



HAPPY HOLIDAY

May you have a safe and fun holiday!

WATSONIAN NEWS LETTER
December 9, 2005

The 2006-2008 Executive Committee members are:

Stacey Harper – PRESIDENT -- Stacy is making history as our first woman president!

NEWLY ELECTED

Ted Pectorius - President-elect

Kathryn Koski - Treasurer

Larry Franklin - Recorder

Bruce Heath - Field Staff Representative

Susan Shaw - Retiree Representative

Congratulations and best wishes for a great term of office!



COMMITTEE NEWS

CONDOLENCES

HAVE YOU HEARD?

WHERE'S OLE/ WHAT'S HIS NAME?

NEW ADDRESSES

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY NEWS

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

TDYS / TRANSFERS / PROMOTIONS

RETIREMENT LIST



COMMITTEE NEWS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - all are invited to call in and participate.

December 20, 2005 2:30-4:00 pm

Where: CORPORATE SQUARE, building 11, Room 2105 (Phil's office)

Call In: Toll free #: 866-732-9603, Passcode 873632

Executive Committee Meeting is open to all

This will be the first committee meeting of the newly elected and the outgoing executive committee members.

EVENTS COMMITTEE



The WATSONIAN Holiday Party is next week! Plan to be there!

See old friends, and make new ones - celebrate the holidays with us!!!

When: Thursday, December 15
Where: Famous Pub in Toco Hills, Atlanta, GA
Time: 5-8 pm
Cost: \$10 per person, tickets sold at the door

Come join your fellow Watsonian members for a good time and holiday cheer... And that includes family and friends, and all you hold dear!

DOOR PRIZES will be awarded throughout the night!



COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Reminder- as you change email addresses with your servers, please let Rita Varga know, so that you will not miss any newsletters or other communication from the WATSONIAN SOCIETY! This is especially needed for those retiring from service.

[Happy New Year!](#)



CONDOLENCES:

Loss of CDC Employees & Retiree

At press time, we have limited details on the passing of **Dick Lanam**. He passed away on November 29th. He had a heart attack and was on life support. It is planned that his ashes will be scattered in the San Francisco Bay on the 17th.



Betty Jo Holley Robertson passed away Monday, November 21, 2005, at Hospice Atlanta after a valiantly fought battle with lung cancer.

Betty Jo, as she was affectionately known, came to CDC in 1984 to work on hepatitis viruses. She received a B.S. in liberal arts and chemistry from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and worked for a few years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Northwestern University before seeking a Ph.D. in protein chemistry and microbiology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, UT, and the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, VA, studying the structural components of a number of viruses. Betty Jo took a position at the Plum

Island Animal Disease Center in Greenport, NY, where extended her work to studies with foot-and-mouth disease virus.

Betty Jo came to CDC to work in the Hepatitis Viruses Laboratory Section in the Hepatitis Branch, Division of Viral Diseases, NCID, and was later name Chief of the Virology Section of the Hepatitis Branch. She was probably best known for her work with hepatitis A viruses but also contributed to the molecular analyses of other hepatitis viruses. She holds numerous awards, has published prolifically, and holds two patents (another is pending) as the result of her work. Since 2003, Betty Jo has served as the Deputy Associate Director for Laboratory Science in NCID, where she led the StarLIMS implementation project for NCID and NCHSTP and participated in coordinating a number of laboratory activities that included working toward FDA compliance for diagnostic tests, laboratory safety, and scientific education. Her wonderful grasp of laboratory issues and keen knowledge of molecular biology and its applications will be sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718, 1-800-ACS-2345.

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It is with great sadness that NCID/SRP/ARB informs you that we have unexpectedly lost one of our employees in the Animal Resources Branch.

**Reginald (“Reggie”) Sharpe**, who worked as an Animal Caretaker, died December 5, 2005 from surgery complications.

Reginald has been a member of the ARB team since 1987. He began as a laboratory equipment operator then, in 1990, he became a lab animal caretaker. He leaves behind one teenage son and one young daughter.

Reggie will be missed and our thoughts are with his family.  
Condolences may be mailed to:  
Donald Trimble Mortuary, Inc  
1876 Second Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30032

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**NURSERY NEWS:**

**Gustavo and Lilia Aquino** are the proud parents of Nicholas R. Aquino, born November 15, 2005. He measures in at: 21.5 inches, 8 pounds, 9 ounces  
Gus and his wife face those sleepless nights!  
The PHA family grows!

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**HAVE YOU HEARD?**

I am pleased to announce the selection of three National Center Directors within the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases: **Anne Schuchat, M.D.**, as Director of the National Immunization Program; **Rima Khabbaz, M.D.**, as Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID); and **Kevin Fenton, M.D., Ph.D.**, as Director of

the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP). It is gratifying to see these talented scientists express their commitment to health protection in new ways.

Dr. Schuchat began her career at CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer in 1988 and most recently served as the Acting Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases. She has made critically important contributions to the prevention of infectious diseases in children, including her role in group B streptococcal disease prevention. As part of this work, she spearheaded the development of CDC's guidelines that have led to an 80 percent reduction in newborn infections and a 75 percent narrowing of racial disparity in this infectious disease. She also has been instrumental in pre- and post-licensure evaluations of conjugate vaccines for bacterial meningitis and pneumonia and in accelerating availability of these new vaccines in resource-poor countries through the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization.

Dr. Khabbaz began her career at CDC as an EIS Officer in 1980 and most recently served as Acting Deputy Director of NCID. She has worked in research and epidemiology of hospital-acquired infections, viral diseases, and played a leading role in coordinating CDC's programs around blood safety, food safety, as well as emerging infectious diseases. Dr. Khabbaz has played critical roles in CDC's responses to bioterrorism, outbreaks of new diseases, and responses to infectious disease related to natural disasters.

Dr. Fenton has served as Chief of CDC's National Syphilis Elimination Effort since January 2005, and has an outstanding track record of research in epidemiology, and prevention of HIV and other STDs since 1995. Dr. Fenton was previously the Director of the HIV and STI Department at the United Kingdom's Health Protection Agency and spearheaded the development of the Chlamydia Screening Program in England, and the European STI Surveillance Network. He has worked closely with UK Government, European Commission Networks and WHO Europe in developing sexual health policy and HIV/STD prevention and surveillance programs.

