The National Cancer Institute at Frederick

Special Edition
April 2008

Poster

NCI Director to Deliver Keynote Address

By Maritta Perry Grau

John E. Niederhuber, M.D., Director of the National Cancer Institute, will deliver the keynote address on Thursday, May 15, in Building 549's auditorium, for this year's Spring Research Festival.

Dr. Niederhuber has made several visits to NCI-Frederick since becoming director in 2006, most recently with the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) in 2007 (see "Niederhuber and National Cancer Advisory Board Visit NCI-Frederick," *News & Views*, July 2007; <http://web/campus/publications/online_newsletter/pdf_download/NV_July_2007.pdf>).

When asked during a 2006 visit how NCI-Frederick could most effectively contribute to the broad mission of NCI and the country's initiatives in public health, Dr. Niederhuber replied, "NCI-Frederick is unique in that it is managed as a Federally Funded Research and Development Contract, which affords flexibility, and is a wonderful part of the overall package—visionary, risk-taking" (see "NCI Acting Director Niederhuber Visits NCI-Frederick," *The Poster*, June 2006; <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/ThePoster/archive/Jun06_POSTER.pdf>).

He added that NCI-Frederick complements NCI's intramural and extramural programs, whose scientists benefit from the "enabling" technologies that we develop here.

Dr. Niederhuber encourages NCI-Frederick's use as a national biomedical resource center. "We need to develop a way that all these resources can be used by other grantees—a team could come to NCI-Frederick, do research here, then take their data back to their home environment. I'd like to lessen the barriers between intramural and extramural partnerships. Developing partnerships is very exciting for us," he said, concluding, "NCI-Frederick has a wonderful ability to help other institutes. It's a huge resource for the country." ✦

NCI-Frederick/Fort Detrick Present 2008 Spring Research Festival

By Ashley Hartman

With a deadline of **May 1** for poster presenters, judges, and health education and community services exhibitors, the 12th annual Spring Research Festival (SRF) is right around the corner.

A collaborative effort between the National Cancer Institute at Frederick and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, the SRF, scheduled for May 14 and 15, will feature presentations from scientific staff during poster sessions, exhibits on the latest technologies, a keynote address from NCI's Director, John E. Niederhuber, M.D., health and community service exhibits, and much more. The festival will take place beside the Community Activities Center, along Porter Street.

The SRF will include a symposium on May 12, titled "Virology: From Genetic Vehicles to Human Pathogens." The symposium is designed to give postdoctoral fellows an opportunity to share their scientific research with their peers, according to Julie Hartman, chair of the festival.

Dr. Barry O'Keefe, Molecular Targets Development Program, will give an opening talk titled "Novel Antiviral Proteins from Natural Product Extracts: New Leads for Chemoprevention and Therapy."

The documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, about Al Gore's campaign to increase awareness about global warming, will be shown on May 6 and 12. On May 14, Dr. Kirk Gustafson, Molecular Targets Development Program, will be a guest speaker.

Zí Paní will be available for breakfast and lunch throughout SRF, and Rita's Italian Ice will have different flavors of ice, with all proceeds to go to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer, <http://www.alexslemonade.org/>. ✦

A portion of the information in this article was taken from the NCI-Frederick Spring Research Festival web site: <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/GeneralInfo.aspx>.

Spring Research Festival

See What's New at the Commercial Science and Technology Expo

By Nancy Parrish

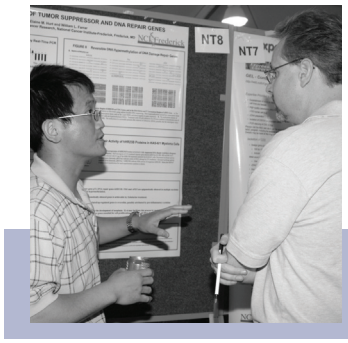
The Biomedical Research Equipment and Supplies Exhibit, sponsored by the Technical Sales Association (TSA), offers research professionals from Fort Detrick and NCI-Frederick an opportunity to learn about new instruments, equipment, and services from major national and regional vendors. More than 200 exhibit booths will display state-of-the-art equipment designed for biomedical research, including DNA synthesis, genetic engineering, electrophoresis, cell culture, chromatography, and more.

