

## SAIC Fields Seven Winning Posters at Spring Research Festival

The sixth annual Spring Research Festival, sponsored by NCI-Frederick and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, was held May 14-15. This year's winning posters were chosen from a field of 150, highlighting current research in:



- biochemistry
- cancer biology
- diagnostics and therapeutics
- drug development and delivery
- immunology
- molecular biology
- new technology
- scientific core services, and
- virology.

Since 1999, the nationwide Technical Sales Association (TSA), based in the greater Washington, DC, area, has donated thousands of dollars from exhibit proceeds for poster awards. At the festival, the TSA sponsored more than 200 major national and regional vendors demonstrating advanced equipment, instruments, and services technology for biomedical and biotechnical research. The festival's website notes that the TSA exhibit "offers a hands-on update to researchers who otherwise might not have the opportunity to learn about new product developments as they emerge from the research lab to the marketplace."  (See page 3 for SAIC poster winners)



## Foundations for Tomorrow... *Supporting Clinical Research*

With creation of the Clinical Monitoring Research Program (CMRP), SAIC-Frederick, Inc., has extended an important facet of support for the NIH by providing comprehensive, dedicated clinical research support to major programs within the NCI and NIAID.

The CMRP includes the Clinical Research Support Services (CRSS)\*, Nursing and Data Management Support to the Center for Clinical Research (CCR), the Translational Research Fund Support to CTEP, and the Tobacco

Intervention Research Program, as well as support staff to DCTD. The CRSS group provides dedicated regulatory and monitoring support to a variety of clinical trials that NIAID conducts. The clinical trials management group monitors several domestic and international clinical trials. The monitoring group is also involved with two major initiatives: clinical trials conducted by the Department of Defense (DoD) and a South African clinical research protocol. The regulatory group has assumed the transfer and responsibility of 14 ongoing clinical trial Investigational New Drug (IND) applications.

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## Arthur's Corner

In our last column, I discussed our Corporate parent SAIC: its phenomenal growth and its diversity, as indicated in its high rankings among various government and business journals. Perhaps key to all of this is the corporate philosophy which emphasizes people: a company of people dedicated to delivering best-value services and solutions based on innovative applications of science and technology. SAIC believes that its reputation for excellence stems from its excellent employees, who are treated fairly and with respect. The company Website states that "SAIC is founded upon the simple idea that it is fair to award stock ownership to those who make significant contributions....Employee ownership allows the corporation greater freedom to invest in long-term growth and gives employees greater independence to focus on their customers' interests."

To that end, the company has developed several stock purchase incentives for employee owners,

*(Foundations continued from page 1)*

The Nursing and Data Management group includes a number of support staff. Among them, the Clinical Information Support Specialists, Clinical QA Specialists, Clinical Research Nurses, and Coordinators provide support to the Protocol Support Office and Medical Oncology Clinical Research Unit (MOCRU) within CCR. They also participate in clinical trial protocol development and clinical trials monitoring for many major clinical studies within the Surgery Branch, MOCRU, and other NCI branches. The Clinical Assistants and Records Coordinators coordinate all clinical protocols and provide administrative support services, such as scheduling appointments for people seeking treatment, creating data

including a first-time buyers' plan, a stock purchase plan, and a way to make direct stock purchases.

## Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP)

Through the ESPP, employees may elect to have between 1% and 10% of their after-tax income withheld from their bi-weekly pay to purchase SAIC stock. Deductions are held in a non-interest bearing account. In each quarterly stock trade a purchase is made for the employee at a 15% discount.

## First Time Buyers Program (FTBP)

Through the FTBP, employees receive a match of two vesting stock options for every share purchased in conjunction with their first trade purchase. Employees may purchase a minimum of \$500 up to approximately \$2,000 (rounded down to the next whole share). Participation in the ESPP

bases, running queries, analyzing and presenting patient data, and assisting with collecting patient data.

Another area of CMRP is the Translation Research Fund (TRF) support. The TRF was established to fund correlative studies performed during the conduct of sponsored CTEP clinical trials. The TRF administrator works closely with the CTEP drug monitors at NCI and with investigators at institutions nationwide, and collaborates with Research Contracts personnel at SAIC-Frederick, Inc., to provide efficient contract award and management processes.

CMRP is also involved with the Tobacco Intervention Research

does not disqualify an employee from participating in this program.

