



WATSONIAN NEWSLETTER- March 9, 2005

WELCOME	COMMITTEE NEWS
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS	MEMBER NEWS
SICK BAY	HAVE YOU HEARD?
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS	TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS & TDYs
RETIREMENTS	

WELCOME New members
 Laura Kearns (NIP)
 Roger Bernier (NIP)
 Robert D. Moran (Retired)
 Ron Bruder {associate}
 Ron Sanders (DHAP)

COMMITTEE NEWS

COMMITTEE NEWS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING - all are invited to call in and participate.
 When: Tuesday **2:30 - 4 pm 3/15/2005.**
 Where: CORPORATE SQUARE, building 11, Room 2101
 Call In: Toll free #: 866-732-9603, Passcode 873632

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A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER- Valerie Kokor:

Dear Watsonian Member:

It's time again for renewing dues. If you paid last year, you should have received a membership card. If you cannot remember if you've already paid (the excuse most given by those we tracked down), just let me know and I can check for you (Valerie Kokor). The following are the dues costs:

The following are the costs for Public Health Advisors:

- \$15 for one year (active and retired)
- \$40 for three years (active and retired)

and for associates

- \$6 for one year (associate members)
- \$15 for three years (associate members)

In addition, we have a Lifetime Membership, with eligibility as follows:

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Members in good standing during the previous five (5) dues paying periods (years.)
2. Member meets the minimum age requirement, at least 52 years of age as of Jan.1.
3. Lifetime membership application is submitted during the first quarter of each calendar year, (January-March)
4. Lifetime membership application includes payment in full.
5. Member will have 15 days after application and payment is submitted to rescind their decision and obtain a full refund.

Lifetime Membership Options:

Option A: Members who are 52-59 years of age as of January 1, may exercise the Lifetime Membership Option with a one-time payment of \$225.00.

Option B: Members who are 60-69 years of age as of January 1, may exercise the Lifetime Membership Option with a one-time payment of \$150.00.

Option C: Members who are 70+ years of age as of January 1, may exercise the Lifetime Membership Option with a one-time payment of \$75.00.

For those of you recruiting new members, the initiation cost is \$10 for first-time members and \$5 for associate members, **plus** the appropriate annual dues.

For those who have fallen behind in paying dues, there is a \$5 reinstatement fee.

Please remit your 2004 Watsonian Society dues payment to the following address **BY NO LATER THAN March 31, 2004:**

The Watsonian Society
P.O. Box 95032
Atlanta, GA 30347-0032

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in submitting your dues in a timely fashion. If you have questions, please email me,
Valerie

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EVENTS COMMITTEE << OLE Object: Picture (Metafile) >>

SAVE THE DATE:

The Annual Watsonian Society Retirement Pig Roast And BBQ

Date: Saturday, April 23

Time: 2:00-7:00 pm

Tickets: \$15/person [Expected to be on sale soon—watch for an update announcement!]

Location:

American Legion Post 140 aka “The Hut”
3905 Powers Ferry Road N.W.

Calling all volunteers!

We will be receiving our assignment of an Infantry platoon shortly, but in the meantime, we can start collecting items: All kinds of food snacks, candy, paper, books, magazines, etc...(full list was listed in the February newsletter)

HELPFUL: Postage to be used to send the boxes to the platoon

(this can be in the form of money, or stamps, further details will be forthcoming.)

Boxes (10 x 10 x 18 or smaller, an easiest for the military to transport).

DO NOT SEND:

Pork - Liquor - Pornographic material - Religious items offensive to the Islamic faith

Stacy Harper is the coordinator for this effort. All items can be dropped off to her office, and she will box them up and send them on.

[note: the interoffice mail can NOT BE USED for food items- please bring them to Stacy's office]

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**UPDATE: "Get Ticked Off" campaign**

From **Ted Pestorius**: The Watsonian's "Get Ticked Off" campaign continues to move forward. We had hoped to be able to convey more information by this time, but aren't quite there. In a nutshell, the project involves sending Watsonians to Arizona in May to assist a community with a tick infestation that is leading to an unprecedented transmission of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; an infestation that has **led to two pediatric deaths**. We're currently negotiating many of the logistics and there is a small work group pulling this together. Stay tuned, and we hope to have more to tell you in the immediate future. In the interim, please feel free to check the information already on line.

The replay will be available for 360 days, ending FEB-12-2006

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**NET CONFERENCING PARTICIPANT ACCESS INFORMATION**

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URL: [<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>](https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/)

CONFERENCE NUMBER: PG3788095

AUDIENCE PASSCODE: CCOOPER

TO REPLAY

To access the Net replay of this call, go to:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PG3788095&p=CCOOPER&t=r>

The replay will be available for 360 days, ending FEB-12-2006

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**MEMBER NEWS:**

**Wayne Raynor** recently joined some PHA colleagues at the monthly social. Wayne was with CDC for only 2 years (1974-76) in the Philadelphia STD program. Thereafter he was a state employee with North Carolina for several years and is now with the Cumberland, NC, County Health Department. He still has vivid memories of his fun days in the field. Thanks to Dennis McDowell for reconnecting Wayne with us.

Interesting, at that 'meeting' at the *Famous Pub*, **Lisa Davis** - who has just completed a 5 month detail to NIP HQ and is headed back to Texas - was able to

identify with locations which Wayne recalled as she also spent some time with the Philly STD program ('88-'90)...'ah, those were the days".

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SICK BAY:

Attn: Former CDC Assignees to Alabama STD Program."

Sent in by **Jim Novotny**

I recently discovered that Dot Cleghorn, who was, I believe, the Executive Secretary in the Alabama State Office STD Program and also handled ICCRs, has become ill. She has had numerous problems, many of them seem to have been brought about by the recent medical care. Her daughter tells me that she has improved a great deal over the past year (and Dot sounds pretty good: we spoke for a while on the phone the other day). She didn't say so, but I know that she would appreciate a cheerful word and/or a get-well card.

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**Van Jenkins** is home recovering from gall bladder surgery.

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**NURSERY TIME**

**Karen Arrowood**, former WS webmaster, and now PHA in Austin, TX. delivered a baby girl, Rachel 6 pounds, 4 oz, 19 inches long on February 17, 2005.. Mom and baby are doing well. Dad (Scott) and big brother Rhys are pleased to have everyone home!

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Coordinating Center for Health Information and Services (CoCHIS) is pleased to announce its selections for two acting positions. **Gina Martin** has been selected on detail as our Acting Workforce and Career Development Officer (OWCD) and **Angie Tracey** as our Acting Strategy and Innovation Officer (OSI).

Ms. Martin brings a wealth of experience -- over 24 years of Federal government service of which 18 years have been with the DHHS. She has held a variety of positions in human resources at the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently, Gina serves as the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Operations at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). She is responsible for coordinating the PMA activities of the Center as well as senior advisor on HR and a variety of administrative management issues including recruitment and staffing, classification, employee and labor relations, organizational and workforce development, policy development and analysis, facilities management, administration, and supervision.

Ms. Tracey joins the CoCHIS OD having most recently been working with OSI on goals development and management. She is formerly the Coordinator for Partnerships in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention where she designed and directed the National HIV/AIDS Partnership, NHAP; the Business Responds to AIDS and Labor Responds to AIDS Programs.

Prior to her career at CDC, Ms. Tracey served in Washington, D.C. as Director of Corporate and Public Liaison for the U.S. Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration and Associate Director of the Office for Substance Abuse Prevention. Previously she was anchor for an NBC television affiliate and Press Secretary for a Member of Congress. She served as lead Legislative Aide on international narcotic matters for both the Congressman and for the U.S. House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. Ms. Tracey was responsible for the development and passage of landmark legislation and investigative hearings in the areas of domestic and international narcotics control, the law requiring patient information or "patient package inserts" in prescription drugs and anti-stalking.

She later joined the administration and served as the principal architect of the federal government's drug prevention efforts and national drug prevention strategy, working with the Cabinet and independent federal agencies, as Director of the Drug Prevention Program. She has won numerous marketing and communications awards for various programs she has designed and received a unanimous resolution of commendation from the Georgia House of Representatives for her work nationwide in substance abuse.

Please join us in welcoming these extremely qualified individuals to the CoCHIS OD.

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I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Carlton Duncan** as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Deputy Chief Operating Officer, effective February 20, 2005.

Mr. Duncan has more than 26 years of service with CDC. He worked most recently in the Facilities Planning and Management Office (FPMO), serving as the Deputy Director of FPMO and later as the acting Director. From 1988 through 2001, Mr. Duncan worked in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, where he served as Deputy Associate Director for Management and Operations, Chief of the Program Services Branch, Lead Program Analyst for HIV Programs, and Project Officer in the CDC School Health Education to Prevent the Spread of AIDS Program.

Mr. Duncan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology/Education from Howard University and a Master of Science degree in Public Health-Health Education/Behavior from the University of North Carolina.

I know that I can count on your support of Mr. Duncan as he assumes this key position at CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Please join me in welcoming him to his new role.

William H. Gimson, M.B.A., Chief Operating Officer

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Director Focuses on Budget, New CMOs, at Lunch and Learn February 22, 2005

CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding's All-Hands Lunch-and-Learn last Friday focused on the President's Budget for FY 2006, the Congressional appropriations process, and the new Chief Management Officers at CDC.