We owe a very special thanks to Dr. Stephen L. Cochi for his leadership of our National Immunization Program; Dr. Schuchat for her leadership of the National Center for Infectious Diseases; and Dr. Ron Valdiserri for his leadership of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. Each served admirably as interim leaders of these National Centers.

I also thank the internal and external members of the national search committees who worked hard to help us select these outstanding leaders.

Please join me in congratulating and supporting the success of the newest National Center leaders.

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.

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CCID is very pleased to announce that **Oona Powell** has been selected as Enterprise Communications Officer for CCID. Oona joins CCID after serving as acting Branch Chief for NCCDPHP Office on Smoking and Health. There she oversaw health communication research on a wide range of tobacco related topics including youth initiation, smoking cessation, secondhand smoke exposure, and tobacco related health disparities. She managed media relations, partnership development, and capacity building in states for development of tobacco counter-marketing programs. She most

recently worked in partnership with ABC News to facilitate the “Quit to Live” campaign currently underway on ABC World News Tonight. She managed the rollout of the latest Surgeon General’s Report on the Health Consequences of Smoking that included her work on developing an animated depiction of the health impact of smoking, which is currently being included in a distance learning smoking cessation course for the U.S. Marine Corps. http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/sgr_2004/sgranimation/flash/index.html . She also provided technical assistance to the Ministries of Health in Taiwan, India, and Mexico for the releases of their first tobacco and health country reports. Oona has over 16 years of federal service that include managing communication activities within various CDC centers. For example, she served as senior media relations specialist for the National Center for Environmental Health. She has experience in crisis communication having previously worked with FEMA and the Department of Defense where she deployed on numerous occasions to support emergency response activities. She has a BA in Economics and International Commerce and Culture, and a Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies – Economics, Urban and Regional Planning, and Public Administration. Please welcome Oona Powell as she joins CCID in this important leadership role.

Susan Hunter, MS
CCID CDC

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CDC has developed a new policy titled **CDC Public Health Memorial**. The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures and guidance on the establishment and management of the CDC Public Health Memorial located on the Roybal campus in Atlanta, Georgia.

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this issuance is to provide policy, procedures, and guidance on the establishment and management of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Memorial located on the Roybal campus in Atlanta, Georgia.

## II. Abbreviations, acronyms and definitions

- A. For the purpose of this policy, the following abbreviations and acronyms apply:
1. **CC/CO** – coordinating centers and coordinating offices
  2. **CMO** – chief management official
  3. **BFO** – Buildings and Facilities Office
  4. **OCOO** – Office of the Chief Operating Officer

- B. For the purposes of this policy, the following definition applies:

**CDC employee** – CDC staff occupying a government full-time equivalent position.

## III. Background

In the fight against disease and disabilities, CDC personnel are sometimes asked to endure great personal risk. In some cases, this inherent risk in the public health work we do has led to fatalities among CDC staff. The CDC Public Health Memorial was developed and designed to honor this service and sacrifice. It is located on the Roybal campus green space between Building 19, Building 17 and the east parking facility.

## IV. Policy

CDC will manage and maintain the Public Health Memorial to honor all those CDC employees who have given their lives to help realize the goal of healthy people in a healthy world.

The memorial will contain the names of all CDC employees who have died from injury, accident, or illness as a direct result of their public health duties.

The memorial and surrounding green space will be preserved as a place of remembrance and meditation where all CDC personnel and visitors may visit. The memorial is intended as an outdoor sanctuary to enhance the spirit and provide a place of solitude and solidarity with others in the past and present who share the passion of making the world a healthier and safer place to live and work.

Any CDC staff member may recommend an employee's name for inclusion on the memorial, if, in their opinion, the person died from injury, accident, or illness as a direct result of his or her public health duties.



### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **FELLOW CDC/ATSDR WATSONIANS!**

**Will You Soon RETIRE?**

**(Or are you RETIRED?)**

If you are planning to retire soon, then you should join Chapter 1419 of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE.) Yes, NARFE is for currently employed (and retired) federal employees. For current federal employees, there is a special rate of \$60 for a 3-year membership, a savings of \$20. NARFE is the only agency that can lobby Congress for YOU and your federal benefits. Take advantage of this opportunity.

The many benefits of membership in the CDC NARFE Chapter are:

- Monthly friendship with other retired CDC employees at the Chapter meetings with special monthly Chapter programs of educational interest. The CDC NARFE Chapter also holds an annual picnic and Holiday luncheon.
- Monthly CDC Chapter newsletter with lots of info about members and how to contact them.
- NARFE maintains a special team of experts (Service Officers) to assist retired employees with issues and questions about their retirement concerns.
- The NARFE monthly magazine is filled with many important issues for currently employed and retired members. Especially interesting is the "Q&A" section where retired employees send in questions about retirement issues and the NARFE staff provides the answers.
- Special discounts (NARFE "Perks") with hotels, auto rental agencies, moving companies, travel packages, investments, etc.
- An annual CDC Chapter booklet with street addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of members.
- An agency that constantly and frequently reaches out to members of Congress to support issues and legislation that benefits current and retired federal employees.

- Access to the NARFE website that will allow you to readily reach your Congressional representatives via email and access to other “inside” NARFE data and information valuable for you.

If you are interested in becoming a member (whether currently employed at CDC or already retired), contact **Fred Martich for a membership application.**



**WHERE'S OLE/ WHAT'S HIS NAME?**

**Jerry Heath** (retired PHA) is headed to Sarasota in a couple of weeks then to Coral Gables and down to the Keys for Christmas. Jerry is in the process of buying a sailboat and plans to cruise the south during winter and summer back home in Maine.



Does anyone have locating information for **Mark Long** – please let Rita Varga know how to contact him...We would hate to have to “06” him!

Thanks



**TRANSFERS/ PROMOTIONS & TDYs**

DNPA's Nutrition and Physical Activity Program to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases:

On November 28, **Lyn Almon** started work as a permanent project officer with the Nutrition and Physical Activity Program to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases, in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (NCCDPHP). Lyn had been in this position for the previous three months on temporary assignment. Before joining DNPA, she worked in CDC's Cancer Division and as an epidemiologist with the American Cancer Society.

