processor Scalable Shared memory Parallel System), and IBM Parallel Visualization Server (32 processor), and a Serial and Parallel Cluster of IBM RISC 6000s. The center uses UNIX and supports most popular compilers and scientific/engineering libraries and software packages.

Rockefeller researchers interested in CNSF should contact Anthony Popowicz (login *tony*) at x8925. Trial accounts, which allow researchers to determine if the CNSF is appropriate for their research, are available upon request. Training accounts are also available. Research allocations are peer-reviewed and require formal application.

## Profile of a Rockefeller M.D.-Ph.D. student

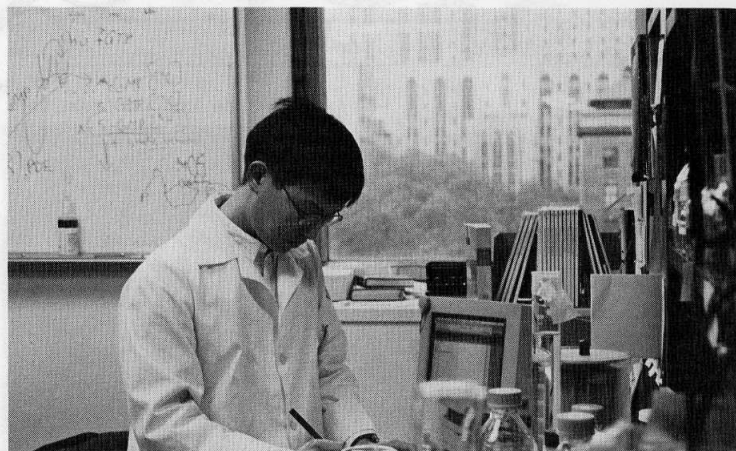
(continued from page 1)

many more years of study beyond an already intimidating medical curriculum. While his M.D. classmates will have graduated from medical school at the end of this year, he will still be working on his Ph.D. "I don't feel like I'm behind," says Min, who does not seem the least bit discouraged by the prospect, "but, just think: some of my classmates will be licensed doctors, while I will be just beginning my internship."

After graduating with a major in biochemical sciences, Min completed two years of pre-clinical training at Cornell University Medical College. He is now a year and a half into his Ph.D. work in the Sakmar lab.

For his Ph.D., Min is focusing on some of the mechanisms of transmembrane signalling in the vertebrate visual system. Using mutant forms of the bovine visual protein rhodopsin that are expressed in tissue culture, Min is studying the steps that enable visual receptors to activate G-coupled proteins when stimulated by the presence or absence of light.

"I had been interested in the mechanisms of signal transduction since my junior year in college," says Min. "The M.D.-Ph.D. pro-



Chris Min, M.D.-Ph.D. student, is currently working towards his doctorate in the Sakmar lab.

ject with the Sakmar lab has given me the chance to study a basic scientific mechanism like signal transduction that is also medically relevant."

According to Min, the research component of the dual degree is quite separate from the clinical component. "For the most part, it's not a juggling act," he says. "Right now, the Ph.D. keeps me busy enough. I found that in medical school all one has to do is show up for exams... and pass. In science, on the other hand, any progress that's made is entirely through

one's own efforts; no one tells you how to get from point A to point B."

"I intend to complete my medical training," says Min, who hasn't yet decided on a medical field. "Some day," he adds, "I think I will have to make a choice between a clinical career in medicine and research."

So where will Min be in years to come—with patients or in a lab? While he is currently leaning towards a career in academics, all that Min knows is that he'll be wearing a lab coat.

## Letters to the editor:

### Historical addendum

As an addendum to your recent article on the early events in Rockefeller University history, two items may be mentioned:

- 1) One possible site for the "Central Park" envisaged for Manhattan was the Johns Woods site on the East River, where The Rockefeller University now sits.
- 2) I believe that a possible site for the building of The Rockefeller Institute was at the northern tip of Manhattan, Inwood, where John D. Rockefeller owned land. However, it was considered too far out, in the country even, and eventually the land was deeded to the city, the future Inwood Park, and the Metropolitan Museum (it was the eventual location of the Cloisters). But think of the views we might have had!