As the lunchtime crowd munched and listened, she explained that the budget includes both increases and decreases for CDC. Influenza and global disease

detection are getting raises while building and facilities and some other programs are slated for cuts.

Chief Operating Officer **Bill Gimson** and Donald Shriber, Director of CDC/Washington, were on hand to help explain the budget process. "There are many priorities competing for scarce federal dollars," said Gimson. However the proposed budget is not final.

It's a long, drawn-out process which includes months of meetings and negotiations, they explained. Shriber compared the appropriations process to a piece of modern art. "It's tidy but messy, formal but abstract, structured but chaotic, knowable but inscrutable," he said.

The important message for CDC is that while the President's proposed budget does reduce funding in various areas, it's not a done deal. "More important than looking at the increases and decreases is looking at the budget history," said Gimson. CDC's funding history shows an upward trend in the amount in the President's budget which is proposed each year, so the total CDC budget has been increased as a result of the appropriations process.

Since 1972 Congress has passed all the appropriations bills by the start of the fiscal year only four times. October 1 is months away, and before it rolls around there will be lots of negotiations going on in Congress and CDC will have lots of opportunities to answer questions about programs and funding.

The good news—the influenza vaccine program gets a boost of \$50 million, "an unprecedented increase." Other winners—global disease detection with a boost of \$12 million and a \$203 million increase for the strategic stockpile. However, buildings and facilities face a \$240 million cut. "There will be lots of interaction over the next few months," said Gimson. "We have confidence that we will stay on track and by the time we reach October 1st we will be in great position."

Another cut—\$59 million to the Youth Media campaign known as VERB. Despite the cuts, Gerberding held VERB up as "an extraordinary success story. It's probably one of the best projects we've had." She cited it as an excellent example of leveraging resources and said it's critical for such leveraging to continue in the future. "The word leverage is a theme we are going to have to concentrate on this year." She said VERB created extraordinary partnerships and is a model in demonstrating the effectiveness of a health marketing campaign.

She said Donna Garland, Director, Office of Enterprise Communications, will help get out such success stories, an important task, in the future and during budget considerations.

"We have lots of opportunities to provide information," said Gerberding. There is a high national priority right now on emergency preparedness and emerging disease protection she explained, but CDC recognizes the high priority of the many other programs which have an impact on the nation's health.

"We have to demonstrate the real success of our programs," emphasized Shriber. "In the tough budgetary times we face that becomes more and more important."

To that end, Gerberding urged each CDC employee to help make CDC's successes visible. Many of those success stories are spotlighted in the new State of the CDC report, which will be released today (Tuesday, February 22) at the National Press Club in Washington. "It's a snapshot of the extraordinary achievements at CDC," the director said. "We have achieved dramatic improvements and accomplished things for every life stage." Gerberding recognized Lydia Ogden for her hard work in pulling the report together

She praised the efforts of the vaccine program and flu branch, which achieved higher immunization numbers in some categories this year than ever before, despite the vaccine shortage and continuing pressure faced by the branch due to SARS. "Considering how little vaccine was available, this is an extraordinary achievement."

She mentioned success stories with group b strep, occupational health, environmental health, and injury programs, just to name a few. She said there are fewer adolescents smoking now than in any year since 1992. "If that trend continues we'll meet our Healthy People 2010 goal for youth smoking." She recognized the importance of the diabetes awareness programs and the smoke alarm and fire safety program—which is credited with saving 610 lives.

She announced a commitment to strengthen CDC's vaccine safety efforts. Four initial steps in this direction include: increasing resources for immunization safety research and priority activities, identifying gaps and opportunities in immunization safety activities, separating immunization safety activities from immunization education and promotion by moving program activities from NIP, to fall under Dixie Snider's Office, and emphasizing transparency in immunization safety research and science. She said that as Chief Science Officer, he and the Excellence in Science committee are helping to make sure that public health research is an agency priority including development of a CDC-wide Research Agenda.

Considering the budget cuts, she said, "I know the first message that I have to deliver to Congress is buildings and facilities. But number two is health protection research, public health research."

Another focus of the meeting—announcing the new Chief Management Officers. They include: Reggie Mebane, Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases (CoCID), Galen Carver, Coordinating Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (OPTER), Avis Dickey, Office of Workforce and Career Development (OWCD), Crayton Lankford, Coordinating Office of Global Health (OGH), Ruth Martin, Coordinating Center for Environmental Health and Injury Prevention (EHIP), Mike Parvin, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion (CoCHP), and Katie Shebesh, Coordinating Center for Health Information and Services (CoCHIS).

Gerberding also recognized Lonnie King, the new Director, Office Strategy and Innovation and Anne Schuchat, new Acting Director of NCID.

The trio speaking at the Lunch-and-Learn fielded questions from the audience. Dennis McDowell asked how we can share our success stories, and Shriber said bringing the division directors together really helps with sharing best practices. Dr. Suzanne Smith wanted to know how CDC can help make its case before Congress. "It's results," said Gerberding. "We must be able to explain the health impact. This

really involves our goals process. And don't be shy about taking credit," she urged. "It's time to say we do make a difference, we do help."

Saying she wants to "keep the dialogue," open, Gerberding asked CDC employees to email questions anytime. And Dr. Steve Thacker, Director, Office of Career and Workforce Development, said a new pulse check survey will be held next month, another way to give your input.

As the State of CDC is released and work begins on preparing for the appropriations hearings, Gerberding made a promise to her staff. "I will do everything I can to shine a light on your work."

This Inside Story by CDC Connects reporter Kathy Nellis.

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CDC's Tsunami Relief Efforts Bring Light and Hope to Region March 2, 2005

It's been over two months since the massive quake and deadly tsunamis hit Southeast Asia and Africa. The devastation is overwhelming—nearly 300 thousand dead and over a million more without their homes. CDC personnel were among the first on the scene to respond and that work continues, said Director Dr. Julie Gerberding in a recent press conference. "CDC has never before responded to a natural disaster of this size. The scope is beyond imagination." More on her remarks later. But first, a closer look at one-way CDC pitched in—to help rebuild and to help safeguard lives—in time of need.

Through its post-tsunami work in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the Occupational and Environmental Health Team (OEHT) learned that electrical workers there were at risk of injury. As part of CDC's Operation Earthquake, OEHT was involved in efforts to provide health, safety, and prevention recommendations. Bruce Bernard, MD, MPH, Medical Section Chief, Hazard Evaluations and Technical Assistance Branch, Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations and Field Studies, NIOSH, was the OEHT Lead on Operation Earthquake. He contacted the State Electric Power Company Workers' Union in Banda Aceh to find out what was happening concerning workers, worker health and safety, and the re-electrification of the affected provinces.

He discovered that electrical workers in a local union there were restoring power to the Aceh Provinces but were at risk of electrocution and burns because their personal protective equipment (PPE) had been lost in the tsunami. "That meant that the workers were attempting electrical repairs without adequate personal protection and were putting themselves at serious risk of occupational injury—electrocution, falls, and injuries," he explains.

Through Spahr's contacts with the International Safety Equipment Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, he was able to identify and specify the types of certified equipment needed, coordinate the in-kind donation of these materials from multiple vendors, centralize the donation of these supplies to Atlanta, and then assist in the coordination of the shipment. He says this effort worked because of the diligence, know-how, and endless energy of the OEHT Team and the CDC Logistics Team.

The Occupational and Environmental Health Team were happy to help in relief efforts. The equipment sent will help protect the workers re-electrifying the 19 Aceh Provinces, and be available to the work force, hopefully long after the tsunami clean up is completed

It was a team effort, agrees Goolsby. "I think Operation Earthquake was a situation in which CDC utilized its resources and expertise to help the people affected by the tsunami. We sent more than \$30,000 worth of equipment, with the help of the World Health Organization, the local union in Indonesia, and others."

The Banda Aceh electrical workers now have appropriate PPE (including general utility, low- and high-voltage electrical lineman gloves, low-conductance electrical hardhats, arc flash resistant safety spectacles, and work positioning equipment and fall protective harnesses for working at height) to protect them and speed up vital utility system repairs.

"We made real impact in protecting these workers and it felt wonderful!" says Bernard. "When I spoke to Eddy Irawan (the union leader in Banda Aceh) by phone, he was so amazed and humbled to have others half a world away interested in the electricians' well being. He couldn't believe that we could possibly get safety equipment to his union brothers and sisters...he thought all had been lost after the earthquake and tsunami."

This equipment will help protect the workers re-electrifying the 19 Aceh Provinces, and be available to the work force, hopefully long after the tsunami clean up is completed. The Union is also concentrating on getting the equipment to the smaller towns, which they say are much worse equipped after the tsunami.

That tragedy was beyond belief, said CDC Dr. Julie Gerberding, taking part in a panel for Georgia Public Broadcasting's Tsunami Relief Press Conference. She appeared with former Ambassador Andrew Young, CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and CARE President Peter Bell. "There were so many bodies, so many people looking for loved ones. It was an extraordinary challenge, almost unbearable."

Gerberding said CDC was quick to recognize the mental health issues involved as well as the other public health issues. "When we set up our Emergency Operations Center, we created a mental health team to make sure our folks were properly supported, as well as to provide support there."

Bell, who steps down next year as CARE's President, said the response has been overwhelming. "We are two-thirds of the way to our goal of \$50 million. We have literally had children come in off the street and give their tooth fairy money."

Bell said he hopes there is a way to transform this tragedy into a chance to address the extreme poverty of the world. "For the 1.2 billion people who live on \$1 a day or less, each day has the potential for disaster."