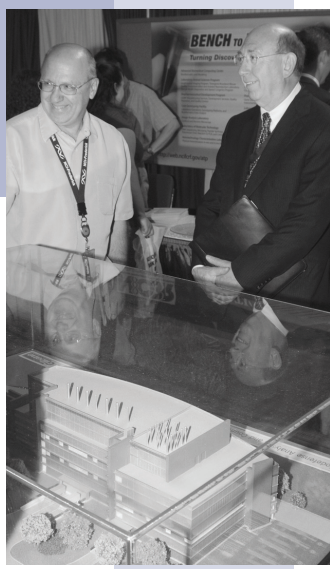
Commercial representatives will be available to demonstrate equipment and answer questions about the use of their products in the research lab. Exhibit hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The TSA, a nationwide organization of manufacturers and distributors who supply products and services to the biomedical research/biotech industries, has sponsored this exhibit for 18 years. The group has donated more than $45,000 from the exhibit proceeds to Fort Detrick's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation fund in appreciation of the installation's support of this event, and, since 1999, has supported the awards for the best scientific posters.

For information about exhibiting or attending this event, contact Global Trade Productions, Inc.: 404- 249-9618; gtpmgt@bellsouth.net; <www.gtpmgt.com>. ✦

Information for this article was taken from the NCI-Frederick Spring Research Festival web site: <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/Presentations.aspx>.





Cancer-fighting Tree Is Symbol for SRF

By Ashley Hartman

The symbol chosen for the 12th annual SRF is the *Camptotheca acuminata* because of the plant's cancer-fighting properties.

Also known as the "Cancer Tree" or "Happy Tree," the *C. acuminata* is native to China and Tibet, has reddish-brown bark with glossy green leaves, and can grow to more than 70 feet. "The SRF committee thought that the *C. acuminata* was very much appropriate since one of our missions at NCI-Frederick is to help relieve the burden of cancer on humans," said Julie Hartman, chair of the festival.

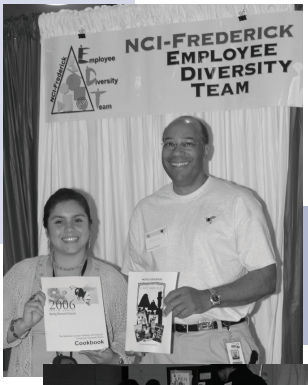
For treating cancer, the primary compound in *C. acuminata* is camptothecin, which comes from its bark. Two drugs that resulted from this compound are topotecan and irinotecan, which are useful in treating breast cancers, ovarian cancer, colon cancer, malignant melanoma, small-cell lung cancer, thyroid cancers, lymphomas, and leukemias.

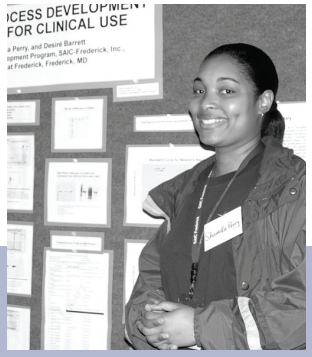
In 2002, Giovanni Melillo, M.D., Robert Shoemaker, Ph.D., and Nick Scudiero, Ph.D., of NCI's Developmental Therapeutics Program, named four effective compounds, including one similar to topotecan, as a second-line therapy for certain cervical, ovarian, and lung cancers ("Human Clinical Trials: New Treatment Regimen Is Testing Well in Patients," from *Bench to Bedside*, November 2007; <http://www.ncifcrf.gov/about/B2B.pdf>).

The FDA-approved topotecan hydrochloride (Hycamtin®, made by GlaxoSmithKline) in 2006 for treating Stage IVB recurrent cervical cancer that is unresponsive to other therapies. ✦

A portion of the information in this article was taken from the NCI-Frederick Spring Research Festival web site: <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/highlight.aspx>.

Spring Research Festival





More Exhibitors Expected This Year

By Ashley Hartman

The SRF gives scientific staff the opportunity to present their research, during scientific poster sessions, to the joint scientific communities of NCI-Frederick and Fort Detrick, and the general public. **May 1** is the deadline for poster presenters, judges, and health education and community services exhibitors to sign up.

Scientific Poster Sessions

The poster area will be significantly larger this year, according to Julie Hartman, chair of the festival. "Hopefully, we will have more room for all the scientists to collaborate," she said. More than 200 scientific staff members are expected to present their posters, which is about 10 to 20 more than last year, Ms. Hartman said.