Philip Siekevitz  
Professor Emeritus

### A call for 'wallyball'

Imagine, volleyball is being played

on the sunny beaches of Southern California, even in December! Believe it or not, it is also thriving indoors on racketball and squash courts in a game called "wallyball." This game has basically the same rules as volleyball, with the exception that the ball can ricochet off the side walls. The game is played with two to four players per team. The game is exciting, fast-paced, good exercise, and fun! If you have ever enjoyed playing volleyball, you will like this game.

If we, the Rockefeller community, can show support for this game, then it should be possible to buy the wallyball equipment (net and ball) and be able to schedule wallyball games using one of the two squash courts. Being an avid squash player myself, I found out that the net anchors don't affect the squash ball's trajectory off the wall. In addition we could limit wallyball reservations to after 4:00 P.M., when there is very little squash traffic and one of the two courts should suffice.

If you are interested in adding this exciting game to our

Rockefeller recreation repertoire, please contact me at x8821 and leave your name and extension number.

Philip Melese  
Assistant Professor

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## Dinner celebrates awards

The tenth annual Tri-Institutional dinner in celebration of the Charles H. Revson and Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation awards was held last Thursday at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Since 1982, the two foundations have contributed over \$2 million to The Rockefeller University for postdoctoral fellowships. Similar grants have been given to Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Cornell University Medical College.

President Torsten Wiesl addressed the gathering, emphasizing that the transition from postdoctoral fellow to independent scientist is extremely difficult, and private funding during this time is critical. This theme was echoed by Howard Fillit, a Winston fellow at Rockefeller from 1985 to 1988, currently chief of the Geriatric Evaluation and Treatment Unit and associate professor of geriatrics, medicine, and neurobiology at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

"I have wondered why [Charles Revson and Norman and Rosita Winston] chose to participate in the process of biomedical research," said Fillit. "I imagine that the interest of their foundations in funding science was, at least in part, based on the same forces which motivated me to become a physician-scientist, that is, a sense of wonder at the mystery of life itself, and a desire to create new scientific knowledge for the good of man."

The Revson and Winston Foundations were represented by Eli Evans, president of the Revson Foundation, and Julian Perlman, director of the Winston Foundation. Also present were other trustees and officers of the two foundations, officers and staff of Rockefeller, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, and Cornell University, as well as this year's fellows and their sponsors.

This year, the Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation postdoctoral fellows at Rockefeller are: Christopher Bowler of the Chua lab, Aniruddha Das of the Gilbert lab, John Hanish of the de Lange lab, Benno ter Kuile of the Muller lab, and Yuhang Zhao of the Hanafusa lab. The 1992 Charles H. Revson Foundation fellows at the university are: Alice Erwin of the Gotschlich lab, Christine Heufler of the Nussenzweig lab, Kuo-Chu Hwang of the Mauzerall lab, and Yoshiaki Ohkuma of the Roeder lab. During the past 10 years, 60 Rockefeller postdoctoral students have received fellowships

from the two foundations.

The Charles H. Revson Foundation—established in 1956 by Charles H. Revson, founder of Revlon, Inc.—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.

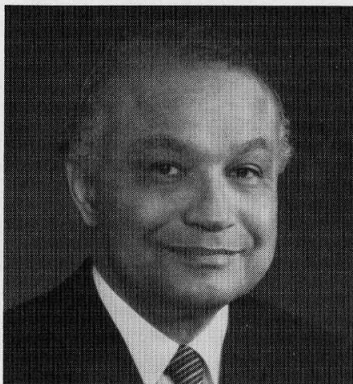
The Norman and Rosita Winston Foundation—established in 1954 by Norman K. and Rosita Winston—supports higher education, medical and theological education, Jewish welfare organizations, hospitals, and cultural institutions and programs.