This event is a not a disaster for a few weeks or a few months, emphasized Young. "It's a disaster for years to come." He said relief efforts must continue five and ten years down the road. And while the tsunamis have sparked a huge international

outpouring of donations, he wants people to remember there are many needs around the world everyday. “We need to make charity an ongoing part of our lives.”

As an example, Young recognized the long-time efforts of the CDC Foundation to provide funds for the valuable work done by CDC around the globe.

Gerberding said the US response to the tsunami was heroic and gave high marks to the Department of Defense. “It was wonderful for our workforce to have the kind of security support we needed in the field, so we could concentrate on helping those affected.” While the devastation is horrifying, it could have been even more disastrous if epidemics had sprung up in the aftermath. However, the threat remains, said Gerberding. “We think of this as running a marathon. We get reports of a case of cholera here, measles there. But attention to public health will have to go on for years since there are millions of displaced people.”

CDC was able to react so quickly because it has been scaling up its international assets, she explained. “We have scientists in 26 countries working in HIV. We had field stations in Bangkok, Thailand, so those very same scientists were already in place, right there ready to help. Part of our overall preparedness spills into the global arena.”

All the panelists stressed the importance of sustaining the relief effort as time goes by. As monsoon season sets in, there are new challenges to be faced—malaria prevention, dengue fever prevention, flooding, and water contamination. Then there are the challenges of rebuilding homes and restoring power and basic services. Which brings us right back to CDC’s role in helping those electricians.

The electricians are working to restore such services, after people a half a world away pitched in to make sure they could do their jobs safely. While it might seem to be an “untraditional” arena for CDC’s involvement, it actually is a health issue, said Gerberding. “It’s a wonderful example of the international community, how the world is on the scene, helping in any way possible, providing relief, promoting health and preventing disease, and ensuring the safety of people.”

Bernard agrees. “This is our mission—protecting the health and safety of workers and others around the world. So much good is going on throughout CDC—from refugee work to water sanitation to injury and illness surveillance, to structural safety assessments. We are all assisting in eradicating illness and injury and promoting health and safety—we all contribute to the effort, not only in Operation Earthquake, but in other areas of public health as well.”

This Inside Story by CDC Connects reporter Kathy Nellis

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### **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:**

What do horses, home building, and financial systems have in common? Seemingly, not much, unless you are **JoDean Eddins**. JoDean, whose CDC career spans 27 years, possesses rich experience in each of these areas. Most interesting, perhaps, is hearing the story of how she relates her current UFMS work to foundations anchored in the others.

"My second tour at CDC began in 1986," she tells us, "after an 11-year break during which I raised children, raised horses, and built houses." She worked at CDC for 8 years in various programs before her hiatus. While she was raising her children, her husband, a homebuilder, asked for her help with managing quality control. JoDean quickly discovered that the way to build a defect-free house was to "work backwards" to the requirements from the homeowner's view. JoDean applies this concept in her CDC work today. "The way to build a better system is to fully understand end-user needs before any work begins," she says. "Just as in homebuilding, in which a good floor plan leads to the right end-product, in systems work, a well engineered plan is critical to achieve success."

JoDean is currently CDC's federal lead for the Technology Analysis Team, part of the Unified Financial Management System (UFMS) project being jointly implemented by FMO and IRMO. She's responsible for coordinating feeder systems, infrastructure, data management, and development items.

When nudged for more information about how her CDC career evolved to her current work, JoDean explains that she returned to NIP in 1986 to work with statistics, where she later found herself working with the group building a new travel system. This led to work with quarantine systems, and then in NIOSH she helped develop an employee performance appraisal system, which was later implemented for CDC-wide use.

JoDean moved to IRMO to lead the development of a new time and attendance system and a system for the CDC Directory. It was in this role, in IRMO, in which her group was responsible for starting CDC's centralized help desk function. Not one to let the grass grow under her feet, however, JoDean was later detailed back to NIP, where she managed the development of the Vaccines for Children system. She later became the IRM coordinator for NIP, where she managed both hardware and software. Ultimately, she returned to IRMO, where her focus there became financial systems, the subject of her current work.

Her background and experience here offer a unique ability to explain some of the history of UFMS. "In 2000, CDC decided to pursue a new financial system - before UFMS," according to JoDean. "That decision was followed with the development of a business case (justification) and an evaluation of various products." Along with Dave Moore, Rob Curlee, and Judy Kenny, JoDean was part of a team detailed to HHS to lay the foundation for a Department-wide financial system. This pursuit ultimately fed into the Department's subsequent "One HHS" goal, under which the CDC, along with other HHS agencies, would implement a unified financial system, today known as UFMS.

JoDean cites the benefits to CDC from UFMS - better financial management reports and better financial control for the agency. When asked about challenges, she points to new business processes which have already - or will soon - take effect. As JoDean says, "Our programs are being asked to fully understand business processes that are changing. A number of these are already in effect." Full details on these changes, go to the UFMS website.

Is the challenging planning and implementation work worth it? "You bet," says JoDean, who will retire from CDC next September to a new home in Florida. She

smiles broadly as she explains the rewards of the work come in the form of experiencing the teamwork that is taking place among FMO, IRMO, and CDC's CIOs. She sums up her thought with two words: "It's great!"

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**CDC CONNECTS [WATSONIANS WIN - Third place and Honorable mention]  
February 24, 2005**

Photo Contest Winners Share Their Pictures and Stories

Anna Willingham Brittain is a health communications specialist with GAP. She shares first place in our first annual photo contest with co-worker Dick Keenlyside. Their submission was Pathway Project, HIV/AIDS.

And the winners are...

CDC Connects announces the winners of our First Annual CDC Photo Essay Contest: Public Health in Action. We asked you for photos that bring public health to life and we got a great response. In fact the response was so good we have lots of wonderful photos to share with you.

Before we announce the winners, we remind you of the criteria. All CDC staff, including employees, field staff, and on-site contractors and consultants, were eligible to submit photos. Photos were supposed to represent CDC and public health in action.

The photos were judged by a panel based on the following criteria: quality of the story told by the photos, esthetic quality of the photographs, completeness and quality of the captions, and originality of the subject.

Today we announce our winners and honorable mentions.

First place: Anna Willingham Brittain and Dr. Dick Keenlyside, Pathway Project HIV/AIDS

Second place: Aaron L. Sussell, NIOSH: Philippines and Mexico

Third place: **Lauren Lambert**, Polio Eradication in Ethiopia

They are featured in our Inside Story today. However, there were so many wonderful photos that we will be featuring our "Honorable Mention Winners" as In a Snapshot in the months to come. Watch for photos by Tonya Sonnier and Thomas Clark coming in March, James Albers and Judy Schmidt in April, Holly Williams and Julie Irby in May, Jessie Blanton and John Cardarelli in June, Lisa Lundgren and Bethany Anderson in July, **Carlos Alonso** and Mari Downer in August, Mark Faul and Traci Camilli in September, Mitesh Patel and Scott Hancock in October, **Subroto Banerji** and Boris Pavlin in November and Aaron Sussell and Bethany Anderson in December.

First Place Winners

Our first place winners are Anna Willingham Brittain and Richard Keenlyside.

Brittain is a health communications specialist with CDC's Global AIDS Program, on the Policy/Communications Team. "I am a contractor and my company is RTI International," she explains. She has been with GAP for two years.

"My job is incredibly rewarding. I balance many different things: policy work, help prepare congressional and U.S. government reports and briefing materials, help prepare congressional testimony, work on improving internal communications within GAP (a big challenge when half of your staff is located on other continents!), media messaging and relations, and preparation of GAP communication pieces and stories on how we are making an impact around the world. It's an incredible job at an incredible time—with the President taking a strong interest in global AIDS, our work environment has become quite dynamic. And, I love my team, and that makes everything even more enjoyable."

Her hobbies and interests include yoga and swimming. "I am a complete dilettante—I like to dabble in painting, sculpture, knitting, and anything else artistic!" Her photos are certainly artistic, eye-catching shots of children. What she likes best about them are "the amazing faces, so much can be seen in a face, so much can be felt by seeing a face—joy, sadness, laughter."

Dick Keenlyside is an experienced epidemiologist who has been associated with CDC for the past 28 years.

Keenlyside is the Associate Director for External Relations and Public Health Practice in the Global AIDS Program in NCHSTP, which has programs in African, Asian, and South American countries. "I was born and educated in England and first came to CDC in 1976 after meeting CDC colleagues in the Smallpox Eradication Program in India. This was a career-defining experience that led me to join the EIS program (I was only the second non-American to do so) and a lifelong interest in India and international health. Returning to India to work has been particularly satisfying and rewarding for me and I am privileged to have such extraordinary colleagues and friends there. These photos capture the strength and vitality of the Indian people, especially among women who are such a vital resource for community mobilization."

His other hobbies and interests include landscape gardening and he is an "aspiring woodworker" who listens to music, and likes to travel and read. "I'm married to Barbara and together we have raised two children and are still working on a teenage son."

Dr. Keenlyside is an experienced epidemiologist who has been associated with the CDC for the past 28 years.

Their Photo Essay: Pathway Project, HIV/AIDS

In India, where an estimated 5.1 million people are infected with HIV, the CDC Global AIDS Program is supporting Pathway, a project to improve the quality of life of people infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. This project is based in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Pathway reaches into the community to improve its skills in providing care for people living with HIV/AIDS, so that care can be "closer to home." To increase awareness and reduce stigma, the project also reaches out to special groups in the community, including youth. To reach youth Pathway organizes sporting competitions such as cricket matches.

