

THE

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## NIH Director Varmus Named President Of Sloan-Kettering, Succeeding Marks

NIH Director Harold Varmus, who led the Institutes during an unprecedented expansion in federal funding for biomedical research, said he will resign his position at the end of the year to become president and chief executive officer of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

He will succeed Paul Marks, who has been president and CEO of the center since 1980 and announced his plans to step down last year.

Varmus, co-recipient of the 1989 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for research in cancer, was appointed by Clinton to the position of NIH director in 1993. During his six-year tenure, Congressional  
(Continued to page 2)

### In Brief:

## Nobel Prize Awarded To Blobel For Research On Protein Signaling; Work Funded By NIH

GÜNTER BLOBEL, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Professor in the Laboratory of Cell Biology at The Rockefeller University, and a long-time NIH grantee, is the recipient of the 1999 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on protein signaling in the cell. His work has been supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and NCI. Between 1971 and 1989, Blobel received over \$4.5 million in NIH research grant support, primarily from NIGMS. . . . **WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE** Health Research Career Development Centers were awarded \$3.2 million by NIH to support early research careers in obstetrics and gynecology. The centers are funded by NCI and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The eight centers are: Brigham and Women's Hospital; Case Western Reserve University; Columbia University; University of Alabama at Birmingham; University of California, San Diego; University of Colorado; University of Rochester; and University of Utah. . . . **COALITION OF** National Cancer Cooperative Groups has established a web site, CancerQuilt (<http://www.cancerquilt.com>), for survivors, patients, families, and friends to share their experiences with cancer and gain more information about it. The CancerQuilt provides a gateway to other web sites offering educational information. The coalition's subsidiary, Alpha Oncology, provides live and on-demand webcast programs at <http://www.alphacancer.com> on cancer treatments, screening, and prevention. . . . **KATHRYN MARTIN** has been named senior vice president and hospital administrator for the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Martin was senior vice president for operations at New  
(Continued to page 7)

NCI Programs:  
U.S., U.K., Ireland  
Establish Consortium  
For Cancer Research  
... Page 4

Obituary:  
Sydney Salmon, 63,  
Founding Director,  
Arizona Cancer Center  
... Page 5

Correction:  
Appropriations Reports  
Included Language  
On Minorities  
And Underserved  
... Page 7

NIH Entertainment:  
Wild Type Wins First,  
The Directors Second,  
In Battle Of Bands  
... Page 8



## Varmus Urges Clinton To Name NIH Director Before Term Ends

(Continued from page 1)

appropriations to NIH increased from less than \$11 billion to \$15.6 billion in fiscal year 1999.

"Harold Varmus combines an extraordinary understanding of the biology of cancer and sensitivity to the clinical needs of cancer patients with the vision to take our great institution into the next century," Douglas Warner III, chairman of the Boards of Overseers and Managers of MSKCC, said in a statement. "We are very pleased that he will continue his 30-year commitment to the control and cure of cancer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering."

"I am extremely pleased that Harold Varmus, one of America's most distinguished academics, biomedical scientists, and healthcare leaders, will succeed me," Marks said in a statement. "Serving Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center has been exciting and rewarding, and I am grateful to all of my colleagues for the opportunity." Marks, 73, is expected to continue his cancer research at MSK.

In a letter of resignation addressed to President Clinton dated Oct. 7, Varmus said he hopes the President would appoint a new NIH director, "even at this late stage in your second term, in view of the non-partisan nature of the position and the need to maintain fully credentialed leadership at a time of such productive growth at the NIH."

In a press conference held at MSK last week, Varmus, 59, said he planned to leave NIH on Dec. 31, and start his new job on Jan. 1.

NIH Deputy Director Ruth Kirschstein would serve as acting director after Varmus departs, an NIH spokesman said. It is unlikely that a successor to Varmus could be identified, appointed by the President, and confirmed by the Senate prior to the new year.

Kirschstein served as acting NIH director for five months in 1993 prior to the appointment of Varmus.