## Rockefeller's board of trustees adds three new members

(continued from page 1)

Philippines from 1954 to 1956. From 1958 to 1976, Cooper held a variety of medical and leadership positions at the Philadelphia General Hospital, including chief of medical service for the University of Pennsylvania Division (1973-76), president of the medical staff (1969-71), and co-director and co-principal investigator of the Stroke Research Center (1968-74). He was also program director and associate director (1957-69) and consultant (1969-74) at Mercy-Douglass Hospital.

Cooper has been actively involved in the American Heart Association, and is currently president of the organization and consulting editor for its journal *STROKE*. In 1988, *Black Enterprise Magazine* selected Cooper as America's leading black internal medicine specialist. He also recently received honors from the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, the City Council of Philadelphia, and Lincoln University.



## Meeting of minds



Rockefeller investigators Alexander Tomasz (left) and Elaine Tuomanen chat with Frederick A. Terry, Jr., chairman of the university's Committee on Trust and Estate Gift Plans and new trustee, at the committee's meeting on Monday.

### Evelyn Gruss Lipper

Lipper, a graduate of Simmons College (B.S., 1966) and Albert Einstein College of Medicine (M.D., 1971), is associate professor of clinical pediatrics at Cornell University Medical College. She is also associate attending physician in pediatrics and director of the division of child development at The New York Hospital.

Lipper completed her medical training at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center-Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Babies Hospital-Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1975, she began teaching at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she became assistant professor and director of the Premature Follow-Up Program. She assumed a position at Cornell University Medical College in 1986.

Lipper and her husband are co-trustees of The Kenneth & Evelyn Lipper Foundation, established in New York in 1982. She was also the director of the Joseph and Caroline Gruss Foundation.

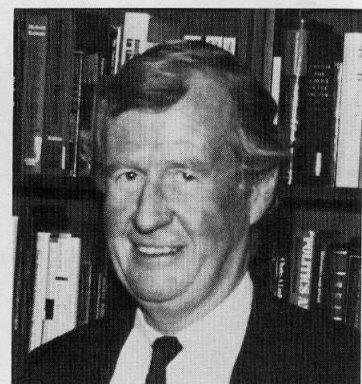


### Frederick A. Terry, Jr.

Terry, a graduate of Williams College (B.A., 1953) and Columbia Law School (L.L.B., 1956), is a partner at the firm Sullivan & Cromwell.

From 1956 to 1957, Terry clerked with the U.S. Court of Appeals. He joined Sullivan & Cromwell shortly thereafter and was named partner there in 1965.

An active participant in nonprofit organizations, Terry has a number of positions in addition to those at Rockefeller. He is director and secretary of The McIntosh Foundation, chairman of the Flagler Foundation, secretary of the WMM Foundation, and director of the Isak & Rose Weinman Foundation. He is on the board of directors of the American Federation for Aging Research, Inc., Committee on Income Security of the Community Service Society, Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, Grand Central Partnership, Inc., National Resources Defense Council, and The Society of the Third Street Music School Settlement, Inc.



The new Rockefeller University trustees are (from left to right) Edward S. Cooper, an internal medicine specialist, Evelyn Gruss Lipper, a physician-scientist specializing in pediatrics, and Frederick A. Terry, Jr., a prominent New York attorney.



# Confidential counseling addresses employees' concerns

If you have problems that you need help with, there is somewhere close by to turn. EAPC—the Employee Assistance Program Consortium—helps employees with any personal or professional difficulties.

The multi-institutional program, founded over 10 years ago, offers short-term counseling or referrals free of charge to Rockefeller employees and family members. Many types of problems can be addressed, among them marital difficulties, legal problems, health-related concerns, child-care issues, and drug and alcohol abuse.

The EAPC team, headed by Sonia Austrian who holds a doctorate in social work, is made up of two social workers, one consulting psychiatrist, and six graduate student interns from Columbia University's School of Social Work.

"Once a person has decided to get help—and this is often the hardest part—they can turn to trained professionals whose per-

spectives on issues are different from those of co-workers, family, and friends," says Mary Ann George, supervisor of employment with Rockefeller Personnel.