**Lisa Davis** (NIP) has accepted a position with the Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response, Division of State and Local Readiness in Harrisburg PA. Her start date is December 12, 2005.

**Derrick Felix** ( DTBE) has transferred from cold winters of Fort Wayne, IN to the tropics of Hawaii's TB Program, effective December November 27, 2005

**Gabe Palumbo** (DTBE) has accepted a position with the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine as the Detroit Quarantine Station Officer in Charge. He will begin his new position on December 12, 2005.



**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

From Susan Lance-Parker, Epi Branch Chief, State Epidemiologist in Georgia--

I'm looking for someone to fill the position of Deputy Branch Chief/Public Health Advisor role. The Branch has 140 FTEs in house, and we fund and oversee activities of (but don't directly supervise) 36 folks in our district offices.

The job will have 2 primary roles (from my perspective): overseeing administrative functions from a high level (we have 2 MPH/MPA administrators plus another administrator type doing the bulk of personnel, budget and contracts) and "program development", which in my view is keeping an eye out for new revenue sources and organizing efforts to find and obtain new money.

Please forward to PHAs in the CDC system (or elsewhere) who are looking for new opportunities.

Interested candidates should contact Dr. Lance directly.

Susan Lance, DVM, PhD  
State Epidemiologist  
Director, Epidemiology Branch  
Georgia Division of Public Health



Dr. Harry Hull, Minnesota State EPI, asks for assistance in posting/promoting this job announcement for the Director of the Division of Disease Prevention & Control, Minnesota Dept. of Health. Dr. Hull indicated an interest in what a current veteran senior PHA who may be looking for other opportunities or has recently retired would bring to this position. Below is the message sent from the Human Resources office.

**DISEASE PREV & CONTROL DIVISION DIRECTOR**  
\$65,751 - \$94,106

The mission of the Department of Health is to protect, maintain and improve the health of all Minnesotans. This position contributes to that mission by providing leadership, vision and direction for the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Prevention and Control Division of the Department. The position reports to the State Epidemiologist. This is a leadership position in one of the premier infectious disease prevention and control programs in the U.S., recognized nationally and internationally for the early identification of disease outbreaks, research, and developing new disease surveillance methods.

For more information on this position and application procedures, visit: [www.doer.state.mn.us](http://www.doer.state.mn.us). Refer to requisition number **05HEAL000434** for complete description and qualifications.

The Minnesota Department of Health is an equal opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity.

This announcement closes December 16, 2005. After opening the above link to the State Employment site, select Employment Information, then select Search for a Job, enter the requisition number above in the Posting Number box and go to the bottom of the page and select Search. Select the announcement by x'ing the select box and click on View Selected Jobs at bottom of page. This will bring up the complete description of the announcement.

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CCID is looking to fill a number of upcoming vacant CIO OD Management Officer positions through the unclassified duties detail mechanism. We are looking for individuals with a wide range of administrative and management knowledge and experience. The person should also possess strong leadership and multi-tasking skills. We will use this mechanism to temporarily fill the NCID and NIP Management Officer positions. In addition, we may also consider one of the candidates to assist with the transition planning for the proposed National Center #2 under the CCID reorganization effort.

Attached are proposed unclassified duties for this position. Please share this announcement with staff in your respective organizations. We plan to fill these details as two consecutive 90-day detail periods starting around January 1, 2006.

Please forward names of interested staff and their CVs for CCID consideration to Donna McAlhaney by COB December 12th.

Reginald R. Mebane
Chief Management Official, SES
Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Unclassified Duties

This position serves as the Acting principle management official of a CCID Center/Institute/Office (CIO) and participates with the Coordinating Center (CC) Chief Management Officer (CMO), the CIO Director, and other senior agency officials in formulating and implementing the organization's goals, objectives, and plans.

DUTIES

Serves as the direct supervisor of group of employees engaged in a wide variety of administrative, management services, business operations, and planning functions. Assigns and reviews work of subordinates. Accepts, amends, or rejects work presented by employees. Exercises the full range of personnel management responsibilities, including: position structuring, employee selections, performance evaluations, training, and labor relations activities.

Manages the budget and spending plan activities of the CIO. Provides input in the formulation of the CIO budgets and presents and defends resource requirements needed to carry out the CIO long term goals and objectives. Advises the CMO and CC and CIO Directors in the preparation and presentation of the CIO out year budget. Resolves serious fiscal resource problems and issues referred by CIO supervisors.

Establishes performance plans and evaluates the performance of immediate subordinates. Reviews and approves the performance plans of supervisors and senior staff. Provides leadership, advice, and counsel to the staff. Resolves serious human resource problems and issues referred by CIO supervisors. Ensures that the training and development needs of the organization are met.



RETIREMENTS:

After 30 years of dedicated government service, **Tim Morta**, Public Health Advisor for the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch, National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) will be retiring on January 3, 2006. Tim began his federal career in 1971 in the US Army serving as an E5 Protocol Specialist in Europe for 3 years. After separating from the military, Tim began work with the tuberculosis control in local health in Olympia Washington. Beginning in 1977 and for the next 20 years, Tim served as a CDC assignee with the STD/HIV programs in San Francisco, Houston, and the childhood lead poisoning prevention program in New York City. In 1997, Tim moved to Atlanta, Georgia to serve as Project Officer for Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch where he provided technical assistance for state and local childhood lead poisoning prevention grant programs.

In addition to contributions in his professional career, he received several CDC awards for exceptional service at both the federal and state levels. Tim enjoys traveling, most recently visiting Costa Rica, as well as music and the arts. In retirement, Tim plans to begin another career in private consulting. Additionally, Tim plans on taking more time for travel and will devote more time to his other interests, such as community advocacy.

Retirement luncheon: There is a farewell open house luncheon for Tim planned on Friday, December 16, 2005 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Chamblee campus Bldg 101, Room 3114. If you would like to contribute toward a gift, please contact Pam Holland. If you would like to send a card, letter, memento, or farewell email, please contact Nikki Walker.