### Renewed Emphasis On Science

Varmus is credited with bringing an emphasis on scientific rigor to NIH.

Under his leadership, most of the large research programs of the Institutes were reviewed by scientists from outside the agency. These reviews resulted in the restructuring of the NIH intramural research program, reorganization of programs in AIDS and cancer, creation of programs to support clinical and translational research, and a proposed reorganization of the system of peer review committees that prioritize research grant applications.

Other outside reviews have helped NIH identify research needs in specific areas, including biomedical computing and mouse genomics. Some reviews have expressed caution about moving too quickly, such as in the area of gene therapy.

Recently, Varmus unveiled a plan for creating an electronic archive, to be called PubMed Central, that would provide free access to scientific literature over the Internet. The plan was praised as a bold step by some organizations and publishers, and criticized by others.

Last July, Varmus informally proposed a review of the structure of NIH. He suggested that the 25 institutes, centers, and divisions that make up NIH be consolidated into six institutes roughly equal in size to NCI (**The Cancer Letter**, Aug. 6).

Prior to becoming NIH director, Varmus had no administrative experience besides running a large laboratory at the University of California, San Francisco. The search committee that in 1993 recommended Varmus for the position "felt he had many talents that would make him a fine NIH director," National Academy of Sciences President Bruce Alberts, who served as chairman of the search committee, said in a statement last week. The committee thought that with his understanding of



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**Founded Dec. 21, 1973, by Jerry D. Boyd**



biomedical research, Varmus would be able to form strong links between cell biology and human disease research, Alberts said.

“I think it is fair to say that during his six years in charge of the NIH, Harold has exceeded our high expectations for him,” Alberts said. “His effectiveness with Congress and the public is perhaps best exemplified by the remarkable increases that he has been able to obtain in biomedical research funding.

“As his major legacy, Harold leaves a stellar group of newly appointed Institute directors,” Alberts said. “Their strong positive influence on U.S. biomedical science will be felt for many years to come.”

“There is a second legacy that is perhaps equally important,” Alberts said. “Harold has brought two very different worlds—science and public policy—much closer together. He leaves, in the power structures of Washington, a greatly increased respect for the values and culture of the entire scientific community.”

The appointment of Varmus as NIH director “was one of the most important accomplishments of this Administration,” HHS Secretary Donna Shalala said in a statement.

“To have a scientist of his brilliance and stature lead NIH has been invaluable to the scientific community and to the American people,” Shalala said. “History will judge him as the leader who brought new energy, vision, and excitement to the world’s greatest scientific institution. The solid, generous, bipartisan support NIH now enjoys is due in large part to his leadership.”

NCI Director Richard Klausner said Varmus had improved the science at NIH and renewed the agency’s morale. “My feeling for the 20 years I have been involved with NIH, this has been the brightest, most exciting time, and I think Harold deserves an enormous amount of credit for that,” Klausner said. “Harold has been responsible for the revitalization of spirit, for raising the standards, and creating high expectations that we all share.

“For NCI, he has been tremendously supportive and an extremely good colleague to me, and I think he’s been a great leader,” Klausner said. “The only positive thing I can say from NCI’s perspective about his leaving is that if he had to leave, directing Memorial Sloan-Kettering allows him to continue to contribute in a new way to the National Cancer Program.”

Varmus told the institute directors his plans to

leave during a staff meeting the morning of Oct. 7, and sent an e-mail message to the 16,000 NIH employees.

About an hour after notifying NIH staff, Varmus sent an e-mail message to MSK employees. “Because of the confidentiality of the search process, I have thus far seen too little of the institution and met too few of you,” Varmus wrote. “Over the next several months, I will need your help to learn about your clinical and laboratory work, to become familiar with the strengths and vulnerabilities of the organization, and simply to find my way from place to place.”

### **Varmus: “Change Is Good”**

Varmus said he had always intended to remain at NIH for about six years. “It has always seemed to me that people who run large institutions should be moving on after a period of time and change is essentially good,” he said at the Oct. 7 press conference.