Community leaders were vital to establishing the Pathway Project and remain instrumental in its success. Pathway's support groups provide vital, uplifting support. Participants talk about how to keep going, how to remain hopeful.

Since the Pathway project began in Maharashtra in 2000, it has registered 646 persons living with HIV/AIDS, 46 of them children, with the goal of improving the quality of life of the clients and their families.

Pathway is taking a comprehensive approach to improving quality of life for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA), pioneering a new model in India. It provides PLHA and their families with improved health care, psycho-social support, economic support, and prevention services. Pathway collaborates with persons living with HIV and the Indian Network of

Positive People (INP+) in all its work and an overriding goal for Pathway is to deliver services in ways that reduce the stigma associated with HIV.

Further, it enables “care closer to home”—reaching into the community to improve its skills in providing home-based care, thereby building sustainability and lessening the burden on the established healthcare system.

For more information about the Community-Based Care Project of the CDC Global AIDS Program in India.

Aaron Sussell is an industrial hygienist with NIOSH. He worked his way through college as a photographer at a newspaper. He is our photo contest second place winner.

#### Second Place

Second place winner Aaron Sussell, is an industrial hygienist with NIOSH, Hazardous Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch. He’s been at CDC 16 years. And it’s no surprise that his photos are so excellent. He worked his way through college as a photographer at a newspaper. “Sometimes I would take 20 rolls of film a day and we would use one picture,” he says. He has had lots of practice shooting and composing photos. He says he’s been interested in photography since he was a teenager. And before he got into public health, he also worked as a park ranger. His interest in public health was sparked when he worked in a local health department. He was also an environmental sanitarian and a hazardous waste specialist and then he completed his degree in industrial hygiene.

He enjoyed taking the photos he sent in from an international trip. “Most of my work for NIOSH is domestic. NIOSH international work is done collaboratively with partners, usually upon request. The Philippines IH course was at the request of, and financially supported by, the International Labor Organization South-East Asia and the Pacific Multidisciplinary Advisory Team and the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment Bureau of Working Conditions. The Mexico work was at request of, and supported by, the Pan American Health Organization.

“I thought these photos were interesting and striking. The work conditions I have seen overseas are very different from those here at home. The hazards are much different. I enjoy the international work because it gives me a chance to address so many different pressing problems.”

He says one thing that struck him about the workers he saw overseas was their attitude. “No matter how bad their working conditions are, no matter what dangers they face, they have dignity and pride in their work. I find it really rewarding to help improve the work environment for people.”

“When I was young I was inspired by W. Eugene Smith’s photo-essay on the industrial (mercury) poisoning disaster in Minimata, Japan. It is a masterful work and resulted in positive social change.”

#### His Photo Essay

In a variety of photos submitted, Sussell tells the story of work in a foundry in the Philippines. Two inspectors in the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment practice calibration of air sampling pumps in a hands-on industrial hygiene sampling course in Manila co-taught by a NIOSH industrial hygienist and a Harvard University doctoral student. The course was sponsored by International Labour Organization. Using traditional methods, a barefoot pourer fills green sand molds with molten iron in a gray iron foundry that participated in a hands-on industrial hygiene sampling course in Manila, Philippines.

A Department of Labor and Employment inspector adjusts and air sampling pump on a foundry worker pushing a large ladle of molten iron during a hands-on industrial hygiene sampling course in Manila, Philippines. A barefoot and shirtless mold maker uses hand tools to make a green sand mold for an iron casting in a foundry in Manila Philippines. The company participated in a hands-on industrial hygiene sampling course for federal labor inspectors.

A Philippines Department of Labor and Employment inspector learns to take heat stress measurements with a WIBGET® instrument in a hands-on industrial hygiene sampling course in Manila. Other hazards present in the foundry were carbon monoxide and silica and metals in dust. The course was sponsored by International Labour Organization. A worker uses natural lighting to pour molten iron into sand molds in a foundry that participated in an industrial hygiene sampling course for Philippines Department of Labor and Employment inspectors.

Despite hot, dusty working conditions, a Filipino foundry worker stands proudly next to his finished castings in a gray iron foundry in Manila that participated in a hands-on industrial hygiene course for federal labor inspectors. A NIOSH industrial hygienist helped to teach the inspectors how to evaluate health hazards in the foundry.

### Third Place

Third-place winner **Lauren Lambert** graduated from the University of Georgia in 1989 with a Broadcast News/Journalism degree and a minor in French. She received her Masters in Public Health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 2002 through long-distance learning. She's been at CDC 14 years this April. "I started in 1991 as a GS-04 as a Secretary/Typist and soon after applied for a Public Health Advisor position. For three years I worked with TB patients in New York City, including Manhattan, Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, King's County in Queens, and my favorite assignment was working with male inmates with TB at Riker's Island Jail.

"My current title is Public Health Analyst and I work with the Outbreak Investigation Team in the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, NCHSTP. Job responsibilities include providing programmatic consultation and technical assistance to local staff during domestic and international TB outbreak investigations. I interview and educate TB patients and contacts, perform chart reviews, collect, process, and manage data, and help identify opportunities for developing collaborative partnerships.

"Also, I teach healthcare workers how to give and read tuberculin skin tests, and I am assisting in the revisions of CDC's TB infection control guidelines for health-care settings. My job is rewarding in so many ways—it's challenging, fulfilling, and I am constantly learning. I have very supportive co-workers and supervisors, and I feel appreciated for the work I do.

Lambert has been volunteering for over 9 years with equestrian centers in Atlanta that teach disabled children how to ride horses. "Hippotherapy, from the Greek word for horse, is based on the idea that the rhythmic, repetitive movements of the horse work to improve cognitive skills, balance, posture, and strength in disabled riders," she says. She enjoys horse-back riding, camping, hiking and traveling.

Of her photos, she says, "I love the yellow and blue uniforms and especially the adorable girl on the right sticking her tongue out and pointing at me! I love how the local children greeted me every time we pulled up to a clinic!"

**Lauren Lambert** took third place for photos of Polio Eradication in Ethiopia. The brightly-colored photo shows school girls near S. Omo in March 2003. "I love the yellow and blue uniforms and especially the adorable girl on the right sticking out her tongue and pointing at me. I love how the local children greeted me every time we pulled up to a clinic."

#### Her Photo Essay

Lambert's photos focused on a Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) assignment in Ethiopia from 02/02/2003 - 04/29/2003. They include checking BCG vaccination expiration dates in the warehouse in Addis Ababa. Vaccination surveillance was part of the polio team's responsibility. She also included a photo of the last known patient in Ethiopia to be diagnosed with polio (hopefully!) Rawda was diagnosed in January 2001, and now walks with the aid of crutches. There are photos of vaccinating a baby near Alaba, and with friends after a polio training.

#### Congratulations

Congratulations to our winners and honorable mention winners as well. We are working to get your photos into the Public Health Image Library or Identity Image Library, so they will be archived in one of CDC's libraries as well as archived in CDC Connects. Thank you for your submissions! Watch for our second annual photo contest, coming up at the end of the year.

In the meantime, if you have a photo that captures CDC's role in public health that you would like to share with us, send it to CDC Connects Story Ideas. This Inside Story by CDC Connects reporter Kathy Nellis.

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CDC Couples Share Their Stories on Valentine's Day
CDC CONNECTS February 14, 2005

Cupid has been keeping busy at CDC. With or without the help of that chubby cherub, chemistry is at work, beyond the labs and across CIOs. Today is Valentine's Day, a fun time to recognize some CDC couples.

Tom and Ava Navin have been together more than 21 years. They met over a manuscript, says Ava. "Tom was an EIS officer in the Division of Parasitic Diseases, and I was the NCID editor assigned to the Division. Tom was taken aback at the red ink all over his paper and came to Clifton Road to discuss it. The rest, as they say, is history..."

Ava is a Health Communicator, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, NCID, and Tom is Chief, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Outbreak Investigations Branch, Division of TB Elimination, NCHSTP.

They share a love of the outdoors, she says. "We really enjoy hiking, especially near the place in the NC mountains where we'll eventually retire when and if the kids are ever out of college." They have two children: Andrew, 19, who's a freshman at

Valdosta State University; and Susan, 17, who's a senior at the Galloway School "and who has submitted applications to ELEVEN colleges, which must be a record of some sort. Two cats, pampered by one of us and tolerated (barely) by the other."

There are advantages to both working at CDC, the couple says, including a shared vocabulary, mainly of the ubiquitous CDC initialisms (MMWR, NCHSTP, NCID, etc.). "Of course, with all the new initialisms beginning with CO—, we're both lost." There's also a shared pool of acquaintances, leading to the occasional crossed e-mail ("No, you want that other Navin—I'll forward your message") and finally, a shared appreciation for those acquaintances and their dedication to public health.

Steve Bice and **Nicole Smith** have been married ten years. "For those of you who know us individually, hopefully, you aren't too shocked (or laughing too hard) now that you know we are married. Seriously, though, because work hours are too long and life's too short, and as hokey as you think Valentine's Day may be, it does provide an the opportunity to tell someone you love them. Cheers!"