## Direct Stock Purchases

Employees are pre-approved to make direct stock purchases of up to \$20,000 worth of SAIC stock in each quarterly trade. Stock purchases in excess of \$20,000 require SAIC (Corporate) Board of Directors approval. Employees interested in purchasing more than \$20,000 worth of SAIC stock should contact Ann Heller, extension 1518, for more information.

To learn more about SAIC stock, log onto "Stock Tools" at <https://issaic.com/eon/> or review the SAIC Prospectus, which is available online; you may also obtain a copy of the Prospectus by calling the Payroll Department at 301-846-1139/1518.

*Larry O. Arthur*

Program, a part of the Behavioral Research program of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. It's an exciting new initiative on the prevention and cessation of tobacco use among both youth and adults. The program is expected to be a state-of-the-art science center for tobacco use research by NCI scientists and collaborators.



*One group of the Clinical Monitoring Research Program is located at 915 Toll House Avenue in Frederick.*

The CMRP Outreach Manager, dedicated to the national “5 to 9 a Day for Better Health” program (“5 to 9 A Day”), the largest public/private partnership for nutrition education in the world, is helping to coordinate major components of a national communications campaign targeted to African American men.

The current CMRP staff comprises nearly 85, ranging from clinical research professionals to administrative and computer support staff.

CMRP offices are located on the NCI-Frederick campus, at Toll House Avenue, in Rockville and in Bethesda. ☺

*\*A more detailed article will be published in the fall issue of News & Views.*

## SRF Poster Winners

*The winning posters were as follows:*

### Silver Award, Postdoctorate

Molecular Biology: Dr. Fang Yuan, Retroviral Pathogenesis Laboratory, AIDS Vaccine Program, “Sensitive Highly Discriminant RT-PCR Assay Method for Quantitative Analysis of Point Mutation in SIV Genome.”

### Gold Award, Technicians

Cancer Biology: Alan Brooks, Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, “The Proteasome Inhibitor PS-341 Sensitizes Neoplastic Cells to TRAIL-mediated Apoptosis by Reducing Levels of c-FLIP.”

New Technology: Douglas Hosack, Laboratory of Immunopathogenesis and Bioinformatics, Clinical Services Program, “Finding Biological Themes in Microarray-derived Gene Lists with EASE.”

Virology: David Morcock, AIDS Vaccine Program, “Viral Inactivation by Covalent Modification of Cysteines in HIV-1 Nucleocapsid Protein.”

Virology: Thomas Parks, Viral Epidemiology Section, AIDS Vaccine Program, “A Real-Time

PCR-based Assay for the Detection of Retroviruses.”

### Silver Award, Technicians

Molecular Biology: A. Nichole Hoffman, Retroviral Pathogenesis Section, AIDS Vaccine Program, “Rapid, Ultrasensitive Plasma SIV RNA Assay—How Low Can You Go?”

New Technology: Wei Gao, Laboratory of Immunopathogenesis and Bioinformatics, Clinical Services Program, “A Graphical Environment for the Analysis and Visualization of Genome-Scale Data Sets.”

Held under an enormous tent on the Army’s Blue and Gray Field, the festival featured displays of current research, the latest in laboratory equipment, as well as career and educational opportunities. Dr. Jack Simpson, Protein Chemistry Laboratory, and his

colleagues demonstrated the martial art of Aikido; the Scientific Library sponsored “Science in the Cinema,” during which participants watched *Regarding Henry* and then discussed its medical accuracy; finally, a Health and Safety Fair provided festival-goers with neck-and-shoulder massages and health and safety information.

Each year, festival organizers include a flower as part of the logo that appears on fliers, posters, signs, and even tee shirts. This year’s flower was the rosy periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*), a native of Madagascar’s rainforest. Despite the toxicity of its petals, the flower is valued “as a source of several potent anticancer drugs, including effective agents for fighting childhood leukemia and Hodgkin’s disease,” according to the Spring Research Festival’s Website (<http://web/events/springfest/flower.asp>). ☺



## New Faces

### *VCMP Names QC/AD Director and Manufacturing Manager*

#### Phillip Ramsay, QC/AD Director

Phillip Ramsay has been named Quality Control/Assay Development (QC/AD) Director for the Vaccine Clinical Materials Program (VCMP). Phillip has industry experience in establishing effective quality control systems and implementing robust assay development. At the VCMP, he will create and implement new assays and quality control systems concurrent with the design and construction of the new facility.