Varmus said he was looking for an opportunity to “bring to fruition things we are learning about disease, namely cancer, into a clinical arena.” The best way to do that was to move to an institution that “combines the energies of an outstanding scientific staff with an active clinical program,” he said.

“One of the innovations Paul [Marks] has brought to Memorial Sloan-Kettering is disease management groups, in which individuals of a variety of departments look one by one at different types of cancers,” Varmus said. “From my own perspective as an investigator who is building animal models, this is precisely one in which I will thrive intellectually as a manager and work productively as a bench scientist with my own group.”

The center’s strong financial position was another attraction, Varmus said. “Even though all organizations are required to continue to seek financial support, the idea of finding a place where my primary activity is not fundraising, but where I would instead build the type of scientific program that would attract the attention of donors and I would be pleased to show it off to prospective donors, was appealing,” he said.

Also, Varmus said, MSK “is in the right place.” His connections to New York City go back to his childhood. He grew up in Freeport, Long Island. Varmus and his wife, Constance Casey, have two sons who live in New York City. Casey is a national correspondent for the Newhouse News Service.



“The departure has nothing to do with disenchantment with what is going on in government or NIH, but instead with the feeling to seize the opportunity to come to a truly extraordinary place,” Varmus said.

Varmus said he had some regrets at leaving NIH. “There’s no time that one can leave an institution like NIH and not feel that there are things undone,” he said. “We are in the midst of a rapid budgetary expansion. That creates an opportunity for the kind of scientific planning that is really unprecedented.”

Varmus said he regretted leaving before the full establishment of PubMed Central. “This has generated much controversy and I’ve enjoyed that controversy immensely,” he said. “It’s a little disappointing to me to be leaving as that activity is getting underway.”

Varmus said he plans to continue his involvement in some activities he has taken part in through NIH, such as malaria research in Africa. “I don’t foresee myself from retreating from some of these national or international activities,” Varmus said. “I believe very strongly that medical research in America should be used to improve the condition of folks everywhere in the world and cancer is not immune from that recommendation. Cancer is everywhere, populations everywhere are aging. We’re seeing an epidemic of tobacco use that is going to cause the rates of lung cancer to go sky-high and Memorial Sloan-Kettering should be involved internationally in addressing that.

“The NCI has been very forward-looking in using the international appeal of cancer research to bring people together,” Varmus said.

Asked how long he planned to remain at Memorial, Varmus said, “I think about a decade. A decade seems about right, but we’ll see.”

Varmus has long had a scientific interest in the genetic basis of cancer, specifically in retroviruses and their ability to cause genetic change.

Varmus and J. Michael Bishop earned the Nobel Prize for their work demonstrating that retroviral oncogenes are derived from normal cellular genes. In addition to the Nobel, Varmus and Bishop have received awards that include the Albert Lasker Basic Science Award, the Passano Foundation Award, the Alfred P. Sloan Prize from the General Motors Cancer Foundation, and the Gairdner Foundation International Award.

A 1961 graduate of Amherst College, Varmus earned a master’s degree at Harvard University and a medical degree from Columbia College of

Physicians and Surgeons. He joined the Bishop lab at UCSF in 1970 as a postdoctoral fellow and became a full professor in 1979.

MSK paid Marks \$1,077,500 in compensation, \$281,582 in benefits, and an expense allowance of \$49,511 in 1998, The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported Sept. 23 in an annual survey of 400 non-profit organizations. The compensation package represented 0.2 percent of the center’s \$1,158,384,000 income that year, according to the report.

Marks was not the highest paid official at the center, however. David Hidalgo, chief associate attending surgeon, earned \$1,268,806 in compensation and \$74,919 in benefits last year, the Chronicle said.

The highest-paid non-profit executive in the Chronicle survey was John Rowe, president of Mount Sinai Medical Center, who earned \$1,163,875 in 1996, the most recent figure available.