Steve Bice, Director of Emergency Operations, OTPER, and Nicole Smith, Associate Director for Policy, Immunization Services Division, NIP, first met a little more than 17 years ago when Steve was working in the Public Health Service Regional Office in San Francisco and Nicole was interviewing for a position. "However, we didn't begin dating until several years later," she says, "after Steve saved me from being run over by a taxi. We're sure that our colleagues in Injury appreciate our firsthand experience that even if you're in the cross walk and the light is green—pedestrians aren't always given the right-of-way. And, no, we weren't in Atlanta when this happened!"

The two just celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary last September. "We have a blended family that includes four children: three humans [Steve's] and one furry [Steve and Nicole's]. Now that one daughter is getting married and one son is a freshman in college, we're focusing attention on our other 'son,' Ben (a rescued German Shepherd-Rhodesian Ridgeback mix), who likes to go to the park to play ball. Ideally, we'd spend more time hiking and camping like we used to do in the California Sierras, but it seems harder and harder to find or make the time to get away. In the meantime, we enjoy reading (which does not always include our Blackberries) and watching movies. And, because neither of us are great cooks, we love trying new restaurants and returning to our favorites.

"One of the great advantages of working at CDC together is that we're both able to pursue our passion for and commitment to public health. More importantly, we both benefit from working with great—really great—people. We also have a fairly good understanding of what a typical day is like for the other and definitely empathize with each other's colleagues because we know what it's like working with the other. On the downside, as rewarding as our jobs are, given how stressful things are at CDC these days, our tension is frequently doubled—especially when CDC is engaged in some sort of response that affects us both.

"For those of you who know us individually, hopefully you aren't too shocked (or laughing too hard) now that you know we are married. Seriously, though, because work hours are too long and life's too short, and as hokey as you think Valentine's

Day may be, it does provide an the opportunity to tell someone you love them. Cheers!”

Bill Ramsey and **Lee Ann Brownlow Ramsey** met while assigned as Public Health Advisors to the Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Program in Fort Lauderdale. They joke that CDC “outsiders” look at them strangely when they proudly proclaim that they met in a south Florida STD clinic!

Bill Ramsey (PHA, NCIPC) and Lee Ann Brownlow Ramsey (PHA, NCCDPHP) met in 1991 while assigned as Public Health Advisors to the Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV Program (NCHSTP) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They joke that CDC “outsiders” look at them strangely when they proudly proclaim that they met in a South Florida STD clinic! More odd looks come their way when asked about their engagement. Bill nervously proposed to Lee Ann while standing in a “fully stocked” pre-civil war double-sitter outhouse in rural North Carolina! When folks learn of their relatives—well, it’s another head turn, eyebrow raising glare! Although Bill’s mother, Rosemary Ramsey (OD, NCID), Lee Ann’s grandmother, Elizabeth Ramsey (former PGO), and Lee Ann’s mother, Theresa Ramsey Brownlow McDonald (PGO), all are (or have been) long-time CDC employees, and share the same last name, Bill and Lee Ann are not cousins, and their elders did not arrange their marriage!

Despite their non-romantic beginnings, Bill and Lee Ann have enjoyed over 10 years of marriage and are raising two healthy children, Hayden Elizabeth (8) and Reid Kennedy (4). They still enjoy working as PHAs, and taking trips down STD-PHA memory lane by visiting former field assignment haunts in Fort Lauderdale and Charlotte, North Carolina.

As a result of their CDC history, they’ve cultivated mutual, lifetime friendships with fellow PHAs and celebrate “Thanksmas” each year with **Sherrie Bruce** (NCID), **Darien Ogburn** (NCHSTP), and **Dave Sullivan** and **Elizabeth Bannick Sullivan** (NCHSTP and NCBDDD...another PHA couple). Bill and Lee Ann say they wouldn’t have life any other way!

Jim and Nancy Gathany have several favorite common pastimes, including paddling, pedaling, hiking and beachcombing. Their son Benson “is the center of the universe,” they say.

Nancy Gathany, OWCD, and Jim Gathany, Photo Services in Creative Services, also met on the job, Jim says. “We had crossed paths, but we were formally introduced on a photo shoot. I was behind the camera and she was the subject.”

They have been married 13 years and have one son, Benson. “He is five and is the center of the universe.” Their favorite common pastimes: paddling, pedaling, hiking, beachcombing.

They say the advantages of both working at CDC far outweigh any disadvantages. “Besides both feeling privileged to contribute to CDC’s mission and goals, we are able to work together occasionally on projects.”

Donna and Gary Armstrong share musical talents and interests. He plays guitar and sings while she sings and plays the piano.

Gary Armstrong, Technical Services Executive, ITSO, and Donna Armstrong, Budget Analyst, FMO/NCID, met at CDC while working on a software project in 1992. "We will be married 2 years June 1, 2005," says Donna. The two enjoy traveling and they play in a trio. Gary plays guitar and sings and Donna plays piano and sings.

They enjoy entertaining, and friends gather frequently at their lovely house in Snellville to join them in singing karaoke. Things are harmonious, at home and at work, they say. "It's great to both work at CDC. We can often work it out to have lunch together. On some occasions we can share the ride to work."

Mary Hoelscher, Research Biologist, CDC/NCID/DVRD/Influenza Branch, and José Gonzalez, IT Specialist, QSS/CDC/OD, both work at CDC now but they actually met online. "We met online at love@aol.com in January 2000, but we never met in person or talked on the phone until June 2002," says Mary. They have been together since then, she says. "We eloped to Las Vegas in December 2003."

Mary Hoelscher and José Gonzalez met online at love@aol.com. Now happily married, their first child is due the beginning of March.

They both enjoy playing tennis. "José is a much better player than I am. In fact, he won the A division trophy at the CDC tournament last year. We both love to travel and snow ski." Their first child (a boy) is due the beginning of March. "I worked at CDC for 10 years," says Mary. "When I met José, he had just been laid off from his job. I had a summer party where he met some of the IT folks from CDC and they helped him get hired on. Car pooling makes living in far-out Gwinnett tolerable. Lunches are made and eaten together. We are still in the honeymoon phase. José is so outgoing. He has introduced me to so many other folks in other divisions and centers that I would never have had the opportunity to meet. I would hope to say the reverse is true, but his contact list is much longer than mine due to the nature of his job."

It's nice to work together, she says. "It has been enjoyable to share the ride to work and always know that someone is looking forward to having lunch with you."

James and Jennifer Brooks live in Lilburn with their two children, James Connor and Jemma Ryleigh. They met 14 years ago when they began bowling in the CDC/ATSDR Twilighters Bowling League.



TRANSFERS PROMOTIONS and TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS:

Kenneth Archer has accepted the position of Deputy Branch Chief for the Prevention Program Branch with an effective date of February 5, 2005. Ken earned a Bachelors degree in Biology from Jackson State University and currently serves as the Deputy Branch Chief for NCID's Scientific Resources Program. His previous assignments include: Team Leader (Public Health Advisor) in the Strategic National Stockpile; Program Consultant with NCHSTP; Field Operations Manager with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health; and First-Line Supervisor with Hillsborough County Public Health (Tampa, Florida). In addition to his strong leadership skills, Ken brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing technical assistance, program evaluation, grants management, and research and analysis.

Margaret Brome NCIPC has been selected for a 120-day detail as Acting Deputy Director, Division of Injury and Disability Outcomes and Programs, NCIPC.

Mark Miner and **Kim Do** both from NCHSTP, DTBE are on a TDY for California's investigation of the newly arrived Hmong.

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**RETIREMENTS:**

**Harry A. Stern** NCHSTP, DTBE plans to retire on April 2, 2005 after 33 years service with the Centers for Disease Control.

After serving in the US Army from 1967 to 1969, including a tour of duty in South East Asia, Harry Stern received his BA degree from Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York.

In 1972, he joined the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention Atlanta, Georgia, as a Public Health Advisor (PHA) for the Venereal Disease Control Program, assigned to the New York City Department of Health.

His state and city assignments with the Division of STD Prevention also included Miami, Florida; San Francisco, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Broward County, Florida; and Baltimore, Maryland.

His career in Tuberculosis Control began in Baltimore, Maryland in 1987 where he worked as the Baltimore City, TB Program Coordinator before being transferred to the CDC, Division of Tuberculosis Elimination in Atlanta, Georgia.

From 1988 to 1995, Harry served as the TB/HIV Coordinator for the DTBE. He participated in the development of the "Model Joint Plan" to incorporate TB, HIV, and STD screening in Methadone Maintenance clinics and correctional facilities. He was also the lead consultant for many of the Division's TB/HIV Cooperative Agreements to state and local health departments and participated on several workgroups addressing the issues of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and Nosocomial Transmission of TB from HIV/AIDS.

In June of 1991, Harry received a CDC Unit Commendation for a civil service participant for his contributions in the Nosocomial Transmission of TB from HIV/AIDS. In June of 1993, he received the PHS Special Recognition Award for outstanding CDC team effort in addressing the threat of MDR-TB.

From 1995 to 2000, Harry served as the Associate Director for International Activities. He participated in establishing the first TB international research site in Botswana, Africa. Harry also administered other international agreements between CDC, USAID, World Health Organization, and Ministries of Health of Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Philippines, and Mexico. While in this assignment, he developed the first TB component of the International Experience and Technical Assistance Program (IETA). Through his involvement with IETA, the DTBE identified several PHA's for international assignments in Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Russia.