Phillip's QC/AD Department monitors the production process at the VCMP to ensure all drug products comply with internal specifications and cGMP (current Good Manufacturing Practices) regulations. This is accomplished through scientifically sound and appropriate analysis of incoming raw materials, in-process materials, the final dosage form, and the production environment. VCMP internal specifications assure that drug products meet applicable standards of identity, efficacy, quality, and purity. Ongoing analysis of drug product testing data allows production and management to identify areas for process improvement and implement a more rigorous total quality management.

SAIC-Frederick, Inc., Vaccine Clinical Materials Program (VCMP) has been tasked with producing candidate AIDS vaccines developed at the NIAID/Vaccine Research Center (VRC) in Bethesda, Maryland. The Vaccine Pilot Plant in Frederick will produce these vaccines as part of the Operations and Technical Support (OTS) Contract at the National Cancer Institute at Frederick.

#### Paul Mutolo, Manufacturing Manager

Paul Mutolo has recently been named Manager of the Manufacturing Department, Vaccine Clinical Materials Program (VCMP), established to support the Vaccine Research Center (VRC) of NIAID. His responsibilities include fermentation, clarification/lyses, and down-stream processing. In addition, he will assist in the design and construction of a new facility for the VCMP.

Paul's experience in the biopharmaceutical industry has included establishing training, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and production records; and providing leadership, all of which will serve in setting up the Vaccine Production Program operations.

The VCMP provides a unique opportunity for its staff and other NCI-Frederick employees to work with well known scientists at the VRC. The VRC's mission is to develop gene-based prophylactic vaccines against HIV and certain bioterrorism agents. A major goal of the program is to design, construct, and generate a cGMP-compliant Vaccine Pilot Plant in which to produce clinical supplies for the VRC. The VPP will be an approximately 110,000-square foot multi-product facility located in Frederick County.



#### Dr. Heather Lyons, LASP

Dr. Heather Lyons has recently joined the Laboratory Animal Medicine (LAM) branch of the Laboratory Animal Sciences Program (LASP), SAIC-Frederick, Inc., as Animal Program Veterinarian.

Along with the Attending Veterinarian and Veterinary Associate, Dr. Lyons participates in the clinical care of the

research animals, specifically diagnosing and treating disease in rodents and amphibians; ensuring compliance with regulations governing the use of animals in research; assisting with training programs for animal caretakers, technicians and investigators; and consulting with investigators regarding the selection and use of animals in research.

Dr. Lyons' veterinary medical background and training were intensely focused. Her

coursework included an emphasis in laboratory animal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine; several



months at research animal facilities at Stanford University, University of California at Los Angeles, and Pennsylvania State University; in addition, she worked with rodents at a biotechnology company prior to and during veterinary school, and at a small animal clinical practice after graduation. She noted in a recent e-mail interview that "Undergraduate training in political science and an interest in biomedical ethics enhance my proficiency and enthusiasm for the regulatory and ethical areas of my job."

She particularly enjoys the diversity and challenges of her job, as well as the interactions with people. "I serve as a clinician, an educator, an ethicist and an advocate for the animals...My colleagues at LAM are wonderful and approach each new challenge with enthusiasm and dedication. They always strive for the highest standards in laboratory animal care."

Dr. Lyons said that LASP's mission "is to provide the highest quality animal care and support for animal research at NCI-Frederick," which includes providing quality veterinary

care, technical and surgical expertise, appropriate anesthesia and analgesia, and comprehensive animal disease control. "LAM provides consultation and training to investigators and their personnel to assure humane utilization of animals and to facilitate good science." The LAM staff, through continuing education, stays informed of new developments in the dynamic field of laboratory animal medicine; they are then able to provide progressive veterinary medical services and training.

Dr. Lyons said that she finds laboratory animal medicine exciting and important. "Scientific advances in genetic engineering have resulted in many animals with new and unique medical problems that

necessitate veterinary expertise in animal physiology and disease. The genetically modified mice at NCI-Frederick not only represent a clinical challenge, but they are the cornerstone for current and future biomedical research. I am excited to be a part of the health care team that supports efforts to cure cancer and AIDS."

### **Nancy Sampson, Employment Specialist**

Nancy Sampson, Human Resources Employment Specialist, started with SAIC-Frederick, Inc., in October 2002. She has more than 10 years of human resources experience, most recently recruiting for Kaiser Permanente in Rockville; prior to that, she spent



several years with Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Her current areas of recruitment responsibility at SAIC-Frederick, Inc., include

the Laboratory Animal Sciences Program, the Vaccine Research Center, the Clinical Monitoring Research Program, and the Biopharmaceutical Development Program.