Jerry M. Hershovitz will retire on January 3, 2006 with nearly 40 years of dedicated government service. He began his government career with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health in 1965. One year later, he joined the Internal Revenue Service as a management intern. In 1968, he joined CDC and was assigned to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and Temple University's Health Sciences Center where he established one of the nation's first communicable disease demonstration programs (focused on the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis) in an Equal Employment Opportunity neighborhood medical center in North Philadelphia. This is where Jerry began to appreciate the dynamics and power of communities. During this period, he was an active member of the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission, an adult advisor to a North Philadelphia teenage gang, and he served as Chair of the Human Services Task Force for the Citizens of Nicetown-Tioga in North Philadelphia.

In 1970, Jerry left Philadelphia to serve in field assignments as the program manager of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Tuberculosis Control Program in Richmond and the Tidewater area, and then as Administrative Director of the Tuberculosis Control Program for the Maine Department of Human Services.

In 1974, he moved to Atlanta to join the then Center for Environmental Health where he was a project officer for the childhood lead poisoning prevention and urban rodent control programs. Later, he was a member of the implementation team that developed a pilot research and demonstration project that led to the establishment of the Division of Injury Epidemiology and Control, and later he served as Acting Chief of its Program Services Branch. During those early years, Jerry also served on CDC's Equal Employment Opportunity Council, and was the Chair of Affirmative Action during the period 1985-86.

In 1990, Jerry played a major role in establishing the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch and its national grant program, and during the period 1994 to 2000, he served as the Chief of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch.

In 2000, Jerry was Acting Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects in the National Center for Environmental Health. Later that year, he was appointed Associate Director for Program Development in the Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services, where he directed the NCEH Vision Work Group, which was responsible for developing and implementing the national strategy to revitalize the environmental public health services system. He also was the architect in developing NCEH/ATSDR's national healthy homes initiative which led to the establishment of the National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network headquartered in the Washington, D.C. area. The purpose of the Training Center and Network is to bring attention to the relationship between substandard housing and health and to train the environmental public health services workforce in the field of healthy housing. The Center and Network is in the process of establishing the nation's first healthy homes training center exclusively for Native Americans.

Since 2003, Jerry has served as a consultant to the European office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on issues related to 'healthy housing' and vector management and he is a member of the WHO work group that developed the Vilnius Declaration in support of healthy housing for all European citizens. His work with WHO has resulted in new collaborative opportunities with the European community.

During Jerry's career at CDC, he has received numerous awards, including a Public Health Service Special Recognition Award and CDC and ATSDR Honor Award.

In retirement, Jerry plans to catch up on some projects around home, spend more time with family, travel a little, and learn to relax.

There will be a farewell reception for Jerry on January 5, 2006 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 1825 Century Center, Conference Room 1A/1B and all are welcome to attend. If you would like to participate in the festivities by sharing a "Jerry experience" or contribute to the reception and gift, please contact Dr. Stephen Margolis or Louise Williams by December 20, 2005.

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After over 40 years of dedicated government service, **Jerry Curtis**, Public Health Advisor and GIS Specialist at the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch at the National Center for Environmental Health, is retiring on January 3, 2006. After serving 2 years in the Army as a medic, Jerry worked for a year at Arthur D. Little, Inc. as a research biologist before beginning his CDC career with the Venereal Disease Control Program in 1967. With this program, he was assigned to the New Jersey Department of Health from

1967-1973 and with the Baltimore Department of Health from 1974-1977. Jerry then moved to the CDC Diabetes Control Program where he was assigned to the New York State Department of Health from 1977-1990. Since 1991, Jerry has been with the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch, being first assigned to the Pennsylvania Department of Health from 1991-93 before returning to Atlanta in 1994.

In 1975, he had a 3 month assignment with the World Health Organization's Smallpox Eradication Program in Bangladesh and witnessed some of the last cases of smallpox to plague that country.

Jerry has been active in several professional organizations. While assigned to New York State, he was a founding member of the New York State Affiliate of the American Diabetes Association and served on its board of directors. In 1999, Jerry was a founding member (and Co-Chair) of the CDC/ATSDR GIS Users Group-Atlanta, in which he remains active. He is also a member of the American Geographical Society and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

Jerry takes considerable pride in his accomplishments as a GIS Specialist. In 2003, he was among the first group of GIS specialists to be recognized as Certified GIS Professionals (GISP) by URISA. His work has supported both the programmatic and epidemiologic work of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch. In addition, he has contributed his GIS skills to projects outside the Branch, most notably the Anthrax Response Team in the investigation of the Brentwood Postal Facility in Washington, DC. He has made numerous presentations regarding GIS issues, and is the lead author of a HHS publication providing guidance to childhood lead poisoning prevention programs regarding the use of GIS. He also has co-authored a number of peer-review publications.

Throughout his career, Jerry has received numerous awards, most notably two HHS Secretary's Awards for Distinguished Service in relation to service in controlling SARS and service with the Anthrax Investigation Emergency Response Team, as well as the Surgeon General's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of participation in the global Smallpox Eradication Program.

After retirement, Jerry plans to continue his GIS work as a private contractor. He also plans to spend more time with his family, listen to music, indulge in his avid reading habit, and golf.

A farewell luncheon in Jerry's honor will be held on December 21, 2005 at the Chamblee Campus, Building 101, Room 3114 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you would like to contribute toward a gift, please contact Pam Holland. If you would like to send a card, letter, memento, or farewell email, please contact Nikki Walker.

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Elaine Gunter, Deputy Director at NCEH's Division of Laboratory Sciences, will retire on January 3, 2006, bringing her highly successful 34-year career with CDC to a close. Please join us at a reception honoring Elaine at 1:00 pm on December 15, 2005, at the Chamblee campus (4770 Buford Highway) in Building 110, fourth floor atrium.

In 1997, when she was interviewed by *Laboratory Medicine*, Elaine Gunter said that she was "living her professional dream" by working at CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory. She began that odyssey in 1973, testing clinical samples of about 20,000 people for CDC's first National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES I). Elaine was Chief of the NHANES laboratory for 23 years, guiding her staff through

NHANES II and NHANES III. In May 2001, she became Deputy Director of the Division, and with her characteristic, “roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-the-job-done” attitude, she helped steer the Division through the rough waters of terrorism response, budgetary and personnel woes, and the growing pains (and joys!) experienced with the opening of two state-of-the-art laboratory facilities on the changing Chamblee campus.