Since 2000, Harry has served as the TB Program Operations Manager in Miami-Dade County, Florida. He is involved in program evaluation, strategy planning, personnel activities, fiscal management, and protocol development for TB control efforts. In November of 2004, Harry received a Special Recognition Award from the Bureau of Tuberculosis and Refugee Health, Florida Department of Health, for his contributions towards improving TB control efforts in Miami – Dade County.

Harry has temporary plans to retire to Melbourne Beach, Florida where he enjoys traveling, kayaking, fishing and riding his bike.

A celebration send-off is planned for March 31, 2-4 pm Corporate Square, building 11, room 2214. Cards and retirement wishes/ memories can be sent to **Gail Grant** .

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CDC Connects March 3, 2005 **Virginia Bales Harris** Career Tracks History of CDC

Ginny Bales Harris retires today after more than 35 years of service.

Virginia Bales Harris came to CDC in 1970 as an Emory chemistry major looking for a part-time job and lab experience, and is retiring today after 35 years of impressive contributions in a variety of jobs at CDC, including Deputy Director. The chemistry she found was with public health program development, management, policy, and health promotion.

A Young Idealist In Times of Change

Like many others who came into government in the 1970's, Harris was a child when President John Kennedy made his famous speech, saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." An idealist, she wanted to help make the world better when she graduated from college.

"Since I was a chemistry major, when I needed a part-time job during college I looked down the street to CDC. I was a classmate of Jim Pirkle—he was the brilliant one. (James Pirkle, MD, PhD, is currently Deputy Director for Science, Division of Laboratory Sciences, NCEH.) My roommate's father ran the CDC lab in San Salvador and I thought it would be great to work in a lab at CDC. There were no student jobs in the labs at the time but I ended up in TB and loved it," Harris says.

"Actually, I was Vern Houk's clerk-typist for three weeks while he was hiring a secretary. When she came on board, he walked me down the hall to the TB Training Unit and said 'She can't type but I am sure she can do something,'" she smiles.

"Vern Houk and Phyllis Edwards took a chance on me," says Harris now. They hired her into a permanent job in TB Training Unit where she stayed another three years.

A Time of Change in TB

"It was a great time to be in TB," says Harris, "They were closing the sanatoriums where people were sent with TB for an indefinite period of time because effective antimicrobial treatment was finally available. Even though it was two years of treatment, versus six months today, it was better for TB patients to be at home than in a sanatorium; it was a time of change and hope."

She continues, "**Dave Sencer**, who was Director of CDC at the time, had contracted tuberculosis in medical school and was treated by Dr. Win Davey. When Davey retired from practice he came to CDC as the head of training." Harris worked on the first TB Today training course, which was used to change the way clinicians, patients and the public viewed tuberculosis. "TB was a great place to start. From a public

health perspective it has it all—science, labs, epi, surveillance, program, health ed, controversy and public policy—at the federal, state and local level.”

Said Sencer, "Ginny was one of the very bright young people who were given responsibilities that many people thought should be reserved for people with years of experience. Ginny proved them wrong. Over the years, Ginny has continued to prove that she is capable of exceeding expectations and has become a role model for young people entering the health field at CDC.”

Ginny wanted to move from a public health analyst job in TB to a public health advisor job so she could work in CDC program management. However, at that time women were not hired into that series (685) because the field work doing what is now known as partner tracing in sexually transmitted diseases was considered too dangerous—a catch-22. She reminds us, “this was also the time when managers might think, ‘She is smart, but single—she might get married and quit work, why invest in her?’, but Vern Houk broke with tradition and hired me into a Public Health Advisor job in Environmental Health which he was then heading up.”

Emory’s First MPH Class

Again supported by Dr. Vern Houk, Ginny Bales Harris (along with Paul Stange, now in OSI), was in the first class of 16 in the new Masters of Community Health program at Emory University. There are now more than a thousand students at Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health. “I finished defending my thesis two weeks before my son Chip was born. Vern would come into my office every day or so to check on my progress because he was concerned that I would have my baby first and never finish. Remember, this was still the time when people thought women would quit work when they had children. It was not until I had Chip and came back immediately that they believed that I was here for the long haul.”

Operations Officer and Epidemiology

Wanting more experience in operations, Harris moved from TB and Environmental Health Services to the Bureau of Epidemiology. At that time, CDC was organized functionally into the Bureaus of Laboratories, Epidemiology, Training and State Services. “I wanted the chance to work on this major initiative to consolidate several surveillance systems and support the tables of reportable disease that are still in the MMWR each week. It was headed up by a new star EIS graduate, Steve Thacker, who had been on the front cover of Time magazine about the legendary Legionnaires’ outbreak. Vern was upset. Said Harris, “He said ‘You can’t go to work for Steve Thacker, he is a crazy man!’ but over time they became very close friends. I worked with **Joe Giordano** and **Tony Scardaci**, who were incredible mentors. Our group was always coming up with new ideas and I would work to get them funded.”

A Trailblazer—or Not?

In 1981, Harris took what turned into a three-year assignment as special assistant to the Deputy Director of CDC, Bill Watson. “I would like to think,” Harris laughs, “that it was only because I was by far the most outstanding person for the job, but I know that they were looking to bring women into management at the time as well.” Confirming this, Watson said in a recent interview, “There were only two (or three) women in senior scientific/programmatic positions at CDC: Elaine Updike, Phyllis Edwards. There had never been a female manager in the front office of CDC and the world had changed. I decided it was time we changed too. The women in the front

office at that time wore white gloves to work and took them off to type. Marilyn Gable was elected “Miss CDC” in a contest sponsored by SHARE to raise money at 5 cents a vote. It was surely a different world. I offered Ginny a job as my assistant and never regretted it. My philosophy had always been to find someone who could do a better job than you could, and in this case that was certainly true. She is so smart and so intuitively right in her perspective. I sure tried to pay attention when she told me something. She was usually right; we sure did the right thing in picking Ginny. In everything that she does, even in the hard times, her courage and character always show through.”

Harris is just as complimentary of her old bosses. “**Bill Watson** was the icon of CDC management. His values and personality were the values and personality of the agency in many ways. I recently visited Phyllis Edwards who was in a nursing home near San Francisco and she is the same pistol that I remember.”

When Martha Katz came to the CDC OD from the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Bill Watson brought her down the hall and said, ‘I want you to meet the other woman,’ recalls Harris.

She pauses here and says, “You know, this “first” or “one of few females” discussion keeps coming up, but I never set out to do that—it was not a driving force. I just happened to come along when barriers were being broken all over. Trailblazing was not my agenda, I just found work that interested me and I set about finding a way to do it. For example, I always lateraled into the next job, worked in it a while and was promoted. It just wasn’t possible then, without that field experience that I mentioned earlier, to be promoted into the management jobs that were advertised. The jobs were always paneled by field staff and filled by field staff. So my advice to anyone is, if there is something that you really want to do, figure out a way to do it even if it is not the usual way. Ironically, in my career at CDC I have worked in every area of public health—infectious disease, environmental health, chronic disease, epi, surveillance and management—everything except the laboratory, which is what I thought I would do as chemistry major.”

The 1978 CDC Reorganization

The last large reorganization of CDC was based on the “The Red Book” report, authored by a group of external experts that indicated CDC needed to expand its focus beyond infectious disease to health promotion in order to help prevent the leading causes of death and disability such as heart disease, lung cancer and injuries. This concept of expanded health promotion had also been promoted by the Canadians followed by a US Surgeon General’s Report. Thus were born the original “Centers”—the Centers for Infectious Disease, Environmental Health, Prevention Services (state programs) and Health Promotion and Education. Harris moved to the new Center for Health Promotion and Education, which later, under CDC Director James Mason, became the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (now NCCDPHP). According to Harris, it was an uphill battle to convince CDC scientists that health education was more than a bunch of pamphlets, but the AIDS epidemic was soon to bring the need for health education, health promotion and behavior change interventions into the spotlight. She also credits the move of the Office on Smoking and Health from the Secretary’s office to CDC with significantly increasing CDC’s capacity in health communication, and the move of NIOSH to CDC with increased administrative management innovation.

"I am very proud of the establishment of the state-based Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the largest random-digit dialing public health surveillance system. We knew we needed it if we were ever to track behavior changes related to chronic disease prevention. **Bill Foege** convinced Congress to let CDC use the funding left over from swine flu to fund 12-15 states which grew to be a nationwide system," reminisces Harris.

Deputy Director, NCCDPHP

The decade from 1988 to 1998 was a period of establishing credibility, growth, making an impact, "a wonderful ride" according to Harris. The NCCDPHP's accomplishments were many with Virginia Bales Harris as its deputy director and Jeffrey Koplan, MD, MPH, and then Jim Marks, MD, MPH, as Directors.

"I am also proud of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program which began with \$5 million but grew through the support of wonderful partnerships with APHA, ASTHO and the National Governor's Associations' spouses program. Mrs. Cuomo of New York was a real supporter and made it the group's priority for every state."

"I think I am particularly proud of work I did with **Windell Bradford** to assess how CDC recruited managers. That report resulted in the establishment of the Public Health Prevention Specialist program add link to recruit and train program managers. Under David Satcher (former Director) and Claire Broome (former Deputy Director), the program was funded to enroll 25 people a year in a three-year class providing broad public health experience and at least two years of state experience—sort of an EIS experience. I hope it continues."