"EAPC has expanded over the years to address a variety of problems," says Virginia Huffman, director of Personnel. "I have noticed a change in the concerns of employees who come to the Personnel Office. Many employees are trying to juggle parenting issues with full-time work; there are many more people who are single parents now and day-care is a real issue. Other employees are trying to cope with substance abuse in the family; some are dealing with issues related to cancer and AIDS. In the past, these employees may not have known that they could find help for these problems at the EAPC."

Because of the confidential nature of the program, Huffman does not have the names of Rockefeller persons who use EAPC, but she does know how

many use the service each year. "I am encouraged by the rise in EAPC participation," says Huffman, "because I see it as a rise in people's awareness of the program, not as a rise in the number of problems." EAPC Director Sonia Austrian says she attributes the rise completely to Rockefeller's Personnel Department whose members have demonstrated a strong interest in the program.

The EAPC plans to begin a series of group sessions in January on various topics that will be open to all community members. Posters about these sessions will go up on campus bulletin boards shortly.

The EAPC is located at 445 East 68th St. and York Ave. Employees can call 746-5890, in confidence, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. to make appointments. Spanish-speaking counselors and evening appointments are available.

In addition to members of the Rockefeller community, employees of Cornell University Medical



**Sonia Austrian heads the Tri-Institutional Employee Assistance Program.**

College, The Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and The New York Hospital are eligible to use the service.

## Potpourri

**Tri-Institutional Noon Recital**  
The St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform at Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today (Nov. 13) in Caspary Auditorium. This year, the group won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and the Banff International String Quartet Competition. The group is graduate quartet-in-residence with the Juilliard String Quartet at the Juilliard School. Pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and

Ludwig van Beethoven will be featured in today's concert. Admission is free and open to the Tri-Institutional community.

A limited number of free tickets to the St. Lawrence String Quartet's performance Tues., Nov. 17, at the 92nd St. Y, are available from Sandra Walsh, x8072.

### Sunday film

*The Great McGinty* (1940, Preston Sturges) deals with the rise and fall

of Dan McGinty as he endears himself to the political machine by voting 37 times in a single election and ends his career as a bartender in a banana republic. The film will be shown in Caspary Auditorium at 7:30 P.M., Sun., Nov. 15. Admission is free and all are welcome.

### Seitz memorial concert

The Rockefeller community is invited to hear Pianist Ory Shihor perform at a concert in memory of Elizabeth Marshall Seitz on Wed., Nov. 18, at 8 P.M., in Caspary Auditorium.

### Birth

Security Guard Efraim Gonzalez became a father this week when his wife Nancy gave birth to an eight-pound baby girl, Felicity Ann, on Tues., Nov. 10.

### Marriage

Mika Ono, editor of *News&Notes*, and Mark Benedyk, graduate fellow in the DiNardo lab, were married Sat., Oct. 24. They returned to Rockefeller this week from their honeymoon in Belize and Guatemala.

### Big money

The laboratory of Mary Jeanne Kreek received a grant for \$9.5 million from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) to support five years of addiction research.

Seven interrelated projects will be funded. The award was one of five renewals for NIDA's Specialized Research Centers.

### Thanksgiving food drive

From Mon., Nov. 16 to Fri., Nov. 20, the university is collecting canned goods on behalf of Yorkville Common Pantry, who will distribute the food to over 2,000 hungry children and adults in the area. Leave cans with the Security desk in Founder's Hall. For more information, call Public Affairs, x8967.

### Job Path reception

Job Path, a non-profit organization that enables developmentally disabled persons to enter the work force, hosted a cocktail reception in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall Nov. 5. One hundred and twenty persons—Job Path employers such as The Rockefeller University, prospective employers, trainees, and Job Path staff members—attended the gathering. The Rockefeller University and Republic National Bank helped sponsor the event.

### Classified

Lisa Hudgins of the Hirsch lab is looking for a used Beckman SW41 TI rotor for an ultracentrifuge. If you can help, contact her at x7744.

Christian Steiner



**The St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform at Tri-Institutional Noon Recital today in Caspary Auditorium.**