Although she has been the recipient of scores of awards during her long professional career, Elaine says that the one she is most proud of is one she earned in 1969 from the South Carolina Society for Medical Technology for Outstanding Student Paper on Familial Hemophilia. “Don’t laugh,” she said, “this little award gave me confidence that I could be a scientist one day!” Since that seminal event, she has authored or co-authored 113 papers, 8 manuals or book chapters, and about 3 dozen abstracts. She has also been invited to make over 100 national and international presentations and has actively participated in at least 40 key committees or special projects.

In 1998, she led the development of CDC/ATSDR’s 9 million-vial Specimen Packaging, Inventory, and Repository known as CASPIR, working with others to develop its software system and integrate operations with ongoing CDC studies such as NHANES and the AIDS Family of Surveys. She served on the Advisory Board for Biological and Environmental Specimen Banking in Central and Eastern Europe and currently serves on the Advisory Board of Atlanta’s American Cancer Society’s LifeLink 30-year repository project. She has also advised federal agencies and other governments on their repository projects and has served as a meeting planner, speaker, and guest editor for proceedings of the International Environmental Specimen Bank Symposia. In 1999, Elaine co-founded the International Society for Environmental and Biological Repositories (ISBER), serving as its first president.

What does retirement hold for Elaine? She’ll join her husband Gary, also a CDC retiree, who has already joined the ranks of those who can “sleep in” on weekdays. They’ll spend more time at their lake home in South Carolina and await the birth of their first grandchild. Elaine will also continue her volunteer work with the Lymphoma Society. One thing is for sure: whatever she does, she will do it with gusto.

This brief description of Elaine’s awards, publications, and activities cannot fully convey the value of her contributions to the quality of the work the Division does every day. The Division will miss her organizational skills, talent, directness, vivacity, wit, and courage.

If you have questions about this announcement, please call Dorothy Sussman. If you would like to contribute toward a gift for Elaine, or send a card, letter, memento, or farewell e-mail, please call Julie Fishman. For contributions toward a gift, please make out your check to Julie Fishman. We look forward to seeing you at 1:00 pm on December 15 and celebrating this milestone in Elaine’s life.

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**Bill Schalla** will be retiring on January 3, 2006 after 33 years of dedicated government service. Bill began his government service in the U.S. Army in 1967 during the Viet Nam War. After being honorably discharged, Bill worked in the biological and pharmaceutical industry for a period of time and in 1974, joined CDC as a research microbiologist in the Bureau of Laboratories, Division of Bacteriology. After the first major CDC reorganization in 1979, the Bureau of Laboratories became the National Center for Infectious Diseases and the division became the Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Laboratory Research. Over the next several years he conducted research on

various infectious agents associated with sexually transmitted diseases and other microorganisms such as *Legionella pneumophila* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

In 1988, Bill joined the Public Health Practice Program Office (PHPPO) when it was just being formed, to assist in developing a new quality assurance program for HIV-1 antibody testing. Shortly after, Bill became Chief of this national and international quality assurance program for retroviral and AIDS-related testing and helped to expand the program into other HIV testing systems. Since 1994 (to present), Bill has also been the project officer for the Association of Public Health Laboratories cooperative agreement, assisting both the CDC CIOs and APHL with numerous collaborative public health projects. In 1999, he assumed the responsibilities as Associate Director for Program Development in the Division of Laboratory Systems, PHPPO. In 2003, Bill served as Associate Director for Management and Operations, PHPPO, until earlier this calendar year when the reorganization of PHPPO and EPO was completed. During his last months at CDC, Bill has served as Acting Chief of Extramural Services, National Center for Health Marketing (NCHM), working to transition the Extramural Services Program into NCHM.

During his career at CDC, Bill has received several CDC Superior Performance Awards, numerous other awards from NCID and PHPPO, and was nominated on two occasions for the HHS Distinguished Service Award. Bill has authored or co-authored many scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, has contributed to the development of many MMWR articles (guidelines and recommendations), and has also contributed to numerous book chapters.

In retirement, Bill plans to catch up on woodworking projects at home, spend more time with his favorite hobby of fly fishing for trout in North Georgia, traveling with his wife Julie, and will begin planning to move to the mountains of North Georgia or Southwestern North Carolina.

**Reception Location:** There is a farewell reception for Bill planned on Friday, December 9, 2005, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in Rooms 1802/1805, Williams Building., Koger Center Office Park, 2877 Brandywine Road.

If you would like to contribute to Bill's retirement reception, provide a gift and cards, farewell e-mails, or letters, please contact Rosa McPherson-Greene or contact Miriam Dugger.

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After 30 years with the Federal Government, **Dr. Victoria Pope** is retiring on January 3, 2006.

Vickie began her career as a Medical Technologist in the Mycology laboratory at Ft. McPherson for the Third Army in December 1974. When the laboratory was transferred to Ft. Gordon in 1975, Vickie transferred to CDC to work in the Bacterial Immunology Branch in the old Bureau of Laboratories. Her first job at CDC was in the Syphilis Serology Laboratory overseeing the syphilis serum bank and the syphilis proficiency testing program. When the proficiency testing was transferred to another group at CDC, she spent several years in the Leptospira laboratory. Vickie returned to syphilis in 1988 to do flow cytometry on blood samples from people infected with syphilis and with syphilis/HIV coinfection. Vickie obtained her M.S. in 1980 and her Ph.D. in 1990. In 1996 Vickie assumed the duties as chief of the syphilis reference laboratory in the Division of AIDS, STD and TB Laboratory Research of NCID then later in NCHSTP. This past year she has served as acting Deputy Associate Director for Laboratory Science, then as Acting ADLS for NCHSTP.

After retirement, Vickie plans to spend more time with friends, her horses, her cats, gardening, and taking classes in wood carving, painting, and pottery. A long-time dream is to carve a carousel horse. A move to Hartwell is in the plans, and perhaps working at the new Botanical Garden that is under construction in Hartwell.