### *NCI Programs:* **U.S., U.K., Ireland Establish Cancer Research Collaboration**

NCI and NIH officials signed an agreement last week with health officials from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to coordinate cancer research and treatment on the island.

NCI Director Richard Klausner and NIH Director Harold Varmus signed a memorandum of understanding with health ministers from Dublin and Belfast at a ceremony Oct. 3 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The agreement establishes the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium to serve as a scientific and clinical partnership with the ultimate goal of reducing the cancer burden in Ireland. Both Northern Ireland and the Republic have higher incidence and mortality rates for many common cancers, compared to European averages.

“Today’s ceremony is a celebration of an agreement forged between three governments as a vehicle for cooperation to address a universal need,” Klausner said. “We hope this consortium sparks a spirit of cooperation in the global quest for a cure for cancer and serves as a model for how countries can work together to improve the quality of life for all their people.”

Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, who is mediating in Northern Ireland’s peace process, served as chairman of the signing of the agreement. “This effort creates the hope of raising the standards of



cancer care and cancer research in all of the three counties involved,” he said. “Also important is the potential for this to bring both parts of Ireland together.”

The agreement grew out of conversations between Edison Liu, director of the NCI Division of Clinical Sciences, and Patrick Johnson, professor of Oncology at Queen's University, Belfast. Johnson was a research fellow at NCI.

“We believe that clinical research can provide the template for how best we can practice cancer medicine, because we know the best practice comes through collaboration,” Liu said.

Health ministers involved in the signing ceremony were James Kiely, chief medical officer for the Republic of Ireland; Henrietta Campbell, chief medical officer for Northern Ireland; George Howarth, minister for health and social services for Northern Ireland; and Brian Cowen, minister for health and children for the Republic of Ireland.

“This partnership is the singular most exciting development for cancer services we are likely to see for many years to come,” said Campbell.

“This partnership raises our sights and our hopes in the fight against cancer,” Kiely said. “Working together, we will better our chances of defeating this scourge that affects all of our families.”

Sen. Connie Mack (R-FL) also took part in the ceremony.

The Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium will be administered by a governing board made up of the chief medical officers from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the NCI director.

Initial projects are expected to include the coordination of tumor registries, the development of informatics to support coordinated clinical trials, and training and scholar programs to immerse scientists in the cancer research programs of partner institutions.

Following the signing ceremony at the Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast, more than 1,000 scientists participated in a cancer conference sponsored by NCI, the Department of Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland, and the Department of Health and Children in Ireland.

In both Irelands, the incidence and mortality rates for cancer of the lung, esophagus, kidney, bladder, and prostate have risen, but rates for cervical and gastric cancer have declined, according to press materials distributed by the conference. The Republic

has the highest rate of skin cancer for its latitude in the world, and one of the highest rates of testicular cancer in the world. As in other Western countries, the Republic has an increasing rate of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Northern Ireland has the highest rate of colorectal cancer in the U.K.

Varmus and Klausner were given honorary DSc degrees by Queen's University Belfast for their contributions to cancer research.

### Obituary:

## **Sydney Salmon, 63, Founding Director Arizona Cancer Center**

Sydney Salmon, founding director of the Arizona Cancer Center, died on Oct. 6 at his home in Tucson. He was 63.

The cause of death was complications related to pancreatic cancer, a spokesman for the center said.

Salmon, an innovative physician and scientist who worked to develop new cancer therapies, established the Arizona Cancer Center at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 1976. He served as its director until last August.

“There was no finer physician and scientist than Dr. Salmon,” Daniel Von Hoff, director of the Arizona Cancer Center, said in a statement. “He was one of the most brilliant researchers that I have had the privilege to know and work with.

“Our goal to cure pancreatic cancer is a commitment that we will diligently work toward realizing, out of our deep respect for and fond memories of this outstanding man,” Von Hoff said.

Salmon developed, with Anne Hamburger, of the University of Maryland, the first test for cloning human tumors.