Nancy attended James Madison University. She lives with her husband, daughter (and puppy) in Germantown. ☺

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## **Laboratory of Molecular Technology Holds Third Annual Open House**

The Laboratory of Molecular Technology (LMT) held its third open house Friday, June 6, to showcase LMT Core Services. The LMT has four main divisions: core service (the largest portion), collaborative research, independent or basic research, and technology development.

In a recent e-mail about the open house, Marty White explained that core services are those that many biology labs commonly need, and as such, "It is more efficient to have one program

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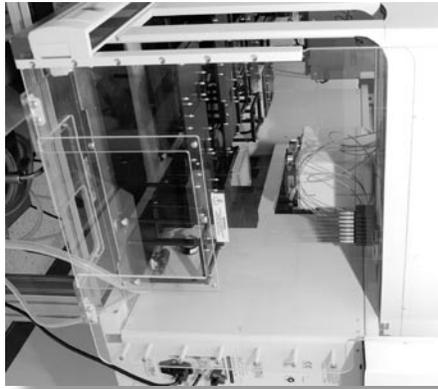
## LMT Open House

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providing services for a particular area of expertise, such as in our case, molecular biology (DNA sequencing, oligonucleotide synthesis, molecular diagnostics, genotyping, microarray, and other genetic based technologies).”

With many labs and investigators using the services rather than performing the procedures themselves or buying expensive equipment that is only intermittently used, they save time and money. In addition, such services often “can be highly technical. Personnel who are...experts at what they do make the core very attractive and efficient from a user standpoint.” Currently, the LMT sequences approximately 400,000 samples, distributes approximately 4,500 arrays, and synthesizes over 6,000 specialized oligonucleotides each year.

Marty explained that “Collaborations are carried out primarily with NCI



investigators (those with interest in challenging and exciting projects related to cancer genetics). The LMT also collaborates with investigators from other institutes and other US government agencies. The LMT maintains a strong commitment to developmental technology as related to the development of new methodologies and cutting edge instrumentation. LMT’s basic research is directed at understanding the basic genetic mechanisms involved

in breast, ovarian, and prostate cancer with the ultimate goal of intervention in the disease process through drug and/or gene therapy.”



The more than 250 visitors included users and potential users (NCI/

Frederick, NIH/Bethesda, NCI and all other Institutes, US Army, and other US government agencies such as USDA and FDA). Many commented about the sophistication of the equipment (robotics and advanced gene detection equipment) and the high-tech research being conducted. ↻



## Rex Wants You

Where have you been? If you haven't been to the Farmers' Market on Tuesdays between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (in front of Building 549), you've missed some good things. The market features wonderful foods and flowers from local vendors and will be with us through October.

Barbara Birnman, Rex's “mother,” says that Rex will be extremely disappointed if you don't stop by to see him. Rex is the rooster featured on the Farmers' Market flyers. ↻

## The Student Intern Program: Off to a Safe Start

The Werner H. Kirsten Student Intern Program (SIP) provides local high school students experience in basic cancer research. How do the interns get their internship off to a good start? Before they begin work, students attend the Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Program's Student Intern Safety Orientation, tailored for these neophyte scientists, many of whom are eager to embark on a science career.

This year, Dr. Warren Johnson, a staff scientist with the Laboratory of Genomic Diversity, is the new SIP Science Advisor. Dr. Johnson says he is excited to be taking on the challenge of helping to shape and inspire young minds toward scientific research. At a recent orientation, Dr. Johnson gave the students a warm

welcome; then, representatives of each department in EHS presented information about their services:

- Occupational Health Services representatives discussed their services and stressed the importance of reporting all injuries and “near misses” to the clinic. Students were reassured that having their blood drawn need not be traumatic (for most students, this was the first time they had had blood drawn).
- Mr. Tom Gannon-Miller, the new manager of Protective Services, informed students about his staff’s services, such as security to NCI-Frederick, photo ID’s, and Lost and Found.
- Several EHS staff reviewed Lab Safety, including lab, chemical, biological, and radiation safety; the staff stressed that students need to establish good safety practices early in their careers.
- Hazardous Waste and Pollution Prevention was the last topic of the morning. During this session, students encountered Waste Management’s “Mystery Sound Box.” Mr. Joey Romagnoli built this device, which blares out the different alarms that may be heard at NCI-Frederick (It also served to wake students up before lunch!).