Come help Vickie celebrate ending one phase of her life and starting another on December 8 from 1:30 to 3:30 in Bldg 19, Aud. B at the Roybal campus. For donations of food and toward gift, please contact: Sue Kikkert; Carol Farshy; Lee Lam, or Martha Fears.

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Staff at the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) cordially invite you to join us for a reception honoring **CAPT Barbara Kilbourne**, who will be retiring on November 30, 2005 after 22 years of dedicated government service.

Most recently, Barbara has served as an external partner liaison where she has been instrumental in developing the external partnership base of NCBDDD - bringing together over 300 diverse organizations to support a common focus. Moreover, her exceedingly high level of achievement and sustained leadership contributions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have resulted in numerous positive and sustained impacts on the agency, as well as the health of the nation.

Throughout her years of service, Barbara contributed significantly to the identification of HIV as the agent causing AIDS; the creation of CDC/ATSDR Specimen Bank, which set national and international standards for specimen storage and collection; and the development of the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), a state-of-the-art electronic surveillance system that improved CDC's capacity for integrated surveillance and served as an exemplary model for cross-agency collaboration.

As a nurse in the Commission Corps, Barbara also served on a number of emergency response activities, including the SARS and Monkeypox Public Health Response Teams, and most recently with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She also helped raise awareness of the unique preparedness concerns of people with disabilities and pregnant women. Barbara also enabled CDC to become a better workplace for employees and, appropriately, to serve as a role model for agencies, by establishing the agency's recycling and lactation programs.

In retirement, Barbara plans to become more involved in Girls Scouts, her church, and other ways to help her community - and of course, to spend more time with her four children Davey, Becka, Mikey, and Katie, and her husband, Ed Kilbourne. She is also looking forward to a cruise to celebrate turning 50 this year!

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Fran Reid-Sanden will retire on January 3, 2006, after 29 years of government service. Fran, a former Peace Corps volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa, joined CDC's rabies research laboratory in 1978 as a medical technologist and then microbiologist. In 1990, she left the lab and joined the Technology Transfer Office. During her seven years in Tech Transfer, she passed the Patent Bar exam, becoming CDC's first registered Patent Agent. In 1997, Fran dusted off her health education degree and moved to the Human Research Protection Office where she currently serves as a Public Health Educator. In 2002, Fran achieved another first at CDC, becoming its first certified IRB professional (CIP). Fran also served as the president of the Association for Professional Women (APW) in 1996.

Fran received undergraduate degrees from the University of Maryland and a Masters degree from Georgia State University. In January, Fran and her husband, Gary (who retired on 12/1 from the USPHS Commissioned Corps), and Scottie, Lilly, are retiring to a piece of heaven located in the Cuchara Valley of Southern Colorado (see photo), where they will break ground on a new house in March 2006. In retirement, Fran plans to become a master quilter (she's only a novice right now) and mother to two new family additions: a male Scottie puppy and a female Boykin Spaniel puppy. Fran will leave her post as rescue coordinator for the Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Atlanta, but plans to join the Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Denver and become active in its rescue program.

For information about a reception that is being planned for Friday, January 6, please contact Pam Galusha.

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After 26 years of Federal service, **Betty Willis** is retiring from CDC/ATSDR on January 3, 2006.

Betty Willis began her government career at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV in December 1979. She worked in the Hazardous Waste Permitting and the Hazardous Waste Compliance Sections during her 11+ years at EPA. Ms Willis issued the first hazardous waste incinerator permit in the nation and was quickly recognized as an EPA expert in incineration. While on detail to EPA Headquarters, she set up an EPA Incineration Workgroup with representatives from each regional office, headquarters, and two EPA laboratories doing incineration related research. During her tenure, the workgroup developed a series of guidance manuals and training courses for permitting and inspecting hazardous waste incinerators and industrial furnaces and additional regulations for those facilities. In recognition of Betty's contributions to the hazardous waste program at EPA, she received two Bronze Medals and a Silver Medal.

In August 1991, Ms. Willis transferred to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) where she worked for 14+ years in the Division of Health Assessment and Consultation. She was one of the first employees hired to conduct health assessments at Superfund sites owned by the Dept. of Defense and the Dept. of Energy. While in the Federal Programs Branch, Ms. Willis co-authored a guidance manual for health assessors, "Public Health Overview of Incineration as a Means to Destroy Hazardous Waste" and was editor of the guidance, "Environmental Data Needed for Public Health Assessments." When a new evaluation group was established, Betty transferred to the Program Evaluation, Records, and Information Services Branch. While there, she was made the ATSDR Combustion Expert and she wrote another guidance manual for CDC/ATSDR, "Public Health Reviews of Hazardous Waste Thermal Treatment Technologies" and presented papers at an international incineration conference in Brussels, Belgium and two international thermal treatment conferences in the US. In 1998, she led a US delegation to Chile to provide technical assistance to Chilean officials on the burning of alternative waste fuels in three cement kilns. The past year and a half she worked on air and combustion related issues in the Exposure Investigation and Consultation Branch.

Betty Willis received a Master of Science degree in Chemistry in 1968 from Loma Linda University in CA. She taught for two years in California before moving with her husband Larry Willis to Atlanta, GA, where she worked for 9 years at a specialty chemical manufacturing company, AMREP, Inc., as Chief Chemist and later as Technical Director. After retirement, Betty plans to spend more time with friends and relatives, traveling in the US and Europe, and taking painting classes to name just a few of the many things

on her "To Do List." A move to their house on Lake Lanier is in their plans, as well as spending more time at their home in Hilton Head, SC.

Come help Betty celebrate her retirement at a reception on December 13 from 3:00 to 4:30 at Century Center Building 1825, Conference Room 1A/B. For donations of food or for a gift please contact Rita Tallini, Kathy Hemphill. Cards, old pictures, or notes of remembrance for Betty can be sent to Rita Tallini Mail Stop E-32. If you need additional information contact Rita Tallini.