“The clonogenic assay was very innovative in its time,” said Stephen Carter, senior vice president, clinical and regulatory affairs, at Sugen Inc. of South San Francisco. “The original dream was to be able to take a patient's tumor and find the drug or combination of drugs to use against it. That never worked out.”

The assay was useful in selecting and prioritizing drug candidates to move into phase II trials, and it continues to be used for that purpose by some organizations, Carter said to **The Cancer Letter**.

Salmon served on Sugen's scientific advisory board. “His wisdom was important in getting the company off the ground,” Carter said. “It was a



pleasure to deal with him. He was smart, wise, and critical.”

Salmon’s early clinical and research interest was developing treatments for multiple myeloma. In the 1960’s, he reported on the therapeutic efficacy of high dose glucocorticoids for the disease. His laboratory studies of immunoglobulin synthesis led to the development of a clinical staging system for myeloma.

“The work he did had a phenomenal impact on the field,” said David Alberts, of the Arizona Cancer Center, who began working with Salmon in 1970. “Our first project was to count the number of myeloma cells in a patient. It was helpful in understanding the disease process and was based on a radioimmunoassay he developed.”

More recently, Salmon developed a rapid screening method for identifying thousands of small peptides capable of fitting into receptors. The method, called Selectide, can produce kilograms of peptides specific to a receptor in a matter of days, Alberts said.

Salmon received the Waldenström award from the International Myeloma Workshop in 1993 and served as chairman of the myeloma committee of the Southwest Oncology Group.

Salmon was an early proponent of the adjuvant therapy of cancer and hosted a series of influential scientific meetings in Arizona of cancer researchers from around the world to discuss the results of clinical trials. Seven conferences were held between 1977 and 1996, Alberts said.

Salmon was active in the leadership of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and served as its president in 1984-85. He was president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes in 1988-89.

“He was one of the early leaders of medical oncology when there weren’t many,” said John Durant, executive vice president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. “He pushed hard for the establishment of the Journal of Clinical Oncology when people thought it would bankrupt the society, and he was one of the early advocates for the fellowship program and went out raising money for it when we were not as established as a society.”

In the 1980s, he served on the Board of Scientific Counselors of the NCI Division of Cancer Treatment. He was instrumental in advocating for continued funding for the Clinical Trials Cooperative Groups, Durant said.

In 1991, President Bush appointed Salmon to the National Cancer Advisory Board for a six-year term. During his service on the NCAB, Salmon was a member of the Cancer Centers Subcommittee. The subcommittee rewrote guidelines to improve the center grant review process and studied models for funding center grants.

“There were all these attempts to put a cap on the program and that wasn’t what it needed,” Durant said. “Syd was always a voice for reason.”

Salmon’s appearance made it clear that he enjoyed living in Arizona. Wherever he went, he wore Western shirts and a bolo ties. The ties featured decorative sliders of Native American design.

After he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Salmon continued to work and conduct research, said Alberts, who was his physician.

“He had developed a major DNA microarray capability at Arizona, and he sent in an R01 grant to NCI on June 1,” Alberts said. “He remained as positive as anyone could be with advanced pancreatic cancer.

“He was a remarkable man.”

Salmon was born in 1936 in Staten Island, NY. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona, Tucson, in 1958 and his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, in 1962.

He was a medical oncology fellow in the Cancer Service with the U.S. Public Health Service in Boston, and a research fellow at the Laboratory of Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School. He was a special fellow in hematology and immunology at NIH. Following his training, Salmon joined the faculty of the University of California, San Francisco. In 1972, he was recruited to the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

Salmon authored more than 380 publications, edited 12 books, and was awarded six U.S. patents.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; three sons, Howard, Stewart and Russell, all of Tucson; two daughters, Julia Salmon of Boston and Laura Levine of Atlanta; a brother, Norman Salmon of Tucson, and three grandchildren.

A public memorial service is scheduled for Oct. 17 in front of the Arizona Cancer Center.

Memorials may be directed to the Sydney E. Salmon Endowment for the Director, Arizona Cancer Center, 1515 N. Campbell Ave., PO Box 245013, Tucson, AZ 85724-5013.