During lunch, a group photo was taken and students were fitted for prescription safety glasses. Afterward, they heard a short presentation on ergonomics and the EHS Ergonomics Program.

Students then participated in a review and written quiz. After the quiz (which everyone passed), they walked off any after-lunch sleepiness with a tour that included history highlights of the NCI-Frederick campus (the Eight-Ball was one of their first stops). The final stop was Building 1071, the new Waste Management building, where students had several interesting surprises and demonstrations awaiting them.

The 44 SIP students were divided into four groups that rotated to four demonstrations:

1. Lab Procedures: students saw chemicals, liquid nitrogen effects, titrations, liquid densities, and other common things they may encounter in a lab.
2. Fume Hood: students learned how it works and how to work in one properly.
3. Biosafety Cabinet: students learned the tricks of working in a BSC properly, and, aided by a fog machine, how air flows in a BSC.
4. Displays : students observed a few EHS displays, including Alternatives to Hazardous Household Chemicals, Glove Compatibility, Recycling at NCI-Frederick, Mercury-Free Campaign, and Ergonomic Equipment and Tools.

For more information related to SIP safety, contact EHS at 301-846-1451. For information on the Werner H. Kirsten Student Intern Program, please see [http://web.ncifcrf.gov/careers/student\\_programs/internships/SIP.asp](http://web.ncifcrf.gov/careers/student_programs/internships/SIP.asp).

## Take Your Child to Work Day Set for July 23

Just a reminder that the sixth annual Take Your Child to Work Day 2003 will be held next week, Wednesday, July 23rd, rain or shine. Registration was closed July 11th. As well as some returning popular programs, we have new, exciting ones, and, as usual, lots of Hub activities. In addition, box lunches are offered this year.



**Michael Grimes**

Michael Kenneth Grimes, a research assistant in the Virus Production and Purification Laboratory, AIDS Vaccine Program, died recently after a long illness. Mike began working at NCI-Frederick in 1975, just three years after the facility opened. Mike was an expert with more than 25 years of experience at the purification of retroviruses by continuous flow centrifugation in sucrose density gradients.

A co-worker commented, “There are only a few people on Earth with this expertise. Probably none with his experience. We can never replace him.”

His colleagues noted that they enjoyed working with Mike—and not just because of his skill and depth of knowledge in the laboratory. “In addition to his professional expertise, he had an astonishing knowledge of pop music,” said one friend, explaining that years ago, when a local radio station ran music trivia contests, “Mike always knew the answers...Since he could win only every six weeks, we would crowd around a radio with him...and he would provide the correct answer to whoever’s ‘turn’ it was.”

Although many of his lab friends won small prizes, thanks to Mike, they said the fun wasn’t really in winning; rather, “It was our continuing amazement at how much he knew about music. I never heard a question that he could not answer. Amazing. He would have made a great radio station

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## Important Telephone Numbers

Ethics Hotline . . . . .	1-800-435-4234
Human Resources Department . . . . .	(301) 846-1146
Benefits Questions, HR Department . . . . .	(301) 846-1146
SAIC Stock Programs . . . . .	1-800-785-7764
SAIC Stock Price . . . . .	1-888-245-0104

## Important Dates

Take Your Child to Work Day . . . . . Wednesday, July 23, 2003  
Winter Staff Meeting . . . . . Wednesday, December 17, 2003

## SAIC Stock

The price for SAIC stock was re-established by the SAIC Board of Directors on April 11, 2003. The new price is \$29.02 per share, up \$0.42 from \$28.60.

Stock Price Set	Future Trade Dates*
July 11, 2003 . . . . .	July 18, 2003
October 10, 2003 . . . . .	October 17, 2003

*\*Dates are subject to change.*

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DJ. In fact, he was the DJ for his family and church gatherings.”

Although Mike suffered from a lengthy illness, he “was always upbeat and willing to help us with anything. The few times he was out on sick leave, he

was really concerned that he was letting us down. Throughout all of this, he never complained about his misfortune. He was a truly remarkable man with unshakable faith in God. He was the most courageous person I have ever known or likely ever will know.”

Mike is already greatly missed, and his co-workers at SAIC-Frederick, Inc., extend their condolences to his wife and children, and to the rest of his family and friends. 🍷



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