Marks says, "What most stands out for me, regarding Ginny, is that she is both a wonderful leader and manager. It is fashionable to separate leadership from management. Leaders are defined as visionary, stating the organization's values, while managers keep the trains running on time. Ginny more than any other in the CDC management chain was truly a leader. The way she used her positions to further the CDC and public health agendas was remarkable."

CDC Deputy Director for Program Management

In 1998, Koplan became CDC Director and tapped Harris as his Deputy Director for Program Management. According to Koplan, "Ginny is the epitome of a superb manager but this term alone does not do justice to her skills and contributions. Yes, she knows how to make an organization and the people in it perform to their highest potential, brings the highest integrity and thoughtfulness to the budget process, can oversee complex projects and deliver first-rate products in a timely manner and while doing all this always keeps her eye on the programmatic objectives, BUT she offers much more than this. She brings wisdom and depth to policy decisions, she can see down the road to the consequences of present day actions and she constantly mentors younger associates and seeks to further their careers. In every position she has held, she has made major improvements and made the agency stronger and more effective. She is a consummate public health professional and a model of the best of CDC."

Harris says that during this period she is most proud of the work they did to update the master plan for buildings and facilities and to accelerate its funding, working with

the Georgia delegation and the Friends of CDC. “I was dumbfounded when Jeff Koplan told me that buildings and facilities would be his top priority, but it soon became mine. The scientific communication building was his idea. In a meeting with the architects, he told them that if CDC were to step up to its role as the world leader in public health, we would need a building to do it from—a place to convene people and from which to broadcast—and he drew a sketch on a piece of paper. Thus was born the building that you now see out of the ground and almost finished.”

Returns To First Love

After Koplan left CDC, Harris returned to NCCDPHP as the Director of the Division of Adult and Community Health, the job from which she retires. “This has been a wonderful place for me the last three years. For the first time in my career, I was nobody’s deputy; I had one of my own and Mike Waller was wonderful. I was happy to do the business and management systems for CDC but my real love is public health programs.” Waller says, “Three of Ginny’s pieces of wisdom stand out for me as her deputy; 1) it is not all about money ; 2) don’t underestimate your impact; and 3) make it fun! Ginny has taught me more in these last three years than I learned in over 20 already under my belt. She has created lasting impressions on me that will carry me for a lifetime.”

Says Sheri Little, her current assistant, “A little over two years ago, I was interviewed by Ginny for her lead secretary position at DACH. I have not regretted the decision of accepting this position because not only has she taught me what CDC is but has personally given of herself to guide, mentor and inspire me to go higher and further. She is an icon that will last forever and will be missed not only by me but by many.”

Although she never set out to be a trailblazer, Harris certainly became one. Her career spanned a time of changes in public health and in CDC that she helped to bring about. Martha Katz, MPA, who worked closely with Harris over many years, especially when Katz was Deputy Director for Policy and Legislation while Harris was Deputy Director for Program Management, said, “Ginny blazed the path for women at CDC. She’s brought a clear sense of mission and a strong moral compass to every role. Ten years from now, CDC will still be enjoying the benefits of her legacy—the cadre of young, talented public health prevention specialists, stronger state chronic disease programs, and state-of-the-art facilities. All of these were possible because of her creative leadership.”

Advice To Others

When asked if she has any advice to give younger staff coming along now, the ever-prepared Harris whips out a list that she used in a speech at an Association for Professional Women banquet a number of years ago, entitled “Ten Skills that Make a Difference.”

Keep your eye on the ball. Don’t get so distracted by the background noise that you miss the goal.

Learn to communicate effectively. Think about not just the style of communication but the content too.

Assume responsibility. Don’t wait for someone to ask you to help out; but don’t abandon your current responsibilities.

Enjoy your daily work. Make sure you aspire to positions that you will enjoy.

Be your own "Unit President." Make the part of the organization that you can influence be a model of good work and a place where your staff and co-workers delight in their contribution.

Grow your staff and the people around you. You will be working for them soon.

Get a life. Lateral growth, understanding the broader world, having a rich family and community life will make you more effective in everything that you do.

Take responsibility for your own destiny. Take responsibility for your own life and career.

Work and play well with others. Learn to collaborate, to cooperate and to facilitate.

When asked what's next, Ginny Bales Harris says, "I have always had a plan. This is the first time in my life that I do not have a plan of what to do next. So I am excited about relaxing and spending time at my mountain house and the beach, enjoying being with my husband, family and friends and seeing what comes next."

We wish you all the best.

This Inside Story by Kay Golan, CDC Connects.

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After 12 years of patriotic service with the federal government, **Agnes Benson** retired on February 28, 2005. Agnes' career began in Washington, D. C. as an employee with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Her time with CDC began in 1990, initially as a contractor and then in October of 1992 she began work as a Television Production Coordinator with the Public Health Practice Program, Division of Media and Training Services, Television Services (now National Center for Health Marketing, Division of Creative Services, Broadcast Production and Distribution.)

In addition to her TV tasks, Agnes has enjoyed other activities such as working with the Federal Security Volunteer Project during the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, speaking at the CDC and ATSDR National Disability Program, serving on the PHPPO Workforce Diversity Team and manning telephones after the 9-11 terrorist attack. She was also a CDC mentee one year and a mentor the next year with CDC's Mentoring Committee.

Agnes plans to spend time with her three daughters, their families, her mother and her extended family. Her extended family includes three granddaughters and a grandson. Grandson Tyler is a student at Georgia State University and works in the Share store at Chamblee campus. Spending quality time with her grandchildren will be a top priority. Agnes also plans to travel, play bridge ( a LOT of bridge), visit with friends, service her Mary Kay customers and begin an E-bay business.

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Betty Loy retired February after more than 30 years of dedicated and distinguished federal service including twenty-four years in CDC's Office of the Director. She will be honored for her service to CDC and the public on February 18th. Betty has a unique perspective of CDC from her various jobs in the Office of the Director.

Currently, a Program and Management Analyst with the Office of the Chief of Staff, she was the special assistant to former CDC Director, Dr. Jeffery Koplan, worked closely with six CDC Directors, and provided essential support for three Deputy Directors.

Betty has worked directly with some of CDC's, as well as public health's, most prominent leaders including Dr. Donald Hopkins, Dr. Walter Dowdle, Dr. James Mason, Dr. William Roper, Dr. David Satcher, Dr. Claire Broome, and Dr. Jeffrey Koplan. She assisted each new director in getting acclimated to the CDC environment. Because of Betty's diligent assistance to all of the CDC Directors for whom she worked, she was able to build strong relationships and continues to enjoy friendships. Betty left the position of Special Assistant to the Director in June of 2002 to become a Management and Program Analyst working as the liaison with partner organizations and visitors.

In addition to supporting various CDC Directors and Deputies, Betty has been the voice and face of CDC to a virtual "who's who" of domestic and global public health leaders, Atlanta community leaders, Congressional dignitaries, distinguished visitors, and even TV and movie stars. She was and continues to be CDC's unofficial historian and ambassador at large.

Betty began her federal career with the Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She began working in the CDC's OD as a part-time intermittent employee in 1980. In 1983, following Dr. Bill Foege's resignation, Betty was asked to work in the CDC Director's office until a new CDC Director was designated and staff were selected. Dr. James Mason, the new CDC Director, came on board in late November 1983 and by the time he was ready to post the position, Betty had decided that she enjoyed working full-time. She also realized this was the job for her, applied for the full-time position, and was subsequently selected.

Betty is best known for her warm, pleasant personality, her charm and friendliness, her exceptional efficiency and competence, and her in-depth knowledge of CDC. She has worked very closely with many CDC leaders and staff and has cultivated and enjoyed friendships with many. Betty has truly been an asset to this agency and will be sorely missed.

After retirement, Betty plans to refresh friendships that she has let slide over the years, spend time with her children and grandchildren, work on family genealogy, and possibly work part-time.

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The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity honored **Marie Young** with a luncheon held March 2, 2005. Marie is retiring March 3, 2005, after over 34 years of Federal service. Marie began her Federal career in January 1972, with the Internal Revenue Service. In May 1976, she went to work for the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Depot Memphis, TN, as a Supervisory Personnel Management Specialist and later as the Lead Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist. In September 1995 she relocated to Columbia, MD to work for the Defense Civilian Personnel Management Support Office, Office of Complaints Investigation, as an EEO Investigator. In July 1996, Marie came to work at CDC in the Office of the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity as an EEO Specialist and later as the Deputy Director. Through out her career Marie has strived to help the agency meet its Affirmative Employment/Diversity goals and eradicate discrimination in the work place.

Her future plans include moving back to Memphis, TN, to spend time with her 91-year-old father and her children. She plans to travel, work in the yard and just enjoy the blessings from God.

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Richard W. Metzler will retire from NIOSH on March 1, where he has served with distinction as the first director of NIOSH's National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory. An open house celebration honoring Rich will be held on Friday, February 25, 2005 at the Bruceston Research Center Building 140 multipurpose room, starting at 1:00 PM.

Rich earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Systems Engineering at Wright State University in Dayton Ohio and a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering Management from the University of Pittsburgh. His Federal career started with his civilian employment with the U.S. Air Force, followed by service with the Mine Safety and Health Administration, before joining NIOSH. He is a Director and Past President of the International Society for Respiratory Protection, and is currently the US American National Standards Institute (ANSI) administrator for the International Standards Organization (ISO), TC 94/SC 15 TAG – respiratory protection devices.