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After 21 years of federal service--14 years at CDC--**Linda Cockrill** will retire on December 31, 2005. She has worked from 1999 to the present for the OWCD/TCSB CDC Corporate University, as head of the School of Public Health Education and Communication and has worked diligently to develop comprehensive public health marketing, communication and education training programs. Recently, she was honored with a Special Service Award by the CDC Director of CCHSS for her efforts on behalf of the CDC Faith-Based Initiative & Programs. In 2001, she received a CDC Director's Special Act Award for efforts in conjunction with the First International Mental Health Conference for assistance to former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, the Carter Center, the National Mental Association and the World Health Organization.

Linda joined the Public Affairs Office in 1993 and co-chaired the activities of the CDC 50th Anniversary Celebration in 1995-1996. She also was speechwriter for CDC Director Dr. David Satcher and worked on the 200th Anniversary of the Public Health Service when Dr. Satcher was appointed U.S. Surgeon General. In 1996 she received the CDC Communicators Roundtable Excellence in Health Communication Award, along with the 50th Anniversary Committee, and was recognized with the Health Communication Media Award and the International CINE Golden Eagle International Film Award along with other committee members.

She was the NIOSH Project Manager for post-doctoral cooperative agreements and the CDC Office of Minority Health IMHOTEP fellowship program, and had previously worked at the National Center for Prevention Services, STD/HIV as a writer-editor.

In addition to her federal service, she worked for 21 years in the corporate sector, as well as for non-profit organizations and as a freelance communication consultant. As editor of the U. S. Army TRADOC Fort Gordon newspapers, she was named U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Civilian Journalist of the Year in 1984 and 1985. Over her career, she has received more than 15 awards for outstanding special events planning, communication campaigns, writing, and editing. She is a member of the CDC Communicators Roundtable, CDC PHEP-Net, CDC Health Literacy Group, the Watsonian Society, is a charter member of the CDC Mental Health Working Group, and is on the CDC Christian Fellowship Group Executive Committee.

In retirement, she plans to continue special events planning and freelance communication projects. She will continue championing education and training in the mental health arena, as well as community service. She looks forward to traveling, exercise, attending sporting events (including Braves baseball, Auburn football and professional golf), along with swing dancing, gardening and participating in church activities. She will also spend more time with her family and friends.

A retirement celebration will be held in her honor on Friday, December 16, 2005 from 2:00 pm-4 pm at Koger/Yale Building, Smith/Anderson/Bauer Rooms. Please join us in

congratulating Linda on her long and productive career with CDC and in wishing her all the best in her future endeavors. If you would like to contribute to Linda's retirement reception, provide a gift or a card, farewell e-mails or letters for inclusion in a memory book, contact Odessa Jones.

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**Rebecca (Becky) O'Kelley**, Chief, International Acquisition & Assistance Branch and Acting Chief, Coordinating Center for Health Information and Service (COCHIS) Branch, PGO, will be retiring on January 3, 2006, after 36 years of dedicated government service. Becky began her federal career in February, 1970 at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska in their Procurement Office as a GS-03, Clerk Typist. In 1972 she transferred to the Procurement Office at Eielson AFB in Alaska and in 1973 moved to Washington, DC and worked at Andrews AFB in Maryland, providing support to the 89th Support Wing which houses the President's plane and later provided contracting support to the Pentagon and the Secretary of the Air Force at the Air Force District of Washington Contracting Center. In 1977 she moved to Malmstrom AFB, Montana and worked in the Base Procurement Office. In 1981 she transferred back to Andrews AFB and in 1988 relocated to Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio. While at Wright Patterson she worked as a Branch Chief in the Research and Development Contracts Office supporting the Turbine Engine Division with faster, quieter engines for the planes. She also worked in the Systems Program Office on the development contract for the C-17 airplane and later served as the Contracting Officer responsible for awarding the production contract for delivery of the first four aircrafts. In 1993, after 23 years with DOD, she took the plunge and transferred to the civilian section as a Contracting Officer with the Environmental Protection Agency. While there she served as a Branch Chief providing support to the Office of Research Development and the Office of Water. Becky received a Bronze Medal for superior Contracting Customer Service to the EPA.

Becky transferred to the CDC in Atlanta in 1998 as the Contracting Section Chief supporting NCHSTP, ATSDR and NCEH. When the international activities at CDC began to ramp up with the LIFE initiative, she was asked to lead those activities in PGO. That initiative led to the creation of a new International Branch within PGO and in 2001 she became the International Branch Chief for all the International contracting and grant activities at CDC. The International Branch has grown from two FTE's to a total of 32 positions to support the demanding and growing activities in approximately 60 countries around the world. In addition to the International Branch, Becky has been serving as the Acting Branch Chief for the COCHIS Branch since February 2005.

In addition to the numerous awards and contributions in her professional career, Becky is a very active member in her church and many volunteer activities. She has traveled extensively for volunteer work in several countries in Africa as well as teaching weekly classes for International in English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes. In retirement, Becky plans to spend time with her family, travel, and devote more time to some of her favorite hobbies which include sewing, decorating and playing the piano.

Retirement Luncheon: There is a farewell luncheon for Becky planned on January 5, 2006, from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30346 (across from Perimeter Mall). Tickets for the luncheon are \$30.00 per person. Please RSVP for the luncheon by December 20, 2005, to Sherry Smallwood, or Shirley Wynn. If you would like to contribute toward a gift for Becky, or send a card, letter, memento, or farewell email, please contact either Sherry or Shirley. For tickets or contributions toward a gift, please make checks payable to Sherry Smallwood.

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CAPT Robert H. Johnson will be retiring from ATSDR on January 1, 2006 after 20 years, 6 months, and 2 days of dedicated government service. Robert began his time with the U.S. Public Health Service in 1985, working as a medical officer with the Makah Nation in Washington State as part of the Indian Health Service. He transferred to the I.H.S. Portland Area Office in 1987 where he worked with the tribes of the Pacific Northwest, as well as many Native communities throughout North America, in the areas of alcoholism and substance abuse treatment and prevention.

In 1996, after 11 great years with the Indian Health Service, Dr. Johnson came to Atlanta and joined the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, despite the fact that it has a pretty long name and people are always messing up the acronym. He has been in several positions with ATSDR including work in exposure investigations, health education, and health communication. Dr. Johnson has been recognized for his work with communities and health care providers at high profile sites such as Spring Valley neighborhood in Washington, DC, Fort Ord in Monterey County, California, Tanapag Village, Saipan, and Galena Air Field in Alaska.