Health Education and Community Services Exhibition

A health education and community services exhibition will be on display during both days of the festival. The exhibition will include representatives from national and local health-related organizations, as well as safety and scientific exhibits. Information about cancer, AIDS, health resources, aging, drug and alcohol concerns, mental health, fitness, and more will be available. More than 40 exhibitors are expected to be a part of this, Ms. Hartman said.

UMUC at SRF on May 14

The University of Maryland University College (UMUC) is having a program-arrival celebration on May 14 to announce that they will offer evening classes at NCI-Frederick/Fort Detrick in fall 2008. ✦

Numbers from the 2007 SRF are courtesy of Zach Thomas, Team Lead, Web Design & Development, Data Management Services, Inc.

A portion of the information in this article was taken from the NCI-Frederick Spring Research Festival web site:

<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/GeneralInfo.aspx>.

SRF Week Brings a Special Bonus

By Maritta Perry Grau

NCI-Frederick's Spring Research Festival (SRF) is unique. How many other NIH agencies celebrate with fireworks at the end of the festival week? If you hang around campus on Friday night, May 16, you'll see about a half-hour to 45 minutes of fireworks.

That's because the SRF is jointly held by NCI-Frederick and Fort Detrick's Army Garrison, as a part of the Army's Armed Forces Week. The Army lends us its land to pitch our big top tent for scientists, vendors, and exhibitors. Many of the scientists exhibit, as do their contractors, at the poster sessions on Wednesday and Thursday.

The festival began as a trade show, and through the vision of one of our NCI-Frederick scientists, Dr. Howard Young, Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, it evolved into a forum for scientific exchange among colleagues at Fort Detrick. This year, nearly all agencies located at Fort Detrick and on the NCI-Frederick campus will participate in poster sessions and in judging posters. ✦

Spring Research Festival Schedule of Events

May 6 & 12

Science in the Cinema
11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Location: Building 549 Auditorium
Viewing of *An Inconvenient Truth*

May 12

Symposium – Virology: From Genetic Vehicles to Human Pathogens
Location: Building 539 – First floor Conference Room
Postdoctoral fellows will share their scientific research on topics such as bacterial viruses, viral pathogenesis, and vaccine development.

May 14

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) Program Arrival Celebration
10:00 a.m.
Location: Small tent between SRF and Strough Auditorium

Science in the Cinema
1:30 p.m.
Location: Building 549 Auditorium
Guest Speaker – Dr. Kirk Gustafson, Molecular Targets Development Program

May 14 & 15

Scientific Poster Presentations
Those presenting posters on May 14 or 15 should display posters before 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Location: Tent beside the Community Activities Center
Posters describing research efforts of scientific staff at the National Interagency Confederation for Biological Research (NICBR) will be on display.
Presenters will be at their posters between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to discuss their research.
May 14 poster presenters should pick up posters between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
May 15 poster presenters should pick up posters between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Health Education and Community Services Exhibition
10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Location: Tent

Biomedical Research Equipment and Supplies Expo
10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Location: Tent

Zí Paní will be located on the lawn next to the tent (NCI-Frederick/ Fort Detrick Exhibitor side).

11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Rita's Italian Ice will be selling ice. All proceeds go to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer.

May 15

Keynote Speaker:
John E. Niederhuber, M.D.
Director of the National Cancer Institute
1:00 p.m.
Location: Building 549 Auditorium

Schedule of Events on-line:
<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/Events.aspx> ✦

Helpful Web Sites

Spring Research Festival web site:
<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/>

Chair of the festival: Julie Hartman, 301-846-7338; hartmanjb@mail.nih.gov

Details on presentations:
<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/springfest/Presentations.aspx>

To upload your poster to Scientific Publications, Graphics & Media:
<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/campus/publications/drop/upload.asp>

Reminder: When you have a change in staff, be sure to change the information in the NCI-Frederick database. You can do this online by logging on to web.ncifcrf.gov/campus/phonebook/, or by contacting your human resources representative. For more information, you may refer to the inside front cover of the NCI-Frederick Telephone & Services Directory.

Comments or suggestions for The Poster *may be directed to web.ncifcrf.gov/ThePoster.*

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