## Appropriations Story Corrected

A story in **The Cancer Letter**, Oct. 8, on the House and Senate appropriations committees' reports, did not include the language directing NIH to develop a systematic approach to research involving cancer in minorities and the underserved.

The Senate report language follows.

"The committee continues to be concerned about the disproportionately high incidence and/or mortality rates of many cancers in ethnic minority, rural poor and other medically underserved populations. Equitable application of current knowledge about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment as well as continued advances in research can reduce cancer incidence significantly and cancer mortality by 50 percent among these populations.

"The committee has conducted hearings regarding a study released in January 1999 by the Institute of Medicine, 'The Unequal Burden of Cancer: An Assessment of NIH Research and Programs for Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved.' This study confirms disproportionately high cancer levels in these minority, rural poor and other medically underserved populations and recommends both more targeted research funding and better coordinated data collection.

"The committee requests that the Institutes, Centers, and Offices with cancer-directed research develop a 5-year strategic plan to implement IOM recommendations; build in benchmarks, program evaluation, and accountability procedures; and address IOM identified priorities such as research training, cancer surveillance, and database enhancements.

"The committee further urges the Institutes, Centers, and Offices with cancer-directed research agendas to increase funding for population and behavioral research; recruiting and training efforts to attract more candidates from ethnic minority and medically underserved populations in all areas of cancer research; community-based research, and dissemination of research results.

"The committee also encourages increases for cancer data collection and management, including the funding for [NCI] Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) to track cancer incidence, conduct more longitudinal studies of cancer outcomes, and achieve greater coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Program of Cancer Registries, and other public and private sector cancer data collection programs."

The House report language was less specific:

"The committee continues to be concerned about the disproportionately high incidence and/or mortality rates of many cancers in ethnic minorities, rural poor, and other medically underserved populations.

"The committee encourages the NIH to develop a strategic plan to address the recommendations in the

January 1999 Institute of Medicine study on this issue. The committee also encourages the NIH to enhance funding for population, behavioral, socio-cultural, communications, and community-based research; recruiting and training efforts to attract more candidates from ethnic minority and medically underserved populations in all areas of cancer research; cancer data collection and management; and dissemination of research results.

"In addition, greater coordination efforts with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Cancer Registry program and other public and private sector cancer data collection programs should be pursued."

### *In Brief:*

## Donald Berry Moves To MDA

(Continued from page 1)

York Presbyterian Hospital. . . . **JOSEPH TREAT** has been appointed vice president of medical oncology and associate medical director of the joint Fox Chase-Temple University Cancer Center at FCCC in Philadelphia. Treat was professor of medicine and director of thoracic oncology at Allegheny University Hospitals. . . . **DONALD BERRY** has been named chairman of the Department of Biostatistics at University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Berry was at Duke University. . . . **MARGARET KRIPKE**, of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been honored with two awards: a Research Award from the American Society for Photobiology, and the Marie T. Bonazinga Award Lecture, which she will present Sept. 24, at the Society for the Leukocyte Biology 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress in Cambridge, UK. . . . **SMITHKLINE-BEECHAM**, through its Community Partnership program, announced a \$860,000 grant to the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance of Washington, DC. The Alliance will lead a three-year effort to promote ovarian cancer education. . . . **ANDREW SCHALLY**, a 1977 Nobel Prize laureate in medicine and physiology, received the first Veterans Affairs Distinguished Medical Research Scientist Award Oct. 1. Schally heads the Endocrine, Polypeptide and Cancer Institute at the VA in New Orleans. . . . **SOUTHWEST REGIONAL** Primate Research Center at San Antonio has been established with a grant from the NIH National Center for Research Resources. The center is the eighth regional primate research center, and the first to be funded by NIH in more than 40 years. The principal investigator of the project is **John VandeBerg**. . . . **UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH** Medical Center Health System