CAPT Johnson has served as the CDC Liaison for the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health for the past two years. He has also taught risk assessment at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, since 1997 where he was awarded the Student Government "Professor of the Year" Award for 2003-2004.

Dr. Johnson will be leaving for East Africa in early January. He will do some volunteer work in public health, but the majority of his time will be dedicated to catching up on his writing, music, and photography careers which have been tragically neglected.

A farewell reception for Robert is being planned for Saturday, December 10, 2005. Please RSVP for the reception. Those wishing to contribute to a gift should contact Joe Maloney, ATSDR Division of Health Assessment and Consultation.

CDC Point of Contact is Robert H. Johnson.

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After 37 years of federal service, **Emmett Swint** will be retiring on January 3, 2006. His government career began in 1964 with four years in the U.S. Navy. After completing a Master's Degree in Experimental Psychology from Georgia Tech in 1973, he began work at the Knoxville, IA Veterans Administration Hospital as a Psychology Research Technician. His VA career spanned 17 years with research, management analyst and health planning positions in Portland OR, Marion IN, Madison WI and Atlanta GA.

In 1990, Emmett began work at CDC in the National Immunization Program as a computer specialist, providing data management support to several measles and vaccine safety studies. In 1995, he transferred to the Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention as a scientific information specialist. During the last 10 years, he has been instrumental in many DSTDP projects including syphilis elimination, STD performance measures, STD surveillance reports and requests, and Indian Health Service activities.

*"This time like all times is a very good one if we but know what to do with it."* Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emmett's retirement celebration will be held on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at Corporate Square/Building 1/Conference Room 2512.

Please join us in congratulating Emmett on his long and productive career with CDC and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. If you would like to contribute to Emmett's retirement reception, provide a gift or a card, farewell e-mails or letters for inclusion in a memory book, contact Melinda Flock or Rose Horsley .

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On December 30, after 35 years of outstanding service, **Craig Leutzinger** will walk through the doors as a CDC employee for the last time and walk out – **RETIRED!**

Craig joined CDC in 1970 as a Public Health Advisor with the Division of STD in Baltimore. He continued to work with the Division for a decade, serving in Philadelphia, Washington DC, and Anchorage. He also went international, joining the Smallpox Eradication Program in Bangladesh and the Indochinese Refugee Program in Indonesia. In 1980 Craig joined the Division of Immunization, where he remained for another decade, moving from Alaska, to Baltimore, and finally to Madison, Wisconsin, where he served as Immunization Program Director. After 20 years, Craig found himself in Atlanta with the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Craig helped expand BRFSS to all 50 states and coordinated the development of the annual survey instrument. And finally, in 2000, Craig joined the Malaria Branch, Division of Parasitic Diseases, NCID, as Deputy Chief, where his management, administrative, and diplomatic skills were put to great advantage as the newly formed Branch expanded.

A retirement celebration will be held in Craig's honor on Friday, January 6, 2006, from 2 – 4 p.m., Chamblee Campus, Building 102, Room 2201. Join us in congratulating Craig on his incredible career from Alaska to Zimbabwe and in wishing him the best as he pursues his many and varied interests in his retirement.

For those who would like to contribute to this reception, please contact Brady Penix,. We would also welcome photographs, anecdotes, or words of congratulations to be included in a memory book for Craig.

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**Rhonda Whalen**, Chief, Laboratory Practice Standards Branch, National Center for Health Marketing, is retiring January 3, 2006, after 33 years of federal service.

Rhonda began her federal career in 1972 when she joined CDC as a Laboratory Examiner in the Laboratory Improvement Program Office's Licensure and Proficiency Testing Division. For the next eight years, she traveled throughout the United States evaluating laboratories for compliance with the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) regulations. In 1981, Rhonda transferred to the Health Care Financing Administration where, as a program analyst, she participated in the development and promulgation of federal regulations that applied to laboratory services in a variety of health care delivery sites including hospitals, nursing homes, and end-stage renal disease facilities. She also served as the Executive Director of the HHS Advisory Panel charged with providing specific recommendations to the Department and Congress on the development and use of an assessment instrument for determining post-hospital extended care services for Medicare beneficiaries. Subsequently, Rhonda was promoted to Chief of the Laboratory and Home Services Branch within the Health Standards and Quality Bureau. In this position, she was responsible for directing all activities related to the survey and certification of laboratories for Medicare approval and licensure for interstate commerce, including supervision and coordination of approximately 100 laboratory surveyors located across the country. When new CLIA legislation was enacted in 1988, Rhonda played a pivotal role, leading a tri-agency effort

to develop regulations that would, for the first time, apply to all of the Nation's approximately 180,000 clinical laboratories.

In 1991, Rhonda returned to CDC as a Senior Health Scientist in the Public Health Practice Program Office's Division of Laboratory Systems and later as Chief of the Laboratory Practice Standards Branch. There she served as the CLIA subject matter expert, leading the Division's extensive involvement in the national laboratory certification program. In addition to the development of numerous laboratory regulations, guidelines and good practices, Rhonda directed the Division's daily collaborations with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (formerly HCFA) and FDA. This included managing HHS's Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC), and providing scientific and technical expertise for the review and evaluation of national proficiency testing programs, state licensure programs, and professional organizations' laboratory accreditation programs; developing educational tools; and evaluating current and emerging laboratory methods and technologies.

Over the course of her career, Rhonda has received numerous accolades and awards from federal and state agencies and laboratory programs, laboratory professional organizations, and industry recognizing her outstanding contributions and commitment to the promotion of high quality laboratory testing and practices.

Following retirement, Rhonda plans to travel and visit family and friends.

Please join us in wishing Rhonda all the best as she leaves behind a dedicated and exemplary federal career. A celebration reception will be held on February 8, 2006, from 4-6 p.m. in the Savannah Room of the Doubletree Hotel Atlanta-Buckhead located at 3342 Peachtree Road, NE (telephone: 404-231-1234). Hotel daily self-parking charges: \$4 for the 1st hour, \$8 for 2 or more hours when attending an afternoon/evening function

Cards, notes, photos, and contributions toward a retirement gift may be sent to Deborah Coker at MS-F11