Rich has dedicated most of his 31-year career to respiratory protection for the workforce, and with the creation of NPPTL in 2001, to addressing a myriad of personal protective equipment issues for the workforce. His experience with Federal regulatory and research organizations with responsibility for respirator activities is unmatched. He is known and respected both nationally and internationally with the respirator technology industries and has provided NPPTL with the foundation to thrive as a National Lab. NPPTL would not have progressed to its current organizational stature without the expertise, vision, and strategy development and implementation of Rich Metzler. His influence will be experienced for years to come by all workers who use personal protective technology.

Under his leadership, NPPTL has responded to every contemporary respiratory issue that has developed in recent years, including SARS, Avian flu, and the potential eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Rich provided expert leadership in responding to the terrorist events at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. NPPTL served as the CDC focal point in establishing appropriate standards to protect Emergency Responders and the nation in the selection of respiratory protection and provided experts on-site and on-call to address personal protective technology issues in real time.

Rich envisioned an expert workforce that provided the foundation for a National Lab. He has spent countless hours with his staff, instilling in them the importance of quality and partnerships. Through his influence, the foundation of a National Lab was established to serve as the basis for conducting and developing quality certification, standards, and research products and activities with regard to personal protective technology.

The business functions of this agency support the overall economy of the nation with regard to personal protective technology. Rich has taken his duties and responsibilities seriously and values the work of the employees at NPPTL and the stakeholders and customers. Rich steadfastly engages NPPTL employees and

stakeholders in the strategic planning process and has made a commitment to the agency and the NIOSH director to do his best to serve the nation.

While his expertise in the field of respiratory protection always provided value into the strategic planning process, he also developed a strategy for incorporating all personal protective technology into the lab and established goals and plans for moving the lab from a respiratory protection to a personal protective technology focus. His dedication to duty, his passion about his work, and his drive are an inspiration to his staff and the employees of the lab. Rich approaches his responsibilities seriously, whether he is involved in addressing a simple customer inquiry or responding to requests for respiratory protection during September 11th, his ability to always ensure he understands the entire problem before making a decision has a positive impact on the state of confidence stakeholders have in NPPTL and our respective activities. Rich realizes that there are simply too many problems to be identified and solved, too many connections to be made, and that collaboration and quality are the key to success. Rich embraces the concept of collaboration and is eager to obtain and share knowledge with all interested parties and seek out those experts who should be involved in NPPTL activities.

Rich will certainly be missed by his colleagues at NIOSH, but will be able to count on his continuing support as a friend and partner on the outside.

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**Dr. Richard Facklam** Retired from Federal Service February 2, 2005

“Veni, Vidi, Velcro: I came, I saw, I stayed.” In 1966, Dr. Richard Facklam joined CDC as part of the CDC “Strep Lab.” By 1972, he was managing it—and stayed put for nearly four decades. He was an anchor in a sea of change, repeatedly bringing honor to himself and to CDC, especially in 1997 when a species was named after him—Facklamia hominis. This year, 2005, begins a new phase that may actually take some adjustment for him—retirement.

Microbiology and laboratory techniques have changed remarkably over the years; however, one constant has remained—Dick Facklam has always been a leader in the evolving science of microbiology.

#### A Short History of a Long Career

In 1966, Facklam began his career at CDC as a research microbiologist, identifying enterococci and group A streptococci. By 1972, he was the Chief of the Staphylococcus and Streptococcus Section of the laboratories, focusing on group A strep, Viridans strep, and the typing of Streptococcus pneumoniae (Strep pneumo). In 1980 he held the reorganization of the laboratories within CDC, and Facklam remained the Chief of the “Staph” and “Strep” labs, focusing on Strep pneumo surveillance, rapid antigen tests for group A strep, and the evaluation of automated devices. By the time 1982 rolled around, his title had expanded to “Chief, Reference Bacteriology Section,” with the Streptococcus, Legionella, Pertussis, Chlamydia, and Mycobacteria laboratories all reporting to him. Four years later, further reorganization re-named him the Chief of the Respiratory Diseases Laboratory Section, with the added responsibilities of the Bacterial Immunology and Leprosy laboratories. His interests expanded to include drug-resistant Strep pneumo surveillance, gram-positive cocci in general, and an increasing focus on new molecular techniques.

Reorganization within the Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases branch (DBMD) in 1993 brought with it the title of Chief of Childhood and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Laboratory Section, with laboratories for Streptococcus, Pertussis, Meningitis, and Diphtheria also reporting; Facklam continued to extend his areas of expertise by studying the “flesh-eating virus” (as the press labeled group A strep at times), new species of gram-positive cocci, and molecular techniques for typing and identification. One of the last reorganizations came in 1997, when Facklam was named chief of the Streptococcus laboratory in the Respiratory Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases, NCID. By this time, his impressive array of study included Emm typing of group A strep disease (a molecular sub-typing system to identify strains of group A streptococcus), clonality of drug-resistant Strep pneumo, the identification of gram-positive cocci with conventional and molecular techniques, as well as addressing taxonomic questions in general.

And the Award Goes To...

Over the years, Facklam has been the recipient of numerous awards, including one of the most prestigious awards available in his field: the Becton Dickinson and Company Award in Clinical Microbiology, given by the American Society for Microbiology to him in 1998. Each year, this award is given to the clinical microbiologist who has made significant contributions to science. If that sounds impressive, it is—this honor is the “Academy Awards” of the microbiology world. It’s only given once a year, with great deliberation and prestige (although no red carpet).

Highlights of Facklam’s other distinguished awards include the following:  
Sigma Xi/ Walter Dowdle Award for Achievement in Public Health Science (1999)  
Elizabeth O. King Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Diagnostic Microbiology (presented by the Southeast Branch of the American Society for Microbiology)  
Distinguished Alumni Award from Northland College  
Co-author of 4 Charles C. Shepard Awards, and on the winning team twice  
Pasteur Award, awarded by the Illinois Microbiology Society in 2004

Getting to the Bottom of Microbiology (Have I got a story for you!) The year was 1997. After working with colleague Dr. David Collins on multiple studies in England, Facklam had spent 10 years describing new strains and new genes of gram-positive cocci. He then got a call out of the blue.

“We’d like to name a type of bacteria after you,” was the opening line from Collins. This gave Facklam momentary pause. Collins continued: “It came from an investigation in France, and the type of bacteria is a gram-positive cocci in chains—just what you’re known for.”

“What was the source?” questioned Facklam, reasonably. There was a long pause. A long, international pause. “Well,” Collins finally replied, “it came from a boil on a man’s buttocks.” Per usual, Facklam took this in stride. “So you’re telling me I finally got something named after me...? And it’s because I’m a big pain in the butt?” Puns notwithstanding, it is a great honor to have a species named after a living person—in this case, *Facklamia hominis*, named after “Contemporary American Microbiologist” Facklam.

Facklam remains most proud of the 200-plus presentations he has delivered to national, international, and local microbiology societies. "I've been invited back to several groups more than half a dozen times," he reports, "indicating that they probably like what I have to say!"

#### Colleagues (Petri) Dish the Dirt!

Pat Cook has known Facklam since 1996, when she began as the first branch chief manager of Respiratory Diseases. When she initially started, everyone was as friendly and outgoing as could be—except Dr. Richard Facklam. For six months, Pat got nothing but a nod from Facklam—no acknowledgement, no greeting; he hadn't accepted that her position was necessary, so Pat set out to prove him wrong. Exactly six months later, Facklam came in to Pat's office to introduce himself. "I'm Dick," he said, "and everyone else in the branch is getting everything, and I'm getting nothing." Since then, reports Pat, they've been good friends.

"I just needed to prove myself to him," she remarked, "but ever since then, he's been a true friend. In fact, we used to go to staff meetings together every Friday. We always sat together and always had to comment to each other throughout the meeting. It got to where we were banned from sitting together!"

Rumors of Facklam's resistance to change are substantiated by other colleagues. Colleagues from the ABCs (Active Bacterial Core Surveillance program) recollect the time when they were attempting to convince Facklam of the value of a new paperless system. He stubbornly clung to his beloved "green books," claiming he could find any data just as fast as they, without the aid of a computer. The team challenged him to find obscure data from 1947. "Sure enough, quicker than we could retrieve it electronically, Dick had actually found it!" they laughed.

Those who worked directly for Facklam praised his professional support and personal thoughtfulness. Dee Jackson worked with Facklam for over eight years and poignantly recalls that he "always thought of his employees...for Valentine's Day he would give all the ladies in the lab a red rose, using a cylinder or beaker that he turned into a vase! For our birthdays he would treat us to lunch, and for Christmas he would mail each of us a beautiful card; throughout the year, he would bake us a cake or brownies."

She remembers when Facklam asked her to work on a time-consuming project; she jokingly responded that she always did her best work after a good breakfast. To ensure just that, he showed up the following morning with a zip-loc bag of blueberry muffins baked just for her!

Dr. Patricia (Lynn) Shewmaker reiterated the sentiment: "For one of [Dick's] birthdays, a co-worker brought in a birthday cake that read 'Happy Birthday, Father Strep.' It was meant to be a funny little nickname, but I think it spoke volumes for what kind of man he is. He is a father figure and a renowned scientist in his field."

She went on to add that Facklam is "a passionate researcher who has devoted his life to teaching through lectures and numerous publications. He has established collaboration across the globe in his quest to identify the catalase-negative, gram-positive cocci; he has had a pivotal role in the data accumulated for vaccine development, outbreak investigations, and surveillance studies that have made the