broke ground for the Hillman Cancer Center at the UPMC Shadyside campus. The center will have a wide range of cancer-related services as well a facility devoted to basic research. . . . **CORIELL INSTITUTE** for Medical Research was awarded a five-year, \$13 million contract by the National Institute Of General Medical Sciences to continue operating the Human Genetic Cell Repository. . . . **QUEEN NOOR**, widow of the late King Hussein of Jordan, will serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the Lymphoma Research Foundation of America and its Educational Forum on Lymphoma Oct. 16-17, in Los Angeles, to culminate National Lymphoma Awareness Week, Oct. 10-16. Information: <http://www.lymphoma.org>. . . . **SCIENTISTS TO KANSAS: DON'T QUOTE US.** In a joint statement, the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Science Teachers Association have denied the Kansas State Board of Education's request to reprint material from the organizations' national science education standards documents. Last August, the board adopted the position that students should understand evolutionary processes that lead to changes within species (called "microevolution" in the Kansas document), but deleted reference to origins and evolution of the universe and life on Earth ("macroevolution"). "By deeming that only certain aspects of the theory of evolution should be taught, the State Board of Education adopted a position that is contrary to modern science and to the very visions and goals that the Kansas Science Education Standards claim to espouse," the three organizations wrote in a Sept. 23 statement. "Thus, ...we must disassociate ourselves and our organizations from the Kansas Science Education Standards." The statement is posted at <http://www4.nationalacademies.org>.

*NIH Entertainment Report:*  
**Hopkins Band Wins First Place  
On The Directors' Home Turf**

**Wild Type**, a rock-and-roll band of cancer researchers from Johns Hopkins University, won first place over the folk-oldies NIH band, **The Directors**, in a "Battle of the Bands" held Oct. 6 at the NIH Research Festival in Bethesda, MD.

Wild Type is led by **Pat Morin**, an investigator at the National Institute on Aging and assistant professor of pathology at Hopkins (guitar and vocals).

Members, all from Hopkins Oncology Center, are **Ellie Carson-Walter**, research fellow (lead vocals); **Chris Torrance**, research fellow (guitar and vocals); **Bob Casero**, professor of oncology (bass guitar); **Ken Kinzler**, professor of oncology (drums); and **Bert Vogelstein**, professor of oncology (keyboard).

The Directors are National Human Genome Research Institute Director **Francis Collins** (guitar and vocals), National Institute for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Director **Steve Katz** (guitar and vocals), NCI Director **Rick Klausner** (guitar and vocals), National Institute of Child Health and Human Development postdoctoral fellow **Chuck Ellerson** (drums), NIAMS research scientist **John O'Shea** (bass guitar and mandolin), and NICHD research scientist **Tracy Rouault** (keyboard).

"We're just thrilled to win second place," Klausner said to **The Cancer Letter**. "That's one away from first. We've never placed so high."

The Directors had the advantage of playing on their home turf. The contest judges were all NIH employees, including NIH Director **Harold Varmus**, who despite his qualification by position alone, is not one of The Directors.

[At a press conference in New York City the day following the Battle of the Bands, Varmus revealed that he played alto sax in the Freeport, Long Island, High School marching band.]

The Directors' medley of teens-die-in-car-crash songs from around 1960 was a daring artistic move for the band, but couldn't match Wild Type's professional sound and driving beat on covers of more recent blues and rock-and-roll. Vogelstein's behind-the-back keyboarding also was a time-tested crowd-pleaser.

Nevertheless, The Directors' parodies went over well. These included "Clone-away," to the tune of "Runaway," and "Will Our Funding Keep on Growing?" based on "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?"

For the grand finale, the two bands joined on Wild Type's original song, "The Grant Writing Blues," with Carson-Walter lamenting the effort it took to write a grant application, only to hear the bad news, as sung by Klausner, that the study section turned it down, in so many words.

Wild Type is enjoying an increasing number of top billings at scientific meetings, weddings, and thesis parties. Further information about Wild Type is available at <http://www.wildtype.org>.

The Directors do not have a website.



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